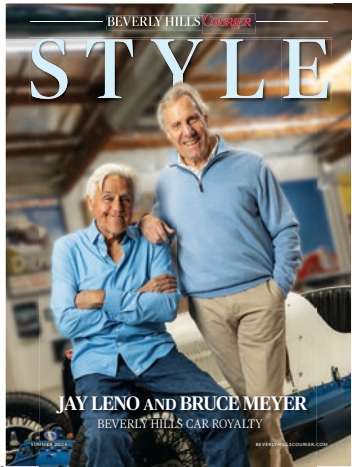


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THE WEATHER, BEVERLY HILLS CA

☁️ Friday	76° 61°
☀️ Saturday	80° 62°
☀️ Sunday	75° 60°
☁️ Monday	73° 59°
☁️ Tuesday	74° 60°
☁️ Wednesday	75° 60°
☀️ Thursday	77° 62°

Firefighters Celebrate Community at Annual Backdraft Ball



Photo by Roger Reiner-RBRPhotography

KTLA Morning News Anchor Jessica Holmes, center, hosted the 32nd Annual Backdraft Ball on June 11.

BY JOEY WALDINGER

For the 32nd year in a row, the June 11 Beverly Hills Firefighters' Association's (BHFA) Backdraft Ball was the hottest ticket in town, with firefighters, city officials and enthusiastic residents gathering at the Beverly

Wilshire, a Four Seasons Hotel to honor the men and women who risk their lives to keep the community safe.

KTLA Morning News Anchor Jessica Holmes, who hosted the program, infused the event with humor and some light hijinks, See BACKDRAFT BALL, page 9

Health and Safety Commission Holds Special Meeting

BY AMANDA COSCARELLI

The Health and Safety Commission welcomed guest speakers to a special meeting on June 10, where they addressed the topics of social media and screen time with an expert on internet safety for kids and teens. During the meeting, Marc Berkman, CEO of the Organization for Social Media Safety, presented statistics that suggest that too much social media can have harmful effects on younger users. The organization has been working with the Beverly Hills Unified School District (BHUSD) to provide training and strategies for students and parents who are navigating social media, and the commission presented them with a certificate of recognition at the meeting. The board of education, human services division, fire department and police department also provided updates on community safety.

The Organization for Social Media Safety seeks to protect kids and teens against the dangers of social media, including cyberbullying, hate speech, sexual harassment, propaganda, See HEALTH AND SAFETY, page 10

Nathan Hochman is Ready to Be the Next Los Angeles County District Attorney

BY CLARA HARTER

Former federal prosecutor Nathan Hochman finished first among the 11 challengers vying to unseat Los Angeles County District Attorney George Gascón in the March 5 primary. Now, he is laser-focused on defeating Gascón in November.

Hochman, a Beverly Hills native and alumnus of Beverly Hills High School, told the Courier he's running to "end the golden age of criminals in LA County" and restore faith in the District Attorney's office.

He says that the reform policies of Gascón—including the elimination of cash bail, of most sentencing enhancements and of trying juveniles as adults—have failed



Nathan Hochman

victims, failed law enforcement and failed Angelenos in general.

"My goal is to deter criminals from committing crimes in the first place, because See NATHAN HOCHMAN, page 75

Trump Attends Fundraiser in Beverly Hills

BY CLARA HARTER

Former President Donald Trump paid a visit to Beverly Hills on June 7 to attend a campaign fundraiser at the private residence of nursing home mogul and longtime Republican party donor Lee Samson.

A group of loyal supporters, including many Beverly Hills residents, organized a street side rally on Sunset Boulevard to cheer on Trump. As his motorcade passed the crowd around 4 p.m., fans excitedly waved American and Israeli flags, unfurled See TRUMP, page 9



Courier Calendar

NOW - JUNE 16

VIBRATO GRILL JAZZ: TONY GALLA, TONY GUERRERO AND FRIENDS FEAT. JAZZ VOCALIST LIA BOOTH AND LOUIE CRUZ BELTRAN ENSEMBLE
6 P.M., 7 P.M., 8:30 P.M., 9:30 P.M.
 Vibrato Grill Jazz will host three shows from June 14-16. On June 14, Tony Galla, internationally acclaimed singer-songwriter presents music influenced by the soulful sounds of B.B. King and Ray Charles. On June 15, Tony Guerrero and Friends with jazz vocalist Lia Booth play original compositions and artful original arrangements of standards from the Great American Songbook. Cover for these shows is \$25, with shows at 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. On June 16, Louie Cruz Beltran Ensemble celebrates Father's Day with a blend of Afro Cuban rhythms with jazz, Latin jazz, pop and R&B influences. Cover is \$40 or \$20 at the bar with shows at 6 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Reservations are available online.
vibratogrilljazz.com

NOW - JUNE 23

THEATRE 40: "THE EXPLORERS CLUB"
THURS.-SAT. 7:30 P.M.
SUN. 2 P.M.
 Theatre 40 presents the comedy "The Explorer's Club" written by Nell Benjamin and directed by Melanie MacQueen. The play takes place in London, 1879. The prestigious Explorers Club is in crisis: their acting president wants to admit a woman, and their bartender is terrible. True, this female candidate is brilliant, beautiful and has discovered a legendary Lost City, but the decision to let in a woman could shake the very foundation of the British Empire, and how do you make such a decision without a decent drink? Grab your safety goggles for some very mad science involving deadly cobras, irate Irishmen and the occasional airship. Tickets are \$35. Theatre 40 is located at 241 S. Moreno Drive, Beverly Hills.
theatre40.org

NOW - JUNE 30

HOLOCAUST MUSEUM LA AND BARNES & NOBLE AT THE GROVE PARTNER FOR JUNE BOOK TALKS
 Holocaust Museum LA and Barnes & Noble at The Grove have partnered for

Bookfair, which will include three author talks at the store. Holocaust Museum LA will receive a percentage of sales of any books sold to customers who use a promotional code for their in-store purchases between June 1-30 at The Grove or any other Barnes & Noble location. To use the promo code, shop in-store at any Barnes & Noble and use Book Fair ID: 12753141.
holocaustmuseumla.org/bn2024

NOW - AUG. 22

CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS: "CONCERTS ON CAÑON" SUMMER CONCERTS SERIES
6-8 P.M.
 The city of Beverly Hills presents its annual "Concerts on Cañon" summer concert series. "Concerts on Cañon" is a weekly summer concert series every Thursday through Aug. 22, with an array of music including classic rock, jazz, Caribbean, Brazilian, Persian and more. The next installment of the series is on June 20, featuring "AbSOULute" as they celebrate Juneteenth (Soul, Funk, R&B). It is free to attend these concerts.
beverlyhills.org

JUNE 16

ACADEMY MUSEUM OF MOTION PICTURES: "THE THIEF AND THE COBBLER: A MOMENT IN TIME"
11 A.M.
 Legendary animator Richard Williams ("Who Framed Roger Rabbit") spent three decades developing his animated feature "The Thief and the Cobbler," only to ultimately have it taken from his control, recut and released by others without his approval. In 2013, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences first presented this "Moment in Time" restoration of Williams's 1992 work print of the film, painstakingly reconstructed by the filmmaker and the Academy Film Archive. This version is the closest audiences have been to witnessing Williams's original, dazzlingly imaginative and eclectic vision. Animation drawings and cels by Williams for "The Thief and the Cobbler" are currently on view in the museum's Animation gallery, part of the Stories of Cinema exhibition. All tickets for this screening are \$5. The Academy Museum is located at 6067 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles.
academymuseum.org

CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE

FATHER'S DAY CAR SHOW

SUNDAY, JUNE 16, 2024 | 10 A.M. - 4 P.M.
 RODEO DRIVE | FREE

The Rodeo Drive Concours d'Elegance Car Show will return to Beverly Hills this Father's Day, Sunday, June 16, 2024, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free and open to the public!

ROAD CLOSURE:
 Rodeo Drive from Wilshire Blvd. to S. Santa Monica Blvd. beginning 9 p.m. Saturday, 6/15 to 11 p.m. Sunday, 6/16. To learn more, visit beverlyhills.org/concoursbh

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BHPD Explorers Graduate South Bay Regional Explorer Academy



Photo courtesy Natasha Shabani

Pictured at the Explorer graduation are (from left): BHPD Digital Media Technician Felipe Cardoso, Officer Arda Guvlekjian, Explorer Kate Fuerte, Explorer Isadora Cardoso, Chief Mark G. Stainbrook, Explorer Peter Shabani, BHPD Sergeant Jeffrey Newman, Officer Erica Maitland and Investigator Emma Nica

BY AMANDA COSCARELLI

On June 1, three Beverly Hills Explorers graduated from the South Bay Regional Explorer Academy, an intense 12-week-long training program that simulates the police academy for high school students. Peter Shabani, 14, Kate Fuerte, 15 and Isadora Cardoso, 15 are

the first to complete the rigorous boot camp that is now a requirement for those who want to become Beverly Hills Police Explorers. The completion of the academy represents hours of physical training, discipline and academic achievement.

The Police Explorer program, a

See BHPD EXPLORERS, page 75

Maple Counseling Center Celebrates Grand Opening



The Maple Counseling Center

Maple Counseling Center celebrated its grand opening with a ribbon-tying ceremony on June 9. The new community mental health clinic in mid-city L.A. includes the innovative Briskin | Wilder Welcome Center (BWWC). An array of community leaders and supporters attended the event.

"With all the chaos, division and uncertainty around us, it's more important than

ever to acknowledge and talk about things. It's OK to not be OK. We need the tools and guidance to navigate, and who better than the Maple Counseling Center to provide those skills?" said Beverly Hills Vice Mayor Sharona Nazarian.

The ribbon tying ceremony, a symbolic gesture representing a united See MAPLE COUNSELING, page 75

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A TOAST TO A CENTURY OF LIFESAVING IMPACT



Los Angeles Heart and Stroke Ball celebrates American Heart Association's 100th birthday, honors longtime volunteers and donors

American Heart Association supporters gathered at Beverly Wilshire in Beverly Hills this spring to commemorate a remarkable milestone: the Association's 100 years of lifesaving work.

At the heart of the celebration were two extraordinary individuals: Dr. Richard J. Shemin and Susan Shemin, who were recognized with the American Heart Association's Centennial Award. Special guest, NBA legend Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, joined the affair to pay tribute to the Shemins for their more than 40 years of volunteer leadership and significant contributions to propelling cardiovascular research and saving lives from heart disease and stroke, the nation's leading causes of death.

Actor, speaker and philanthropist Brooklyn McLinn shared his remarkable story of overcoming significant health challenges, including two heart attacks, three open-heart surgeries, a stroke and a heart transplant.

The event was led by chairperson Michael Ricks, Providence LA Coastal Service Area Chief Executive. Ricks will also lead the next Heart and Stroke Ball scheduled for March 1, 2025 at The Langham Huntington in Pasadena.

heart.org/SouthernCalifornia

The 2024 Los Angeles Heart and Stroke Ball was sponsored by:



Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Susan Shemin and Dr. Richard J. Shemin



Susan Shemin and Dr. Richard J. Shemin



Brooklyn McLinn

Presburger Honored with \$10,000 Award



Warner (left) and Raffle (far right) presented Presburger with the award.

The Rotary Club of Beverly Hills June 10 luncheon held a big surprise for Board Member and Chair of the Community Services Committee Wanda Presburger. She received a \$10,000 award for her outstanding service over the past year, which was presented by Janis Black Warner, on behalf of the Stanley and Joyce Black Family Foundation and Lillian Raffle, President of the Rotary Club of Beverly Hills.

The generous grant will support more of the social service projects for children that

Presburger notably spearheads.

“I am so grateful to everyone in this community, and especially to my Rotary Club,” Presburger told the Courier. “This was a very unexpected surprise. However, several of my fellow Rotary members pointed out that with this award I can go forward and ask the community to give even more, and my fellow Rotarians will help me distribute ‘the spoils’ amongst all the children we love to support.” ●

Nazarian Attends Centennial Celebration of Imperial Iranian Air Force



HRH Crown Prince Reza Pahlavi and Vice Mayor Sharona Nazarian at the IIAF event

Vice Mayor Sharona Nazarian attended the centennial celebration of the Imperial Iranian Air Force (IIAF), which was established in 1925. Organized by the Jewish communities of Los Angeles and the Persian American Civic Action Network (PACAN), the event took place on May 31 at the Richard M. Nixon Presidential

Library. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Reza Pahlavi addressed the gathering, paying tribute to the internationally respected role the air force played in the pre-Islamic Republic era. Nazarian presented both His Royal Highness and the IIAF with proclamations on behalf of the city of Beverly Hills. ●



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BVMS Students Honored at FIYA Awards Assembly



Photo courtesy of John Farren, FIYA Director of Operation

Twenty-one BVMS students were honored at the ceremony.

BY AMANDA COSCARELLI

The Foundation for Interscholastic Youth Athletes (FIYA) honored 21 Beverly Vista Middle School (BVMS) students at an awards ceremony on June 8. The awards recognized Division 1 athletes from BVMS's volleyball,

football, cross country, basketball, soccer and track and field, sportsmanship and academic teams. FIYA honors students with three awards: the All FIYA Teams award, All FIYA Cross Country award and All FIYA Track and Field award. BVMS students took home awards in all three categories. ●

Winners Announced at the Annual Pie Bake a 'la Beverly Hills & Piesta




Back row (from left): Dzubak, Brown, Mirisch, Eisen, Nazarian, Huff, Corman and Riceberg; Front row (from left): Grace, Hazel William Kaen and Julia Nasser

The city of Beverly Hills and its Community Services Department held the 19th annual Pie Bake a 'la Beverly Hills & Piesta at the Farmers' Market on June 9 with a range of festivities, including entertainment, kids pie-eating contest, and the coveted pie bake contest.

Twenty-four contestants entered. The first place winner, title of "Best Tasting Pie in Beverly Hills" and \$200 Farmers' Market money was awarded to Xander Eisen for his Chocolate Banana Cream Pie. The second place winner, along with \$100

Farmers' Market money, was awarded to Debbie Soroudi Kaen for her Apple Pie. Third place and \$50 Farmers' Market money was awarded to Kevin Brown for his Boysenberry Pie. And the most "Pie-utiful" and \$50 Farmers' Market money went to Julie Huff for her Pearls Apple Pie. Judges for the pie contest were Vice Mayor Sharona Nazarian, Councilmembers John Mirisch and Craig Corman, and Recreation and Parks Commissioners JR Dzubak and Tara Riceberg. ●



MULTI-FAMILY ADU COMMUNITY WORKSHOP


Engage with Beverly Hills planners in an interactive in-person workshop to discuss potential changes to multi-family Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) regulations. Share your perspective on key standards such as height, floor area, and more. Your participation will be valuable community feedback for our Planning Commission and City Council. Can't attend in-person? Join our virtual-only workshop on Zoom on July 31, 2024, covering the same topic.

WORKSHOP DETAILS


Date: MONDAY, JULY 8, 2024 | Time: 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Location: Beverly Hills City Hall - Municipal Gallery
455 North Rexford Drive
Beverly Hills, California 90210

✉ For further questions, please contact longrange@beverlyhills.org.





Scan the QR code below or visit beverlyhills.org/adu to participate in the City's community survey on multi-family ADUs.





Virtual Workshop:

Regulating Single-use Plastic and Expanded Polystyrene

On March 18, 2024 the Beverly Hills City Council adopted an ordinance prohibiting the distribution of single-use plastic and expanded polystyrene (e.g., Styrofoam) foodware.





The ordinance will reduce plastic waste by requiring food facilities that provide disposable foodware to use compostable or recyclable items. Most businesses, including restaurants, grocery stores, hotels, and pharmacies, will have until March 18, 2025, to comply.

Join the sustainability team to learn about requirements for compliance and business resources, such as the Early Adopter Program, with time at the end for Q&A.

Monday, June 24 2024 | 10 - 11 am

Questions? Feedback? Contact us at askBH@Beverlyhills.org or (310) 285-1000



Join via Zoom: beverlyhills-org.zoom.us/my/community
Passcode: 90210
 Call-in: (310) 288-1020
 More information here: beverlyhills.org/plasticandfoam

BACKDRAFT BALL, from page 1

while auctioneer Chuck Dukas kept the energy high as he bid off luxurious items including a Tulum getaway, an African safari, and the most highly coveted, a home-cooked meal at Fire Station 1 on Rexford Drive.

The focus of the night, however, was on the firefighters and their supporters in the community. The event's honoree was Jeanne S. Marks, who launched a scholarship fund in 2008 that awards educational grants to the children of Beverly Hills Fire Department (BHFD) firefighters, while Fire Engineers Vic Gutierrez and Melissa Hillis received the Harvey Adair-Art Davis Award and the Felix Rothchild Firefighter of the Year Award, respectively.

"I woke up this morning and am still beaming," Hillis told the Courier on June 12. "It's just surreal."

After being hired as a firefighter in 2008, Hillis was promoted to Fire Engineer in 2011 and has since emerged as one of the department's most dedicated mentors, particularly of young women in the fire service.

In 2022 and 2023, Hillis organized and led the BHFD Empowerment Camp, a two-day immersion in the fire service that teaches young people leadership skills and promotes their interest in a firefighting career. Hillis has represented BHFD in similar camps across the Los Angeles region and serves as treasurer on the Board of Directors for the Women's Fire Alliance.

Her efforts to inspire more women to join the fire service have paid off. For years, Hillis was the only woman serving in the BHFD, but there are now three female probationary firefighters in the department.

"I like to joke that my locker room is so fun now. I love having little sisters in the department," Hillis said. "I'm really proud of them."

Gutierrez has served the BHFD for three decades, and like Hillis, he has distinguished himself with a deep record of mentorship. He has been a BHFA board member for 14 years, including eight as president, during which he

helped the organization flourish and grow, according to the BHFA.

"Vic's career has been a testament to what it means to be a firefighter, a leader and a friend. His legacy of service, mentorship and dedication will continue to inspire future generations of firefighters," the BHFA stated. "Tonight, we celebrate not only his career but also the person he is—a mentor, a leader and a friend."

The BHFD is unique not only for its stellar reputation—it is one of 122 fire departments worldwide that are both Class 1 and accredited—but for its strong ties with the community, as evidenced by the Judie Fenton Community & Volunteer Excellence Award presented to former Mayor Les Bronte.

"I'm 89, [helping my community] is my reason for getting out of bed," Bronte said.

Asked what sets the BHFD apart from other fire departments, Bronte said, "Training, reward, always [being] on the cutting edge. Innovation saves lives."

It is no surprise then that the Beverly Hills community goes above and beyond to help the firefighters who serve them.

Since establishing The Donald Reynolds Beverly Hills Firefighters' Association Scholarship Fund in honor of her late husband, Marks has helped award 74 college scholarships and 289 K-12 enrichment scholarships, according to the BHFA.

Marks became involved with the department through her work as an event coordinator and organizational consultant with FTA Events and Marketing (the company that organized the Backdraft Ball), and she was impressed by the friendliness, professionalism and dedication of the first responders she worked with.

She recounted how, one evening, she called an ambulance after consulting her doctor about a benign cardiac arrhythmia. When the ambulance showed up, it was staffed by many of the same paramedics and firefighters she had had coffee with during a meeting earlier that morning. Because of

her condition, Marks had to be attached to an EKG machine, which meant she would have to take off her top.

"So, there I was with the guys I sat having coffee with that morning, having to take my top off," Marks said. "But they were very kind, very professional, very respectful, and they

put me at ease."

"Firefighters, thank you so much. For this honor. It really means the world to me; I've loved working with you over the years ... I have a lot of gratitude, from the bottom of my now fixed heart," Marks said. ●



Photo by Joey Waldinger

Jeanne S. Marks expressed her gratitude for being honored at the Backdraft Ball.



Photo by Roger Reiner-RBRPhotography

BHFD Chief Greg Barton with Fire Engineer Melissa Hillis, who won the Felix Rothchild Firefighter of the Year Award. [For additional images, see the online version of this story at beverlyhillscourier.com.]



Photo by Clara Harter

Trump supporters gathered outside the Beverly Hills fundraiser on June 7.

TRUMP, from page 1

Trump 2024 banners and cheered "We want Trump!"

While overall more Beverly Hills residents voted for Biden than Trump in the 2020 election, the city contains some of the only precincts in Los Angeles that voted red. For example, a majority of voters in the Trousdale Estates and surrounding streets north of Sunset Boulevard favored Trump in 2020.

Beverly Hills resident Kristen Williamson was thrilled by Trump's visit and brought her five children with her to the rally.

"We just love him and what he does for the country and his perseverance," Williamson told the Courier. "Obviously he's being persecuted right now, most likely illegally, and it's just a complete two-tiered justice system."

Trump's visit to Beverly Hills comes days after he was found guilty of 34 felonies in a New York court. This verdict has been met with strong backlash from many Republicans who feel that the case was politically motivated, and it has led to a historic surge in contributions to Trump's campaign.

"In the last two weeks we've seen record

fundraising numbers and I think there's a general revulsion of the fact that we're going to be trying political candidates in this country," Chairman of the Republican Party of L.A. County Tim O'Reilly told the Courier. "People are coming out in such strong support of President Trump because they realize this is wrong, you don't do that, that's not an American thing to do."

Another group of Trump supporters gathered outside the Samson residence on Elm Drive, hoping to catch a glimpse of the former president coming in and out of the fundraiser.

Samson is the owner of Windsor Healthcare Management, which operates more than 30 nursing homes across California and Arizona. He has a long history of fundraising for the Republican party and serves on the board of the Republican Jewish Coalition.

After Trump decided to relocate the U.S. Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem, Samson was part of the American delegation at the embassy's opening. He was also one of very few invited to witness the signing of the Abraham Accords, which established diplomatic relations between Israel and the UAE, at the White House.

Samson previously hosted Trump at his

home in 2019 for a campaign fundraiser that raised \$5 million. And he hosted Ivanka Trump for a fundraiser in 2020 that raised an additional \$2 million for the reelection campaign.

Trump's recent visit to Beverly Hills comes as part of a three-day fundraising swing through California.

On June 6, he attended a Bay Area fundraiser hosted by Silicon Valley venture capitalists Chamath Palihapitiya and David Sacks and Sack's wife Jacqueline. Then on June 8, he headed down to Newport Beach to attend a fundraiser hosted by VR entrepreneur Palmer Lackey.

"California is certainly a fundraising capital for both the Republicans and the Democrats, there's no question about that," said O'Reilly. "So, I would venture to say it's certainly not the last we've seen of the former president. I expect him to return several times."

President Biden, meanwhile, has already made three fundraising trips to Los Angeles since December 2023. And he'll be back in town next weekend for a major event in DTLA with speakers including Barack Obama, George Clooney and Julia Roberts. ●

Avoiding Toxic Conversations in Our Turbulent Political Times

BY EVA RITVO, M.D.

The recent criminal verdicts against former President Donald Trump and Hunter Biden highlight once again how diametrically opposed our thinking can be from our neighbors. Both sides often interpret events through the lenses of their past beliefs, leading to opposite conclusions. As a mental health provider, what concerns me is the vigor with which some are supporting their beliefs.

Information overload leading to excess cortisol is a significant factor contributing to the outpouring of emotions. As we've discussed previously, negative news spikes our cortisol levels. Our bodies enter fight, flight or freeze mode, and our thinking becomes hyperfocused and less complex. When we find ourselves at odds with colleagues, classmates, friends or family, we secrete more cortisol, fueling the cycle.

Gandhi wisely urged us, "Be the change you wish to see in the world." Here are some tips to help you create a calmer, more productive and joyful summer ahead despite whatever the world news throws at us.

