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THE WEATHER, BEVERLY HILLS CA

	Friday	65° 50°
	Saturday	66° 48°
	Sunday	63° 47°
	Monday	64° 48°
	Tuesday	69° 47°
	Wednesday	72° 48°
	Thursday	74° 49°

Cedars-Sinai Singing Santa Serenades Sick Children



Photo courtesy of Cedars-Sinai

A singing Santa Claus made the rounds at Cedars-Sinai Guerin Children’s a few days before Christmas. He wheeled a wagon through the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center campus, bringing toys to young patients and their siblings. Santa also sang holiday songs while cuddling the tiny babies in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). And he gifted parents with keepsake ornaments decorated with their babies’ name and footprints.

Commission Grants Conditional Architectural Review of One Beverly Hills

BY JESSICA OGILVIE

The Beverly Hills Architectural and Design Review Commission on Dec. 18 voted unanimously to approve, with conditions, an architectural review of One Beverly Hills, the mixed-use project on Wilshire Boulevard that will include a hotel, residences and extensive gardens.

The condition imposed by the

commission is the creation of two ad hoc committees. Both will serve in advisory roles: one on the details of irrigation plans and landscape maintenance, and the other on the project’s fine art obligation.

For over an hour at the Dec. 18 meeting, commissioners reviewed updated plans presented by four representatives from the One Beverly Hills development and design teams.

See ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW, page 5

Human Relations Commission Plans for 2025

BY SELINA KAUSAR

The Human Relations Commission met on Dec. 19 to discuss a range of topics, including reports from priority agencies Beverly Hills Police Department (BHPD) and the Beverly Hills Unified School District (BHUSD). Our House provided insights into its grief support programs, serving 818 people through groups in 2024. OPICA Adult Day Program and Counseling Center discussed its services for dementia patients and the Westside Food Bank reported providing 3.5 million meals to 72,000 households. The commission also reviewed initial plans for Kindness Week 2025 and the Critical Conversation Speaker Series.

Opening the meeting, BHPD Lieutenant Andrew Myers read out the monthly police report, noting a 32% increase in total crime from October to November, with a 450% increase in violent crime. Property crime increased by 23% due to a 26% rise in larceny thefts, with specific locations such as Rite Aid, Neiman Marcus, Pavilions, Erewhon and CVS experiencing multiple incidents. Lt. Myers reassured attendees

See HUMAN RELATIONS, page 10

Anchoring Joy for the New Year

BY EVA RITVO, M.D

In today’s world, feeling joyful can be challenging. We navigate daily stressors, news headlines and life’s uncertainties, often feeling like joy is out of reach. Yet, with a few simple changes, we can feel more joyful and create many downstream benefits. The holiday season is a wonderful time to practice. Anchoring joy is about intentionally creating moments of positivity, and then savoring them so they can take root and reshape our mental landscape. This simple yet powerful practice can bring about profound changes.

Our brains are designed to keep us alive, and evolution has shaped us to be on high alert for potential dangers—this is known as the “negativity bias.” Our ancestors lived in environments filled with threats, from predators to food scarcity. Being attuned to danger helped them stay alive. A rustling in the bushes might have been the wind—or it

might have been a lurking predator. Those who erred on the side of caution were more likely to survive and pass on their genes.

Today, our surroundings have drastically changed, but our brains remain wired in much the same way. We no longer face saber-toothed tigers, but our brains are still primed to focus on threats and negative events, and the news takes advantage of this natural tendency. This bias means that negative experiences and emotions tend to be processed differently than positive ones. We might receive a dozen compliments, but it’s that one criticism that lingers in our mind. This tendency can create a mental environment where stress, anxiety and worry dominate.

The good news is that while our brains have this inherent bias, they are also incredibly adaptable. Thanks to a concept known as neuroplasticity, we can reshape our neural

See ANCHORING JOY, page 10

BHPD Makes Arrest in Auto Theft Case

BY SEAN BECKNER-CARMITCHEL

The Beverly Hills Police Department (BHPD) arrested Samuel Sarmiento, a 29-year-old man from Cudahy, for stealing a Mercedes-Benz vehicle at approximately 5:12 a.m. on Dec. 21 from South Swall Drive. The arrest was made at approximately 7:11 a.m. on the 600 block of North Palm Drive.

According to Lieutenant Kevin Orth of the BHPD, there were no injuries to officers.

Sarmiento was arraigned at the Airport Courthouse on Dec. 24 and pled not guilty to two counts of assault with a deadly weapon on a police officer; taking or driving of a vehicle without consent; buying or receiving stolen property and hit and run resulting in property damage. He also faces an enhancement due to a previous vehicle-related theft conviction. ●



Happy Hanukkah!



Happy New Year!

BEVERLY HILLS COURIER

Courier Calendar

NOW - JAN. 5, 2025
ACADEMY MUSEUM OF MOTION PICTURES: “THE ART OF MOVIE MAKING: ‘THE GODFATHER’”
SUN.-THURS. 10 A.M.-6 P.M.
FRI.-SAT. 10 A.M.-8 P.M.
“The Art of Moviemaking: ‘The Godfather’” features a wide array of original objects from “The Godfather” (1972) and “The Godfather Part II” (1974), offering an exciting glimpse into the process of making a masterpiece. Director Francis Ford Coppola’s interpretation of Mario Puzo’s popular novel provided an operatic and poignant reflection on the American dream, making the films an instant phenomenon that not only radically transformed the moviegoing experience, but also moviemaking in the 1970s. From costumes to props to scripts and equipment, these materials—many on view for the first time—highlight the contributions of several cinematic branches, and how they innovated amid the changing landscape of Hollywood. General admission is \$25 for adults, \$19 for seniors (age 62+), \$15 for students (age 18+ with valid ID) and free for children (17 and under) and members.
academymuseum.org

NOW - JAN. 5, 2025
“L.A. ZOO LIGHTS: ANIMALS AGLOW”
6-10 P.M.
The L.A. Zoo presents “Animals Aglow” for the holiday season. Guests can explore an immersive landscape with dazzling new lantern sculptures of larger-than-life animals and holiday wonders, for a nature-focused seasonal celebration that’s

as inspiring as it is breathtaking. The L.A. Zoo will also stay open late for New Year’s Eve, featuring a family-friendly celebration of a buffet dinner, dessert, and a live broadcast of New York City’s Times Square ball drop and toast at 9 p.m. Tickets for New Year’s celebrations are \$79 for children and \$95 for adults. Sensory-friendly, pride night and holiday pajama event evenings are available. Ticket prices vary based on date. The L.A. Zoo is located at 5333 Zoo Dr., Los Angeles.
lazoo.org

NOW - JAN. 10, 2025
L.A. KINGS HOLIDAY ICE
4 P.M.-12 A.M.
The annual L.A. Kings Holiday Ice brings outdoor ice skating to L.A. LIVE on Peacock Place right out in front of Crypto.com Arena. Guests can skate their way into the holiday season and enjoy the rink while it is here for a limited time. Besides skating, patrons of the ice rink can receive a discount when dining at surrounding restaurants such as Lazy Dog, Savoca or Sendero. Tickets are \$25 for admission and include skate rental. L.A. Live is located at 800 W. Olympic Blvd., Los Angeles. The rink will be open until midnight on Dec. 31.
lakingsholidayice.com

NOW - JAN. 20, 2025
ICE AT SANTA MONICA
SUN.-THURS. 11:30 A.M.-9:30 P.M.
FRI.-SAT. 11:30 A.M.-11 P.M.
The rink will once again transform the corner of Fifth Street and Arizona Avenue

into a winter wonderland, bringing ice skating to the beachside community through Jan. 20, 2025. From special treats and concessions to private party tents and fun-themed skate nights, there’s something for everyone. Admission is \$22 for a 60-minute session, including skate rentals. The rink will be open daily, with extended hours on Fridays and Saturdays. More information is available online. The rink will host a family-friendly celebration for the East Coast countdown to New Year’s from 8:30-9:30 p.m.
iceatsantamonica.com

