

**COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

**Citywide  
\$450,000 donation to  
Santa Monica-Malibu  
Education Foundation**

The Santa Monica-Malibu Education Foundation (SMMEF) has announced a major bequest of just over \$450,000 that will support the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District's (SMMSUD) Vision for Student Success program. The gift is one of the largest in SMMEF's 33-year history.

"We are so grateful to receive this large bequest," said Linda Greenberg, SMMEF Executive Director. "Like all donations to SMMEF, this gift will help ensure that the amazing SMMEF-funded staff and programs in our schools, including teacher training, arts education, additional middle and high school classes, and instructional assistants, continue during the next school year."

The bequest was made by long-time Santa Monica community member Judi Lynne and is a powerful expression of support for public education.

The SMMUSD Vision for Student Success (VSS) is a comprehensive set of programs designed to

improve student achievement and success. Gifts to SMMEF provide funding for SMMUSD to bring these programs to every school and grade level in the district. VSS programs include instructional assistants, literacy coaches, art instruction for every elementary grade, additional class sections for middle and high schools, professional development for teachers and instructional assistants, and discretionary grants for school-specific enrichment programs.

With this bequest, SMMEF has raised \$1,820,463 to fund VSS programs during the 2015-16 school year, out of a total annual goal of \$4 million to fully fund these programs. The fundraising deadline is June 30, 2015.

"Gifts like this one, which benefit students and schools district-wide, have to be our focus if we are to achieve equity in our district and give all students opportunities to succeed," said Greenberg. "We hope this gift will inspire parents, community members and corporate partners to join us in funding these vital programs for every student."

To learn more about SMMEF and SMMUSD's Vision for Student Success, visit [www.smmeff.org](http://www.smmeff.org).

- SUBMITTED BY ANN CONKLE

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

Send comments to [editor@smdp.com](mailto:editor@smdp.com)

**Water conservation should be easy enough**

**Editor:**

Finally, an opportunity to feel virtuous! I sat through the City Council's discussion of the proposed water conservation ordinance on Tuesday night, feeling nervous about water usage in my single family home. I've had low-flow toilets and shower heads in place since 2006, but have not otherwise worried much about water usage.

When I got home I checked my water billing for the past two years, and found that my household is consistently well below the threshold that would require a 20% cutback. This includes the summer months when all the teenagers are home and taking showers after work and beach, doing laundry, and when my front yard planting gets some supplemental watering.

My conclusion: households with more than five or six people, who do laundry at home, might be at risk of exceeding the threshold. One caveat: landscape watering is a thing of the past.

Fortunately, the new ordinance provides for financial help and free expert advice so we can change the plants in our lawns and gardens to those that will survive and thrive, watered by the night fog and morning dew of our coastal environment.

Before you panic, check your water bill online. It clearly shows your HCF (water usage measure) per two-month billing cycle. If it is under 22, you're in the clear.

**Abby Arnold**  
Santa Monica

**LISTINGS**  
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**Annual MLK Concert**

SGI Auditorium  
525 Wilshire Blvd. 2:30 p.m.  
Celebrate the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King with the MLK Westside Coalition and the Santa Monica Symphony. The annual MLK weekend concert features both classical and traditional works of African American composers and performers.

**Making natural calligraphy inks with Bjo Trimble**

1450 Ocean  
1 - 4 p.m.  
Learn to make calligraphy ink with natural materials, in a centuries-old tradition. The medieval art of calligraphy required a reasonably permanent flowing ink, especially for religious works, financial records, and other valuable information, and scribes used colored inks for ornamental initials, fancy designs or line drawings in the margins. Cost: \$25 + \$15 cash material fee to instructor. View and Register

for classes at <http://ow.ly/oZGSg> or call (310) 458-2239.

**Cyanotype Photographs**

1450 Ocean  
1-4 p.m.  
Cyanotype is an alternative photographic process that renders a deep blue exposure on most absorbent materials. It is a durable, adaptable, inexpensive, and Do-It-Yourself method of analog photo-processing: requiring only water, two chemicals, and anything that casts a shadow. View and Register for classes at <http://ow.ly/oZGSg> or call (310) 458-2239. Cost: \$5.

**What's the Story writing**

1450 Ocean  
11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
Stacie Chaiken brings her long-running and much-beloved storytelling workshop What's the Story? to 1450 Ocean. View and Register for classes at <http://ow.ly/oZGSg> or call (310) 458-2239.

**SAT full length practice test**

Main Library  
601 Santa Monica Blvd.  
10 a.m.

Space is limited. Sign-up at the Youth Reference Desk. Call (310) 458-8621 during library hours for more information. For grades 10 - 12 only.

**The Life of Paul Robeson**

Santa Monica Playhouse  
1211 4th St. 8 p.m.  
(7 p.m. on Jan. 18)  
Santa Monica Playhouse will present a two-night engagement of film, television and stage personality Stogie Kenyatta's acclaimed show about African-American artist-activist Paul Robeson. "The World Is My Home - The Life of Paul Robeson" had its first performance at the National Civil Rights Museum and has become the number one show on the American college scene. Saturday, January 17 at 8 p.m., Sunday, January 18 at 7 p.m.

**January 18**

**Orchestra Santa Monica**

Moss Theater, New Roads School  
5:30 p.m.  
Orchestra Santa Monica presents: "Happy Birthday Amadeus" featuring: Catherine Del Russo, oboe Mozart:

Symphony No. 29 in A Major, K.201  
Mozart: Oboe Concerto in C Major, K.314  
Mozart: Symphony No. 40 in G Minor, K.550

**God of Carnage**

Morgan-Wixson Theatre  
2627 Pico Blvd  
Fridays & Saturdays at 8 p.m.;  
Sundays at 2 p.m.  
A playground altercation between eleven-year-old boys brings together two sets of Brooklyn parents for a meeting to resolve the matter. At first, diplomatic niceties are observed, but as the meeting progresses, and the rum flows, tensions emerge and the gloves come off, leaving the couples with more than just their liberal principles in tatters. Admission: \$20, Senior; Student \$18

**Beach ultimate Frisbee tournament**

Beach north of the Pier  
Lei-Out is a competitive, mixed Beach Ultimate tournament taking place each January. The tournament attracts elite players and top beach teams from all over the world but still offers a range of competition for all.

**Fighting Addiction?**  
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\*Sorry, we do NOT accept Medicare or Medicaid.



**CITY OF SANTA MONICA**  
**NOTICE INVITING REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites sealed responses for:

**RFP: #20 Financial Services**

- **Submission Deadline Is February 5, 2015 at 5:30 PM Pacific Time.**

The RFP documents can be downloaded at:  
• <http://vendors.planetbids.com/SantaMonica/QuickSearch.cfm>

Request for RFP documents may also be obtained by e-mailing your request to [stephanie.lazicki@smgov.net](mailto:stephanie.lazicki@smgov.net)

RFP responses must be submitted on forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica.

Vendors interested in doing business with the City of Santa Monica are encouraged to register online at <http://www.smgov.net/finance/purchasing/>