# BEVERLY HILLS COURIER

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THE NEWSPAPER OF RECORD FOR BEVERLY HILLS

BEVERLYHILLSCOURIER.COM

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#### THE WEATHER, BEVERLY HILLS CA

	Friday	70°   59°
	Saturday	66°   53°
ථ	Sunday	69°   52°
<b>\</b>	Monday	77°   53°
<u>~</u>	Tuesday	78°   54°
<u>~</u>	Wednesday	78°   55°
ථ	Thursday	70°   53°

# Hostage Families Tell Their Stories in Beverly Hills



Photo by Ana Figueroa

Survivors of the Oct. 7 attack spoke in Beverly Hills this week. Pictured (bottom row from left): Ela Shani, Nir Shani, Yoni Asher; top row: Councilmember Lili Bosse, Vice Mayor Lester Friedman, Mayor Dr. Julian Gold and Councilmember Sharona Nazarian

BY ANA FIGUEROA

Heroes, according to a familiar adage, are ordinary people faced with extraordinary circumstances. An apt description—at first

glance—for the individuals who addressed a select audience at the Beverly Hills Municipal Gallery on Nov. 13. But as their presentation unfolded, it became clear that none of them See HOSTAGE FAMILIES, page 75

# Commission Rejects Zone Text Amendment Proposal

BY MELISSA ETEHAD

Members of the Beverly Hills Planning Commission unanimously rejected a zone text amendment proposal for the Trousdale Estates area during its Nov. 9 meeting that would have permitted property owners who have the right to have a second story to instead request the construction of a daylighting basement through a new R-1 Permit process.

The proposal was brought forth by a team representing a property owner of an empty lot on the eastern part of Hillcrest Road, whose magnificent views overlook the ocean and greater Los Angeles County area. The applicant is seeking to build a daylighting basement with two retaining walls instead of a second story to avoid obstructing his uphill neighbor's view.

"We believe we have come up with a proposal to amend the Beverly Hills Trousdale code that is of benefit to the community," said Jason Somers, project representative

See COMMISSION, page 10

# Councilmember Bosse Marches for Israel in Washington, D.C.

BY CLARA HARTER

Beverly Hills Councilmember Lili Bosse barely slept at all on her red-eye flight to Washington, D.C., the evening of Nov. 13. But the second she stepped into the crisp morning air at the National Mall and was enveloped in a sea of white and blue, she felt energized.

For the rest of morning she sang, prayed and chanted alongside some 200,000 people as the Nov. 14 March for Israel took over the Capitol.

"There was such a sense of community that I literally forgot I pulled an all-nighter," Bosse told the Courier. "To hear the chanting of 'never again is now' and of 'bring them back' from 200,000 people in unison; it really pierced my soul."

The purpose of the march was to



Photos courtesy of the Jewish Federation City Councilmember Lili Bosse at the Nov. 14 March for Israel in Washington, D.C.

See BOSSE, page 10

# Official Filing Period Opens for City Council Race

BY ERIC LICAS

The official filing period for candidates running for one of two seats on the Beverly Hills City Council opened on Nov. 13 and will close on Dec 13. Voters will elect two new City Council members in March 2024, replacing Mayor Dr. Julian Gold and Councilmember Lili Bosse.

Five prospective candidates have submitted their Candidate Intention Statement and Statement of Organization forms with the Fair Political Practices Commission, permitting them to open bank accounts for their

See CITY COUNCIL RACE, page 77



# **Courier Calendar**

#### NOW - NOV. 19 ODYSSEY THEATRE: "BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA" 2 P.M., 8 P.M.

Odyssey Theatre presents "Birds of North America," a funny, poignant and nuanced two-hander set against the background of nature and climate change. In the play, John (Arye Gross) and Caitlyn (Jacqueline Misaye) scan the skies over a backyard in suburban Maryland looking for elusive birds, even as the years go by and both they and the world around them change in small and vast ways. "Birds of North America" takes a close look at the relationship of a father and daughter over the course of a decade as they struggle to understand the parts of one another that defy understanding. Tickets range from \$25-\$40. Odyssey Theatre is located at 2055 S. Sepulveda Blvd., Los Angeles. odysseytheatre.com