1. Consume news carefully: Monitor closely the news you ingest. Check local and world news as needed and not throughout your day. Reading (not watching) the news can be less distressing, and avoid stories that are too triggering. Ask yourself what actions you can take to be a part of the solution, such as writing your Congressional representative, donating time or money to causes you care about, or reaching out to a friend or neighbor who may be directly or indirectly impacted by current events. Listen to a variety of news sources to make sure you are getting a rounded view of events.

2. Think before you speak: Be thoughtful about how and when to share your viewpoints. Many friendships and family relationships have been severed over differing views on Trump, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Hunter Biden and many other issues we are facing. How many more relationships can we afford to lose? Speaking up in the right situation is imperative, but doing so in the wrong situation or wrong way can be destructive. Telling the difference is not easy. Remember you can't take back hurtful words. I often tell my patients that while silence is golden, duct tape is silver.

3. Know your why: If you choose to bring up a potentially divisive subject, be clear about your goals and make sure you are taking the right steps to achieve them. Difficult conversations are best considered for at least 24 hours before diving in to ensure you are speaking from a thoughtful and not impulsive place. Writing notes in advance can help. Even ChatGPT can assist you in finding the right words to use if you decide to speak up.

4. Choose conversations wisely: If we only speak to friends with similar views, we remain in our echo chamber and fail to grow. If we seek opinions too far from our own, we risk feeling enraged. So, where do we draw the line? Each of us must draw it in a way that works. Some like to keep their conversations as conflict-free as possible while others love a good sparring match. My best advice is to know yourself and carefully choose the right people with whom to discuss particular issues.

5. Speak thoughtfully: Rules developed for couples having difficult conversations can be applied here as well. No name-calling or insulting. Talk directly about how you feel. During a challenging conversation, think of pointing the finger at yourself, not the other person. This reminds you to make statements like, "I feel, I think, I believe..." If you point a finger at someone, they will get defensive, and the conversation will likely be unproductive.

6. Listen attentively: Make sure to give the other person your undivided attention and give them time to explain how they feel. This may be uncomfortable, but it is the best way to learn.

7. Plan your exit strategy: If you become too distressed, have a phrase ready to exit the conversation such as, "While I appreciate your willingness to share, I find this topic too upsetting and prefer not to go further with this conversation right now."

8. Take time to collect your thoughts: When we stop the hamster wheel in our head, we can find inner quiet. From that

space, it is easier to be creative and solve problems. We are living in a time of great challenge and opportunity. Walking in nature, dipping in the pool or ocean, watching a sunset, sitting under a tree or meditating give us an opportunity to reboot our brain and figure out what we can or should do to help our world. It needs us. As Mark Twain said, "Actions speak louder than words but not nearly as often."

We are now in yet another fascinating chapter in American history. As we wait for Trump and Biden to be sentenced, remember it is our responsibility to care for ourselves and our relationships and to make choices that enhance our well-being. Work to avoid the rabbit hole of unproductive conversations both in person and online. Time holds the answer to all the questions we have now, and a healthy mind and body will best prepare us for whatever lies ahead.

"Peace comes from within. Do not seek it without."

-Buddha ●



Beverly Hills Courier columnist Dr. Eva Ritvo is a psychiatrist with more than 30 years' experience practicing in Miami Beach. She is the author of "Bekindr-The Transformative Power of Kindness" and the founder of the Bekindr Global Initiative, a movement to bring more kindness in the world. She is the co-author of "The Beauty Prescription" and "The Concise Guide to Marriage and Family Therapy." She is also the co-founder of the Bold Beauty Project, a nonprofit that pairs women with disabilities with award-winning photographers creating art exhibitions to raise awareness. Dr. Ritvo received her undergraduate and medical degrees from UCLA, and psychiatry residency training at Weill Cornell Medicine.

NEWS

HEALTH AND SAFETY, from page 1
depression and suicide. At the meeting, Berkman discussed the risks of being exposed to these dangers at as young as 6 years of age. Social media and screen time in classrooms have been a cause of tension among parents at recent BHUSD Board of Education meetings, and Berkman's organization has been working with the district to provide training on how to monitor iPad and phone usage at home and at schools. The amount of time spent on social media, as Berkman explained, has the largest impact on mental health.

According to his statistics, 70% of teens use social media every day, averaging nine hours each day. According to another statistic, teens who use social media for more than five hours each day are 70% more likely to have suicidal thoughts. Today, suicide is the second leading cause of death among teens in the United States according to the Population Reference Bureau.

Berkman suggested a few preventative strategies to help parents protect their teens from social media dangers. The three most

important things that parents can do are to monitor the settings on their child's social media apps, put rules in place for navigating different situations they may come across online and have conversations about possible dangers. "Education is a huge component and parents really need to understand the full range of dangers that threaten their children when they go on these platforms," said Berkman. In-depth tutorials are available for free on the organization's website at <https://www.socialmediasafety.org/>.

The commissioners suggested continuing the conversation at future meetings. "It's not just the direct adverse effects, but what is it that people are not doing because they're spending nine hours a day or more on social media?" asked Commissioner Dr. Lee Hilborne.

One of the things people can substitute for scrolling on social media is a moment of mindfulness. The commission welcomed another guest speaker, spiritual teacher and author, David Gandelman, to lead them in one of these mental health breaks during the meeting. He led a short meditation as he explained the

importance of being present in each moment. "Most of the anxiety we experience is when our mind gets ahead of us into the future and our body is left here in the moment," he said.

After the meditation, the commission honored Gandelman with a certificate of recognition for the services he provides to the Beverly Hills community through his meditation apps and online classes.

In an update on the BHUSD, Board of Education Vice President Rachele Marcus addressed concerns about young elementary students who are unable to attend the same school as their siblings due to full TK classes at those schools. At the last Board of Education meeting, a parent of two students at Horace Mann Elementary School complained that his son would have to attend TK at El Rodeo Elementary School. "My bottom line-I would approve another class [at Horace Mann]," said Marcus, who is ready to advocate for the families.

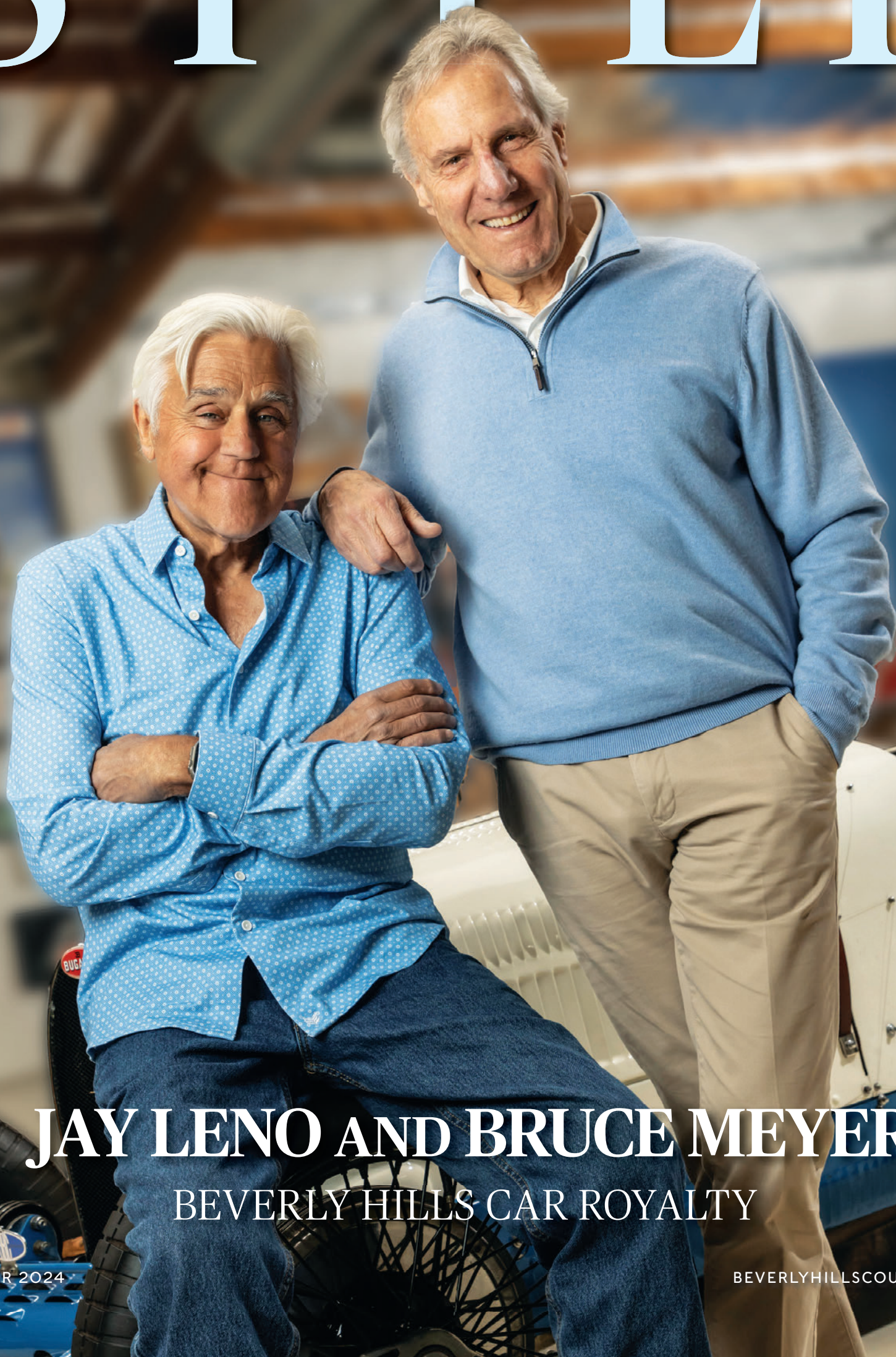
She was also asked about parents' concerns over larger classes at El Rodeo. "The problem is really the discipline," she said, recalling

complaints from parents who said that there were behavioral issues in their third graders' class. "And I would imagine that if there wasn't a discipline problem, then that wouldn't have been an issue. That's my own personal feeling."

The Human Services Division Administrator Christopher Paulson also gave an update on unhoused services. During the month of May, the division's outreach teams encountered 232 unhoused individuals in the city. All five of their unhoused shelter beds were occupied and one resident was moved to permanent supportive housing. Out of 30 permanent housing units, 18 are now occupied. One of these residents has made significant improvements, according to Paulson, and has started selling his own artwork. In May, he sold his first painting for \$300 and he hopes to participate in the Beverly Hills Art Show in November.

"It's not just about reducing the homeless because the residents want it, but we're doing something right by people," said Hilborne, who praised the Human Services Division's work in the community. ●

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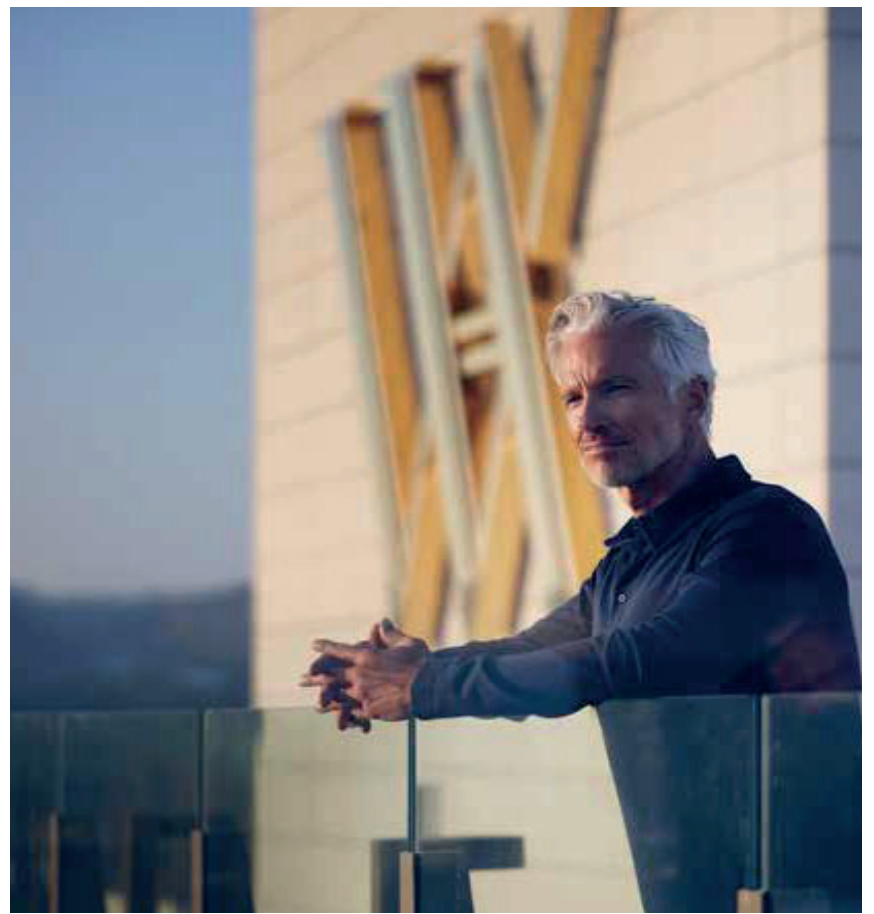
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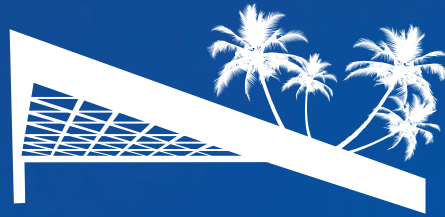




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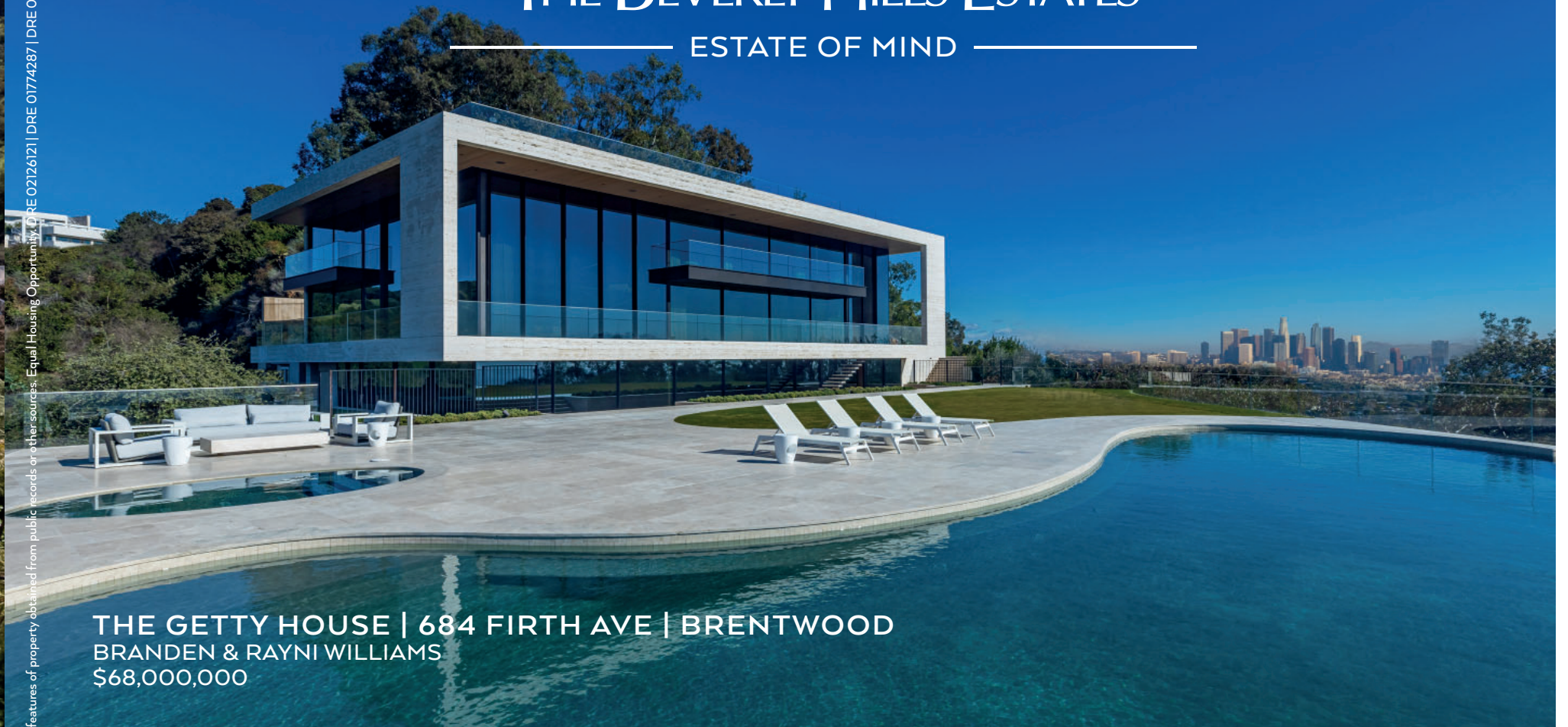
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LISA FRIEDMAN BLOCH



JOHN BENDHEIM

Within the fabric of our iconic city of Beverly Hills lives a magical blend of the past and the future. In this Summer STYLE issue, we celebrate our city's rich history, the gleaming possibilities that lie ahead, and the people and places working to build a bridge that connects and enhances them both.

Explore our new sustainable projects from stunning new builds to reimagined historic landmarks, by visionary developers and architects, in "Building the Future of Beverly Hills," proving that preservation and progress are not mutually exclusive.

Meet "The Fit-Fluencers of Beverly Hills" with some of the hottest fitness trainers in the nation. Learn about the trending workouts in local classes and on today's most popular and modernized digital fitness apps.

Travel back in time to "The Virginia Robinson Gardens: A Hidden Gem in Beverly Hills" and tour the very first estate in Beverly Hills as we pay homage to the city's roots, and the extraordinary woman who left behind exquisite botanical gardens for future generations to enjoy.

Peruse "Old Crafts, New Skills" as we highlight all of the unique spots around Beverly Hills offering workshops and classes in old-world crafts like glassblowing and pottery. With classes for kids, adults and seniors, it's never too early or too late to find a new obsession.

Splurge this season with the most coveted designer products, from luxe swimwear to high-end sporting accessories, in "Must-Haves for Summer." Or, indulge yourself in this season's hottest entertainment. We have your picks covered in "Sizzling Summer Releases."

And last, but not least, buckle up for our exclusive cover story, "Jay Leno and Bruce Meyer: How They Became The Kings of Cars," as the pair take readers on a whirlwind tour of automotive history, and share what drives their friendship and makes their hearts go vroom.

To Bruce and Jay, thank you for welcoming the Courier to take a fun, fact-filled, once-in-a-lifetime ride.

A big shout out to my partner, John, who has worked tirelessly to help us reach our goal of four, quarterly Courier magazines!

To our supportive local, national and international advertisers, thank you for your enduring support. You are a big part of the Courier family, and we are forever grateful.

John and I wish you a splendid summer in the Beverly Hills sunshine, and we hope you always turn to the Courier for the latest and greatest local news, events and heartfelt community connections!

LISA FRIEDMAN BLOCH, PUBLISHER AND WRITER



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The Fit-Fluencers of Beverly Hills

BY LINDA IMMEDIATO

Fitness is all about choices these days. Whether it's a favorite boutique fitness studio or an app at our fingertips, we're combining traditional ways of staying in shape with modern digital options, resulting in consistent workouts and healthier, stronger bodies.

A recent study by Statista charted the dawn of the digital fitness age. According to its findings, in 2019, there were 8.5 million fitness mobile apps downloaded. In 2020, the number swelled to 16.8 million (we all know why). In the intervening years, downloads have held steady at around 16 million. According to a recent forecast by Allied Market Research, the global fitness app market was valued at \$13.78 billion in 2020. It's projected to reach \$120.37 billion by 2030.

The figures for 2024 so far reflect the rise of a recent fitness trend—the hybrid workout model, a personalized mix of an old school, in-person gym experience, and a new school, high-tech, at-home one for the ultimate flexibility.

Leading the market is a group of trainers whose two-way livestreams, social media posts and on-demand videos have catapulted them to celebrity status. Collectively, millions around the world log on to their virtual classes.

Lucky for Beverly Hills, their home base is your backyard. So, not only can you livestream with your favorite workout instructor, but you also have the option of catching a class in real life with them.

Here are some of the top “fit-fluencers” and “fit-trepreneurs” who are ready to sweat with you—either virtually or in person. Whether you're looking for tried and true workouts like yoga and classical Pilates or you're ready to try something new like low-impact resistance training, dance cardio or high-intensity boxing, you might just find your next workout obsession.



DANI COLEMAN

PHOTO COURTESY OF PVLVE

DANI COLEMAN Pvolve

From its launch in 2017, Pvolve was set up by its founder, Rachel Katzman, as an omnichannel brand with on-demand and live virtual workouts, brick-and-mortar studios and dedicated social media content across all platforms. It was well received from the start, but membership skyrocketed during the pandemic when tens of thousands discovered Pvolve (which stands for “personal evolution”) and former professional dancer, Dani Coleman.

Coleman joined the fitness company as head trainer in 2020. A few months later, when gyms and studios were forced to close, her job mainly consisted of filming on-demand videos and teaching live virtual classes. Coleman quickly became one of the fitness brand's most popular trainers. Around the same time, Jennifer Aniston found Coleman's Pvolve livestream workouts online, logged on to her classes anonymously, and followed along, quickly becoming obsessed. Coleman is now Aniston's personal Pvolve trainer, and the pair work out several times a week together. As for the “Friends” star, her obsession with Pvolve led to her officially joining as a partner in the company last year.

“I was so excited to hear Jennifer Aniston was a secret streamer of our online workouts,” said Coleman. “I feel grateful Pvolve has brought us together. In working with Jen, I've learned she loves a challenging workout. It's rewarding to support her in getting the results she wants and for her to see how she doesn't have to strain or break her body to achieve them.”

For Katzman, this is what Pvolve is all about. “I think the hottest trend is longevity,” she added. “People are starting to understand what we do to our bodies today will impact us in three, five, 10-plus years, and the wear and tear we may be able to take in our early 20s will have a dramatic negative impact on us later in life. You don't have to walk around with shoulder, neck or back pain anymore, and you shouldn't have to sacrifice reaching your physical goals in order to feel good in your body.”

Pvolve is now a coast-to-coast fitness phenomenon. Last year, the low-impact resistance training program doubled its subscribers and had a 40% increase in studio memberships. It has a celebrity following that includes pop star Olivia Rodrigo and actress Dakota Johnson. There are four owned and operated Pvolve studios, one in Chicago, another in New York, and soon, two in Los Angeles. The sunlit, breezy flagship in West Hollywood features a state-of-the-art studio with a stunning rooftop deck for outdoor classes and private training, locker rooms and a fully stocked primping area. A second outpost is set to open this summer in Santa Monica. In addition, more than 50 Pvolve franchises are currently in the works nationwide.

Whether you take a Pvolve class in-studio, on-demand or as part of the two-way live virtual studio (where members take a live class and directly engage with trainers), the workouts are the same. The Pvolve method involves a series of controlled and precise movements using the company's proprietary equipment, such as resistance bands of various lengths and resistance strengths and exercise balls like the signature P.ball, designed to float between your thighs to target that hard-to-tone area. Standing on a numbered mat, which acts as your compass, the trainer guides you through proper form, calling out numbers that correspond to numbers on the mat for correct foot and body placement, while you stretch and pull resistance bands or squeeze balls. Those following along at home can purchase equipment bundles (which include the mat, bands and balls) or individual equipment from



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MEGAN ROUP

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE SCULPT SOCIETY

the company's website. "Adjusting to teaching virtually was interesting at first," said Coleman. "But the numbered mat was an absolute game changer."

