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Serving the Villages and Neighborhoods of Irvine

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Publisher's Perspective

President Trump

Dear Readers:

>>> President Donald J. Trump. Once hard to imagine, now a reality. Read our front-page story on what the Trump presidency may mean for many thousands in Irvine. Then, take our Irvine Community Poll on whether the Mayor and City Council should weigh-in when the Trump agenda adversely affects our community.

Take our Poll at:
IrvineCommunityNews.org/Take-Our-Poll

>>> I'm pleased to announce that Page 3 — our CityWatch feature — now has a continuing contributor: long-time Irvine City Councilmember and former Mayor Larry Agran. Read Agran's trenchant reporting on the priority issues he'll be covering for us in Irvine. And you won't want to miss important Irvine updates available through our user-friendly website. So, sign up now. Become an ICNV subscriber — free.

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Franklin J. Lunding



Franklin J. Lunding, Publisher and Editor

Trump Agenda Threatens To Hurt Thousands In Irvine



Jan. 20, 2017, Donald Trump was sworn in as President. The next day, the Women's March (seen here in Santa Ana) attracted millions of Americans to protest Trump's agenda on healthcare, women's health, immigrants, and the environment.

Fears grow as President Trump's stated actions on Obamacare, women's health, and deportations will impact thousands of Irvine families and children.

It's no longer the Trump vs. Clinton TV show. It's no longer presidential politics as high-ratings entertainment. Donald J. Trump is, in fact, President of the United States. This is not a "reality TV" program. It's now about real life, real people, and Trump's real policies and programs that will directly impact everyone in Irvine, some more than others.

Health Care

There is great doubt and even fear of what a Donald Trump presidency means for America. But there can be no doubt that Trump's agenda to "Make America Great Again" includes repeal of the federal Affordable Care Act, better known as Obamacare. That has been at the very top

of the Trump and Republican Party agenda for a long time.

Democrats say repealing Obamacare won't, in Trump's words "make America great again." It will, in their words, "make America sick again."

What does it all mean in Irvine? Virtually every Irvine resident has been affected — most have benefitted — from the phased implementation of the Affordable Care Act, which then-President Barack Obama managed to push through Congress in 2010. Under Obamacare, more than 20,000 previously uninsured Irvine residents have been able to purchase affordable, quality health insurance through "Covered California," the health insurance

→ continued on page 2 →

What's Inside...

Business & Coupon Connection
P. 4-6

Irvine Living & Community Calendar
P. 7-10

Features & Columnists
P. 11-13

Open Forum & Community Voices
P. 14-15

→ continued from page 1 → **Trump Agenda Threatens Thousands In Irvine**

exchange set up under federal and state law. Thousands of middle-class Irvine households receive tax subsidies to help pay for approved health insurance policies; thousands more have gained coverage under the state MediCal program.

“Repeal of Obamacare, as Trump and congressional Republicans are pledged to do, would be devastating to thousands and thousands of Irvine families,” according to Dr. Phyllis Agran, a UCI Professor and leading Orange County pediatrician. Dr. Agran added, “Children, especially, would lose out on the expanded coverage that Obamacare has mandated for kids in California — for example, dental health coverage, and coverage for mental health and developmental disabilities.”

Repeal of Obamacare would also affect Irvine seniors under Medicare — eliminating expanded coverage for prescription drugs and free annual physicals.

There are other popular provisions of the Affordable Care Act at risk. For example, Obamacare currently requires health insurance companies to cover pre-existing conditions; it eliminates caps on coverage; and it allows children to remain covered under their parents’ policies until age 26.

Repeal of these provisions would wreak havoc on Irvine families. A father with a young Irvine family put it this way: “Obamacare enabled our family to get better health insurance coverage, and save \$7,000 per year. Repeal would probably force us to lose our insurance, or have to pay so much more that we’d have to sell our home and move, just to afford private health insurance.”

Women’s Health

High on the Trump-Republican agenda is a promise to de-fund Planned Parenthood. President Trump and House Republicans, led by Speaker Paul Ryan, have taken aim at Planned Parenthood, based mainly on Republican Party opposition to abortions.

In fact, abortions represent a tiny fraction of what Planned Parenthood does. According to Melahat Rafiei, a former Board Member of Planned Parenthood of Orange County and San Bernardino’s Community Action Fund,

“The Trump-Ryan Republican war against Planned Parenthood is really part of a broader attack on women’s health. Irvine women and families served by Planned Parenthood number in the thousands — receiving pap smears, breast examinations, contraception, and pre-natal check ups. Why in the world would we want to de-fund that?”

Fear Among Irvine Immigrants

Add Irvine immigrants to those in fear of Trump’s presidency. What do they fear? They fear presidential executive orders to begin round-ups and mass deportations.

According to the *Los Angeles Times*, the Trump administration is poised to launch high-profile workplace raids. Irvine, with thousands of employers and businesses, and a vast immigrant-dependent daily workforce of more than 200,000, is extremely sensitive to attacks on immigrants.

Trump is on record favoring deportation of millions of undocumented Mexican-Americans, Chinese-Americans and others who are undocumented. In addition, he has called for a ban on Muslims seeking asylum in the United States, and has even proposed initiating a “registry” of Muslim-Americans as a means of “fighting terrorism.”

Irvine is now a famously diverse and integrated “majority-minority” City of nearly 300,000 people — people and families of all backgrounds, faiths, and ethnic origins.

A longtime leader in Irvine’s Muslim community, speaking anonymously for fear of reprisal, said, “Irvine’s minority communities — especially Hispanics and immigrants from the Middle East — fear what President Trump may do. Irvine is a decent and tolerant community. I hope our local elected officials will do what’s right — speak-up and support and defend those among us who are being targeted for attack.”

Official Reaction in Irvine?