#### NOW - DEC. 22 GAGOSIAN: "IN A SHADY VALLEY, NEAR RUNNING WATER" TUES.-SAT. 10 A.M.-5:30 P.M.

Gagosian presents "In a Shady Valley, Near a Running Water," an exhibition of new paintings by Ewa Juszkiewicz in Beverly Hills. This will be Juszkiewicz's first solo exhibition in California and her second with the gallery. Juszkiewicz's oil paintings of women begin with historical portraits, appropriating their style while subverting their conventions through fantastical and discomforting pictorial interventions. In the paintings exhibited in Beverly Hills (all works 2023), Juszkiewicz obscures her subjects' faces, substituting passages of tightly coiffed hair, swaths of fabric, arrangements of flowers and foliage, and other additions that meticulously maintain the style of her sources while subsuming their recognizable features. These surreal elements estrange the viewer's expectations and challenge the means by which women's identities have long been obscured, idealized and marginalized. Admission to the Gagosian is free. It is located at 456 N. Camden Drive, Beverly Hills. gagosian.com

#### NOW - JAN. 7, 2024 THE HOLIDAY ICE RINK PERSHING SQUARE

The Holiday Ice Rink at Pershing Square reopens with performances this year as part of the annual tree lighting. At 7,200 square feet, it is the city's largest outdoor rink and offers visitors professional-quality ice for skating and entertainment. Wednesday nights are DJ Spotlight Nights, featuring performances from local DJs. The rink also participates in the City of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation Winter Festival on Dec. 16. Located at 532 South Olive St., Los Angeles, this landmark destination is easily accessible by car, bus, Metro (Pershing Square stop) or Metrolink. General admission to the rink, including skate rental, is \$20, locker rental is \$5, and skate helpers are \$6. Tickets can be purchased in advance online. holidayicerinkdowntownla.com

#### NOV. 19 LEV EISHA HADASSAH: "UNDER THE JELLO MOLD" AND PRE-SHOW DINNER 5-9 P.M.

Hadassah presents a fundraiser for Hadassah's Crisis Campaign to benefit Israel. The event begins with an optional, pre-show, no-host dinner at The Stalking Horse Brewery and Freehouse at 10543 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles. The play, "Under the Jello Mold," a story of love, loss and being of sound mind, written and performed by Jennie Fahn follows at 7 p.m at Pico

Playhouse at 10508 Pico Blvd., Los Angeles. Tickets are \$36 until Nov. 12, after which tickets will be \$45. Higherpriced, tax-deductible tickets are also available. hadassah.org

#### NOV. 25 - DEC. 3 WESTSIDE BALLET OF SANTA MONICA: "NUTCRACKER" 1 P.M., 5 P.M.

Westside Ballet of Santa Monica presents its 50th-anniversary celebration of "The Nutcracker," Southern California's longest running rendition at The Eli and Edythe Broad Stage. Since its debut in 1973, this production has become a tradition, captivating audiences with its magical allure. Three Westside Ballet alumnispecial guest stars Tiler Peck, Lucia Connolly and Lyrica Woodruff-will each take center stage as the Sugar Plum Fairy. The Eli and Edythe Broad Stage is loacted at 1310 11th Street, Santa Monica. Tickets are \$60. westsideballet.com



# L'ERMITAGE

# Gather in Gratitude in Beverly Hills

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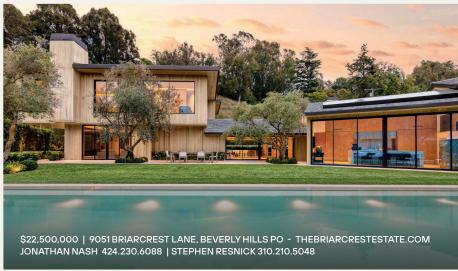
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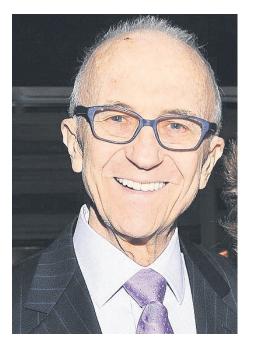




# CAROLWOOD

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# Former Mayor Aronberg Passes Away



Former Mayor Dr. Charles Aronberg

Former Mayor of Beverly Hills Charles "Chuck" Aronberg, M.D. passed away on Nov. 9 at the age of 93. Aronberg served 12

years on the City Council and two terms as mayor, from 1974-1975 and 1979-1980. The city has lowered its flag to half-staff in Aronberg's honor.