A variety of workouts are offered for all formats, from low-impact for toning to a heart-rate bumping combo of cardio and form-focused strength training. There's also a stretch class and a progressive weight training program, designed for women over 40, or anyone looking to build strength. Many of the workouts are geared toward women, such as pelvic floor strengthening exercises, and workouts for every stage of a woman's cycle, from menstrual to pre/postnatal to menopause. Pvolve's in-studio workouts are 45 minutes and virtual workouts range from 15 minutes to an hour, with equipment or no equipment options.

To connect with her virtual fans, Coleman uses her social media but doesn't let it consume her life. "I understand the importance of content creation and these virtual spaces. However, I personally try not to get caught up in them and stay focused on what's important. For me, that is making health and fitness spaces more accessible, equitable and diverse. I hope that's represented when you see the work I am doing."

In person, Coleman, who teaches exclusively at the West Hollywood studio, is a force of nature. She's that cool girl you want to be friends with, the one who's so confident and comfortable in her skin, but down-to-earth and completely approachable. It's no wonder her classes fill up fast.

MEGAN ROUP

The Sculpt Society

Certified celebrity fitness trainer Megan Roup launched The Sculpt Society (TSS) app in 2017. Roup already had a massive social media presence and regularly posted videos of her workouts and fitness advice to her more than 500,000 followers. Realizing she had a built-in audience who craved her content, the former New Jersey Nets dancer decided to create a platform where members could access a variety of simple, upbeat and energetic at-home workouts with no equipment required. It took off. "Pandemic or no pandemic, I think the rise of digital fitness would have to happen," said Roup.

Today, the app has hundreds of thousands of members who can stream from anywhere in the world, on any device. They can choose between dance-cardio, sculpting, yoga and meditation, and "quickie" workouts lasting 10 minutes to full 45-minute burn-a-thons.

To connect with virtual members, some halfway around the world, Roup invites them to stay on the video link for a "coffee chat" after each live workout. There's also a private TSS Facebook Group, for subscribing members only, where they can connect with Roup and one another. "There's conversation and connection there," she said. "I'm just constantly talking with my community, on Instagram and direct messages [as well]. I feel really lucky in that way. I think that's the beauty of social media; you really have a direct line to clients and members and can just listen to them and their needs and what they're looking for; it's really important. Those are definitely the biggest ways I connect with them. And then, of course, pop-ups around the country where I get to, you know, meet them in real life!"

In 2021, pregnant with her first baby, Roup and her husband moved across the country from New York City to West Hollywood, to be close to the fitness instructor's family in Santa Barbara and the fitness capital of the world. While at this stage Roup has no plans to open a brick-and-mortar studio, she set up a weekly residency at Playground West Hollywood, where L.A. area locals can catch a Sculpt class with Roup every Wednesday at 9:30 a.m., if they can score a spot.

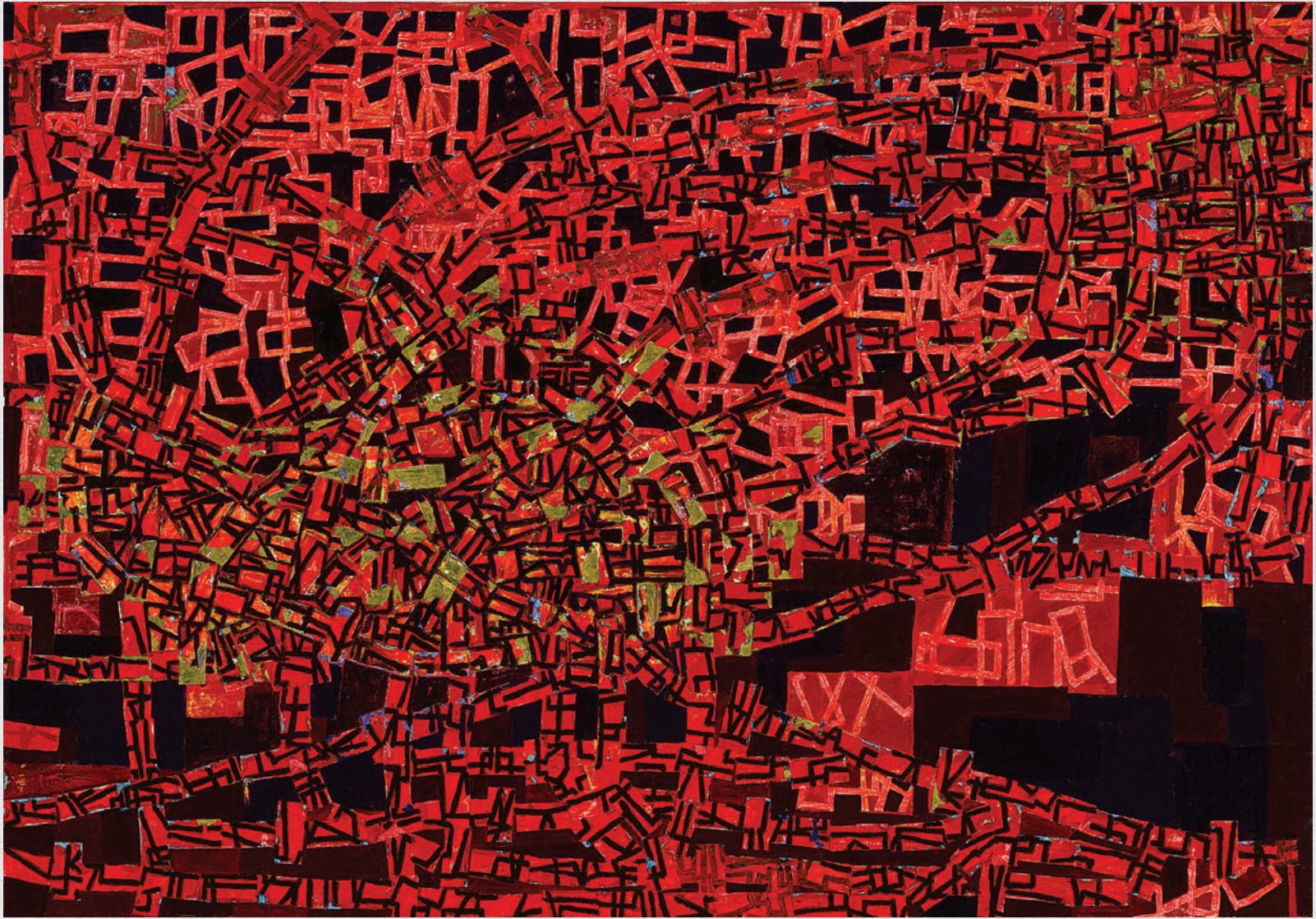
In addition, Roup is also a full-time content creator for Instagram and TikTok, requiring her to post several times a day on each platform. She spends a lot of time making videos. "These are often me just walking my community through my day pretty organically," she said. "Then I go live and create content for the TSS app." The videos might look like big budget productions, but Roup said, "I literally film in my kitchen. I'm the lighting director, the videographer and the editor. I set it all up myself."

This month, Sculpt will launch its fertility program, designed to help women who are trying to conceive through in vitro fertilization and have gone through a miscarriage. "We're there to just help and guide them with workouts alongside conversations with doctors and therapists to support women who are going through this stage of life," Roup said.

Besides the infectious energy and generous spirit she brings to her workouts, what sets Sculpt apart?

"I'm a really big believer in short workouts. They make it easier for my members to show up consistently and make working out a habit. Consistency is what makes it effective," she said. "Time and time again, we hear from our members they feel they've gone on this life journey with me. And at each stage, there's something new for them and they feel so supported through it all with us. So, I think it's the combination of those things, making working out fun again, joyful and effective."

THE FIT-FLUENCERS OF BEVERLY HILLS CONTINUES ON PAGE 68



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
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The Virginia Robinson Gardens: A Hidden Gem in Beverly Hills

BY LINDA IMMEDIATO



THE FRONT OF THE VIRGINIA ROBINSON GARDENS
PHOTO BY JOSHUA JOHNSTON

The hedges grow taller and broader on the drive up Elden Way as they work to conceal increasingly audacious mansions. The street dead ends in a cul-de-sac, where a Mediterranean-inspired, modified Beaux Arts home stands in stark contrast. Dipping shyly beneath the curb on a gentle slope of a hill, it's out of place, almost quaint among the monoliths. A modest scrolling wrought iron gate marks the entrance, a portal back to a place and time that was more warm and welcoming.

Beyond it is The Virginia Robinson Gardens (VRG), a living museum offering a rare glimpse into early life in Beverly Hills. The 6.2-acre estate and botanical garden was the residence of Virginia and Harry Winchester Robinson. Built in 1911, it is considered the “first estate” in Beverly Hills. The Robinsons transformed a barren stretch of barley into a series of lush hillsides featuring heirloom varieties and many rare and exotic plants, including the largest king palm forest in the Northern Hemisphere.

Virginia, a legendary hostess and grand dame of her day, is referred to as the “first lady of Beverly Hills.” With the help of a live-in staff of 12, including a cook and majordomo, she threw several parties per week throughout her decades-long residency. She entertained royalty, including the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, and film icons such as Mary Pickford and Mae West, among many others.

The Virginia Robinson Gardens was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1978. Since 1982, the museum estate has been jointly operated by the County of Los Angeles and the Friends of Robinson Gardens (FRG), a nonprofit organization, which ensures its funding.

Last year, the city of Beverly Hills expressed interest in taking over operations of The Virginia Robinson Gardens. Los Angeles County was amenable to the idea, and L.A. County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath gave a 180-day deadline for both sides to return to the table with a plan. The Courier recently reached out to both sides for an update. Diane Sipos, superintendent of VRG under L.A. County management, would not comment on the progress of talks. Instead, she would only confirm that VRG is currently operated by L.A. County Parks and Recreation Department. A press spokesperson for L.A. County said, “We are currently in discussions with the city of Beverly Hills, and we have no further comments until these discussions progress further.” As for the city of Beverly Hills, “Discussions are ongoing,” said Keith Sterling, Beverly Hills Deputy City Manager, adding, “As you might imagine, there are several complex logistical elements, and the process is taking a bit longer than anticipated.”

No matter who ends up running operations, there's no denying that The Virginia Robinson Gardens and its former inhabitants are inexorably linked to the city of Beverly Hills.



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The only way for the general public to experience this gem is to book a spot in advance on a docent-led tour (\$15 per person) around the grounds. While the botanical tour focuses solely on the gardens, the 90-minute historical tour offers a stroll through the various terraced landscapes, as well as a peek inside the lives and living spaces of these Beverly Hills pioneers.

Virginia Catherine Dryden, born in 1877, was the daughter of Nathaniel Dryden, a self-taught architectural designer and building contractor. Three of his designs have since made the National Register of Historic Landmarks. Virginia's uncle was Leslie Brand, the railroad tycoon and developer later dubbed "the father of Glendale."

Harry Winchester Robinson was born in 1878 into a mercantile family dynasty. His grandfather had built Boston Dry Goods, which, under Harry's father, Joseph Winchester, became the upscale, turn of the last century downtown department store J.W. Robinson, which Harry would later helm. A few decades and mergers later, it evolved into the store known as Robinsons-May, the last of which shuttered in 2006.

As the offspring of two prominent Los Angeles families, Virginia and Harry naturally traveled in the same high-society circles. Still, their wedding in November 1903 came as a surprise; it took place just six days after their engagement announcement was printed in the Los Angeles Times.

Following the young couple's honeymoon, they embarked on a series of trips that spanned several years and the globe—with extended visits to Europe, Egypt, India, China, Japan, South America and other far-flung locales. While away on one such lengthy adventure, a new

town was slowly springing up in the shrub brush of Los Angeles. The pair were surprised to hear about it upon their return, and with curiosity piqued by the rumor it was to be the site of the relocated Los Angeles Country Club, Mr. and Mrs. Robinson set out to find the newly developed Beverly Hills.

What Virginia and Harry discovered on their fateful twilight drive in January 1911 was a golf course under construction amid vast empty tracts of land. "We never found the club," Virginia would later tell a reporter, adding, "But we found ourselves on a slight hill with a lovely view of rippling wheat fields and the mountains. A full moon was shining down, and Harry said, 'This is where we are going to live.'" The following day, Harry went to the Rodeo Land and Water Company and, by 10 a.m., had purchased the parcel for \$7,500 from Burton Green. Virginia later recalled, "Burton Green had built Beverly Hills. But there wasn't one house here. There wasn't a single thing out here. Just a little bit of a real estate office, kind of a shed, on Santa Monica Boulevard."

Once the deed was in hand, Virginia's father quickly set about designing and constructing the couple's home. By September 1911, the "L" shaped, 6,000-square-foot house was completed. The earliest photo shows the flat Italianate-style villa, with a parapet of cast stone balustrades and a column-supported portico, squatting on a dusty, barren hilltop. A straight concrete path led from the dirt street to the front steps—no hedges or fence. Privacy wasn't an issue; nobody lived in Beverly Hills yet. The grounds consisted of little more than a meadow in front and a great lawn at the back (both sodded), a tennis court and, the following year, a small lap pool.



TOP LEFT: VIRGINIA ROBINSON, CIRCA EARLY 1900; BOTTOM LEFT: HARRY ROBINSON, CIRCA EARLY 1900; TOP RIGHT: VIRGINIA (WITH A WOMAN BELIEVED TO BE HER MOTHER) AND HARRY ON THEIR WEDDING DAY IN 1903; BOTTOM RIGHT: HARRY AND VIRGINIA ON ONE OF THEIR MANY TRIPS TO EGYPT

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE VIRGINIA ROBINSON GARDENS ARCHIVE

THE VIRGINIA ROBINSON GARDENS CONTINUES ON PAGE 52



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Sizzling Summer Releases

BY NEELY SWANSON



EDDIE MURPHY IN "BEVERLY HILLS COP: AXEL F"
PHOTO BY MELINDA SUE GORDON, COURTESY OF NETFLIX

Summer is upon us and that always brings a new slate of films with something for everyone, but especially for those tweeners and post-adolescents (both in age and maturity). This year is the same and somewhat different because of the ripple effect caused by last year's strikes. It takes longer than you might imagine to get original material from the page to the screen. Nevertheless, Hollywood geared up and has given us a calendar chock full of choices for all. Will any become another juggernaut like Barbenheimer? Too soon to tell, but one thing is for certain, you will not be bored.

Expect sequels of your favorites, remakes and reimaginings of stories from the past.

There are video game adaptations, with starry casts and fun, snarky scripts; family-friendly fare; and imaginative sequels to franchises of yesteryear like "Beverly Hills Cop," only now Axel has a daughter! Horror is intermingled with thrills in the latest installment of "A Quiet Place." There are some enticing originals featuring an array of topics, both dramatic and comedic, some with spies, lots with thrills, and what is a summer without superheroes? There's even an epic Western, presented in two parts, each premiering several weeks apart. For me, I'm looking forward to "Hitman," premiering exclusively on Netflix, and "Thelma" because who isn't enchanted by the feisty nonagenarian June Squibb? Lots of movie stars, old and new, from Sean Penn, Kevin Costner and Michel Keaton to Austin Butler and Glen Powell. And there's a plethora of M. Night Shyamalan. They're all waiting for you at the box office. (Dates may change.)

Without further ado, here they are:

JUNE 6

"Hitman," sure to be action packed and loaded with humor, is directed by Richard Linklater dipping into the well of his Texas roots. The venerable "Texas Monthly" magazine is the source of this material about an undercover policeman posing as a hitman who goes off book. Glen Powell, the breakout star from "Top Gun: Maverick," leads the cast. (Streaming on Netflix)

JUNE 14

"Bad Boys 4" reunites Martin Lawrence, who hasn't been seen in too much lately, and Will Smith, who's been spreading himself a bit too thin for audience tastes. Still, the supporting cast is surprisingly interesting with Ioan Gruffudd, Eric Dane and Vanessa Hudgens.

"Inside Out 2" returns us to the brain of Riley, who is facing new and treacherous pathways as her teenage emotions place a stranglehold on her as she tries to negotiate her way through college. Count on Amy Poehler to lead us through her limbic system.

"Treasure" stars Lena Dunham as the journalist daughter of a Holocaust survivor played by Steven Fry who takes her to the Poland of his youth. The memories of his treatment are still fresh, and there are places he won't go so he deliberately sabotages those visits. (Limited release)

"The Watchers" is an M. Night Shyamalan-produced film, directed by his daughter Ishana. Stranded in the forest, a young woman is stalked by creatures and surrounded by strangers. "You can't see them, but they see everything." Starring Dakota Fanning, there will be shivers.

JUNE 21

“The Bikeriders,” a much-anticipated and postponed character study, stars Jodie Comer, Austin Butler and Tom Hardy. Based on the 1967 photo book by Danny Lyon, the film chronicles the rise and fall of a biker gang over a number of years. Not sure how it’s going to play out with the weird American accents of the very British Comer and Hardy. Keep an eye out for Michael Shannon, the man who cannot smile. This subculture is an interesting pursuit.

“Fire Brand” is the story of Katherine Parr’s fight to survive as Henry VIII’s last wife as the court conspires against her. Alicia Vikander stars as Katherine and her paramour is played by Jude Law, no doubt relying on a prosthetic magician because late-stage Henry was not a vision to look upon. (Limited release)

“Kinds of Kindness,” the much-anticipated film by Yorgos Lanthimos (“Poor Things”), has a starry cast led by his muse, Emma Stone. It’s all very mysterious and being kept under wraps until the last minute.

JUNE 28

“A Quiet Place: Day One” is the third in the franchise and a prequel to the previous two. The super-hearing, murderous aliens have landed in New York City, and the quiet has begun. A new cast, with the exception of Djimon Hounsou who was in “Part II,” must try to evade these monsters. This time John Krasinski has turned the directing over to Michael Sarnoski who shares story credit with Krasinski. Lupita Nyong’o stars, and she’s always worth watching.

“Horizon: An American Saga Chapter 1” is Kevin Costner’s epic about the settling of the West as the Civil War was being waged. Given his past sympathies, it is presumed he will try to present all sides of the expansion as he shapes a character-driven narrative. I love a good Western, especially one that realistically shows Native Americans fighting fruitlessly to protect their lands. Costner stars alongside Sienna Miller, Jeff Fahey, Sam Worthington, Thomas Hayden Church and Glynn Turman, among many others. It’s a two-parter, and “Chapter 2” will premiere on Aug. 16.

“Green Border” is the prize-winning film by Agnieszka Holland that Poland chose not to submit to the Academy Awards as their official selection. It tells a story of Middle Eastern and African migrants fooled into believing that they would be readily accepted into the EU. The lives of an activist, a border guard and a Syrian family intertwine on the Polish-Belarusian border in this political drama that depicts ordinary people trapped in a political crisis cynically created by Belarusian autocrat Alexander Lukashenko. (Limited release)

“Janet Planet,” stars the sublime Julianne Nicholson as a mother who encourages her daughter Lacy’s imagination as they spend the summer of 1991 in the countryside. As Lacy’s imagination and inner world grow, so, too, does her alienation from her beloved mother. (Limited release)



JULY 3

“Beverly Hills Cop: Axel F” is the long-awaited follow-up to the popular ‘80s franchise. Watch out Beverly Hills, Axel Foley is back and is here to investigate the death of an old friend. Returning to the beat are Judge Reinhold, Paul Reiser and Bronson Pinchot, with the new additions of Kevin Bacon, Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Taylour Paige as Axel’s daughter. Somehow the crime rate seems to soar wherever Axel sports those shades. I’m sure the Beverly Hills Police Department is happy to have him back. (Streaming on Netflix)

“Despicable Me 4” serves up revenge on the menu and Gru must save the day, this time from arch-villains Maxime Le Mal and Valentina. Steve Carell and Kristen Wiig lead the voice cast as Gru and Lucy Wilde, with Will Ferrell and Sofia Vergara as the newly added bad guys, I mean bad people.

1. LUPITA NYONG’O AND DJIMON HOUNSOU IN “A QUIET PLACE: DAY ONE”
PHOTO BY GARETH GATRELL, COURTESY OF PARAMOUNT PICTURES
2. TOM HARDY AND AUSTIN BUTLER IN “THE BIKERIDERS”
PHOTO BY KYLE KAPLAN, COURTESY OF FOCUS FEATURES
3. MARGARET QUALLEY, JESSE PLEMONS AND WILLEM DAFOE IN
“KINDS OF KINDNESS”
PHOTO BY ATSUSHI NISHIJIMA, COURTESY OF SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES

SIZZLING SUMMER RELEASES CONTINUES ON PAGE 60

Building the Future of Beverly Hills

BY LINDA IMMEDIATO



ONE BEVERLY HILLS MASTERPLAN
RENDERING COURTESY OF FOSTER + PARTNERS

T rue luxury is sustainable. From eco-friendly options in beauty aisles and high-fashion runways to the latest electric vehicle showrooms, now more than ever, it's easier to do your part for the environment in style. Here in Beverly Hills, sustainability goes a step further with the latest crop of building projects that will revolutionize the spaces where you live, shop, dine and work.

Take the super-luxe One Beverly Hills, a mixed-use, high-end development designed to exceed California's own ambitious sustainability goals. The Beverly Hilton and the Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills received major energy-saving upgrades propelling both properties to the forefront of sustainable hospitality. The Darrow Office Building, designed by master architect John Lautner, will become a high-tech case study of adaptive reuse. And offices at 9000 Wilshire Blvd. and 433 N. Camden Drive recently underwent multimillion-dollar efficiency overhauls to achieve the highest levels of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification possible.

By combining stunning architectural design with state-of-the-art green technologies, these developments demonstrate that luxury and sustainability (and preservation and progress) can go hand in hand. They're the next generation of green buildings set to transform Beverly Hills into the city of the future.

Earlier this year, the jaw-dropping One Beverly Hills broke ground. The project is led by Cain International alongside OKO Group, and Alagem Capital remains a committed partner. With a master plan designed by architecture firm Foster + Partners, the development will set a new standard for future sustainable developments in Beverly Hills and beyond.

Helming the firm is world-renowned British architect, Norman Foster, an English lord best known for his sea cucumber-shaped tower in London, colloquially referred to as The Gherkin. For One Beverly Hills, he brought his future-looking touch to the designs, but behind the opulent facade, is a complex maze of precious resource-saving systems. "The project also aims to integrate various technologies to significantly reduce emissions and energy use," Lord Foster told the Courier.

Renderings for the development show a sprawling 17.5-acre site with new Aman branded and operated properties (designed by Kerry Hill Architects) including a pair of 28-story residential towers, a 10-story, 78-suite luxury hotel, a private clubhouse and a fine dining restaurant.

Each structure will use a central geothermal system, harnessing the Earth's constant soil temperature to efficiently create heat and hot water, and reject heat for cooling without the use of gas. A chilled water thermal energy storage system will reduce the number of cooling towers needed, saving millions of gallons of water annually.

Along with a solar panel array and battery storage, the buildings will be outfitted with a high-tech electrical system that will allow them to maximize imported electricity in real-time intervals when grid generation is composed of renewable energy sources.

What promises to be one of the most breathtaking elements of One Beverly Hills is the 10 acres of botanical gardens and open space that will surround it. Thousands of new plantings of native plants, trees and shrubs will transform the Wilshire gateway—a total of 8.5 acres of carbon dioxide-absorbing parkland, with 4.5 acres publicly accessible. Global design collective RIOS, with its founding partner Mark Rios leading the team, was tapped to oversee the design.



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“Foster + Partners’ idea to cover the entire site with a green blanket was brilliant,” said Rios. “It fulfills the overall vision of Beverly Hills to be a ‘garden city.’ We hope to make that dream a reality by providing an authentic ‘California landscape experience’ to enable everyone to learn about and appreciate the natural beauty of our place in Southern California.”