Historically, Irvine Mayors and City Councilmembers — most notably former Mayors Larry Agran and Beth Krom — have sent official letters and initiated City Council actions in opposition to federal policies and programs that are harmful

Irvine vote results:
Hillary 56,417; Trump 29,513



to Irvine residents. But the current City Council political alignment makes it unlikely that the Mayor and City Council will voice opposition to the Trump administration in any way. Mayor Donald Wagner and three other Councilmembers — Christina Shea, Jeff Lalloway, and Lynn Schott — are highly partisan Republicans, who are apparently committed to supporting President Trump and the Republican Congress.

Councilmember Melissa Fox is the lone Democrat on Irvine’s five-member City Council. [KNV](#)

What Do YOU Think?

In the past, the Mayor and City Councilmembers in Irvine have spoken out when federal policies threaten harm to Irvine residents and workers. Should the Mayor and City Council speak out on issues of health care, women’s health, and federal immigration and deportation policies that threaten rights or benefits of Irvine citizens?

Take our Poll at:

IrvineCommunityNews.org/Take-Our-Poll

Introductory Note from Publisher Franklin J. Lunding: I am pleased that Larry Agran — former Irvine City Councilmember and Mayor — has accepted my invitation to become a regular contributor to *ICNV’s* CityWatch page. We couldn’t have a more knowledgeable “watchman” when it comes to Irvine civic affairs. - FJL



CityWatch by Larry Agran*

As I see it, this space — this CityWatch page — provides an opportunity for us to come together as a community and focus on the priority issues facing Irvine. It’s an opportunity, as well, to take the measure of whether our community leaders are responding effectively to the challenges we face. So, here are several priority issues that I intend to write about in 2017.

Priority No. 1: Growth, Development, Traffic & Overcrowding. By any measure, the top priority issue in Irvine is uncontrolled residential growth and development — and the traffic mess and school overcrowding it produces. With our Mayor and City Council apparently refusing to enact any growth-control policies, things are getting worse — literally by the day. Take a look at the chart on this page, and you’ll see what I mean. You can be sure I’ll have much more to say about this in the months ahead.

Priority No. 2: Toxic Contamination at Portola High School. The \$300 million Portola High School, now occupied by teachers, staff, and 400 ninth-grade students, is on a 40-acre school site that is widely contaminated with toxic petrochemicals, including cancer-causing benzene and benzene derivatives, and toluene and other dangerous neurotoxicants. The site-wide contamination is likely the result of decades of massive dumping of fuels and solvents associated with military aircraft operations at the former El Toro Marine Corps Airbase. This is a scandal that endangers the health and safety of students, teachers and staff. And, yes, it endangers Irvine taxpayers as well in the event of legal liability. I salute Dr. Harvey Liss and *ICNV* (see pages 13-15) for this important investigative journalism — and for continuing to press for more testing. I’ll stay on top of this important story, too.

Priority No. 3: Veterans Cemetery in the Great Park. In 2014 and again in 2016, the Irvine City Council made its will clear: The City was dedicating 125 acres in the Great Park to build a Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery, in accordance with the provisions of State law. In recent months, there have been indications that Councilmember Christina Shea and Mayor Donald Wagner may soon again bring forward a “land-swap” scheme, backed by developer FivePoint Communities, to derail the Veterans Cemetery so that FivePoint can build thousands more houses and apartments at the Great Park. That would

be a travesty. I’ll keep our readers up to the minute on this important issue.

Priority No. 4: TrumpWatch. It matters who is President. What President Trump has in mind — repealing the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare), de-funding women’s health care, waging a war on immigrants, slashing environmental protections — has real consequences affecting thousands in our City. It is imperative that our Mayor, City Council and School Board members stand up and speak out on these matters. Irvine citizens — that’s you and I — need to speak out as well. I will. Will you?

*Larry Agran is a former Irvine City Councilmember. He served as Mayor of Irvine for six years in the 1980s and again, from 2000-2004. Larry Agran led the successful fight to adopt the Irvine Open Space Preservation Plan — saving more than 10,000 acres of Irvine open space and keeping it free of development. He also led the successful fight to defeat the County’s plan to put an international airport in Irvine, instead securing 1,300 acres to build Irvine’s Great Park. Larry Agran is a graduate of UC Berkeley, and a graduate of Harvard Law School. He served as Legal Counsel with California State Legislature, taught law at UCLA and UC Irvine, and he continues to practice public interest law.

GrowthWatch & TrafficWatch — A New ICNV Feature Keeping an Eye on Growth, Development & Traffic in Irvine. It’s as simple as 1-2-3-4.

When Irvine residents say that they feel that traffic in Irvine is getting worse every day, they are right — it is! It’s as simple — and as scary — as 1-2-3-4.

On average, with every 1 house (or apartment) that is built in Irvine, there are 2 cars, 3 people, and 4 daily rush-hour automobile trips.



New residents are occupying newly built Irvine houses and apartments every day of every month, at a rate of about 10 housing units per day. For the month of January, 2017, this means new and additional units of housing and apartments were occupied with the following impacts:





