

# Calendar

## SATURDAY, JULY 18, 2009

**• Fun Class for Kids on Etiquette and Social Skills.** The City of Manhattan Beach Parks & Recreation Department proudly announces the return of its popular course in good manners by etiquette instructor Diane O'Farrill. "Etiquette and Social Skills for Children" Ages 6-12. A two-session course on Saturdays, July 18 & 25, or Saturdays, August 15 & 22, 2009 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Classes will take place at Live Oak Park Hall 1901 Valley Drive Manhattan Beach. Residents \$78; non-residents \$84. For further information, please call The Manhattan Beach Parks & Recreation Department 310-802-5448. This popular educational program covers the basics of good manners needed by children to interact successfully in various social situations.

## THURSDAY, JULY 23, 2009

**• Kiwanis Annual Taste Extravaganza.** The Kiwanis Club of Hermosa Beach is hosting their annual Taste At The Beach wine and cheese extravaganza on Sunday, August 23, from 4-8PM at the Hermosa Beach Community Center. All proceeds go to Kiwanis sponsored charities and there are lots of them. Tickets can be purchased online at: [www.tasteatthebeach.com](http://www.tasteatthebeach.com) or by phone 310-318-0171. Tickets are \$50 a piece if purchased ahead of event and \$60 at door and are tax deductible.

## UPCOMING

**• Republican Assembly Meeting.** The South Bay Chapter of the California Republican Assembly will meet on Monday, July 27, 6:30 -8:30pm at the El Segundo Public Library. Sergio Picchio, Chairman will speak 310-406-5429

## ONGOING

**• MOMS Club of Manhattan Beach.** Moms Club MB invites local at-home mothers for friendship, fun playgroups, support and more! Contact Michelle at (310) 489-3927 or <mailto:momsclub90266@hotmail.com> for membership info and meeting dates/locations.

**• Renewal Through Art Class.** Renewal Through Art for Seniors is an art class for adults 55 and older. A ten-week session will be offered on Thursdays at the Joslyn Center from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm beginning May 29. A variety of media will be used and techniques demonstrated with the overriding object the student's experience, not the art product. The class is free and students provide their own materials. Pre registration is required. Call the Older Adults Program at (310) 802-5447.

**• ARTS Manhattan Photographic Exhibition.** ARTS Manhattan in Partnership with the City of Manhattan Beach Presents Frozen & Fluid. Frozen & Fluid focuses on three of seven photographic projects by Gil Garretti; the abstract beauty of the Walt Disney Concert Hall; the soaring spirit and beauty of the Cuban dance; the head-turning sight of women, wonderfully attired in Parisian fashion as they ride their bicycles in Paris. The Exhibition is now open and remains on view until August 6, 2009. Manhattan Beach Arts Center 1560 Manhattan Beach Boulevard 310-802-5440

**• Older Adults discussion group.** Come discuss current events, movies, topics of local and national interest, whatever is on your mind. The discussion group meets every Monday from 9:00 a.m. – noon at the Joslyn Community Center, 1601 Valley Drive. For more information please call (310) 802-5447.

**• Play Scrabble.** This event is sponsored by the Manhattan Beach Parks and Rec and facilitated by the Manhattan Beach Senior Citizens Resource Committee. 1-3-1-1-2-3-1-1 (Scrabble). Play Scrabble every 1st and 3rd Thursday at Joslyn Community Center, 1601 Valley Drive. A free event, experience not required and all are welcome (4-1-1-3-1-3-1). 1:30 – 4 p.m. Info 310-802-5447.

**• Play Reading.** Fun and adventure await you. Spontaneous and unrehearsed activity facilitated by KC Johnson and Maria A. Ruiz, two experienced artists in the South Bay, offers each participant a role in scenes chosen for you – or you may bring your own short scenes to read. Every 1st Tuesday from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Joslyn Center, 1601 Valley Drive, MB. Free Event, Sponsored by Parks and Rec. All are welcome. Info: 310-325-3251 or 310- 540-5635.