Astoundingly, the extensive landscape will be 100% water sustainable. Stormwater and greywater generated from condensation inside residential towers and cooling towers will be collected onsite and stored in cisterns and recycled back into the landscape.

In addition, “The master plan design encourages multimodal transportation options, promoting walking, cycling and the use of alternative transport modes, including electric vehicle charging facilities,” Lord Foster told the Courier. “With flora and fauna returning to the site, One Beverly Hills will establish a new model for sustainable master planning in the region, with a flavor that is distinctly Californian.”

Part of the master plan for One Beverly Hills integrates the existing Beverly Hilton and Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills into the unified site through cohesive landscaping. Both hotels received a significant upgrade to their heating and cooling systems, which typically account for more than 70% of a hotel’s power consumption.

Recently, a 1.4 megawatt-hour energy storage system from Nostromo Energy was installed inside The Beverly Hilton and also serves the adjacent Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills. The Israeli-based company’s patented IceBrick technology uses power from the grid when renewable energy levels are high to freeze water into ice. In the late afternoon and evening, when power demand reaches its highest levels, the ice is used for cooling instead of drawing fossil-based energy from the grid. The IceBricks chill the buildings for less than 50% of current cooling costs and reduce carbon emissions by 150-200 metric tons annually. This translates to more than 5,000 metric tons reduced throughout the system’s lifetime.

“We are proud to partner with Nostromo to bring cutting-edge green technology to The Beverly Hilton,” said David Ecija, General Manager of The Beverly Hilton. “This partnership is an extension of our history as a forward-thinking property, focused on the future and what is good for our community.”

In addition to its energy-saving efforts, the Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills also recently invested in a high-tech greywater system by Epic Cleantec. Water collected from sinks, showers and washing machines is captured, rigorously filtered and disinfected before it’s reintroduced back into the building for non-potable uses such as landscaping or toilets, which account for a quarter of total water usage. The new system reduces the hotel’s water consumption by more than 90%.

“We are dedicated to creating a healthier environment for both our guests and our employees. The Epic Cleantec greywater system is yet another way that we are putting sustainability at the forefront of all we do,” said Antonio Bugarin, General Manager at Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills.



TOP: THE ICEBRICK SYSTEM INSTALLED IN THE BEVERLY HILTON

BOTTOM: THE BEVERLY HILTON NEW DROP-OFF MERGING WITH THE CASCADED GARDENS

TOP PHOTO COURTESY OF NOSTROMO; BOTTOM RENDERING COURTESY OF FOSTER + PARTNERS

BUILDING THE FUTURE OF BEVERLY HILLS CONTINUES ON PAGE 64

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BRUCE MEYER AND JAY LENO IN JAY'S BIG DOG GARAGE
PHOTO BY EVAN KLEIN

JAY LENO AND BRUCE MEYER

HOW THEY BECAME THE KINGS OF CARS

BY LISA FRIEDMAN BLOCH

Jay Leno and Bruce Meyer are each a powerhouse in their own right. While they're uniquely driven, when it comes to cars, they both reign supreme. Their collections, filled with the automotive industry's most rare, iconic and legendary makes and models, are coveted by motor enthusiasts around the world.

I recently spent the day with these influential car experts at Jay's Big Dog Garage in preparation for this year's Rodeo Drive Concours d'Elegance. What followed was a crash course in automotive history and design, and a rare glimpse inside their deep and enduring 50-year friendship, powered by the love of cars.

With Bruce's encouragement, Jay invites me to take a spin in his 1909 Baker Electric car. Once inside the ornate Cinderella-esque carriage, Jay, at the controls, releases the brake, sounds the horn and with surprising acceleration, glides us through his astonishing 140,000-square-foot garage in Burbank, California. Filled with over 200 exquisite, exotic and eclectic cars, and 168 "finest in the world" motorcycles, Jay's motor sanctum is different in presentation from Bruce's across town in Beverly Hills. Built in 1926 on North Beverly Drive, Bruce's pristine car palace (small by comparison) houses his extraordinarily curated treasure trove in the first and oldest garage in Beverly Hills.

Bruce Meyer's family, referred to as "Beverly Hills royalty," is considered one of the most influential families in Beverly Hills. Bruce's father, Fred, together with his wife, Ruth, bought a small gift store in Beverly Hills called Gearys in 1953. Bruce joined his parents and grew the family business with a mail order division, an additional store and his entrepreneurial way of thinking. When his landlord offered to sell Bruce the building, despite his parents' objections, Bruce made the first of his many real estate purchases. Today, his real estate portfolio encompasses key properties along Beverly Drive and Rodeo Drive in the heart of Beverly Hills' business triangle.

Elevated to CEO of Gearys in 1977, Bruce amplified the charge for Gearys becoming the iconic Beverly Hills retail center for distinctive home goods from the world's finest artisans. His curated ideals for top-flight luxury were maintained throughout his 20 years, only to be further enhanced by his nephew, Tom Blumenthal, who began working in the family business at age 13. Today, Tom is the owner, president and CEO of the preeminent Gearys, and Bruce remains on its Board of Directors with his son, Eric, a United States career diplomat. His other son, Evan, a successful real estate developer, is the incoming chairman of Beverly Hills Architectural Commission. And Bruce's cousin, Craig Corman, is a newly elected Beverly Hills City Councilmember.

Jay Leno was born James Douglas Muir in New Rochelle, New York to Catherine, a Scottish immigrant, and Angelo Leno, an insurance salesman from a big Italian family. Jay was raised in Andover, Massachusetts and laid the groundwork for telling jokes among this sizeable built-in audience. While attending Emerson College in Boston, a young, determined Jay traveled regularly to New York to audition at the Improv and other comedy clubs. Oftentimes, the endless wait to present his stand-up comedy act took the whole day. But Jay persevered, believing in patience and the commitment to work hard. Eventually, he moved to California to make a go at comedy.

Throughout the '70s and '80s, Jay appeared in television shows and feature films, but his breakthrough came in 1986 when he was asked to become a regular substitute for the legendary Johnny Carson on the "Tonight Show." Adored by the masses, in 1992, the NBC network executives chose Jay to permanently replace Carson. For more than 20 years, viewers in 5 million homes welcomed Jay into their lives every night. Except for a hiccup in 2010 with Conan O'Brien, Jay remained the nighttime top dog for NBC until 2014, entertaining generations of audiences around the world.

Wanting to share his car knowledge, Jay created an original series for NBC.com set in his Big Dog Garage. Within a year, it became a weekly prime-time show on CNBC for which Jay won a Primetime Emmy Award in 2016. After seven years, the show was canceled, but Jay pressed on. Today, through an active YouTube channel, he produces "Jay Leno's Garage," a series with over 3.63 million subscribers and over 900 million views, proving he's the man of car influence.

Their respect for each other is palpable. It began in the early 1970s before Jay and Bruce were successful. They frequented car rallies with other car hobbyists looking to talk about cars. Bob's Big Boy in the San Fernando Valley was one of their main haunts.

Jay posits, "I say women have friends; men have allies. Men find men who can help them do things. Then, they can do things for them. And then, you become friends, like, 'Oh, I can help you with this. You help me with that.' Most of my friends are people who can do mechanical things much better than me, and I help them because I'm in show business. It's fun for them to come to a TV show, and they can bring their families."

Bruce and Jay's generosity of spirit is as aligned as their natural attraction to cars.

"I think the genesis of all this comes in your genetic makeup," says Bruce. "I would be willing to bet Jay loved cars from day one, like me. My mother made a note in my baby book. 'Bruce loves anything with wheels.' I have three children. One of them is a car person. The other two don't share the passion. There are people that just don't relate to this. And there are people who do. It's a mutant gene; I mean you can't take the car out of me."

Jay "pretty much" agrees.

He jokingly adds, "It's how you got from one place to another. I mean, being 15½ [years old] was the worst because uptown was seven miles riding my bike. And the guy who's six months older, he drives by with five girls in his car, and he's waving. When I got there on my bike, everybody's left!"



BRUCE AND JAY
PHOTO BY EVAN KLEIN



JAY AND LISA CRUISING IN THE 1909 BAKER ELECTRIC
PHOTO BY KATIE HICKS

It was 1976 when Jay stepped off the stage at the Comedy Store in Los Angeles and into Mavis' life. She was actually in the waiting area of the ladies' room, near where the comedians hung out when their eyes met. She told People magazine in 1987, "With Jay, I began to realize that this was the first time I was ever with someone where I had a perfect, calm sense of having arrived at my destination." They were married in 1980.

Mavis has been by Jay's side ever since. An activist on the Feminist Majority Foundation Board of Directors, she has been their campaign chair to stop gender apartheid in Afghanistan. Earlier this year, Mavis was diagnosed with advanced dementia, and in a Los Angeles courtroom in April, Jay was granted conservatorship to ensure her future care.

Eight years before the Lenos first met, Bruce was introduced to Raylene, the love of his life. The year was 1968. On their first date, before dinner, Bruce took Raylene to see a Porsche he was considering, setting the stage for the next 56 years together.

Back then, before helmets and other safety precautions were required, Raylene would regularly ride with him on his motorcycle. She admits, "We all do kind of silly things when we're young." Married on Bruce's parents' wedding anniversary in 1970, they have gone on to share a wonderful life filled with three children, seven grandchildren, and trips to car rallies all over the world. Raylene adds, "The most important thing to Bruce is all the people he has met with regards to collecting the cars and the hobby. He loves people." When asked about the dangers of being married to a man who liked to ride and race, Raylene said, "I was like a Pollyanna; everything's going to be fine. I didn't worry about him going fast in cars or anything. But I would say my prayers beforehand. I just knew that he would be fine."

Back inside the 1909 Baker Electric, Jay and I cruise onto the streets of Burbank as he hands me the car's manufacturer's manual.

"These were women's shopping cars," he says.

Made and marketed for wealthy men's wives, the electric cars did not need to be hand cranked. Ads were placed in publications such as Colliers or other fashion magazines, entirely directed to women, for the electric "horseless carriage." Replete with floral fabric-laced interiors, make-up compartments for face powder and room in the carriage for shopping bags, the cars did not leave a mess on the garage floor from dripping oil. Back then, a man would not be caught driving an electric car.

Believing cars were a waste of time and money, Bruce's father had little regard for his son's fascination. Still, Bruce, the ever-resourceful "go-getter," worked hard doing odd jobs during high school to earn enough money to buy his first motor vehicle, a 1950s BSA scrambler motorcycle. Storing it at a friend's house, Bruce clandestinely raced on the weekends without his parents finding out.

An avid reader of Hot Rod magazine, Bruce dreamed of building and owning his own hot rod. Despite the low cost, \$100-\$200, his parents forbade him from buying one. But when his great aunt passed away and left him a '50s Plymouth, Bruce eagerly created and built his first version of a hot rod.

While at UC Berkeley working on his degree in business, the industrious young man tended bar, bussed tables, sold embossed stationery and borrowed money on an interest-free student loan even though his father paid his tuition in full. Clever and tenacious, Bruce used the cash to buy and race motorcycles, eventually selling everything for a profit.

Returning home, his passion for cars would not let up, even after he entered the family business. Impressed with his son's business acumen, Fred finally broke down and helped Bruce buy his first car, a 1961 Porsche 356 for \$2,700.

When Jay was 14 years old, he and his father saw a 1934 Ford Pickup sitting at a gas station attached to the Tip Top Miniature Golf in Reading, Massachusetts. And like Bruce, Jay's father did not see the point in buying a car other than for functionality. Worse yet, this particular 30-year-old car did not move. Jay was undeterred and \$350 later, he owned his first car to restore.

"Rosebud" was his first car in California, a 1955 Buick Roadmaster coupe. It was his mode of transportation during the 1970s and often a part of his comedy routine. Most importantly, it served as his chariot on his first date with his wife, Mavis.



BRUCE, HIS WIFE RAYLENE, DAUGHTER EMILY, SON ERIC, DAUGHTER-IN-LAW TAYLOR AND SON EVAN AT PEBBLE BEACH CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE WITH THEIR PRIZE-WINNING PORSCHE
PHOTO COURTESY OF BRUCE MEYER



JAY IN HIS MCLAREN F1
PHOTOS BY EVAN KLEIN

“We had electric cars before we had gas cars. But don't forget, most people didn't have electricity. Electricity was harder to come by than gasoline. In 1909, only rich people had electricity. But in New York, there were hundreds of electric taxis. In fact, in 1907-08, a third of the cars were steam, a third were gasoline and a third were electric. And they didn't really know which one would win out.”

The inability to welcome change is often the challenge for innovation and adaptability.

“There's something called the ‘shock of the new.’ You can't sell something before it's time. It's called a horseless carriage for a reason. It looks like a carriage. Oh, but there's no horse. What? Oh, OK.”

As we return to the garage, passing through the main gateway, Jay explains he's not a collector, as he never sells his cars. But he does believe they're a good investment.

“I bought the McLaren over there.”

He points to a black car in a line of cars as he maneuvers the crank to back the Baker Electric into its parking spot.

“I bought it for \$800,000 in 1998-99. And the last offer I got was \$20 million. So, that's certainly a good investment. You know what I mean? It's like anything. If you're reasonably knowledgeable and you like it, chances are other people will like it, too. And they tend to go up in value. The idea of making money collecting cars is fairly new in the sense that you just did it because you like them. The fact that they go up in value, it's just an added bonus.”

In the United States alone, the market for vintage, classic and exotic automobiles is estimated to be \$1 trillion. That figure represents about 16% of the value of the 275 million registered vehicles in the United States. In 2021, North American collector car auctions generated \$2.2 billion in sales. In 2023, seven vehicles were offered for over \$10 million, which contributed to the \$3.4 billion figure spent in North American auctions. And in 2024, these figures are predicted to rise precipitously.

Bruce joins us in the garage’s living room-like setting surrounded by Jay’s motorcycle collection, as Jay explains how motoring was a life changer for him. “I always prided myself; I was always able to get a car home. By that I mean, if I’m broken down by the side of the road, with a piece of twine and some wire, I could get it back to my house to fix it. [With] modern cars now, you don’t carry a toolbox. You just carry a cell phone, and the tow truck comes in because it’s so complicated and so electronic.”

Jay believes this is why young people today are not bonding with automotive functionality. Simple mechanical systems have been replaced with technological advancements. This was not the case in Jay’s and Bruce’s youth.

“You’re controlling your own destiny,” says Jay. “When you have something that’s broken, and you make it work and you fix it. I think there’s a great deal of pride in that. And satisfaction.”

Bruce highlights his friend’s natural talent.

“Jay is absolutely curious about what makes things work. He works on his own cars. I wish I had his level of talent in that regard. I love the aesthetic. I think I bought the right cars just because they appeal to me. I love to drive them. I’ve raced Bonneville. I’ve raced motorcycles. I enjoy the whole thing about cars. Jay does as well. But Jay, when you see this other room, I mean this is not like my garage where nothing gets done.”

Next door to Jay’s Big Dog Garage is his restoration and maintenance facility. There, talented and expert coachbuilders work with Jay to preserve his fleet.

“You’re saving a piece of history,” Jay believes.

This phenomenon can be seen in Bruce’s garage in Beverly Hills. There, you quickly understand the depth of his knowledge and his curating mastery. Even a nonenthusiast would be fervently impressed with the diversity of genres, historical importance, and the shapes and colors of every car on display. Each piece has a remarkable story, from the Porsche 935 K3, which was the first production car to win overall at the 1979 24-Hours of Le Mans, to the bright yellow 1967 Ferrari 275 GTB4 that was bought new by Bill Doheny (of the Beverly Hills Doheny family and Greystone Mansion). Don Prudhomme’s first slingshot dragster is there along with Clark Gable’s gorgeous tobacco brown 1956 Mercedes 300SC and the iconic 1955 Mercedes Benz Gullwing Coupe. It’s hard not to be in awe of this collection, which was 50 years in the making.

When asked in the press about the perfect car, Bruce responded, “If you could have one car, I don’t see how you could do better than a Gullwing. The build quality, the workmanship, the rarity, the beauty.”

Jay expands on that notion.

“It’s seeing cars as art... It is only fairly recently, by recently, I mean the last 30 years, that cars are seen as art. The Guggenheim Museum did a motorcycle exhibition about 25 years ago, and it is still one of the biggest exhibits the museum ever had.”



1. BRUCE, HIS WIFE RAYLENE AND HIS COBRA SERIAL #1, AFTER WINNING THE TOP PRIZE, BEST IN SHOW, AT THE QUAIL CONCOURS
 2. BRUCE AND SON EVAN WITH THE 2009 LE MANS WINNING CORVETTE ON THE TRACK
 3. BRUCE IN 1964 WITH HIS MERCEDES BENZ 300SL GULLWING
 PHOTOS COURTESY OF BRUCE MEYER



CLARK GABLE WITH HIS 1956 MERCEDES BENZ 300 SC CABRIOLET AND HIS MERCEDES TODAY AS PART OF BRUCE'S COLLECTION

Bruce chimes in, "Otis Chandler's motorcycles went to the Guggenheim for that event. And a year ago, the famous architect Lord Norman Foster [the architect for One Beverly Hills] did an exhibit at the Guggenheim in Bilbao. He picked the cars and had the biggest gate they've ever had for an exhibit."

Although their areas of focus are somewhat divergent, both enthusiasts agree that pre-1970s is their favorite era for cars.

"I've focused more on race cars. I like cars with competition history. Almost every car I have is a race car or has some nexus to racing," Bruce says. His motto, "Buy the best example of what you want, and pay whatever it takes. That way you cry only once."

He has other cars that invoke elegance and prestige such as the Clark Gable Mercedes, personalized with the actor's engraved Saint Christopher's Medal on the glove box and custom Mercedes luggage with Clark's personalized tags.

"They made 48 of these cars for royalty. The Shah of Iran had one, Gary Cooper, Errol Flynn, Bing Crosby. It was the most expensive car of the day, selling for \$16,000 in 1956. And it's always been one of my favorites. It's my wife's favorite car. She's said that if I sell that car, she goes with it."

While Bruce is drawn to the aesthetic component of automobiles, Jay is drawn to the cars he finds different, interesting or ahead of their time. He's particularly interested in "noble failures."

"Like the Duesenberg, it was a much better car than it needed to be," Jay says.

Produced during the Depression, it was too expensive of a car, over-engineered and overpowered for its time. The company was owned by E.L. Cord, another Beverly Hills resident. Jay has many Duesenbergs; Bruce owns one as well. Both enthusiasts have received several awards for their beautiful cars.

Jay explains, "That's the trouble with a lot of these things. Some people don't make it up to any standard. And some people make it so good and are perfectionists, they never get them into production." He cites the Mustang as an example, "It's a sexy body on a Ford Falcon. It didn't need independent suspension for the first 25 years because nobody cared. Just make it look sharp. It's kind of cool. It's affordable. It was a huge success."



BRUCE, WIFE RAYLENE AND GRANDDAUGHTER CHLOE OUT FOR FAMILY FUN IN HIS 1932 HOT ROD PHOTOS COURTESY OF BRUCE MEYER

Abiding by his moniker "never lift," as in "never take your foot off the gas," Bruce exhaustively pursued bringing the deserved recognition to hot rod cars and their makers.

"A hot rod is sort of a customized automobile. You take bits and pieces of different cars, and you make the car something faster, with better handling, than it was. But it was never recognized as a class. Bruce is really the guy that did that."

Jay searches for an analogy.

"It's like music versus rap. You had Mancini and all those people winning the Grammys and well deserved obviously, but rap music was sort of the hot rod child of music. It really wasn't considered music initially. Bruce is the guy that said, 'Hey, these hot rodders, these are real engineers.' They learned on the back streets. Now, hot rods have become hundreds of thousands of dollars, which sort of defeats it. The idea was you did it with almost no money, just parts that you could find. And you used your will, and your skill and your technique with welding. You saw these old racers from the '50s and '60s who used to be harassed by the police for speeding. Suddenly, now they're being honored. It was nice to see them get the recognition they deserve, to see the hot rod be recognized as an art form. Bruce is really the guy that made that happen."

Bruce responds, "That really warms my heart."

After 10 years of Bruce championing the cause, in 1997, he convinced the organizers of the founding Concours d'Elegance in the United States, at Pebble Beach, to create a class for hot rods. Not surprisingly, Bruce won the class with his Doane Spencer hi-boy. Today, it's a permanent class at Concours events around North America.



JAY DRIVING THROUGH THE RODEO DRIVE CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE 2023 IN HIS BENTLEY SPECIAL PHOTOS BY EVAN KLEIN



JAY AND BRUCE WITH MEMBERS OF THE BEVERLY HILLS CITY COUNCIL AND FIRE DEPARTMENT LAST YEAR

The Concours d'Elegance shows have served as entry points into the automobile industry. The "competition of elegance" dates back to 17th-century France during the Belle Epoque era, "a period marked by cultural refinement and artistic flourish." Wealthy aristocrats and social elites would gather at grand venues, fashionable resorts and parks in France to display their luxurious carriages. Eventually, automobiles replaced the horse carriages as the mode of transportation.

Bruce and Jay are regular presenters at Beverly Hills' annual Father's Day event, Rodeo Drive Concours d'Elegance. It's the epitome of our modern-day, family-oriented holiday. Last year, over 45,000 people in the sparkling sunshine, along with their pooches, walked Rodeo Drive and admired some of the finest automobiles in the world.

Originally, the Beverly Hills Concours d'Elegance sprang from a fundraising effort to restore the only remaining Beverly Hills 1928 Ahrens Fox fire engine, referred to as "The Fox." Bruce led the fundraising charge. Soliciting the help of the community's car enthusiasts and the Rodeo Drive Committee, the group convinced the City Council to approve bringing the Concours d'Elegance to Beverly Hills on Rodeo Drive. The inaugural event took place in June of 1993. Every year since, it's touted as the most popular day in Beverly Hills and has become a Father's Day tradition. On June 16 of this year, the 29th annual Concours d'Elegance returns with Bruce as chairman. Bruce and Jay will join the Beverly Hills Mayor and City Councilmembers in the winner's circle, announcing this year's award winners, with the restored Fox firetruck showcased nearby.

For Bruce, philanthropy is a big part of his life. Among his long list of honors, he's a Founding Board Member of the California Highway Patrol 11-99 Foundation. Presently, he's on the Board of Trustees at St. John's Medical Center and generously involved with Children's Hospital Los Angeles. When the Petersen Automotive Museum opened its doors in 1994, Bruce was its Founding Chairman. Today, the "Bruce Meyer Family Gallery," within the museum, honors his enormous personal commitment and legacy. The Petersen Museum's namesake, Robert E. Petersen, was also a Beverly Hills resident and the publisher of Hot Rod magazine. This coming October 2024, Bruce will be the honoree at their 30th Anniversary Petersen Fundraiser Gala, dubbed the Automotive Party of the Year.

Both Bruce and Jay are recipients of the Lee Iacocca Award. Among Jay's charitable focuses, he's honored those who helped him along his career path with scholarship funds, as well as supported war veterans, and victims of the Sept. 11 attacks. He has received two Emmy Awards, two TV Guide Awards, one People's Choice Award and the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor. He's also earned two Honorary Doctorates of Humane Letters, one from his alma mater Emerson College in 2014 and one from the Academy of Art University in 2021.

"Jay has been awesome. He has raised more money for the California Highway Patrol and for the Petersen Automotive Museum. He's very generous with his talent. There are other people of fame that just don't give back like Jay does. And he's a great citizen. For the police department and the fire department, he's done shows. There are people that just don't get it, but Jay does."

Jay responds, "I'm a huge believer in low self-esteem. It's the key to success. If you don't think you're the smartest person in the room, then you should listen. I mean, there were 4,000 recorded geniuses in history, and I met 3,900 of them here in Beverly Hills."