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| <p>CULVER PLAZA SHOPPING CENTER Culver & Irvine Center Drive • All That Barbeque / Korean BBQ • Postal Annex • The Car Spa</p> | <p>OAK CREEK SHOPPING CENTER Jeffrey & Alton • Daphne's Greek Cafe • Gelbon's • Jack's Surfboards • Upper Crust Pizza • Madzuru Sushi Bar - Japanese Restaurant • Mustard Cafe • Orange Theory Fitness</p> | <p>THE VILLAGE AT IRVINE SPECTRUM CENTER Prism & Spectrum • Starbucks • Village Market</p> |
| <p>CYPRESS VILLAGE SHOPPING CENTER Jeffrey & Trabuco • Albertsons • Al Amir • Honey Pig • Da Luau Hawaiian Grill</p> | <p>OLD MYFORD ROAD & IRVINE BLVD. • Katie Wheeler Library</p> | <p>WALNUT VILLAGE CENTER Culver & Walnut • Curves/Jenny Craig • Starbucks Coffee • Subway • Yes Cleaners</p> |
| <p>DIAMOND JAMBOREE Alton & Jamboree • Lower Level - Food Court Seating • Square Room Escape • Tokyo Table</p> | <p>OLD TOWN IRVINE Sand Canyon & 5 Fwy • Knowwood • Deany's</p> | <p>WESTPARK PLAZA Alton & Culver • Albertsons • Dickey's Barbeque Pit • Starbucks Coffee • Sprouts Farmers Market</p> |
| <p>HARVARD & MICHELSON • Irvine Lanes</p> | <p>ORCHARD HILLS VILLAGE CENTER Culver & Portola • Green Cleaners • Peet's Coffee & Tea</p> | <p>WOODBRIDGE MEDICAL CENTER Barranca & Woodbridge Square • Woodbridge Walk-In Urgent Care</p> |
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| <p>HERITAGE PLAZA Culver & Walnut • Caffé Bene • Caspian Restaurant • Super Irvine International Market • Ralphs</p> | <p>PARKVIEW CENTER University & Michelson • AIM Mail Centers - Postal Annex • Dr. Sarlitt, Dr. Vo - Optometry • Maxwell's Salon of London • Pho-Tasia</p> | |

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Impressive in Irvine

Andrew Tonkovich and Lisa Alvarez are co-editors of a remarkable anthology, which they have entitled, *ORANGE COUNTY: A Literary Field Guide*. Tonkovich edits the West Coast literary journal *Santa Monica Review* and hosts *Bibliocracy Radio*, a weekly books show on KPFK (90.7 FM). He teaches writing at UC Irvine, where he is the president of the union representing librarians and lecturers. His wife and co-editor, Lisa Alvarez, is a teacher at Irvine Valley College.

For the benefit of *ICNV* readers, we asked Andrew Tonkovich to prepare a brief description of *ORANGE COUNTY: A Literary Field Guide*. We are pleased to present it here.

— MARILYN VASSOS



Andrew Tonkovich and Lisa Alvarez

After working and living in Orange County for two decades, my wife and co-editor Lisa Alvarez and I found ourselves not only challenging the too-easy stereotypes about our adopted home, but boosting just a bit — especially when it came to the art and writing that OC has inspired.

As writers and teachers, we were nonetheless surprised at the size of our home library of must-own OC histories and field guides, local self-published appreciations, and overlooked or forgotten classics. In conversation with both locals and visitors, we increasingly referenced texts which, we imagined, spoke persuasively about important elements of the OC story, whether the 1936 Citrus Wars, Disneyland as a cultural phenomenon, development of the Irvine Ranch or the area's place and portrayal in the popular imagination, as in the fiction of novelists Jessamyn West and E.L. Doctorow, titans of American literature.

Each of these themes have been considered, by novelists and short story writers, poets and memoirists, beginning with early explorers and "pioneers" and extending to contemporary works of protest, satire, insight and celebration. After further reading, research and making some difficult choices, we hope both newbies and longtime residents will appreciate the literary panorama we've offered in a new anthology featuring some

of the best, representative, challenging if also often affirming writing from and about OC.

Published by Heyday, *Orange County: A Literary Field Guide* is a small if potentially startling collection of writing about the County gathered in one place, in what we believe is the region's first-ever literary anthology.

Our book is a one hundred and fifty-year survey of fiction and nonfiction by visitors and residents, from established and renowned authors to the less well-known. Trying to cover the County's rich and complicated history, culture, landmarks and people was tough. So much had to be left out.

But, for now, we're pleased to include among sixty pieces a short story by the young M.F.K. Fisher on Laguna Beach, poetry from Pulitzer Prize-winner Yusef

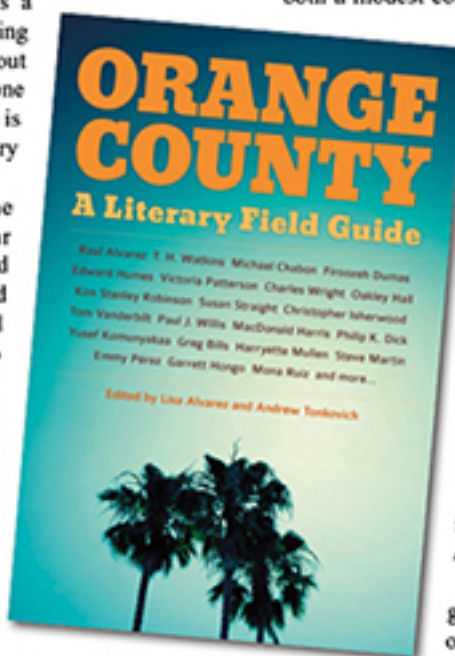
Komunyakaa, excerpts from comedian-actor-playwright Steve Martin, historical reflection by Joan Didion, autobiography from Santa Ana police officer Mona Ruiz and verse by activist-scholar Mitsuye Yamada, just to brag about the volume's table of contents.

We've organized literary pieces as a "field guide," with writing about the hills, coast, and valley in-between, and featuring an array of voices on landmark topics (and places) from the Santa Ana River to The Magic Kingdom and Nixon Library, Seal Beach to Modjeska Canyon. With stories and recollections from newcomers (as, for example, Madame Modjeska's friend and Nobel Prize-winner Henryk (*Quo Vadis*) Sienkiewicz and her one-time groundskeeper and native plants expert Theodore Payne) to 60s-era reminiscences of development (by longtime OC chronicler Jim Washburn) and wild counter-cultural investigation by journalist Nick Schou, there's something by and for nearly everybody.

We include stories of workers, immigrants, the natural world and countless lost histories in-between. We hope this collection fills a need for both celebration and critical evaluation of the stories of Orange County, as told by diverse, forgotten or unheard voices. We have provided both a modest corrective and recommended

reading list. We call attention to must-read established writers such as Oakley Hall of *Warlock* fame and surf noir inventor Kem Nunn and his *Tapping the Source*. There is also funny, urgent and revelatory newer work from instant favorites, including esteemed younger writers Emmy Pérez, Kristen Leigh Schwarz and Peggy Hesketh, whose *Telling the Bees* portrays intersecting lives in old Anaheim.