NOW - JAN. 26, 2025
DESCANSO GARDENS: “DAYS OF REVERIE”
10 A.M.-4 P.M.
Descanso Gardens presents “Days of Reverie,” an exhibition at the Sturt Haaga Gallery showcasing new bodies of work by four Los Angeles-based visual artists: Catherine Ruane, Debbie Korbel, Jason Jenn and Jill Sykes. Accompanying these visual works is a specially composed musical score by Joseph Carrillo, the exhibition’s guest artist. This project was initiated and curated by Vojislav Radovanović, who envisioned each artist creating entirely new works inspired directly by the beautiful environment of Descanso Gardens. The works presented in this project vary from paintings, drawings and sculptures to interactive site-specific installations, sound and video.
descansogardens.org

DEC. 31
BURTON CHACE PARK: MARINA DEL REY NEW YEAR’S EVE FIREWORKS AND “GLOW PARTY”
7 P.M.-12 A.M.
Marina del Rey will host a free celebration of the New Year at Burton Chace Park. The family-friendly “Glow Party” features a DJ, live entertainment, face painting, a photo booth, food trucks and more. Firework shows are scheduled for both the East Coast and West Coast countdowns, at 8:59 p.m. and 11:59 p.m. and run for 10 minutes. Burton Chace Park is located at 13650 Mindanao Way, Marina del Rey.
marinadelrey.lacounty.gov

DEC. 31
GRAND PARK L.A.: N.Y.E.L.A.
8 P.M.
Grand Park L.A. will host a free and family-friendly celebration for New Year’s Eve. The entire park, a three-block space, will be appropriately decorated for the occasion. L.A. City Hall will be used as a 22-story canvas for a projection of the New Year’s countdown. Two stages will feature live DJs and bands and food trucks will keep the event fed. Parking is \$10 at the Music Center but Metro fares will be free and offer less hassle. Grand Park is located at 210 W. Temple Street, Los Angeles.
grandparkla.org

JAN. 2-5
LONG BEACH ARENA: “DISNEY ON ICE PRESENTS MAGIC IN THE STARS”
The newest Disney on Ice spectacular, “Magic in the Stars,” features the most Disney characters in one show, including the on-ice debuts of “Frozen 2” and “Raya and the Last Dragon.” The all-star cast includes 56 audience favorite Disney stars, including Mirabel, Woody and Buzz, Tiana, Moana, and more. Tickets start at \$38.30. Long Beach Arena is located at 300 E. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach.
disneyonice.com/magic-in-the-stars

JAN. 18-19
SANTA MONICA PLAYHOUSE: “ALEICHEM SHOLOM”
3 P.M., 7 P.M.
“Aleichem Sholom: The Wit and Wisdom of Sholom Aleichem” will be presented by the Santa Monica Playhouse Jewish Heritage project. This musical is performed in English with just a taste of Yiddish and follows the life of the beloved Yiddish storyteller Sholom Aleichem and his mespoche, spinning tales of his loves and losses, his fame and his failures, his travels, his travails and the tremendous joy and optimism that kept him going against all odds. Tickets are \$35, with discounts available for students, seniors and members of the military. Santa Monica Playhouse is located at 1211 4th Street, Santa Monica.
santamonicaplayhouse.com



Photo by Jamie Pham

“L.A. Zoo Lights: Animals Aglow” features holiday decorations and a New Year’s Eve celebration on Dec. 31.

LACMA



A STARRY HOLIDAY

Create your own holiday story under the stars at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, where a new exhibition looks to the heavens for inspiration and insight. All galleries are open and filled with stellar moments—from a room filled with Picassos to 1,000 toy cars speeding through an imaginary city. Make LACMA your place to gather in wonder with friends and family.

The museum is open New Year's Day, Wednesday, January 1!

LOS ANGELES COUNTY MUSEUM OF ART
5905 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD, NEAR FAIRFAX
LACMA.ORG | 323 857-6010

Images: Josiah McElheny, *Island Universe*, 2008, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, purchased with funds provided by an anonymous donor, © Josiah McElheny, photo © Museum Associates/LACMA; Visitors with Chris Burden's *Urban Light* (2008) at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, 2020, art © Chris Burden/licensed by The Chris Burden Estate and Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York, photo © Museum Associates/LACMA; *Metropolis II* image by John Rice, ©Museum Associates

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Historic Landmark Plaque Installed at Church of the Good Shepherd



From left: Parishioner/Centennial Specialist Christine Redlin, Rev. Edward Benioff and Kimberly Vinokur, chair of the Cultural Heritage Commission, at the plaque installation

BY ANA FIGUEROA

The Church of the Good Shepherd in Beverly Hills marked its 100th anniversary on Christmas Day 2024. The Catholic parish was officially formed on Dec. 12, 1923, with masses held at The Beverly Hills Hotel until

1924, when the Mission revival-style, five-story church building was completed. On Dec. 10, a plaque listing the church as Historic Landmark No. 45 in the city of Beverly Hills was officially installed on the exterior west wall outside the front church doors on Santa Monica Boulevard. ●



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December Updates

Happy Holidays from the D Line Subway Extension Project! Stay tuned for more updates in 2025.



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D LINE EXT COBH 1

Road Closures Planned for Golden Globe Awards



Photo by Featureflash/depositphotos.com

The Golden Globes will take place on Jan. 5 at the Beverly Hilton.

The 82nd annual Golden Globe Awards ceremony will take place at the Beverly Hilton on Jan. 5, 2025. Partial lane and full street closures will take place in the city on Wilshire and North Santa Monica Boulevards. Residents are advised to use alternate east-west routes such as South Santa Monica, Olympic, Pico and Sunset Boulevards.

Residential streets surrounding the venue will be posted with no-parking signs. For more information on the complete list of closures, visit beverlyhills.org/goldenglobes.

Curb lane closures will begin on North Santa Monica Boulevard at 10 p.m. on Dec. 29 and continue through 5 p.m. on Jan. 8. Full sidewalk and street closures will begin at 9 p.m. on Jan. 3 and continue through 5 a.m. on Jan. 6.

Lane reductions will begin on Wilshire Boulevard at 9 p.m. on Jan. 4. Full lane closures will begin at 5 a.m. on Jan. 5 and

continue through 5 a.m. on Jan. 6.

Additionally, limited closures will be in effect on select streets from 5 a.m. on Jan. 5 through 5 a.m. on Jan. 6. Parking will also be completely restricted during that time period on portions of Whittier Drive, Carmelita Avenue, Elevado Avenue, Trenton Drive, Walden Drive and Lomitas Avenue.

Residents without permit parking can obtain a parking exemption by contacting the city's Parking Exemption Line at 310-285-2548 or online at beverlyhills.org/parkingexemptions.

For questions and concerns before the day of the event, call the askBH Customer Service line at 310-285-1000 from 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday and the after-hours Golden Globes Hotline that will be active on Jan. 5 from 2 p.m.- 8 p.m. at 310-550-4680. ●

Questions? Comments? Concerns?

The Courier wants to hear from you!

Email: editorial@bhcourier.com

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW, from page 1
The plans had been modified in response to questions and concerns raised by the commission at its Oct. 22 meeting.

A critical feature of One Beverly Hills is its commitment to sustainability, and the project’s developers plan to use primarily greywater and stormwater for irrigating its 10 acres of landscaping. However, during the question-and-answer period on Dec. 18, commissioners drilled down on how those plans would be implemented, particularly in the project’s early days.

Commissioner Tim Devlin, a landscape architect, raised concerns about how greywater, which is typically generated from everyday activities such as laundry, showering and dishwashing, would be collected before residents move in.

“When [the plant material] arrives to the site, how will it be irrigated while areas are being staged and laid out?” he inquired.

Devlin also floated the possibility that future residents may not live at One Beverly Hills full time.

“Sometimes we see people who live in places like this; it’s not their primary residence,” he said. “They’re not running laundry weekly ... what happens when in half of the towers, people are away for the

summer?”
With regards to using stormwater for irrigation, Commissioner Jennifer Schreiber raised the prospect of the area not receiving rain for months at a time.

“I would like to know that there was a backup [irrigation] system if we’ve had no rain for seven, eight months, which can happen in Los Angeles,” she said.

Larry Green, the Managing Director of Cain International, which is developing One Beverly Hills, assured the commissioners that plans are in place to account for those possibilities.