**• Poetry Reading Circle** Recent/longtime, amateur and wannabe poets are welcome to read their own o favorite poems every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Joslyn Center, 1601 Valley Drive, MB. Free Event, Sponsored by Parks and Rec. All are welcome. Info 802-5447.

**• Petanque, French game of Boules** at Live Oak Field, Manhattan Beach. Play Petanque (played by 17 million people in France), an outdoor social game for every lever of fitness; no experience required. Sponsored by Parks and Rec. All are welcome every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday 1-3 p.m adjacent to Joslyn Center. Info 310-802-5447. •



# Political Penguin

By Duane Plank

So now that Sarah Palin has reneged on her gubernatorial duties in the wasteland that is Alaska, you'd think that the Republican Party and its' voters, which now make up about 10 percent of the electorate, would also turn their back on the woman who was the focal point of a naughty adult movie back in the heady days of the 2008 Presidential campaign.

You remember the flick, *Who's Nailin Paylin*, right? Never saw the cinematic gem myself, probably cuz I don't subscribe to the same adult channels that the rest of you apparently get.

Anyway, yes, I may be somewhat smitten with the soon-to-be ex-Governor, but I will bet the mansion that she won't be a relevant player in the run-up to the 2012 election. Course the way that Republican possibles are frittering away their political lives, who knows who will be a viable player in '12?

Catch a sniff of the Senator John Ensign affair? The married Republican Senator from Nevada, shockingly, was caught with his pants down, embroiled in an affair with a staffer. So help me South Carolina Senator Mark Sanford!

Some in the alleged know thought that Ensign was a rising star in the GOP and may have been a viable possibility to be a national player in three years. Turns out the guy cheated on his wife with a close family friend and woman who served as a key staffer in his Senate office. Her name is Cindy Hampton. She and her husband Doug were reportedly "best friends" with the Senator and his wife, Darlene.

Recently, somewhat reliable info surfaced buttonholing Ensign's parents as forking over nearly \$100,000 to the Hamptons. Nothing like mommy and daddy surfacing and trying to paper-over a messy situation with a little bit of cash, right?

Nothing improper there, claimed Ensign's lawyer, who blathered on that the 96,000 bucks was merely blood money to help out family friends. What are friends for if you can't sleep with 'em, fire them, then throw a little payola their way when the media gets wind of the imbroglio?

And by the way, when a holier-than-thou politico makes a misstep, don't buy the garbage that he or she made a mistake. There is a big difference between a mistake and a stupid, politically suicidal choice.

A mistake might be ordering the wrong Happy Meal at McDonalds. You know, you get to the front of the line, the people behind you are impatiently grumbling, so you go ahead and order number three when all you really wanted was the \$1.29 double cheeseburger? Ever happened to you? Happens to me way too often. Can't take the pressure, I guess.

And a choice, an incredibly stupid and self-destructive choice, would be sleeping with your friend's wife. More than once.

Especially after you have portrayed yourself as a staunch born-again Christian who called for the resignation of Slick Willie when he was playing tonsil hockey, among other things, with the fat intern in the Oval Office.

Should the 51-year-old Ensign resign? Should any politico resign when he or she is caught with their hands in the cookie jar? Or any other place that their hands shouldn't be? Tough call on that one. Ensign isn't up for reelection until '12, so there is a real possibility that the affair and fallout could blow over.

Time is on the Nevada Senator's side, according to Jennifer Duffy, analyst for some fly-by-night publication based inside the Beltway. Said Duffy, "This would be a very difficult situation if he was up for (re-election in 2010). Voters have very short memories. The bottom line is he's got two, two and-a-half years before the reelection campaign gets going, and that is time to try and repair things if he is willing to put in the effort."

Moral of the story: If you are going to mess up and get caught messing up, do it very early in the reelection cycle. Cuz we the voters will probably forgive and forget. Or at least forget, so help me Bill Clinton.