Indeed, we hope this field guide will tell the stories of many lives, lived and imagined.



Irvine Living

COMMUNITY NEWS & VIEWS

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You can explore Irvine wilderness and open space areas throughout the year!

Most of the activities are free and led by IRC-Certified volunteers, *but you must register prior to each event*. For more information on events, or to register, go to: LetsGoOutside.org



Long-awaited Winter rains rejuvenate life in the City of Irvine Open Space Preserve.

Community Calendar



"Façade of Mission San Juan Capistrano," circa, 1883 by Elizabeth Jaynes Berghem (1848-1922). Oil on canvas 16 x 22 inches. The Irvine Museum Collection at the University of California, Irvine

IRVINE MUSEUM EXHIBIT

"Along El Camino Real"

The Irvine Museum Collection at the University of California, Irvine presents "Along El Camino Real," an exhibit that explores the history of the California missions. These outposts were connected by El Camino Real (the Royal Road or the King's Highway), which today approximates Highway 101. The earliest views of the California missions in the exhibit are selections from a set of etchings by Henry Chapman Ford (1828-1894) published in 1883. The oldest paintings on display are the "Mission San Juan Capistrano" and "Chinatown, Los Angeles" both painted by Alexander Harmer (1856-1925) in 1886. What is now one of the most beautiful gardens in California is shown as a dry, dusty yard, with just a few geraniums against the pillars of the arcade. Also on display are works by such noted California artists as Alson S. Clark (1876-1949), Alice Coutts (1879-1973), Edwin Deakin (1838-1923), William Lees Judson (1842-1928), Elmer Wachtel (1864-1929) and William Wendt (1865-1946). These paintings show many of California's 21 missions. The most popular with artists, however, was Mission San Juan Capistrano, whose beauty and elegance earned it the nickname "Jewel of the Missions."

Exhibit runs now through May 18, 2017. Info: IrvineMuseum.org

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|--|---|--|---|
| <p>Irvine Museum</p>  <p>Alexander Harmer (1856-1925) "Chinatown, Los Angeles," 1886</p> | <p>"Along El Camino Real"</p>  <p>William Wendt (1865-1946) "A Clear Day"</p> | <p>"Along El Camino Real"</p>  <p>William Wendt (1865-1946) "An Echo of the Past"</p> | <p>1</p> <p>Bunco at the Rancho Sealor Center. First Wednesdays. 12:30-3pm. \$5. Info: 949-724-6800</p>  | <p>2</p> <p>Planning Commission Meeting. Irvine City Hall. 5:30pm. Info: 949-724-6233</p>  | <p>3</p> <p>Movie Matinee. Lakeview Senior Center. Fridays at 12:15pm. Info: 949-724-6900</p>  | <p>4</p> <p>Read to a Dog. University Park Library. Children 12 and under are invited to read to licensed therapy dogs! 11am-12pm. Info: 714-669-8753</p>  |
| <p>5</p> <p>Certified Farmers Market. OC Great Park. Rain or shine. 10am-2pm. Info: 866-829-3829</p>  | <p>6</p> <p>Braley Bookworms. Katie Wheeler Library. Book Club for 2nd & 3rd Graders. 4pm. Info: 714-669-8753</p>  | <p>7</p> <p>Bingo at the Lakeview Senior Center. Tuesdays. \$8. Buy-in 12:30pm. 1-3pm. Info: 949-724-6900</p>  | <p>8</p> <p>Storytime in The Garden. OC Great Park Farm + Food Lab. 9-9:45am. Info: 866-829-3829</p>  | <p>9</p> <p>Wee Wonder Walks. Bommer Canyon. Perfect for kids ages 2-6, this 1/2 mile hike includes a fun craft at the end. 10-11am. Info: LetsGoOutside.org</p>  | <p>10</p> <p>Senior Striders. Walk three miles along the Jeffrey Open Space Trail. Meet at Trabuco Senior Center. Registration required. Tuesdays and Fridays. 8:30-9:30am. Info: 949-724-7300</p>  | <p>11</p> <p>Seasoned Chefs Culinary Workshop. OC Great Park Farm + Food Lab. Free. 10-11am. Info: 866-829-3829</p>  |
| <p>12</p> <p>Certified Farmers Market. OC Great Park. Rain or shine. 10am-2pm. Info: 866-829-3829</p>  | <p>13</p> <p>Evening Hike. Orchard Hills. 6:30-8:30pm. Info: LetsGoOutside.org</p>  | <p>14</p> <p>Valentine's Day. City Council Meeting. Irvine City Hall. Cox Cable Channel 30. 5pm. Info: 949-742-6205</p>  | <p>15</p> <p>Pajama Storytime. University Park Library. Stories, songs and activities for the whole family! Wednesdays 6:30pm. Info: 949-786-4001</p>  | <p>16</p> <p>Homework Help. Katie Wheeler Library. 3:30pm. Info: 714-669-8753</p>  | <p>17</p> <p>Movie Matinee. Trabuco Senior Center. Fridays at 2pm. Info: 949-724-7300</p>  | <p>18</p> <p>Americans United for Separation of Church & State. Speaker: Michele Goodwin, Conscience Clause. Irvine Ranch Water District Community Room. 1:45pm. Info: AU-OC.org</p>  |
| <p>19</p> <p>Certified Farmers Market. OC Great Park. Rain or shine. 10am-2pm. Info: 866-829-3829</p>  | <p>20</p> <p>President's Day.</p>  | <p>21</p> <p>International Discussion Group. Rancho Senior Center. Participate in thought-provoking conversations about current national and international topics. 9:30am. Third Tuesdays. Info: Bob Meyers 949-786-2097</p>  | <p>22</p> <p>Women For: Orange County Meeting. The Duck Club at the IRWD. 11am. Info: WomenForOrangeCounty.org</p>  | <p>23</p> <p>Live Music at Eureka! 4143 Campus Dr. Each Thursday night Eureka! features Live Music at their University Town Center location! 8pm. Info: 949-596-8881</p>  | <p>24</p> <p>Balance Exhibit. OC Great Park Gallery. 10am-4pm. Info: 866-829-3829</p>  | <p>25</p> <p>Family Hike. Irvine Open Space Preserve. Agua Chino. 4-6pm. Info: LetsGoOutside.org</p>  |
| <p>26</p> <p>Certified Farmers Market. OC Great Park. Rain or shine. 10am-2pm. Info: 866-829-3829</p>  | <p>27</p> <p>Homework Help. Heritage Park Library. Mondays when school is in session only. 4:30pm. Info: 949-936-4040</p>  | <p>28</p> <p>City Council Meeting. Irvine City Hall. Cox Cable Channel 30. 5pm. Info: 949-742-6205</p>  | <p>1 MARCH</p> <p>Origami Club. Heritage Park Library. Learn basic origami. Open to all ages. 4-6pm. Info: 949-936-4040</p>  | <p>BALANCE</p>  | | |

