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MONTECITO MISCELLANY

by Richard Mineards



Richard covered the Royal Family for Britain's Daily Mirror and Daily Mail, and was an editor on New York Magazine. He was also a national anchor on CBS, a commentator on ABC Network News, gossip on The Joan Rivers Show and Geraldo Rivera, host on E! TV, a correspondent on the syndicated show Extra, a commentator on the KTLA Morning News and Entertainment Tonight. He moved to Montecito 13 years ago.

Promotion, Partnerships, and Polo

Dallas dynamo and former TV anchor **Charles Ward**, who has been promoting the Santa Barbara Polo & Racquet Club for nearly two decades, is expanding his empire.

Charles, who plays President George Washington with my King George III in the village parade each year, has forged a strategic alliance with the international luxury glossy *Polo Lifestyles* to market some of the world's most expensive estates.

Charles's company, Idea Works Global, is celebrating its 40th anniversary, with him spending half his year annually in Montecito.

"We've been involved in experimental marketing of the most expensive private jets, cars, and mansions



Charles Ward, promoter for the Santa Barbara Polo & Racquet Club, has expanded his empire via a partnership with *Polo Lifestyles*

in Santa Barbara and beyond," says Charles. "And now that many large city residents want to relocate, the

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Miscellany (Continued from page 12)

timing is perfect to launch 'Mansions of the Month – curated by Charles Ward,' featuring estates in Montecito, Aspen, the Hamptons, and Monaco."

His longtime marketing associate **Tom Martin**, based in Aspen, the Colorado jet set ski resort, has also opened an Idea Works Global service office in the town.

Locally, *Polo Lifestyles* magazine won quite a reputational coup when Montecito's 237-acre Rancho San Carlos owned by **Jim Jackson**, which had sat on the market for six years unsold, went for \$63 million in less than 60 days after being featured in the monthly issue, read by 10,000 high net worth individuals.

"Imagine how many owners of multi-million dollar properties for sale in Montecito and elsewhere would love a sixty-day turnaround to close a sale," adds Charles. "This new alliance is a dream come true for us, realtors, and estate owners eager to reach exactly the right target audience."

Big Tech Bigwigs Buy Montecito Residence

The nearly one-acre Montecito Residence, built barely a decade ago for Chicagoans **John and Dorothy Gardner**, has been sold for \$7.2 million to Silicon Valley entrepreneurs **Mark Armenante** and **Young Sohn**, co-founders of Vlocity, the cloud-applications software company acquired by Salesforce for \$1.3 billion earlier this year.

Built almost entirely from steel and glass, the Barton Myers creation spans about 4,000 square feet of living space,



Silicon Valley entrepreneurs Mark Armenante and Young Sohn picked up the Montecito Residence for \$7.2 million (photo courtesy: realtor.com)

with two bedrooms and two and a half bathrooms.

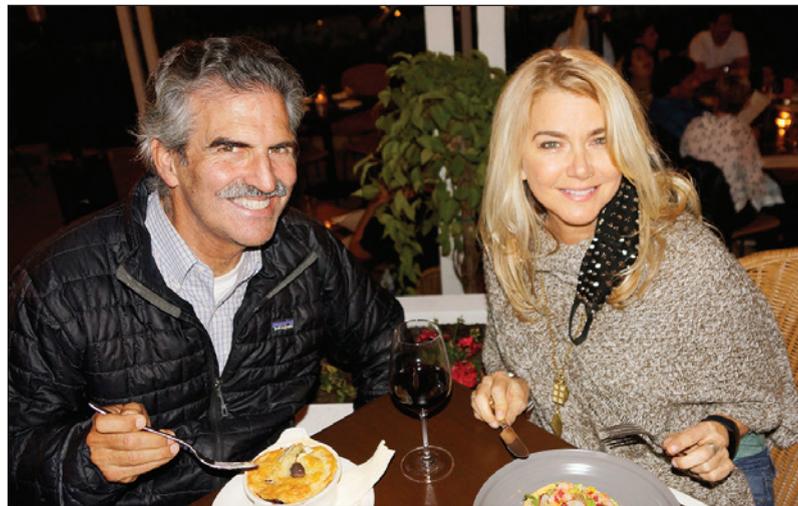
It has soaring ceilings and an emphasis on light and shadow, with multi-pane glass doors that retract vertically, disappearing into the ceiling.

The contemporary masterpiece has two distinctly separate wings – one with public reception rooms, the other featuring bedrooms and other private spaces – linked by an all glass passageway.

