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## Beverly Hills City Council Approves Amended Agreements with Waste Hauler Athens Services

BY ANA FIGUEROA

The Beverly Hills City Council voted on Dec. 10 to extend the existing agreement as amended with its waste hauler Athens Services (“Athens”). The Council also voted to approve a new eight-year franchise agreement with Athens for commercial solid waste collection and residential solid waste processing. The agreement will take effect in 2022.

The agreements as initially proposed attracted opposition from community organizations, environmentalists, concerned citizens, and in particular, the union representing the Athens workers, Teamsters Local 396. Representatives of those groups voiced their opposition at previous Council meetings, among other venues. They returned

on Dec. 10 to reiterate their concerns.

Objections fell into three categories. Namely, the lack of a competitive bidding process; reduced environmental waste diversion requirements; and allegations that Athens has engaged in unfair practices toward its employees. The Council grappled with those three issues as well.

### Diversion Requirements

The topic of waste diversion took up a large part of the discussion at the hearing. Waste diversion is essentially the process of diverting waste from landfills by means of recycling or other measures. The new franchise agreement proposed a reduction in diversion from 60 percent down to 53

percent. (By way of reference, Assembly Bill 341 established a recycling goal of 75 percent by the year 2020 for commercial establishments in the state.)

The diversion rates at issue in Beverly Hills involve a number of different considerations. Relevant factors include changes in the global recycling market and the composition of waste in the City. (Some 1000 tons of food waste per month, alone). In the end, the Council insisted on modifications to the new franchise agreement to bring municipal waste diversion requirements back up to 60 percent.

(Athens continues on page 20)

## Beverly Hills City Council Passes Parking Urgency Ordinance

BY LAURA COLEMAN

New restaurants hoping to open in the City of Beverly Hills should have no reservations about making the deal following this week’s action by the City Council amending the parking requirements for businesses.

The Council voted 5-0 on Tuesday to pass an urgency ordinance that addresses in-lieu parking requirements and parking standards in the City, making it financially more feasible for restaurants to open without being held to overly onerous standards. The biggest change to the 43-year-old ordinance is that the City will now calculate parking requirements for restaurants based on the total square feet of the tenant space, as is done for all other commercial businesses.

“[It’s] an excellent ordinance that really will help the businesses in the City now and in the future,” said former Beverly Hills Mayor Mark Egerman just before the Council’s unanimous vote.

As part of the changes, the in-lieu parking fee for all restaurants has been lowered to approximately \$12,000 per space, which represents a significant reduction when compared to the prior fees of \$30,000 to \$50,000 per space depending on location. The City’s in-lieu parking program has historically allowed businesses in specific locations to pay fees in lieu of providing all required parking spaces on-site, which are collected into the in-lieu parking fund. Around 930 parking spaces have been approved since the fund’s inception in 1976.

Other primary changes include: the City

will no longer calculate parking for restaurants using “bar and dining area” and will instead make the calculations based on the total square footage of the tenant space, just like other commercial uses; all restaurants in the Business Triangle, regardless of size, will now be required to provide one parking space for each 350 square feet of development, just like general commercial properties; and all restaurants located south of the Business Triangle on the south side of Wilshire Boulevard (between Lasky Drive and Rexford Drive) will also be required to provide parking at a rate of one space for each 350 square feet.

In addition, restaurants located in other commercial areas of the City will now be required to provide one space for each 350 square feet for the first 3,000 square feet of floor area (not just bar and dining), with any square footage beyond 3,000 square feet required to provide parking at a rate of one space per 100 square feet.

Restaurant spaces that still require additional parking, even with the new lower parking requirements, will be allowed to fulfill these requirements by leasing spaces within 1,000 feet of the restaurant. In order to fulfill this requirement, the business will need to show proof of a lease that provides for the required parking between 6 to 10 p.m. on weeknights and during restaurant hours on weekends.

(City Council continues on page 20)

## Beverly Hills Ambassadors Lend Hands During Holidays

BY SANDRA SIMS



Health and Safety Commission members with Ambassadors James Berkowitz and Jonathan Leon

During the holiday season, it’s easy to become distracted while walking along the bright lights of Beverly Hills. Residents and visitors who may need help finding their car, a misplaced wallet, or even those who’d like an escort back to their parking space after a holiday party can turn to the Beverly Hills Ambassadors. The organization is available to serve, no matter what time of day. When the need arises, interested individuals may contact the Ambassador hotline for service or simply identify Ambassadors by their blue uniform shirts as they patrol the Beverly Hills community. The Ambassador program also provides outreach to the homeless population in partnership with the City of Beverly Hills Human Services Department. “We have adapted to everything and anything,” said Kris Zagya, Beverly Hills Ambassador Operations Manager.

(Ambassador continues on page 21)



# Courier Calendar



ENDING JAN. 5  
**"DOGS! A SCIENCE TAIL"**  
*California Science Center*  
 700 Exposition Park Dr., Los Angeles  
 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

The popular "DOGS! A Science Tail" exhibit is coming to a close at the California Science Center. The groundbreaking show explores the science behind the evolution of dogs from ancient wolves to loyal companions. Hands-on stations explore how dogs see, hear, and smell the world.  
<https://californiasciencecenter.org/exhibits/dogs-a-science-tail>



DEC. 13-22  
**A CHRISTMAS CAROLE KING**  
*El Portal Theatre*  
 5269 Lankershim Blvd., North Hollywood

Troubadour Theater Company continues its 25th Silver anniversary season with its 18th annual holiday offering, "A Christmas Carole King." The show combines the sounds of songstress Carole King with one of the most enduring stories of our time - Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" - and results are "So Far Away" from what the audience expects. Troubadour Theater Company is Commedia Del Arte-influenced ensemble of actors, musicians, and comedians that has been performing since 1995.  
[www.elportaltheatre.com](http://www.elportaltheatre.com)



DEC. 13-DEC. 29  
**"LEDISI: THE LEGEND OF LITTLE GIRL BLUE"**  
*Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts*  
 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills

The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts presents the Fig Street Films production of "LEDISI: The Legend of Little Girl Blue," a musical journey into the lives of Nina Simone and Ledisi. Created by and starring Ledisi, the 12-time Grammy-nominated vocal powerhouse, "The Legend of Little Girl Blue" is directed

by eight-time Grammy winner Gregg Field. The production mixes classical, jazz, and rhythm and blues sounds with riveting storytelling.  
[TheWallis.org](http://TheWallis.org)

DEC. 14  
**5K RUN AND WALK FOR KIDS' GROWTH**  
*Griffith Park-Pettigrew*  
 4730 Crystal Springs Dr., Los Angeles  
 Registration: 7 a.m.; Warm-up: 8:35 a.m.;  
 Run or Walk: 9 a.m.

Be part of a GROWing solution by participating in an event sponsored by the Human Growth Foundation and help increase awareness of childhood growth disorders, the importance of early diagnosis, and treatment. Activities include a three-mile scenic fun walk and a 5K race, as well as live entertainment and refreshments. <https://www.thewalkforkidsgrowth.org/>

DEC. 14-15  
**HOLIDAY MARKET**  
*Hauser & Wirth Los Angeles*  
 901 East Third St., Los Angeles  
 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

The third annual Hauser & Wirth Los Angeles Holiday Market takes place in the gallery's Downtown L.A. Arts District complex. The event supports local nonprofits and includes hand-crafted products from more than 40 local artisans, family workshops, specialty foods and entertainment.  
<https://www.hauserwirth.com/events/26305-holiday-market-3>



DEC. 15- JULY 19, 2020  
**"FIJI: ART AND LIFE IN THE PACIFIC"**  
*L.A. County Museum of Art*  
 5905 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles

The exhibit showcases over 280 artworks drawn from major international collections, including Fiji Museum, the British Museum, the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology (Cambridge), the Smithsonian, and distinguished private collections. The exhibition includes figurative sculpture, ritual kava bowls, breastplates of pearl shell and whale ivory, large-scale barkcloths, small portable temples, weapons, and European watercolors and paintings as well as a newly commissioned 26-foot double-hulled sailing canoe (drua) constructed in Fiji using traditional materials and techniques.  
<https://www.lacma.org/art/exhibition/fiji-art-and-life-pacific>

DEC. 15  
**HANUKKAH FESTIVAL**  
*Skirball Cultural Center*  
 2701 N. Sepulveda Blvd., Los Angeles  
 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Celebrate the festival of lights with music, dance, storytelling, singalongs, art

projects and Hanukkah dishes, such as latkes and sufganiyot. Visit the temporary exhibitions "Through a Different Lens: Stanley Kubrick Photographs" and "El Sueño Americano | The American Dream: Photographs by Tom Kiefer" and a special display of Hanukkah lamps.  
<https://www.skirball.org/programs/festival/hanukkah-festival>

DEC. 15  
**TOWER CANCER RESEARCH FOUNDATION RIDE FOR CANCER FREE GENERATION 2019**  
*SoulCycle Beverly Hills*  
 9465 Wilshire Blvd., Beverly Hills  
 12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m.

Join Cancer Free Generation in raising funds for Community Partnership Grants to support programs and cancer research. Reserve a bike in Beverly Hills or ride remotely at your local spin studio and still join in the fundraising. Cancer Free Generation is the young professional fundraising arm of Tower Cancer Research Foundation. <https://www.RunWalkForKidsGrowth.org>



Photo by Vince Bucci Photography

DEC. 16  
**AMERICAN BALLET THEATRE'S 2019 HOLIDAY GALA**  
*The Beverly Hilton*  
 9876 Wilshire Blvd., Beverly Hills  
 Reception at 6:30 p.m.  
 Dinner performance at 7:30 p.m.

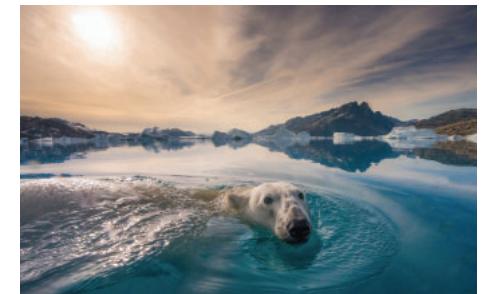
The American Ballet Theatre (ABT) annual Holiday Gala features a special performance by world-renowned artists, including Principal Dancers Isabella Boylston, Misty Copeland, Christine Shevchenko, Cory Stearns, and Devon Teuscher. The program includes excerpts from the holiday classic "The Nutcracker," created by celebrated choreographer and ABT Artist in Residence Alexei Ratmansky, as well as a special preview from Ratmansky's new, original full-length ballet, "Of Love and Rage," which will premiere in 2020. The performance will also feature the White Swan pas de deux from "Swan Lake"; "Let Me Sing Forevermore" choreographed by Jessica Lang to the music of Tony Bennett; and an excerpt from "New American Romance" created by ABT Principal Dance James Whiteside. The performance will be followed by dinner and dessert with the dancers. The Honorary Chair of the 2019 ABT Holiday Gala is actor and ballet enthusiast, Jennifer Garner. Proceeds support American Ballet Theatre and its educational programs.  
<https://www.scfta.org/events/2019/the-nutcracker>

DEC. 17  
**"A CHANTICLEER CHRISTMAS"**  
*Walt Disney Concert Hall*  
 151 South Grand Ave., Los Angeles  
 8 p.m.

The L.A. Phil's "Deck the Hall" concert series takes place through the New Year, and features an eclectic array of artists. The concerts begin on Dec. 17 with "A Chanticleer Christmas." The Grammy-winning 12-man chorus returns for a classic program of holiday-themed a cappella choral music.  
<https://www.laphil.com>

DEC. 18  
**LOS ANGELES MASTER CHORALE 39TH ANNUAL MESSIAH SING-ALONG**  
*Walt Disney Concert Hall*  
 111 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles  
 7:30 p.m.

The popular 39th annual Handel's Messiah Sing-Along, where the audience is the chorus, returns and is sure to pack the house. Grant Gershon conducts with Chamber orchestra, and soloists Andrea Zomorodian, Shabnam Kalbasi, Jon Lee Keenan, and Andiel Gonzalez. A limited number of VIP onstage tickets are available to those who'd like to be closer to the musical action.  
<https://lamasterchorale.org/sing-along>



DEC. 19 & 20  
**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LIVE "SUMMIT TO SEA"**  
*The Eli & Edythe Broad Stage*  
 1310 11th St., Santa Monica  
 7:30 p.m.

