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TEMPLE HILLS

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Summer 2008
Volume 36
Issue No. 2

P. O. Box 4913
Laguna Beach
California 92652
www.thca.info

*Take a trip to
the Wine Country !!*



*Special Guest Speaker
Mayor Jane Egly*

You're invited!

Temple Hills Annual Meeting and Party

Please join us *Saturday, September 20, 2008*, for a wonderful evening of wine tasting and appetizers — Napa Style! We are planning a beautiful and interesting evening with great company, wine, delectable appetizers — and a romantic sunset. We will meet on the lovely Garden Terrace at 5 p.m. Annual meeting begins 5:30. Party and hearty appetizers to continue after the meeting!! *Remember to bring a wrap — we will be outside!*

Wine Tasting

Everyone who would like to participate in a judged wine “tasting” should bring a wine of their choice (\$12-20) in a brown paper bag. It will be numbered and entered into the tasting. Only those who enter will get to taste and vote on the wines entered in the tasting. The winner shall be awarded with a very nice bottle of a California red.

BYOB

It will really be appreciated if everyone would bring a bottle of wine or beverage of their choice. A tasty selection of appetizers will be provided.

Cost

Cost is \$15/pp for members and \$25/pp for guests. Please make your checks payable to THCA and mail to Elaine Merz, P. O. Box 4913, Laguna Beach, CA 92652.

RSVP

To help us in our planning for the most wonderful event possible, please RSVP by e-vite or to Rhonda at (949) 376-9270 by *September 10*. LOOKING forward to seeing everyone at another memorable Temple Hills Gala!!

(P.S. Our hosts say we so are welcome in their home — however, PLEASE NO SHOES inside.)

Temple Hills Annual Meeting and Party

Host Steve and Susan Sandler

Location.. Sandler Bistro and Resort on the Terrace
718 Coast View Drive, Laguna Beach 92651

When..... Saturday, September 20, 5 p.m.

Phone RSVP to Rhonda (949) 376-9270

‘SAVE the DATE!! SPREAD the WORD!!’
Please look for your e-vite in your e-mail. Other than our newsletter, we will not be sending formal invitations this year. Therefore, it is very important to let your neighbors know about the party and send in any e-mail addresses to help complete our list. Also, people need to know that they can add guests to the e-vite.
— Rhonda Kinn

David Emmes**The Man Who Brought the Theater to Orange County**

By Robin Pierson

If David Emmes begins spouting stories from his true-life Horatio Alger past, he hopes someone will drag him off stage and drop the curtain on his over four decades-long tenure at the helm of South Coast Repertory Theater. As co-founder and now Producing Artistic Director of SCR, the Temple Hills resident is much more engrossed in the theater's vibrant, multi-faceted present.

With an annual budget of \$10 million and an endowment of over \$25 million, SCR, now in its 44th season, is one of the most highly acclaimed regional theater groups in the country. On two stages, SCR produces nine plays a year, four or five of which are new works commissioned by SCR, hand selected and nurtured by Emmes and SCR co-founder Martin Benson. Consistently, these world premieres turn out to be award winners that routinely go on to success on stages across the country after first being seen in Costa Mesa.

Sitting in his patio overlooking Main Beach, Emmes, in his late 60s, refined and elegantly thin, is still as excited to go to work as he was when he was in his 20s, striving to create the theater empire SCR has become.

"What keeps me young is that we do so much new work," he said. "To bring to life something new that hasn't existed before, I find that to be very revitalizing."

Though Emmes would prefer focusing on what's now going on at SCR (like attending auditions for the September world premiere of the musical "Italian Straw Hat," an American adaptation of a classic European farce), knowing SCR's back story makes Emmes's accomplishments even more impressive.

The seeds for SCR were planted in the early '60s when Emmes and Benson were drama students at California State University, San Francisco. After graduation, the two took day jobs in Southern California but the itch to start a theater company persisted. In 1964, they stuffed props and costumes in the back of a station wagon and toured L.A. and Orange Counties. By 1965, the theater group had a home base, a converted marine junk store crammed amongst the canneries in Newport Beach. Having grown up in Newport Beach, Emmes speculated that Orange County, still virgin territory for the arts, would boom with enough population and sophistication to support a resident theater company.