Adoptable Pet of the Month



Each issue we feature one "adoptable" pet from the Irvine Animal Care Center. The Irvine Animal Care Center (IACC) is a progressive and innovative municipal animal shelter that continually strives to strengthen the human-animal bond and improve the welfare of animals by promoting their humane care and treatment. The Center's 3.73 acre, park-like facility cares for thousands of homeless, neglected and abused animals every year. All animals in their care receive veterinary care, high-quality food, soft bedding and daily socialization.

"Grady" is a male, neutered, blue Domestic Shorthair. He is about 4 years old. For more information about Grady and other adoptable pets, or the IACC call 949-724-7740 or email info@irvineshelter.org

BALANCE Balance Exhibit Great Park Gallery

Balance studies the evolving relationship between nature and humanity through installation art and sculptural work. With a sense of wonder, this group exhibition negotiates with environments while investigating their intricate details and exploring their nostalgic landscapes. The exhibit features artists from all over the United States who examine time and patience including Vaughn Bell, Marissa Gawel, Isabelle Hayeur, Esther Traugot, Jedediah Corwyn Voltz and Andre Woodward, with highlights from Storm King Art Center in New Windsor, New York. Exhibit runs now through February 19. The Great Park Gallery is located in the Palm Court Arts Complex. Thursdays-Fridays: 12-4pm and Saturdays-Sundays: 10am-4pm. Info: 866-829-3829

LIFESTYLE IS WHERE IT BEGINS



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Part 1 of a 2-Part Series

Where Have All The Teachers Gone?



SCHOOLWATCH
by Carolyn Inmon

California is in the midst of a teacher shortage that is getting worse each year. Many more teachers are leaving the profession than are entering it. One-third of all 300,000 public school teachers in California are nearing retirement. Making matters worse, enrollment in teacher training programs is way down; only 5 percent of college-bound students want to become educators. And nearly half of those who do become teachers leave the profession within five years — usually frustrated with working conditions and low salaries.



Origins of the Teacher Shortage

The Great Recession, which began in 2007, led to deep and damaging cuts in education budgets. Thousands of teachers and staff were laid off, including scores of teachers right here in Irvine. Across the State, the cuts put a chill on personal decisions that college students were making about whether to enter the education field. College students figured that if they were going to incur tens of thousands of dollars of debt for a higher education, they needed to work in a profession with job security and a big enough salary to be able to pay off college loans.

Working Conditions

Let's face it: Over the past 10 years, in many ways teaching has simply become unattractive. Salaries of teachers stayed frozen for years. Classroom sizes continued to grow. High-stakes testing of students — required by federal and state law — led to "teaching to the test" and teacher-student evaluations that are often based on one-dimensional test scores. For years now, the idealism and creativity that we associate with outstanding teachers have gone unrewarded. On the contrary, small-minded politicians repeatedly bash our public schools, making the false, unsupported claim that "our public schools are failing." Then, they blame the "failure" on teachers' unions and the teachers themselves.

So, is it any wonder that across California veteran teachers are leaving the profession, and that it's getting harder and harder to recruit and retain good teachers? Irvine is not exempt from this troubling dynamic. In fact, nearby school districts that are desperate for highly qualified teachers have begun to offer financial incentives to woo Irvine teachers to their schools.

NEXT TIME, Part 2: Strategies to Meet the Teacher Shortage and Retain Excellence in Irvine Schools.

*Carolyn Inmon is a retired Irvine teacher. She has taught at virtually every grade level, from K-12, as well as community college. She served as President of the Community College Association from 2005-2007. Carolyn welcomes comments and ideas at: Carolyn@IrvineCommunityNews.org

Renting Irvine Sports Fields



SPORTSWATCH
by Joel Smith

Irvine currently has over 50 different athletic venues in town. Some venues have more sport facilities than others. For example, Heritage Community Park has 12 tennis courts, Harvard Community Park has 7 baseball and softball diamonds, and some venues simply have one or two athletic fields.

All of these sports fields and courts are available to the public but need to be rented. When it comes to reservations, the sport that is currently in season gets priority for field use. Youth sports get first priority for fields, ahead of adult sports teams.

Irvine sports field rentals range from \$16 - \$39 per hour for Irvine resident teams and \$37 - \$57 per hour for non-resident teams. The outstanding fields at the Great Park are slightly more expensive. For more information, go to: <http://www.cityofirvine.org/facility-reservations/field-rentals>.

A Winter-Weather Note: Irvine has a great tool for finding out if sports fields have been closed due to inclement weather. You can call the MUDD line at: 949-724-6833 (MUDD); or go to: [cityofirvine.org/mudd](http://www.cityofirvine.org/mudd). You'll get an up-to-the-minute report.

