

# MALIBU *Surfside* NEWS



## FRONT PAGE

Potential Candidates Begin Pulling Paperwork for April City Election

2

## SPOTLIGHT

Critically Acclaimed Films Continue to Vie for Award Season Notice

5

## PROFILES

Writer's 1958 Account of Malibu Life Vividly Evokes Vanished Era

9

## OUTDOORS

Canyon Park Oasis Invites Winter Walkers to Enjoy Solstice Solace

13

## LIFESTYLES

Weighty New Year's Resolutions Do Not Require Dire Diet Devotion

18

## THIS WEEK

Opinion	4
Doings	6
People	8
Notices	10
Calendar	12
Business	14
Puzzle	16
Lifestyles	18
Real Estate	19
Classifieds	21

**FAREWELL 2009** —On the bright side, there wasn't a major Malibu wildfire, landslide, flood or even a plague of locusts, but Malibuites who have struggled with all the challenges 2009 brought will be glad to ring in 2010 and see the old year go. MSN/Nick Rodionoff

# Local Starts Nonprofit to Teach Youth About Environment

## ■ 'Eco Hero Kids' Use the Power of Music to Spread the Word of Eco-Consciousness to Community

Local singer, songwriter, actress and music teacher Julia Holland is using her talents to spread the word about one of her passions, the environment.

On a mission to educate the children of the world about the environment, Holland has formed the Eco Hero Kids Foundation to spread the word. The foundation's spokespeople are the Eco Hero Kids, eight children ranging in age from six to 12, who have recorded a CD, "The Eco Hero Kids," with songs written by Holland about the environment. "It's children educating children about the environment and what they can do to improve it," Holland says.

"All the songs I've heard geared toward children are folksongs sung by adults," she said "I think kids would enjoy singing and dancing to upbeat music, so I wrote all the songs and recorded the CD. Only the children sing on it."

The 11-song CD includes such titles as "Plastic Bottles," "Wally the Worm" and "Ride a Bike," all of which send strong messages about conserving and improving the environment.

Holland says the nonprofit foundation was formed to increase public awareness of environmental challenges and create educational materials.

"The Eco Hero Kids Foundation gives children the opportunity to conduct a public program of outreach to inspire kids everywhere to begin to recycle, renew energy through simple changes in individual and family behavior and resources through changes in behavior," states the organization's website, EcoHeroKids.com.

The Eco Hero Kids rehearse each Sunday afternoon and have already performed for the Wyland Foundation.

"He [Robert Wyland] was so impressed with the kids, he donated a painting that we will auction off at our fundraiser," Holland said.

Their next performance will be on Sunday, Jan. 10, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Malibu Beach Inn. A fundraiser for the Eco Kids Foundation, it will also celebrate the launch of the CD, as well as have food and beverages, a performance by the Eco Hero Kids and a silent auction.

Holland said she feels it



**ENVIRONMENTAL AMBASSADORS**—The Eco Hero Kids, above, have recorded their first CD with upbeat music about environmental issues. Pictured back row, left to right: Dylan Grieco-Sisson, Ellery Smoller, Caitlyn Evers, Katarina Ulich, Ava Deikeler; front row: T.J. Jones, Leilani Jones and Timmy Thomas.

is important for the children to have an understanding of environmental issues, so she has also taken the Eco Hero Kids on field trips—to the Simi Valley Landfill, as well as to the University of California Santa Barbara to see its recycling program where Holland's daughter Brooke, a sophomore at the school, is the program's coordinator.

"Plastic never disintegrates, it just gets smaller

and smaller, so it's really destroying our planet," Holland said.

Members of the singing group say they have become aware of their responsibilities toward the environment.

"I've learned about what I can do," said Ellery Smoller, age 12. "There are so many different ways to help: by turning off the lights, using reusable water bottles, turning off the water while you brush your

teeth and unplugging computer and phone chargers. If everybody does those things, it really helps. I've learned about how we're hurting our planet."

Holland said that an integral part of the message is to explain to children why they should do things.

"Why turn off the lights? Because there are these huge plants that have to generate energy and they're throwing tons of stuff into the air," she said.

In this vein, each child in the group is taking on an issue: carbon dioxide emissions, clean water, reusable water bottles and electricity. They will not only explain how to correct the situation, but why one should be conscious about it.

"We want to be able to get the word out, start chapters in other cities and have kids start taking control of the environment," said Holland. To this end, she has written 10 episodes of a show that is now in (Continued on page 16)

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From *SHALA* at

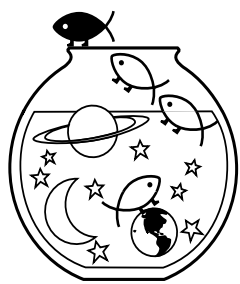
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# The Aquarium AGE

The Week of December 31–January 6, 2009



There's a lot to be "sorted" in 2010, so best to spend the final moments of 2009 contemplating how you might want to orient yourself for what lies ahead.

you want to put an end to the violence of poverty, find a way to work for everyone's prosperity, not just your own. Coming to terms with the interconnectedness of life would be another appropriate intention to set for 2010, especially the reality of how individual actions, reactions, and responses create the Zeitgeist;

instantaneous that doesn't mean efforts are futile. Be aware before you indulge in the angst of futility, that its toxicity will eventually incapacitate the heart and turn it bitter. Better to frame futility as a tool for growth, and use it to open places in the heart that may have become atrophied or frozen, but in reality have been lying dormant, waiting for this moment to arise.

unconscious drives, you may find yourself toasting to a new year that's more interested in results than theories. But try not to let pragmatism overwhelm idealism—we are going to need strong, positive visions born of the best of us to co-create a future that works well for all of us.

