



# MEMBER NEWS

FEBRUARY 2018

MILT LARSEN Editor  
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## STILL MAKING PROGRESS

This is only our third newsletter. Most of our Charter Members live in Santa Barbara/Montecito and the Central Coast. They are very aware of the unexpected wildfires and catastrophic floods and mudslides. Despite a myriad of problems we are making progress on the magic trick of turning an old building into a magical palace. The fact that you are receiving this email newsletter indicates that you have accepted our invitation to be a Charter Member. Your payment of dues prior to our opening allows us to move ahead as quickly as possible.

For our new members who may not know the history of our new venture here's a bit of information. Arlene and I had been investigating the idea of buying some kind of real estate that would be a good investment and also serve as an exciting project in our hometown for our

retirement years. We spent a great deal of time and money looking at locations ranging from a theatre in



Carpinteria to a church in downtown Santa Barbara. Joe Parker, a young realtor, knew we were looking for a location and told us that the Café del Sol property was about to be on the market. The location was perfect and the asking price was within our means. We bought it in on May 5, 2016.



For various reasons we were not able to start our remodeling work on the old building until April of 2017. Our friends and workers who have been with the project from the start are amazed with the transformation over a relatively short period of time. There have been unexpected major expenses and delays but we can see the light at the end of the tunnel. It's just the process is taking longer than we thought. If all goes well we hope to announce the opening of the first phase of the cabaret next month.



## MILT'S MILTING-POT

Back in 1968 I started writing a page of stories about the Magic Castle which were published weekly on the back of our Magic Castle Friday lunch menus. Four years ago the Academy changed the lunch policy to a grand buffet, which eliminated the need for a printed lunch menu. I enjoyed writing those stories so I started writing a Blog with more stories about happenings at the Magic Castle. I write my Blog on my weekly Amtrak Surfliner train from

Burbank Airport station to Santa Barbara. Anyone can read the blog by simply going to [www.miltlarsen@tumblr.com](http://www.miltlarsen@tumblr.com).

Because of the tragic events of December and January I tried to answer the many question asked by our Academy of Magical Arts members in my last blog

For the information of our new Cabaret members here it is:

MILT'S MILTING-POT BLOG #137 - JANUARY 26, 2018

### BACK ON THE TRAIN TO SANTA BARBARA

*Continuing with a few thoughts about fire and water. (That was a famous illusion performed by The Great Leon in the twenties.)*

About that old expression "It will be a cold day in Hell." Well the fires and smoke in our Ventura and Santa Barbara counties gave us a cold and un-merry Christmas December. With the largest fire in California history (the Thomas Fire) still burning we all prayed for rain to stop the raging fires. Apparently we prayed too hard because we started the new year with the Heavens opening up and dumping a season full of rain turning our drought starved and burned out enclave of wealthy and beauty into a horrific "disaster zone" with an avalanche of boulders and mud.

In one morning lives ended for almost two dozen people and lives changed for hundreds of others.

Highway 101 is now open again and the Amtrak trains are running after a half a month of cold days in Hell

So here I am writing my Blog on my favorite Friday afternoon train to Santa Barbara on a beautiful smoke free day.

Many thanks to our many friends who were concerned with our health and well-being. We were very blessed. Our home overlooking the harbor in Santa Barbara had no problems and our new Magic Castle Cabaret club is situated on the entry to Montecito. It was closed to through traffic and we became the command post for the police to forbid

anyone to enter the devastation areas due to search and rescue operations.

#### UPDATE ON THE MAGIC CASTLE CABARET:

Because of the news of the devastation of Montecito the phones at the Magic Castle have been "ringing off the hook" (About 100 years ago telephone ear speakers were hung on hooks.) Our AMA office staff is getting a lot of calls with questions about our new club.

We've been so busy turning our old building into a beautiful private club we haven't spent too much time answering questions.

We bought to property in May of 2016 and we'll be lucky to open by May of this year. We started offering Charter Memberships in December just before the Thomas Fire started.

