



Alamitos Heights Improvement Association

Fall 2020

Creating Community Together
www.ahia.info

Friday November 6, 2020 – 7 pm to 8:30 pm

Virtual Wine Tasting and Wine Sale



August 28th was the first AHIA and Inside the Cellar Virtual Tasting and Sale. It was very well received. We hosted our second successful event on October 2nd.

We typically discuss the wine region, the vintner, the grapes, how the wine is made and talk about the flavors and characteristics of a chosen wine.

November 6th at 7 PM is our next Virtual Tasting and Sale, please note AHIA membership is not required to participate. We will again meet over Zoom. On November 6th, we will add the topic of pairing food with wine.

Prior to CV-19, a wine tasting would occur at a winery, wine shop or an in home hosted wine tasting. Our Virtual Wine Tasting and Sale is AHIA's equivalent of an in home hosted wine tasting.

AHIA selects wines for tasting, purchase and delivery before our wine tasting event. This has worked very well. Everyone can taste their choice of wines at home in real time with wine expert Bob Castellani of Inside the Cellar.

Our AHIA virtual wine tastings are informative and relaxed. Sit back, eat dinner and opine on the hints of fruit as the wine tickles your palate.

Be sure to ask questions, enjoy yourself, your Alamitos Heights neighbors and Bob Castellani.

Bob is an importer of boutique wine, beer and other beverages. Normally his customers are the best restaurants in the LA and LB area. However, due to CV-19, restaurant business has declined and we are able to enjoy this unique opportunity.

We appreciate our connection to Bob through AHIA board member Richard Wherry.

Join us to learn and enjoy wines typically not seen at the local grocery store at bargain wholesale prices.

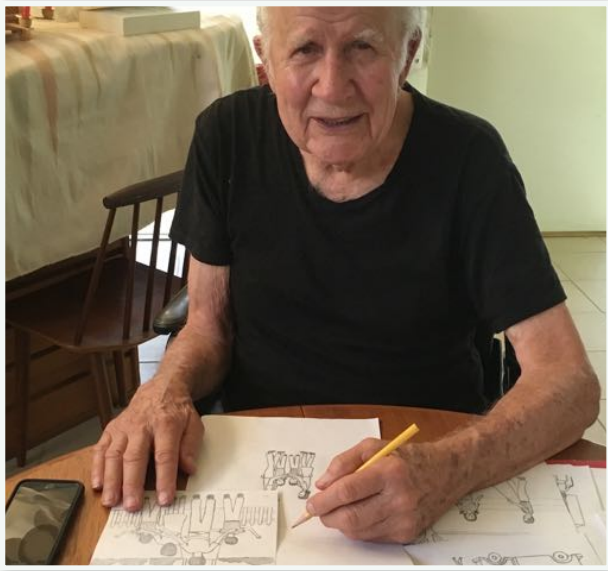
We invite all Alamitos Heights neighbors to join AHIA at www.ahia.info/membership however, this is not a requirement to receive wholesale pricing on Inside the Cellar's inventory or attend our virtual wine tasting.

To learn more about our Virtual Wine Tasting and Sale follow our electronic newsletters. Or visit us at www.ahia.info where we post pricing and descriptions of the selected wines, and Zoom login information for the meetings.

How to Participate AHIA's Virtual Wine Tasting and Wine Sale

1. Receive our electronic newsletter for the ordering and login instructions or get them from our website
2. Use the AHIA discount code
3. Have an adult home for a 5-7 PM delivery on the Thursday immediately before the Wine tasting
4. Log in to Zoom and enjoy!

One Chapter in a Man's Life Journey



"Well, life is a journey, that's for sure." begins Mel Lindsey, whose own life adventure seems to be one of newness and wonder. Mel isn't known to everyone but he is treasured by all who know him. For those who know Mel, he creates a meaningful connection, as willing to listen as he's is to share sage observations gleaned from his many experiences.

His life is a journey of accomplishments and challenges. He is a long time Long Beach resident, a graduate of Poly High in 1944, who then served two years in the U.S. Navy. He married his wife Joan in 1949. He received an AA from LBCC and his BA and MA degrees from Long Beach State in 1951 and 1958. Mel has two daughters Kathy and Debbie plus a granddaughter Jenna.

Mel wears many hats and he wears them well. He is a writer, artist, educator, guidance counselor, and activist who moved into Alamitos Heights in 1986. Mel is a generous philanthropist, supporting many organizations throughout his life. He's proud to sponsor an annual CSULB scholarship in memory of his wonderful wife of 66 years, Joan Lindsey.