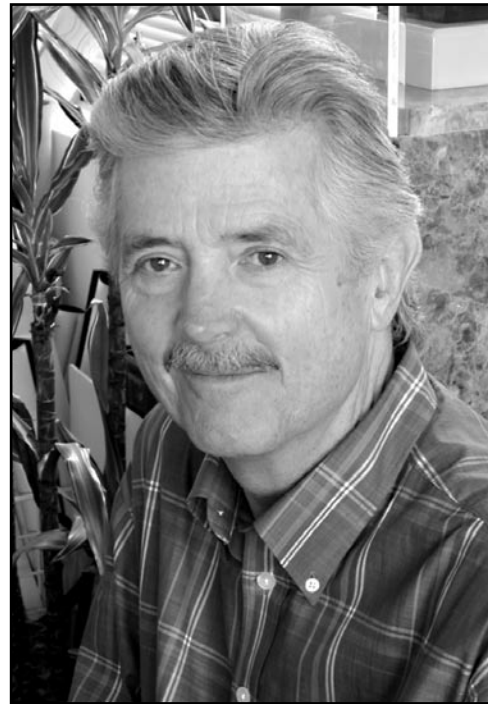
He was right, but it took a while. At times, the troop, paid \$1 per performance, outnumbered the audience they were performing for. And since many of them were living above the theater, the actors and the audience shared the same bathroom.

In 1966, the theater group won artistic recognition, receiving rave reviews from the Los Angeles Times that prompted a move to a bigger venue, a converted Sprouse-Reitz Variety Store on Newport Boulevard in

Costa Mesa.

Soon outgrowing that venue, Emmes and Benson formed a board of community leaders to help realize their dream of building Orange County's first resident theater facility, owned and operated by the troop. With a one-acre parcel of land on Town Center Drive in Costa Mesa, donated by the Segerstrom family, the pair's dream of a regional center for theater arts and education began to take shape.

Today, SCR owns the land on which the 80,000-square-foot Folino Theatre Center complex stands. Three performance spaces are situated within the complex: the 507-seat Segerstrom Stage, the 94-seat

**David Emmes**

Nicholas Studio and the 336-seat Julianne Argyros Stage. The complex also contains administrative offices; scene, props and costume shops; rehearsal, classroom and meeting spaces; and a large terrace containing three sculptures, which SCR commissioned from artist Jason Meadows. A separate facility is maintained off-site, which houses the SCR paint shop, costume and props storage and an additional rehearsal space.

"SCR has grown from a dream of idealistic, somewhat naive college graduates full of zeal, to a touring company, to a dime-store theater to one of the major theater facilities in the country, and now to an institution with an endowment," Emmes said. "It could only happen in America. It's a Horatio Alger story," and one in which Emmes plays a starring role.

"I came to the theater with an interest in acting and discovered other wonderful opportunities," he said. "I felt bored with acting. It was my shortcoming," being

unable, he said, to make his part "a new journey each night. When I was acting, I was looking at the whole picture, imagining ways to improve the scene." Soon Emmes was in the director's chair, but even that chair became too small.

Now as the creative CEO, Emmes and Benson, SCR's Artistic Director, are both assured "a place at the table creatively," keeping an open line of communication with directors. "It's exciting to go into the theater every day and add quality," he said. "I've stayed because having worked on five different theaters," in different venues over the last four decades, "each one created a new set of organizational challenges, keeping the job fresh."

Unique in the world of theater, SCR not only continually produces cutting-edge theater, but it also remains financially robust — a credit to Emmes's and Benson's ability to be "fiscally conservative and artistically liberal," Emmes said.

Unlike most theater companies, who at best will have one literary manager whose main responsibility is typically "writing program notes," SCR has four full-time employees looking for new works, Emmes said. As scripts rise to the top, Emmes gets involved. Currently 30 playwrights are on commission, most of whose work will be produced at SCR or elsewhere. "We have a dedicated endowment that goes to finding new writers," he said. "Our board of trustees has designated us to play a leadership role in finding new writers." Each May, SCR hosts the Pacific Playwrights Festival, where industry insiders from around the country eagerly pass through the "Orange Curtain" to view SCR's new works.

Emmes took the theater home when, in 1997, he married SCR's managing director, Paula Tomei, and moved to Laguna Beach. "But we try to leave the work in Costa Mesa," Emmes said. "We rarely deal with issues of the theater at home." Along with their two Burmese cats, the couple's home is adorned with travel mementos, from trips most recently to the Marquesas, Vietnam and Cambodia.

Of his adopted hometown, Emmes said he appreciates the "sense of individuality" of Laguna, how "everything looks different, how you can go into the market and see surfers, hippies and craftspeople. And I value the commitment the community has for the arts — a genuine pride."