“There is a backup potable water connection that is in place and designed to be part of the overall system,” he said. “It’s our intent that 100% of irrigation is done through greywater, but there are connections that will be fed if potable water is required.”

Commissioner Terri Smooke and Vice Chair Rebecca Pynoos expressed concern over the maintenance plans for the development, noting that current documentation for the project did not make those policies clear.

“I was reading [that] the walkways will be cleaned as needed,” said Smooke. “Who determines as needed?”

Added Pynoos, “We’d like to know what the maintenance plan will be, rather than

just saying that there will be a plan.”

Green offered to bring a complete maintenance manual to the city for review, saying, “It will take some time to get the detailed maintenance document that you’re all seeking ... but we have no problem coming back on that.”

Smooke also spoke about the need for the project’s art to meet the city’s standards as laid out in the Fine Art Obligation in the City Code.

“The work that is presented ... has to be made by an artist who has a reputation, has a history of auction gallery prices,” she said. “We want to make sure that world-class art is being installed in a world-class city, in a world-class development.”

To that end, both Smooke and Schreiber requested that the Arts and Culture Commission work in collaboration with the Architectural and Design Review Commission to select art.

One Beverly Hills broke ground in February of this year. The project will integrate the 17.5-acre parcel at the southwest intersection of Santa Monica and Wilshire boulevards, which encompasses the Beverly Hilton and Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills.

The project, which is expected to be completed in 2028, will include a new Aman

hotel, two residential towers, boutiques and casual dining, along with the 10 acres of open space.

Commissioners previously expressed concerns about sight lines for pedestrians in the gardens, the efficacy of some of the project’s water features and the relative size of the project’s gardens as compared to other green areas in urban Southern California. Those concerns were addressed at the Dec. 18 meeting.

As discussion came to a close on Dec. 18, Devlin and Pynoos agreed to serve on the ad hoc committee advising on irrigation and maintenance. Smooke and Chair Evan Meyer agreed to serve on the ad hoc committee advising on fine art.

It’s not clear when those committees will convene; however, Meyer made clear that the commission shares the goal of keeping the project aligned with its proposed timeline.

“The project is gorgeous,” said Meyer, “and if it’s executed as rendered, this is going to be a huge win for the city.” ●

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DECEMBER 27, 2024

BEVERLY HILLS *COURIER*

PAGE 5

A Last-Minute Guide to Ringing in the New Year



Photo by Wonho Frank Lee

Saltie Girl

BY CAROLE DIXON

The year’s end is upon us, but there is still time to make plans for New Year’s Eve. The Courier has compiled some of the top special menu and dinner party options around town for a final blowout, or low-key evening to help you ring in 2025 with style.

Dinner and Dancing

The Four Seasons Hotel Los Angeles at Beverly Hills has recently debuted a speakeasy concept, Veil & Velvet, that has transformed the former bar-lounge into a sexy venue inspired by old-school piano bars and A-list private dining clubs.

Rich wood paneling, leather seating and velvet banquettes are perfect for a cozy night with the martini menu and a Wagyu burger “Royale with Cheese” served with thin truffle fries. The most playful and indulgent addition is the “press for caviar button” that can be found inside a small silver jewel box on the table. The options are full Petrosian service or just a bump served on a pearl spoon in an ice crystal vessel. Decadent desserts from new Executive Pastry Chef and Food Network personality Riccardo Menicucci include a banana split or Napoletano with gold dust.

Venture back to the Roaring ‘20s with the Great Gatsby New Year’s Eve Celebration on Dec. 31 from 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. (minimum spend per table of two is \$400) that includes live entertainment and midnight Champagne toast.

Live Entertainment

For a stunning rooftop skyline setting, Dante at the Maybourne will offer a cocktail party evening on New Year’s Eve from 8 p.m. until 12:30 a.m. Enjoy signature libations,

passed canapés and gourmet food stations, along with live entertainment (\$295 per person).

If you’re in the mood to boogie, head over to the New Year’s Eve Disco Ball party at Espelette at Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills. The night will feature live entertainment, passed canapés, and an open bar with cocktails, wine and beer (\$275 per person). The Rooftop Beverly Hills will offer an à la carte brunch and three-course prix fixe dinner (\$275 per person) and party, featuring the

flavors of East and West.

If a multicourse, seated dinner is more your style, AVRA Beverly Hills is offering a five-course New Year’s Eve dinner with seatings beginning at 9 p.m. The special menu includes Chilean sea bass, prime New York strip and lobster pasta, paired with fine wines. Guests will enjoy live music, a DJ, party favors, a photo booth and Champagne toasts throughout the evening (\$275 per person).

Jade on Canon Drive is offering an array

of prix fixe dining and live entertainment options beginning with seatings at 4:30 p.m. or 7 p.m. to a late-night party starting at 10 p.m. (\$150 per person). There is also a VIP table experience from \$250 per person that includes sushi specialties, a bottle of Taittinger Champagne, plus premium bottle service. Or you can opt for open bar tickets starting at \$125 for entry at 10 p.m. or \$75 for late entry after midnight.

On New Year’s Eve, BOA Steakhouse on Sunset Boulevard will serve a special prix fixe menu featuring hamachi tartare, grilled lamb lollipops and a maple leaf duck breast by Executive Chef Brendan Collins. Festivities also include a Champagne toast at midnight, a live DJ and party favors. (First Seating 5-7 p.m. for \$125, Second Seating 7:30 p.m. for \$215).

Sunset Plaza Drive seafood destination Saltie Girl will ring in the New Year with Champagne, oysters and live music. With a minimum spend of \$90 per person, guests will receive a complimentary Champagne toast and hors d’oeuvres for the table. From 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., the dining room will morph into a piano bar, and they encourage guests to have their song requests ready.

Elegant Dinner Options

Celebrate like a star at The Beverly Hilton’s CIRCA 55. On Dec. 31, guests are invited to “Start the Night in Style” with premium cocktails from 6-9 p.m. From 5-10 p.m., enjoy a grand five-course dinner and sparkling wine, complemented by live jazz (\$164.26 per person). Enter the New Year with the “Glam & Groove” package from 10 p.m. to 1:30 a.m., while enjoying premium cocktails, an open bar and DJ.

Costa Covo Osteria at L’Ermitage Beverly Hills
See ‘NEW YEAR,’ page 13



Photo courtesy Four Seasons Hotel Los Angeles at Beverly Hills

Veil & Velvet



THE FORTÉ PENTHOUSE, WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

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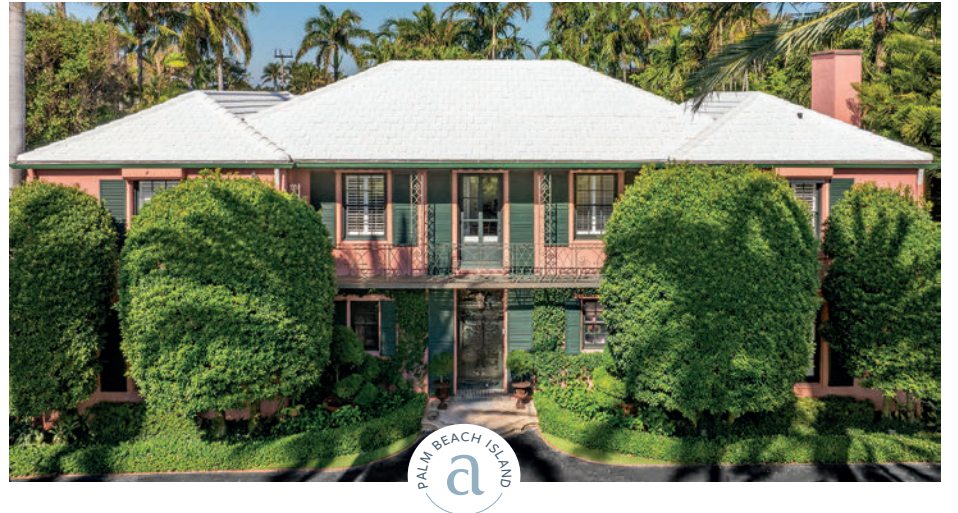
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‘The Room Next Door’— Kill Me Now



Photo by Iglesias Más courtesy of Sony Pictures Classics

Tilda Swinton and Julianne Moore

BY NEELY SWANSON

Pedro Almodóvar is very interested in human interactions, good and bad. “The Room Next Door,” the Oscar winner’s first film entirely in English, has been highly anticipated.