The Eli and Edythe Broad Stage in Santa Monica presents the second event of the acclaimed "National Geographic Live" series during The Broad Stage's 2019-20 Season - "Summit to Sea" with Andy Mann, National Geographic Photographer and Filmmaker. Dive in and celebrate the ocean with award-winning filmmaker and photographer Andy Mann as he details his transformation from climber to diver and tells the story of our rapidly changing planet, from top to bottom.  
[www.thebroadstage.org](http://www.thebroadstage.org)

DEC. 20  
**DIANNE REEVES "CHRISTMAS TIME IS HERE"**  
*Walt Disney Concert Hall*  
 111 South Grand Ave., Los Angeles  
 8 p.m.

The L.A. Phil's "Deck the Hall" concert series continues with five-time Grammy-winning jazz vocalist Dianne Reeves presenting holiday favorites along with a first-rate ensemble that includes pianist Peter Martin, guitarist Romero Lubambo, bassist Reginald Veal, and drummer Terreon Gully.  
<https://www.laphil.com/events/festivals/27>





## AN UNFORGETTABLE NEW YEAR'S EVE

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Dec 31, 2019 ♦ Early seating (3-course): 6:30 pm; Late seating (5-course) 8:30 pm - 9:30 pm

### **New Year's Eve Soulful Soirée at the Rooftop**

*Dine, dance and toast to the New Year under the moonlight, set to live soul music. Enjoy a delectable dinner at the Roof Garden or reserve a private poolside cabana for a more intimate celebration.*

Dec 31, 2019 ♦ Roof Garden dinner: 6:00 pm - 11:00 pm; All day cabana: 6:00 am - 12:00 am

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## Metro Extends Deadline for Artists

BY SANDRA SIMS



The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) has extended the deadline for its Arts Program submissions from Dec. 9 to Dec. 23. Metro's Art Program commissions artists to create work that will adorn Metro stations throughout Los Angeles, including Beverly Hills.

### Metro Art Update

Clare Haggarty, Metro's Senior Manager of Transportation Planning (Arts and Design), listed the artists currently commissioned to produce artwork for the Purple Line Extension Section 1 at the meeting of the Beverly Hills Arts and Culture Commission on Dec. 10.

The artists include: Ken Gonzalez-Day, Todd Gray, Karl Haendel, Soo Kim, Eamon Ore-Giron, Fran Siegel, Susan Silton, and Mark Dean Veca. Section 1 of the Purple Line extends to the intersection of Wilshire and

La Cienega Boulevards and will incorporate artwork into three new stations: Wilshire/La Brea, Wilshire/Fairfax, and Wilshire/La Cienega.

Haggarty explained that work on the Purple Line Extension is the most extensive for Metro to date. Artwork locations includes station entrance portals, escalator landing walls and the concourse. The entrances will have glass tile while the station platform will be porcelain enamel steel. "It's like a museum inside of the station," said Haggarty.

During the meeting, she also shared some unexpected discoveries that have been made during construction. Some 2,000 fossils were excavated while the tunnels were being built. Haggarty explained that most of the fossils were from La Cienega construction sites for the Purple Line Extension and that they will be going to the National Museum of History.

The Arts and Culture Commission volunteered to assist in public outreach by posting information on the Commission website about the Metro Art community engagement activities scheduled for 2020.

Potential applicants can obtain more information and apply at [Metro.net/artistpool](http://Metro.net/artistpool).

## Beverly Hills Could Fund La Cienega Park Renovation Through New Bond Measure

BY LAURA COLEMAN

A bond measure was among several options discussed at last week's City Council / Recreation and Parks Commission liaison meeting as a way to fund the transformative La Cienega Park renovation. The first phase is estimated to cost \$125.5 million.

The liaison consisted of Vice Mayor Lester Friedman, City Councilman Julian Gold and Recreation and Parks Commission Chair Alissa Roston and Vice Chair Julian Javor. The four discussed possible means of funding the capital costs of the center, the next steps for developing an actual design for the building and substantiating potential operating costs for the new center.

"After months of community outreach and stakeholder participation, the City now has a good sense of the programs we

would like to see at the new La Cienega Park Community Center," Gold said. "We now need to work with our finance team to determine the best way to fund this. While bond funding may be part of the answer, it is too early in the process to make any firm decisions."

In addition to discussing tax revenue options and various bond measures, including a possible general obligation bond or a lease-revenue bond, the liaison also discussed the potential of a general tax. However, staff has yet to determine the viability of having any measure on the upcoming March ballot.

(La Cienega Park continued to page 20)

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### Jewish Community Foundation of Los Angeles Hosts Israel Consul General

The Jewish Community Foundation of Los Angeles (The Foundation) recently hosted a welcome luncheon for Hillel Newman, Israel's newly appointed Consul General for Los Angeles and the Southwestern United States. The gathering offered Newman the chance to provide an in-depth analysis of the current state of affairs in Israel and to learn more about The Foundation's grantmaking in support of Israel. Last year, The Foundation and its 1,300 donor families awarded \$15 million to a wide range of causes in Israel, including \$1.5 million in Foundation Israel Grants supporting economic development and Jewish identity. Pictured (from left) are Foundation executives Natella Royzman, director of charitable gift planning; Sara Hahn, program officer; Dan Rothblatt, executive vice president; Newman; Marvin Schotland, president and CEO; and Lew Groner, vice president of marketing and communications.



### "Louie" and His Loot

Louie the Chihuahua, the winner (dressed as a UPS Man) of "The Beverly Hills Courier Furrier Costume Contest," poses with his contest prizes. Louie will enjoy various artisanal bath and beauty products, courtesy of Eco Dog Care.



# Jewish National Fund Breakfast Fills Beverly Hilton Ballroom

BY ANA FIGUEROA

More than 1,000 guests attended the Jewish National Fund's 15th Annual Breakfast for Israel. The event, which took place at the Beverly Hilton ballroom, featured the topic, "The Success of Jews in Sports."

Speakers at the event included nine-time Olympic champion Mark Spitz and Goodwill Ambassador of Israel Tal "Mr. Basketball" Brody. Both Spitz and Brody took part in a panel discussion moderated by ESPN's Ramona Shelburne.

"We've learned a lot from sports: teamwork and spiritual conviction are needed to succeed," said Israel's Consul General, Dr. Hillel Newman, who opened the program. His remarks were echoed by the panelists.

Brody shared that in 1965 he took what he thought would be a year off from his NBA career to visit Israel. That one year eventually grew to 54, but he has never looked back.

Brody's professional accomplishments went on to include leading the Israeli basketball team to its first European Finals Championship.

Spitz captivated the audience with his recollections from the 1972 Munich Olympics. His seven gold medals were record-breaking achievements. But they were overshadowed by the massacre of 11 Israeli athletes by Palestinian terrorists.

Spitz also spoke about the pride he has in being the only non-Israeli athlete to light the torch at the Maccabi Games, where he was joined by three children of the Munich

Massacre victims.

Brody also told the audience about the current situation in Israel. He discussed the psychological damage inflicted on the populace as a result of the rockets deployed into the country from Gaza. He thanked the Jewish National Fund for providing psychological support to Israelis through resilience centers, bomb shelters, and more.

The event was co-chaired by Sara Cannon and Fred Toczek, who acknowledged the overwhelming show of support.

"It was such an amazing breakfast with sports fans and Israel fans alike. Our guests left inspired and with a better understanding of the importance of what Jewish National Fund does for the State of Israel. It's incredible to see such support for Israel and all the work JNF does every day. The Jewish community has so much to be proud of and we can add superb athleticism to that list!" said the co-chairs in a joint statement.

Jewish National Fund's Executive Director Lou Rosenberg noted, "Last year, I stood on this very stage and shared how our brothers and sisters living along the Gaza border are dealing with terrorist threats and hundreds of rockets launched every single day. Here we are one year later, our friends and family are still being attacked and our children are still suffering from PTSD. Jewish National Fund was there last year, is there today, and will stand with Israel tomorrow and forever," said Rosenberg. ●



(From left): Ramona Shelburne, Tal Brody and Mark Spitz at the JNF Breakfast

# City Council Votes To Convert Dayton Way to Two-Way Street

BY LAURA COLEMAN

In response to a request from local merchants to help ease the consequences of the closure of Canon Drive north of Wilshire Boulevard, on Tuesday, Dec. 10, the Beverly Hills City Council unanimously voted to convert Dayton Way to a two-way street between Crescent Drive and Canon Drive. The Council also voted to eliminate the pedestrian scramble crosswalk at the intersection of Canon Drive and Dayton Way.

The 5-0 City Council vote followed a 3-1 vote by the Traffic and Parking Commission (TPC) to recommend the two-way street conversion to the Council.

"We need to do this," said Councilwoman Lili Bosse. "I think this is urgent and I think we need to do this. The goal is to make it so people can use the businesses in the area."

Even before Metro Purple Line construction work forced the creation of the North Canon Drive cul-de-sac at Wilshire Boulevard for an anticipated three-year period this past fall, Beverly Hills businesses around the area had been requesting the conversion for that one block in order to access the

9631 Dayton Way City-owned parking garage from Crescent Drive. Following the Canon closure, the urgency became greater, with merchants citing resulting negative impacts to their businesses.

Beverly Hills Market & Deli owner Shawn Saedian estimated that his business dropped by 20 percent following the closure.

"Since Canon has been closed at Wilshire, businesses on the surrounding streets have felt that access to their stores has been affected," said TPC Chair Jay Solnit. "By opening Dayton two ways, we hope this will help alleviate the problem."

City staff used traffic forecast modeling software to determine that there would be a delay of several minutes at the intersection of Dayton Way and Canon Drive from the conversion, with very little predicted delay at the other intersections. A more detailed study conducted by Fehr & Peers showed that "vehicle delay would be much higher than currently occurs" with the two-way conversion.

(Dayton continues on page 23)

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- 364 South La Cienega Blvd., West Hollywood

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# The Scene

BY CAROLE DIXON

1



**Rockefeller & Bloomingdale Launch The SIL.** Last week in the upstairs private room at San Vicente Bungalows, The SIL holiday fashion capsule collection was launched during an intimate dinner. Designer Ariana Rockefeller flew in from New York to join Natalie Bloomingdale, who curated the digital boutique's exclusive offerings. Friends including Josh Flagg and husband Bobby Boyd from Bravo's "Million Dollar Listing: Los Angeles," joined Joe Zee and Hannah Selleck along with surprise group of acapella carollers. Photo by BFA

2



**Million Little Pieces at The London.** The private screening room at The London Hotel West Hollywood at Beverly Hills was the scene for Sam and Aaron Taylor-Johnson's film "A Million Little Pieces." Stars Billy Bob Thornton, Giovanni Ribisi, Juliette Lewis, Odessa Young and Andy Buckley were joined by Ozzy, Sharon and Kelly Osbourne, Saffron Burrows, Elizabeth Chambers, and Roman Griffin Davis among others. Photo by Alex J. Berliner ABImages

3



**Golden Globe Nods.** On Dec. 9, Dakota Fanning, Tim Allen and Susan Kelechi Watson attend the 77th Annual Golden Globe Awards Nominations Announcement at The Beverly Hilton Hotel. The Awards will be held live at the same location on Jan. 5, 2020 on NBC. Photo By Scott Downie

4



**Ron Robinson's Happy Ending.** Retailer Ron Robinson held his pre-closing bash last week at the Fred Segal Flagship on Melrose Avenue. In the crowd sipping on Moyet rosé and nibbles from Mauro's Cafe included Ambyr Childers, Kathryn Eisman, Jessica Szohr, Ali Levine, Gretchen Rossi, Slade Smiley, Katie Cleary, Eric Balfour, and many more. "After reading many famous quotes about how things begin and end, I am most moved by the simplicity and perfection of these words by Dr. Seuss: "Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened," said Robinson. Photo by Cindy Gold

6



**The Timberland Lodge Celebrates Nature.** The festive cocktail party celebrating Timberland and its brand campaign, Nature Needs Heroes (#NatureNeedsHeroes) as well the Nordic collection celebrated Nature in Every Season at Bollare on December 5. The brand builds products with recycled, organic and renewable materials to minimize impact on the earth and has made a commitment to plant 50 million trees around the world over the next 5 years. To celebrate this initiative, Timberland hosted a festive seasonal soiree with notable guests including Taylour Paige, Aurora Culp, Sophia Culp, Joy Corrigan, Joe Slaughter, Lindsey Dupuis Bledsoe, Micah Marcus and Katie Bofshever. Photo By Joshua Blanchard/Getty Images

5



**City of Hope.** On December 7, City of Hope's Board of Governors celebrated its 26th annual Holiday Party at the Beverly Hills Hotel. With over 100 guests in attendance, including Bob and Gilda Marx, Susanne and Robert Reyto, Phyllis Marell, and Mort La Kretz, this wonderful celebration brought the warm Havana Nights to Beverly Hills with a live Cuban band. The organization has raised over \$90 million and have had a transformative impact on advancing new therapies and cures for City of Hope patients. Photo by Bill Rich

- 1 Natalie Bloomingdale, Hannah Selleck, Blair Bomar and Ariana Rockefeller
- 2 Sam Taylor-Johnson, Odessa Young, Juliette Lewis, Billy Bob Thornton, Aaron Taylor-Johnson, Giovanni Ribisi
- 3 Dakota Fanning, Susan Kelechi Watson, Tim Allen, Paris Brosnan and Dylan Brosnan

- 4 Ron and Stacy Robinson with son Max
- 5 Gilda Marx, Jim Garbel, Robert (Bob) Marx
- 6 Aurora Culp and Sophie Culp



*the*  
BEVERLY HILTON

# HOLIDAY DINING

## Christmas



**BRUNCH: December 25, 2019 • 11AM to 4PM**

A Christmas Day Brunch Buffet with bottomless prosecco.

