

# Calendar

## SUNDAY, JULY 26, 2009

• **Caregivers Support Group.** A support group has been formed in Manhattan Beach for caregivers of persons with Alzheimer's disease and other related dementia or memory loss. The group will have the opportunity to share their experiences, provide information, and do problem solving of similar situations. Caregivers are welcome. Participation is free from 1:30 to 3:30. To participate, call Madonna Newburg at 310-546-1876.

## MONDAY, JULY 27, 2009

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

## UPCOMING

• **South Bay Force and Hollywood United** are holding a charity fundraiser and are proud to host a Celebrity Soccer Match at 7:30 pm at Mira Costa High School in Manhattan Beach on August 15. Details contact Missy, mjuarez@southbayforce.net

• **Citizens Helping Neighbors and Our City.** The Manhattan Beach Fire Department is looking for community volunteers to sign up for the next Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) course. The training teaches skills that improve personal safety, taking care of your family and neighbors, and assisting the community in the event of a major emergency or a disaster. The topics include disaster preparedness, terrorism, disaster medical care, fire suppression and extinguisher use, light search and rescue, and the Incident Command System. The instructors are members of the Manhattan Beach Fire Department and CERT Association. Class dates are Saturdays (September 12, 19 and 26) from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. The cost is \$50 for each participant, which includes a backpack with emergency supplies, a CERT hard hat/vest, a photo identification badge,

manual, and graduation certificate. To sign up, go to the website at: [www.mbcerta.org](http://www.mbcerta.org) or email [info@mbcerta.org](mailto:info@mbcerta.org).

## 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](mailto: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 Garcetti; 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.

# Political Penguin

## By Duane Plank

Did you see the avowed lefty, President Barack Obama, throw out the first ball at last week's MLB All-Star game in St. Louis? And when I say lefty, I am not referring to the politics of the charismatic Prez. I am just stating the fact that the hard-core White Sox honk chucked the ball from the bump with his left digit. A southpaw! Good to see the Prez out and about. He has a pretty demanding job and deserves to enjoy a day at the old ballpark. Been on the job about six months now. Wonder if he has accrued enough time in office to be allowed a sick day, or if he is still in the probationary period that many employers stick new workers with before they are allowed to start getting paid vacation days and holiday pay?

Of course the compensation package that the POTUS receives starts with his salary, which according to a government website is \$400,000 per year. And VP Joe Biden pulls down around \$221k annually. And Laker Lamar Odom turned down \$10 mil per? I digress.

But there are some nifty perks involved in the government jobs, including flying around in a spiffy airplane and being chauffeured around in a finely-tuned vehicle.

Hey, you older folks out there, remember the catch-phrase uttered by CBS news icon Walter Cronkite, who passed away last week at the age of 92? The venerable Cronkite, who was the face of CBS News for many, many years back in the day, was the anchor for the *Evening News* from 1962 to 1981. He used to close the 30-minute tape-delayed broadcast with the phrase, "And that's the way it is." And that is just the way it appeared to be.

If Cronkite said it, it must be true. And it was darn near amazing that all of the news of the day, from all of the spots in the world, could be condensed into about 22 minutes of air time. If it wasn't shown to us on the *Evening News*, then it couldn't have been very important or meaningful, right?

First time that I remember seeing Walter on the air was during the terrible late November days in 1963 when he was rushed on screen after President John F. Kennedy was shot in Dallas. Cronkite's initial report cut into the broadcast of the soap *As the World Turns*. The screen went to a "Bulletin" slide, and Walter's voice pronounced that, "In Dallas, Texas, three shots were fired at President Kennedy's motorcade in downtown Dallas. The first reports say that President Kennedy has been seriously wounded by this shooting."

For the next four days, a nation was glued to their television screens as the situation unfolded in Texas. Cronkite was part of a team that basically stayed on the air, broadcasting live for the better part of four days.

About an hour after the bulletin slide interrupted the all-important comings and goings of the soap opera crowd, Cronkite

was handed a piece of paper as he continued to update a nation on the tragedy in Dallas. After reading the information, the anchor did his best to compose himself, looked into the camera, and uttered the words that every American now riveted to the story feared. "From Dallas, Texas, the flash, apparently official. President Kennedy died at 1 p.m. Central Standard time, two o'clock Eastern Standard time. Some 38 minutes ago..."

An obviously shaken Cronkite then winces and continues imparting the information that Vice-President Lyndon Johnson will presumably be taking the oath of office and will become the 36th President of the United States.

For the next few days, the network covered, the best they could, the assassination, the subsequent arrest of Lee Harvey Oswald, and the murder of the incarcerated Oswald by Jack Ruby. Plus the incredible spectacle of JFK's Washington, D.C. funeral.

There was a time, folks, when no such thing as a 24-hour news cycle existed. Can you believe it? There was also a time when, yee gads, we had to watch TV without cable. So we relied on getting our national political info from the gentleman on channels two, four and seven.

Cronkite reported on many, many cataclysmic events as the lead on the *Evening News*. There was the vexing Vietnam War, the Apollo landing on the moon, the Watergate affair. A heady time, to be sure, to be the face that a majority of Americans turned to in order to get the straight dope.

Walter stepped down from hosting the *Evening News* broadcast in 1981. The iconic broadcaster had turned 65, and was, some say, forced out of the anchor chair by the mucky-mucks at CBS, who wanted to reinvigorate the broadcast by bringing in the youthful-looking Dan Rather.

Cronkite signed off on his final broadcast from the anchor chair on March 6. After a short comment, he concluded: "Old anchor-men, you see, don't fade away. They just keep coming back for more. And that's the way it is: Friday, March 6, 1981. I'll be away on assignment and Dan Rather will be sitting in here for the next few years. Goodnight."

And that was the end of an era. See ya, Mister Cronkite. We will miss your friendly face, your reassuring words in a time of upheaval.

Course you wonder what Cronkite and the news-gatherers and reporters of his era would think about the way the "news" is covered today. Gotta believe that they would marvel at the technological innovations that have been implemented. Heck, if we so choose, we can basically watch wars live. From anywhere. Anytime. On demand.

But we are also inundated with the pop news cycle, in which, somehow, celebrity

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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**