His first career of 36 years with LBUSD included teaching, counseling, and school administration. Upon retiring, he and Joan embarked on his second career. They bought a failing private pre-school called Giant Step Learning Center located in Costa Mesa. Soon after they added daughter Debbie to the teaching staff and her two-year-old daughter Jenna to the student roster. In the 19 years of ownership it grew to two facilities. They made the school a success with an outstanding early childhood education program.

During midday story telling time at Giant Step, Mel created poem stories to share with his young audience. The stories contain lessons for young children about imagination, character, citizenship, family, teamwork,

personal behavior, and responsibility. These are lessons Mel believes are as important as science and math.

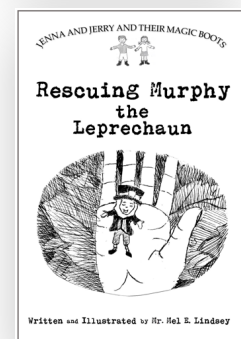
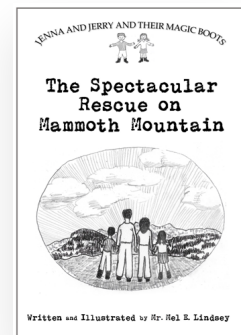
"It is important for all children to learn early about personal character as they grow and become contributing adult citizens in our society," said Mel.

Teaching personal character is so important to Mel that he has written a series of illustrated children's poem books based on his Giant Step storytelling. Mel is self-publishing his illustrated poem books. He acknowledges Kathryn Babcock and her sister Karen Rathmell for their fine contributions to the artwork layout and proofreading. As his books are nearing completion, Mel is making his publications available as a gift to AHIA families. A link for free PDF downloads will be published at www.ahia.info.

Thank you, Mel for sharing your stories and having a generous nature that has benefited so many for so many years. Mel is a treasure.

Mel is our very own Mr. Rogers. Compassion, patience, and action mark the character of a man who has over a lifetime chosen to see the good and potential in each life he touches, including his own. Just before the pandemic, Mel approached me with a pile of his children's poems and asked what I thought. As an artist and teacher, I suggested he add drawings, and offered to format these stories into little picture books. He didn't consider himself an illustrator but agreed it would be "better for the children." What he drew made me smile. His charming illustrations find moments that speak directly to the child in us. He says illustrating his writing has given him fresh purpose. Now he can't stop drawing! Talk about "walking the talk!"—Kathryn Babcock, Artist and Teacher

I met Mel Lindsey 14 years ago when I started writing my books. Our conversations grew covering politics, philosophy, and religion. He is not only one of the nicest people I had ever met, but he has a keen intellect, the ability to listen carefully, and make valuable and insightful comments. Over the years, we worked on projects together in our "Two-Bit Construction Company" and completed our books. Mel is more than a mentor, he is like my big brother; he is family. Mel is one of the most genuine, kind, and generous people I have ever met. Mel Lindsey is a true angel walking among us.—John William Cox, Public Interest Lawyer and Author





mixing the flavors of Colombia and South America with a California twist. For the next seven years Cesar's Bistro built up a loyal fan base.

Chef Cesar and Luz are now back with a brand-new concept called OBRA bakery in the same location of their Cesar's Bistro restaurant. You can still get their great empanadas and building on Chef Cesar's expertise, you can get excellent French pastries. Additionally, they added a selection Latin inspired



cakes, tarts, and croissant treats of every imaginable flavor. Stop by and browse their pastry case or order online to taste and enjoy everything from traditional Butter and Almond Croissants to the Peach & Dulce De Leche Turnover or a Guava-Cheese Pastry.

Visit Obra Bakery on the web www.obrabakery.com or www.facebook.com/obrabakery and visit OBRA in real life at 6240 E Pacific Coast Hwy. in the strip shopping center at SW corner of PCH and Loynes Dr.

Local Business Focus: OBRA Bakery

Fans of homemade Empanadas and Arepas were dismayed when Cesar's Bistro closed back in March due to COVID. In August signs went up saying a new bakery named OBRA would soon be opening. Turns out that OBRA Bakery is the 2nd act for Cesar's Bistro. And we are happy to report the Empanadas as good as ever and now there is a great selection of French/Latin pastries and coffee!

Changing from Cesar's Bistro to OBRA Bakery in a few short months has not been easy for Chef Cesar Villareal and his wife Luz Torres. They make the magic happen at OBRA Bakery and we want our neighbors in Alamitos Heights to know about the great work they are doing.