More seriously, Jay says, "The trick is to know what your limitations are. If I have something that can help others, that's great. Maybe they'll help me in some way. I don't have to ever ask for it. It just works out nice. Bruce knows everybody. So, if I need a doctor, I call Bruce and ask, 'Who's a good cardiologist?' 'Oh, this guy's the best cardiologist.' 'Oh, thank you, Bruce. I appreciate that.' And then he'll say to me, 'I need a comedian...'"

"When Jay calls and he needs something, it makes me feel like I have some value in his life."

Not only is he generous, but Jay also enjoys spreading joy. Most Beverly Hills residents and tourists have spotted him cruising around town in one of his prized motorized machines.

Jay offers, "I hate the fact that they've driven the film industry out of Beverly Hills, out of Hollywood. Everybody's in Atlanta or somewhere else. When people come here, they expect to see something Hollywoodish. If I'm driving the Duesenberg or something like that and the tour bus goes by, yeah, I'll pull over. I'll take pictures with people. I like that. It's fun."

“There are more people who have climbed Everest than members of the 200 MPH Club.”

- Bruce Meyer

He recalls, “One day I’m driving in Beverly Hills, and I see Peter Falk. I pull over and I said, ‘Peter, hey, how you doing? Can I give you a lift home?’ He thought for a moment and said, ‘I got this Mercedes. It’s been sitting there [at the house] for years. I don’t know what’s wrong. But you will.’ So, I drive him back to his house. We pull in, and he’s got a nice Mercedes, one of the convertibles, and I got in. I said, ‘Well, the key is in, but the battery’s dead. Lemme go and get jumper cables.’ So I go to my house, get jumper cables, come back. I put the jumper cables in, the lights go on. I say, ‘Peter, here’s the problem, you left the lights on.’ Immediately, he becomes Columbo. He said, ‘Son of a...’ He goes and walks in a circle, comes back to me and says, ‘You’re telling me I left the lights on?’ I’m sitting there watching this. He just took on those mannerisms of the character. It just made me laugh. That’s the fun thing about living here.”

The chance of seeing two show business stars talking on the street is a rarity in any town. It’s as unusual as finding people who have joined the 200 MPH Club.

“There are more people who have climbed Everest than members of the 200 MPH Club. That’s a statistic told to me by a member of the club,” shares Bruce.

He is a proud member. The club’s association qualifies the drivers and provides the red hats, the badges of honor, for members to wear at automobile events.

“To join the 200 MPH Club, you have to break an existing land speed record over 200 mph that had been previously set. In other words, in the category of cars, there are some cars that go 400 mph, and there are some cars that set records at 90 mph. They have lots of different categories, engine sizes and a variety of cars. For the club, you have to go over 200 in a car that set a record,” says Bruce. “I drove a Camaro. It was 206 mph against the 197 record.”

Bruce’s second time was driving the 1932 hot rod that he built. In this case, his goal was to exceed 200 mph in an open hot rod, and he accomplished his goal.



BRUCE WITH HIS LITTLE DEUCE COUPE
PHOTO BY EVAN KLEIN



JAY DRIVING ON THE OPEN ROAD
PHOTO BY EVAN KLEIN

Jay is not a member of the club, although he’s driven over 200 miles per hour many times. One such time, he took his C7 Corvette to Milford Proving Ground at General Motors and met with the head engineer to test the car.

“We get in the car and before the seat belts went on, I said, ‘Before we start, tell me the first time you ever went 200 in a Corvette.’ He goes, ‘Oh, I never have.’ I said, ‘You never have?’ He goes, ‘No, I’ve never been driven in a Corvette.’ ‘So, the first time is with a 73-year-old comedian in a car that I’ve never been in? On a track I’d never driven on?’ He goes, ‘Yeah, I guess so.’ ‘Okay, fine.’ So, we went. We did a ton of laps, 40, 50 laps, hit 204, 205. I was having a conversation with him the whole time, and it was fine.”

Bruce adds, “Most supercars go 200, and now they’re pushing for 300. They take a car like that out to an airport, and they go 300. You may have a car that goes 300, and usually the old guys who can afford one only go 60.”

In March of 2024, the Robb Report aggregated the latest information for the fastest, top speed car. In 1987, the Ferrari F40 broke the second-century mark, setting the benchmark, and creating the race to break the 300 MPH Club. Today, there are 25 cars that are ranked for speed, beginning with the Porsche 918 Spyder at 218 mph at number 25. The top two are the Bugatti Chiron Super Sport at 304.7 mph on the track and the Koenigsegg Jesko Absolut at 330 mph, which is the manufacturer’s claim.

Bruce says he is now in “self-preservation mode.”

“When I turned 75, I stopped running Bonneville. My whole life was motorcycles. But I’ve stopped because people are texting, and it’s kind of dangerous out there. Plus, when you’re in your older years, and you ‘go down,’ you don’t just brush it off. I’ve stopped snow skiing because I didn’t want to get hit by a snowboarder. And I hold onto railings when I go downstairs. Now I want to live and enjoy instead of doing something stupid, which I’m very capable of doing.”

Like his parents, Bruce forbade his children from riding motorcycles. And yet, Bruce once rode his young son on a motorcycle to a birthday party. He directed Evan to hold on to Bruce with one arm and to hold onto the birthday present with the other. Hearing about it from the other mothers, Raylene was very upset.

“It was just so stupid,” admits Bruce.



LISA, BRUCE AND JAY IN CONVERSATION AT JAY'S BIG DOG GARAGE
PHOTO BY EVAN KLEIN

Turning the conversation towards Jay and his latest serious accidents, Bruce quickly refers to them as “mishaps.”

In 2022, working under his 1907 White Steam car, gas hit Jay's face, a spark jumped and his face caught on fire. Going to bed that night, the skin from his face and ear melted into the pillow, forcing the doctors to replace his ear and part of his face. Jokingly, he told *People* magazine, “I tried to get the Clooney face, but it wasn't available.” In January of this year, while riding on his motorcycle, a 1940s Indian, he hit a wire, was clotheslined and knocked off his bike. Fracturing his collarbone, a few ribs and both kneecaps, the ever-determined Jay returned to his stand-up gigs soon after, still bruised but not broken.

Have these latest events impacted Jay's thinking? Have they given him pause about his future rides?

“Not at all,” says Jay. “If I didn't know why the accident happened, then you would go, ‘Oh, I have no idea why that happened or how it happened. I shouldn't do that.’ But I see what happened. The guy, he had a wire across the road, but he didn't have a flag on it. The sun was in my eye. It caught me in the neck and threw my face down.”

Bruce quickly chimes in, “Jay's got another 10 years to go before he's matured enough to quit.” Jay adds he has one more mishap left in him. “I think I got one,” says Jay lightheartedly.

What about the future of cars?
Jay declares, “You can't predict the future.”

Bruce agrees.

Jay analogizes, “If you had said 20 years ago, that 20 years from now, it'll be cool for men to walk with their pants halfway down their ass all the time. Well, that looks ridiculous. It is ridiculous! But I see everybody wearing their underwear up here. Their pants are down there. I go, OK. Why is that? I don't get it. But if you had predicted that, I'd say, you're nuts! You just don't know what will be collectible or what's in style.”

The electric car today has gotten traction. Jay's “shock of the new” is subsiding. Most manufacturers are getting into the electric car business. Tesla surpassed early expectations once it was marketed to the masses.

Jay states, “Mark Twain said, ‘I like progress. It's change I don't like.’ And that's kind of what you have here. Tesla has no maintenance, no nothing, and it's faster than anything else. It's the fastest thing in my garage right now.”

Bruce drives a Tesla as well. “I hate the fact that I love my car so much. I am on my second Tesla. And Jay drives the high-powered Tesla Plaid.”

In their view, electric cars are here to stay.

Bruce theorizes, “I think the projections on the availability of electricity and what it takes to make electricity hasn't been thoroughly thought out. If everybody went to electric, we wouldn't have the grid to support it. I personally think we need to go to nuclear to source our electricity. But that's like a dirty word. You have to be able to produce energy to run these cars. And I think as time goes on, they're going to realize by 2030 or 35, it's not going to all be electric. We couldn't support it.” After a pause, he adds, “They're working on synthetic fuels, and I think the hybrid technology can be [the future], even hybrids are pretty darn efficient.”

“Something will evolve,” says Jay, as they continue to ponder the possibilities.

Our tour had come full circle. It began with the electric cars of a century ago and ended with the electric marvels of today. While the options for future locomotion are endless, one thing is for sure. These two reigning auto aficionados have indelibly contributed to the legacy of automaking and restoration, and will continue to influence the global car conversation for years to come.

And yet, for Jay and Bruce, it was just another fun day, rapt in their passion, in Jay's garage. ●



THE POOL PAVILION AT THE VIRGINIA ROBINSON GARDENS UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN 1925 (LEFT) AND TODAY (RIGHT)
LEFT PHOTO COURTESY OF THE VIRGINIA ROBINSON GARDENS ARCHIVE; RIGHT PHOTO BY LINDA IMMEDIATO

The great lawn is essentially the same vast stretch of green that once hosted 500 invited guests who came to dine by candlelight during Virginia’s annual soiree for the Hollywood Bowl.

Today, a lily pond marks the remnants of the former pool. The full-size, tiled upgrade, designed by the famed architecture firm Dodd & Richards, was installed in 1925. Other than regrouting and new plumbing in 2009, thanks to FRG funding, it remains virtually unchanged.

Dodd & Richards also constructed the adjacent pavilion, with a loggia featuring theatrical Tuscan archways and carved angelic trumpeting figures. They returned in 1929 to add a two-story expansion with wood paneling, ornate plaster ceilings and terrazzo floors. It now sits empty, but once housed a pool table, which was too big for the main residence. Called the “pool pavilion,” it was named after the spirited billiard games Harry often hosted there and not the nearby body of water. On the second floor, which is closed to the public, Virginia had a clandestine card room built where she could indulge in a favorite pastime with friends. Behind a hidden door in the wood paneling, a spiral staircase secreted guests up to the second-story room, which was decorated with arabesque-style murals featuring the couple’s pets, including their infamous monkeys that ran free and amok in Beverly Hills.

Adjacent to the pavilion, a brick path leads to a tennis court designed, once again, by Dodd & Richards, and added in 1929. This second court was for Virginia, who claimed Harry was so good at the sport he often didn’t want to play with her. Instead, she served sets with Charlie Chaplin on the new court, coated in a pink lime wash. Virginia had planted hot pink bougainvillea on the fence surrounding it, which she and Harry had sourced from South Africa. The intensely vibrant blooms still cover the old chain link, finial-topped wall surrounding the court today.

The Robinsons were so enthusiastic about horticulture that they brought a botanist, who assisted in selecting plants and shipping them back to the estate, whenever traveling abroad. The historic naked coral tree sitting on a terraced knoll was grown from seeds the Robinsons collected while on an African expedition. Its name is derived from the red, burnt orange color of its flowers, which only bloom when the tree drops its leaves, and for its smooth, bleached, reef-like bark. The row of iconic coral trees along San Vicente Boulevard from Brentwood to Santa Monica all came from this tree, donated as seedlings for the median by Harry and Virginia.

“[W]e found ourselves on a slight hill with a lovely view of rippling wheat fields and the mountains. A full moon was shining down, and Harry said, ‘This is where we are going to live.’”

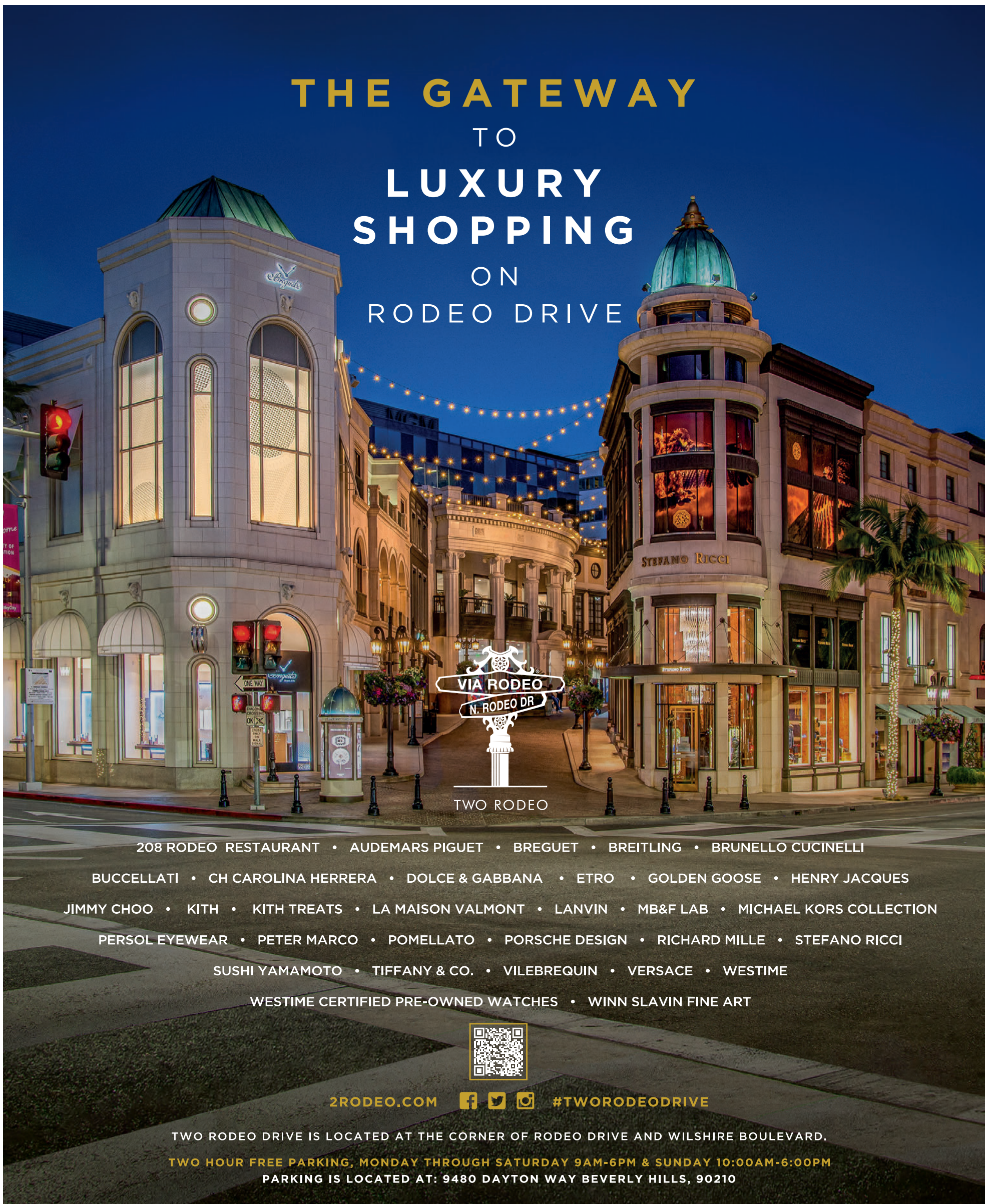
- Virginia Robinson

Many of the plants that cover the grounds with splashes of color today were curated by the Robinsons. Roses were a favorite, notably the Eiffel Tower variety, renowned for its fragrance. It’s said Virginia grew them anywhere and everywhere she found room. You can still stop and smell them; look for the most impossibly perfect, bright, Barbie-pink roses. Virginia was also fond of camellias. Hers became legendary, and the famous Nuccio’s Nursery in Altadena cultivated a semi-double, orchid-pink camellia in honor of the amateur botanist. The Virginia Robinson camellia still blooms on the estate and is available for purchase at the nursery to this day.

The Robinsons began experimenting with tropical and subtropical species in the mid-to-late 1920s. One of the most stunning parts of the estate was born out of this experimental phase: The King Palm Forest, which now boasts over 1,000 individual king palm trees. It’s the largest of its kind outside of Western Australia and is believed to be the largest anywhere in the Northern Hemisphere.

Harry and Virginia had planted the first specimens of king palms and kentia palms around 1930. Among them, they planted various other palm species and a variety of tropical shrubs, fruits and flowers—bananas, plumeria and ferns, from every tropical zone worldwide. By the 1970s, this forest had grown so large that it covered 2.5 acres, creating a distinct microclimate 10 degrees cooler than the rest of the gardens.

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Around this time, due to this unique temperate zone, the banyan trees planted sometime in the '30s began sprouting aerial roots, which only happened in their native habitat. Today, they make for a dramatic sight. The long fibrous roots of these old trees now stretch close to 30 feet, cathedral-like buttresses that lend a hallowed feeling to the grove. Nearby, a massive eucalyptus tree, the last remaining from the first flats of trees Virginia and Harry had purchased over 100 years ago, rises like a skyscraper.

The King Palm Forest is just one of five gardens developed in various but distinct stages over five decades. Great care is taken to maintain these areas, which are currently managed as historic display gardens by FRG. If plants need replacing, they're swapped with identical species wherever possible to preserve the couple's original intent for the gardens and landscaping.

Completed in 1935, the Italian Terrace Garden is the largest, covering over two acres. It's composed of several descending brick-paved terraces connected by a series of winding paths along a central axis per Neoclassical Italianate style. An intricate water system was designed to flow down the terrain, trickle along runnels carved into the bricks and stone, and cascade into a series of waterfalls before emptying into various pools and fountains. The runnels were inspired by the Alhambra in Spain, where Virginia and Harry marveled at the soothing melodies of the gently moving water. Perhaps inspired by those memories, Virginia added the Musical Stairs, a water feature made from inverted terracotta roof tiles laid in a series of steep steps, designed to produce a different note as water moves from one step to the next.

Sadly, Harry would never see these formal gardens take shape.

He passed away on Sept. 19, 1932, but not before spending much of his final week with the woman he adored in the gardens they loved. His widow preserved these last days in a diary, pressing leaves and flowers into the pages for that week in September, along with the simple inscription: "With Harry in the garden." The entry for Sept. 19 was left blank.

For two years, Virginia mourned, stepping back from civic engagements. To process her grief, she renewed her interest in finishing the gardens as an homage to her late husband. She also began writing a series of letters to him after his death, which she continued for five



TOP: THE KING PALM FOREST
MIDDLE: THE BANYAN TREES
BOTTOM: THE LANDSCAPE PRIOR TO THE KING PALM FOREST PLANTING (LEFT) AND VIRGINIA STROLLING ALONG THE GREAT LAWN, BOTH FROM AUGUST 1913
TOP AND MIDDLE PHOTOS BY JOSHUA JOHNSTON
BOTTOM PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE VIRGINIA ROBINSON GARDENS ARCHIVE

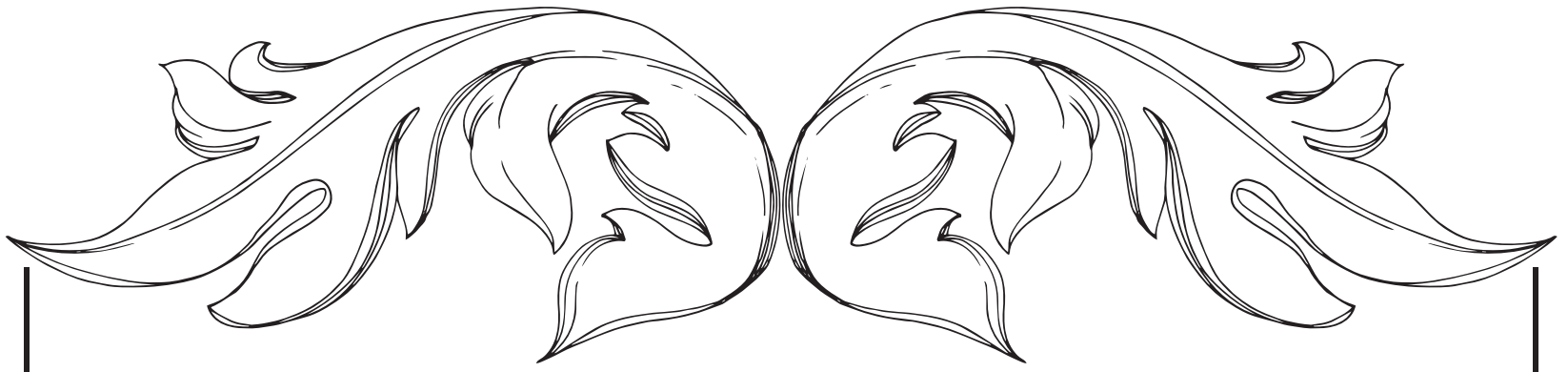
years. Most often, they were to ask his advice about the garden, tinged with loss and longing.

"Harry, do you like the trimming on the west side?" She asked her husband in a letter dated December 1932. "I cut the oaks down-it's much neater, but I cried after I did it because it's different [from] when you last saw it." Daunted by the scale of the Italian Terrace Garden during its construction, she looked to Harry for reassurance in another posthumous letter, dated 1934: "My darling - am I making a mess of our earthly paradise? You guide-kiss me again." Virginia continued to work on her gardens for the next few decades, through these preserved letters, we know Harry's spirit was with her during their entire creation. In part to fill a void left by her beloved husband, Virginia began to reinvent herself in the mid-1930s. She joined the Board of Directors of J.W. Robinson in 1935 (a rare position for women in those days) and served until 1960. She also began to host luxurious parties, many of them charitable functions, up to four a week. Some were grand affairs on the great lawn with hundreds of guests; others were intimate luncheons in a garden nook and all manner of gatherings. She continued this for decades. Of course, she had help; Virginia maintained a staff of a dozen live-in helpers for her 6,000-square-foot home, including a majordomo, an assistant butler, five gardeners, a cook, a kitchen maid, a houseman and a personal maid.

Her reputation and the high standard for gracious living she set solidified her place as "the first lady of Beverly Hills." As such, over the years, she entertained the likes of the Duke and Duchess of Windsor for tea alfresco; Walt Disney's widow, Lillian, celebrated her marriage to her new husband in Virginia's backyard. Mae West whispered naughty jokes to the hostess from the living room couch while Hedda Hopper dished out gossip on fellow guests, most of them Golden Age stars like Clark



TOP AND MIDDLE: VIRGINIA'S ANNUAL PARTY ON THE GREAT LAWN FOR THE HOLLYWOOD BOWL, CIRCA 1960-1970
BOTTOM: VIRGINIA (LEFT) AND HEDDA HOPPER IN THE 1960S
PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE VIRGINIA ROBINSON GARDENS ARCHIVE



*Congratulations,
Bruce!*

*Thank you
for all you do for the
Beverly Hills community.*

Vicki and Ron Simms





TOP LEFT: SOUTH AFRICAN BOUGAINVILLEA ALONG THE TENNIS COURT; TOP RIGHT: THE CORAL TREE KNOLL
 BOTTOM LEFT: THE GREAT LAWN TODAY; BOTTOM RIGHT: A KAFFIR LILY FROM SOUTH AFRICA
 TOP PHOTOS BY JOSHUA JOHNSTON; BOTTOM PHOTOS BY LINDA IMMEDIATO

Gable and Fred Astaire, during the extravagant affairs. So large were her parties, Virginia had to remodel parts of the home to accommodate the throngs. A large terrazzo terrace opening to the great lawn was added at the back of the home. The narrow front entryway, which often bottlenecked when partygoers arrived, was widened.

The last changes to her estate were mainly decor updates to the interiors of the main residence in the 1950s. The gold curtains and sleek, matching sofa and chairs in the Gold Room call to mind Jackie O's revamp of the White House and channel the same austere luxury. Thousands of old, leather-bound books collected from the corners of the Earth line the library's walls. The home is an eclectic repository of souvenirs, art, photo albums and guidebooks from the couple's extensive trips. These mementos survived and still make up a large part of the decor—ancient artifacts from Asia, like bronze sculptures of multilimbed deities, decorate tables and shelves. If the mashup is confusing, remember these are objects cultivated from a well-lived and well-traveled life that spanned from the Victorian era to the space age.