Isn't this a heck of a lot more interesting than reading about Mr. Obama's recent meeting with the Pope? Or the fact that the Golden Bankrupt State has been issuing IOUs to us in lieu of cash?

But I guess we gotta get to back to the meat and potatoes of the political world, right? Before we do that though, who did end up footing the bill for the King of Pop's celebration at Staples Center? Heard the bill amounted to something in the neighborhood of \$1.4 million, a decent chunk of change, especially at this point in our somewhat dubious economic landscape.

Plank believes that the tightwads at the Anschutz Entertainment Group should pony up. They were the fellas with the payola supporting the next MJ concert tour. Apparently a website was set up by someone begging MJ fans to donate to cover the cost of the extra cops eating extra donuts, but the site only collected a paltry \$17,000. Yikes!


Seriously, it appeared that the celebration went off without a hitch, but why should the taxpayers, again, be on the hook for the cash?

And speaking of the cash, any of you fine readers been lucky enough to receive one of the IOUs that the fiscal folks from our Great Bankrupt State started sending out? Seems that most of the pieces of paper were to be sent to the fortunate residents who were awaiting their tax refunds. Something like 29,000 IOUs totaling more than \$53 million. Thanks, Arnold and your Sacramento comrades.

Finally, this week marked the beginning of the confirmation coronation for soon-to-be Supreme Court Judge Sonia Sotomayor.

See Penguin, page 18

 <b>El Segundo Herald</b> • <b>Manhattan Beach Sun</b> <b>Hatthorne Press Tribune</b> <b>Inglewood News</b> • <b>Latundale News</b> <small>HERALD PUBLICATIONS</small>	
<b>EL SEGUNDO OFFICE • 312 E. Imperial Ave • El Segundo • CA • 90245</b> Phone: (310) 322-1830 • Fax: (310) 322-2787 <small>*Our papers are legally recognized and adjudicated newspapers of general circulation</small>	
<b>Herald Publications Board Members</b> Chairman.....John VanHook Jr. CEO and President.....Heidi Maerker Publisher.....Richard Van Vranken Vice President.....William T. Mason II	<b>Classified Advertising</b> .....Denise Armas .....classifieds@heraldpublications.com <b>Obituaries/Announcements/Letters/Calendar</b> .....Norma Catania .....calendar@heraldpublications.com <b>Press Releases</b> ..... .....pressrelease@heraldpublications.com <b>Production</b> ..... .....graphics@heraldpublications.com <b>Accounting</b> .....Denise Armas .....accounting@heraldpublications.com
<b>Herald Publications Staff</b> Editor-in-Chief.....Heidi Maerker .....pressrelease@heraldpublications.com Managing Editor/Creative Director..... .....Keri Suffoletta <b>Display Advertising</b> ..... .....E-mail: sales@heraldpublications.com <b>Real Estate Advertising</b> ..... .....legalnotices@heraldpublications.com <b>Legal Advertising</b> ..... .....legalnotices@heraldpublications.com	<b>Photographers</b> Shelley Kemp      Chris Barnes Dirk Dewachter <b>Writers</b> Karen Russo      Duane Plank George Harris Jr.      Chris Strait Joe Snyder      Chris Barnes Greg McMullin      Jaime Cattano Brian Simon      Tina Steck Young Jesse Blake McCann

 <h1 style="margin: 0;">DEADLINES</h1>
<b>OBITUARIES: Monday at noon.</b> <b>CALENDAR ITEMS: Prior Friday at noon.</b> <b>PEOPLE ITEMS: Prior Friday at noon.</b> <b>DISPLAY AD CHANGES: Prior Thursday at noon.</b> <b>CLASSIFIEDS: Tuesday at noon.</b> <b>LEGAL NOTICES: Monday at noon.</b> <b>NEW DISPLAY ADS: Prior Thursday at noon.</b> <b>REAL ESTATE ADS: Monday at noon.</b> <b>AD CANCELLATIONS: Prior Thursday.</b> <b>LATE CANCELLATIONS WILL BE CHARGED 50% OF AD</b>