Briefly, Martha and Ingrid are close friends who reconnect after an absence of many years. Martha is a famed photojournalist, and Ingrid is an author whose most recent book is about her aversion to the concept of death. Martha is in the middle of an unsuccessful treatment for terminal cancer. The treatment, which the doctors want to continue, is painful and only gives her another few months at best. Over coffee and pastries with Ingrid, she discusses what she really wants. She wants to choose her own moment to die in a setting of her choice with a friend close by, the proverbial room next door, to be a witness to the aftermath and report it. She has a pill, obtained illegally, and has rented a spectacular vacation home in the countryside for a month, but what she needs is the friend to stay in the room next to hers. She won’t announce the time or date, but there will be a code. Ingrid, needless to say, is shocked and more than reluctant. She wasn’t Martha’s first choice, but two others turned her down. Martha rather enjoys the irony of having her close friend Ingrid, who is death-phobic, be that person. Ingrid eventually accepts.

There are no spoilers here. Martha will die; Ingrid will be there. No action, no conflict, no story, the end. It’s not that there couldn’t be a story here. The right to die on one’s own terms has been done

before, and in most cases, much better (e.g., “Amour,” “Me Before You” and “Whose Life Is It Anyway?”). Almodóvar, like him or not, has had moments of brilliant storytelling in the past, often equally laced with humor and horror. Here, he has neither. Forgetting that film is a visual medium, he tells this story expositionally. Writing the script himself, the dialogue is stiff and unnatural. Rarely does a movie succeed when the entire story is told as a conversation between two people where emotion, conflict and character take a back seat. “My Dinner with André” is the only film I can think of where the entire action is set at a table for two in a restaurant where André Gregory and Wallace Shawn trade anecdotes and world views. To date, I don’t know why it worked, but it did. Maybe it was the director, Louis Malle, someone I admired immensely, and maybe it was the skill of the writers, Gregory and Shawn, who knew how to make it all look improvisational.

But “The Room Next Door” is all expositional and therein lies the problem. Rule one: tell it in a book; show it in a movie (this was based on a book by Sigrid Nunez called “What Are You Going Through?”). Worse, however, is how bad and stilted the dialogue is, like a poor translation from a different language (too on the nose?). Episodes in Martha’s life that were used to illustrate earlier conflicts are told in flashbacks that look edited in at the last moment before final cut. That she has an estranged daughter, discussed in any number of conversations, is a conflict that is left dangling. If any of this comes off at all is due to the skill of the actors he chose to read (not act) his words,

like a preproduction table read. Julianne Moore as Ingrid and Tilda Swinton as Martha try their best, and if the movie is bearable at all, it is because of them. John Turturro, Damian, a mutual friend and former lover of both, comes off worse because his character is a lecturer on climate change who harangues anyone who will listen about impending doom. Lucky for him, he has at least one or two nice, rather natural moments with Moore. Expository, yes, but there is an easier flow between the two of them. Alessandro Nivola, as a policeman who interviews Ingrid, has the advantage of generating conflict that makes his scene move more quickly.

Eduard Grau’s cinematography is a plus because the setting outside Woodstock, N.Y., is gorgeous and looks like a picture postcard. The same is true for the exquisite wood and glass modern house that Martha has chosen as her shroud. Lying on the primary-colored chaise lounges overlooking an infinity pool

gives you something to envy. Costume Designer Bina Daigeler knew just how to take advantage of Tilda Swinton’s innumerable angles, swathing her in colorful knits and asymmetrical designs. Moore, whose attire is commonplace, cannot compete with the elegance of Swinton, nor was she meant to.

It is inconceivable that this film was the Golden Lion winner at the Venice Film Festival. Maybe the subtitles in Italian were better than the actual dialogue in English. If you are a fan of his films or these two great actresses, this might work for you. For me, “The Room Next Door” didn’t resonate from the very beginning. I had originally planned on all sorts of clever ways to let you understand how painful it was to watch this film. Instead, I’ll state merely that if you enjoy watching paint dry, even if Swinton and Moore are the painters, then this is the movie for you.

Now playing at the Laemmle Royal and the AMC at The Grove. ●



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

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HUMAN RELATIONS, from page 1
that these figures must be viewed in the wider context—October was anomalous with lower-than-average reported crimes and the statistics for November remain in line with the five-year average for that month.

Myers also shared a heartwarming story from the BHPD’s ongoing support of Cedars-Sinai patients. Arlo, a 12-year-old child who has undergone 32 medical procedures, mentioned his passion for exotic cars. The BHPD arranged a private tour of the Beverly Hills Auto Vault for Arlo, ending with an unforgettable ride in a blue Ferrari on Rodeo Drive. He also had the opportunity to tour the police department and was able to speak to members of the Citizens Police Academy about his experience with the BHPD during their Cedars-Sinai collaboration. “His story has inspired everyone, and highlights the power of connection, compassion and community [with the BHPD],” Myers said. Following Captain Giovanni Trejo’s retirement, Lieutenant Myers will now take over as acting captain for a few months.

Retiring BHUSD board member Noah Margo provided an update on the school district, highlighting the new board members as well as the new liaison to the commission. Margo spoke about the district’s celebration of Human Rights Day and involvement of students in activities related to managing stress and understanding different cultures. He also discussed various clubs and community service initiatives, a holiday toy drive and a Thanksgiving parade organized by kindergarten students.

The commission then welcomed Victoria Villa, Grants Associate of Our House Grief Support Center. Our House offers grief support groups in English and Spanish, serving over 818 people over the last year alone. In addition, they run school-based programs which are free for any school based in Los Angeles County and support children who have experienced the death of a person close to them through their Camp Erin program. Villa provided advice on how best to support grieving children and adults during the holiday season, emphasizing the importance of honesty, memory-making rituals and community support.

Next to speak was Pam Schwimmer from OPICA Adult Day Program and Counseling Center. Schwimmer, a community outreach associate, discussed the organization’s mission and services for people with dementia and their families. They have a robust

traineeship program and several outreach initiatives, including seminars and care consultants for under-resourced areas alongside various programs supporting individuals suffering from memory loss.

The final presentation was from Genevieve Riutort, President and CEO of the Westside Food Bank, who told the commission about the organization’s mission—to end hunger in our communities. The food bank provides access to free, nutritious food through a network of 60 agencies and mobile food pantries. “Fifty percent of our food comes to us through donations through a statewide program run by the Association of Food Banks, and community food drives, including many in Beverly Hills,” Riutort explained. She emphasized the importance of preventing homelessness and the high need for food assistance in the community, with the organization already serving around 150,000 people annually.

The commission also discussed plans for Kindness Week 2025, which will kick off on Feb. 9. Community Services Manager Joana Torres confirmed partnerships with organizations, including the Midnight Mission, Westside Food Bank, Step Up on Second, Safe Parking L.A. and Foster Love. A previous ad hoc committee had requested including an organization that helps animals in need too, and Torres informed the commission that L.A. Animal Services was still pending and will hopefully be confirmed soon. Beverly Hills High School will participate in storytime and other activities, with a focus on involving students with the community. Torres also confirmed a “Self-Care Saturday” social media campaign run by Commissioner Noelle Batista, who will share inspiration on how to take better care of oneself during the weekends. Further details will be discussed during the next Human Relations Commission meeting in January.

Recreation Services Manager Michael Muse reported on the challenges of securing speakers for the Critical Conversation Speaker Series. The theme is “Unity and Diversity: Stronger Together,” with a focus on dispelling stereotypes and promoting unity. Three speakers have expressed interest, but many have declined or requested compensation. As a result, the commission agreed to postpone setting a date for the series and instead work on securing more local speakers who will not have to travel too far for the event. ●

ANCHORING JOY, from page 1
pathways over time. Neuroplasticity is the brain’s ability to reorganize itself by forming new connections. It allows us to navigate our changing environment, learn new skills, alter our thought patterns and recover from brain injuries.