Virginia Robinson passed away just weeks short of her 100th birthday in 1977. Upon her death, the entire estate was bequeathed to the County of Los Angeles in hopes that what she referred to as her "life's work" could be shared with the public and future generations.

Repairs and maintaining the estate would be costly, but it received early support from the L.A. County Supervisor at the time, Edmund D. Edelman. He and the Board of Supervisors placed the estate under the auspices of the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Gardens. Edelman then enlisted Joan Selwyn, a leader in the arts community, to form an organization of activists to support the restoration project. He proposed a partnership.

Selwyn created "Friends of Robinson Gardens" in 1982 with a Board of Directors and a general membership of over 75 committed women. The FRG would become the major source of fundraising to restore and maintain the garden estate, while L.A. County would run the day-to-day operations. A letter from President Ronald Reagan that year called the partnership a fine example of what can be accomplished through cooperation between the private and public sectors.

Metal leaves engraved with the names of FRG supporters, among them Barbara Streisand, hang on a decorative steel tree sculpture at the back of the residence.

According to Patty Elias, FRG Board Member and archive coordinator, the organization has restored all of the historic buildings on the property, to the strict standards of the Department of Interior, in the decades since. Additionally, Elias said that despite delays caused by COVID-19, FRG was able to fund and complete phase two of the Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS). The Virginia Robinson Gardens is in the process of applying for museum accreditation and the HALS report will provide the landscape documentation necessary for the museum status application.

While the future of its operations has yet to be decided, if you make it up to the end of Elden Way, try to imagine nothing was there before. And remember that many of the living things—the scented Eiffel Tower roses, the majestic eucalyptus, the King Palm Forest and old banyan trees—were planted there by the Robinsons with love and still stand before you now inspiring wonder, over a century later. ●

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Must-Haves for Summer

BY LINDA IMMEDIATO

Ah, summer. The sun is shining, the earth is warm and flowers are in bloom. It's the perfect time to shed the doldrums and engage in a little self-care spending, commonly known as retail therapy. If you've ever made a purchase to feel better, you're not alone. It appears it's one activity in which we almost universally take part.

According to a recent Deloitte survey, nearly 80% of 150,000 adults spanning 23 countries claimed to have made at least one splurge purchase to lift their mood within a given six-month period. What's surprising is that these indulgences were made across the board, regardless of age, income or gender. In fact, the study may have even debunked the long-held "lipstick index," which used women's purchases as the primary barometer of splurge spending. Deloitte's poll showed that men were equally as likely to make emotional purchases and spend about 40% more when they do.

The latest designer launches are the definition of retail therapy, with enough vibrant pops of color and glowing neon to send dopamine production into overdrive. Research has shown that many reap the same mood-enhancing benefits as spenders just by window shopping. So, in theory, merely pursuing these pages should elevate your mood without ever putting an item in your cart or a credit card on the counter. Happy shopping!

BRIGHTEN UP

1. Deliciously reminiscent of tri-color swirls of Neapolitan ice cream, the Trinity ring from **Cartier** features ribbons of 18-carat white, yellow and rose gold. \$6,100 at *Cartier*, 411 N. Rodeo Drive, 310-275-4272 and cartier.com

2. Whether you birdie or bogey, you'll win style points on the fairway with this golf bag from the summer capsule collection by **Louis Vuitton** and L.A.-based artist Tyler, The Creator. \$31,500 at *Louis Vuitton*, 295 N. Rodeo Drive, 310-859-0457 and louisvuitton.com

3. This **Dior Men** fluorescent-green polo shirt was made for the sporty gentleman who likes to stand out in a crowd. \$890 at *Dior Men*, 362 N. Rodeo Drive, 310-247-8003 and dior.com

4. Carry your summer haul in this chic hand-woven tote from **Valentino**. It comes with a matching drawstring pouch that can be removed and used separately. \$3,885 at *Valentino*, 324 N. Rodeo Drive, 310-247-0103 and valentino.com

5. Named after the first female to complete a solo transatlantic flight, the Amelia sunglasses by **Saint Laurent** capture the effortless cool of the fearless aviator. \$560 at *Saint Laurent*, 326 N. Rodeo Drive, 310-271-5051 and ysl.com

6. Add a pop of color to any neutral-hued ensemble with these **Gucci Signoria** neon slingback pumps. Green not your thing? They also come in an electric pink shade. \$1,100 at *Gucci*, 347 N. Rodeo Drive, 310-278-3451 and gucci.com

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ULTRAVIOLET DELIGHT

1. Emilio Pucci's bold prints were the epitome of glamour in the 1960s. They still are. This Pucci one-piece swimsuit is timeless, with an upgrade—it's made of UV-resistant fabric. \$500 at Saks Fifth Avenue, 9570 Wilshire Blvd., 310-275-4211 and [saksfifthavenue.com](https://www.saksfifthavenue.com)
2. From the HardWear collection by Tiffany & Co., this white gold bracelet is simple enough to be worn every day, but with a single link covered in diamonds, it holds its own when paired with formal attire. \$21,000 at Tiffany & Co., 210 N. Rodeo Drive, 310-273-8880 and [tiffany.com](https://www.tiffany.com)

3. Imagine the delight of guests at your next garden cocktail party when they're served libations in these amethyst-hued glasses from L'Objet. The gem-colored glassware is also available in highball, old-fashioned and wine glass styles. They are sold in a set of four and come in purple (pictured), amber, Bordeaux (a garnet and blue topaz color combo) and a rich emerald green shade. \$200 at GEARYS Beverly Hills, 351 N. Beverly Drive, 310-273-4741 and [gearys.com](https://www.gearys.com)
4. Part of the latest Colormaniam collection from Louis Vuitton, this four-piece luggage set will put a smile on your face—before you've even made your travel plans. \$49,000 at Louis Vuitton, 295 N. Rodeo Drive, 310-859-0457 and [louisvuitton.com](https://www.louisvuitton.com)

5. A wide-brim straw hat is an indispensable summer accessory. This simple, classic version from Dior is destined to become your go-to this season. \$890 at Dior, 309 N. Rodeo Drive, 310-859-4700 and [dior.com](https://www.dior.com)
6. You can ride the perfect break on this gorgeous wooden Fendi surfboard, but if you'd rather display it as decor, we wouldn't judge. \$8,900 at Fendi, 201 N. Rodeo Drive, 310-623-3420 and [fendi.com](https://www.fendi.com)

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JULY 12

“Long Legs” stars Nicolas Cage, Maika Monroe and Blair Underwood. Director Osgood Perkins gives us a serial killer thriller with a little bit of the occult thrown in for good measure. The FBI heroine must find the killer before he strikes again...sound familiar?

“Touch,” a romantic drama, comes from Iceland and is based on a book of the same name. After his wife dies, a man is determined to find his long-ago first love before he dies; a woman who disappeared 50 years before.

“Twisters” is a sequel or reimagining of the 1996 disaster movie “Twister.” There are high winds a-comin’ for stars Daisy Edgar-Jones, Maura Tierney and Glen Powell (who’s having quite a summer).

JULY 19

“Thelma” stars the always fun, feisty and fabulous June Squibb as a (very) old lady who has been duped out of her savings. She’s on a mission to get it back and will stop at nothing. The supporting cast includes Malcolm McDowell and the late Richard Roundtree in his last role. This Thelma needs no Louise. (Limited release)

JULY 26

“Deadpool & Wolverine” (title as of press time, it may change) unites Ryan Reynolds’ snarky mutant mercenary Deadpool and Hugh Jackman’s long-clawed, alpha Wolverine. Who or what is their common enemy or purpose remains under wraps but be assured, there will be mayhem. Directed by Shawn Levy, this unlikely bromance also stars Matthew MacFadyen hot off his run on HBO’s hit “Succession.”

AUGUST 2

“Harold and the Purple Crayon” is a live-action movie based on the much-loved children’s book that explores sibling rivalry through fantasy, heroics and a magical purple crayon. Among the very starry cast are Zooey Deschanel, Zachary Levi and Lil Rel Howery.

“Trap” is another M. Night Shyamalan family production, this time with him directing and his daughter Saleka as one of the stars. He has not divulged much information about the film other than that it is a psychological thriller set at a concert. Among the cast is Josh Harnett and the rarely seen and much-missed Hayley Mills.

“My Old Ass” is a comedy about how the future impinges on the present when a young girl is visited by her future self and advised against falling in love, especially with someone who spells trouble. You guessed it, the years pass and she falls in love with the one she was warned about. The delightful Aubrey Plaza stars. (Limited release)

1. RYAN REYNOLDS AS DEADPOOL IN “DEADPOOL & WOLVERINE”

PHOTO COURTESY OF 20TH CENTURY STUDIOS/MARVEL STUDIOS

2. PALMI KORMÁKUR AND KÔKI IN “TOUCH”

PHOTO BY LILJA JONSDOTTIR, COURTESY OF FOCUS FEATURES

3. THE CAST OF “BORDERLANDS”

PHOTO COURTESY OF LIONSGATE

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AUGUST 9

“Borderlands” is an arcade to big screen transition of the popular video game of the same name, written and directed by horror meister Eli Roth. Video game series, especially those involving first-person, role-playing, fantasy, science fiction and Westerns would seem daunting. Nevertheless, he has a starry cast to back him up led by Cate Blanchett (always looking to expand her range) with support including Jamie Lee Curtis, Jack Black, Kevin Hart and a delicious villain played by Edgar Ramirez. This is a built-in series ready for sequels. Although animated films have fared better overall than live-action video game movies, this one seems to be played tongue in cheek.

“It Ends with Us” is based on the bestseller by Colleen Hoover where main character Lily is forced to make some hard choices when her high school sweetheart comes back into her life. Blake Lively stars in this very romantic film co-starring, written and directed by the hunky Justin Baldoni.

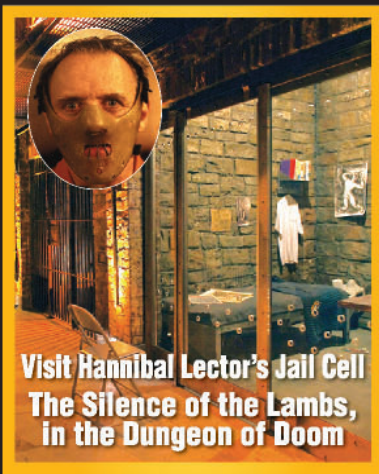
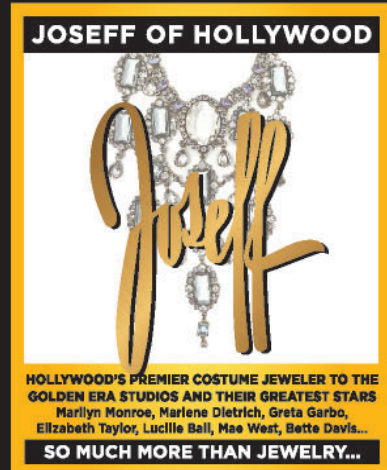
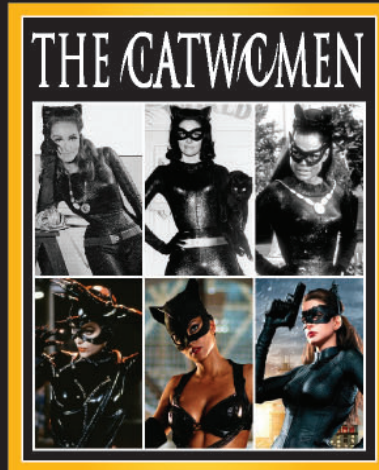
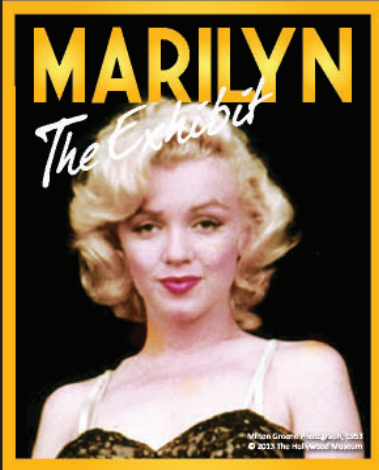
“Speak No Evil,” an English language remake of a very popular Danish film, is a cautionary tale. One nice family meets another, seemingly nice family on vacation and accepts their invitation to come visit. Directed by James Watkins who made “Eden Lake,” all is not what it seems and danger lurks around every corner in this psychological thriller.

“Flint Strong” is based on the true story of Claressa “T-Rex” Shields who wants to be the first American woman to win a gold medal in boxing at the Olympics. Directed by Rachel Morrison and written by Barry Jenkins, the Oscar-winning writer/director of “Moonlight,” it features a very strong cast led by Brian Tyree Henry.

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1.



AUGUST 16

“Alien: Romulus,” directed by Fede Alvarez, is theoretically a sequel to the other “Alien” movies. A group of young people face an evil force, but this time there’s no Sigourney Weaver to rescue them or Jean-Pierre Jeunet, David Fincher or Ridley Scott at the helm.

“The Union” is an action comedy/thriller starring Mark Wahlberg as an ordinary Joe roped into spy shenanigans by his ex-girlfriend played by Halle Berry. The supporting cast includes J.K. Simmons, Mike Colter and Jackie Earle Haley.

“Horizon: An American Saga Chapter 2” is a continuation of “Chapter 1,” which opened on June 28.

AUGUST 23

“Blink Twice” marks Zoe Kravitz’s directorial debut in a story about a cocktail waitress who succumbs to a tech mogul’s advances and takes an ill-advised vacation with him and his friends to a private island. Strange things begin to happen, and she has to figure out how to get out alive. This strong cast includes Kyle MacLachlan, Geena Davis, Channing Tatum, Haley Joel Osment and Christian Slater.

“Slingshot” stars Casey Affleck as an astronaut on a mission to Saturn’s moon, Titan. The flight may be compromised, and he’s in a battle with his consciousness as he tries to maintain a grip on reality. Able support is provided by Laurence Fishburne and David Morrissey

“The Crow” uses the character as a starting point, and Eric Draven, the Crow, has a new look. Still based on the graphic novel series, it has gothic director Rupert Sanders (“Snow White and the Huntsman”) at the helm and horror stalwart Bill Skarsgård (of the famous acting family, Stellan is his father and Alexander, his brother) and Danny Huston in support. It remains to be seen if it can escape the curse that followed when Brandon Lee (son of Bruce) was accidentally killed on the set of the original film.

SEPTEMBER 6

“Beetlejuice Beetlejuice” is a sequel to the original 1988 movie. Once again, Tim Burton has brought the ghost back to life with Michael Keaton reprising his role as the scarier version of Casper the Friendly Ghost, Winona Ryder returning as Lydia Deetz, the formerly goth teenager who lived in the haunted house all those years ago, and Catherine O’Hara is still her mother, Delia Deetz. New additions are Jenna Ortega as Lydia’s daughter Astrid, and Monica Bellucci as Beetlejuice’s wife.

Whether you see it as a feast or famine, there’s definitely something here for you. So make a trip to a multiplex near you, load up on popcorn and soda and get ready for some summer entertainment. ●

2.



1. ISABELA MERCED IN “ALIEN: ROMULUS”

PHOTO COURTESY OF 20TH CENTURY STUDIOS

2. BILL SKARSGÅRD IN “THE CROW”

PHOTO BY LARRY HORRICKS, COURTESY OF LIONSGATE

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Over the years, the Lautner building at 9884 S. Santa Monica Blvd., originally designed for John Darrow in 1946, was home to various tenants—a nail salon, medical offices and a drug store. But under its current owner, the Angeleno Group, a late-stage venture capital and investment firm focusing on climate change-related technologies, it's set to become a stunning state-of-the-art sustainable model of adaptive reuse.

The Darrow Office Building's brick facade with its iconic louvered shutters will remain virtually unchanged, save for the reinstatement of a few ornamental details that had been removed over time, and of course, the addition of the hotly contested third floor, a glass-walled, floating rooftop patio designed by acclaimed architect, Hagy Belzberg, who won an award for his trailblazing design of the Holocaust Museum LA.

Preserving this historical architectural gem while simultaneously showcasing futuristic tech was the goal. Putting Beverly Hills on the map as the destination for sustainable tech became a mission for Angeleno Group's Co-Founder Yaniv Tepper.

"Some years ago, when I was asked where to find the most interesting green building technologies in Los Angeles, Beverly Hills wasn't high on that list. That's not what people go there for, but I grew up in Beverly Hills," Tepper explained. "I went to Beverly Vista and Beverly High. And for me to have to go see green technologies down near the Port of Long Beach or in Santa Monica, it pained me." In 2021, the city of Santa Monica became the first local government in the nation distinguished with a Platinum certification under the LEED for Cities program. It was an honor that Tepper felt should belong to the city of Beverly Hills. "I wanted the city of Beverly Hills to be an example of these state-of-the-art

technologies," he said.

To that end, every facet of the company's new headquarters, from the electric outlets to the windows, will be outfitted with cutting-edge, energy-saving and efficiency advancements, many from the group's portfolio.

Tepper plans to install what he calls "some pretty frontier stuff," used mainly in residential applications. One example is the latest in intelligent circuitry from the tech company SPAN. It enables homeowners to choose their power source (the grid, solar or battery storage) and divert energy to high-use outlets where it's needed most—all from an app on their phone. Visitors to the group's new headquarters will be able to view the building's energy consumption in real time via a giant SPAN screen in the building's lobby.

Revolutionary active lighting, which automatically adjusts supplied light levels and power usage to reduce waste, will be installed throughout the building. Solar roof panels will be maxed out, and the team is also looking into groundbreaking photovoltaic glass windows to shore up additional sun power. These look like ordinary windows, but cells hidden in the glazing convert sunlight into renewable energy, which can be banked and used when needed. In addition, four solar-powered electric vehicle charging stations will be installed onsite so employees, clients and visitors can charge their EVs during daylight office hours without straining the grid.

"We're looking forward to this being the place where when people visit us, they'll be able to see, touch and understand all these different green building technologies," said Tepper. "They're practical, they're real, and they're here."



TOP: VIEW OF ONE BEVERLY HILLS FROM SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD; BOTTOM: ANGELENO GROUP'S GROUND-FLOOR EMPLOYEE LOUNGE (LEFT) AND SECOND-FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM (RIGHT) IN THE HISTORIC DARROW OFFICE BUILDING

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AMAN GUESTROOM POOL
 RENDERING COURTESY OF KERRY HILL ARCHITECTS

When it comes to working spaces, the city scores on the higher end of the national average with 27 LEED-awarded commercial buildings, according to recent statistics provided by the United States Green Building Council (USGBC), which administers the complex LEED ranking system, the standard in evaluating sustainable building worldwide. “Because of the high number of luxury brands and high-end offices, Beverly Hills is a unique market for LEED and green buildings,” said Stephanie Gabriel, USGBC Pacific Regional Director. “These companies and brands are embracing LEED certification as part of their sustainability strategy and to enhance customer experience and satisfaction.”

“Today, sustainability is expected; it’s part of our lifestyle. We believe that incorporating green elements into every project makes our environment healthier, and everyone—and every building—needs to contribute.”

- Paul Daneshrad, Founder/CEO,
 StarPoint Properties

Gabriel considers the remodel of the 46,000-square-foot office building at 9000 Wilshire Blvd. a stand-out example in Beverly Hills. “It implements green and sustainable strategies like water reduction and solar power generation while focusing on health and wellness with bicycle parking service and lots of natural light. This is why the project attained Platinum certification, the highest level a project can achieve.”

Another existing building deserving special mention, according to Gabriel, is the property at 433 N. Camden Drive. When StarPoint Properties, LLC bought the 12-story commercial office tower in 2018, it was the most expensive office building ever purchased in Beverly Hills. At a purchase price of \$193 million, it still holds the record. The building recently earned its LEED Gold status after making a few small sustainability-related improvements. Simply replacing fluorescents and retrofitting lighting fixtures with LED bulbs throughout resulted in one of the most extensive cost and energy-related savings measures. StarPoint also received high marks for implementing a robust recycling program and reducing single-use plastics, such as bottles and utensils, across the entire building.

“From an owner’s standpoint, investing in green renovations positions a building for long-term success. These green renovations optimize building maintenance, preserving the look and integrity of a building for years to come,” said Paul Daneshrad, Founder and CEO of StarPoint Properties. “Today, sustainability is expected; it’s part of our lifestyle. We believe that incorporating green elements into every project makes our environment healthier, and everyone—and every building—needs to contribute.”

With this spate of new and updated green buildings, Beverly Hills is earning its place as a beacon of sustainability, a distinction rightly befitting this legendary destination. ●



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MARIA LEONE WITH CLIENTS
PHOTOS BY RYAN VERMILION

MARIA LEONE

Bodyline Pilates

From a small office at the front of her Beverly Hills Bodyline studio, fitness instructor Maria Leone explained how, after two decades teaching Pilates in Beverly Hills, she unwittingly became one of the top Pilates “fit-fluencers” in Los Angeles.

“The other day, my 19-year-old daughter told me, ‘Mom, Pilates is really popular right now, all my friends are doing it!’ And to me, 19-year-olds are the barometer; if they’re doing something, it really has become a thing,” Leone said. Certainly, when pics of Harry Styles at a Pilates studio in London recently went viral on social media, the decades-old exercise received a measurable uptick.

Leone’s past and current private clients have included a mix of Olympic athletes, industry elites and celebrities (from A-list to reality show megastars). In addition to the four to five private lessons she holds, either in person at the Beverly Hills studio or via video with those who live outside the area, Leone leads two to three group classes per week. On weekends, she drives to the private homes of her exclusive clients who can afford the heftier fee, about \$400-\$600 per 45-minute session. Not all of them are hiding from paparazzi, though. “Some just don’t want to drive and deal with parking, and they can afford it,” Leone said.

On top of all of that, five times a week she shoots and edits short video segments for her Instagram feed, @bodylinela, which currently has over 130,000 followers and growing. Earlier this year, she added a paid subscription page for fans who want more of her content. Membership grants them access to a stripped-down version of Leone. “I don’t have to really worry about what I look like or what I have on or if [the video] is catchy. It’s very freeing in a way. And I can show other things that I don’t want to show the whole world, even stuff about my body that I don’t particularly like.” Leone recently shared a poignant video of her and her mother, who has advanced dementia, in a segment about the benefits of Pilates on Alzheimer’s patients. It’s these types of private moments Leone also reserves for her closest subscribers.

Of course, keeping up with the subscription page requires more

content, about three to four additional videos to shoot, edit and post per week.

Leone, a professional dancer who’s worked with Debbie Allen and Paula Abdul, leaned on her background as a performer and educator. “I’m not going to go out there and show my body and cute outfits. I can’t do that, but I can do who I am on Instagram and just see what happens.” Turns out people were interested. A lot of people.

“There wasn’t anyone else on that platform doing my take on Pilates, which is very much about educating the people in my industry.”

In terms of Pilates, Leone has somewhat of a coveted pedigree. She studied classical Pilates under Mari Windsor, who brought Pilates into the mainstream. Her West Hollywood studio was a Who’s Who of Hollywood, and everyone from Dustin Hoffman to Miley Cyrus were her clients. Windsor was trained by Romana Kryzanowska, one of the few protégées of Joseph Pilates, the inventor of the exercise and its contraptions himself. And in the age of mashup workouts, Pilates purists from far and wide have sought out Leone, virtually and in person.

In addition to creating content for social media, Leone also shoots videos for her Bodyline Pilates YouTube channel and on-demand streaming service, which have tens of thousands of views. Most are of Leone working with people of every age, athletic ability and size, and it resonated.

“So many more people know about me now, and it’s amazing. And I’m not showing rock-solid bodies. I’m talking about moving and feeling connected and teaching people about their bodies and helping different types of bodies.”

