

IN THIS ISSUE

Horvath Sworn In as Supervisor for Third District 4



Holiday Magic at Greystone 6



“Invincible” - Not Yet 12



Courier Calendar 2

News 4

Community 6

Arts & Entertainment 12

Birthdays 16

Fun & Games 18

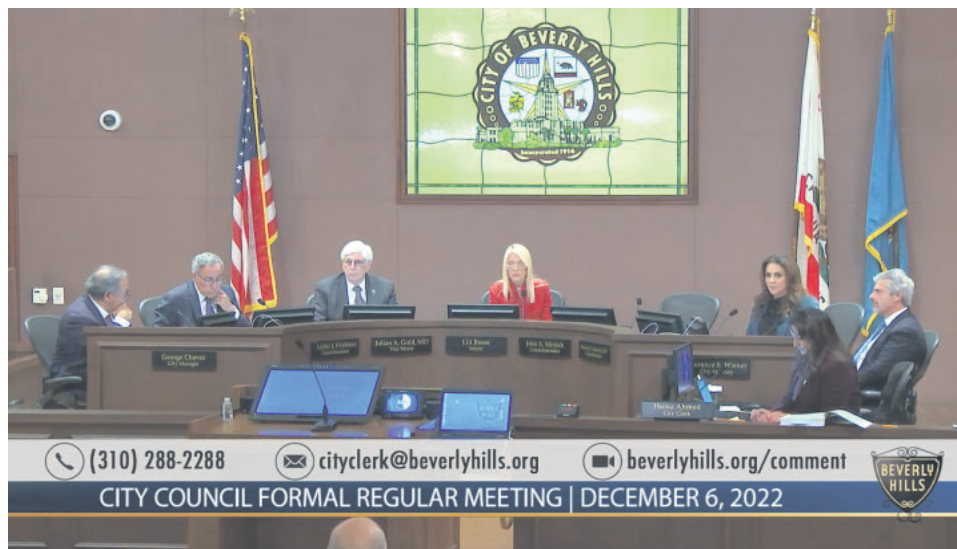
Police Blotter 19

Classifieds 21

THE WEATHER, BEVERLY HILLS CA

☀️ Friday	61° 48°
☁️ Saturday	59° 53°
☁️ Sunday	58° 43°
☁️ Monday	59° 39°
☀️ Tuesday	57° 40°
☁️ Wednesday	58° 43°
☁️ Thursday	59° 45°

Human Rights, Antisemitism at the Forefront of City Council Meeting



The City Council at the Dec. 6 formal meeting

BY MICHELE RAPHAEL AND ANA FIGUEROA

The Beverly Hills City Council addressed topics ranging from licensing to commission appointments at its Dec. 6 formal meeting. But two items not on the agenda provided the evening’s most stirring moments. Namely, Councilmember Sharona Nazarian’s update on the humanitarian crisis in Iran and Mayor

Lili Bosse’s recap of her historic trip to the Mayors Summit Against Antisemitism in Athens.

“Today marks Day 81 of the uprising in Iran that has become an all-out revolution and demand for regime change, since the brutal murder of Mahsa Amini by the morality police,” Nazarian said. She noted that Iran was in the midst of a three-day, countrywide

See CITY COUNCIL, page 17

From Beverly Hills to Ukraine: One Doctor’s Story

BY ANA FIGUEROA

When images first surfaced of the Russian invasion of Ukraine earlier this year, Debra Luftman knew she needed to do something. The Beverly Hills dermatologist began to make calls, trying to find out how to help. More than anything else, it was the sight of brave refugees fleeing their homes that inspired her. Luftman’s own grandparents had fled Eastern Europe during the horrors of World War II.

“I knew I wanted to get involved, I just didn’t know how,” Luftman told the Courier.

She posted on Facebook and reached out to contacts at Hadassah in search of a way to volunteer in a meaningful way. Eventually, a friend of a friend put her in touch with Dr. Paula Rackoff, a New York rheumatologist with a similar mindset. Rackoff had



Photo courtesy of Tomer Dror

Beverly Hills Dermatologist Debra Luftman (right) journeyed to Ukraine to help refugees this summer.

connected with a small crisis relief group in Israel called Lev Echad or One Heart.

Founded in 2005 by a then-18-year-old student, One Heart’s original mission was to help Israelis displaced by dismantled

See UKRAINE, page 14

Union Seeks to Put Cheval Blanc Approval on the Ballot

BY MATTHEW BLAKE

The union that represents hotel workers is canvassing Beverly Hills, hoping to place on the ballot a referendum that would shoot down the City Council’s approval in November of a luxury hotel to be developed by LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton. The signature drive has already resulted in a dispute with the Beverly Hills Police Department (BHPD).

Unite Here Local 11 is exercising its rights under California law by attempting to put the ordinances approving the project in front of the voters. Representatives from the union have knocked on doors and stationed themselves along sidewalks asking for signatures on two different possible ballot items. One is whether to reverse the City Council’s approval of Cheval Blanc Beverly Hills, the planned hotel plus retail and private club on the 400 block of Rodeo Drive for which the Paris-based LVMH is set to spend about \$1.1 billion in order to complete. The other is whether the city should go back to the drawing board on a development agreement made with LVMH, which includes LVMH providing more than \$26 million in public benefits and \$2 million more to city art programs.

Unite Here has 30 days after final approval of each ordinance to gather enough signatures.

See CHEVAL BLANC, page 19

Public Invited to Reception for George Chavez

BY BIANCA HEYWARD

On Dec. 13, the city of Beverly Hills is hosting a reception in honor of retiring City Manager George Chavez, who leaves after 34 years of dedicated service to the community. The party is free for the public to attend and will be held from 5:30 - 7 p.m. in the Municipal Gallery at Beverly Hills City Hall. The reception will be attended by city officials, community leaders, and members of the public.

“There are not enough words to describe the incredible and beloved City Manager George Chavez who truly has been the heart and soul of this City for the past 34 years,” said Beverly Hills Mayor Lili Bosse. “He has

See GEORGE CHAVEZ, page 10

Courier Calendar

NOW - DEC. 10

ACADEMY MUSEUM OF MOTION

PICTURES: "PRESENT PAST: A CELEBRATION OF FILM PRESERVATION;" "REGROUPING," "THE CONFESSIONS OF CURT MCDOWELL," "HITO HATA: RAISE THE BANNER"

3 P.M., 7 P.M., 10 P.M.

The Academy Museum presents its first celebration of newly preserved and restored films from the Academy Film Archive and from archives, studios, distributors, foundations, and independent filmmakers from around the globe. "Regrouping," a docu-fictional film from 1976 is a radically feminist feature debut from independent filmmaker Lizzie Borden, who will appear in person at the screening (Dec. 9 at 7 p.m.). "The Confessions of Curt McDowell," with an appearance in person by Melinda McDowell, is an eclectic selection of Curt McDowell's works, showcasing his obsessions with sex, pop, music, comedy, performance, melodrama, and the delirious dichotomy of the gorgeous and the grotesque (Dec. 9 at 10 p.m.). "Hito Hata: Raise the Banner" is the first feature-length film made about Asian Pacific Americans by Asian Pacific Americans. It tells the story of an elderly resident of

Little Tokyo reminiscing on his life from internment during WWII to the rapid gentrification of downtown Los Angeles (Dec. 10 at 3 p.m.). Tickets for Dec. 9 are \$10 for adults, \$7 for seniors, and \$5 for students. Tickets for "Hito Hata" are \$5. academymuseum.org

NOW - DEC. 23

A NOISE WITHIN:

"A CHRISTMAS CAROL"

2 P.M., 7 P.M.

A Noise Within presents its annual rendition of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol," adapted by Geoff Elliott. In its 10th year, this version of "A Christmas Carole" is unique due to its commitment to authenticity; all of the dialogue is pulled directly from the novel, without any additions or embellishment. Tickets start at \$25 for general admission and \$18 for students. Tickets to the Dec. 9 showing are Pay What You Choose, starting at \$5. A matinee showing on Dec. 10 at 11 a.m. is specially programed as a sensory-friendly "relaxed performance," with a shorter run time, freedom for the audience to move and speak during the performance, designated activity/relaxation spaces for those that need a break, and trained staff on hand to assist patrons throughout the event. A Noise

Within is located at 3352 E. Foothill Blvd., Pasadena. Run time is 90 minutes with no intermission.

anoisewithin.org

NOW - DEC. 31

HAMMER MUSEUM: "PICASSO CUT PAPERS"

TUES.-SUN. 11 A.M.-6 P.M.