The Chicago-born Aronberg moved to Los Angeles at the age of 10. He graduated from Los Angeles High School at 15, attended UCLA and medical school at UCSF. He specialized in ophthalmology and became prominent in the field of sports medicine. He was team doctor for the Lakers, Kings, Raiders and for three Olympic Games. He was also a member of SAG, with 12 film credits.

Aronberg was a supporter of seat belt legislation and its installation in all cars. He worked with Ralph Nader to mandate a number of safety improvements and also worked with Congressman Henry Waxman during the development of both the clean air and water acts.

In 2022, during her term as mayor, Councilmember Lili Bosse awarded Aronberg with the "Key to the City," the highest symbolic honor the mayor and City

See FORMER MAYOR ARONBERG, page 77

# BHUSD Board Hears Updates on Array of Topics

BY JIMY TALLAL

The regular Board of Education Meeting of the Beverly Hills Unified School District (BHUSD) on Nov. 14 touched on an array of topics. The "Teacher Spotlight," focused on Department Chair of BHHS Visual Arts, Michael Federman, who was introduced by Co-Principal Drew Stewart.

"He's constantly innovating, and his new program is opening doors and opening the eyes of his students in the arts, AP Drawing, animation and graphic design," Stewart said. "For many of our students, he's the most important instructor they've had in sparking their interests."

Federman explained that BHHS is probably only the second high school in the United States to offer its students the opportunity to obtain a professional certificate in animation, allowing them to continue on a career path in that field. He adopted the Toon Boom Harmony and Storyboard Pro programs, which allow him to teach advanced animation with 16 on-screen drawing tablets, and licenses for students to do both in-class and

in-home work.

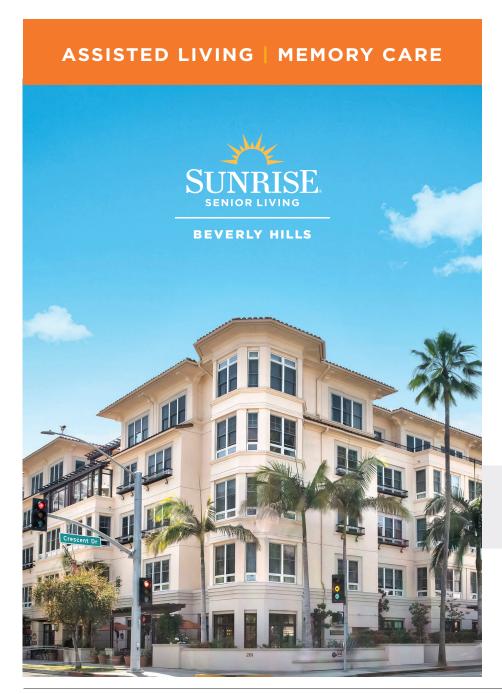
The board also took up the issue of relocation of district offices.

On Sept. 6 the Facilities and Construction Department, along with bond program manager Fonder-Salari, issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) to three architectural firms in the district's established pool for "Study, Assessment, & Design Options" services for the district's office relocation to the current Hawthorne Elementary School site.

The scope of work will include the remodel/reconfiguring of existing building interiors to house district administrative offices and board room, conversion of a playground to a parking lot, and providing a compliant ADA path to the area of alteration, including parking, building entrances, signage, restrooms, and drinking fountains.

All three firms responded, and interviews of each firm were conducted by a panel consisting of four BHUSD representatives and a Fonder-Salari representative. PBWS Architects was selected, and the board

See BHUSD, page 79





# Discover Vibrant Senior Living

Situated three blocks from Rodeo Drive,
Sunrise of Beverly Hills offers a highly personalized senior
living experience. In our community, you'll enjoy a highly
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Take a virtual tour and view our photo gallery.

## 'We Shall Overcome' is the Message of Former Israeli Ambassador



Former Ambassador Yossi Gal BY ANA FIGUEROA

Retired Israeli Ambassador to France, Monaco and the Netherlands Yossi Gal addressed an invitation-only group of approximately 60 prominent Westside residents on Nov. 5. The event, entitled "Dinner and Dialogue with Ambassador Yossi Gal," touched upon the situation in Israel, the role of diplomacy and the abiding resilience of the Israeli people.