**Adults: \$99    Children 12 and Under: \$38**

**BUFFET DINNER: December 25, 2019 • 5PM to 10PM**

A festive family Christmas Buffet Dinner.

**Adults: \$60    Children 12 and Under: \$32**



## New Year

**DINNER: December 31, 2019 • 5PM to 10PM**

A delectable four-course dinner with live music and a champagne toast.

**\$110/person**

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## “Entanglements” Now on View at Marc Selwyn Fine Art

BY LAURA COLEMAN

For L.A.-based artist Channing Hansen, the felling of a century-old eucalyptus tree in his backyard in summer proved to be the catalyst for his latest body of work, “Entanglements” – a vibrant series of woven paintings created via an algorithm of his own design, now on view at Marc Selwyn Fine Art in Beverly Hills.

A polymath with a penchant for delving deep into whatever fascinates him, Hansen found himself engrossed with a white fungus threaded within the newly cut tree stump, and then he went much, much deeper.

“I began reading about the way these mycelial networks function, taking in and redistributing nutrients and information to nearby vegetation in ways that seem to anticipate the internet. Some articles even jokingly called it the Wood Wide Web,” he said. “These mycelium visually resemble neural networks, as well as models of the universe. They transfer data at the quantum level, via neurotransmitters made up of tiny particles. Quantum entanglement therefore can be said to be the basis of all communication.”

The result of this inquiry is a series of large-scale “paintings.” While not the typical kind of paintings that one might think of – those created using actual paint – Hansen’s

works of hand-dyed wools woven together to create contemporary masterpieces are anything but simple. Vibrant pinks, purples, greens and chartreuse are interwoven with a vast range of browns, greens and reds. The stitches are inconsistent and varied, with the variety of textures and colors ostensibly appearing entirely random, even though the random patterns have been deliberately contrived. Evocative of works by Wassily Kandinsky or Joan Miró in their colorful playfulness, Hansen’s paintings, although similarly abstract, generate their own draw in an entirely new way.

On view through Jan. 4, 2020, Hansen’s latest body of intricately knitted works reveals a deep commitment to process. From preparing and dyeing the raw fleece, then spinning the fiber into yarn to working with a chemist to create dyes that match the colors of his garden (he uses a spectrometer to measure a flower’s wavelength), Hansen’s artistic process is totally unique. To compose the woven paintings, Hansen uses algorithms – this particularly one is based on growth patterns that structure fungus, neurons, and the distribution of galaxies – to generate patterns which are

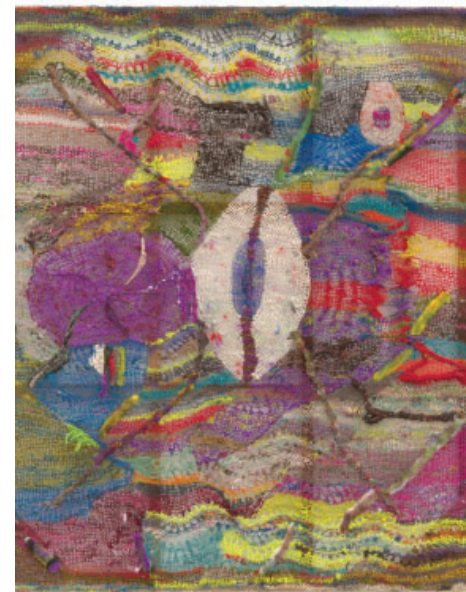
then knitted and stretched over a frame. Changes in color, pattern, stitch and shape are all dictated by the computer algorithm he authored.

“A lot of artists just go to the paint store and they start painting and there’s not that whole world where there’s just the craft,” described gallery owner Marc Selwyn. “Most artists focus on one aspect. He is focusing on both, which makes his art very exciting.”

For this series, Hansen even built mistakes into the algorithm, whereby during the creation process he would occasionally be directed to move a pattern over or drop a stitch.

“It becomes a bit like a Fluxus scene,” Hansen described, highlighting his grandfather’s participation in the Fluxus movement of the 1960’s (essentially, a Dada-inspired anti-art group).

After the initial network of loops and knots of yarn have been executed via his algorithm, Hansen then superimposes a woven Feynman diagram over the painting. Nobel Prize winning quantum physicist Richard Feynman developed a pictorial representation to describe the behavior of subatomic particles, which are known as Feynman diagrams.



Channing Hansen, “E1”, 2019.

The result of Hansen’s intricate process is captivating, challenging notions of certainty in colorful vibrancy and provoking us to ponder just how connected everything truly is in this universe. It’s also the perfect exhibit to visit on a chilly winter day, given how cozy everything looks when knitted in yarn. ●

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## On the Move with Chef Curtis Stone of Maude in Beverly Hills

BY CAROLE DIXON

You might have first spotted tall, blond, down-to-earth and affable Australian chef Curtis Stone as a judge on NBC's "America's Next Great Restaurant," or on "Today" sharing recipes. When he appeared on "The Celebrity Apprentice" Season Three, he was coined "The Quiet Terminator" for his stealth way of competing. It became clear then that he was not just another pretty face (he was, after all, also named one of "People Magazine's Sexiest Men Alive".) It became even more apparent to Beverly Hills diners when he opened his intimate restaurant Maude with seasonal monthly tasting menus in 2014, that he was also an incredibly talented chef, and was awarded a Michelin-star in 2019. The meat-centric art deco gem in Hollywood, Gwen, followed a few years later in 2016, and now downtown L.A. will also be blessed with Stone's culinary talents. When he's not spending time with his wife, actress Lindsay Price ("Beverly Hills 90210"), and their two children; behind the stove, or selling his cookware on HSN, he's on the road gathering inspiration for his tasting menus on his new show "Field Trip with Curtis Stone" on PBS.

**BHC: What has been the most interesting experience or destination from your new show "Field Trip"?**

**CURTIS STONE:** I keep thinking about my visit to Cullen Wines in the Margaret River region of Australia. Winemaker Vanya Cullen runs a biodynamic winery that takes a holistic approach to winemaking involving a process of enriching the soil and closely following the lunar cycle. She meticulously makes nutrient-rich preparations (preparation 500 and preparation 501) that she puts in the soil for the grapes involving cow horns and cow manure from pregnant cows. The preparations are buried during the winter solstice and changing moon cycles facilitate growth and the development of the grapes to create extraordinarily unique wines.

**How do you decide which wine regions to visit each year for your menus at Maude, and now your show?**

For choosing regions, the team and I have an open discussion about where we want to explore. Our executive chef Chris Flint and I think about the seasonal specialties of the different regions when we're building out our menu calendar. Traditional regions like Sonoma or Tuscany might be more familiar to people, but we always seek to highlight new and upcoming practices and producers that keep those regions innovative and compelling. On the other hand, a lot of the Australian regions are totally unfamiliar to guests, so we have an opportunity to introduce people to that corner of the globe and also a responsibility to capture the heart and spirit of the region. The possibilities, though, are endless and we hope to look to Chile, Argentina, and Rhone for inspiration in the future.

**Who and what do you always take with you on the road?**

When I'm traveling for Maude, my team always comes with me. Of course, who joins



Truffle Hunt in Umbria, Italy Photo by Sara Minelli

me for each trip depends on scheduling and such, but I think it's important to have everyone's different expertise and curiosities so we can learn the most from each region.

**Why did you decide to make this switch at Maude away from a new ingredient every month?**

As you can probably imagine, there was an inherent challenge in changing an entire menu every month. And, because you're changing over at such a high frequency, we were always conscious that at a certain point we were going to run out of options and have to repeat ingredients. We wanted to maintain an element of surprise and innovation, which was a huge part of the switch to a regional focus. There was also a challenge in coming up with the wine pairings for each ingredient menu and keeping them compelling. The quarterly change is more manageable for the team, but it also gives us more time to invest in menu development. We can spend more time in the planning process and really connect with the region to produce a menu that captures a sense of place. Our goal is to translate the incredibly personal and educational experiences we have on our research and development trips into spectacular dishes that transport our guests to regions around the world within the confines of our tiny 24-seat restaurant.

**What was the biggest challenge in coming up with the current truffle laden Tuscan menu?**

I'm personally such a truffle fan so it's been really exciting to work with Maude

executive chef Chris Flint to incorporate them into our current Tuscany tasting menu. They're in season for such a limited window, and because they are so coveted and sought after, I think it can be tempting to pile truffles on everything. We aim to harness their intense umami and fragrance in a way that allows them to shine while also enhancing the overall dish.

**Can you tell us anything about your new concept in downtown L.A.?**

We're still finalizing plans there, but we're very excited to be opening in the Trust Building and joining the downtown culinary scene. There's so much happening culturally in the area and it's cool to be part of the next era of this historic building.

**You worked at London institutions Mirabelle and Quo Vadis when you were**

**first starting out. What was the most valuable thing you learned from legendary chef-owner Marco Pierre White?**

I was in my early 20s when I first walked in the door of Marco's kitchen. It was a total culture shock to come into a kitchen where everyone was speaking French and working with ingredients I hadn't worked within Australia. Marco had such high standards and it really motivated me to do more, to do better. I still carry that with me. That pursuit of excellence has been so foundational to my growth as a chef and as a person.

**How was the collaboration dinner with Thomas Keller this week at Gwen?**

The French Laundry was on my bucket list when I came to America and my mind was blown when I dined there. The restaurant is celebrating a milestone



1801 Maude Wine Room Interior Photo by Ray Kachatorian





Corn & Caviar from  
Champagne Menu  
Photo by DYLAN + JENI

silver anniversary this year, and the food and service is just as incredible now as it was then. I became involved with Ment'or when I was invited to judge the Commis Competition and was inspired by the talent and drive of those young chefs, and I will do my part to support Team USA. Having Thomas at Gwen was an honor and surreal for our entire team. Thomas not only leads in his kitchens but in the industry, guiding

a new generation of chefs to be better than we were. Our menu that evening was a hat tip to classic Paul Bocuse. I hope we did him and Thomas proud.

**What is your favorite thing to make at home with your family?**

On weekends, there's nothing better than a slow morning making pancakes with the boys in our pajamas.

**Any favorite sweets for your children over the holidays?**

As a kid, I would always make Yorkshire fudge with my granny Maude – my restaurant's namesake. I've tried to pass that on to the boys, but I think they enjoy the eating part of it more than the actual fudge-making process.