The Hammer presents an exhibition of little-known, yet foundation works of Pablo Picasso, "Picasso Cut Papers." This show spans the full career of Picasso, from 1890 where he made his first cut papers at the age of 9, through the 1960s with works he made while in his 80s. The show includes some of Picasso's most whimsical and intriguing works made on and in paper, along with select sheet metal sculptures. Although Picasso rarely sold or exhibited his cut papers, he signed, dated, and archived them like the rest of his works. They were created for his own personal purposes or used as models for fabricators and gifts or games for family and friends. Admission to The Hammer is free.

hammer.ucla.edu

NOW - JAN. 1, 2023

HOLIDAY ICE RINK

PERSHING SQUARE

MON.-THURS. 11:30 A.M.-9:30 P.M.

FRI. 11:30 A.M.-11 P.M.

SAT. 10 A.M.-11 P.M.

SUN. 10 A.M.-9:30 P.M.

The 20-year tradition of the Pershing Square Holiday Ice Rink returns after two years. The rink is 7200 square feet of professional-quality ice, and hosts 54,000 skaters and 450,000 spectators annually. The rink is located at 532 South Olive St., Los Angeles, which is accessible by car, bus, or Metro (Pershing Square stop). General admission to the rink, including skate rental, is \$20, locker rental is \$5, and skate helpers are \$6. Tickets must be purchased in advance online.

holidayicerinkdowntownla.com

DEC. 10, 13-14

LA PHIL: "DECK THE HALLS"

HOLIDAY CONCERT SERIES: "A

CHANTICLEER CHRISTMAS" AND

"THE NUTCRACKER" WITH DUDAMEL

SAT. 11 A.M.

TUES., WED. 8 P.M.

LA Phil presents a series of 15

performances celebrating the holidays

See CALENDAR, page 15



The City of Beverly Hills Invites you to Join a

Menorah Lighting Celebration

**To share the historical meaning of Hanukkah and the festival of lights
With the Beverly Hills City Council**

Monday, December 19, 2022 | 6:00 - 7:00 PM

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Study Session Handles a Quartet of Agenda Items



Photo by Nathan Ansell

The City Council discussed a number of commission vacancies at the recent Study Session.

BY NATHAN ANSELL

The Dec. 6 City Council Study Session invited discussion on four topics, from administrative details to a key pandemic-related program. City Clerk Huma Ahmed provided an update on three upcoming vacancies within the Design Review Commission (DRC). She recapped a meeting held by the DRC's

interview panel three days earlier in which four members, including Councilmembers Friedman and Mirisch, evaluated the discussions they had with each of five applicants. Across the board, panel members felt that the applicants as a whole needed to learn more about the positions they were applying for.

See STUDY SESSION, page 17

Horvath Sworn In as Supervisor for Third District



Photo courtesy Sharona Nazarian

Newly sworn-in Supervisor Lindsey Horvath (second from left) with Councilmembers Friedman, Gold and Nazarian.

BY ANA FIGUEROA

Former West Hollywood City Councilmember and Mayor Lindsey P. Horvath formally assumed office as the Los Angeles County Supervisor for the Third District on Dec. 5 succeeding Supervisor Sheila J. Kuehl. She is the youngest woman ever to serve on that body and the first millennial.

“It is with great honor and humility that I accept this call to serve as Supervisor for LA County’s Third District,” said Horvath in her remarks. “Los Angeles today stands on the precipice. In the past five years, we’ve suffered a once-in-a-lifetime pandemic, witnessed growing inequality and homelessness, and been called to action by the largest

See HORVARTH, page 10



City of Beverly Hills

Holiday Décor

November 17, 2022 through January 1, 2023

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BEVERLYHILLS.ORG/HOLIDAYSBH





CH City Hall-Unwrap the Magic Projection Show	LL Lights on the Lily Pond	M Menorah Display	VC Visitor Center
UN Unwrap the Magic Projection Show - Viewing Area	GG Glowing Gardens at Beverly Cañon Gardens	RD Beverly Hills Express Median Décor	W The Wallis
CT Christmas Tree Display	HL Holiday Lights	S Santa with Reindeer & Sleigh	P Parking

Fired Coach Still a Topic at BHUSD Board of Ed. Meeting



The new 2022-23 BHUSD Cabinet at the California School Boards Association Annual Education Conference in San Diego the weekend of Dec. 1

BY BIANCA HEYWARD

On Dec. 6, the Beverly Hills Unified School District (BHUSD) Board of Education meeting was packed for the second time with dozens of students, parents, and community members, all of whom had come to ask the board to bring back the high school wrestling coach, Ryan Faintich. As reported by the Courier in

its Nov. 25 issue, Faintich was fired after 11 years when a video surfaced of him pushing a student. In the video, Faintich is seen in an altercation with a male student on campus and ultimately pushed the student several times. For almost two hours, the board heard passionate testimonies about the coach; many described him as a mentor, helping students

See BHUSD, page 17

David Yelton Receives Fred C. Cunningham Award



Photo courtesy city of Beverly Hills

Yelton receiving the award from Mayor Lili Bosse and members of the City Council

Beverly Hills City Building Official and Assistant Director of Community Development, David Yelton, received the prestigious Fred C. Cunningham Award for Distinguished Service, the City's highest recognition for outstanding service to the community. The award was bestowed at the Dec. 6 City Council meeting.

Named after the city's longtime former Executive Director of Public Affairs, Fred C. Cunningham, the honor recognizes an employee who has a true vocation

for serving the community and who has demonstrated expertise and commitment tempered with grace and humility. Mr. Yelton is the fourth honoree to receive the award, following Fred C. Cunningham, City Manager George Chavez and Beverly Hills Fire Chief Greg Barton.

"I couldn't think of a more deserving person than David to receive this award," said Mayor Lili Bosse during the presentation. ●

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Holiday Magic at Greystone

A sold-out crowd of 1600 people experienced the magic of Holidays at Greystone Mansion & Gardens the weekend of Dec. 3-4. The spectacularly bedecked and festive space at Greystone featured fun experiences, multicultural themes and decorations, strolling carolers, live music and dance party with acclaimed Mostly Kosher klezmer gypsy-rock band, craft-making and storytelling, and a fantastic puppet show in Greystone Theatre by the beloved Bob Baker Marionette Theater.

Inside the mansion, highlights included a visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus and posting of wishes on three wishing trees. On the grounds of Greystone, guests took part in

hands-on craftmaking at the Outdoor Craft Village. In addition to the Dreidel, Dreidel, Dreidel station, visitors could make potted plant gifts with Holiday Plant Pal. Other craft stations included Winter Solstice, where pomegranates were decorated for the Yalda. Dashing through the Snow and Let it Snow stations provided plenty of craft material and accessories to make snowmen and snowflake bookmarks, and the Festival of Lights station offered the chance to make ornaments.

For more information about holiday activities in Beverly Hills, visit beverlyhills.org/holidaysinbeverlyhills.



Photos courtesy city of Beverly Hills



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Gina Raphael Honored for Work with WIZO



Nov. 29 was proclaimed Gina Raphael Day in Beverly Hills.

With over 800 social service projects, the Women's International Zionist Organization (WIZO) is the largest social services provider outside of Israeli government with a focus on helping women and children in Israel with day care centers, youth villages, senior centers shelters for battered women, girls and women's leadership programs, programs for Ethiopian Youth and much more. On Nov. 29, WIZO California honored Gina Raphael for her work in building the chapter in California. At

the sold out luncheon, WIZO announced a partnership with ELAL Airlines on Women's Leadership. Dina BenTal Ganancia, CEO of ELAL Airlines, joined the event at the Four Seasons Hotel at Beverly Hills as the Keynote Speaker. Beverly Hills Vice Mayor Julian Gold presented Raphael with a proclamation and announced Nov. 29, 2022 as Gina Raphael Day in honor of her work for WIZO, the State of Israel and the Jewish community at home. ●

Ambulance Dedication at Chabad of Beverly Hills



Klein at the dedication ceremony

A dedication ceremony took place on Dec. 4 for a Mobile Intensive Care Unit (MICU) ambulance destined for Israel's national emergency medical service, Magen David Adom (MDA). Local realtor Rosalie Klein funded the ambulance to honor her late parents, Dvora and Mordechai, and her beloved husband, Morrie.

Founded in 1930, MDA is the sole blood-services provider for Israel's hospitals and defense forces, and the country's Red Cross affiliate. It has been a crucial factor in times of war and other crises and developed into one of the most innovative and technologically advanced EMS organizations in the world. As a non-government organization, it is not supported by the government for its day-to-day operations.

When a person in Israel has a medical emergency, they call 101. Their call is answered within seconds by an EMT, who dispatches the seven nearest first responders to the scene, using MDA's in-house developed technology. They arrive within minutes.

MDA is comprised of 32,800 EMTs and paramedics; 30,000 of them are unpaid volunteers. MDA operates from 200 stations throughout Israel with 2,000 life-saving vehicles, including ambulances, Medicycles, Medevac helicopters, sea ambulances, evacuation dune tractors, mobile command and control centers, blood collection vehicles, and more. These vehicles and other vital life-saving equipment are funded through philanthropy.

