

Letters to the Editor

THANK YOU

The article about Older Americans Month is marvelous. We appreciate the Sun's interest in the Manhattan Beach older adult community.

Karen Russo who writes so well, is a wonderful gift to us.

Melen McBride, Program Director, MB Senior Resources Committee

IN SUPPORT OF OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Kudos to our community for continuing to rally in support of our public schools. As many residents realize, the public schools in Manhattan Beach are an integral part of the community and provide the launching pad for tomorrow's best and brightest. The strength of those schools also has a direct impact on our high property values, from which all homeowners - parents and non-parents alike - benefit.

Although only 30 percent of residents currently send their children to MBUSD

schools, it is imperative that all of us in the remaining 70 percent lend our support. Indeed, MB parents and MBEF continue to work tirelessly to make up for the lack of state funding through donations to MBEF, but they cannot do it alone.

Despite MBEF's heroic efforts and the recent donation made by our City Council, MBUSD still faces a significant budget shortfall, resulting in fewer teachers and less services for our students. Let us not rely upon "someone else" to maintain the strength of our schools - the reality is, the "someone else" is us. We are all shareholders in the schools and their success or failure.

MBEF's motto is "If You Have a Child, You Have a Reason". I say even if you don't have a child, you have a reason. Please consider making a contribution, no matter how big or how small, at www.mbef.org and invest in the community that we all love to call home.

Kathleen Paralusz •

People



HAPPY 94TH BIRTHDAY

Happy birthday to Manhattan Beach's longtime resident, **Fern Strong**. She was born May 15, 1917.

Fern Strong has contributed to the growth and development of Manhattan Beach, serving as Beautification Commissioner from 1963-1970. She was a catalyst for City Tree Planting and pioneered for Underground Utilities.

An active member for 30 years of the South Bay Children Hospital Auxiliary she has extended a helping hand to many.

Her proudest accomplishment is as wife to the late Raymond Strong and mother to Greg, Gwen and Carolyn. She has five grandchildren, one of which is Eric Strong, Manhattan Beach's own top-flight fire fighter.

Congratulations Fern and thank you for your service. •

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DEADLINES

OBITUARIES: Monday at noon.

CALENDAR ITEMS: Prior Friday at noon.

PEOPLE ITEMS: Prior Friday at noon.

DISPLAY AD CHANGES: Prior Thursday at noon.

CLASSIFIEDS: Tuesday at noon.

LEGAL NOTICES: Monday at noon.

NEW DISPLAY ADS: Prior Thursday at noon.

REAL ESTATE ADS: Monday at noon.

AD CANCELLATIONS: Prior Thursday.

LATE CANCELLATIONS WILL BE CHARGED 50% OF AD

Calendar

FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2009

• **Older Adults Health Fair.** 8:30 a.m. - Noon at the Joslyn Community Center 1601 Valley Drive. Over 10 health screenings, information booths, bingo and more. For more information 310-802-5448 www.citymb.info

• **Manhattan Beach Coordinating Council luncheon,** Thursday, May 21, at 12:00 PM (registration 11:30 AM) at the Belamar Hotel (3501 Sepulveda Boulevard). The cost is \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members. **RSVP required by May 15,** (for reservations, <mailto:Reservations@MBCoordinatingCouncil.com>.) The Coordinating Council recognizes Manhattan Beach Students of the Month and awards scholarships to outstanding Mira Costa High School seniors. For membership information and an application, please <mailto:Info@MBCoordinatingCouncil.com>.

• **American Martyrs 36th Annual Home Tour.** Our 36th Annual Home Tour, Sophisticated Snoop XXXVI, will take place on May 15, 16 & 17 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Donation \$30.00 presale tickets are \$25.00 Tickets may be purchased at American Martyrs School, 1701 Laurel, MB. Banner Stationers, 415 Main St., El Segundo. Bristol Farms, 1700 S. Pacific Coast Highway, Redondo Beach. Fran's Hallmark, 703 Pier Avenue, Hermosa Beach, and other locations. Six homes will be on tour. Sponsored by American Martyrs Parent Association, tickets by Mail please call Lauren Harger, 379-4414. For further fundraiser info please contact Debbie Walmer, Chairperson 310-376-2318.

• **Armed Forces Day Celebration.** The City of Torrance will once again honor the men and women of our nation's military with a three-day celebration beginning on Friday, May 15 continuing through Sunday, May 17 with the Parade highlight on Saturday, May 16 that will begin at 1:30 p.m. and run along Torrance Boulevard from downtown Torrance and end at the City Hall.

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2009

• **U.S. Congressional Art Competition Reception.** 1:00 PM at the Manhattan Beach Creative Arts Center 1560 Manhattan Beach Boulevard. Congresswomen Jane Harman will award the winners of fine art and photography for the 36th Congressional District.

SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2009

• **Soroptimist Spring Tea.** A beautiful afternoon tea is planned by Soroptimist International of Manhattan Beach Sunday, 12:30-3:00 p.m. at the Ayres Hotel 14400 Hindry Ave, Hawthorne. The program, "Accessories Over and Under," will be presented by Juliana Cheng, Nordstrom

Personal Shopper from the South Bay Galleria. Raffle prizes and a silent auction will help to raise funds for Soroptimist projects to improve the lives of women and girls. Tickets are \$50 (students \$40). Call Sue Molyneux for tickets and further information (310) 376-0767.

• **Neptunian's Gala.** Join the Neptunian Woman's Club of Manhattan Beach in Celebration of their 100th Anniversary Gala Open House 2-5p.m. Clubhouse at 920 Highland, MB. Proclamations from officials, refreshments, Glimpse of the Past.

• **20 Characters in Search of a Laugh.** An hour of Comedic Readings. Scenes and Monologues from Stage. Produced and Directed by KC Johnson and Maria A. Ruiz, two experienced artists in the South Bay. 2:30-3:45 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.

MONDAY, MAY 18, 2009

• **Republican Assembly Meeting.** The South Bay Chapter of the California Republican Assembly will meet from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the El Segundo Public Library, 111 W. Mariposa Ave. All are welcome, for more information 310-406-5429.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2009

• **Movie - Green Card.** A prim horticulturist with a talent for making even the most stubborn plant thrive, will stop at nothing -- even marriage -- to get her dream apartment, especially one with a greenhouse. So, she marries Georges a free-spirited Frenchman who needs a green card. Beginning at 1:30 p.m. and followed by discussion. Jolsyn Center, 1601 Valley Dr., Manhattan Beach. Free event, all are welcome. 310-372-9505.

UPCOMING

• **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, 2009. 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.

ONGOING

• **Poetry Reading Circle** Recent/longtime, amateur and wannabe poets are welcome to read their own or favorite poems every 2nd and 4th 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. •



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