By consciously shifting our focus from the negative to the positive, we can counterbalance the brain’s natural inclination toward fear. This process doesn’t mean ignoring life’s challenges or adopting a blind optimism, but rather, it means cultivating a mindset that is open to noticing and appreciating the good moments when they occur. In doing so, we can gradually tip the scales in favor of joy and well-being. Some call it “pragmatic optimism,” or a humorous friend describes herself as a “terminal optimist.”

Anchoring joy involves deliberately focusing on positive experiences and allowing ourselves to fully absorb them. It’s about making a habit of noticing small moments of pleasure—a warm cup of coffee in the morning, the sound of laughter, a beautiful sunset—and giving those moments the attention they deserve. By doing this, we can train our brains to linger on positive emotions rather than allowing them to pass by unnoticed.

Here are a few ways to start anchoring joy in your life:

1. Savor the Small Moments: Instead of rushing through your day, take time to pause and truly experience the positive moments. When something pleasant happens, like enjoying a good meal or hearing your favorite song, take a few extra seconds or minutes to lean in. Close your eyes, take a deep breath, and let yourself feel the joy in that moment.

2. Practice Gratitude: Each day, make a habit of writing down three things you are grateful for. These don’t have to be major events—simple things like a kind word from a friend or a sunny day can be enough. By focusing on what you’re grateful for, you are training your brain to notice the positive aspects of your life. Making this part of your nightly ritual can also prime your brain for more positive dreams.

3. Mindfulness: Take a few moments each day to simply observe your surroundings without judgment. Focus on the sensation of the sun on your skin, the smell of fresh flowers or the sound of birds chirping. This practice helps ground you in the present moment and appreciate the beauty that is often overlooked. You can reinforce these pleasant moments anytime you wish by closing your eyes and reviewing them in your mind’s eye.

4. Celebrate All Wins: Don’t wait for big achievements to feel proud or happy. Acknowledge and celebrate the small wins in your life as well, whether it’s completing a task at home or work, making it through

a difficult conversation, making the wise food choice or sticking to your exercise routine. By recognizing these moments, you reinforce a sense of accomplishment and positivity.

5. Plan Activities That Will Create Joy: While this may seem obvious, often times we get so caught up in day-to-day responsibilities we forget to make time for joy. Reflect on what makes you most joyful and try to integrate more of it into your routine. It can be something as simple as 10 minutes of comedy during your day or something complicated like a dinner party or vacation.

6. Active Recall: Sharing joyful experiences with a family member, friend or journal reinforces these positive memories. Take photos of joyful moments and put them on your mantel as a visual reminder. Buying a souvenir serves the same productive purpose so bring something home from the next joyful outing. It doesn’t need to be anything expensive just something to jog your memory. So, next time you go to a theatre or concert, grab that T-shirt and invest a few more dollars in savoring the experience.

Anchoring joy is not only beneficial for our own well-being but also has a ripple effect on those around us. We tend to approach others with more kindness and understanding, creating a more positive atmosphere in our relationships and communities. The old phrase “When we smile, the whole world smiles with us” is scientifically accurate. We have mirror neurons in our brain that mimic what we see, so our smile directly impacts others. Thus, your practice can transform not just your emotional well-being but also your families, friends and co-workers as well.

It’s important to remember that anchoring joy is not about achieving a constant state of bliss. Life will always have its ups and downs, and moments of sadness or frustration are a natural part of the human experience. Anchoring joy is about creating a mental habit that helps us weather the storms of life with a bit more grace.

For those of us living in a world that often seems to prioritize productivity and speed, anchoring joy can be a powerful reminder to slow down and appreciate the present. It is a way of saying to ourselves, “This moment matters. This feeling of contentment, however small, is worth holding onto.” And over time, as we continue to anchor these moments, we may find that joy becomes a more natural and lasting presence in our lives.

“Sometimes your joy is the source of your smile, but sometimes your smile can be the source of your joy.”

Thich Nhat Hanh ●

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12/20/2024, 9:53 p.m. at 200 Block of N. CANON DRIVE

ASSAULT - SIMPLE

12/17/2024, 7:30 p.m. at 300 Block of N. CANON DRIVE

12/17/2024, 1:04 a.m. at 700 Block of N. REXFORD DRIVE

12/13/2024, 10:06 p.m. at 300 Block of N. CAMDEN DRIVE

12/12/2024, 2:30 p.m. at 200 Block of S. ROBERTSON BLVD.

BURGLARY - COMMERCIAL BUILDING

12/17/2024, 4:11 p.m. at 300 Block of N. CANON DRIVE

BURGLARY FROM A MOTOR VEHICLE

12/19/2024, 4:45 p.m. at 400 Block of S. MAPLE DRIVE

12/16/2024, 12:30 a.m. at 400 Block of S. OAKHURST DRIVE

12/12/2024, 6 p.m. at 100 Block of N. GALE DRIVE

12/12/2024, 10 a.m. at 300 Block of N. ALMONT DRIVE

BURGLARY - RESIDENTIAL (ACCESSED GARAGE ONLY)

12/19/2024, 12 a.m. at 300 Block of S. ELM DRIVE

BURGLARY - RESIDENTIAL (NO ONE HOME)

12/22/2024, 7:35 p.m. at 900 Block of OXFORD WAY

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12/15/2024, 9:13 p.m. at N. LA CIENEGA BOULEVARD / WILSHIRE BOULEVARD

12/13/2024, 2:22 p.m. at 9200 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT

12/21/2024, 5:11 a.m. at 100 Block of S. SWALL DRIVE

12/12/2024, 8 p.m. at 500 Block of EVELYN PLACE

THEFT OF AUTO PARTS

12/17/2024, 9:30 a.m. at 9100 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

THEFT FROM COMMERCIAL BUILDING

12/14/2024, 6:14 p.m. at 300 Block of N. BEVERLY DRIVE

12/13/2024, 4:28 p.m. at 9500 Block of BRIGHTON WAY

12/13/2024, 4:28 p.m. at 400 Block of N. RODEO DRIVE

THEFT - GRAND

12/21/2024, 1:50 p.m. at 9500 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

12/19/2024, 4:11 p.m. at 8800 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

12/19/2024, 8:15 a.m. at 700 Block of N. OAKHURST DRIVE

12/17/2024, 5:20 p.m. at 300 Block of N. BEVERLY DRIVE

12/13/2024, 3:06 p.m. at 9600 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

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THEFT - GRAND (FROM VEHICLE)

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12/15/2024, 9:30 p.m. at 100 Block of N. PALM DRIVE

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THEFT - PETTY

12/23/2024, 12:02 p.m. at 300 Block of N. BEVERLY DRIVE

12/22/2024, 3:50 p.m. at 200 Block of N. RODEO DRIVE

12/21/2024, 11:20 a.m. at 200 Block of EL CAMINO DRIVE

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12/18/2024, 9:48 p.m. at 100 Block of N. SWALL DRIVE

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12/16/2024, 11:06 a.m. at 9600 Block of S. SANTA MONICA BLVD.