If you know your ascendant and/or your moon sign, read that too. **Aries** (March 21-April 19): Use the double retrograde to organized and then, reorganize every detail of your life, again. Believe me... you will not be bored by the process. Quite the contrary; you will be invigorated. **Taurus** (April 20-May 20): Focus on knowing what activities serve your growth and then eliminating what doesn't work.

# The PUZZLE

## A New Year

Edited by Linda and Charles Preston

### ACROSS

- 1 Actor Meyers
4 Tease
7 Pianist Jorge
12 Tibetan monks
17 "I Am \_\_\_"
18 Infamous Amin
19 Thundering
20 Put on a pedestal
21 I resolve to ...
25 Secret sharer?
26 "The Battle of the \_\_\_": 1960 film
27 Trick
29 Charlton Heston epic
32 Ill-tempered
35 Fleur-de-\_\_\_
36 Examine
37 Big man on campus?
38 Playwright Davis
40 Handy bit of Latin
42 Nice season
43 I resolve to...
49 Chewed out
51 Window dressing?
52 Neatnik's nemesis
54 Low digit
55 Believer: suffix
58 "The Light That Failed" star
61 San \_\_\_ Obispo, Calif.
63 Aesop output
67 Porpoise pack
69 Of long standing
71 Strasberg or Trevino
73 Seize
74 I resolve to ...
80 Singer Moffo
81 Agt.
82 Chick chaser?
83 Actor Howard
84 Runs into
86 Hindu rhythm
89 Refugee
92 Superlative ending
93 LummoX
95 Molten rock
97 Hammer's portrayer
99 Did without dinner
103 I resolve to ...
109 Producer Prince
110 Was obligated
112 Wine valley
113 Turn soft
114 Less inept
116 Aerialist fallback
118 Decorate the den
121 Adhesive ingredient
122 Spouse
123 "Calypso" crewman
125 Technical problem
127 I resolve to ...

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-140 indicating starting points for clues.

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12/24/09 /09

- 133 Unsullied
134 Country's Keith
135 Call \_\_\_ day
136 Chemical ending
137 In a weird way
138 Eye drops?
139 Road curve
140 Go off course

### DOWN

- 1 Jack \_\_\_
2 "Willard" extra
3 Pictured
4 Baby beavers
5 What i.e. stands for
6 D.D. Emmett tune
7 "Cheers" setting
8 Tolkien villain
9 Clark's coworker
10 Stand for Steen
11 Mrs. Ed Norton
12 Trails
13 Plugs
14 Yorkshire features
15 Incited
16 Able to feel

- 22 5 1/2 yards
23 \_\_\_ Downs: racetrack
24 Homes on high
28 Checked out
29 Mag. bigwigs
30 Singer Salonga
31 Cleveland NBA'er
33 Terrible age?
34 Strong longings
36 Above the crowd
39 Jodie Foster film
41 Feign
44 Breakfast fruit
45 Vision-related
46 Seance sound
47 Peyton's brother
48 "It Had to Be \_\_\_"
50 Confederation
53 "Show Boat" song
55 Cairo creed
56 Tantrum
57 Cawdor big shot
59 Negative correlative
60 Seville shout
62 Huge quantity

- 64 Lionhearted
65 Nigeria's capital
66 He picks pix
68 Wind instrument?
70 Use a ladle
72 Set up for a fall
75 \_\_\_-de-lance
76 Autumn birthstone
77 Holy cow!
78 "Casualties of War" setting: var.
79 Singer Buddy
85 Relish
87 "For Me and My \_\_\_"
88 Connecticut town
90 Presidential nickname
91 Army off.
94 Scarcely any
96 Pronto! in memos
98 Lauren's love
99 Fraud
100 Mexican state
101 Counting everything
102 Casual fabric

- 104 Air-quality org.
105 "Scent of a Woman" dance
106 Classic beginning
107 CXL quadrupled
108 Porker's palace
111 Pious
115 Sniggled
117 Land, in Lourdes
119 Dinsmore or Venner of fiction
120 Rosters
121 Environment starter
123 Gainsay
124 Colleague of Dolly and Tammy
126 "\_\_\_ the night before..."
128 Bisoglio or Kilmer
129 Elevator unit
130 Hosp. staffers
131 Genetic letters
132 Make a hem

BY RALFEE FINN

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# Eco Hero Kids

(Continued from page 6)

production. "It's based on the songs and will either be on television or the web," she said. Holland says she's also written a play that she hopes will be performed at schools.

Holland, a 10-year local resident, has been active with children for years. She taught music at Point Dume Marine Science Elementary School for six years and at Webster Elementary for two years. She teaches piano and singing privately. She is founder of the Once Upon a Time

Children's Theater in Malibu, the next production of which will be "Aladdin." She is also founder and director of the local singing group the 'Bu Notes, as well as a member of the Malibu Stage Repertory.

Holland says she would like to see the Eco Kid movement eventually spreading internationally, with chapters in cities across the globe, especially with the help of the Internet, with children becoming Eco Hero Kids.

"Our planet is in peril," she said. "I'm OK, but Ellery [Smoller] is only 12, It's really going to impact her kids. I think my generation really dropped the ball."

For more information on the Eco Hero Kids Foundation and the Eco Hero Kids, visit EcoHeroKids.com.

BY ROBBY MAZZA

### SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

Grid solution for the previous week's puzzle with words filled in.