Dispatched to rescue patients in the most urgent and life-threatening situations, each MICU is equipped with sophisticated

technology that offers the highest level of treatment possible in an ambulance. Essentially an ICU on wheels, they are outfitted to carry special equipment and tools that enable paramedics to perform complex procedures that could so often mean the difference between life and death. These units can respond to the most severely injured or ill patients, including cardiac and stroke cases. All of MDA's ambulances are GM vans that are sent to Medix Specialty Vehicles to be transformed into an ambulance inside and extended at the roof.

American Friends of Magen David Adom brought the ambulance to Beverly Hills to hold the special dedication ceremony and celebrate Klein's gift. Nearly 70 friends and family members gathered to send the ambulance off to Israel. The ambulance will ship via a freighter to Ashdod, Israel in a journey that will take approximately five weeks. After customs hold, the process of installing electronic equipment and supplies begins. The Klein ambulance should be in service by April 1, 2023.

People choose to donate ambulances to Israel because of the countless lives that are touched - from a woman in labor, to a senior experiencing cardiac arrest, or a victim of a terror attack. It is common for donors to honor a loved one's memory or mark a momentous occasion such as a birthday or Bar/Bat Mitzvah, as these ambulances are a very meaningful way to honor a legacy. These ambulances respond to tens of thousands of calls in their service lifetime, and their impact is tremendous. To learn more, contact Dorin Esfahani at desfahani@afmda.org or visit www.afmda.org. ●



NOTICE OF COMMISSION VACANCIES

The Beverly Hills City Council is seeking qualified residents to fill vacancies on the following Commissions:

TERM BEGINS JANUARY 1, 2023
Design Review Commission – One Vacancy

TERM BEGINS JULY 1, 2023
Design Review Commission – Two Vacancies

* Please note:
* There is one vacancy for a licensed residential or landscape architect. The candidate can be a resident or non-resident of Beverly Hills.

DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR THE ABOVE COMMISSION IS ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2023 AT 5:00 P.M.

For more information on the Commission position and to apply online, please visit the City's website at www.beverlyhills.org/applyforacommission or call the City Clerk's Office at (310) 285-2400 to obtain the application form by mail or e-mail.

Huma Ahmed
City Clerk

www.beverlyhillscourier.com



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George Chavez

GEORGE CHAVEZ, from page 1 helped guide us through some of the most challenging times in our history with such grace and dedication to the community that he loves so much. He is a dear friend, colleague and above all an amazing leader and human being. He will be greatly missed and so much of what makes Beverly Hills so special is because of him.”

In 1988, Chavez began his career with the city as a Building Inspector and has since held positions including Assistant Director of Community Development/City Building Official, Director of Public Works and Assistant City Manager. In 2019, Chavez

was appointed City Manager, where he was responsible for overseeing the nine city departments and developing policy. He is also a recipient of the 2017 Fred C. Cunningham Award for Distinguished Service, which recognizes city employees of exceptional character and dedication to the community.

Immediately following the reception, Chavez will be formally recognized at the City Council meeting at 7 p.m.

Assistant City Manager Nancy Hunt-Coffey will take over as the first female City Manager of Beverly Hills on Jan. 1, 2023. ●



Horvath taking the oath of office

HORVARTH, from page 4 racial justice movement in a generation. We know this is a moment of profound change. We can sense it. We can feel it.”

She added, “I am honored to be in this work with all of you and I would not be here today without the support and encouragement of my family, my friends, my colleagues, and my allies. Thank you for believing in me, and for believing in this moment. This seat does not belong to me – it belongs to all of you. It belongs to the people of the Third District –and the people willing to fight for our future. I am humbled and honored to march forward with you.

To take those bold steps forward into the unknown. As the Board’s 166th member – and 8th woman – I join you in writing the next great chapter for Los Angeles County.”

The Third District includes the city of Beverly Hills and stretches from the San Fernando Valley to the Santa Monica Mountains all the way to the Ventura County Line and the Conejo Valley.

In addition to Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and former Third District Supervisors Zev Yaroslavsky and Sheila J. Kuehl, three Beverly Hills City Councilmembers – Lester Friedman, Sharona Nazarian and Julian Gold – attended the ceremony. ●

Please Join Us as We Honor Retiring City Manager

George Chavez

for His 34 Years of Service in Beverly Hills.

Tuesday, December 13, 2022 | 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

City Hall Municipal Gallery
455 N Rexford Dr.
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

City Council Recognition to Follow
7:00 PM in Council Chambers

No RSVP Required



Thank you for 34 Years of Service!



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“Invincible” - Not Yet

BY NEELY SWANSON

Introducing a new direction to the vast array of fare presented by the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts right here in Beverly Hills, add to it the premiere of a musical with unusual creative origins.

So many things these days start with the disclaimer “This is a work of fiction based on a true story.” “Invincible” should lead with the caution “This musical is a work of imagination loosely based on a famous play.” But oh what a play they’ve chosen to reimagine, “Romeo and Juliet.”

The back story, elaborated recently in the New York Times Dec. 1, 2022 edition of the Arts and Leisure section entitled “Romeo and Juliet Rock Out Again,” may be even more interesting than the finished project. Bradley Bredeweg, a television writer, had just reread “Romeo and Juliet,” so it was fresh in his mind when he slid a CD of his favorite Pat Benatar hits into the car player and had his Eureka! moment. As the songs spooled out of the speakers he connected them to specific moments in the play. They all fit. In no time flat he’d written the musical and was presenting it at a small theater in LA. Of course there’s always that pesky problem of music rights, but who’d notice? It’s not like the “Rockwell Table and Stage” in Los Feliz was on anyone’s radar. But it was. Pat Benatar and her husband and creative partner Neil Giraldo had been working on a show that incorporated their catalog. They caught wind of Bredeweg’s project (the entertainment world is smaller than you’d think) and soon cease and desist letters were flying across the country. Permission is sacrosanct when using anyone’s material; well, anyone living (royalties stretch further back but that’s another lesson entirely). But there’s a bit of happily ever after for Bredeweg, Benatar, and Giraldo because they decided to collaborate. And now we have Bredeweg’s reimagination of “Romeo and Juliet” with music by Benatar and Giraldo.

I say “happily ever after” mutedly because this show that they hope eventually to bring to Broadway still has a long way to go.

The idea is solid even if it reinvents characters, choices, and the substantive underpinnings. As laid out in the program, the action takes place in Verona, contemporary time unspecified, following a civil war between the Montagues and the Capulets in which the Capulets have emerged the victors. Although the head of each family has died, only Lord Capulet is celebrated a hero with the attendant laurels. Paris has been appointed Chancellor of Verona in his stead and is obsequiously served by Tybalt Capulet, a weasley hothead if ever there was one. Paris is actively pursuing fair Juliet, primarily for the additional political and financial weight she would bring in marriage. Her widowed mother is not opposed and she, too, would gain politically.

On the losing side are the Montagues, now without their leader, Lord Montague.



Photo courtesy of Sean Daniels/DVR Productions

Khamary Rose as Romeo



Photo courtesy of Sean Daniels/DVR Productions

Kay Sibal as Juliet



Photo courtesy of Sean Daniels/DVR Productions

Jon Patrick Walker as the Friar

Lady Montague, in mourning, is particularly protective of her son Romeo, a rather feckless teenager. He and his friends, Mercutio and Benvolio, are in and out of mischief, plotting constantly to embarrass and get back at the dreaded Capulets. An invitation to a masked ball hosted by the Capulets falls into their grubby hands and it is there that they are headed. Well you know the rest, at least you do if you’ve seen either “West Side Story” or read “Romeo and Juliet.”

Bredeweg’s stroke of genius was his ability to place Benatar’s songs into the play without positioning it as a jukebox musical. Even for someone, or rather especially for someone, unacquainted with the music, it seems to fit the scenes organically, never stopping the action of the moment. He has also melded modern vernacular and

sprinkled it with some of the more famous dialogue from the original. You have to admit, Shakespeare definitely knew how to capture a moment. What does jar, however, is the use of random profanity because saying s*** or f*** takes you completely out of the moment. So often today’s writers confuse swear words with edginess. The use of profanity is a sign of laziness. Honestly, you couldn’t think of another way to express anger or frustration?

It grieves me to say that overall the production doesn’t work well enough. Some of the fixes would be easy; some not. The easiest fix is the sound. The opening number was over-amplified and the orchestra drowned out the singing. One major weakness lies with costuming and production design. Costumes and production design are

the keys to any show, theater or film. They literally set the scene and give the audience an anchor to “who, what, and where.” The set is simple—a single three-story building that serves primarily to house the Capulets. There is a changing digital backdrop on the wall showing non-descript tenements and cathedral interiors, but these rotating photos do not tie the story to a time frame. This is perhaps a post-war apocalyptic era but the production design could make that clearer.