12/12/2024, 8:47 p.m. at 300 Block of MCCARTY DRIVE

12/12/2024, 9:51 a.m. at 300 Block of N. CANON DRIVE

12/11/2024, 9:30 p.m. at 300 Block of N. CANON DRIVE

12/11/2024, 9 p.m. at 400 Block of S. ELM DRIVE

THEFT - PETTY (FROM VEHICLE)

12/20/2024, 12:21 p.m. at WILSHIRE BOULEVARD / N. WILLAMAN DRIVE

12/16/2024, 5:59 p.m. at 100 Block of N. PALM DRIVE

VANDALISM

12/23/2024, 1:38 a.m. at 100 Block of N. LE DOUX ROAD

12/22/2024, 5 p.m. at 100 Block of S. MAPLE DRIVE

12/21/2024, 12:15 a.m. at 9800 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

12/20/2024, 8:46 a.m. at 9300 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

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12/18/2024, 2:20 p.m. at CHARLEVILLE BOULEVARD / S. BEVERLY DRIVE

12/17/2024, 9:34 a.m. at 400 Block of N. CRESCENT DRIVE

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Astrology

BY HOLIDAY MATIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The question isn't whether you can save the day. Of course you can! The question is, whose day should you save? Because saving theirs has a consequence in yours, and saving yours has a consequence in theirs.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You will easily accomplish, in just a few minutes, the thing that takes others hours to do. Consider teaching others what you know in a more formal way. A few moments of day dreaming could produce the idea for your side-hustle of the new year.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Spreading yourself too thin is a recipe for mediocrity. You'd rather take the big swings and go for greatness. Take a hard look at what truly deserves your time and attention. Let go of excess to focus on that which you can master.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The simplest answer is not always the best answer; in fact, today it's a one-size-fits-none result. You're safe to assume the problem is custom-made and to seek a bespoke solution.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Don't confuse

honest missteps with intentional wrongdoing. Everyone needs room to fumble and find their footing, especially when navigating new territory. This awkward stage will soon give way to smoother strides.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your time with someone special has a unique quality to it. Your time apart also has a unique quality to it. The rhythm of closeness and distance lets the bond breathe and grow. Each phase adds depth to the relationship and to your own sense of self.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Part of your destiny seems controlled by another. While technically you have a choice in the matter, it could also be argued that if a choice isn't obvious or known, it may as well not exist. It all speaks to the value of exploration and research.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It's possible to conjure a mood with your imagination and nudge yourself into it. But if you don't quite get there, don't judge yourself. Feelings exist in the heart, which has its own language that the mind doesn't always speak.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). To evaluate your emotions through a lens of detachment takes maturity and gives the astounding clarity that makes achieving

that level of maturity more than worthwhile. The trick is to decide that many things are not about you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Just because you and countless others share the same aspiration doesn't mean you shouldn't pursue it. No two paths are the same. If the outcome isn't exactly what you envisioned, every journey brings its own rewards, which you'll only experience because you keep going.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Something you used to easily manage has grown

more powerful and slipped out of your control. It's time to gather up your resources, assess what is well-within your control and go from there.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Who would want to suppress or deny your brilliance? These days you are the most likely the culprit, though you are only echoing the sentiments of someone in your early years who was threatened that your brightness might eclipse their own.



Gloria is the adoptable dog of the holiday season. She's a 1-year-old, 29-pound pug and spaniel mix in search of a new family. Gloria loves to play and loves other dogs. To inquire about her, please contact Kim Sill at Shelter of Hope at 310-770-3571.

shelterhopepetshop.org

‘NEW YEAR,’ from page 6

Hills is offering its first season of holiday dining menus. Ring in the New Year with a choice of two seatings (6-8 p.m. \$175 per person) and late (9 p.m. to 12 a.m. \$275 per person) with an array of options including a three-course meal with blue crab éclair or beef tartare, and options of goose liver terrine, butter-poached halibut, Rohan duck breast and Black Hawk Farms Wagyu New York strip. Festive holiday cocktails and mocktails will be curated by Moët Hennessy.

For an unforgettable sushi experience, Sushi by Scratch Restaurants at SLS Beverly Hills will offer its signature 17-course omakase with special one-night additions (\$285 per seating). A \$100 enhancement can be added, which includes exclusive truffle and caviar additions to the restaurant’s unique nigiri pieces. The evening includes a complimentary Champagne toast to close out 2024.

Affordable Newcomer

Marea Beverly Hills, currently in a soft-opening phase, will serve dinner starting at 5 p.m. on New Year’s Eve. A festive evening will ensue beginning at 9 p.m., for a very reasonable \$125 per person. This exclusive ticket includes passed canapés in the bar and lounge, complemented by a welcome cocktail and a glass of prosecco for toasting at midnight.

Early Birds

Lawry’s The Prime Rib Beverly Hills will be open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on New Year’s Eve for a limited menu featuring its legendary roasted prime ribs of beef, carved tableside from silver carts. Other seasonal options include roasted butternut squash soup and salmon Rockefeller, to name a few, all while enjoying the roaming Christmas carolers in the dining room. For a toast, opt for a decadent house-made eggnog crafted from Heaven’s Door Ascension Kentucky Straight Bourbon, with cinnamon, nutmeg and vanilla.

A.O.C. on Third Street is ringing in the New Year with a lively New Orleans-style celebration starting at 6 p.m. Suzanne Goin has crafted a festive multicourse NOLA-inspired menu, along with “Boozy Big Easy” cocktails and a Champagne flight curated by Caroline Styne (\$150 per guest for food and one glass of sparkling wine).

For something low-key, just a few doors down on Third Street, Cesare Ristorante is a new romantic, hidden gem, showcasing family recipes from meatballs to pasta, along with whole grilled fish and meat, and a fine wine selection. Restaurateur Cesare Vietina hails from his family’s Michelin-starred restaurant in Forte Dei Marmi, Italy before he helped to open Giorgio Baldi in Beverly Hills, and he co-owned the legendary Madeo, along with his wife Pamela, who makes everyone feel at home. Reservations are open from 5:30 p.m. on New Year’s Eve. ●



Lawry’s Dinner Spread

Photo courtesy of Lawry’s Prime Rib/Eugene Dela Cruz



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3								

SUDOKU ANSWERS 12/20/24 ISSUE								
8	7	1	4	9	3	5	6	2
9	4	2	7	6	5	3	1	8
3	5	6	2	1	8	9	4	7
7	1	9	3	4	6	2	8	5
4	3	8	1	5	2	7	9	6
6	2	5	9	8	7	4	3	1
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PUZZLE ANSWERS 12/20/24 ISSUE															
PUSHPOP	MADAMA	TOOFAR													
ASYOUDO	ORATOR	ARCANA													
COMPLIMENT	SFORFISHING														
PELE	WISH	CALL	ONIT												
ZAHN	MES	POKY	TKO												
ALOOP	FORTHROWING	SOAP													
PONTIACS	EAU	STOLAF													
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	POSITION	FORJOCKEYS													
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	OUTGUN	UNA	LEGOLAND												
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NIH	JAYS	TNT	MESA												
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PUNISHMENT	FORAGLUTTON														
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CLOSES	TYRONE	ANDALSO													

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THE NEW YORK TIMES SUNDAY MAGAZINE CROSSWORD PUZZLE
12/27/24 ISSUE

ART HEIST
BY DAVID KWONG / EDITED BY JOEL FAGLIANO

David Kwong is a magician and crossword constructor in Los Angeles. He was the head magic consultant on the 2013 heist film “Now You See Me” and has consulted on magic and puzzles for many other films and TV shows. He wrote his honors thesis at Harvard on the history of Eastern magicians and their impersonators. David’s new children’s book of magic tricks, “How to Fool Your Parents,” is in bookstores everywhere.
Note: Ten paintings have been stolen by a master thief! To solve this caper, locate each stolen painting in the grid. Then identify the squares in the Across answers from which they’ve been taken. In their place, the thief has left behind 10 pieces of evidence — letters in the Downs. Read them from top to bottom to reveal a message.

- ACROSS**

1 Chess player’s study

8 *Painting stolen from 71-Across*

13 Cashless deal

17 Crunchy root vegetables

19 Fertilizer compound

20 *Painting stolen from 64-Across*

21 Winter setting in New England

23 Hunter on high

24 Like the Beatles’ “Yesterday,” key-wise

25 Plum variety often used in spirits

26 ____ center

27 Made eyes at

28 Schedules

31 Architectural annexes

33 Bronx cheer

35 Capital on the Río de la Plata

39 “Anchors Aweigh” grp.

40 One step ____ time

41 Oodles

42 Downhill event

44 Prefix with health

48 Niçoise salad need

50 Role for Jay Silverheels

52 Charles de Gaulle’s birthplace

53 Neighborhood grocery stores
- 54 *Painting stolen from 21-Across*

56 Nobelist Bohr

58 Evenhanded

59 Customary practice

60 Popeye’s witchy foe in early comics

62 Like a car’s wheels

64 Bar with hashish pipes

66 Baseball great Hershiser

68 Solution strength, in chemistry

70 Fat used in candlemaking

71 Common scale range

75 Champing at the bit

77 Fog and haze generated for a theatrical production

81 Flimsy, as an excuse

82 Pillow cover

84 Fastens, in a way

86 Nose around

87 Director DuVernay

88 Crumple into a ball

90 Informal speech

92 *Painting stolen from 33-Across*

93 *Painting stolen from 105-Across*

95 Opened or closed like an eye, in film lingo

97 No longer interested in

98 Tour de France units: Abbr.

99 Bout enders, for short

101 Health professional focused on nutrition

105 Household appliance that makes a hissing sound
- 108 “Right now!”

109 Connecticut coastal town near Stamford

110 Has the gumption

111 Actress Thurman

114 Abbr. on a music score

116 Member of la familia

117 “Get ____!”