Gal elaborated upon those themes in an interview with the Courier a few days later, on the one-month anniversary of the Hamas terror attacks.

Gal's own life experience provides a unique vantage point in the current crisis. Born to Moroccan parents who relocated to Israel, he attended Hebrew University on a scholarship. Gal would later go on to serve a celebrated career as a diplomat. He is credited with strengthening ties between Israel and Europe and helping to facilitate peace negotiations between the Palestinians and the Jordanians. Gal rose to become the Director General of Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs before returning to Hebrew University, this time as its Vice President for External Relations and Advancement.

In fact, Gal made this trip to New York and Los Angeles as an ambassador for Hebrew University's 5,000 students now currently on active military duty. He is raising funds to provide each of them a scholarship of \$1,000.

"All the universities decided together that because we have so many of our students and faculty called up for active duty, either in the south or the north, that our first responsibility is to them. We delayed the opening of the school year," said Gal.

Instead, Hebrew University has opened its facilities to accommodate evacuees from Israel's northern and southern borders. Members of the university's agriculture faculty are currently volunteering in the south of Israel to help farmers harvest their crops of tomatoes, cucumbers and peppers.

"This is what we do," Gal told the Courier.

"If you were to come to Israel now you will be so amazed at the spirit of the Israeli people. People are donating blood, sending food to the frontlines, opening their houses. Before these attacks, we were talking about the political differences in Israel. There was fear that many would not be showing up if called to the army. Now, we have 140% showing up. We have people volunteering who were not called," he said.

The political differences that plagued Israel a few months ago now seem distant.

"October 7 will undoubtedly go down in history not only in the State of Israel but the world as one of the darkest days. A group of terrorists committed to the destruction of Israel, massacred 1,400 people for no reason, just because they are Jewish. We had an atrocity of biblical magnitude take place. All of our politicians decided to act together. The government is now united to pursue two things, the removal in a very decisive way of the threat of Hamas, and the return of the 241 innocent hostages," said Gal.

That is not to say that tough questions will not persist. Israelis, and indeed the world at large continue to ponder the lapse of security that enabled the terror attacks on Oct. 7 to happen.

"We Israelis will have to go through some soul searching and ask lots of questions. Believe me, this will happen at the right time," Gal observed.

As for the motivation behind the attacks, Gal doesn't agree with the analysts who point to the potential diplomatic relationship between Israel and Saudi Arabia as a primary factor.

"For the last two generations the Middle East was moving in the right direction. Of course, the rapprochement with Saudi Arabia represented something significant. But Hamas was not looking for excuses. Their charter speaks very clearly and openly about

See AMBASSADOR GAL, page 79

### Los Angeles: A festive holiday forecast for retailers and consumers

By Terry Feit, Los Angeles Managing Partner, Deloitte LLP; and Summer Taylor and Rebecca Lohrey, Deloitte & Touche LLP

As the holiday season approaches, Los Angeles consumers are signaling a robust spending trend, setting a festive tone for the retail landscape. According to the **Deloitte 2023 Holiday Retail Survey**, Angelenos are not only



ready to open their wallets wider than last year but are also seeking out deals to maximize their holiday cheer.

Los Angeles is poised to outshine the national average, with an expected holiday spend of \$1,733 per shopper—a 5% increase year over year among those surveyed. However, this rise in spend may come with a strategic approach from consumers. Faced with inflationary pressures, the majority (73%) of LA shoppers anticipate higher prices and plan to buy fewer gifts—eight this year compared to nine last year.

#### Where consumers are shopping and what they're buying

In the digital realm, Los Angeles consumers are channeling a greater portion of their holiday spend online with 65% of their budget dedicated to e-commerce, up from 62% in 2022. Mass merchants, department stores, and off-price stores follow in popularity. The migration to online shopping is accompanied by a decline in physical store visits, dropping from an average of 6.4 to 4.2 stores.

While there's a clear preference for online shopping, the expectation from 79% of retail executives surveyed is single-digit growth in stores. This differs from what shoppers plan, with in-store shopping budgets remaining

flat at 35% this year. Although consumers plan to shop at fewer physical stores, visiting a brick-and-mortar store can serve as inspiration for their online spending. Retailers can also take heart in the strong loyalty shown by LA shoppers, with 80% often or always returning to their favorite stores.