Now, after more than 40 years in the theater business, Emmes isn't planning on leaving the stage anytime soon. Of him and Benson, he said, "We're still playing the game well," adding, "and I get to go the theater every day." 🍷

Thanks to our advertisers for supporting this newsletter!

2008 Budget

INCOME	
Dues	\$3600.00
Newsletter/advertising	200.00
Fundraising Party	1600.00
Reserves	850.00
Total Income	\$6,250.00
EXPENSE	
Printing & Graphics	1800.00
Postage.....	1250.00
P. O. Box.....	40.00
Annual Meeting & Party	1800.00
Web & Membership.....	500.00
Legal Supplies.....	100.00
Bank Charges	60.00
Miscellaneous.....	100.00
Community Enhancement	500.00
Candidate Forum	100.00
	\$6,250.00

— Elaine Merz, Treasurer

Steering Committee Meeting

The committee met April 3 at Charlotte Masarik's home and reviewed the roster of Temple Hills residents, approved a budget (see left) and discussed the candidates forum to be co-sponsored with Top of the World Neighborhood Association, scheduled in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Monday, October 20.

Under Rhonda Kinn's leadership, the annual party will be held September 20 at the home of Steve and Susan Sandler, 718 Coast View. The theme will be a wine tasting. Those who wish to participate will bring a bottle of wine (in brown bag) for the tasting.

Best wine will receive small prize. People will be encouraged to bring a bottle to share (or an appetizer) plus a bottle if they wish to participate in the wine tasting. The food will be mostly finger foods. The invitation will appear in the newsletter and also as an e-vite (by email). Rhonda will need help with setup; Fran and Verna and hopefully Barbara will work at the door. Mayor Jane Egley will be our guest speaker. The party will start at 5 p.m. with the THCA meeting at 5:30. As well as the e-vite, local newspapers will be asked to include notice.

Verna spoke about concerned citizens who had formed a "Summit Group" to deal in unison with important issues that would be coming before the City. The four most pressing issues involved 1) height limit in commercial zone, 2) Aliso Creek and Montage project, 3) inner greenbelt, and 4) large assisted-living structure behind the hospital. It was decided that THCA would lend its support to community enhancement with a donation of \$500.

The Thurston (Pike) subdivision was discussed briefly (see story). Other ongoing projects that were discussed were Joe Baker's and Doug Kinn's emergency plan for evacuation (knowing the special condition of neighbors). Dave Walker spoke about speed humps (not bumps) on side streets (encouraged everyone to experience the ones installed on Wendt Terrace), and lowering the posted speed limit to 15 miles per hour. He has signup sheets for those interested in pursuing this option on side streets (but not Temple Hills Drive).

We briefly discussed Chris Reed's project to eradicate invasive plants in Park and Rimrock Canyons. ♻



TEMPLE HILLS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Steering Committee

Joe Baker	Neighborhood Watch Evacuation Plan
Lisa Black	Neighborhood Liaison
Tim Black	Land Use Issues
Bob Borthwick	City Issues
Fran Chilcote	Corresponding Secretary, Membership Records
Ron Chilcote.....	Newsletter
Jamie and Stephen Crawford.....	School Issues Group 6 Chairs
Anne Frank.....	Group 4 Chair, Archive & Historian
Jim Hall	At Large
Richard Holmes.....	Website and Community
Doug Kinn	Annual Party & Emergency Plan
Rhonda Kinn.....	Annual Party
Charlotte Mazarik	City Issues
Elaine Merz	Treasurer
Carol Olsen.....	Walkways
Bo Powell.....	Group 1 Chair
Barbara Rathbun	Group 5 Chair
Verna Rollinger	Land Use
Lorna Shaw.....	Land Use
Ben Teschner.....	At Large
Mary Lou Teschner	Party Committee
Kurt Topic.....	Group 3 Co-Chair
Dave Walker	Traffic Issues & Group 3 Co-Chair
Grant Wetzel	Open Space
Marian Whitney	Distribution
Carolyn Wright.....	Pathways
Dorothea Yellott	Pathways

Honorary Members

Bill Parrish and Estelle Warner

Liaison

Linda Brown..... Liaison League of Women's Voters

The Coordinating Committee

Comprised of five or six members who have major responsibilities, may meet on an emergency basis

August 2008

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

This is a special appeal to join with us. We write to encourage you to contribute dues for this year. Your past support has been important and meaningful to the presence of THCA, and we very much need and appreciate our continuing support.