*Joel Smith is a hometown Irvine athlete and Concordia University graduate who excelled in soccer, and now coaches in Irvine.

Resistance

"When injustice becomes law, resistance becomes duty."

— (OFTEN ATTRIBUTED TO THOMAS JEFFERSON)

The sources I consulted do not confirm that Thomas Jefferson ever made this statement. Regardless, the thought behind the statement is well worth reflecting upon. At this time, when millions of Americans are concerned that their hard-won civil rights might be in jeopardy, we should all be mindful that eternal vigilance is the price of liberty.

*Harris E. Kershner is a local attorney, specializing in Employment Law. He has lived in Irvine for over 30 years, and currently resides in Woodbridge.



WORDSWATCH
by Harris E. Kershner



CULTURECORNER
by Marilyn Vassos

A Cultural Event

I am taking this CultureCorner opportunity to offer a public service announcement that I hope will be of interest to many of our readers. On Wednesday, February 22nd, you are invited to the Women For: Orange County open meeting — an 11am mid-day cultural event at Irvine's iconic "Duck Club," located along the San Diego Creek, at 15 Riparian View, Irvine. (Enter off of Campus Drive.)

Join us for two outstanding cultural presentations. Andrew Tonkovich and Lisa Alvarez, both instructors at UCI, have written a first-of-its-kind anthology, *ORANGE COUNTY: A Literary Field Guide* — a literary review of the books and articles, and the authors who wrote them, managing to capture the essence and evolution of our Orange County culture. (For a preview of what's in store, read more about *ORANGE COUNTY: A Literary Field Guide* on page 6.)

In addition to Andrew Tonkovich, Irvine poet Mitsuye Yamada is a second featured speaker. For more information about the February 22nd meeting, call 949-951-8140 or go to: WomenForOrangeCounty.org.



Andrew Tonkovich

*Marilyn Vassos is a retired Irvine teacher and long-time resident and supporter of Irvine's cultural arts.

Jake's iPhone Tips: Hidden Features Revealed

by Jake Jacobs

This is the eighth in a series of articles on how to get the most out of your iPhone. I have been using iPhones for more than six years and have discovered hundreds of useful features within this marvelous device. These articles will help you discover the hidden power of your iPhone.

ORGANIZE YOUR APPS

When there are numerous apps on your iPhone, they should be organized. Here is a basic strategy:

> Fill the slots in the first home screen with all the apps that are used very frequently. Shown here are the ones that I have chosen. Place the most used apps towards the bottom.

> Choose the four apps that are used the most. Place those four app icons into the Dock area at the bottom of the home screen. The Dock area is always present no

matter what home screen is visible. I have chosen *Phone, Mail, Calendar, and HandBase* as my four most used apps.

In my second home screen (not shown) I have placed the apps that I use the next most frequently.

> In my third home screen I have placed many apps into various folders, and then I have labeled each folder with a description of the type of apps to be found therein.

In subsequent pages I have mixtures of folders and app icons.

Here is how to arrange folders and icons: hold your finger on any icon until they all start to jiggle. While they are jigging ...

- **Create a folder:** drag one icon on top of another. Tap the new folder name field to rename it.
- **Relocate icons on the home screen:** drag the icon to a different location or page, or into a folder, or drag an icon out of the folder.
- **Delete a folder:** drag all the icons out of it.
- **Delete an app by tapping the circle (X) on the app icon.**

Stop the jigging when you are done rearranging the icons by tapping the home button.

Take control of your iPhone! Put apps where you want them.



Jake Jacobs

Jake Jacobs, a retired electrical engineer, has worked many years in the high tech arenas of Silicon Valley, MIT, and Orange County, where he co-founded a medical device company. He has taught introductory computer science at Stanford University. He has created and taught iPhone workshops locally for three years. If you would like more information on Jake's workshops, check out his website at JakeAir.weebly.com for the Fall schedule. Email Jake at JakeAir@cox.net



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TestForToxics.org

by Harvey H. Liss, Ph.D., P.E., Executive Director

"Alternative Facts" — The new unreality at Portola High School!

I'm afraid that IUSD Superintendent Terry Walker, his Board and their environmental consultant, as well as the State, have all beaten President Trump to the Alternative Facts unreality by several years in declaring repeatedly that the Portola High School site is "safe." A totally unsupported declaration is not an Actual Fact.

The reality is that Actual Facts have always been in plain sight, if only IUSD officials cared enough to look at the available documents and draw common-sense conclusions.

Actual Facts

The Actual Fact is that the most recent set of soil-gas tests, performed in March and April of 2016, in the interior of the 40-acre Portola High School site revealed that all 17 soil-gas test wells turned up varying levels of toluene, as well as various combinations of other toxic Volatile

Organic Compounds (VOCs). Benzene, a potent carcinogen, was detected in four of the test wells.

But, rather than provoking officials to conduct more intensive testing to find higher concentrations of VOCs on the site — especially under the buildings — IUSD and State officials decided to halt testing and begin repeating the Alternative Fact that the site was "safe." (Does this sound like Flint?)

The Actual Fact is that the locations and maximum concentrations of VOCs on the Portola High School site remain absolutely unknown. So, the debate over what level of contamination is *unsafe* is still premature, although it is now widely accepted that for benzene and toluene there are *no* safe levels, since their effects are cumulative.

Toluene Contamination

For example, toluene is a neurotoxicant that affects the growth and

development of the brain and Central Nervous System (CNS), and is particularly dangerous to children and pregnant women. According to a March, 2014 article on neurotoxicants in the highly-respected medical journal, *The Lancet*, toluene is listed as a developmental neurotoxicant. The article states:

"Developmental neurotoxicity causes brain damage that is too often untreatable and frequently permanent. The consequence of such brain damage is impaired CNS function that lasts a lifetime and might result in reduced intelligence, as expressed in terms of lost IQ points, or disruption in behavior."