Leone added, “But, there’s nothing like in-person training.”

Until recently, her studio offered one-on-one private Pilates lessons almost exclusively. Due to the rising demand for group workouts and the enormous popularity of ClassPass, Leone has begun to add a few group sessions to the studio’s schedule. “You need eyes on you,” she said. “It’s an energy exchange, too. It’s not just the class, it’s the place, the environment, the people, the culture; it all makes a difference.”



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NOAH NEIMAN

Rumble Boxing

Fat burning, stress relieving, metabolism increasing, the benefits of boxing go on and on. It's quickly gaining traction as one of today's hottest workouts. And no place is hotter to hit the bag right now than Rumble, which has celebrity fans from David Beckham to Kendall Jenner KO'd.

Founded in 2017 by Noah Neiman, Rumble is now part of Xponential Fitness, one of the largest global boutique fitness brand franchise groups. Currently, there are 80 Rumble boxing gyms around the country and the world (from Australia to Tokyo), with an additional 350 set to open within the next two years.

Neiman hails from Barry's Bootcamp, where he was a master trainer for the fitness company for several years. "While I was there, I kind of built up my own personal brand on social media," said Neiman. "I've been training, boxing and doing jiu-jitsu and martial arts my whole life, and just fell in love with the calmness that it brought me. So, I wanted to bring that discipline to the world and do it in a way that had a much bigger chance of being digestible to the mass public because I grew up in the dirty, dingy boxing gyms of Pittsburgh and New York. And I love them. But I know that the average consumer isn't going to love that."

Neiman opened the enormously popular West Hollywood location in 2018. It remains the only corporate-owned Rumble boxing gym, as well as the company's headquarters. As such, it's massive, 6,600 square feet, and houses state-of-the-art amenities like infrared saunas and hyperbaric chambers. With its dim lighting and endorphin-inducing tunes thumping through the sound system, the vibe is more nightclub than dingy boxing gym. The playlists, custom hip-hop and house music mashups, are curated in-house and designed to get you pumped.

"It gives you a level of confidence that you can throw some punches and know what you're doing, and you're as strong and healthy as you can be. And that's the most important thing."

- Noah Neiman,
Rumble Boxing Founder



NOAH NEIMAN

PHOTO BY IAN PASSMORE

Each 45-minute workout features a mix of high-intensity interval training, metabolic conditioning, weightlifting and, of course, boxing. About half of the workout is spent pounding the company's proprietary water-filled, tear-dropped-shaped bags. "I didn't want to open a boxing space where you just box. I knew the efficacy of a workout was tied to having some kind of strength-training program as well," explained Neiman. "So, we don't just box, we lift weights, from 5 pounds all the way up to 45 pounds. And similar to the Barry's Bootcamp model, we do squats, lunges, push-ups, pull-ups, curls and shoulder presses. We work your chest, your back, your abs, your cardiovascular, and you get to punch things."

If you've never thrown a fist, fear not, you'll be instructed on the six basic punches before you begin. Advanced pugilists have several options to stay fit, from express 30-minute workouts to 60 minutes and 12 rounds of boxing and strength training.

While Rumble's emphasis is on in-person training, the company's app gives members priority status when booking appointments. They can also chart their progress with the in-app tracker and connect with other members. Rumble-branded boxing workout videos are also available on-demand to members through the XPlus app, owned by Rumble's partner Xponential. There, they can find a host of prerecorded at-home, Peloton-style workouts, with live component options as well.

"This is what I really believe can help communities, which was the ultimate goal, to give people an outlet, a safe place to express their physicality and to get better at fighting," said Neiman. "It gives you a level of confidence that you can throw some punches and know what you're doing, and you're as strong and healthy as you can be. And that's the most important thing." ●



THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS HAS LAUNCHED A NEW WEBSITE AND CUSTOMER RELATIONS PROGRAM!

The City has launched its new website that features improved functionality, easy navigation and at-a-glance information about City news and events. Additionally, the City has launched its **askBH** customer relations program designed to provide the community with one point-of-contact for non-emergency assistance. You can request information and services, report issues and concerns and receive updates when your requests have been resolved. If the askBH team doesn't know the answer, we'll get you to the right people. Please continue to use 911 for emergency assistance.

askBH COMMON REQUESTS:

- Register for camps and classes, reserve park amenities.
- Report potholes, sidewalk and streetlight issues, fallen trees and limbs.
- Request bulky item pickups, extra pickups, start or stop commercial trash service.
- Information and status on fire and building permits, inspection appointments and plan checks.
- And more! Visit beverlyhills.org/askbh.



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2 Online/City of Beverly Hills Mobile App: **askBH** (formerly AskBev)



3 Phone: 310-285-1000

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askBH hours of operation:

Monday - Thursday | 7:30 am - 5:30 pm
Friday | 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
24/7 | beverlyhills.org/askBH

REQUEST • REPORT • RESOLVE

Old Crafts, New Skills

BY LINDA IMMEDIATO

In our increasingly high-tech world, so much of old-world, artisan craftsmanship is disappearing in the digital age. This summer, take your cue from the old flowers pushing forth new blooms and pick up a new skill while learning an old craft. We've included plenty of fun options to entertain and educate kids, as well as seniors. From the ancient art of pottery to the popular Victorian pastime needlepoint, learning yesterday's craftsmanship can open a whole new world for you.

POTTERY

This summer, beginning June 17 through Aug. 9, **Bitter Root Pottery** is hosting "Summer Kids Camp," a series of weeklong, daily classes for kids (6-12 years old). Sessions are Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (\$95 per day) and promise a bonanza of activities. Students receive step-by-step instructions on how to make and design a cup or bowl on the wheel; they'll choose a glaze color; and the staff handles the glazing and firing process. You'll get a call when your prodigy's masterpiece is ready for pickup. Parents, want to get away from the kiddos? Find your Zen space—the indoor greenhouse, Japanese koi pond or breathtaking mountain views—while you take an adults-only (18+), two-hour, beginner class (\$95) offered daily.



A FINISHED PIECE AT ARISTEIA NEEDLEPOINT
PHOTO COURTESY OF LAURA TAYLOR

NEEDLEPOINT

Aristeia Needlepoint has been a cross-stitcher's mecca since it was established in 1996; first in Brentwood Village, where it remained until 2010 before moving to its current location in Santa Monica. The shop is stocked with every type of needlepoint thread, fiber and accessory imaginable, including one-of-a-kind, hand-painted base canvases. Drop-in beginner classes are held weekly, and one-on-one lessons are also available. aristeianeedlepoint.com

CHESS

This year, the **Roxbury Park Community Center** in Beverly Hills introduced a brand-new chess club. Seniors (ages 55 and up) can learn the age-old game or hone their checkmate skills every Thursday from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Centennial Room. The cost is \$1/\$2 per person. beverlyhills.org

GOURMET COOKING

Looking for a fun and delicious evening out? Grab your plus-one and learn how to make pasta, or take a special date-night cooking class for two at **Violet Bistro**. A two-hour lesson will have you chopping, sautéing and searing your way to an epic, three-course meal. violetla.com



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WORLD ARTS

Send your kids on an art expedition around the world at **Robertson Art Zone Summer Camp**. Beginning June 17 through Aug. 30, weeklong workshops will be held for ages 5 to 11 with lessons in Middle Eastern, African, South American, North American and European art. From the mosaics of Morocco to the beaded wonders of the Maasai, your little ones will be inspired to create their own cherished artworks. Attendees receive a mock passport to get stamped at each “destination.” The cost is \$650 per week or a daily drop-in fee of \$135 per day. razland.com

SNEAKER DESIGN

Known as “The Shoe Surgeon,” Dominic Ciambone offers classes at his **SRGN Academy** to help you upgrade your most worn shoe. Bring your own kicks to a one-day, customization workshop where you’ll personalize them with paints, leathers and laces (\$200), or sign up for a three-day, comprehensive, lab experience (\$3,000) to learn how to deconstruct and reconstruct popular sneaker silhouettes. You’ll be supplied everything you need, learn each step of the process and leave with your own custom pair designed and created by you. srgnacademy.com



KAZUKI TAKIZAWA TEACHING STUDENTS THE ART OF GLASSBLOWING
PHOTO COURTESY OF KT GLASSWORKS



SUMMER CAMP AT ROBERTSON ART ZONE
PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBERTSON ART ZONE

GLASSBLOWING

No previous glassblowing experience is necessary to take a lesson at **KT Glassworks**. Founder glass artist, Kazuki Takizawa, designed the private lessons for those who want to learn the art of glassblowing at their own pace. Take the lesson by yourself or with a special someone. Single-student lessons (three hours) are \$330, and two-student lessons (four hours) are \$250 per person. ktglassworks.com

FASHION DESIGN

Designer Summer Camp returns to the **Pacific Design Center** on July 15-19 for its 10th year. Students (ages 11-17) interested in a career in design are invited to join the jam-packed, weeklong series of hands-on workshops. They will work to create their portfolio and can choose from classes in fashion design, interior design, photography and more. Events, guest speakers and tours of past summer projects round out the experience. Classes are from Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and the cost is \$1,495 per person. Spots fill up fast! designercamp.com ●



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LOUIS VUITTON

Dozens Arrested at Latest UCLA Protest

BY JOEY WALDINGER

As the academic year ends, tensions at UCLA flared up again on June 10, as police arrested 25 pro-Palestine protesters who had erected three encampments over approximately five hours of protesting.

According to a California News Service report, the protesters, led by the UCLA chapter of Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP), initially held a mock funeral procession, carrying fake bloody bodies and reading the names of Palestinians killed by Israel before setting up the encampments.

As the UCLA Police Department dispersed the encampments, the group of about 100 protesters marched through academic

buildings and disrupted final exams, painted walkways, damaged patio furniture and vandalized vehicles, the University of California Police Department (USPD) stated. In addition to the 25 protesters arrested for willful disruption of university operations, another individual was arrested for interfering with a police officer as the first encampment was being set up, according to the UCPD.

In a statement, SJP repeated its demands for UCLA to divest from Israel, disclose the school's funding, grant amnesty for arrested protesters and recognize the attack on Gaza as a genocide.

"In this last week of the quarter the students of UCLA—despite facing overwhelming administrative oppression, potential

charges, and disciplinary action from the very school that sanctioned their assault—refuse to be silenced," the statement read.

The protests come during the final weeks of an academic year that has been upended by unrest stemming from Israel's assault on Gaza and the Oct. 7 terror attacks that preceded it. After the first encampment was erected on April 25, pro-Israel counterprotesters violently attacked it late on April 30. It took police hours to quell the scene, and the encampment was eventually dismantled and more than 200 people were arrested.

Weeks later, a coalition of pro-Palestine activists erected another encampment between Moore and Kerckhoff halls, drawing police in riot gear who declared an unlawful

assembly and dismantled the encampment. Despite occasional clashes between protesters and police as they entered the encampment, the demonstration was largely peaceful, and police did not make any arrests.

That same day, 18-year-old Beverly Hills resident Edan On was arrested for his alleged participation in the April 30 attack. After being booked for suspicion of felony assault with a deadly weapon, On was transported to Men's Central Jail on May 24 and released on a \$30,000 bail. His first court date is scheduled for June 21. ●

BHPD EXPLORERS, from page 4

volunteer-based program for Beverly Hills teens to assist police officers in non-hazardous duties, was started in 2004. It prepares young members of the community with tools to succeed, wherever their careers may take them. Requirements to take part in the program include maintaining at least a 2.0 grade point average, no previous arrests or convictions and no physical handicaps that could jeopardize their safety.

"We realized that we know we want to give an even better exposure to the world of law enforcement and a high-stress environment that sometimes we can't replicate here at the police department on a daily basis," BHPD Sergeant Jeffrey Newman told the Courier. The department pays for the academy so that the explorers can excel in their duties within the program. "It also gives kind of a stepping stone for the kids when they get a chance to earn their uniform, when they get a chance to earn their badge. And we see that they're way more dedicated to our program when we just ask them to do something like this," he continued.

Shabani explained that the program entailed around 11 hours once a week for 12 weeks. He arrived at the boot camp in Torrance at 6:05 a.m. each Saturday and left between 5 p.m. and 5:15 p.m. Throughout each day of the academy, explorers were required to stay focused, follow specific commands from drill instructors and could be asked to complete a round of push-ups at any given time. They sat in lectures, did homework assignments, partook in physical training and learned to work as a team. The days were long as he recalls but worth it. "The hardest part I think was learning how to work as one big team, especially when marching and being able to help each other out just making sure that their uniform is up to par after the bathroom breaks and stuff like that, just learning to be watching each other's back," he told the Courier.

Outside of the academy, the Explorers

had to complete homework for lectures, study for tests and learn police codes. They were also enrolled as full-time high school students during the process.

"It was hard to keep up with school because we had to put effort into the academy during the week as well," Cardoso told the Courier. "We had to learn codes, study for tests and mostly complete the notebook. During school, it was hard to learn and focus on it because I was thinking about the codes, the academy, and how well I would perform the following Saturday." Though it was a difficult semester, she is thankful that the program provided her with skills and friendships that she says will last a lifetime.

As graduates of the academy, all three teens are now able to help the Beverly Hills Police Department as a full-fledged Police Explorer. This means they can assist BHPD in maintaining safety at events such as the Golden Globes or the LA Marathon along with other duties. With the increased training, Newman hopes to expand the program so that explorers can be even more involved. In the future, he would like to see them participate in ride-alongs, or even sit-alongs, where they sit with a dispatcher in a vehicle and get to know the realities of police work.

Not all of the Explorers are set on becoming full-time police officers in the future. Fuente is interested in learning new skills that may help her wherever she decides to go. "The academy has changed me both mentally and physically," she told the Courier. "I've gotten more confident and stronger. I've also gained knowledge about law enforcement that not a lot of other teenagers know about. I am eternally grateful for the skills and knowledge that the academy has left me with." ●

MAPLE COUNSELING, from page 4

commitment to community and mental wellness, was performed by community leaders and members including L.A. City Councilwoman Heather Hutt, Dr. Etsmayer Agonafer, Amanda Laflen, Field Deputy, Metro West for L.A. County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, among others.

The Chief Executive Officer of Maple Counseling Center, Varina Bleil, expressed her appreciation for the support. "Our ribbon-tying event served as a unifying force within the community as we celebrated the opening of our new clinic. We're thrilled to further extend access to quality mental health care to all Angelenos through our new facility."

Attendees were treated to remarks from

NATHAN HOCHMAN, from page 1

they know that the consequences will be fairly and consistently enforced," he said. "Gascón has upended that goal of deterrence, and we can see criminals are paying attention, whether it's hate crimes escalating, whether it's shoplifting going through the roof or smash and grabs spiking."

Hochman has vowed to rescind all of Gascon's "pro-criminal, blanket policies that have decarceration as their primary goal" on his first day in office.

Thus far, he has received endorsements from the union representing deputy district attorneys, former LA County DA's Jackie Lacey and Steve Cooley, the Los Angeles County Police Chiefs' Association and over 50 elected officials. This includes current and former Beverly Hills elected officials Lester Friedman, Lili Bosse, Sharona Nazarian, Julian Gold, M.D., John Mirisch, Craig Corman and Mary Wells.

He has also received the endorsement of the Beverly Hills Police Officers' Association and recently spent time meeting with Police Chief Mark Stainbrook and touring the BHPD's Real Time Watch Center.

"I came away extremely impressed with what Beverly Hills Police Department has come up with," he said. "My only hope is that the system (Real Time Watch Center) can get exported to the other 87 cities in the county."

Hochman spoke with officers about the BHPD's efforts to address rising rates of retail crime and antisemitism, which are two major issues he would seek to crack down on if elected.

"I've been involved with the ADL, the American Jewish Committee and the American

Maple Counseling CEO Varina Bleil, as well as event chairs Deborah Kallick and Rex Wilder. Following the ceremony, guests enjoyed food, beverages, and guided tours of the clinic, showcasing its state-of-the-art facilities and services.

The Briskin | Wilder Welcome Center will provide free personalized guidance from licensed practitioners, ensuring that all Angelenos find appropriate and affordable quality mental health care. Supported by philanthropist Judy Briskin and her son Rex Wilder, Chair of Maple Counseling's Board of Directors, the BWWC has served over 3,000 individuals since its inception in 2022. For more information, visit <https://www.maple4counseling.org/programs-and-services/briskin-wilder-welcome-center>. ●

Jewish University," said Hochman, whose father was a former president of the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles.

"I have a personal connection to protecting people from being victimized based on their Jewish faith," he added.

Hochman traces his political roots back to his days in the Beverly Hills Unified School District, where he was elected 8th-grade president and later student body president at BHHS.

"I can't say I ran for election again for the next 40 years, but I certainly started out strong in politics," he said. "I loved growing up in Beverly Hills, which at the time had one of the best education systems, not just in California, but in the nation."

He was also a member of the BHHS Debate Team and a varsity tennis player. His mother still lives in Beverly Hills to this day, while Hochman and his wife Vivienne raised their three children nearby in Los Angeles.

After graduating from Beverly Hills High School, Hochman went on to attend Brown University and Stanford Law School. He started his career clerking for United States District Judge Stephen V. Wilson in Los Angeles and then became an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Central District of California.

He later served as United States Assistant Attorney General for the Tax Division of the United States Department of Justice, before transitioning into private practice as a criminal defense attorney.

"I'll bring a unique perspective to the job that no other district attorney has ever had," he said, "because they've never had that combination of experiences as both a prosecutor and a defense attorney." ●

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Roads surrounding Beverly Gardens Park will be impacted,
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Please note there will be meter closures and truck staging on Park Way.



For questions, please contact askBH at 310-285-1000.



THE MARKETPLACE

BY MICHAEL J. LIBOW



Beverly Hills



NEW X | BY APPOINTMENT

812 - 814 N. Bedford Drive \$38,500,000

Or lease long-term at \$68,500/mo furn. Fab cstm gated 2sty 5BD Medit manse near 9,300SF plus 2sty 5BD 4,000SF gst hse. Appx 1acre. TC. Rare find.

Beverly Hills



JUST SOLD

626 N. Foothill Road \$15,750,000

Represented Buyer. Redone as-new classic 2sty gated Trad. 5BD 6.5BA. Near 7,000SF. Sunlit rms Wd flrs Hi clngs. Huge grassy yrd. Exquisite in every sense.

Beverly Hills

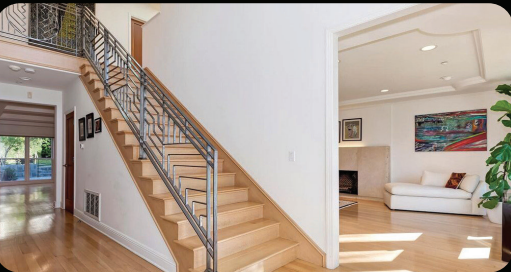


NEW X | FIRST OPEN SUNDAY 2-5

226 S. McCarty Drive \$4,995,000

Charming & spacious (4,750SF) 2sty 5BD 5.5BA Trad. Sep den & great rm. Huge primary w/2BA/walk-ins. Big yrd. Lush landscape. Curb appeal. Paul Williams design.

Beverly Hills



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442 S. Peck Drive \$4,495,000

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Beverlywood



JUST SOLD OVER ASKING

9600 Lockford Street \$3,495,000

Trust Sale. Immac spacious 1sty Trad 3BD + fam rm (over 2,500SF) Huge 11,350SF lot. Pool/patios/lawns. Prime quiet end of cul-de-sac. Beverlywood HOA.

Beverly Hills

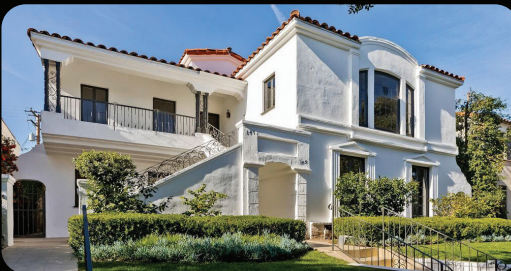


JUST SOLD

320 S. Canon Drive \$3,295,000

1st time available in 51 yrs. Immac 2sty 5BD 4.5BA Traditional. Over 3,000 SF. Sep den & fam rm. Huge liv & dining rooms. Patios/pool. Endless potential.

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JUST SOLD OVER ASKING

145 - 147 N. Clark Drive \$2,795,000

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Beverly Hills



JUST SOLD OVER ASKING

357 S. Clark Drive \$2,295,000

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713 N. Camden Drive \$32,500/mo

Grand newer gated 2sty Medit manse. 5BD 5.5BA. X-hi clngs. Wood & stone flrs. Office & fam rm. Big priv yrd w/ pl/spa/BBQ/turf/mature foliage. Furn avail. Long-term.

Beverly Hills



NEW X | BY APPOINTMENT

332 S. Almont Drive \$18,000/mo

Custom 2008-blt 3sty gated Med. Over 6,000SF. 6BD 6.5BA. Den. Great rm. Office. Huge rec rm. Hi clngs. French drs. Best kitch. Pl/spa/patios. Quiet rd. Long-trm.

Beverly Hills



NEW PRICING | BY APPOINTMENT

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Adjudicated as a Newspaper of general circulation as defined in Section 6008 of the Government Code for the City of Beverly Hills, for the Beverly Hills Unified School District, for the County of Los Angeles, for the State of California and for other districts which include the City of Beverly Hills within each such district's respective jurisdiction in proceeding number C110951 in Superior Court, California, on February 26, 1976.

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June 19



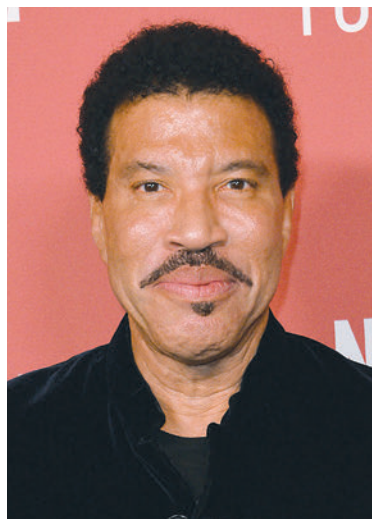
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Astrology

BY HOLIDAY MATIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your willingness to understand and even traverse the emotional landscape of others will foster trust and give you many advantages in your endeavor to create strong relationships.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You carry yourself with elegance, leaving a lasting impression. This has to do with your personal style, though the most attractive thing you do has nothing to do with the physical; rather it's the way you offer full attention as you listen.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You have a knack for making people feel special and appreciated, but it's not what you're trying to do. The fact of the matter is, you are genuinely interested in knowing more about people, and you'll create connections as you learn.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll spread positivity and warmth, and make the world better. Some days it's easier than others. Forethought is needed today. Send kind thoughts out before you send yourself out.

This will set the tone for good interactions.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). If what you see looks stark and ugly, don't believe it. Reality can distort. Some scenes are like the dressing room of a discount store, complete with the bad mirror and fluorescent lighting to ensure an unflattering reflection.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Feelings have a curious way of sneaking up on you or surprising you with their intensity or timbre. When this happens, it's an opportunity to reflect and go deeper into your thought processes.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The road to exhaustion is paved with too many words. You will maintain strong energy levels when you incorporate brevity and use very few, if any, words to relay key information. Actions really will speak louder.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Almost nothing requested of you today will be the literal equivalent of the words used to ask. You may as well think of words as wrapping paper -- something to be stripped away to see what's really being presented.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It feels like the odds are in your favor,

but the fun of life's poker game is that you just never know what kind of hand the person across from you is holding. This is a day to hedge your bets.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your stories are precious commodities of life that you have earned and that belong to you. Your pride in presenting them says something about you. Figuring out how to tell your stories well is an act of self-love and self-esteem.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You can believe that the world is better because of your contributions, even when they are as small as a smile. In fact, your warmth makes a bigger difference than you could ever know.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). A current situation may be intolerable and untenable, but it can be changed. Complaining won't solve anything, but at least it helps you define the problem. Once you know what the problem is, you're halfway there.