More troublesome was the costuming. If this is a dystopian war-torn city, as the riot police outfits would imply, then a modernistic, almost “Mad Max” costuming would have established the ongoing conflict and who the winners and losers were without exposition to set that stage. Instead there is



Photo courtesy of Sean Daniels/DVR Productions

Ensemble



Photo courtesy of Sean Daniels/DVR Productions

Kay Sibal as Juliet and Khamary Rose as Romeo

a mishmash of leather jackets, sophisticated party dresses, jeans, Eurotrash micro minis, and skinny suits (Paris wears a red one and Tybalt's outfit is hard to place). Everyone is in something different and none of it speaks to the time frame.

But, these are the easy fixes. What is harder to rectify is the lack of chemistry between the characters. "Romeo and Juliet" is a play of passion—the passionate enmity, the passionate love, and there is a decided lack of passion in "Invincible." In fairness, some of it may be due to an under-rehearsed and somewhat inexperienced cast, some of whom are very good and others of whom are not. The lack of story and character development is almost fatal. The thunderbolt of love that should be evident in the meeting of Romeo and Juliet is entirely

missing. They meet cute at a bar, he dances, she watches, and... That's all folks. Before you know it, he's asking the Friar to marry them and then he goes off to tell Juliet of his plans. That's sort of not how it works, certainly not in Romeo and Juliet. Whether it's "Invincible," or "Romeo and Juliet," or any love story, there has to be attraction, passion, and determination. It's not done in the telling, it's done in the action.

Director Tiffany Nichole Greene assembled an interesting, diverse cast, only some of whom were able to grasp their characters. Nevertheless, it would be unfair to fault the acting because if it's not on the page, it's hard to find a center. That being said, Sharon Leal as Madame Capulet and Dionne Gipson as Madame Montague are very good singers and grapple with characters that are

ambiguously described. Kay Sibal as Juliet shines like a star. She has true stage presence and a voice that reaches into the soul. A recent graduate of UCLA's Musical Theater program, this should just be the start of a major career. Khamary Rose, Romeo, suffers most from the lack of definition in the script concerning his character. He has a

great voice and when his mike failed him during a crucial love scene his singing still projected to the back of the house.

By far the most accomplished actor, giving a true star turn, is Jon Patrick Walker as the Friar. He is genuinely funny and empathetic. The stage comes alive when he's on it.

Special mention should also be given to Galen Hooks, the choreographer. The dance sequences did more to identify time, place, and character than any other element in the show. All the dancers executed the routines smoothly, professionally, and with that excitement that was missing in everything else.

Despite all of my objections, I enjoyed the show. I saw what they were trying to do, and though I don't think they succeeded, it was an interesting exercise in imagination. Running an hour and 45 minutes without an intermission, they have two choices. Make it slightly longer with an intermission and expand the Romeo and Juliet scenes, or cut it shorter and eliminate some of the overly long, and not particularly well-executed fight scenes. But as all of the previous productions of the source material show, it's tough to tell the story of Romeo and Juliet in less than two hours.

Are they ready to move to a bigger stage? I think not; or at least not any time soon. "Invincible" is not yet invincible.

At the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts; 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills until Dec. 18. ●



Neely Swanson spent most of her professional career in the television industry, almost all of it working for David E. Kelley. In her last full-time position as Executive Vice President of Development, she reviewed writer submissions and targeted content for adaptation. As she has often said, she did book reports for a living. For several years she was a freelance writer for "Written By," the magazine of the WGA West and was adjunct faculty at USC in the writing division of the School of Cinematic Arts. Neely has been writing film and television reviews for the "Easy Reader" for more than 10 years. Her past reviews can be read on Rotten Tomatoes where she is a tomato-approved critic.

UKRAINE, from page 1

settlements. The organization jumped in to help Ukraine early on. One Heart used its expertise to set up leadership programs in Ukraine and had solid infrastructure on the ground when the escalation began in February.

Speaking from Israel, founder and CEO of One Heart Tomer Dror told the Courier, “This is the first time we acted abroad. We look at this war as a global war between the Western world and the world of dictators. In that sense, Ukraine is fighting our war, and we have to help them.”

One Heart recruited Israeli citizens from various fields who wanted to help in Ukraine refugee centers. It had never taken Americans until Rackoff contacted them.

After a Zoom call with One Heart, Luftman was sold. She decided to join Rackoff’s group on a trip to help Ukrainian refugees in early June of this year.

It was a week that changed her life.

Luftman left Los Angeles to meet the rest of the team, consisting of Rackoff and another husband-and-wife pair of physicians, plus their son. The group traveled first to Poland, carrying large duffle bags filled with medications donated by the NYU School of Medicine. Upon arrival, they strapped the duffle bags atop a small car and squeezed in together for an eight-hour drive to the Polish border town of Przemysl.

The town’s somber history was not lost on the group. During World War II, Jewish refugees gathered there, only to be sent eventually to concentration camps.

From Przemysl, the doctors traveled to Arlamow, where they met up with representatives from One Heart. Bright orange vests awaited them, emblazoned with the words “Medical Doctor” written in English and Hebrew. The vests also bore an Israeli flag, and a large heart with the Star of David.

Their hosts from One Heart – three 24-year-old Israelis – gave assurances that the Star of David was now a welcomed symbol in a country where millions of Jews had perished.

Luftman soon observed the power of the symbol for herself. Refugees greeted them with hugs, an acknowledgement of the fact that so many relief agencies in the area are Jewish.

Nearly 5 million refugees from Ukraine have crossed into Poland since the Russian invasion in early 2022. The great majority are women and children – the men stayed back to fight – who fled with the few possessions they could carry.

In Poland, Luftman and her group encountered refugees housed in all types of accommodations. None of them were comfortable. Some, essentially converted retail warehouses, even brought concerns about sex trafficking.

“There is no way for the young people and children to have as much structure as they did at home. This is going to be their lost generation. That is another horrible side effect of this war,” said Luftman.

Shortly after their arrival, One Heart informed them that Lviv, the largest city in Western Ukraine, was safe and the group was needed there. During the four-hour drive across the border, Luftman was struck by the beauty of the country and patriotism of its people.

“The love of Ukraine by its citizens was

evident everywhere,” she recalled. “Flags were draped over buildings; people were wearing its blue and yellow colors on their clothing.”

“Lviv,” said Luftman, “looks like a typical European city. You see cobblestone streets, an opera house.”

The group headed to a refugee center in the middle of a university.

“Imagine UCLA, with beautiful gardens. They had set up modular units for families of four, all women and children,” said Luftman.

It wasn’t long before she realized that human needs are remarkably similar all over the world. Another surprise: Her specialty proved the most in-demand.

“I saw the most patients, which was kind of interesting. People were so stressed out and stress shows on the skin,” said Luftman.

To communicate, Luftman and the others used Google translate on their phones. It enabled them to not only speak to the patients, but to translate prescriptions and names of medications.

Luftman treated a chemistry professor whose face was bright red from a rosacea flare up. A young woman came to her whose psoriasis had gone from a few scaly spots on her scalp to most of her body. Yet another young man came to her with severe acne.

“He told me he was applying to colleges and concerned about how he looked. I also had another woman pointing to spots on her face. She felt they were making her ugly. Feeling good about yourself makes you feel better. People don’t want to look unsightly, no matter what circumstances they are in. It is something in the psyche,” said Luftman.

Some of the refugees simply needed a break from those circumstances.

“One facilitator brought me this woman who was so stressed out living with her mother and two children in a little hut. Her hair was falling out and she said she couldn’t take it anymore. I took her outside and said, ‘Look how beautiful this garden is. Think about the trees that have been there over 100 years. Think about that as you walk around, even if only for 10 minutes.’”

Other physicians working with the refugees also employed whatever strategies they could to diffuse tension.

“One of the other physicians was from Russia, and she did a lot of meditation circles. We tried to use all of our tools, not just medical ones,” said Luftman.

She also realized that the patients she was seeing could easily be from her Beverly Hills practice.

“At the height of COVID, I saw all kinds of stress-induced skin disorders. It brought home the fact that we all share the same responses, even though we’re half a world away. I never thought that I could be doing Botox and fillers one week and the next, find myself in a war-torn country taking care of kids. But that is what happened,” said Luftman.

Her group ended the trip with a visit to Auschwitz, where, Luftman said, she could feel “ghosts in the forest.”

“We passed houses on the way and wondered if perhaps they had helped to hide Jews there. Part of the power of the whole experience was that I reflected on my ancestors who were from Eastern Europe, Poland and Romania. It felt really good that I was able to use something that I had to make a difference,” said Luftman.