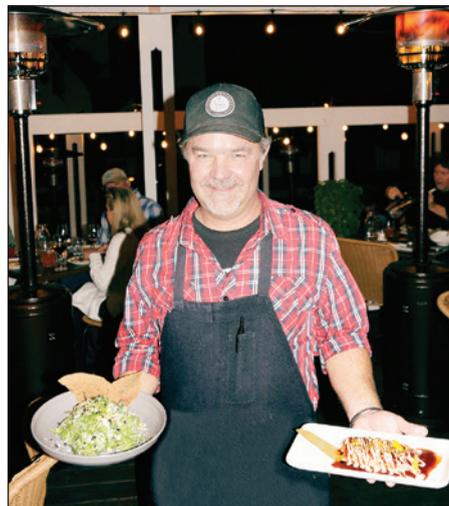
Viva La Paloma

It was back to the past when my trusty shutterbug **Priscilla** and I attended the opening night celebrations of La Paloma, on the site of the former Paradise Café owned by **Randy Rouse** and **Kevin Boss** for 37 years.

The wonderfully reconfigured eatery, a tiara's toss from the *Santa Barbara News-Press* HQ on Anacapa Street, is the latest culinary outpost of Acme Hospitality owner **Sherry Villanueva**, owner of The Lark and Loquita in the Funk Zone. It is her eighth eatery in



KEYT's John Palminteri tasting the chef's first chicken pot pie with Tara Zanecki savoring a shrimp tostada (photo by Priscilla)



La Paloma executive chef Jeremy Tummel bringing his creations to the table (photo by Priscilla)

our Eden by the Beach.

The original La Paloma Café ran from 1940 until 1983 when it was founded by Jennie Luera and run by her daughters and grandchildren, and the new menu pays tribute to the cuisine of the Californios, early California settlers who incorporated Spanish and Mexican influences into indigenous ingredients cooked over fire.

Leading the talented culinary team is executive chef **Jeremy Tummel**, a part Chumash Indian who has worked at the Wine Cask, the Bacara, the Rosewood Miramar, Santa Barbara City College Culinary Academy, and the Bear and Star in Los Olivos.

Overseeing the eatery is general manager **Christy Guzman**, who has worked at The Mandarin Oriental Miami, the storied Carlyle in New York, the Rosewood Washington D.C., Caruso's at the Rosewood Miramar, and The Peninsula in Beverly Hills, where I would lunch on occasion at the Belvedere when I lived nearby in Hancock Park.

From the small, but concise menu we dug into the crispy Brussels sprouts with Syrah porcini reduction and pomegranate; JT's Caesar salad with charred corn; the Santa Barbara Mission chicken with lemon peel, rosemary, and pink peppercorn apple sauce; and oak grilled flat iron steak with a white sage mezcil marinade and avocado epazote chimichurri, washed down with Notary Public cabernet.

The delightful repast concluded with Capirotada bread pudding and



La Paloma general manager Christy Guzman holding a "Notary Public Cabernet" with Skyler Gamble, director of people capital and operations of Acme Hospitality (photo by Priscilla)

abuelita's chocolate pot de crème, all ably served by our knowledgeable and enthusiastic waiter **Louis Echeverria**.

The interior and exterior design was created by local **Stephanie Greene Fuller** and Villanueva to reflect the historical lifestyle of the Santa Barbara rancho, with rich oak floors and tables, white walls, and cast-iron details.

In the bar, a mural commissioned in 1940 by Jennie, the family matriarch, has been meticulously restored by local artist **Jeffrey Skyles**. Holophane and vaseline shade lighting from the early 1900s illuminate the bar.

A delightful epicurean hotspot from day one!

A Safe Space

Santa Barbara creative marketing agency Oniracom is giving back to the community during the COVID-19 crisis, particularly during the holiday season.

The company, whose studio facilities are located near the Funk Zone, is providing at-cost pandemic friendly media space and live stream technology solutions.

"We are all part of an incredible community that it's our civic duty to

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Montecito resident Jacob Tell, co-founder of Oniracom

be active and give back and invest as much as we can," says **Jacob Tell**, company co-founder who has worked with the SB Wildlife Care Network, the City College Foundation, Hospice of Santa Barbara, and Santa Barbara Channel Keeper, among others.

"It was just intuitive to build this company around community involvement. It's inherent and natural to occur.

"Simply hosting a livestream gala that would otherwise would be cancelled has helped several nonprofits stay connected with the community and raise substantial amounts of funds in a COVID-safe environment. Online events have the capacity to reach new audiences and makes events easy to share, access, and participate in without leaving the house."

"It's in our DNA to amplify positive impact, contribute to growing cause-oriented organizations, and foster our beautiful Santa Barbara community connectedness," he adds.

