

LIVING Brentwood

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Meet our Neighbor
Lisa Mansfield

Leading a Life *with Heart*

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Cover photo by Jennifer Fujikawa

An exclusive magazine serving the residents of Brentwood, California



Leading a Life with Heart

By Jasmine Maya Royce
Photos by Jennifer Fujikawa

When you come upon the sleepy little area of Brentwood Glen, something changes. It's a tiny little pocket of houses built in the '30s and '40s with a very historical feel. Not in the way that feels antique but rather like you have just been sent back in time, to the high point of America. That small town connected life, where neighbors still talk, and the children play together on their parents' lawns. A place where you feel safe and a part of one another's lives, and at the heart of it all is Lisa Mansfield.

She has been called the "Queen of the Glen" and even though she shies away from using

the term, you can start to see why people have nicknamed her that. I had the chance to sit down with Lisa at her parents' home, which is also the house in which she grew up. She opens the door with a warm smile. Teddy, her toy poodle, is busy running around the room playing with his numerous toys. Lisa's childhood living room is covered with family photos. Lifetimes and legacies of their family's history peek out from every corner of the room.

Lisa and her family moved to Brentwood Glen when she was seven and she is the eldest of two girls. "It was an amazing place to move, and an idyllic house to grow up in with lots of young kids my age. We all played on my lawn, because it was the biggest, and it was the corner lot. We had a little roller coaster that we set up, the kids would congregate here and we would do plays, which I would direct. The kids across the street and I are still friends 40 years later."

Lisa shares, "Family is really important to me. We get together all the time. I come here every Sunday night and we have dinner together. Andrea, my sister, works with me and my parents and I love to meet for lunch at Sweet Lady Jane's on Montana." Lisa's mother and father pop in at one point during our interview introducing themselves and offering us refreshments and snacks. The dynamic between Lisa and her folks is very loving and considerate; the kind that comes from a large amount of time spent in close proximity to one another.

Growing up, Lisa's Dad worked as the head of the Projection Department at MGM Studios and Lisa's mom was the Personal Assistant for Julie Andrews. "We were part of Julie Andrews' and Blake Edwards's life," Lisa explains. "We traveled to Europe with Julie and Blake while they were filming." Lisa's childhood appeared to be a rather charmed life, traveling around the world with her parents as well as Julie, Blake and Julie's daughter, Emma. "When I was little, we went to Dublin and we stayed in a big castle for two months while they were filming the film *Darling Lilli*."

When Lisa was old enough to go to University she chose to attend the University of California, Santa Barbara and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature. But unlike so many, Lisa's education and love of learning didn't stop after college. "After graduating, I moved to Europe. I followed my lifelong dream of spending more time exploring that part of the world. It has always been a place, that for me, seemed more like a novel than reality. I knew that my time there would be wonderful and filled with the excitement and diversity of different cultures. I was making my dream a reality in Switzerland, England, and Spain," Lisa tells me.

When Lisa finally decided to move back to the states she chose to return to Los Angeles where she began her career as a real estate agent working for the Jon Douglas Company on San Vicente. Shortly after that, Lisa's sister Andrea obtained her Master's Degree in Spiritual Psychology





at University of Santa Monica. "People who know it, know it. It is a unique program. I signed up immediately for this very intense two-year program," Lisa notes.

Lisa graduated with a Master's degree in Spiritual Psychology from USM in 2004. Currently, Lisa is enrolled again at USM for a Post Graduate Certificate in Consciousness, Health, and Healing. Lisa's classes and list of hobbies are worth marveling at: she speaks French and Italian, takes weekly meditation classes, practices yoga, does Cardio Hip-Hop on Mondays, and ballroom dancing, as well as continuing to explore and travel the world.

You can't say there is much downtime for a woman like Lisa. Although, she does mention how important it is for her to maintain a solid work-life balance as it is one of the key elements to her success. Her life outside of work is always busy with activities, classes and events. She is a huge part of the Brentwood Glen community. Lisa is currently the President of the Brentwood Glen Garden Club, does volunteer work at a local retirement home, and is the host of the Annual Pumpkin Giveaway where she invites all her neighbors to come and select a full-size pumpkin with their family and enjoy a hot drink together. That's not all: for over two decades she has also been an integral part of Brentwood Glen Day. "It's a day when they close off one of the streets and we celebrate our neighborhood and our



Top, from left: Lisa at her annual pumpkin giveaway party; Lisa and her mother at her family home in Brentwood; Lisa's long-time Associate, Michael. Middle left: Lisa and the Brentwood Boy Scouts at Kenter Elementary School. Bottom left: Lisa provides pony rides for the children at the annual Brentwood Glen Day.

community. I provide two bouncy castles, a small petting zoo, and pony rides. It's funny, for the last 25 years I have been providing pony rides for the community. I guess I have kept the pony's prancing," she laughs.

The business of real estate is an exciting field. Understanding clients, the ever changing market, and the laws required to navigate a successful sale are only a few of the challenges faced by those who have chosen this field of work. Almost 30 years have passed since Lisa began working in real estate and her "Passion for Excellence," the motto by which she lives, remains strong. Lisa has her own team within the Brentwood branch of Sotheby's International Realty, directly across the street from the location of her very first real estate job on San Vicente Blvd. "My entire career has been based on the same street," she says.

"Believe it or not, I knew since I was a young girl that I wanted to be in the world of real

estate. I would collect stacks of *Architectural Digest* and *Home and Garden* magazines, read them all the time and imagine myself being a professional woman selling these gorgeous homes," Lisa shares.

Lisa's passion for her career also applies to all aspects of her life. "The thing people might be surprised to learn about me is how diverse I am outside of my work life," she states. Lisa really is multifaceted with a passion and zest for life and learning that is rare and wonderful to see. Most of all, Lisa says the trick to her success both in business and a wonderfully adventurous life is to do all things from "the Heart."

Do you know a neighbor who has a story to share? Nominate your neighbor to be featured in one of our upcoming issues! Contact us at mharris@bestversionmedia.com.

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Queen of the Glen, and a Passion for Excellence

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