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# Montecito

## NEIGHBORS

*An exclusive magazine serving the residents of Montecito*

**MEET MOLLY-ANN LEIKIN:**  
**SONGWRITER & EMMY NOMINEE**



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Cover photo by  
Linda Blue





## Meet Molly-Ann Leikin

### RHYMES WITH BACON:

She's a songwriter and Emmy nominee, who has written themes and songs for over 50 tv shows and movies, including "Violet", which won an Oscar. Her songs have been recorded by Placido Domingo, Anne Murray, Tina Turner, Billy Preston, Glen Campbell, John Travolta, Cher, Yitzi Ya and the Yo Yo's, just to name a few.

We are thrilled to introduce you to Molly-Ann Leikin, (rhymes with bacon), a resident of Santa Barbara since 1998 and more recently, Butterfly Lane in Montecito.

Molly was born in Canada and graduated from the University of Toronto with a Bachelors in French Literature, then studied at The Sorbonne in Paris, where she received her Masters, then UCLA.

"On my way to becoming a songwriter, I had a good day job as a very bad emergency intake social worker for Los Angeles County Department of Social Services. Many of my clients claimed the fathers of their children were rock stars. It was my responsibility to go after all the alleged dads for child sup-

port." I collected a grand total of a dollar three-eighths. And instead of me getting my clients off welfare, they got me into the music business."

Molly's first job was a Staffwriter for Almo Music, the ASCAP publishing arm of A & M Records. Later, she was signed to Interworld and then Chappell Music.

Her colorful career is only an extension of a riveting personal life. "When I moved to Santa Barbara in 1998, I'd just written a tell-all novel about the smarmy, lecherous side of the music business, called "The Man in the Moon Will See Me Home". Due to a lash back by many industry insiders, Molly was forced to relocate from Santa Monica.

Three years ago, Molly was diagnosed with CRPS, that left her in unbearable pain, unable to walk and confined to bed. A fiercely independent, type A person, Molly did not do well being completely helpless. Unable to work for two

and a half years, she lost her house and everything in it. But refusing to take her therapist's advice to "get a wheelchair and get on with it," Molly visited one more doctor – a surgeon at Cedars Sinai in L.A. He told her she'd been misdiagnosed. There was a 2/3 chance that a simple surgery would cure her. While she was devastated and in the dark, she prayed every day, and promised God if He healed her, she'd use her songwriting gifts to make a difference. He did. And so, did she. Molly recently wrote the official English lyric to Israel's national anthem. The title is "Hope".

Today, Molly writes music and consults with songwriters all over the world. Speeches, vows, toasts and memorials have been added to her resume as well. She is a self-proclaimed yogini and enjoys classes at the local YMCA. A collector of contemporary art, specifically from California artists, Leikin walks every day, is a faithful flosser, crossword puzzle enthusiast, and makes a world-class sour cream cinnamon-raisin coffee cake, nuts optional. The recipe is the

By Marina Satoaifaiga  
Photos by Linda Blue



same one that was sewn into her grandmother's clothes when she came to North America from Russia.

Molly shares her home with two stuffed Lexus animals: Bear & Baby Bear, plus one Beanie Baby, Prayer Bear. When asked what her favorite part of Montecito is, her response, "I love the Country feel of our neighborhood. No sidewalks, soft, winding streets, and the Chamber of Commerce blue sky. It is a privilege to drive along our tree-lined roads every morning on the way to yoga, and to the Post Office on East Valley Road." She continues "walking uphill makes the music business feel easy by comparison."

"I honestly don't know my neighbors. There's lots of space between us, and



Robert Frost was right: good fences make good neighbors. I've almost made peace with the construction workers next door, whose yellow vehicles start beeping every morning at 7. Like many of my neighbors, I was evacuated five times. But Montecito is strong. We are resourceful. I wear my blue wrist band proudly, knowing we pulled together and got through the fires and mudslides."

She leaves us with these words of wisdom: "We were spared, so there's something each of us is here to do. My gratitude for living in such a beautiful town is one thing. Being well enough to enjoy it is another blessing."

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HAS A STORY  
TO SHARE?**

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