Now in our 36th year, we are open to the interests and needs of residents in our area. We are an organization of volunteers willing to lend a hand. On a regular basis over these years, we have published a newsletter, and it now is one of the oldest civic papers in Laguna. We now have a website at www.thca.info, and we sponsor an annual meeting and party. We encourage neighborhood socials. We have backed successful efforts to underground utilities in the area and to solve neighborhood problems. We seek to implement aspects of the planning we laid out years ago. We desire to build community spirit and cooperation among neighbors. We seek to preserve and enhance our unique neighborhood and city with the qualities that make them stand out in Southern California.

Annual dues are \$20 per household, but any lesser or greater amount is appreciated. If you send \$30, we will update you for this year and cover next year. Send your contribution to THCA, P.O. Box 4913, Laguna Beach, CA 92652. We hope to hear from you soon. We are counting on you. Please join with us.

— The Steering Committee ♻

THCA 2008 MEMBERSHIP COUPON

Membership in the Temple Hills Community Association is Laguna's best bargain! Annual dues are \$20 per household (any lesser or greater amount is appreciated). Newsletters are mailed to every home in Temple Hills.

NAME (Please print) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

**Please mail this coupon with your check for \$20 to
THCA, P. O. Box 4913, Laguna Beach, CA 92652**

If you are interested in volunteering, please call 497-2218.

City Issues of Concern

Temple Hills Steering Committee members Bob Borthwick, Ron Chilcote, Charlotte Masarik and Verna Rollinger have been participating in a loose coalition of community leaders concerned with local issues that have impact across the town. Following is a list of concerns:

1. Aliso Creek Inn Project. The Planning Commission is focusing on affordable housing. A draft on this is on the City website. The PC should be encouraged to adopt policies that provide affordable housing. At the moment, fees paid by developers are tied to either removal of existing affordable housing or construction of new non-affordable housing units. Should they also be required to address affordable housing issues if they are increasing the need for affordable housing (such as projecting large numbers of new service employees)?
2. The Athens Group is trying to establish vested rights for the Aliso Lots/Hobo Aliso subdivision area. They believe that they have vested rights to develop the property based on the grading of the pads that occurred in the early 1960s. Staff is recommending denial. The community should support the staff's position.
3. The Coastal Greenbelt Authority is reviewing the draft Resource Management Plan for Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park and the Super Project that focus on protection and preservation of the park's 4,000 acres. The Super Project aims to stabilize the creek. The relationship of the Super Project and the Aliso Creek is especially important to our concerns.
4. South Laguna Hospital. The effort is to pursue ideas for assisting in the hospital's continued operation in our community while preserving the open space above Sunset Avenue.
5. Height-Limit Update. The Planning Commission has recommended keeping the present measuring system in effect. The proposed change in parking garage height measurement was related to overall intensification of commercial areas.
6. Commercial Concessions. The group is concerned that we keep our beaches free of commercial enterprises. ♻️

Pampas Grass to be Eradicated

The Water District has promised to eradicate pampas grass from its reservoir enclosures. The volunteer group now numbers six (and includes Steve Kawaratani), and the City is considering publishing a pamphlet on the 10 "most-unwanted" culprits. Bob Borthwick, who is advising the City environment committee on this matter, recently spoke on the subject at the monthly dinner meeting of the Laguna Canyon Conservancy. — Chris Reed

Thurston (Pike) Variance Denied by City Council

We thank you for all your letters and phone calls. The vote of the City Council was 4-0 (Elizabeth Schneider was ill and did not vote) against the Pike variance, and thereby reaffirming the Planning Commission's 5-0 vote against. There was good input from a half dozen of us and also from across the town. The Temple Hills Community Association was joined by other community groups. There were letters and input from the South Laguna Civic Association, Top of the World Neighborhood Association, Village Laguna, and The Laguna Greenbelt. There was input from downtown and North Laguna. Their representatives spoke against the project. The issue may have seemed local, but its implications were seen as possibly impacting on future hillside development elsewhere. There is an awakening awareness throughout the town that together we can be effective in maintaining its character and in shaping its future. Those of us in Temple Hills should be prepared to reach out to others as others reached out to help us on the Pike project.

In feedback from Council members, they were impressed with our input. They also seemed resolved to bring this project to a close.

The next step is to help the City avoid dealing with Pike in court and to find some way to secure this property through conservation. ♻️


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The Stand
238 Thalia St.
8 Homemade Soups
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Lots of Parking

Schedule of Events



Annual Meeting and Party
September 20, 5 p.m.
Home of Steve and Susan Sandler,
718 Coast View

Candidates' Forum
October 20, 7 p.m.
Sponsored by THCA and TOWNA
City Hall Council Chambers