The eligible dog of the week this week is Bart. He's a 7-pound, 1-year-old Yorkie mix in need of a new home. If interested in this young pup, please contact Kim Sill of Shelter of Hope at 310-770-3571.

shelterhopepetshop.org

Fun and Games

SUDOKU
06/14/24 ISSUE

	9	5				7	6	
6		8						1
	2	7						4
	1			3	2			
			8		4			
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2						6	9	
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SUDOKU ANSWERS
06/07/24 ISSUE

6	7	8	1	4	2	9	3	5
9	1	5	6	8	3	7	2	4
2	4	3	7	5	9	1	6	8
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7	5	6	8	2	1	4	9	3
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PUZZLE ANSWERS
06/07/24 ISSUE

A	M	B	I	G	O	N	G	D	A	N	G	C	V	S					
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THE NEW YORK TIMES SUNDAY MAGAZINE CROSSWORD PUZZLE
06/14/24 ISSUE

TYPECASTING

BY LUKE K. SCHREIBER / EDITED BY JOEL FAGLIANO

Luke K. Schreiber is a high school senior from Hoboken, N.J. He graduates this month and will attend Princeton University in the fall. Luke made his New York Times debut last December, a Monday puzzle with the theme "It's Me Again." His high school, Saint Peter's Prep, announced the feat at an assembly. Afterward, he says, "it was fun seeing people compete for the fastest time!"

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| <p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 One way to order coffee</p> <p>6 Nike competitor</p> <p>11 Supporting character in costume?</p> <p>17 Relieves</p> <p>19 Kiwi or cassowary</p> <p>21 VCR medium</p> <p>22 "RUFFALO" and "TWAIN"?</p> <p>24 Make comfier over time, as clothes</p> <p>25 Receptacle for remains</p> <p>26 Meat-and-pastry dish</p> <p>27 Attempt to pull apart</p> <p>29 Number that looks like 16-Down in binary code</p> <p>30 Not eliminated yet</p> <p>32 Support for a swing</p> <p>33 HARLO and SMAR?</p> <p>36 Drinker's structure made from stacked cans</p> <p>39 Famed San Francisco theater, with "the"</p> <p>40 Like loose gemstones</p> <p>41 "Sign me up!"</p> <p>42 "___ All That," 2021 rom-com remake</p> <p>43 Rip-offs at the movies</p> <p>45 Norse goddess of death</p> <p>46 LORD and KEMP?</p> <p>51 Camera type, for short</p> | <p>52 Only</p> <p>53 Flavoring for ouzo or sambuca</p> <p>54 Stops</p> <p>56 Words of decree</p> <p>58 ___ check</p> <p>59 Diego Rivera's "The Allegory of California," for one</p> <p>60 Metal coatings</p> <p>63 *O'NEIL* and *ROGERS*?</p> <p>66 CEEEEEENA and LENNNNNON?</p> <p>70 Cutting tool with a reinforced spine</p> <p>72 ___ fritas (Cuban French fries)</p> <p>73 Cry of surprise upon discovering the culprit</p> <p>74 Sole survivor in "Reservoir Dogs"</p> <p>77 Reply to a doubter</p> <p>79 Baseball award given to Shohei Ohtani in '23</p> <p>81 Votes of confidence</p> <p>82 Place for a stirrup</p> <p>85 WILDEROD-DENBERRY?</p> <p>87 Standard to exceed, metaphorically</p> <p>88 Like security systems</p> <p>90 Solar-wind particle</p> <p>91 Glow</p> <p>92 Go with the flow</p> <p>94 Part of a flight in which seatbelts must be worn</p> <p>96 Portrayer of the show creator in "The Truman Show"</p> | <p>100 S-O-L-O and L-A-N-G-E?</p> <p>102 "Pshaw!"</p> <p>103 "Great" child detective</p> <p>104 When repeated, nickname for Time's 2023 Person of the Year</p> <p>105 Younger Jetson kid</p> <p>106 Have the nerve</p> <p>109 Moo goo ___ pan</p> <p>110 "Got it now"</p> <p>112 RU\$\$ELL and BLA\$\$?</p> <p>115 ___-than-thou</p> <p>116 Peaceful</p> <p>117 Set one's sights</p> <p>118 Something found beneath an arch</p> <p>119 Leaders of the fam, with "the"</p> <p>120 "Lovergirl" singer Marie</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DOWN</p> <p>1 Title spy in a Robert Ludlum series</p> <p>2 Canadian dollar coin</p> <p>3 QB stat: Abbr.</p> <p>4 Cause to crack</p> <p>5 High-fat weight-loss diet, for short</p> <p>6 Golfer Palmer, familiarly</p> <p>7 "Ditto!"</p> <p>8 Give ___ go</p> <p>9 Wispy cloud</p> <p>10 Half of a Caribbean nation</p> <p>11 Workweek inits.</p> <p>12 Roman farewell</p> <p>13 The "S" of New York City's SIR train line</p> <p>14 Auto refreshes?</p> <p>15 Classic novel set in rural Nebraska</p> <p>16 See 29-Across</p> <p>17 Kind of kick in football</p> <p>18 Easy mark</p> <p>20 Gamers' games</p> <p>23 Subjective piece</p> <p>28 Run ___ of</p> <p>31 Strong poker holding, informally</p> <p>33 Wine vessels</p> <p>34 Thin sauce</p> <p>35 Pope who met with Attila the Hun</p> <p>37 French female friend</p> <p>38 Max's counterpart</p> <p>39 Looney Tunes turtle</p> <p>42 Gets to vote</p> <p>44 Takes along</p> <p>46 Sticky situations</p> <p>47 Mole or mile</p> <p>48 Glam rock?</p> <p>49 Preserves in slices, as meat</p> <p>50 Big name in motor oil</p> <p>52 Soybean product</p> <p>55 First sultan of both Syria and Egypt</p> <p>57 Cap worn by dervishes</p> <p>59 Person cleaning a horse's stable</p> <p>61 The weather is a classically bland one</p> <p>62 Neck and neck</p> <p>64 Certain baseball stats</p> <p>65 Severe social media punishment</p> <p>67 Music for the masses?</p> |
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ANSWERS FOUND IN NEXT WEEK'S PAPER...

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| <p>68 Nine, in Italian</p> <p>69 Has dinner</p> <p>71 Anderson who directed "Asteroid City"</p> <p>72 One in plane clothes</p> <p>74 "That's on me"</p> <p>75 Novel fund-raising idea?</p> <p>76 Glides over the coast, say</p> <p>78 Favorably interprets</p> | <p>79 Tourist destination in northern India</p> <p>80 Pick up</p> <p>83 Titular character in a Menotti opera</p> <p>84 Some vacation destinations</p> <p>86 "Obviously"</p> <p>88 Did a great job on, in modern slang</p> <p>89 What's generated by solar panels</p> | <p>93 Rehab therapy, informally</p> <p>95 Friend of Winnie-the-Pooh</p> <p>96 Rap's ___ Sweatshirt</p> <p>97 Sleeve style with slanted seams</p> <p>98 Padova's home</p> <p>99 Not-so-good vibration?</p> <p>101 Big name in tractors</p> | <p>102 Farmers' rolls</p> <p>106 "I forbid it"</p> <p>107 Leisurely gait</p> <p>108 Instrument with a vowel-heavy name</p> <p>110 Tuna type</p> <p>111 Fish often served with kabayaki sauce</p> <p>113 Cubs' home</p> <p>114 Nickname for Isaac</p> |
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Public Notices

Trustee's Sale No. 24-100116a

Attention recorder: The following reference to an attached summary is only applicable to notice(s) mailed to the trustor. Note: There is a summary of the information in this document attached Notice of Trustee's Sale You are in default under a deed of trust dated April 11, 2022. Unless you take action to protect your property, it may be sold at a public sale. If you need an explanation of the nature of the proceedings against you, you should contact a lawyer. On June 21, 2024 at 11:00 a.m., C&H TRUST DEED SERVICE, as duly appointed or substituted Trustee, under the certain Deed of Trust executed by Mark Siffin, an unmarried man as Trustor, to secure obligations in favor of Oakhurst Income Fund I, LP, a Delaware Limited Partnership as to an undivided 100.00 Percent interest to Two Million Eight hundred Thousand and 00/100 (\$2,800,000.00) as the original Beneficiary(ies), and recorded on 04/15/2022 as Instrument No. 2022-0420265 in Book xxx, Page xxx in Official Records in the Office of the Recorder of Los Angeles County, California. Will sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, or cashier's check, (payable at the time of sale in lawful money of the United States by cash, a cashier's check drawn by a state or national bank, a state or federal credit union, or a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to business in this state) (Cashier's checks must be directly payable to "C&H TRUST DEED SERVICE"- No endorsed third party checks) Behind the fountain located in Civic Center Plaza located at 400 Civic Center Plaza, Pomona, California all right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in and to the following described real property situated in the aforesaid County and State, to wit: As more fully described in said deed of trust The street address or other common designation of the above-described property is purported to be 1675 Woods Drive West Hollywood, California 90069 A.P.N. No. 5556-032-012 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and/or other common designation, if any, shown hereinabove. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, if any, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust, to wit: Said property is being sold for the express purpose of paying the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust, including fees and expenses of sale. The total amount of the unpaid principal balance, interest thereon, together with reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Trustee's Sale is estimated to be \$3,242,042.19. This debt is cross-collateralized with deed of trust No. 2022-0421639 and the debt will be apportioned at auction as between the two properties at the beneficiaries sole discretion. The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned Trustee, or predecessor Trustee, has caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located and more than three months have elapsed since such recordation. Notice to potential bidders: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the

property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. Notice to property owner: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (949) 860-9155 for information regarding the trustee's sale or visit for information regarding the sale of this property, using the file number assigned to this case 24-100116a. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. Notice to tenant: You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call (949) 305-8901, or visit this internet website, www.chtrusteed.com, using the file number assigned to this case 24-100116a to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. Please take notice that if the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. Further, if the foreclosure sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid and shall have no further recourse or remedy against the Mortgagee, Mortgagee, or Trustee herein. If you have previously been discharged in bankruptcy, you may have been released of personal liability for this loan in which case this notice is intended to exercise the note holders rights against the real property only. As required by law, you are notified that a negative credit reporting may be submitted to a credit report agency if you fail to fulfill the terms of your credit obligation. For trust-

ee's sale dates, bids and postponement information please call (949) 860-9155 or visit www.chtrusteed.com. For any other inquiries, including litigation or bankruptcy matters, please call (949) 305-8901 or fax (949) 305-8406. C&H TRUST DEED SERVICE, as successor trustee Dated: May 21, 2024 Coby Halavais Trustee's Sale Officer (IFS# 35166 05/31/24, 06/07/24, 06/14/24)

Trustee's Sale No. 24-100116b

Attention recorder: The following reference to an attached summary is only applicable to notice(s) mailed to the trustor. Note: There is a summary of the information in this document attached Notice of Trustee's Sale You are in default under a deed of trust dated April 15, 2022. Unless you take action to protect your property, it may be sold at a public sale. If you need an explanation of the nature of the proceedings against you, you should contact a lawyer. On June 21, 2024 at 11:00 a.m., C&H Trust Deed Service, as duly appointed or substituted Trustee, under the certain Deed of Trust executed by Mark Siffin, an unmarried man as Trustor, to secure obligations in favor of Oakhurst Income Fund I, LP, a Delaware Limited Partnership as to an undivided 100.00 Percent interest to Two Million Eight hundred Thousand and 00/100 (\$2,800,000.00) as the original Beneficiary(ies), and recorded on 04/15/2022 as Instrument No. 2022-0421639 in Book xxx, Page xxx in Official Records in the Office of the Recorder of Los Angeles County, California. Will sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, or cashier's check, (payable at the time of sale in lawful money of the United States by cash, a cashier's check drawn by a state or national bank, a state or federal credit union, or a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to business in this state) (Cashier's checks must be directly payable to "C&H Trust Deed Service"- No endorsed third party checks) Behind the fountain located in Civic Center Plaza located at 400 Civic Center Plaza, Pomona, California all right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in and to the following described real property situated in the aforesaid County and State, to wit: As more fully described in said deed of trust The street address or other common designation of the above-described property is purported to be 1526 Blue Jay Way West Hollywood, California 90069 A.P.N. No. 5561-011-016 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and/or other common designation, if any, shown hereinabove. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, if any, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust, to wit: Said property is being sold for the express purpose of paying the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust, including fees and expenses of sale. The total amount of the unpaid principal balance, interest thereon, together with reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Trustee's Sale is estimated to be \$3,242,042.19. This debt is cross-collateralized with Deed of Trust No. 2022-0420265 and the debt will be apportioned at auction as between the two properties at the beneficiaries sole discretion. The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and

Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned Trustee, or predecessor Trustee, has caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located and more than three months have elapsed since such recordation. Notice to potential bidders: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. Notice to property owner: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (949) 860-9155 for information regarding the trustee's sale or visit www.chtrusteed.com for information regarding the sale of this property, using the file number assigned to this case 24-100116b. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. Notice to tenant: You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call (949) 305-8901, or visit this internet website, www.chtrusteed.com, using the file number assigned to this case 24-100116b to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. Please take notice that if the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. Further, if the foreclosure sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale

shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid and shall have no further recourse or remedy against the Mortgagee, Mortgagee, or Trustee herein. If you have previously been discharged in bankruptcy, you may have been released of personal liability for this loan in which case this notice is intended to exercise the note holders rights against the real property only. As required by law, you are notified that a negative credit reporting may be submitted to a credit report agency if you fail to fulfill the terms of your credit obligation. For trustee's sale dates, bids and postponement information, please call (949) 860-9155 or visit www.chtrusteed.com. For any other inquiries, including litigation or bankruptcy matters, please call (949) 305-8901 or fax (949) 305-8406. C&H TRUST DEED SERVICE, as successor trustee Dated: May 21, 2024 Coby Halavais Trustee's Sale Officer (IFS# 35167 05/31/24, 06/07/24, 06/14/24)

T.S. No.: 9462-6439 TSG Order No.: 230536865 A.P.N.: 4333-004-013 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 11/22/2017. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. NBS Default Services, LLC, as the duly appointed Trustee, under and pursuant to the power of sale contained in that certain Deed of Trust Recorded 12/01/2017 as Document No.: 20171388923, of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Los Angeles County, California, executed by: SHAHRIAR DAVIDESFAHANI AND JANET NABATIAN, HUSBAND AND WIFE, as Trustor, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH (payable in full at time of sale by cash, a cashier's check drawn by a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state). All right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said County and state, and as more fully described in the above referenced Deed of Trust. Sale Date & Time: 07/09/2024 at 10:00 AM Sale Location: Behind the fountain located in Civic Center Plaza, 400 Civic Center Plaza, Pomona CA 91766 The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 349 SOUTH LA PEER DR, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90211 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made in an "AS IS" condition, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, if any, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust, to-wit: \$2,086,428.81 (Estimated). Accrued interest

and additional advances, if any, will increase this figure prior to sale. It is possible that at the time of sale the opening bid may be less than the total indebtedness due. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call 916-939-0772 or visit this internet website, www.nationwideposting.com, using the file number assigned to this case T.S.# 9462-6439. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the internet website. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. NOTICE TO TENANT: You may have a right to purchase this property after

the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call 916-939-0772, or visit this internet website www.nationwideposting.com, using the file number assigned to this case T.S.# 9462-6439 to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. NBS Default Services, LLC 14841 Dallas Parkway, Suite 300 Dallas, TX 75254 800-766-7751 For Trustee Sale Information Log On To: www.nationwideposting.com or Call: 916-939-0772. NBS Default Services, LLC, Marissa Adams, Foreclosure Associate This communication is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. However, if you have received a discharge of the debt referenced herein in a bankruptcy proceeding, this is not an attempt to impose personal liability upon you for payment of that debt. In the event you have received a bankruptcy discharge, any action to enforce the debt will be taken against the property only. NPP0461587 To: BEVERLY HILLS COURIER 06/14/2024, 06/21/2024, 06/28/2024

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

CASE NO: 24SMCP00277

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

To all interested person(s): Petitioner: **Luke David McEachran** current residence address: **8258 Hollywood Blvd, West Hollywood, CA 90069** filed a petition with the **Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main St. Santa Monica, 90401. Santa Monica Courthouse, on June 4, 2024** for a

Decree changing names as follows:

Present Name: Luke David McEachran

Proposed Name: LUKE DAVID

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. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING:

Date: July 26, 2024 **Time:** 8:30 AM **Department:** K

The address of the court is:

1725 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401

Reason for name change: Petitioner is already known by his 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: **Luke David McEachran**

Judge of the Superior Court: Lawrence H. Cho

Clerk: David W. Slayton **Deputy:** M. Elder

Dated: June 4, 2024

Published: 06/07/24, 06/14/24, 06/21/24, 06/28/24

BHC-R28602

Classifieds

PUBLIC NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2024124600 The following is/are doing business as: HEIRLOOM APRON 5737 KANAN ROAD SUITE 690 AGOURA HILLS, CA 91301; ANNETE DUKE 5737 Kanan Road Suite 600 Agoura Hills, CA 91301; LORETTA MARKS 5737 Kanan Road Suite 600 Agoura Hills, CA 91301; The business is conducted by: A GENERAL PARTNERSHIP registrant(s) has begun to transact business under the name(s) listed on JUNE 2024: Loretta Marks, General Partner; Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: June 10, 2024; Published: June 14, 21, 28 July, 2024 LACC N/C

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2024098402 File No. 20191770417 Date Filed: June 18, 2019 Name of Business: CHRIS JACOBS REAL ESTATE 439 N. Canon Dr. Suite #300, Beverly Hills, CA 90210; FORWARD BEVERLY HILLS, INC. 439 N. Canon Dr. Suite #300 Beverly Hills, CA 90210; The business was conducted by: A CORPOPRATION registrant(s) has begun to transact business under the name(s) listed on June 2019: FORWARD BEVERLY HILLS INC. David Bailey, President; Statement of Abandonment is filed with the County of Los Angeles: MAY 7, 2024; Published: May 24, 31, June 7, 14, 2024 LACC N/C

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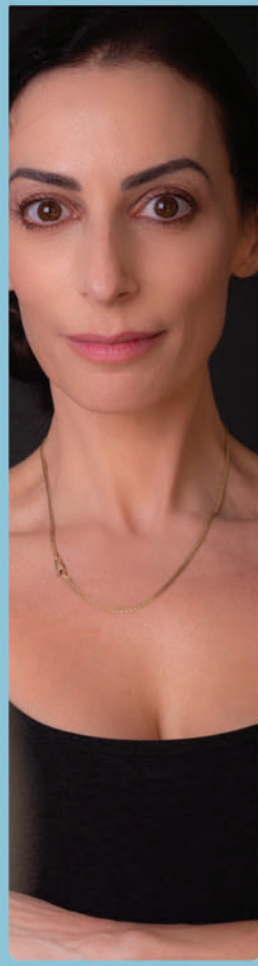
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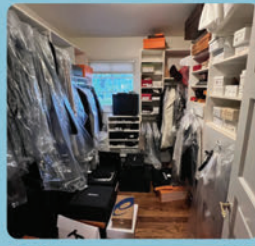
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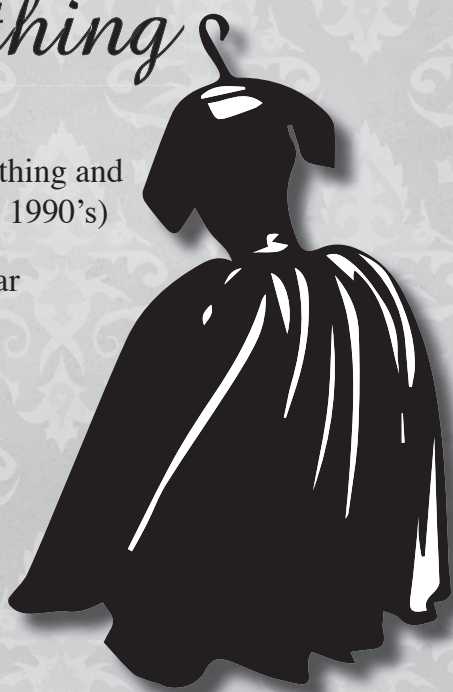
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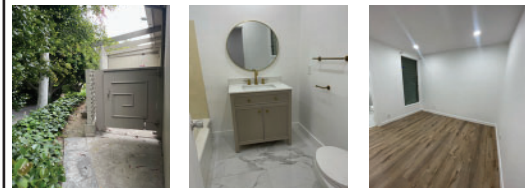
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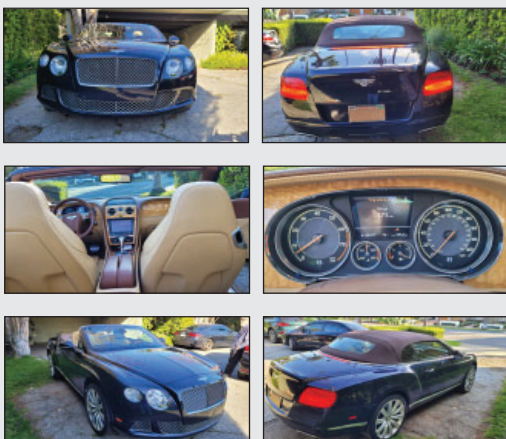
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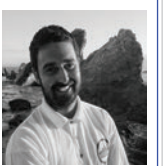
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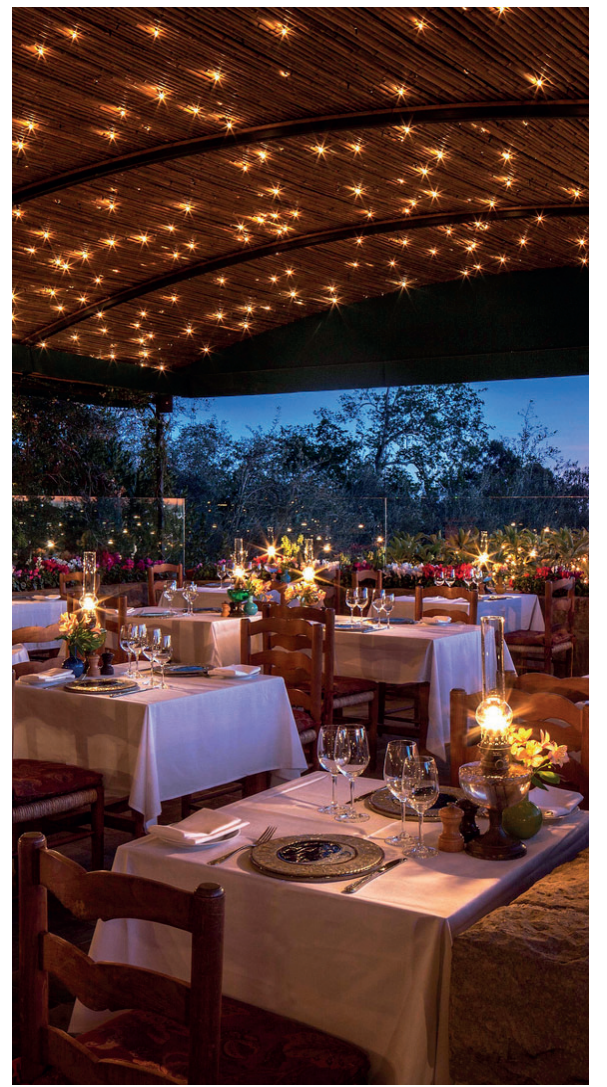
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