Testing School Buildings

The danger of these VOCs in the soil is that their vapors rise up

and accumulate under buildings. Eventually, they seep into the buildings via foundation penetrations for plumbing and other utilities, as well as through inevitable cracks in the slab foundation.

At this point, it is irresponsible and a risk to the health of all school occupants to not fully test the site, especially the soil under the buildings, in order to truly determine the actual levels of contamination.

It is also imperative that continuous air monitoring equipment be installed inside the school buildings to reveal any vapor intrusion from these dangerous VOCs. It is, after all, inside the buildings where teachers, staff and students would be primarily exposed.

If you haven't already done so, please sign the Safe Schools Petition at: irvinecommunitynews.org/safe-schools-2



Health & Safety, Schools & Kids by Phyllis Agran, M.D., M.P.H.* Now that marijuana use is legalized in California ...

Jake, who was then a 16-year-old, saw me over 5 years ago for evaluation of severe nausea, cyclic vomiting, and abdominal pain. These symptoms were somewhat relieved by a hot shower. After multiple costly visits to the emergency room with no specific cause identified, he was referred to me for a gastroenterology consult.

What was rare then — but is increasingly common and well recognized by emergency room physicians now — is that Jake was suffering from Cannabinoid Hyperemesis Syndrome. This syndrome is but one example of the effects of marijuana on our children.

Now that recreational use of marijuana is legal in California, as health care professionals, teachers and parents, we must learn to recognize adverse effects of marijuana on children. We must learn from the experience

in Colorado where there has been a five-fold increase in emergency room visits between 2009 and 2015. Most cases involved toddlers and were due to accidental ingestion of edible products. A new study found chemicals in urine of children exposed to second-hand marijuana smoke.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) released an updated policy statement, "The Impact of Marijuana Policies on Youth: Clinical, Research and Legal Update," along with a technical report that includes the latest research and information about marijuana.

Marijuana use is remarkably common among youth in the U.S. According to the most recent surveys, about 1 in 5 high school students have used it in the past month; 1 in 12 have used it at least 20 times in the past month; and 1 in 16 use it daily.

For parents, a review of the signs of substance use in adolescents can be found at: www.healthychildren.org.

Like Colorado before us, California is embarking upon a major social experiment with the legalization of recreational marijuana use. All of us should be alert to the effects that this experiment may have on the lives of our children. California should use revenues generated from marijuana sales to support research on health effects, and to develop effective interventions for addressing substance abuse.



*Phyllis Agran is a practicing Orange County pediatrician, a Professor at the UC Irvine School of Medicine, and Past President of the Orange County Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Dr. Agran is a recognized national expert in pediatric injury control and prevention. She is also a member of the Irvine Unified School District's Medical Advisory Committee.

OPEN FORUM

FREE SPEECH FOREVER!



Sign the Irvine Safe Schools Petition!

Dear Readers:

As the founding publisher of *Irvine Community News & Views*, I am very proud of the work of our science writer and investigative journalist, Dr. Harvey Liss.

Dr. Liss, who holds a Ph.D. in Applied Mechanics, has doggedly researched and documented the scandalous failure of IUSD and the City of Irvine to properly test for toxic petrochemical contamination at the site of Portola High School, Irvine's newest high school.

Finally, with the insistence of hundreds and hundreds of Irvine citizens, last year — belatedly — soil-gas testing for toxic petrochemical contamination was performed. As Dr. Liss has reported (see page 13), all 17 soil-gas test wells turned up varying levels of toluene (a dangerous neurotoxicant), as well as various combinations of other toxic petrochemicals, including benzene (a potent carcinogen) and benzene derivatives.

This should have immediately spurred more testing, including indoor air testing, to see if toxic vapors are intruding into school buildings where teachers, staff and students may be at risk of exposure.

That IUSD and the City of Irvine have not conducted such tests is truly scandalous...as well as dangerous. We are urging you to add your name to our new, online petition, which can be found at:

irvinecommunitynews.org/safe-schools-2

Safe Schools Petition

We, the undersigned, call upon the Irvine School Board and the Irvine City Council to conduct comprehensive, independent and conscientious testing of the Portola High School site — both site-wide soil-gas testing and continuous air monitoring inside the buildings — for toxic Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs, such as benzene, benzene derivatives, and toluene) that have already been found in previous, limited tests on the 40-acre site.

This renewed and expanded testing, along with aggressive remediation efforts, can help ensure that the Portola High School site is — and always will be — a safe site for teachers, staff, students, and the entire Irvine community.

Hundreds of concerned Irvine citizens have already signed this second online petition. Many have offered their comments — and many of those comments are re-printed in this Open Forum & Community Voices section of *Irvine Community News & Views*. Please read what your Irvine neighbors have written. Then, if you haven't done so already, please add your name to this important petition.

irvinecommunitynews.org/safe-schools-2

Petition Comments

■ Shame on the Irvine School District!

—*Jessica Sanchez*

■ The Irvine Unified School District and Irvine City Council need to further study the toxic levels of contaminants at Portola High School — relying on independent, highly qualified professional scientists — in order to safeguard the health of our students, families, educators, and citizens of our City. The health of our citizens is in jeopardy if further studies are not conducted.

—*Martha C. Clay*

■ This location [Portola High School and surrounding areas] has been polluted for nearly 100 years with military petrochemicals.

—*Steven Newman*

■ I live across the street in the Portola Court Apartments. I have a 15-year-old son and want to know if toxins are in our area.

—*Laurie Crowe*

■ I am a resident of Irvine, and I want to ensure that each and every school in Irvine is safe for all kids. The new Portola High School has been "toxic" news for a long while now, due to the site's previous use as part of a military base. I believe it should be a "no-brainer" to conduct as many detailed toxicology tests as possible to ensure that the kids in the high school are able to receive a wonderful education and remain healthy. We also want our teachers to stay healthy and continue providing their students the "one-of-a-kind" Irvine education.