LA's holiday spending isn't just about gifts. Consumers expect to spend \$696 on experiences, up 9% from last year, and \$563 on non-gifts (including clothing for family and self, home furnishings, and holiday decorations), a 14% increase.

#### **Shopping strategies across households**

The trend of tightening the purse strings is evident across income brackets. Those respondents with incomes of more than \$200K are scaling back their budgets, with spending dropping by \$1,568 for total holiday spend. In contrast, those earning between \$50K and \$99K are bucking the trend, increasing their total spend by a significant 46%, or \$504.

There's a broader narrative of adaption affecting consumer behavior in LA. High-income earners (more than \$200K) are decreasing their spend on non-gift items by 33%, while under \$200K income groups are amping up their expenditures on non-gift items by 48%. Sixty-three percent (63%) of LA holiday shoppers expect to stay within a fixed budget, compared to 60% in 2022. And the average budget allocated to gift cards has risen to \$297 from \$276 last year, indicating a preference for flexible and easy gifting options.

The city's spending stamina is also evident when compared to national trends. Despite a dramatic 19% drop in average spend from 2021 to 2022, LA's year-over-year growth outpaces the four-year compound annual growth rate of 3.4%, with the current year's spending up by 5%.

#### The best time to shop

LA shoppers plan to make the most of the holiday season by extending their shopping duration to 5.5 weeks, slightly more than last year. A notable 29% of their holiday budget is earmarked for the last two weeks of November, with about 46% of shoppers planning to make purchases in either late November or early December.

What's more, Black Friday and Cyber Monday are back in a big way. Seventy-six percent (76%) of LA shoppers plan to shop during Thanksgiving week, a sharp increase from the previous year's 44%.

#### A very merry holiday season

This is the 38th year Deloitte has polled consumers to find out about their holiday spending plans. This year's survey included consumers in the city of Los Angeles and across the nation. The poll also queries national retail executives on their holiday outlook.

With many years of experience looking at holiday spending patterns, this year is expected be a time of joy for both consumers and retailers alike. With a balance of online convenience and in-store experiences, Los Angeles appears ready to embrace the holiday spirit with resilience.

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# **Community**

## Women's Guild Cedars-Sinai Holds Crystal Ball Gala



Photo by Alex J. Berliner AB Images

LaTanya Richardson Jackson, Samuel L. Jackson with Anna Maria Horsford at the gala

BY BIANCA HEYWARD

On Nov. 9, the Women's Guild Cedars-Sinai held its annual Crystal Ball gala at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel, which honored Samuel L. Jackson and LaTanya Richardson Jackson with the Hollywood Icon Award and the Litvack family with the Humanitarian Award. Hundreds of people attended the event to

support the honorees, and the programs funded by the Women's Guild that drive research and innovation at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center.

The event was hosted by actress Kate Flannery, known for her role as Meredith Palmer on the television series "The Office," and featured a performance by Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter, Lisa Loeb. The Hollywood Icon award has historically honored those whose philanthropic endeavors have gone above and beyond, and this year is no exception.

In 1999, the duo established the Samuel L. and LaTanya R. Jackson Foundation, which is dedicated to supporting philanthropic arts, educational, and health organizations in the United States and Africa. In 2016, the Jacksons were honored by the Children's Defense Fund for their contributions to the national child advocacy organization, and their commitment to the "Leave No Child Behind" mission, which hopes to ensure every child a "Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start, and a Moral Start in life." Previous recipients of the Hollywood Icon Award include Jamie Lee Curtis, Danny DeVito, and Lyn and Norman Lear.

An effort to provide the community with a superior level of care "has prompted them to continually raise funds to curate and establish programs, which have successfully placed the Cedars-Sinai hospital in the enviable position as one of the finest hospitals in the world," LaTanya Jackson said in her speech. "Their latest project, the Guerin Children's project, will focus on the needs and care of our cherished generation

of children. They care. In a world which daily seems to have lost its moral compass, the Women's Guild Cedars-Sinai stands up to the peril and toxic disregard, to remind us all to care."

"Thank you from my whole heart for recognizing Sam and me, and for doing what we consider is our reasonable portion of service," she added.

"Acting is my passion," Samuel L. Jackson said following his wife. "And as the adage goes, I pretty much act for nothing and get paid for waiting around to do it. Along the way, my fellow honoree has kept me grounded and confident and aware, as citizens of the world, we have a responsibility to do the best we can to be part of the solution."