**What are some of your favorite spots in Beverly Hills when you're not working?**

Chaumont Bakery and Café is located way too close to comfort to Maude and I can never turn down one of their French pastries. I'm also a huge fan of the Cheese Store of Beverly Hills. In fact, the upstairs wine loft at Maude [1801] is inspired by the owner Norbert's hidden tasting room.



Curtis Stone and Executive Chef Chris Flint

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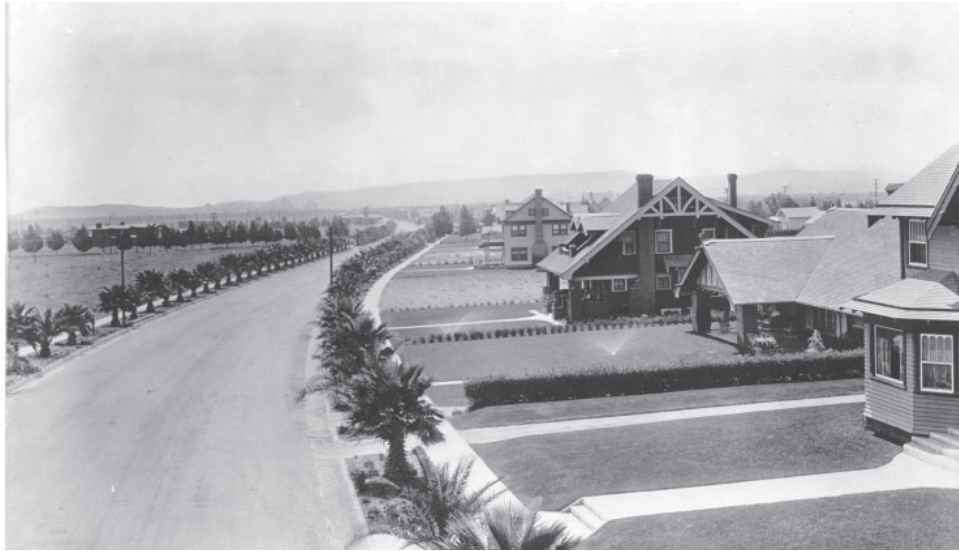
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## Urban Forest Management TreescapE Plan

BY BIANCA HEYWARD



Canon Drive in 1918 Photo Courtesy Beverly Hills Historical Society

What skyscrapers are to New York City, palm trees are to Beverly Hills. The palms that line the streets of Canon Drive are as emblematic of the City as the Beverly Hills sign itself. The lean palms that decorate the City date back to 1907 and have since grown as tall as 85 ft. in height. For the public, maintaining the trees is important to the identity of Beverly Hills. Ironically, this species of flora is not native

to this area, but the region's Mediterranean climate is hospitable for their growth.

The determining factor for removal of the palms is height, but replacing mature trees plays an important role in keeping our urban forest sustainable. New palms take several years before the trunk is visible, but as the young palms grow in tandem with the old, they will ultimately inhabit the space

of their predecessors.

This was one of the many items discussed Dec. 5, at an open meeting held by the Beverly Hills Design Review Commission to review a highly anticipated citywide Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP). The City hired an outside environmental consulting firm, Dudek, to help prepare a plan for the Beverly Hills treescapE for the next 100 years.

Sitting before Chair Barry Bernstein, Vice Chair Tony Spann, and Commissioners Ilona Sherman, Mahnaz Sharifi, and Sandy Pressman, Kenneth Pfalzgraf introduced himself as the city's "Lorax." Pfalzgraf, Parks and Urban Forest Manager for Beverly Hills, has served the City's urban forest for nearly 20 years, overseeing approximately 25,000 trees on public City land and parks.

Ryan Allen, a consultant from Dudek who will be working closely with the City's staff on the UFMP, unveiled the initial planning for the public and presented the early stages of their findings. Dudek is looking at the City's tree inventory and assessing its diversity, health, and putting together a plan for all the internal practices that go into managing and maintaining the trees so that in 100 years they will still be standing tall. Their

initial assessment found that the approximately 71 percent of the trees in Beverly Hills are on private property, requiring the city to put in place management practices.

"We're looking at how all the different actors in the City relate to trees and making sure that those communications work well," said Allen. "There's a variety of different departments and elected officials that have some amount of influence on trees in the City. So, we've been meeting with all those different departments, interviewing them, finding out what their roles and challenges are with working with trees and trying to figure out ways to make sure that those processes work better."

The plan is divided into two phases spanning over the next 18 months.

The first phase evaluates trees that are prone to wildfires, specifically on both public and private land North of Sunset Boulevard. The report will summarize species of trees that are deemed hazardous and suggest specific ways to manage and mitigate safety issues through tree maintenance practices. **(Urban Forest continues on page 23)**

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## David Fishbein Adds Optimist to PLATFORM

BY CAROLE DIXON

Sandwiched in between Bondi Harvest and Tom Dixon, around the corner from Soul Cycle and Roberta's pizza, is The Optimist, perhaps the chicest store in The Platform complex in Culver City.

The recently opened establishment is the brainchild of real estate developer and principal at The Runyon Group, David Fishbein, and his partner Joseph Miller. In fact, the duo is responsible for the entire existence of The Platform lifestyle and retail outlet, which has enhanced the credibility and renaissance of the area. Runyon is also behind The ROW in the ever-evolving Arts District downtown.

"We opened and built The Platform over three years ago," said Fishbein, who began this venture when he was just 24. Partners and clients include developer Rick Caruso (Palisades Village), and the upcoming One Culver, to name a few.

"We have always just been real estate developers and always curated/had an editorial eye for all of this unique merchandise and how we merchandise the property and finding all of these unique concepts and brands from all over the world," Fishbein told the Courier during an interview in his new store.

"About a year ago we decided that we wanted to have a men's store here [at the Platform] but we couldn't find one that I was excited about. So, maybe we should just be crazy enough to get into the retail business ourselves?" he said.

"We have never done this before. Joey and I were totally naïve about it and we were talking to some of the designers back

in January who said, you know the fall [retail] buy is due next week?"

But that didn't detour the powerful creative duo, who launched into the project full time for about 10 months. They settled on a name that is fitting in the current climate of retail naysayers.

"We wanted to bring that element of discovery back to the shopping experience," said Fishbein, who originally hails from the Bay Area. "I was so sick of traveling all over the world and seeing the same shirts. It's just so boring, so we wanted to use all of these relationships that we have built over the last decade."

An example of a relationship they have harnessed over the last year is Ay Cactus from Paris. "They have a cute little cactus shop and they plant them all in hand-painted jars," explained Fishbein. "You can't send the plants from Paris to L.A., so they made us a custom candle in little pots. We have been trying to get them to do a cactus pop-up here for years, but they are a tiny little store with only two people. This store gave us this framework to be able to work with these merchants that are much smaller that wanted to do something special. About one-third of the brands in here are exclusive to us in the U.S., you won't find them anywhere else," confirmed Fishbein.

Another more well-known brand, Velvet, collaborated with the store on a limited-edition capsule collection. "We love their product but wanted a different fit, so we created a custom Optimist branded t-shirt that has been selling like crazy. They fit amazing," he added.



David Fishbein Co-Founder of Optimist and Platform

"Another big piece of the store is when we were looking at the state of retail, we were going into the Barney's of the world and there was so much street wear. Everything had these huge graphic logos and we wanted to do something that was sophisticated and about style versus trend. There are no logos in the whole store. Everything is clean and modern. You won't see anything categorized by brand in different sections. We wanted to create it so you could mix-n-match a \$40 tee with a more expensive blazer or pair of jeans. It's not just about shopping luxury or accessible but all about pairing things together," said Fishbein.

The design of the store, by Jeremiah Brent (partner of Nate Berkus), marries that sensibility well. "I was a huge fan of Jeremiah Brent for years," said Fishbein. "I loved his design work but knew that he had a fashion background and worked with Rachel Zoe for a number of years before he got into interior design. He is perfect because he gets men's wear and fashion but also has an incredible aesthetic for interior design. I literally cold e-mailed him out of the blue and said, 'Hey, you don't know who I am...' but I knew he had been to Platform a few times and knew the property."

Fishbein added, "I said we are doing this crazy men's store and are you interested? He responded almost immediately and ended up designing the store. He was so excited to be a part of it and it was a fun collaboration where we were able to dream up this world. It feels like a living room, and



Platform Exteriors





The Optimist entry way  
Photo by Punika Limpanudom

the home.

Jewelry at The Optimist is curated by Alan Bedwell, former accessories designer for Ralph Lauren who finds rare objects such as silver flasks and stop watches from all over the world. There are racks of sunglasses and an alcove with vintage watches. The watch collecting trend is not lost on Fishbein, who carries Connolly from the U.K. along with over 250 styles, including a range from the 1930s and 1940s.

“We wanted to have staples like an amazing vintage Rolex, Breitling, and Omegas,” said Fishbein. “There is a brand called The Vulcan, which is not as well-known, but it has been worn by every President from Obama to Clinton. It’s still reasonable in price-point. So, we have something for the watch aficionado and something for someone who is just building a collection.”

For those in search of a new wardrobe, the ample dressing rooms are dramatic spaces with a full stylist program. “My cousin, Julie Feingold, is a men’s stylist who worked with Harry Styles, and a bunch of actors. She has always been my fashion guru so when I decided to do the store, it was kind of a perfect partnership for us,” said



The Optimist living room  
Photo by Punika Limpanudom

footwear. This is a shoe company that I found on my trip to Nantucket this year, that are all made out of vintage Turkish rugs. Each pair is totally one of a kind. Its a fun concept and super environmentally friendly.”

He admits that many questioned the wisdom of going into retail at a time when Barneys was closing its west coast flagship and pioneers like Ron Robinson were shutting down brick and mortar locations.

“People said the same thing when we bought this property. They said we will never be able to lease it or build it out. We were guys in our twenties with no experience. But we had a vision and believed in this,” said Fishbein.

He added, “When everyone is leaving an industry and scared of it, it’s the best time to jump in. Guys are always going to be wearing clothes and there will always be up and coming designers who want an opportunity to be a part of a special space. Now we can touch our customers at Platform in a whole other way.”

Fishbein. “We traveled all over the world to hand pick these pieces. She is running a stylist program where she will put guys together from head to toe. She will also do home consultations.”

The Optimist is already resonating with a wide audience.

“Our customers like our edit of global brands that are curated and styled specifically for L.A.,” Fishbein explained while holding up a pair of cool slipper-type

we find our regulars like to hang out with us in our space.”

According to Fishbein, “The whole concept of the store is that everything was shoppable so even the vintage pieces, the furniture, the accessories, everything is for sale. You can come in and be part of the lifestyle, have a drink from the bar cart and relax.” The appeal carries over to the female customers as well, since they can also pick up a beautiful blanket or other items for



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## Beverly Hills Arts and Culture Commission Explores Diverse Art through Listening Tour

BY SANDRA SIMS

The Beverly Hills Arts and Culture Commission explored diverse art forms during a listening tour at its Dec. 10 meeting. The listening tour, which began at the previous Commission meeting last month, continued this week with presentations from a variety of Beverly Hills arts and culture providers, businesses, and non-profit organizations.

"It's a great way to educate the Commission and the public," said Paul Paolone, Senior Recreation Supervisor at the City of Beverly Hills Greystone Mansion and Gardens.

Such listening tours allow the Commission to identify any gaps or opportunities to expand arts and culture in Beverly Hills. The community presentations also provide ways to learn more about the current arts and culture scene in Beverly Hills. No decisions are made during listening tour meetings. However, all of the information gathered will become part of a report to help guide the Commission's future work.

Last month's tour presentations were from the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, Theatre 40, Los Angeles Virtuosi Orchestra, and Saban Theater. This week's presentations were from Invertigo Dance Theatre, Beverly Hills Conference and Visitors Bureau, and the Margaret Herrick Library, Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences. Below are the highlights from the meeting, including recommendations for future projects.

### Invertigo Dance Theatre

Beverly Hills High School alumni Laura Karlin is the Artistic Director for Invertigo Dance Theatre, which she founded in 2007. Invertigo is a dance company that focuses on public engagement and social impact through outreach programs including Dancing Through Parkinson's classes taught by professional dancers. Dancing Through Parkinson's meets every week at various locations including Venice, Culver City, Tarzana, and Beverly Hills at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts.