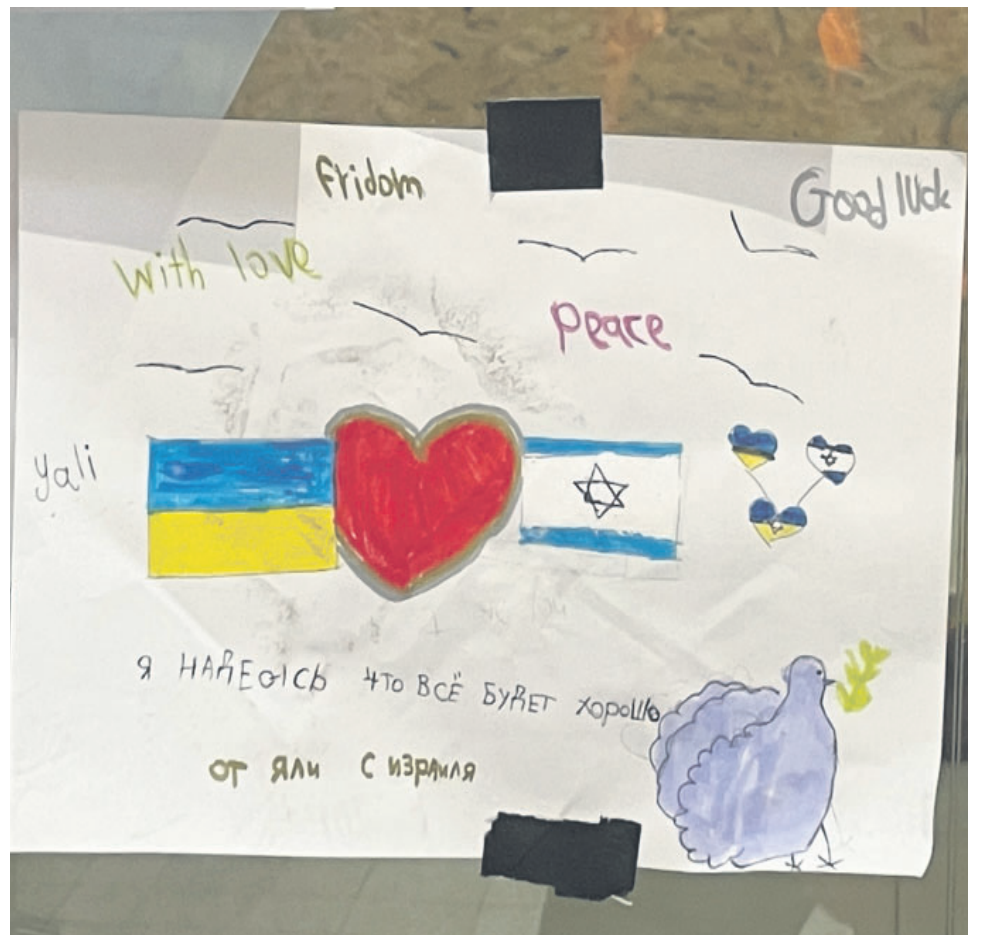


Photo courtesy Debra Luftman

The spirit of the Ukrainian people was evident everywhere.



Photo courtesy Debra Luftman

Luftman, second from right, and her medical colleagues in Ukraine

Since her visit in the summer, two more delegations from the U.S. have gone to Ukraine with the help of One Heart Israel. In one case, American doctors diagnosed a dangerous cardiac situation in an 82-year-old refugee, who was fortunately evacuated on time.

Thinking back on her visit, Luftman says the striking beauty of the landscape will stay with her.

“Everywhere, there were blue skies and sunflowers. Poland is filled with farmland. But winter is approaching now, and it is still incredibly unstable and scary. Any way to be helpful is important. And, money does talk in this particular situation,” she noted.

Luftman is particularly proud that one of her patients recently donated to One Heart to help displaced Ukrainian women and children. The Tamkin Foundation, Inc. of

Santa Monica has made a \$25,000 grant to One Heart Israel to honor Luftman’s work with the refugees.

Six months after her visit, Luftman remains steadfast in spreading the word about helping the refugees.

“I’m not someone who has done these missions all my career. I know some doctors who have. You don’t have to be a doctor to help people. The really big point – and getting back to World War II – is that we must never forget. If there is something I’d like to convey it is that this is not over. No one knows when it will be over. They really don’t want to be forgotten.”

To learn more about One Heart Israel, visit <https://www.jgive.com/new/en/usd/donation-targets/77682/about>.

CALENDAR, from page 2
 from Dec. 3-31 that include vocalists, movie screenings with performing orchestras, notable conductors, and family-friendly fun. The next show in this series includes the “Symphonies for Youth” performance of “The Nutcracker,” a shortened version of the program with families and children in mind on Dec. 10. Dudamel conducts the LA Phil and the Los Angeles Children’s Chorus in both Tchaikovsky’s and Billy Strayhorn and Duke Ellington’s versions of the seasonal dance score, with the full-length program returning on Dec. 14. The annual tradition of “A Chanticleer Christmas,” featuring the Grammy Award-winning male vocal ensemble, takes the stage on Dec. 13. Symphonies for Youth tickets are \$27. Tickets for the full length “Nutcracker” range from \$109-\$259. Tickets for “A Chanticleer Christmas” range from \$41-\$92. The shows are held in the Walt Disney Concert Hall, located at 111 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles. Masks are recommended for all guests.
laphil.com

DEC. 11
BEVERLY HILLS FARMERS’ MARKET: HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR AND COOKIE BAKING CONTEST
 8 A.M.-1 P.M.
 The Beverly Hills Farmers’ Market Holiday

will hold a Holiday Craft Fair and Cookie Baking Contest on Dec. 11 from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Local artisans will sell jewelry, essential oils, clothing, pottery, florals, candles and more. The Market’s roster of 50 or more vendors will be there as well. The City of Beverly Hills Teen Advisory Committee and Food for the Future will hold a canned and boxed goods food drive. All donations will be sent to local food banks.
beverlyhills.org

DEC. 12
CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD: “OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE 15TH ANNUAL MARIACHI MASS”
 7 P.M.
 In honor of Her Feast Day, the Church of the Good Shepherd presents the 15th Annual “Our Lady of Guadalupe Annual Mariachi Mass.” In 1531, a “Lady of Heaven” appeared to St. Juan Diego, a poor Indian from Tepeyac, a hill northwest of Mexico City. She identified herself as the mother of God, instructed him to have a bishop build a church on the site, and left an image of herself imprinted on his tilma, a cloth that should have deteriorated long ago but remains whole. A simple reception will follow after the multicultural mass. The church is located at 504 N. Roxbury Dr.
gsbh.org



Photo by Craig Schwartz

Geoff Elliott and Deborah Strang in A Noise Within’s authentic rendition of “A Christmas Carol,” running until Dec. 23



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS
 will be holding a PUBLIC MEETING

STREET PARKLETS FOR OUTDOOR DINING (DESIGN STANDARDS)

The City of Beverly Hills will be holding a community meeting (in-person or virtual option) to continue conversations with business owners and residents regarding the design standards of parklets for outdoor dining in the City.

We will be discussing project updates, design strategies and the next steps.

CITY SEEKS YOUR INPUT, PLEASE JOIN US.

Monday, December 12, 2022 | 3:00 – 4:00pm | City Hall Room 280A

VIRTUAL OPTION:

<https://beverlyhills-org.zoom.us/my/committee> | Meeting ID: 516 191 2424 | Passcode: 90210

For more info visit beverlyhills.org/openbh or email business@beverlyhills.org

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Birthdays



JOHN BENDHEIM
December 9



DAME JUDI DENCH
December 9



GLEN ROSTER
December 12



AUDREY MADELINE SABZEROU
December 12



JONATHAN BLOCH
December 15



HOWARD GOLDSTEIN
December 15



RANDY JACOBSON
December 15

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Astrology

BY HOLIDAY MATIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You create your life, but not completely. You always have creative partners. Even when you're finally in charge, you're still in a co-creation with life itself. Affect what you can. If it doesn't yield to you, it's not yours to control.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). When you buy into your future, you accept that things could go either way; victory and defeat are two sides of the same coin, and there is no such thing as a one-sided coin. However, the fates favor you in today's toss.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You can tap into an intensity when you want or need to. It's an attractive side of you, in part because you rarely use it. Though you usually like to keep things light, brief instances of passion make life sparkle with excitement.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It's not the amount of stress in your life, but how you deal with it that matters. You're finding new ways all the time. You'll continue to hone your game until you can deftly handle the very

things that once caused you anxiety. **LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). You know almost everything about something and something about almost everything. Given your current level of sophistication you may wonder if it's still possible to have a day filled with carefree innocence. It is and you will.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You may not be able to articulate what's on your heart, but if you write it out, you'll come to an interesting conclusion. Three pages is the magic number. By the end of the third page, you will understand your next move.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Extend an invitation -- the more specific the better. Whether or not your invite is accepted will have more to do with convenience and fit than anything else, so geographic desirability will earn points.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It feels nice to be understood, but if you're more often misunderstood today, don't worry -- it's actually making you better. You'll problem-solve and determine how better to communicate with different types of people.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're not inclined to sell people

on things they don't need or want, even if it would be good for you, your boss or your company. Honesty may cost you a short-term sale, but it will win you a long-term fan and future customer.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You've known relationships that were comfortable from the get-go and never got less-so. Also, some relationships have always been and will always be difficult. Accept the work as a given feature of the relationship and it's easier to take.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll be struck by a realization: What you're doing is not what you set out to do. False starts, strange turns and the like are all part of the process. Be patient with yourself as you find your way.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Because you're so creative your mind will go in multiple directions, some more helpful than others. You can rein in your thoughts though, kindly picking and choosing the most supportive among them to put on repeat.