A great sentiment in these troubled times...

Johns Hopkins President Buys Montecito Pad

Ron Daniels, president of Johns Hopkins University, and his wife,

Joanne, have splashed out \$5.2 million for a 1.1-acre Montecito estate.

The 4,219-square-foot neoclassical Spanish Revival-style house boasting four bedrooms and 4.5 bathrooms is set on a quiet cul-de-sac and was built in 2000, but was recently given a contemporary remodel.

Daniels, 61, has been president of the university in Baltimore since 2009, continuing the institution's 38-year streak receiving more competitively allocated research funding than any other university in the U.S.

During his 11 years at the helm, the Canadian-born law and economics scholar has received accolades for strengthening the school's graduate programs, as well as his annual boosting of the financial aid fund.

This is not the couple's first Montecito home.

Back in 2016, they paid \$3.6 million for a ranch-style estate just a short jog from their new property. Unfortunately that home was impacted by the 2018 mudslides and Santa Barbara County subsequently paid \$4 million to buy out the dynamic duo's interest, as part of an initiative for a new neighborhood debris basin.

Dinner for 300

Having volunteered at the Rescue Mission for the past 13 years, I had to miss acting a waiter at the Rescue Mission's annual Thanksgiving Feast this year because of the pandemic restrictions.



Rolf Geyling serving one of the guests (Photo Credit: Dale Weber)



(from left) Freddie Rashad, food services coordinator; Kevin Carroll, homeless guest services director; and Rolf Geyling, president of the Santa Barbara Rescue Mission (Photo Credit: Dale Weber)



Hannah Nelson, a member of the Santa Barbara Rescue Mission, serves a to-go meal for one of the Thanksgiving guests (Photo Credit: Dale Weber)

However, as the 55-year-old shelter is designated as "an essential service," 40 homeless at a time were allowed in to nosh on chef **Freddie Rashad's** culinary efforts using 90 turkeys, 120 pounds of potatoes, 75 pounds of carrots, and 120 pounds of green beans, with red X's designating no sitting seats so everybody was suitably socially separated.

"This Thanksgiving was extra challenging because of the pandemic and ongoing restrictions," says **Rolf Geyling**, president. "We are planning to provide thousands of more meals throughout the holiday season, including 300 for Thanksgiving alone."

An awful lot to give thanks for...

All is WELL

Santa Barbara company, **WELL Health**, which enables conversations between patients and healthcare organizations through secure, multilingual messaging, has good reason to celebrate this season.

The digital health leader in patient communications has just announced \$45 million in funding led by Lead Edge Capital, bringing total funds raised to \$75 million since its founding in 2015.

It follows more than 100 percent cumulative growth every year since its founding half a decade ago.

"WELL delivers what patients expect today – the ability to engage with their

healthcare provider as easily as they'd text a friend," says **Guillaume de Zwirek**, CEO and founder. "This year alone our technology will enable more than 200,000 healthcare providers to send more than one billion messages with more than 30 million patients."

Exploring His Roots

Montecito actor **Rob Lowe's** Thanksgiving was decidedly more subdued this year.

Rob, 56, and his family, including wife, **Sheryl**, and sons, **Matthew**, 27, and **John**, 25, have all been tested for COVID-19, he told *People* magazine.

And while the current pandemic is keeping many people apart during the holiday season, Rob, who stars in the TV series *911: Lone Star*, has partnered with ancestry.com to explore his roots – and even connected with a cousin he never knew existed.

"We always do holidays in a big way, but this year we pared down and everybody is being tested for the virus," he says.

A smart move...

Goodbye to a Unique Lady



Barbara Tellefson, founder and president of the Unity Shoppe, lost her valiant battle with a terminal illness at aged 84

On a personal note I remember **Barbara Tellefson**, founder and president of the Unity Shoppe, who lost her valiant battle with a terminal illness aged 84.

A woman of extraordinary fortitude and passion, Barbara was without doubt a force of nature who devoted her life to the century-old nonprofit, working innumerable hours directing operations for the more than 20,000 homeless and hungry coming through its doors annually.

Having known her for 13 years since arriving in our rarefied enclave, she told me that on her move to more heavenly pastures she was willing her sprawling Victorian estate, just a tiara's toss from the Natural History Museum, to the charity.

A unique lady who will be much missed...

Sightings: Actor **Orlando Bloom** picking up coffee at Merci Montecito... Former rocker **Peter Noone** chatting to customers at Pierre Lafond... Actor **Jonah Hill** and fiancée **Gianna Santos** at Butterfly Beach

Pip! Pip! – and be safe

•••



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