Invertigo also provides inclusivity and accessibility through its community dance programs for youth in underserved areas and for students with special needs. Invertigo dancers range from young children to seniors

aged 95. Classes are offered by donation.

Invertigo staff proposed to the Commission the possibility of a dance festival, open to the public, with multiple dance companies working collaboratively to provide dance through storytelling and other media.

### Beverly Hills Conference & Visitors Bureau

The Beverly Hills Conference & Visitors Bureau (BHCVB) also presented its programs and services to the Commission. BHCVB is a non-profit agency that promotes the Beverly Hills community's economic and social activities (e.g. local merchants, restaurants, hotels and attractions) through tourism. BHCVB reported that visitors to Beverly Hills constitute about 50 percent of domestic and 50 percent of international tourists. The goal is to provide arts and cultural activities that will appeal to both domestic and international visitors, such as family-friendly events like BOLD, Rodeo Drive Concours d' Elegance car show, and the Chinese New Year's Celebration.

BHCVB indicated that most of its activities are focused on the Golden Triangle; however, the organization was open to hosting events at locations such as Greystone Mansion with shuttle services or other forms of transportation for tourists and other visitors to Beverly Hills.

The BHCVB's recommendation to the Commission was to have more multimedia and interactive activities. The Commission suggested that BHCVB consider an Art and Architectural tour, as well as book tours featuring renowned authors specializing in cooking, fashion, and art books.

### Margaret Herrick Library, Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences

The presentation began with the history of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences, founded on May 4, 1927 by MGM Studio Chief Louis B. Mayer. The Academy's Margaret Herrick Library was established in 1928 and is now located in Beverly Hills.

The library represents the history and development of the motion picture as an art form and an industry. The library, which is open to the public, includes scripts, sound recordings, books and sketches of costume designs. The library also offers film

preservation workshops and film librarian conferences with different countries.

The presentation also included an update on the highly anticipated Academy of Motion Pictures Museum. The Academy Museum, located on Wilshire and Fairfax, will offer both education and entertainment, providing insights into movies and moviemaking. The museum will feature two movie theaters.

The Academy wanted to explore ways for

the Beverly Hills community to become more involved in its efforts, (e.g., for Beverly Hills schools to bring more students to the library). The Commission recommended partnership with the Wallis and other agencies to create movie screenings and book events. The Commission looks forward to sharing these and other activities with the public on its new website that launched this week. ●

## Beverly Hills Students Take Action on Climate Change

BY SANDRA SIMS



Beverly Vista Middle School students march in climate change peaceful protest. Photo Courtesy of BHUSD

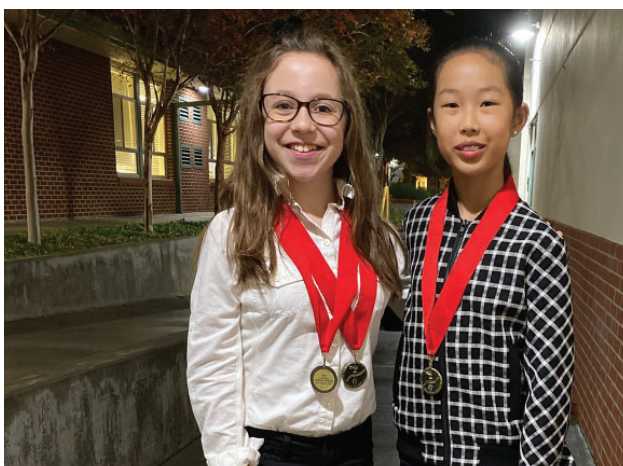
Students of the newly formed Environmental Club at Beverly Vista Middle School (BVMS) organized a peaceful protest culminating in a march through Beverly Hills on Dec. 5. The students cited the global youth climate strike movement as their inspiration. The club's goal is to raise community awareness about the worldwide environmental crisis. They hope to highlight climate change, plastic waste, and promote actionable solutions for the public that will promote environmental awareness. "I am exceptionally proud of our students and their leadership," Principal Kevin Allen told the Courier.

The Environmental Club, sponsored by the Beverly Vista PTA, began its mission by organizing a "Climate Change Awareness Week," leading up to the student-led protest. Prior to the student rally, the members of the club set up informational booths and met every day last week during lunch encouraging fellow students to pledge to do

something "actionable for the environment," including changing their single use plastic consumption by carrying a reusable water bottle or bag. Club activities also included students making their own protest posters.

The protest, which was sanctioned and approved by the Beverly Hills Police Department, took place after school hours. Students marched with their posters from BVMS to the corner of S. Beverly Drive and Wilshire Boulevard. Students were joined by Assistant Principal Richard Waters, sponsor teacher Alexis Crane, PTA members, parents, and other members of the Beverly Hills community.

The Environmental Club's lobbying efforts ultimately paid off, resulting in the school's purchase of recycling bins for the campus. Principal Allen stated, "[The students] successfully rallied, and the bins have been ordered. They will be delivered next week." ●



Beverly Vista School sixth-graders Ruby Matenko (left) and Sarah Zhang competed in the semi-final round in middle school public forum debate at La Reina Invitational Debate Tournament in Thousand Oaks. Photo Courtesy of BHUSD.





# CELEBRATE THE YEAR OF THE RAT

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## Tips for Managing Holiday Stress

BY EVA RITVO M.D.

Holidays can be the most joyful time of the year but also the most stressful. Demands are high and self-care often suffers. Overeating and excess use of alcohol are common. For some, this time of year can be very challenging. Families come together, which can be a blessing as well as an increased cause of stress. For those without a support system, this season maybe depressing as feelings of loneliness can be exacerbated.

Below are some suggestions for dealing with the excess pressure this time of year brings and to help you reclaim the joy of the season.

### 1. Try Not to Sacrifice Sleep

It's difficult to enjoy anything when you are tired. Dealing with excess traffic, financial worries and families coming together is stressful enough when you are rested. When you are worn down, tempers can flare more easily and the joy of the season will be missed. It is important to prioritize so you can get the most out of the activities you choose and not try to do everything. I often remind myself that less is more. Perfection doesn't exist. Cut yourself a bit of slack when it comes to setting the table, writing holiday cards, finding the

right gift, looking a certain way for an event and the list goes on.

### 2. Eat Right

Cakes and other sweets are so easy to overdo this time of year. In small amounts they may increase the enjoyment of the holidays but in excess they can lead to unintended consequences such as difficulty sleeping, weight gain and feeling sluggish. Alcohol in excess can lead to even more significant troubles so if you do drink, make sure it is kept to a minimum so the holidays don't end up in a blur or worse.

### 3. Exercise

It is ironic that at this joyous time of year, we often are too busy to engage in an activity that is sure to make us happy: exercise. Time may be short but keeping to your work out or walking routine remains as vital as always and maybe more so since stress is higher. When you exercise, your body releases chemicals called endorphins. Endorphins trigger a positive feeling in the body and interact with the receptors in your brain. If you have guests in town, perhaps they would like to exercise with you or just take a pleasant walk. One simple tip is to park at the far end of the lot and get in extra steps as you complete your

holiday shopping.

### 4. Be Mindful

Manage expectations. It's easy during the holidays to compare one year to the next and this often leads to disappointment. Trying to shift your perspective to one of gratitude for what you have instead of focusing on what you don't have. Stay in the present moment and breathe. Holidays are a great time to take a digital detox and personally connect to those around you. Taking breaks from social media, phone and computer time can be refreshing.

### 5. Give!

Volunteering is rewarding any time of the year and many people enjoy it even more around the holidays. Feeding the homeless, dropping off toys or visiting those in need that might be in a nursing home or hospital can lift our mood and often gives us the perspective we need to be more appreciative of our own lives.

### 6. Set Aside Time to Relax

As hectic as you may be, it's important to carve out some downtime. Taking a bath, reading a good book, meditation and yoga are all good ways to counteract the overstimulation we often feel, especially leading up to the holidays.

### 7. Share Your Feelings.

If you feel joyful and grateful, make sure you express it.

If holidays are a distressing time for you, try to find a support system to share your feelings. Maybe a friend or family member can provide an ear. If that doesn't feel helpful, perhaps a trained professional would be a better option. It is very common to miss a loved one or loved ones who can't be with you due to geography or death. It is important to acknowledge these feelings and find a way to honor the person or persons you miss. Lighting a candle, eating their favorite food or attending a religious service may help ease the pain.

### 8. Take a Break from Work.

The holidays are a unique time of year and a time of bonding, reflection and joy. Make sure you are grabbing as many of those moments as possible as the time will pass fast. Soon we will be off to the races in 2020...and making New Year's resolutions!

Wishing you all a joyous holiday season. ●



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## COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE GRANT

### COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE GRANT FUNDING APPLICATIONS

**Due January 31, 2020**

The City of Beverly Hills is now accepting applications for Community Assistance Grant Funding (CAGF) for FY 2020-21 through January 31, 2020.

Providers of services that are vital to the health and welfare of the local and regional community are invited to apply.

### REQUIREMENTS FOR CONSIDERATION INCLUDE:

- The applicant must provide a service that meets a community need including social services, community health and education.
- The applicant must be, or partner with a 501c.3 organization.
- The applicant must return a fully completed application no later than Friday, January 31, 2020 at 5:00pm.

For cultural grant opportunities and to obtain an application, please call Human Services at 310.285.1006 or visit [www.beverlyhills.org/cagf](http://www.beverlyhills.org/cagf)



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**(City Council continued from page 1)**

"These changes should help to eliminate some of the competitive disadvantages that exist today," said Ryan Gohlich, the City's Assistant Director of Community Development who helped craft changes to the ordinance.

Tuesday evening's vote at the City Council formal meeting followed a lengthy study session discussion earlier that afternoon. Before the Council discussed the proposal, 13 people advocated for the changes during public comment. In fact, the urgency ordinance that passed Tuesday evening was even more restaurant-friendly than what was proposed during the study session.

"I think staff has done a great job but I think we need to be even further proactive and visionary in planning," advocated Councilwoman Lili Bosse, who successfully pushed to allow businesses to be able to lease parking spaces further out than the 750-foot radius that was initially presented to the Council. "I think by having that as our boundary, we have given an impediment to allowing the restaurants to use our in-lieu program."

"I'm trying to make our City be the city that everyone knows is the best city in the world to open a business," she added. "We really have the opportunity to change the future to what the community really has been longing for."

Architect Hamid Gabbay emphasized the importance of the urgency ordinance, characterizing it as a game-changer in the City landscape. He said he is actively working with two restaurants - yet-to-be named - that will

now be moving forward to open on N. Canon Drive following passage of the emergency ordinance.

"What happened yesterday was unprecedented in the history of our City and that is thanks to the vision of Lili Bosse and Dr. Julian Gold," Gabbay told the Courier after the Council's vote. Councilmembers Bosse and Gold had requested that the item be discussed with urgency, which it was at the Council's previous study session on Nov. 19.

Gohlich said he was aware of multiple restaurants in the pipeline that the City is reviewing as well as several others that brokers or landlords are working with to open.

The urgency ordinance passed Tuesday will be valid for 45 days, as required per state law. However, Gohlich said that staff would be returning to the City Council prior to the 45-day expiration to extend the ordinance until staff has collected additional data from studies and is able to develop a more permanent ordinance to replace it.

Director of Community Development Susan Healy Keene emphasized: "We wanted to make sure that potential restaurants coming in had surety that this would be the new parking standard that they would need to comply with."

Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Todd Johnson said that every single member of the Chamber was supportive of the new ordinance.

"We are extremely excited the City Council is moving in this direction," he said. "We are confident this will both help our existing businesses and attract new ones." ●

**(Athens continued from page 1)**

Councilman Julian Gold noted that the changes were needed to fulfill the expectations of the community to be "responsible participants in a sustainable environment. We need to do what we can in order to achieve that. Our ability to get to at least 60 percent diversion is increasingly important. And if that does in fact cost us a little more to do that, it is money well spent."

**Labor Relations**

The issue generating perhaps the most heated debate at the Dec. 10 hearing pertained to labor relations between Athens and its employees. Adan Alvarez, spokesperson for Teamsters Local 396, told the Courier prior to the hearing that the company has retaliated against workers who have spoken out against Athens.