Meet Keef, this week's featured eligible puppy. He's a 7-year-old dachshund, weighing in at 14 pounds. Keef is very sweet and loves to lounge around on the couch. To meet Keef and potentially adopt him, please contact Shelter of Hope at 805-379-3538.

shelterhopepetshop.org

STUDY SESSION, from page 4

As the group could not formally recommend anyone amongst the hopefuls, they requested that the outgoing commissioners have their terms extended until suitable replacements could be found. They also reopened applications until Jan. 13 in the hope of finding better candidates.

Friedman emphasized that it was not a matter of qualifications, but a lack of preparedness that informed the decisions on the applicants.

"I would encourage them to apply again," Friedman said. "With the caveat that they be familiar with what the Commission does."

Councilmember Sharona Nazarian Nazarian said that the panel "needed to do a better job" of communicating expectations. Mayor Lili Bosse Bosse, who was not part of the interview process, offered her opinion, as well.

"I'm not sure that it's up to us to teach people how to be prepared," Bosse said. "We never want just to fill a position on any commission just to fill it."

Another agenda item made recommendations for two positions on the Recreation and Parks Commission and one on the Community Charitable Foundation (CCF). One panel endorsed Deborah Termeie and John Dzubak, Jr. to begin commission terms

in 2023, while another gave the thumbs-up to Lisa Greer for the CCF. Termeie will start on Jan. 1, while Dzubak, Jr. and Greer will wait until July to replace their predecessors.

Marketing and Economic Sustainability Manager Laura Biery introduced the session's final topic, a proposed extension of the OpenBH program that allowed outdoor operations for businesses in June 2020. Nearly 150 organizations have taken advantage of the program in total, which was later expanded to include parklets and street closures.

Biery reminded the Council that OpenBH relies on temporary Special Event Permits, without fees and valid for 90 days. The program had already been extended for nine months in March 2022, and two main choices were on the table for another – a second nine-month extension that would cause over \$1 million in fiscal impact, or a yearlong renewal that would cause roughly \$350,000 more.

The Council was once again divided. Bosse supported the first plan, but Councilmember Julian Gold Gold argued overall uncertainty with phase-out times led him to favor the longer option.

"Realistically, I would give ourselves some time and some breathing room and extend this for a year," Gold said. ●

CTY COUNCIL, from page 1

strike in protest.

"There were incorrect reports on several major media outlets that the morality police have been abolished. Let me be clear: This is fake news and weak attempts by the Islamic Republic to use propaganda to mask the truth about the brutal and barbaric acts that are happening in Iran today.

She continued, "On December 14, the United Nations will hold an investigation to remove the Islamic Republic of Iran from the U.N.'s General Women's Commission. I hope that with statements like these, we will continue to bring transparency, clarity, and unity toward peace, freedom, justice, and democracy."

Nazarian concluded with the movement's rallying cry in Farsi and English: "Zan, Zendegi, Azadi. Woman, Life, Freedom."

Bosse spoke next, on an equally important topic. As reported in the Nov. 25 and Dec. 2 issues of the Courier, Bosse traveled to Athens, Greece last week for the 2022 Mayors Summit Against Antisemitism. There, she joined New York Mayor Eric Adams and other global dignitaries in signing a joint declaration to fight antisemitism.

Bosse told the Courier before she departed there was nothing that could have kept her away. "I think I spent more time on the airplane than I did at the conference, but I have to tell you it was probably among the most worthwhile hours that I have spent in my life," Bosse said at the City Council meeting.

She noted that it was particularly powerful to stand alongside leaders from Eastern European cities that bear scars of the Holocaust.

"As we're well aware, antisemitism is the oldest form of hatred and we have seen it here in our own city," Bosse said, adding that she learned at the conference that the current rise of antisemitism is considered a state of emergency and explaining that

social media has contributed to the highest recorded levels of hate to date. She said that Beverly Hills has already implemented ideas and safety protocol measures supported by the summit, and that other city leaders were impressed with the proactive leadership of Beverly Hills.

She also noted that the summit discussed the importance of adopting the IHRA (International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance) definition, providing a guide for statements or actions that qualify as antisemitism, which she acknowledged the City of Beverly Hills has done, as well as the need for interfaith diversity and education, which she said the city has also made a priority.

"They talked about security, and so, of course, I talked about our security and the mayors were very impressed by our Real Time Watch Center, our drones, and the BHPDAlert that we have, so I can assure you that our chief is going to be having some visitors."

Bosse relayed an idea proposed by the summit, and that is for all the cities to implement Jewish American Heritage Month in May, both as a proclamation and as a cultural celebration.

The Council then moved on to the other matters at hand.

The Beverly Hills Shield was approved for use by Skechers USA, Inc. (Skechers) for an upcoming Skechers x Beverly Hills collection. The shield likeness was also approved for use by beauty brand Glossier, Inc. (Glossier) on items as part of "Alfred at Glossier Alley." The trademarked Beverly Hills Shield is a well-known symbol that represents the city, and partnerships like these both promote Beverly Hills and help the local economy.

According to a City Council staff report, Glossier has been using the likeness of the Beverly Hills shield on marketing imagery since December 2021, before seeking approval. Glossier, located at 8523 Melrose

BHUSD, from page 5

succeed both on and off the mat. The first to speak during public comment was Faintich.

"I have apologized," Faintich said. "At the same time, I feel that I was clear that I was trying my best to do what I believe in my heart was right to protect my kids. If you look at the school district's website and you go to the anti-bullying page, it says 'school employees shall establish student safety as a high priority and shall not tolerate bullying of any student.'"

Since early November, the public has urged the board to reevaluate the situation and hear all sides of the incident. In recent weeks, many students who witnessed the event came forward to provide firsthand accounts of the situation. According to multiple students, the student Faintich pushed had bullied a wrestling student.

"Furthermore, it says, 'school staff who witness bullying shall immediately intervene to stop the incident,'" read Faintich. "Further down, 'school staff shall receive related professional development including information about early warning signs of harassing, intimidating behaviors and effective prevention and intervention strategies.'"

"I didn't receive it," Faintich added. "So, here's what I did receive. I received a warning, in my head and in my heart, and I felt that my wrestlers, the thing that matter most to me in this world, were threatened by a person who had committed and admitted to doing violence to one of my wrestlers the day before."

Ave., is adjacent to the West Hollywood location of Alfred Coffee, which has branded itself as "Alfred at Glossier Alley."

In the terms of the license agreement with Glossier, the City Council approved the use of the likeness of the Beverly Hills Shield by Glossier for \$20,000, paid annually, for a term of five years, from Dec. 1, 2021, to Dec. 31, 2026. Glossier will also pay a one-time settlement agreement fee of \$1,666.67 for prior unapproved use of city branding.

The shield will be used on coffee cups, coffee sleeves, pastry bags, napkins, drink carriers, handle bags, and staff aprons, and limited solely to the "Alfred At Glossier Alley" location and social media.

In the licensing agreement with Skechers, the Council approved the use of the Beverly Hills Shield on a collection of Skechers merchandise. In exchange, the city will be paid a one-time, non-refundable advance payment of \$25,000, recoupable

A wide array of people came to advocate for Faintich, from alums spanning a decade of graduating classes to 8th graders at Beverly Vista Middle School, and even Beverly Hills High School class of 2021 valedictorian (and wrestling team captain), who joined virtually from his dorm room at Brown University to speak on behalf of Faintich's character.

"I would not call myself Coach Ryan Faintich's friend," said Jason O'Hara, head wrestling coach at Torrance High School. "We do not hang out. We're not drinking buddies...I tell you this because I want you to understand that I'm not here talking to you all because I have my friend's back. I'm here talking to you all because it is the right thing to do."

The decision to remove Faintich disappointed many members of the BHUSD community, who feel the coach's actions did not warrant his termination after 11 years of employment in the district. "This is injustice," said one parent.

"I don't think I'm alone in saying that I will show up to support him as many times as you allow me to," another parent said.

"We don't stay on our backs," said a female wrestling student. "So, we'll show up again."

At the next meeting on Dec. 13, the board will hold its organizational meeting for the installation of the 2022-23 officers: President Noah Margo, Vice President Dr. Amanda Stern, Mary Wells, Rachelle Marcus, and newly elected Judy Manouchehri. ●

against royalties.