Chef Cesar Villareal and his wife Luz Torres met in Colombia where they were born and raised. Chef Cesar attended culinary school in Argentina and Luz grew up in her family's restaurant business, La Chispa al Rojo. In 2012 they came to California to visit some of Chef Cesar's family in San Francisco. During a coastal road trip that year from San Francisco to San Diego that the couple visited and fell in love with Long Beach.

Returning to Long Beach in 2014 they opened Cesar's Bistro offering a, "New Latin American Cuisine"



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Music in the Park – Our Park!



If you've been craving some outdoor activity like our beloved farmers market and summer concerts. Perhaps you've stumbled upon the youthful yet seasoned "rock band" that has made Marina Vista Park start to feel more like Yankee Stadium. Whether you're a fan of rock and roll or just looking for a safe way to see friends in the park, Rhythm Method is providing free music to those who want to come and enjoy. They are occasionally practicing on Sunday evenings and you may find them right under the beautiful large tree. Put on a mask, follow the physical distance guidelines we have all come to know, then enjoy a music enhanced sunset in the park. We all need a little fun in our lives, right? So, if you feel the Sunday blues and want some actual rhythm & blues stroll on by Marina Vista Park. Follow the sounds, come say hi! You may also walk by 505 Flint where they also tend to practice right out on the front yard.



Join the Fun!

The board member recruitment process is underway. Our community is responding and changing during these difficult times and we look forward to your inspiration as we develop our Board of Directors and Committees.

Why join the AHIA leadership:

- Invest in your community by lending your time and talent
- Get to know your neighbors
- Develop the link between AHIA, businesses and homeowners
- Promote meetings that impact our community in positive ways
- Implement fun and engaging events

As the needs of our neighbors, friends and businesses change, the Board will change with it. Come on, let's do this together! Email us at board@ahia.info and check us out at www.ahia.info

COMPASS



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Stay positive, stay healthy and please don't hesitate to reach out if you need anything.

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AHIA Events 2020

Fall - AHIA Median Planting

Nov. 27 - Tree Lighting Event tree lights on at 6:30PM

Dec 1 - Holiday House Decorating Contest Kick off

In Memory of Andy Osman

At a ceremony in June of 2019 the newly renovated Poly auditorium was renamed the Andrew Osman Performing Arts Center. Hundreds turned out to tell how Andy had shaped their lives and launched many of them into careers in music. His humility in accepting the outpouring of reverence was typical of his dedication to the student musicians and their performances under his tenure.

The growth of Poly's once languishing music program started in 1983 when Andy was hired just out of UCLA's music education program. Over the next three decades, the Poly's instrumental music grew into an award-winning program. You would find Andy at the school every weekday by 6:50 leading Symphonic Winds, you know those kids were dedicated to show up at that hour EVERY DAY! He also conducted five different orchestras at various levels to create one of the most inclusive music



programs anywhere. Our dear friend and neighbor, Andy Osman, passed away on September 4th, 16 months after his diagnosis of advanced pancreatic cancer. He packed a lot in since his early retirement after more than 36 years as the director of the phenomenal music program at Long Beach Poly High. Andy was able to travel and stay involved with student musicians until the shutdown. It doesn't really soften the blow of losing such an amazing person, but it helps to know that he got the most out of his life for as long as he was able.

Andy is survived by his wife, Maureen Shea, the music director at Marshall Academy of the Arts and his daughter Erin, a recent graduate of Brown University in

Film and French. A wonderful celebration of his life and career are covered in the article linked below.

https://laist.com/2019/06/25/long_beach_poly_famous_music_program_teacher_re_tires.php

Find Out if Your AHIA Membership is Current

Go to www.ahia.info/membership and scroll down the page, find the pdf file 2020 Membership Roster

Click on the file and download it and see if you're current.

Let us know if you've paid but are not listed. And, it's never too late to join. Thank you.

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Magnolia Tree Planting

AHIA is leading an effort to replace the diseased Magnolia Trees in our neighborhood. We will be reaching out to the homes where trees are missing, but please contact us if you are interested in having a new tree planted. It will be up to the homeowners to water these trees deeply while they are getting established. Even drought tolerant trees need water during our extended dry season.

For more information about the Tuliptree Scale and Magnolia Trees please go to the Resources drop down tab on our website and select Magnolia Trees or go directly to www.ahia.info/magnolia-trees

The trees we are planting are either the Marina Strawberry Tree or the Brisbane Box Tree pictured below.



**MARINA STRAWBERRY TREE – ARBUTUS
'MARINA'**



**BRISBANE BOX TREE – TRISTANIA
(LOPHOSTEMON) CONFERTA**

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