"Right after our workers voiced concerns to the City at the November 19 Council meeting, Athens announced they were laying off workers by December 31," said Alvarez. "And, one of the Athens workers who was brave enough to speak out at the Council meeting in November was threatened by an Athens manager," added Alvarez.

Laying off experienced drivers familiar with the routes in Beverly Hills would clearly be detrimental to residents, noted Alvarez.

Members of the Council expressed their own concerns regarding employee retention.

"We want to have happy, well paid, well taken care of employees, both of our own and from Athens," said Gold. Those sentiments were echoed by his fellow Councilmembers. The net result was a promise from Athens executives that no one would lose their job.

"It's our intent to hire every single one of them and let them drive the same route they were driving," said an Athens representative.

Councilwoman Lili Bosse noted, "In terms of labor, I felt like I wasn't ready to

move forward. Now I'm hearing very loud and clear that everybody will still have a job and perhaps a better job and better benefits. That makes me feel more comfortable in the labor element."

Alvarez remains skeptical, however.

"We hope that the Council will hold Athens to this commitment that the workers won't lose their jobs. We have to make sure that the language about employee retention is strong enough to support the workers," he tells the Courier.

**Competitive Bidding**

The lack of competitive bidding also received a great deal of attention at the Dec. 10 hearing. But after taking into account industry consolidation and other dynamic market factors, as well as previous responses to RFPs, the general consensus, in the words of Councilman Robert Wunderlich, was that it was "unlikely that we would get a better pricing structure than this."

Bosse explained that her feelings on the topic of competitive bidding had shifted. "This meeting has been very important in terms of getting a lot of clarity. Intuitively, when you think of giving a 10-year no bid contract, it appears that we're not being fiscally responsible and we're not thinking long term. However, in understanding all the moving parts to this, I see it very differently now," she said.

Shana Epstein, Director of Public Works for the City of Beverly Hills, felt it a misnomer to ever refer to the agreements in question as "no-bid."

"The contract was let out for an RFP in 2016. We've been negotiating ever since," she told the Courier.

"In the end, we got a great deal and the Council chose to be a leader in sustainability," Epstein added. ●



**Next stop: more subway.**




**PURPLE LINE EXTENSION TRANSIT PROJECT**  
Section 2 – Beverly Hills Update


**Season's Greetings**  
Enjoy the holiday festivities in the City of Beverly Hills this season. Construction in the streets and within the public right-of-way for the Wilshire/Rodeo Station is taking a break through New Year's Day.

**Starting in 2020**  
Piling activities to create the supports for the Wilshire/Rodeo Station box will continue after New Year's Day. Work will take place behind K-rail on the north side of Wilshire Bl between Crescent Dr and Beverly Dr.

\*Construction is dynamic and is subject to change.

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**(La Cienega Park continued from page 4)**

The community has taken an active role over the past year in providing input as to how the La Cienega Park and Recreation Complex should be transformed in the coming years. Scores of people filled the community center back in September for a Town Hall that offered a first look at how the site could look following extensive community feedback.

At the heart of the renovation will be the replacement of the existing 23,000-square-foot Community Center with a new 172,000-square-foot center. Current plans include the creation of two pools, 16 tennis courts and a pre-school, in addition to a host of athletic amenities.

The liaison also decided to issue an RFQ (Request for Qualifications) to solicit bids from various architects who may wish to

work on the project going forward, including current project architect Johnson Favaro.

Following the meeting, Assistant City Manager Nancy Hunt-Coffey told the Courier that staff is now actively researching an array of options related to funding the La Cienega Master Plan. She underscored that nothing has been put forward or decided about funding yet.

"City staff is researching possible funding options for the project. Once this information is gathered, it will go back to the Recreation and Parks City Council Liaison before taking recommendations to City Council," Hunt-Coffey said. "While this is an expensive project, the community has expressed the desire to enhance the park and build for the future, with the intention that this park will serve the community for the next 50 or more years." ●



Rendering of proposed renovations to La Cienega Park



**(Ambassador continued from page 1)**

The Beverly Hills Ambassador program, which debuted in July 2015, is run by Block to Block, an independent service company. They deploy a team of 20 Ambassadors throughout the Golden Triangle, South Beverly Drive, Civic Center Drive, and 3rd Street (from Civic Center to Foothill Drive.) The team's motto is to be "Persistent, Consistent, Diplomatic and Tasteful," Zagyva told the Courier. The program began as a pilot project, providing service 21 hours per day. "After the first year, it was well received so now we are available 24 hours," Zagyva explained.

A day in the life of an Ambassador involves wearing many different hats. "Nothing is a typical in a day. Every day is different," Zagyva stated. "Somebody may run out of gas ... we have changed tires ... or an elderly person will give us a call if they can't find their car. We are friendly and we want to help."

Zagyva also explained that the Ambassador program provides lost and found services. No item is too big or small. Once, the Ambassadors helped locate a wallet containing about \$1,000. The Ambassadors have also retrieved and returned computers and cell phones. "They do their due diligence; I commend them for that," said Zagyva.

The services provided by the Ambassador program also include patrolling Beverly Hills Unified School District (BHUSD) schools during after school programs and on weekends to help monitor the fields during sporting events (e.g., intramural sports through the American Youth Soccer Organization) and other activities that are part of the City's Joint Powers Agreement with the schools. Ambassadors assist the Beverly Hills Police Department by picking up scooters in the Beverly Hills area. Ambassadors also help to enforce the City's smoking ordinance, designating four ambassadors to provide tobacco education and outreach to educate the community about the ordinance. Two of these Ambassadors, James Berkowitz and Jonathan Leon, were recently honored by the Health and Safety Commission for their ability to help enforce City rules and ordinances while continuing to provide good customer service. "The passion that they have is amazing. That's why they were recognized for it," said Zagyva.

James R. Latta, Human Services Administrator with the City of Beverly Hills Community Services Department told the Courier that the idea for the Ambassador program started as a way to collaborate with other City departments servicing the same community.

"Having a friendly uniformed presence in the business triangle was needed to assist tourists and to manage aggressive panhandling and camping in the City parking garages. At the time we had a homeless outreach team, but the coordination of services wasn't timely and often multiple teams including rangers, police and human services would respond only to find out that the person had disappeared. There had to be a more efficient service to act as a boots on the ground presence to assess needs, provide a service or even refer the person to another service like a needs assessment for homelessness," said Latta.

The City of Beverly Hills' outreach

efforts with the homeless population extend beyond a free meal or a cot for the night. Latta explained that there is follow-up to provide resources (e.g., assistance with finding shelter and medical care) and ongoing communication, including contact with family members. The Ambassador program is part of a larger community effort to offer assistance and resources to improve the lives of its constituents.

Sometimes, the rewards are tangible. The Ambassadors have interacted with a man named Richard who is currently homeless. "Richard left his home state because he was tired of the conservative politics. Being an artist, he would travel until he was low on money. He would then stop, paint, sell the paintings, and keep moving," explained Latta. "Richard literally painted his way from the East Coast all the way to Beverly Hills where his car broke down and he became homeless."

According to Latta, the Beverly Hills Ambassador team became aware of his dire situation and referred him to the City of Beverly Hills Homeless Outreach Team. "The Outreach Team, through their 'Home Again' program, worked with Richard to locate friends back home who were willing to help him get back on his feet again," added Latta.

Latta explained how the "Home Again" program works. "First, we talk to the individual and their family to find out if the family wants them back home, has a place for them to live, and can support them. And the final thing that we do is to make sure that they don't have any warrants. So, if an individual meets these criteria, we will send them home."

Richard painted two scenes of Beverly Hills City buildings.



Zagyva says that males ranging from 35 to 50 years old constitute the majority of the Beverly Hills homeless population. "We know the homeless in the street by name. We know when they are not feeling well; their health is important to us." He explained that the Ambassadors provide first aid and are trained in "Stop the Bleed" and CPR. "When it's a hot day, we provide water," he stated. He also noted that when the weather is cold or rainy, Ambassadors provide ponchos to those in need.

The Ambassadors collaborate with the Community Services Department of Human Services to "provide a social service safety net for the community's most vulnerable." He added that funding is awarded from the City's General fund to provide various medical, mental health, and psychiatric services. Latta said that they typically don't get donations but this year they received a notable donation. "This past year we did receive an extremely generous one-time grant of \$110,000 from Cedars-Sinai Medical Center to pilot the expansion of the City's existing Senior Legal Services and Housing

Rights Legal Services to vulnerable residents in the City of Beverly Hills. This program in addition to the City's original grant of \$110,000 with Bet Tzedek has allowed long term residents especially seniors to remain in their homes," said Latta.

Community referral sources include PATH (People Assisting the Homeless) which provides beds and three meals per day to those in need of service, as well as the City's Changing Lives and Sharing Places (CLASP) Homeless Outreach Team who conduct daily outreach on the streets of Beverly Hills. Step up on Second is the outreach team that provides support to people experiencing serious mental health issues as well as those experiencing homelessness. He also described meetings with community organizations such as Church of the Good Shepherd, one of two churches that provide food lines. "We also meet with City prosecutors, police, fire, and rangers just to talk because we are working with the same people and it works better together than in silos. The Ambassadors are the axle that ties everything together," said Latta.

The Ambassador program also exists in Santa Monica, West Hollywood, and Westwood providing a variety of services including hospitality and safety. Zagyva explained, "Services are different depending

upon where you go." He added that Beverly Hills services are successful because they are "personalized and very efficient."

The Human Relations Commission monitors the Ambassador program by reviewing reports on the program's progress and impact on the community. According to Latta, the Commission has been very supportive of the work of the Ambassadors.

The statistics support that claim. According to Latta, the homeless population in Beverly Hills has decreased since the Ambassador program started from 29 people in 2015 to 16 people in 2019. "There is always a need for homeless services in the City of Beverly Hills. However, due to the tremendous work of our Community Services Department, Ambassadors, park rangers and outreach team throughout the year and their collaborative efforts with our strong community partners, we have been able to build relationships with our known homeless population and offer them access to services to reduce homelessness in the City. Our efforts must remain consistent throughout the year to remain proactive and responsive to the needs of some of our most at-risk members within the community."

Latta added, "Our goal is to make sure that they know we are here when they are ready for help." ●

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# Birthdays



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December 13



**CHRISTOPHER PLUMMER**  
December 13



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December 14



**DON JOHNSON**  
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**ED HORAN**  
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**MILLA JOVOVICH**  
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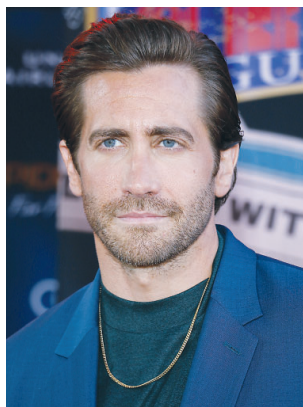
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**BRAD PITT**  
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**CHRISTINA AGUILERA**  
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**JAKE GYLLENHAAL**  
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# Friars Charitable Foundation Hosts Annual Holiday Luncheon

BY ANA FIGUEROA

The Friars Charitable Foundation held its annual Holiday Program for At-Risk Children at Temple Emanuel in Beverly Hills. Taking place for more than half a century, the event connects diverse community groups in L.A. County for an afternoon of lunch, dancing, and games. Along with popcorn and candy carts, a visit by Santa was a definite highlight.

The children, ages 5 to 14, come from Los Angeles community centers, including After School All-Stars, Catholic Big Brother Big Sisters, Eastmont Community Center, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Youth Activity League Foundation (Compton, Palmdale, South), Para Los Niño's and Variety Boys

and Girls Club.

This year's luncheon featured catering by Someone's In The Kitchen. Entertainment included Hart 2 Hart and DJ Robbie Britt (aka Santa Claus). Silly Sally's' clowns were a particular hit, especially the "man on stilts" performance. Each child in attendance received a new holiday toy plus \$5 cash.

The appreciative children insisted on hugging all the volunteers as they left.

"This is the best day of my life," one young guest remarked to Lou Zigman, Trustee and Board Secretary of the Friars Charitable Foundation. ●



(From left): Fran Zigman (Event Chair), Marilyn Stambler (Board President), Lissa Roth Harrison (Board Member), Lou Zigman (Board Secretary), Marge Graf (Executive Vice President), and Linda Schwartz (Board Member).