118 Classic nursery rhyme

124 Toronto team, for short

125 Attacked by mosquitoes, say

126 Claudius, vis-à-vis King Hamlet

127 Land in the sea

128 Iditarod entries

129 Annual star-studded fashion event
- DOWN**

1 Three, in Torino

2 Letters associated with baseball and batteries

3 Many ’90s music purchases

4 *Painting stolen from 101-Across*

5 Enjoys as a hobby

6 Gets irritated by

7 Title for Manchín or Murkowski: Abbr.

8 First cars made by Ford

9 See 122-Down

10 Hair removal brand

11 Salinger’s “For ____ — With Love and Squalor”

12 “Penn & Teller: Fool Us” airtel
- 13 *Painting stolen from 35-Across*

14 “____ we’re waiting ...”

15 Cactuslike plants

16 Duffer’s obstacle

18 ’60s campus activist grp.

19 “1984” drudge

20 Eccentric types

22 Certain emergency message

28 Surgeon’s stitch

29 Actress Creel of “Saved by the Bell”

30 Beauty spot?

32 Place to keep plants

34 Abundant

35 Motel proprietor in “Psycho”

36 Ancient Greek region for which part of the Mediterranean is named

37 Innocent sort

38 God of the Quran

43 Hodgepodes

45 Dark, in poesy

46 Like some vowels and memories

47 90° from norte

49 On dry ground

51 Basic skateboard trick

55 Root in some speckled chips

57 Adjust to, as a thermostat

59 ____ Clan, iconic hip-hop group of the 1990s

61 Catches on

63 *Painting stolen from 53-Across*

65 Some partners in lesbian couples

1	2	3	4	5	6	7			8	9	10	11	12		13	14	15	16
17							18		19						20			
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117							118			119			120			121	122	123
124							125					126						
127							128						129					

- 67 Franz who composed “The Merry Widow”