—*Bindu Variam*

■ The health of our children, teachers, and staff at Portola High School is more important than anything else. Please continue to look into the matter and take the right steps.

—*Sudha Ati*

■ Our children are more important than profits.

—*Krista Barajas*

■ It's better to be safe. Our children are the future, and if we want Irvine to succeed, testing should be done until we're sure the site is 100 percent free of toxics. Otherwise, we can go elsewhere — to a cleaner and better environment.

—*Edith Castaneda Pelletan*

■ A school site containing toxic contamination is not acceptable — it must be fully tested.

—*Bo Zhao*

■ We parents need to be assured that the Portola High School site is 100 percent safe for our students, teachers and staff. There should be zero tolerance when it comes to threats to environmental safety.

—*Sherry Mao*

■ The school needs to close immediately!

—*Ina Tzvetanova*

■ Do not do this 2 our children. They R all God's children....Thank U. God will bless U all 4 EAE.

—*Rosemary St. John*

■ The tests must be completed.

—*Jon Brownell*

■ It is beyond belief that Councilmember Christina Shea and her greedy cohorts sold their souls — ignoring all the warnings of former Councilmembers Larry Agran and Beth Krom BEFORE the Portola High School site was chosen. And now it's late to start cleaning up a huge site with a school on top of it. I am very frightened for this community and the teachers and children involved.

—*Liza Tilson*

■ Is the School Board waiting for reports of student or faculty illness to test the Portola site? It is unconscionable to allow Irvine residents to be exposed to possible contamination. I say this to the School Board: ACT to protect and safeguard the health of our residents! It is your duty and a moral obligation.

—*Michele Garcia-Jurado*

■ At one time it would have been unimaginable that the reputation of our fine City could be sullied as it has been by such deliberate, prideful resistance to doing what is prudent. Whether motivated politically or financially, the refusal of the IUSD Board, the Irvine Teachers Association and the City Council to demand and then work together to be sure that every safeguard is taken to ensure the health and safety of students and staff through avoidance of exposure to known toxic chemicals is nothing short of reprehensible. In addition to incalculable personal suffering, this willful neglect could result in ongoing financial burdens to Irvine taxpayers should illnesses arise and lawsuits be filed.

—*Jean Anne Turner*

■ I am so glad my children are grown and living outside of Irvine. We would have to move, rather than send them to Portola High School.

—*Pat Kennedy*

■ The health and safety of our children should not be in question while they are at school.

—*Eli Weinkle*

■ Dear City of Irvine officials: Please hire a non-biased third party to perform all tests; and publish it all online to be done with this once and for all.

—*Monica Lee*

■ It's better to be safe than sorry.

—*Kenny Geh*

■ Independent testing for the Portola High School area is necessary. Do not delay this testing as the safety of school children and staff are at risk.

—*Jean Miller*

■ Thank you ICNV for watching out for our children, teachers, and staff! Greedy developers and corrupt City Councilmembers should have never approved this toxic land!

—*Payam Larjani*

■ I cannot let my kids attend a school that is suspected of toxic contamination. I didn't spend as much as I have on a house to then have my kids go to a school that contains toxins.

—*Galina Bukh*



■ I was working for the U.S. Navy in Point Loma when dumping of toxic materials was planned for the El Toro base. It doesn't take a petrochemical engineer to figure out that if you dump toxic substances, they will be there to haunt you years later.

—*Avram Grossman*

■ Please conduct more tests! We need to know!

—*Julie Hosokawa*

■ Consider the health of all who may be exposed to toxicity.

—*Annette Bork*

■ Environmental safety cannot be compromised, especially for our kids! Please conduct thorough testing to prove declared safety!

—*Kelvin Xu*

■ It is unthinkable that our children are not being safeguarded in a City such as Irvine!

—*Debbie Herring*

■ Please perform all necessary testing to ensure the school is safe for all our children.

—*Ahmed Zahran*

■ We need to make sure our kids are in a healthy, clean and safe environment.

—*Hadeel Ragab*

■ Since the high school site was not thoroughly tested prior to construction, it must be tested now to insure the safety of all that attend Portola High School, whether it be students, faculty or other staff members.

—*Ira Lewis*

■ As most folks know, children are our most important resource. Placement of children in a toxic environment indicates that the decision-makers have no interest in the well-being of our most important resource — our children. Do the right thing.

—*Richard Ramirez*

■ I call for renewed and expanded testing!

—*Rakesh Bhatia*

■ It is obvious further testing MUST be done for the safety of all!

—*Robin Greenberg*

■ The City of Irvine and the State of California have the duty and responsibility to ensure that the Portola High School site is, and will always be, a safe site for teachers, staff and students, not to mention the members of the entire Irvine community and all visitors to our community.

—*Susan Sayre*

■ We need complete testing!

—*Bo Zhang*

■ The situation calls for additional testing, and obtaining additional information and suggestions from relevant experts.

—*Aris Papayouanou*

■ Let's make sure our children are not in a toxic environment. The excuse that the benzene derivatives were caused by recycled water just doesn't hold true. Please do the comprehensive testing, and let's make sure the site is safe.

—*Gail Lewis*

■ I would like my kids to be safe.

—*Albert Lee*

■ I've always been against this school site until complete test analyses were available. It seems that money pushed the agenda for the Portola High School site, when other sites were available. Where do I send my children to school now?

—*Mark McIntyre*

■ Let's do complete testing.

—*Lawrence O. Seidman*

■ We still don't know the long-term effects for not only the students, but school employees as well. This area needs to be tested again!

—*Jamie Wilkinson*

Letters to the editor are welcome. Please include your name and ZIP code. Letters for publication must be addressed to Editor, 4199 Campus Drive, Suite 550, Irvine, CA 92612 or email Editor@IrvineCommunityNews.org. Letters may be edited for publication. Unpublished letters will not be acknowledged or returned.



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