Photo by Maxine Picard

(Dayton continued from page 5)

The study also showed that removing the pedestrian scramble would reduce vehicle delay.

"The two-way conversion would provide additional circulation opportunities, including improved access to the City-owned parking garage," states the Fehr & Peers report.

However, the study also found that the conversion "would result in substantial additional delay during the PM [sic] peak hour at the N. Canon Drive and Dayton Way intersection."

The study estimated that during peak evening traffic times, making Dayton a two-way street, in tandem with the Canon closure, would significantly augment traffic delays at the N. Canon Drive and Dayton Way intersection, with an anticipated delay time of 340 seconds (over five-and-a-half minutes.)

"The combination of the capacity reduction on eastbound Dayton Way (one through travel lane in comparison to two lanes currently) and the new signal phase required for the westbound approach would result in vehicle demand exceeding the intersection capacity," according to the study.

The Fehr & Peers study notes that vehicles are likely to change their travel path when the delay is high.

Before the vote, TPC Commissioner David Seidel, the Commission's one dissenting vote on the two-way conversion, told the Council: "I think the argument that the businesses are suffering a life and death existential crisis because they can't access the driveway off of Dayton is not correct and I don't believe there's data to support that."

As part of the conversion, the City is slated to do the following: remove the existing lane lines to install new double yellow centerline striping on Dayton Way; remove a total of two parking spaces on Dayton Way to widen the travel lanes and improve traffic flow; upgrade traffic signal equipment

at Canon Drive/Dayton Way and Crescent Drive/Dayton Way; and replace parking and traffic signage.

While removing the pedestrian scramble is expected to offset some of the anticipated delays associated with making that stretch of Dayton Way a two-way street, it does come with an associative risk for pedestrians. Councilman Julian Gold, who said he would only create the two-way street if the scramble was removed due to the significant expected 340-second delay, insisted that staff monitor the impacts. Further, he said it was imperative that there be a re-evaluation of the decision to remove the scramble if the City sees any uptick in pedestrian injuries.

The Public Works Department estimated that that it would take two to three months to implement the conversion at a cost of approximately \$150,000.

TPC Commissioner Nooshin Meshkaty, who recused herself from the TPC vote, told the Council she hoped Metro would "pick up the cost because this is associated with a problem that they're causing in our City." ●



Pedestrians cross via the four-way scambler at N. Canon Drive and Dayton Way. Following this week's vote by City Council, the scambler will be removed and pedestrians will cross with the flow of traffic.

Photo by Laura Coleman

(Urban Forest continued from page 14)

Dudek is working with the fire department to review strategies for removal, replacement, tree spacing guides, and height restrictions, respectively. By evaluating the different arbor species, the City will be able to better manage at risk areas to be as safe as possible.

The second phase is to provide the public with a comprehensive document accessible to all audiences about the complexities of urban forest practices and management.

By actively managing the urban trees, the community reaps a myriad of benefits and services they provide. Whether it's saving energy at home, sequestering carbon and greenhouse gas emissions, helping to fight climate change, or capturing storm water to reduce urban heat, trees are some of City's most vital infrastructure. "Unlike other infrastructure, the older they get and the bigger they get, the more benefit and the more service that you're going to receive from them," Allen told the Commission.

The first draft of the UFMP is anticipated in April or May of 2020, when it will then be reviewed by the City and public. The next draft is scheduled for completion in August.

In the wake of the City's ongoing drought problems, Commissioner Mahnaz Sharifi asked Allen if he had any recommendations on drought tolerant trees. Vice Chair Tony Spann followed up with, "Ryan really didn't answer Commissioners Sharifi's question. As I understand it, Los Angeles is a coastal desert and so when we see these code requirements, we prefer drought tolerant native trees. Well, in LA, there are no

native trees. So, what's happening all across Southern California?" Vice Chair Spann continued, "None of it is native except maybe Oaks, some grasses and shrubs, but the rest of it is all going to be imported from other places? I think we as a Commission need to know that because we see documents push for drought tolerant native species. Well, there aren't any."

There is only a short list of native species to the Los Angeles region, such as Coastal Valley Oaks Sycamore Trees. "Pretty much every community within the Los Angeles County area didn't have trees," Allen replied. "So, anything that's here was planned and planted as the City grew and developed. I just looked at a picture a couple days ago of Beverly Hills from 1920 and there were not a lot of trees there. So, as we developed the plan, we're encouraging the planting of local native trees, which are a good thing for biodiversity issues." However, due to the size of oaks, finding a public space big enough can be challenging.

Before closing statements, Vice Chair Tony Spann remarked, "This is quite an undertaking. These kind of plans in my experience is a little bit hard to enforce but I like where you're heading."

Residents are urged to get involved and share public opinion by taking an online survey done by Dudek, which will be up through January. The next Urban Forest Management Plan open meeting is scheduled for Dec. 12, unveiling a draft of the Wildfire Hazard Evaluation and Mitigation Chapter at the City Hall Council Chamber. ●



Beverly Gardens Park, circa 1915 Photo Courtesy Beverly Hills Historical Society



WEDDING BELLS ARE RINGING STRONG TWO YEARS LATER !!



Jon Borg, a long term member of All Saints Church in B.H. and prior community resident, was married to Tianshu Wang, a PhD. Candidate, at All Saints Episcopal Church in Beverly Hills on December 9, 2017. The fabulous wedding was followed by a spectacular reception & supper at Ruth Chris Steakhouse in Beverly Hills, on a gorgeous sunny 84 degree day, for a perfect wedding. Life has been wonderfully sunny ever since !!



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**Tuesday December 17, 2019**

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# Public Notices

## Public Notice of Unclaimed Funds Being held by the City of Beverly Hills

The City of Beverly Hills hereby provides notice to owners of record of unclaimed funds in the City's possession that the unclaimed funds will escheat to the City by operation of law if not claimed by the date and time set forth below. Below is a list of unclaimed funds in the City's possession that have not been claimed, along with the owners of record. This publication notice is the final notice to the owners that these moneys will escheat to the City at 12:01 am on February 12, 2020 by operation of law pursuant to Government Code sections 50050 through 50056, if not claimed by the date specified below.

Any claim for these unclaimed funds must be received by the City no later than **5:30 pm on February 11, 2020**. Claims should be filed with the **City of Beverly Hills, Accounting Division, ATTN: Unclaimed Property, 455 N Rexford Dr #350, Beverly Hills, CA 90210**. A claim form may be obtained from the Accounting Division or on the City's website at: <http://www.beverlyhills.org/unclaimed-funds>. Proof of identity will be required.

A Guzman 20.00, ASA Services 43.50, Adriana Botta 34.63, Adrienne Robbins 30.00, Ahrens Fox Co 310.00, Alex Fotopoulos 23.00, Alfred J Plechner DVM Inc 20.00, Ambassador Lester Korn 270.97, American Bankers Association 42.90, American Polygraph Association 25.00, Amnesty USA Inc 20.00, Andy Serafica 19.53, Anh-Minh V Pham 152.20, Ann Kaplin Trust 269.50, Anne M Oskie 52.81, Anthony Michael Padinha/Kane Citizen 23.00, ASCAP 53.86, Axiom Productions 344.23, Ayala Rubinstein 75.00, Azria Max 194.37, Aztec Litho 250.28, Barabara Staric 17.95, Barbara Brokaw 56.18, Barbara Garakian 54.00, Ben/Katherin Perry 208.07, Bernard Solomon 35.00, Bett Brezner 34.00, Beverly Hospital 50.00, Beverly Hospital 75.00, Bill Blankenship 51.00, Bill Ramsey 16.00, Bill Ramsey 18.00, Bill Roberti 30.55, Bita Saadian 220.00, Board of Regis. Construction Insp 120.00, Bobbie Geller 358.87, Bobbie Kumetz 105.00, Body Art Inc. 351.56, Boris Zinshteyn 125.00, Brent Reese 40.00, Brigitte Herschensohn 20.50, Calif Preservation Foundation 25.00,

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163.00, Vendra L Miller 30.10, Vera Tompkins 20.20, Vera Tompkins 20.20, Victor Lichman 30.00, Victor Moller 20.00, Virginia Fong 170.01, Vistar Property Mgmt Inc 210.00, Wayne Mccocker 30.00, Western Fire Chiefs Annual Conf 26.50, Western Fire Chiefs Conference 60.00, Weston Construction 233.54, Wight Art Gallery / UCLA 56.88, William Hulkower 108.60, Yael Kimhi 15.50, Yolanda Ricon 19.32, Yolanda Ricon 19.31, Zarin Sinai 29.35.

## SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES CASE NO: 19TRCP00348 ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

In the Matter of the petition of: ZAINA SANAH SHARANI To all interested person(s):  
Petitioner: Zaina Sanah Sharani Presently over 18 years of age, current residence: Los Angeles, CA filed a petition with the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 825 Maple Ave. Torrance, CA 90508, S on Nov. 8, 2019 for a Decree changing names as follows:  
Present Name: Zaina Sanah Sharani Proposed Name: Giselle Mariana Molina THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted.  
NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: December 27, 2019 Time: 8:30 AM Department: B The address of the court is: 825 Maple Ave. Torrance, CA 90508 Reason for name change: Petitioner is already known by her proposed name wishes to be known by his proposed name in all personal/business affairs. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.  
Signed: Zaina Sanah Sharani Judge of the Superior Court: Deirdre Hill Clerk: Sherri R. Carter Deputy: T. Rhodes Dated: November 8, 2019 Published: 11/22/19, 11/29/19, 12/06/19, 12/13/19 BHC-R22287

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2019302662 The following is/are doing business as: COTTONIERE 245 S. Beverly Dr. #C, Beverly Hills, CA 90212; Teresa Yui 245 S. Beverly Dr. #C, Beverly Hills, CA 90212; The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL, registrant(s) has begun to transact business under the name(s) listed November 2009: Teresa Yui, Owner: Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: November 19, 2019; Published: November 22, 2019, December 06, 13, 2019 LACC N/C

NAME STATEMENT 2019301143 The following is/are doing business as: NELSON-MOE PROPERTIES 9454 Wilshire Blvd. #100, Beverly Hills, CA 90212; Gary Cat Moe 36990 Marber Dr. Rancho Mirage, CA 92270; John Rodger Nelson 36990 Marber Dr. Rancho Mirage, CA 92270; The business is conducted by: A MARRIED COUPLE, registrant(s) has NOT begun to transact business under the name(s): Gary Cat Moe, Owner: Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: November 15, 2019; Published: November 22, 29, December 06, 13, 2019 LACC N/C

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2019302605 The following is/are doing business as: 1) BEVERLY HILLS MARKET & DELI 303 N. Crescent Dr., Beverly Hills, CA 90210; Arva Inc. 303 N. Crescent Dr., Beverly Hills, CA 90210; The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION, registrant(s) has begun to transact business under the name(s) listed May 1990: Shahram Saedian, President: Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: November 19, 2019; Published: November 22, 29, December 06, 13, 2019 LACC N/C

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2019302603 The following is/are doing business as: 1) SOFTFRAME 2) THE SOFTFRAME 3) LUNA BED 4) LUNABED 5) MY SOFTFRAME 9663 Santa Monica Blvd. #1404, Beverly Hills, CA 90210; Heidi Petzold 9663 Santa Monica Blvd. #1404, Beverly Hills, CA 90210; The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL, registrant(s) has begun to transact business under the name(s) listed November 2014: Heidi Petzold, Owner: Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: November 19, 2019; Published: November 22, 29, December 06, 13, 2019 LACC N/C

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2019302607 The following is/are doing business as: DAMN GOOD OLIVE OIL 9663 Santa Monica Blvd. #1463, Beverly Hills, CA

90210; Zepeim LLC 9663 Santa Monica Blvd. #1463, Beverly Hills, CA 90210; The business is conducted by: A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, registrant(s) has NOT begun to transact business under the name(s) listed: Loritz Blanco, Managing Member: Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: November 19, 2019; Published: November 22, 29, December 06, 13, 2019 LACC N/C

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2019302659 The following is/are doing business as: LEV JEWELS 8610 Chalmers Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90035; Fanny Samuel 8610 Chalmers Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90035; The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL, registrant(s) has NOT begun to transact business under the name(s) listed: Fanny Samuel, Owner: Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: November 19, 2019; Published: November 22, 29, December 06, 13, 2019 LACC N/C