The Council also approved an allotment of just over \$8,000 in federal grant funds for bulletproof vests for BHPD and \$70,000 in state traffic department funds for police overtime, training, travel, and supplies. And Pam Kraushaar was appointed to the Human Relations Commission for an initial, two-year term, to fill the position of the late Chair Rhoda J. Sharp.

The Council also took up the issue of Spring Place. The private club and co-working hub has had issues with noise and safety violations and is on its fifth management team in so many years. Council approved the club's request for more time to address operational issues. Bosse commended Spring Place attorney Mark Egerman for his attempts to reach out and work "hand-in-hand" with the Planning Commission. ●

Additional reporting by Bianca Heyward

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SUDOKU
12/09/22 ISSUE

4				2				
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SUDOKU ANSWERS
12/02/22 ISSUE

7	8	4	6	9	3	2	1	5
9	3	1	5	4	2	6	7	8
5	2	6	8	7	1	3	4	9
6	5	3	4	2	9	1	8	7
8	9	7	3	1	5	4	2	6
1	4	2	7	8	6	5	9	3
4	1	5	9	6	8	7	3	2
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PUZZLE ANSWERS
12/02/22 ISSUE

H	O	R	S	Y	S	C	R	A	M	S	W	R	I	N	G			
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THE NEW YORK TIMES SUNDAY MAGAZINE CROSSWORD PUZZLE
12/09/22 ISSUE

GOING OFF ON A TANGENT
BY ADAM WAGNER / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Adam Wagner, of Oakland, Calif., is a creative lead at the San Francisco-based 1-Down. (Solve the puzzle to see the name of the company!) He has been constructing crosswords for The Times for two years. This one started with the answers at 85- and 86-Down and branched out, literally, from there. Adam recently released Anigrams, a free daily online word game that I find almost as addictive as Wordle. — W.S.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Gambling spot?
 - 4 Chap
 - 8 Addis _____
 - 13 Pro response
 - 16 Bit of chicanery
 - 17 _____ water (healthful drink)
 - 18 Totally uncool
 - 19 Rock's Jethro _____
 - 20 "You're gonna love this, I promise!"
 - 22 Urban area typically with the tallest buildings
 - 24 Rocky road topping?
 - 25 Length for a pregnancy
 - 27 Moneymaking venture
 - 28 LeBron James became one in 2018
 - 29 That's the spirit!
 - 30 Highway network that famously has sections without a speed limit
 - 32 Service recipient
 - 33 An ocean
 - 34 Device dusted off to watch old home movies, maybe
 - 35 Flat-topped French hat
 - 36 Ante alternative
 - 37 Musician Brian
 - 38 Public court proceeding
 - 40 Many a bad Yelp review
- DOWN**
- 1 Subscription platform for online-content creators
 - 2 "That is my intention"
 - 3 Where the ilium and ischium are
 - 4 Inhabitant of Ireland or Scotland
 - 5 Holiday helper
 - 6 Sign that you can't go back now?
 - 7 Philosophical pillar
 - 8 _____ Arbor, Mich.
 - 9 Deep inhalation to get high
 - 10 Ordered delivery, perhaps
 - 11 Hive mind of "Star Trek: TNG," with "the"
 - 12 National Dog Show org.
 - 13 _____ someone's yum (criticized a person's tastes, slangily)
 - 14 Discovery astronaut Ochoa
 - 15 With it
 - 16 Shake a little
 - 19 Amtrak booking
 - 21 Worker with wax
 - 22 "Oof, what a day!"
 - 23 Run-D.M.C.'s "You Be _____"
 - 26 Longtime co-host of the annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade
 - 30 Good Texas hold 'em hand
 - 31 Auto-loan figs.
 - 32 Bit of roofing in Spanish-style architecture
 - 34 Biden and Harris, notably, in brief
 - 36 Underwire undergarments
 - 38 Muffin makeup, maybe
 - 39 Over-emoter
 - 41 Trade, informally
 - 43 Star N.F.L. wide-receiver Allen
 - 45 First family from Illinois
 - 46 Exercise in a swimming pool
 - 47 Grabs
 - 41 Luxuriate (in)
 - 42 They're not sciences
 - 43 _____ Cannon, creator of the "Pitch Perfect" film series
 - 44 Fish sticks?
 - 48 Strength of character
 - 50 "Me!"
 - 52 Compliment to a French chef
 - 54 Crackerjack
 - 56 Slack-jawed
 - 59 Automotive successor of the Bel Air
 - 60 Proudly embody, informally
 - 61 What you're on when you're making progress
 - 64 Product sold on a rack, informally
 - 65 "Them's fightin' words!"
 - 67 Set one's sights
 - 68 Welcome-center handouts
 - 70 Free of flaws, as a reputation
 - 72 DiFranco of folk
 - 73 Sewer in American history
 - 74 Hamlet's cousin
 - 75 Music-genre prefix
 - 76 Ideal engine sound
 - 79 Duel personalities?
 - 81 Like some memes
 - 83 Major concern for a meteorologist
 - 85 The Bruins, on scoreboards
 - 88 Contents of a household box
 - 89 Pasta whose name means "barley" in Italian
 - 90 Startled scream
 - 91 Weight
 - 92 Goes from one thing to another
 - 94 Purchase option for a dedicated fan
 - 96 Like dumbbells
 - 97 Like Roma tomatoes
 - 98 Something that may be sold by the yard
 - 99 The Nature Conservancy and World Wildlife Fund, e.g., in brief
 - 100 Hate, hate, hate
 - 101 Certain juicing need
 - 104 Residential construction project
 - 106 Deep shot, in hoops
 - 107 Weird
 - 108 Brother of Logan Roy on "Succession"
 - 109 Has a meal
 - 110 Urban grid: Abbr.
 - 111 Tennis champ _____ Osaka
 - 112 Figs. first issued in 1936
 - 113 Summer on the Riviera

- 48 "_____ Life" (1981 Rick James single)
- 49 Tool for cutting wood along the grain
- 51 Scandalized
- 52 Pro who gets many return customers?
- 53 Bad makeup artist
- 54 Spot for a band
- 55 High ways
- 56 Early stop at a casino, maybe
- 57 Univ. senior's hurdle
- 58 Funding
- 62 "_____ but a scratch": oft-quoted Monty Python line
- 63 Con artist
- 66 Chattering plastic teeth, for one
- 69 Rapper _____ Def
- 71 Group with lodges
- 72 Part of E.T.A.: Abbr.
- 76 100%
- 77 Allow for more high-density housing and mixed-use development, in urban-planning lingo
- 78 Company shake-up, for short
- 80 Symbol of sturdiness
- 82 Pallid
- 83 Problem for a pitcher
- 84 They have their ups and downs
- 85 & 86 Very upset ... like the answers to five of this puzzle's clues?
- 87 Grand mounts
- 88 They go around at museums
- 91 Coffin carrier
- 92 Drops down?
- 93 In no way hidden
- 94 It has only one-sixth of the mass of Earth's moon
- 95 Goobers
- 96 Pentagon inits.
- 98 Cousin of turquoise
- 100 Part of the eye that focuses light onto the retina
- 102 Momma's boy
- 103 Big name in outdoor gear
- 105 Jones of CNN

Police Blotter

The following incidents of arson, assault, burglary, motor vehicle theft, robbery, theft, and vandalism have been reported. Streets are usually indicated by block numbers.

ARSON

12/4/2022, 6:40 a.m. at 200 Block of N. RODEO DRIVE

ASSAULT - AGGRAVATED

12/5/2022, 1:49 p.m. at N. REXFORD DRIVE / WILSHIRE BOULEVARD

12/4/2022, 4 p.m. at 300 Block of S. DOHENY DRIVE

11/30/2022, 11:15 p.m. at CLIFTON WAY / N. LA CIENEGA BOULEVARD

ASSAULT - SIMPLE

12/5/2022, 1:25 p.m. at 400 Block of S. BEVERLY DRIVE

12/5/2022, 10:18 a.m. at S. SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD / N. BEDFORD DRIVE

12/3/2022, 12:23 p.m. at S. ROXBURY DRIVE / CHARLEVILLE BOULEVARD

11/29/2022, 12:14 p.m. at 200 Block of S. ELM DRIVE

11/29/2022, 9:21 a.m. at 8300 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

11/26/2022, 5 p.m. at 100 Block of REEVES DRIVE

BURGLARY - COMMERCIAL BUILDING

11/27/2022, 5:15 p.m. at 100 Block of N. CANON DRIVE

11/25/2022, 5 p.m. at 9300 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

BURGLARY - FROM A MOTOR VEHICLE

12/1/2022, 4:22 p.m. at 100 Block of S. ROXBURY DRIVE

BURGLARY - RESIDENTIAL (COMMON AREA)

11/28/2022, 6:03 p.m. at 400 Block of S. CANON DRIVE

BURGLARY - RESIDENTIAL (NO ONE HOME)