69 Mapped out again

71 Deception

72 Shankar at Woodstock

73 Minnesota congresswoman Ilhan

74 Acme’s antonym

76 Plunder, archaically

78 Online tracker

79 Old-fashioned trinket shop vendors
- 80 Twitch

83 Think aloud

85 Bergen’s dummy Mortimer

89 Identifies

91 “Half a truth is often a ____”: Benjamin Franklin

94 *Painting stolen from 77-Across*

96 Abandons

100 Places of refuge
- 102 Xerox : copy machine :: ____ : kitchen wrap

103 Most boring

104 Lines at the theater?

105 Corporate department

106 Culmination of many a “Law & Order” episode

107 Desensitizes

110 *Painting stolen from 118-Across*
- 112 It might be held during vacation

113 Comedian Johnson of “Laugh-In”

115 Big inits. in fuel additives

119 From Jan. 1 until now

120 Male turkey

121 Actress de Armas of “Knives Out”

122 With 9-Down, legendary Giant

123 A nursing one has snaps



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Public Notices

<p>SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES CASE NO: 24SMCP00646 ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME</p> <p>In the Matter of the petition of: PHILIP CHARLES ROSENBLUM To all interested person(s): Petitioner: Philip Charles Rosenblum Presently over 18 years of age, current residence: 469 1/2 S. Bedford Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90212 filed a petition with the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401 on December 12, 2024 for a Decree changing names as follows:</p> <p>Present Name: Philip Charles Rosenblum Proposed Name: SAMUEL PHILIP CHARLES ROSENBLUM</p> <p>THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: JANUARY 24, 2025 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: Philip Charles Rosenblum Judge of the Superior Court: Lawrence H. Cho Clerk: David W. Slayton Deputy: L. Kulkin Dated: December 12, 2025 Published: 12/20/24, 12/27/24, 01/03/25, 01/10/25 BHC-R29176</p>	<p>NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF BULK SALE AND OF INTENTION TO TRANSFER ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE (UCC Sec. 6101 et seq. and B & P Sec. 24074 et seq.)</p> <p>Escrow No. 003376-CK NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a bulk sale of assets and a transfer of alcoholic beverage license is about to be made. The names of the Seller/Licensee are: OCEAN RESTAURANTS GROUP, INC., 8163 SANTA MONICA BLVD., WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90046 The business is known as: OCEAN SUSHI AKA OCEAN RESTAURANT The names of the Buyer/Transferee are: JJ OCEAN SUSHI INC., 8163 SANTA MONICA BLVD., WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90046 As listed by the Seller/ Licensee, all other business names and addresses used by the Seller/Licensee within three years before the date such list was sent or delivered to the Buyer/ Transferee are: NONE The assets to be sold are described in gen- eral as: FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT, TRADENAME,GOODWILL, LEASE, LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENT, COVENANT NOT TO COMPETE WITH ABC LICENSE together with the following described alcoholic beverage license(s): 41-648573 and are located at: 8163 SANTA MONICA BLVD., WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90046 The kind of license to be transferred is: ON-SALE BEER AND WINE- EATING PLACE now issued for the premises located at: 8163 SANTA MONICA BLVD., WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90046 The anticipated date of sale/transfer is: JANUARY 17, 2025 at the office of: HANA ESCROW, 3580 WILSHIRE BLVD, STE 1170, LOS ANGELES, CA 90010 It has been agreed between the Seller/ Licensee and the intend- ed Buyer/Transferee, as required by Sec. 24073 of the Business and Professions Code, that the consideration for the transfer of the business and license is to be paid only after the transfer has been approved by the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control. Dated: OCTOBER 30, 2024 OCEAN RESTAURANTS GROUP, INC., A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION Seller/ Licensee(s) JJ OCEAN SUSHI INC., A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION, Buyer/ Transferee ORD-3092016 BEVERLY HILLS COURIER 12/27/24</p>	<p>RFQ #25-350-12</p> <p>CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT 345 FOOTHILL ROAD BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210</p> <p>REQUEST FOR PREQUALIFICATION OF BIDDERS AND PREQUALIFICATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR: NOTICE OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUALIFIED MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS LIST FOR VARIOUS HVAC REPLACEMENT PROJECTS</p> <p>Notice is hereby given that the City of Beverly Hills (“CITY”) has determined that all bidders for Notice of the Establishment of a Qualified Mechanical Contractors List for Various HVAC Replacement Projects (“Project”) must be pre-qualified prior to submitting a bid. It is mandatory that all Contractors who intend to submit a bid, fully complete the prequalification questionnaire, provide all materials requested herein, and be approved by the CITY to be on the final qualified Bidders list.</p> <p>No bid will be accepted from a Contractor that has failed to comply with these requirements. If two or more business entities submit a bid as part of a Joint Venture, or expect to submit a bid as part of a Joint Venture, each entity within the Joint Venture must be separately qualified to bid. The last date to submit a fully completed questionnaire is 5:00 PM Thursday, January 9, 2025.</p> <p>Contractors must register as a vendor at the following website in order to download the prequalification package, and to receive clarifications and notifications when issued.</p> <p>The Prequalification package may be viewed on, and downloaded from the City’s PlanetBids portal: https://pbsystem.planetbids.com/portal/39493/bo-bo-detail/104883</p> <p>This item is listed as: Notice of the Establishment of a Qualified Mechanical Contractors List for Various HVAC Replacement Projects. Answers to questions contained in the questionnaire are required. The CITY will use these documents as the basis of rating Contractors with respect to whether each Contractor is qualified to bid on the Project, and reserves the right to check other sources available. The CITY’s decision will be based on objective evaluationcriteria.</p> <p>The CITY reserves the right to adjust, increase, limit, suspend or rescind the prequalification rating based on subsequently learned information. Contractors whose rating changes sufficiently to disqualify them will be notified, and given an opportunity for a hearing consistent with the hearing procedures described below for appealing a prequalification rating.</p> <p>While it is the intent of the prequalification questionnaire and documents required therewith to assist the CITY in determining bidder responsibility prior to bid and to aid the CITY in selecting the lowest responsible bidder, neither the fact of prequalification, nor any prequalification rating, will preclude the CITY from a post-bid consideration and determination of whether a bidder has the quality, fitness, capacity and experience to satisfactorily perform the proposed work, and has demonstrated the requisite trustworthiness.</p> <p>All qualification submittals are required to be submitted electronically via PlanetBids. The electronic submittal system will close exactly at the date and time set forth in this request for qualifications.</p> <p>Any questions regarding the questionnaire and qualification package should be submitted via PlanetBids by 2:00PM, December 31, 2024. Questions sent via email or over the phone; with the exception of those related to accessing or using PlanetBids, will not be answered.</p> <p>Contractors are responsible for submitting and having their documents accepted before the closing time set forth in the request for qualifications. NOTE: Pushing the submit button on the electronic submittal system may not be instantaneous; it may take time for the Contractor’s documents to upload and transmit before the documents are accepted. It is the Contractor’s sole responsibility to ensure their documents are uploaded, transmitted, and arrive in time electronically. The</p>	<p>City of Beverly Hills will have no responsibility for documents that do not arrive in a timely manner, no matter what the reason.</p> <p>The prequalification packages submitted by Contractors are not public records and are not open to public inspection. All information provided will be kept confidential to the extent permitted by law. However, the contents may be disclosed to third parties for purpose of verification, or investigation of substantial allegations, or in an appeal hearing. State law requires that the names of contractors applying for prequalification status shall be public records subject to disclosure, and the first page of the questionnaire will be used for that purpose.</p> <p>Each questionnaire must be signed under penalty of perjury in the manner designated at the end of the form, by an individual who has the legal authority to bind the Contractor on whose behalf that person is signing. If any information provided by a Contractor becomes inaccurate, the Contractor must immediately notify the CITY and provide updated accurate information in writing, under penalty of perjury.</p> <p>The CITY reserves the right to waive minor irregularities and omissions in the information contained in the prequalification application submitted, and to make all final determinations. The CITY may also determine at any time that the prequalification process will be suspended for the Project and the Project will be bid without prequalification.</p> <p>Contractors may submit all qualification submittals electronically via Planet Bids. Contractors who submit a complete prequalification package will be notified of their qualification status no later than ten business days after submission of the information.</p> <p>The CITY may refuse to grant prequalification where the requested information and materials are not provided by the due date indicated above. There is no appeal from a refusal for an incomplete or late application, but re-application for a later project is permitted. Neither the closing time for submitting prequalification packages for this Project will be changed in order to accommodate supplementation of incomplete submissions, or late submissions, unless requested by the CITY in its sole discretion.</p> <p>In addition to a contractor’s failure to be pre-qualified pursuant to the scoring system set forth in the prequalification package, a contractor may be found not prequalified for either omission of or falsification of, any requested information.</p> <p>Where a timely and completed application results in a rating below that necessary to pre-qualify, an appeal can be made by the unsuccessful Contractor. An appeal is begun by the Contractor delivering notice to the CITY of its appeal of the decision with respect to its prequalification rating, no later than two business days following notification that it is not pre-qualified. The notice of appeal shall include an address where the Contractor wishes to receive notice of the appeal hearing. Without a timely appeal, the Contractor waives any and all rights to challenge the decision of the CITY, whether by administrative process, judicial process or any other legal process or proceeding.</p> <p>If the Contractor gives the required notice of appeal, a hearing shall be conducted no earlier than five business days after the CITY’s receipt of the notice of appeal and not later than five business days prior to the date of the Notice Inviting Bids for this Project. Prior to the hearing, the Contractor shall, in writing, be advised of the basis for the City’s pre-qualification determination.</p> <p>The hearing shall be conducted by a panel consisting of three members of the Public Works Department senior management staff (the “Appeals Panel”). The Appeals Panel shall consider any evidence presented by the Contractor, whether or not the evidence is presented in compliance with formal rules of evidence. The Contractor will be given the opportunity to present evidence, information and arguments as to why the Contractor believes it should be pre-qualified. Within one day after the conclusion of the hearing, the Appeals Panel will render a written determination as to whether the Contractor is pre-qualified. It is the intention of the CITY that the date for the submission and opening of bids will not be delayed or postponed to allow for completion of an appeal process.</p>
<p>SUMMONS (CITATION JUDICIAL) CASE NO: 21STCV43764</p> <p>NOTICE TO DEFENDANTS: SEUNGOH YOO, an individual; THE FUKUDA FAMILY TRUST DATED JUNE 27, 2009; THE MASATOSHI YAMABAYASHI AND SHIRLEY MIYUKI YAMABAYASHI REVOCABLE TRUST; PATRICIA KIKUE FUKUDA, an individual; STEPHEN WAYNE FUKUDA, an individual; BOBBY MINORU MATSUMOTO, an individual; ROBERT MATSUMOTO, an individual; MASATOSHI YAMABAYASHI, an individual; SHIRLEY MIYUKI YAMABAYASHI, an individual; and DOES 1 TO 100, inclusive.</p> <p>YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: AIDAN KORTE, an individual.</p> <p>NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.</p> <p>You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.</p> <p>There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association.</p> <p>The name and address of the court is: Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles 150 Commonwealth Avenue, Alhambra CA 90012</p> <p>The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff’s attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney is: Gevork Gazaryan, Esq. DOWNTOWN LA LAW GROUP 910 South Broadway, Los Angeles, California 90015 (213) 389-3765 (State Bar No: 327350)</p> <p>Date: 10/30/24 By: David W. Slayton, Clerk • C. Padilla, Deputy Judicial Officer: Ian C. Fusselman BHC• Published 12/27/24, 01/03/25, 01/10/25, 01/17/25</p>	<p>FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2024254004 The following is/are doing business as: LINCOLN OAKS VILLAGE 140 WEST HILLCREST DRIVE, THOUSAND OAKS, CA 91360; PROPERTIES, LLC, 9201 Wilshire Boulevard suite 305, Beverly Hills, CA 90210; The business is conducted by: <u>A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY</u> registrant(s) has HAS begun to transact business under the name(s) listed on December 2024: PROPERTIES, LLC, Michael Moray, Managing Member. Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: December 16, 2024; Published: December 27, 2024 January 3, 10, 17, 2025 LACC N/C</p>		

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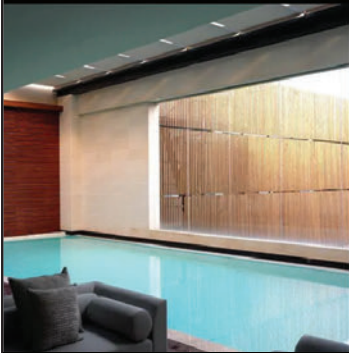
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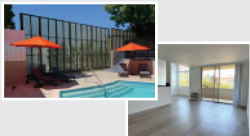
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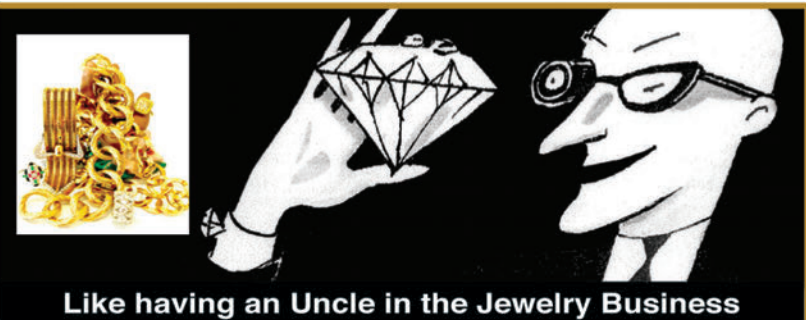


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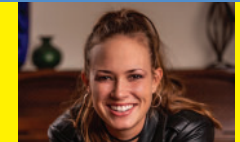
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