

Peninsula Seniors Lecture Series

Hesse Park—Fireside Room
Rancho Palos Verdes
Wednesdays - 10:30 to 11:30 AM

February 1 -- Just a few months ago, the world watched in awe as another Middle East tyrant met his end at the hands of his own people. Our speaker today is an author who has written of his experience and personal meetings with Libya's long time ruler and dictator, Muammar Gaddafi.

Local resident Mandan Sayal joins us to describe his recently released book about his interaction with Gaddafi when he was an Exxon employee in the Libyan oil industry. Be sure to attend for a timely update on one of the key nations in the Arab Spring that is changing the Middle East

February 8 -- Today we switch our attention to our own community as we learn about the development of the Peninsula from two women who've spent a lot of time writing a book about those early days. Written by Betty Lukas and edited by Marjeanne Blinn, "Peninsula Past: the Complicated Birth of Paradise" debuted Dec. 8, and consists of 31 essays and archival photos that originally appeared in the Palos Verdes Peninsula News.

Betty is a docent in the Local History Room at Peninsula Center Library, and Marjeanne is an adult services librarian there. They've promised to bring books for sale for local history buffs-and anyone else interested in paradise.

February 15 -- The Port of Los Angeles continues to create development ideas and plans that will create both a world class harbor and an active community attraction right here in our back yard. Our speaker is a staff engineer for the Port, Ms. Dina Aryan-Zahlar who will describe some of the current and future features the Port plans for its environs. Think in terms of U.S.S. IOWA, an Artist and Craftsman Center and Gallery, an international Marine Research and Technology Center, Ports'O'Call Village and a Downtown water attraction.

February 22 -- Community Helpline has been providing support and crisis intervention services to the Peninsula for over 40 years. Trained volunteers man phone lines and take calls from individuals whose ages range from teens to senior citizens. Begun by concerned parents locally, the Helpline has become well established with volunteers who also range from teens to seniors. All staffers go through a six week course teaching them to listen and to provide some support to callers.

Today, director Coleen Sass and volunteer Alan Cook will demonstrate role playing and how this extraordinary service provided help and support to countless callers.

February 29 -- In WW II, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team became the most highly decorated unit in the history of US Armed Forces. The unit, made up of the 442nd and 100th Battalions, was entirely Japanese-American volunteers, most of whose families had been sent to relocation camps at the start of the war. Their patriotism and performance were exemplary. Our speakers are from the GO FOR BROKE (the Unit's motto) National Education Center headquartered here in Torrance. They are Don Nose, President, and Directors Ken Akune and James Ogawa. We will have a presentation of how a famous combat unit fought two wars – one at home as well as one in WW II Italy.

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