11/30/2022, 1:30 p.m. at 200 Block of S. GALE DRIVE

11/29/2022, 5:34 p.m. at 200 Block of S. LE DOUX ROAD

MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT

11/30/2022, 8:45 a.m. at 100 Block of S. BEDFORD DRIVE

ROBBERY

11/30/2022, 12:40 p.m. at 300 Block of N. CRESCENT DRIVE

SHOPLIFT ROBBERY

12/2/2022, 5:11 p.m. at 9600 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

THEFT - GRAND

12/4/2022, 4:55 p.m. at 9700 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

12/3/2022, 5:30 p.m. at 200 Block of N. RODEO DRIVE

12/3/2022, 9 a.m. at 100 Block of N. HAMILTON DRIVE

11/27/2022, 2:30 p.m. at 9700 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

11/26/2022, 12:34 p.m. at 200 Block of N. RODEO DRIVE

THEFT - GRAND (FROM VEHICLE)

11/30/2022, 4 p.m. at 200 Block of N. LA PEER DRIVE

11/29/2022, 9:30 a.m. at 100 Block of N. MAPLE DRIVE

THEFT - PETTY

12/5/2022, 8:19 a.m. at 300 Block of N. CANON DRIVE

12/3/2022, 6:05 a.m. at 9600 Block of SUNSET BLVD.

12/1/2022, 5 p.m. at 9600 Block of S. SANTA MONICA BLVD.

11/30/2022, 6:30 p.m. at 400 Block of SHIRLEY PLACE

THEFT - PETTY (FROM VEHICLE)

12/2/2022, 6:39 a.m. at 600 Block of ALPINE DRIVE

12/2/2022, 6:15 a.m. at 200 Block of N. MAPLE DRIVE

11/30/2022, 2:20 p.m. at 400 Block of N. CAMDEN DRIVE

THEFT FROM COMMERCIAL BUILDING

11/29/2022, 1:32 p.m. at 9600 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

THEFT OF AUTO PARTS

11/30/2022, 8:28 a.m. at 100 Block of S. CANON DRIVE

11/30/2022, 10 a.m. at 400 Block of S. REXFORD DRIVE

11/29/2022, 7:30 a.m. at 100 Block of N. ALMONT DRIVE

11/27/2022, 10 p.m. at 200 Block of S. CLARK DRIVE

VANDALISM

12/3/2022, 7:28 p.m. at 100 Block of N. CANON DRIVE

12/3/2022, 12:23 p.m. at 200 Block of S. ROXBURY DRIVE

12/2/2022, 7:49 p.m. at 100 Block of N. LA CIENEGA BLVD.

11/28/2022, 8:30 a.m. at 200 Block of S. GALE DRIVE

11/25/2022, 11 a.m. at 200 Block of S. ALMONT DRIVE

NEWS

CHEVAL BLANC, from page 1

That gives the union until Dec. 19 for the project approval referendum, and Dec. 21 for the development agreement initiative. The required threshold is 10% of all registered city voters or about 2,100 signatures each. Should the union be successful, the City Council would be required either to rescind the ordinances (an unlikely scenario) or set a referendum date. A simple majority of voters is needed to overturn the ordinance(s).

Unite Here declined to say if they are on track to gain enough signatures, but the union has already complained about police interference with canvassers.

In a letter sent Dec. 2 to the city clerk, city attorney and police chief, George Yin, a lawyer for Unite Here, wrote, "Some of our petition circulators have reported being stopped by police officers and asked to cease what they are doing because they were allegedly engaged in illegal activity. The stops may have involved a mistaken assumption by the police officers that the referendum petition circulators needed a permit."

Yin wrote that signature gathering is 'textbook' protected political speech, and that under city of Beverly Hills law permits are only needed for commercial petitioners.

Unite Here provided the Courier the city's response to the union lawyer's letter, dated Dec. 6. Huma Ahmed, the city clerk, writes, "Thank you, information has been disseminated to city staff," and to reach out with additional questions or concerns.

According to the city's Chief Communications Officer Keith Sterling, "Our police department was responding to resident calls of concern regarding solicitors at their door. With certain restrictions in place regarding soliciting in the city, officers were exercising due diligence."

Mayor Lilli Bosse, a strong proponent of the LVMH project and a participant in drafting the development agreement, told the Courier that petitioners "obviously have the right" to gather signatures.

"What I am aware of is that police responded to residents who called them," Bosse said. "Residents called BHPD because they have seen these petition gatherers and wanted to make sure they were legitimate."

Bosse also said she received "many calls from residents that were angry this petition was being circulated by the union and angry that they were coming to their doors. In the world today, people are very, very sensitive about who is coming to their doors."

Unite Here has said it is not opposing the development because Cheval Blanc plans to fight any hotel staff unionization drive (LVMH has not said either way its views on a union staff.) Rather, the union claims to be dismayed by a luxury project that does not require the developer to contribute money specifically for affordable housing.

"At our union, we watch municipalities give these kinds of massive zoning and land use privileges to luxury commercial developers all the time, while housing projects are often stalled and scrutinized," Unite Here Local 11 Research Analyst Danielle Wilson told the Courier.

In the last stages of the development approval process, Unite Here, along with Councilmember John Mirisch, were the only voices to speak against the development, each arguing that a luxury hotel where rooms are slated for over \$2,000 a night on average is out of touch with a county facing homeless and affordable housing crises. Last week, the state of California called on Beverly Hills to revise an eight-year, Sacramento-mandated housing plan for the city that includes Beverly Hills finding sites for more than 3,000 affordable housing units.

But LVMH has said it is a civic-minded developer. Through spokesperson Randy James, the developer declined to answer specific questions but did send a statement. LVMH cited an economic analysis that Cheval Blanc could produce \$788 million in revenue for the city, funding that could help pay for "Beverly Hills public schools, police officers, firefighters and paramedics."

"LVMH is proud to be a long-term stakeholder, taxpayer and employer in Beverly Hills," reads the statement. "We are eager to embark on the development of this world-class icon in hospitality, dining and retail, and we appreciate the residents and businesses who engaged with us in a meaningful way." ●



Photo courtesy Peter Marino
Rendering of Cheval Blanc

Public Notices



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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2022230958 The following is/are doing business as: 1) ROYA YAZDI FINE ARTS 2) ROYA Y. FINE ART 3) RHY FINE ART 999 N. Doheny Dr., West Hollywood, CA 90069; Roya Yazdi 999 N. Doheny Dr., West Hollywood, CA 90069; The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL, registrant(s) has NOT begun to transact business under the name(s) listed on: Roya Yazdi, Owner. Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: October 21, 2022; Published: November 18, 25, December 02, 09, 2022 LACC N/C BEVERLY HILLS COURIER

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2022230960 The following is/are doing business as: 1) XPRESS DREAMZ 2) XPRESS DREAMS 3) EXPRESS DREAMS 369 S. Doheny Dr. #176, Beverly Hills, CA 90211; Kevin Tehrani Vafa 369 S. Doheny Dr. #176, Beverly Hills, CA 90211; The busi-

ness is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL, registrant(s) has NOT begun to transact business under the name(s) listed on: Kevin Tehrani Vafa, Owner. Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: October 21, 2022; Published: November 18, 25, December 02, 09, 2022 LACC N/C BEVERLY HILLS COURIER

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2022243816 The following is/are doing business as: RYLAN KENT 10432 Eastborne Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90024; Julia Ascher 10432 Eastborne Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90024; The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL, registrant(s) has begun to transact business under the name(s) listed on November 2022: Julia Ascher, Owner. Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: November 08, 2022; Published: December 02, 09, 16, 23, 2022 LACC N/C BEVERLY HILLS COURIER

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2022254019 The following is/are doing business as: ASSIL GAUR EYE INSTITUTE 450 N. Roxbury Dr. Fl. #3, Beverly Hills, CA 90210; Kerry K. Assil, M.D., Inc. 450 N. Roxbury Dr. Fl. #3, Beverly Hills, CA 90210; The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION (#C2004449), registrant(s) has begun to transact business under the name(s) listed on November 2022: Kerry K. Assil, President. Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: November 22, 2022; Published: December 09, 16, 23, 30, 2022 January 06, 2023 LACC N/C BEVERLY HILLS COURIER

NOTICE— Fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (See Section 14400, et seq., Business and Professions Code).

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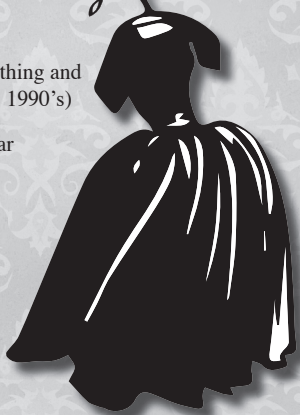
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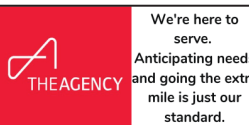
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