Our Cabaret is not another Magic Castle. The Hollywood clubhouse is The Magic Castle. - There is nothing like it anywhere in the Universe. The Magic Castle Cabaret is a very small social club that will offer top magicians and variety entertainment to our friends that live and work on the Central Coast.

When the Academy of Magical Arts offered Charter memberships in 1962 we had about 150 people who had faith that someday the Magic Castle might be

successful. As of this writing our new club has 65 Charter members. Arlene and I have sent invitations to our friends and neighbors who have expressed an interest in having a venue where Magic Castle magicians and our Hollywood variety performers can be seen. The biggest question asked is "Do AMA Members have to join the MCC?" No. The 5,000 members are welcome to see our shows and enjoy our intimate facilities. The AMA has always welcomed members of any bona-fide magic club to attend the Magic Castle on a limited bases and paying a per person door charge. The same will be true for our MCC club. If a member of AMA lives in our area and wants to enjoy the club on a regular basis they are welcome to apply for a full membership.

I can't answer the entire question in this Blog but I am informing our staff at AMA and MCI encourages callers to watch this blog [miltlarsen@tumblr.com](http://miltlarsen@tumblr.com). My blog is also on Facebook. It is fun and full of stories about the Castles. We have just started a monthly official newsletter but only members of Magic Castle Cabaret receive it via email.

If you live in the 805 and area are interested in joining the Magic Castle Cabaret as a full member, contact Arlene at [zamagic@aol.com](mailto:zamagic@aol.com)

## OLD WORLD COMFORT IN THE LOUNGE

According to legend the Countessa de Lota called her summer palace on the lake in Northern Spain her Palicio del Oro or her "Palace of Gold." That may explain the baroque gold leafed coffered ceiling and other elaborate architectural elements. The chairs and tables might have been found in the finest palaces in Europe. Our guests will be treated like royalty. Thanks to the antiques from the home of Dr. Paulette Franson and Arlene's passion for finding rare furniture you will feel like you are relaxing in another more comfortable social world.

**OUR GUEST  
WILL BE  
TREATED  
LIKE  
ROYALTY.**



A small concert stage is available for impromptu shows. There will be special shows and concerts in the future.

Starting with this newsletter we will list the names of new members. We welcome them and thank them for their early support.

– Milt & Arlene Larsen

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

|                   |                         |                    |                       |                  |
|-------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| ★ Michael Andrade | Keiko Dunham            | Michael Hutchings  | Nancy Melekian        | Scott Steepleton |
| Earl Armstrong    | Jack Easton             | Luci Janssen       | ★ Sara Miller McCune  | Ayse Taimuty     |
| Gail Arnold       | Everett Fields          | Lynn Kirst         | ★★ Steve Mitchell     | Wendy Tarasick   |
| David Asbell      | ★★ Dr. Paulette Fransen | Betsy Klinger      | Edward Mullen         | Susan Trandem    |
| ★ Donald Bennet   | Janet Garufis           | Dr. Brian Kopeikin | Deana Murray          | Gene Urban       |
| Steve Bowman      | Erin Graffy de Garcia   | Maria LaFay        | Matt Olufs            | ★★ Jack Vaughn   |
| Jason Boyatt      | George Hagerman         | George Leis        | Paul Orfalea          | Tim Vient        |
| Frank Bresee      | Laurie Harris           | Pam Lopker         | Joe Parker            | Ian Whitcomb     |
| James Buckley     | Tippi Hedren            | Carol Marie        | ★★ Randy Pitchford    | Ron White        |
| Paul Butler       | Terry Hill              | ★ Steve Martin     | Roger Rittner         | Fred Willard     |
| Mark Collier      | Jessica Hopkins         | Ron Masak          | ★★ Linda Schimberg    | Mark Wilson      |
| Nancy Crawford    | Lewis Horwitz           | Mark McClintock    | ★★ Richard M. Sherman | Joanne Worley    |
| Douglas Dreier    | Vincent Houser          | ★★ Don McCoy       | William Shields       |                  |
| ★ Chad Dreier     | Tab Hunter              | Stanley McLain     | ★ Stephen Shultz      |                  |

★ Angel Members    ★★ Double Angel Members