

# Brownley honored by school group

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

**SACRAMENTO** The California League of High Schools (CLHS) has just honored State Assembly member Julia Brownley, D-Santa Monica, as their "2008 Legislator of the Year."

The award was presented on Jan. 12 at the league's Annual Conference in Monterey — "High Schools as Learning Communities: Engaging Students to Close the Achievement Gap." The conference was attended by 800 high school teachers and administrators.

CLHS selected Brownley "as a result of her proactive, practical approach to crafting legislation that benefits student learning and students' futures."

They noted legislation she authored in her just-completed freshman year to make instructional materials pricing more transparent, and to require alternative measures by which high school students unable to pass the California High School Exit Exam could still demonstrate competence and receive their diploma.

"With the serious budget challenges that we face this year, especially in education, it was inspiring to observe the commitment to educational excellence that is shared by the teachers and administrators attending this conference," Brownley said. "These amazing educators give me hope that we can all work together to succeed in bringing opportunity to every child and successfully close the achievement gap."

CLHS is a nonprofit membership association dedicated to improving the professional knowledge of high school educators so that all students may experience academic and life success.

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Photo courtesy Trapeze School New York

**LOFTY AMBITIONS:** Trapeze School New York plans to open a location for the acrobatic art on the Santa Monica Pier in the coming months.

# Flying high over the pier

## Trapeze School New York plans Santa Monica location

BY MELODY HANATANI  
Daily Press Staff Writer

SM PIER Santa Monicans might soon be flying high.

Building on the success of his trapeze schools in New York City, Boston and Baltimore, Jonathon Conant is planning to offer lessons in the acrobatic art on the Santa Monica Pier.

The Trapeze School New York is slated to open a fourth location at the heart of the

pier, on a 9,000 square-foot vacant lot between Pacific Park and the Playland Arcade. An opening date has not yet been announced but Conant estimates it could happen as soon as next month. It will take about a week to install the 32-foot tall rigs.

The addition of the trapeze school is a welcomed addition, complementing the

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# Rep. Waxman to question EPA on recent emissions ruling

BY ERICA WERNER  
Associated Press Writer

**WASHINGTON** A key House Democrat said Monday he plans to question EPA officials about why the agency refused to allow California to require reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from cars and trucks.

At least 16 other states were prepared to

implement the same limits had the government issued the waiver California needed to set the standards, which would have been the first in the nation.

Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, sent a letter to Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Stephen L. Johnson naming

seven high-level managers he wants to interview. They include Margo Oge, director of the office of transportation and air quality, and Brian McLean, director of the office of atmospheric programs.

Waxman wants EPA to agree to a schedule for transcribed interviews or depositions by Wednesday. EPA spokesman Jonathan Shradar said the agency would work with Waxman's

committee to schedule the meetings.

EPA has missed deadlines set by Waxman and Sen. Barbara Boxer to turn over documents supporting the waiver denial.

EPA says it is still working to collect the documents. Waxman asked EPA to establish by Wednesday mutually agreeable deadlines to produce the records



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# Trapeze school to open on pier

FROM TRAPEZE PAGE 3

unique array of services and activities already offered on the pier, said Ben Franz-Knight, the executive director of the Santa Monica Pier Restoration Corporation (PRC).

"A lot of guests that come to the pier are really going to enjoy the process and watching the classes," Knight said. "Our hope is to have a lot of members of the public involved in the classes as well."

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**Ben Franz-Knight**  
Executive Director of the

The open-air school, clearly visible to visitors of the pier, will be situated on a site that has been vacant for the past 12 years, occasionally used for special events. The trapeze

school will be awarded a one-year lease with the option to renew.

The school opened in Lower Manhattan on Pier 40 in 2001 and locations in the Boston suburb of Reading and Baltimore soon followed. Conant was a music composer for film and television when he went on a Club Med vacation in 1998 and took several flying trapeze lessons.

"It was a tremendous experience going up in great fear and going down feeling triumphant," Conant said.

The native Californian went back to New England hoping to find a trapeze school. When Conant discovered one didn't exist, he decided to open a school in upstate New York. A few years later, Conant partnered with friends Dave and Anne Brown and founded the Trapeze School New York.

The three business partners had been mulling their options the past few years of a fourth location and saw an opportunity in California, feeling residents would respond well to an unusual activity. When the PRC sent out a notice last year seeking a short-term tenant for a vacant spot on the pier, Brown decided to throw in the company's name.

"We really like it when our business makes other businesses work better when the business relationship is built on the community and trying to bring something



Photo courtesy Trapeze School New York

**GETTING AIR:** Trapeze School New York's new site on the pier would be its fourth location.

good," Conant said. "Working with the pier here, these guys all want to do great stuff for the city."

The trapeze school isn't just for people with aspirations for the circus. One of the benefits of the trapeze arts is that it helps people realize their potential," Conant said.

"In addition to being a phenomenal workout, it's a tremendous bodybuilding experience," Conant said. "It helps people reevaluate what they believe they are capable of."

Though the school will primarily offer

lessons to students that have booked a reservation, walk-in visitors might also be accepted. Classes in the other three schools range from \$45 during off-peak hours to \$75 during peak hours for a two-hour class.

Roughly 25,000 people have taken part in classes at the company's three schools since 2001.

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**WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

Send letters to [editor@smdp.com](mailto:editor@smdp.com)

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