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME 2016273758 The following person(s) has/have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name: EVES'S STONES 1655 Stearns Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90035; The fictitious business name referred to above was filed on (date): November 09, 2016 in the county of Los Angeles; Fanny Samuel 1655 Stearns Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90035; The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL declare that all information in this statement is true and correct, Signed: Fanny Samuel, Owner; Statement #2019302661 is filed with the County of Los Angeles: November 19, 2019; November 22, 29, December 06, 13, 2019 LACC N/C

**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).**



# Classifieds

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90  
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403  
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420  
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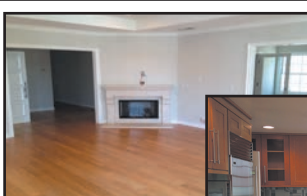
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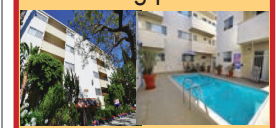
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open to large balcony • overlooking pool



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# Classifieds

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Saint Mary's, &amp; Transportation.</p> <p><b>• BRENTWOOD •</b> North of Montana St. 11692 Chenault Dr. • 1 Bd.+1 Ba. • <b>Large Unit</b> Wood+carpet floors, spacious kitchen, dishwasher, fridge, stove, balcony, walk-in closet, gated entry, pool, on-site laundry, elevator. <b>No pets.</b> 310/208-0111 Close to Whole Foods, Brentwood Park, Tennis Courts.</p> <p><b>GRAND OPENING Brand New 2018 Construction = BRENTWOOD = The Sanremo</b> 417 S. Barrington Av. • 2 Bdrm.+ 2 Bath • 3 Bdrm.+ 2 1/2 Bath •</p> <p>Open floor plan, high ceilings, French oak flrs+porcelain tiles, x-lrg. walk-in closets, stainless steel appliances, quartz countertops, pool, state of the art gym, laundry hook-ups, controlled access, prkg, free WiFi. <b>Close to 405, Veterans Park &amp; Brentwood Village.</b> • 310/440-0208 • VERY UNIQUE • MUST SEE</p>	<p>440 UNFURNISHED APTS/CONDOS</p> <p><b>BRENTWOOD</b> 11730 SUNSET BLVD. <b>NEWLY REMODELED</b> • Jr. Executive • <b>Rooftop pool,</b> deck, central air, elevator, intercom entry, on-sight laundry, gym, parking. • <b>Free WiFi Access</b> • ~ 310/476-3824 ~ <b>BRENTWOOD VILLAGE &amp; U.C.L.A. CLOSE</b></p> <p><b>BRENTWOOD</b> 11618 Kiowa Ave. <b>Newly Updated</b> • <b>Single</b> • A/C, internet access, pool, controlled access, on-sight laundry. No pets. Close to Whole Foods, Transportation and Restaurants. 310/826-4889</p> <p><b>BRENTWOOD The Carlton</b> 11666 Goshen Ave. (o)(o)(o)(o)(o) <b>Very Spacious</b> 1 Bd.+Den+1.5 Ba. <b>Single + 1 Bath</b> (o)(o)(o)(o)(o) WiFi, central air/heat, fireplace, walk-in closet, balcony, controlled access, pool, elevator, parking, laundry facility. 310/312-9871 <b>Shopping &amp; Dining in Brentwood Village</b></p> <p><b>BRENTWOOD</b> 11640 Kiowa Ave. <b>Newly Updated</b> 1 Bdrm. + 1 Bath 2 Bdrm. + 2 Bath</p> <p>Balcony, dishwasher, a/c, <b>heated pool,</b> WiFi, elevator controlled access, on-site laundry, prkg. Close to <b>Brentwood Village, Shops &amp; Restaurants.</b> • 310/826-4889 •</p>	<p>440 UNFURNISHED APTS/CONDOS</p> <p>~ <b>WEST</b> ~ <b>LOS ANGELES</b> 12424 TeXaS Ave. • 1 Bd.+1 Ba. • <b>SPACIOUS UNIT.</b></p> <p>On-site laundry, covered parking, controlled access. 310/442-8265</p> <p><b>WEST L.A.</b> 1415 Brockton Ave. • 2 Bdrm.+2 Bath • Patio, stove, dishwasher, on-sight laundry, parking. <b>CLOSE TO SHOPS &amp; RESTAURANTS.</b> 310/479-0700</p> <p><b>WEST L.A.</b> 1236 Amhearst Ave. • <b>Spacious Units</b> •</p> <p>1 Bdrm.+1 Bath 2 Bdrm.+2 Bath Dishwasher, a/c, controlled access, on-site parking &amp; laundry facility. 310/820-8584</p> <p><b>WEST L.A.</b> 1628 Westgate Ave. ~ 1 Bd.+1 Ba. ~ <b>Bright &amp; Airy.</b> Dishwasher, Intercom entry, on-sight parking, on-sight laundry facility. <b>Close to transportation.</b> 310/820-7828</p> <p><b>• WESTWOOD •</b> 550 Veteran Ave. • <b>Single+1 Bath</b> • • <b>2 Bd.+2 Ba.</b> •</p> <p>Very spacious, granite counters, microwave, intercom entry, on-sight laundry, parking &amp; WiFi. <b>Very close to UCLA &amp; Westwood Village.</b> 310/208-5166</p> <p><b>WESTWOOD</b> 1409 Midvale Ave. 1 Bd.+1 Ba. <b>Single</b> WiFi, a/c, intercom entry, laundry facility, elevator, parking, pool. <b>CLOSE TO U.C.L.A., SHOPPING &amp; 1 BLK. 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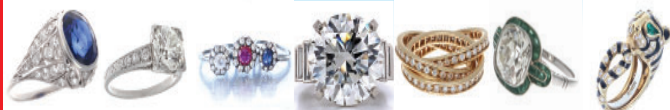
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On Dec. 10, the Beverly Hills City Council voted to award a contract extension and new franchise agreement, with amendments, to Athens Services, its waste hauler.

It has come to my attention that on Nov. 26, two days before Thanksgiving, Athens sent a letter to all of its employees who service Beverly Hills and informed them that they will all be laid off on Dec. 31. These workers have been servicing the City for decades. They know the City. They're familiar with our narrow alleyways, our streets and our residents. Their experience behind the wheel reduces the risk of serious injury. But there is no guarantee that the drivers who have served our City so well for decades will

be the same people servicing the new contract. That puts us all at risk. Every resident, business and visitor. Beverly Hills deserves better than this.

Our City is known as the best of the best, so why would we settle for a second-rate contract? Something as crucial as waste collection should be taken very seriously.

### What Can You Do About It?

Although the City has chosen to renew its contract with Athens, there are steps residents and business owners can take to help support their community's sanitation workers. In an effort to protect the workers' already vulnerable jobs, the public can

request the City incorporate the strongest worker retention language possible into its agreement with Athens.

In an effort to combat insensitive and damaging labor practices shown by Athens, the City can negotiate in their renewal contract, terms of employment and procedures and severance packages for lay-offs to provide protection from unreasonable dismissals.

ALLISON MARGOLIN

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 13).** Long ago, you longed for the kind of recognition you'll receive this year. From the light of a loved one's eyes indicating that deep understanding has been reached to the sound of applause and the satisfaction of "likes," you'll treasure the experience while realizing you no longer need it as much as you once did. Aries and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 18, 40, 33 and 28.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** You can't control the weather outside. But by thinking in less dramatic terms, you can influence your internal climate. Take the temperature down a few notches. Keep it comfortable and stable.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** The biggest reason for dishonesty is a fear of truth's consequences. To make it easy for you to be accountable to yourself, take away the threat of self-punishment.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** You don't have to let the little bothersome interferences deter you from progress. Perspectives of time will help you keep relationships in balance. Will you even remember this little issue next week?

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** You don't have to make a move or form a definitive opinion on matters just yet. It takes some restraint, but there's a lot of benefit from waiting, watching and processing.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** It takes no effort at all to stay current on the topics that interest you, as all you have to do is follow your curiosity. To stay abreast of a loved one's interests, too, is an act of selflessness that will repay you.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** The question will arise as to whether you might be able to handle more than you currently are. To level up, you'll need more efficient systems. Ask around because knowledgeable friends will help you figure it out.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** There is a way of telling a story that is accurate and encouraging, and there is a way that is accurate and deflating. Try it both ways privately and cherry-pick the public message.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** For you, teaching what you know isn't so much a job as it is a calling. Teaching helps you understand things at deeper levels. Furthermore, it makes you feel very connected to the fabric of existence.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** When you can't quite figure out how to change your behavior or attitude, change your circumstances. What you're dealing with may not be a lack of willpower; rather, it's a case of an unsupportive environment.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** The extra work you do will bump up your stock. A small rise in value every day will add up to something substantial. Eventually, you'll be able to trade in on this.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** For many, silence can bring its own kind of chaos. Many are uncomfortable in the stillness and will reflexively fill it with noise and movement. To resist this urge and relax into the quiet will invite restoration.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** You're willing to consider other sides of an argument, probably because you don't feel threatened by ideas. You find it pretty easy to respect people, even if you don't agree with them. Many could learn from you.

## Elderly Man and Woman Dead by Murder-Suicide in Beverly Hills

BY LAURA COLEMAN

Beverly Hills Police detectives spent several hours on Dec. 5 investigating two deaths that occurred inside a residence in the 200-block of S. Doheny.

"After responding to a call at the residence, officers located a deceased male and a deceased female, both in their 70s, inside the residence," BHPD Lt. Elisabeth Albanese told the Courier.

Police arrived shortly after a family member returned to the residence and called BHPD at 9:04 a.m.

The investigation confirmed that the two

individuals had died in a murder-suicide. After shooting Rosa Benincasa, 70, Antonio Benincasa, 78, then shot himself. The coroner's report confirmed that both individuals died by a gunshot wound to the head.

Albanese said that murder-suicides in Beverly Hills are extremely rare. In the last two decades, she said there have been a total of four cases, three of which involved elderly couples.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), suicide is a leading cause of death in the U.S., with

the rates continuing to increase in nearly every single state.

"Mental health conditions are often seen as the cause of suicide, but suicide is rarely caused by any single factor," states the CDC. "In fact, many people who die by suicide are not known to have a diagnosed mental health condition at the time of death. Other problems often contribute to suicide, such as those related to relationships, substance use, physical health, and job, money, legal, or housing stress." ●

## Police Blotter

The following incidents of Assault, Burglary, Petty Theft, Grand Theft, Robbery and Petty Vehicle Theft have been reported by law enforcement. Streets are indicated by block numbers.

### BEVERLY HILLS BURGLARY

12/7 - 9700 Block Wilshire Blvd.

### GRAND THEFTS

12/10 - 9500 Block Wilshire Blvd.

12/9 - Camden Dr. and Wilshire Blvd.

12/8 - 9500 Block Wilshire Blvd.

12/6 - 200 Block Canon Dr.

### PETTY THEFTS

12/6 - 9600 Block Wilshire Blvd.

12/5 - 200 Block Beverly Dr.

### VEHICLE

12/8 - 9600 Block Wilshire Blvd.

12/7 - 9700 Block Wilshire Blvd.

12/7 - 9500 Block Wilshire Blvd.

12/7 - 200 Block Crescent Dr.

### WEST LOS ANGELES ASSUALT

12/9 - 1300 Block Federal Ave.

12/6 - 10900 Block Santa Monica Blvd.

### BURGLARY

12/7 - 1200 Block Armacost Ave.

### GRAND THEFTS

12/6 - 1900 Block Bundy Dr.

### PETTY THEFTS

12/7 - 11200 Block W. Olympic Blvd.

12/6 - 1300 Block S. Carmelina Ave.

12/6 - 11600 Block San Vicente Blvd.

### ROBBERY

12/8 - 1800 Block Bentley Ave.

### VEHICLE

12/9 - 10900 Block Wellworth Ave.

12/9 - Camden Ave. and Ohio Ave.

12/8 - Sawtelle Blvd. And Olympic Blvd.

12/7 - 10800 Block Ashby Ave.

12/7 - 10800 Block Santa Monica Blvd.

12/7 - 1600 Block S. Sepulveda Blvd.



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