The Litvack family, which includes Dr. Frank Litvack, co-director of the Cardiovascular Intervention Center and Professor of Medicine at UCLA, Shelley Litvack, Emmy Award-winning director and producer, their children Willie, Harry, Erika, and daughter-in-law, Madeline, received the Humanitarian Award.

The gala was chaired by Lorette Gross, Deborah Klein, and Daniele Worth Ochoa. Wendy Goldberg and Barbara Herman served as gala advisory chairs.



The Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Office is looking for adult and student election workers in Beverly Hills. All election workers are employed by Los Angeles County.

#### **Adult Election Worker requirements:**

- Be 18 years of age or older
- Be a U.S. citizen or Legal Permanent Resident (Green Card Holder) and registered to vote in California

#### **Student Election Worker requirements:**

- O Be at least 16 years of age by the time of the election
- Have teacher and parental consent
- o Have a good academic standing: G.P.A. of 2.5 or greater
- O Be attending a public or private secondary institution (High School)
- o Be a U.S. citizen or Legal Permanent Resident (Green Card Holder)

For more information and to apply with the LA County Registrar-Recorder/County Office, visit **beverlyhills.org/elections** or call **(310) 285-2400**.

Students and adults bilingual in English and Farsi are needed!

**LAVOTE.GOV** 

# Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon at Roxbury Park

Mayor Dr. Julian Gold, Vice Mayor Lester Friedman and members of the Beverly Hills City Council took part in the annual Thanksgiving Luncheon on Nov. 13 at Roxbury Park for members of the Beverly Hills Active Adult Club. The event was hosted by the Beverly Hills Firefighters' Association and took place at the Roxbury Community Center.



Photos courtesy FTA Events and Marketing

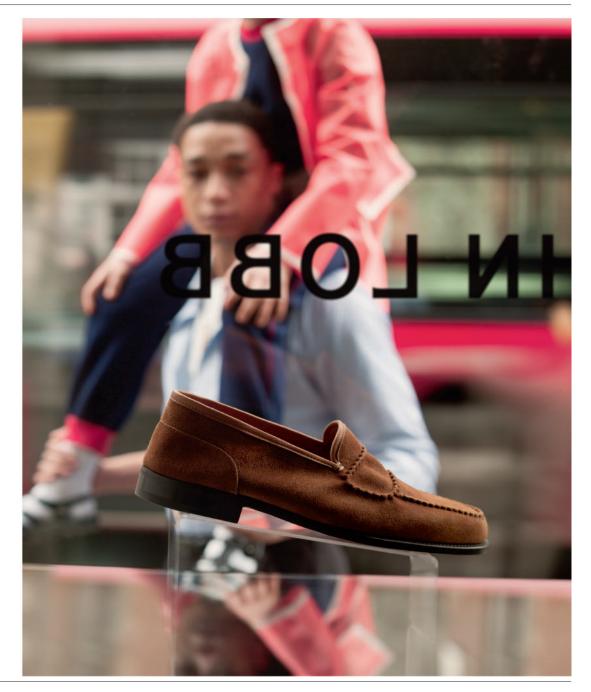


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## **JOHN LOBB**

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#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING



(Rescheduling of hearing originally noticed for November 21, 2023)

The Council of the City of Beverly Hills, at its meeting to be held on **Monday, December 11, 2023 at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard**, in the Council Chamber of the City Hall, 455 N. Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210, will hold a public hearing to consider:

REVIEW OF THE PERMANENT OPEN AIR DINING PROGRAM, WHICH INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING COMPONENTS:

- A) ADOPTION OF A DRAFT ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS AMENDING THE BEVERLY HILLS MUNICIPAL CODE REGULATIONS RELATED TO OPEN AIR DINING
- B) ADOPTION OF PARKLET DESIGN GUIDELINES PROVIDING A SET OF MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF PARKLET DINING
- C) RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS AMENDING THE COMPREHENSIVE SCHEDULE OF TAXES, FEES AND CHARGES TO ADD A SIDEWALK DINING LICENSE FEE AND PARKLET DINING LICENSE FEE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024
- D) PROCEDURES FOR IMPLEMENTING THE PERMANENT OPEN AIR DINING PROGRAM

AND MAKING A DETERMINATION OF EXEMPTION UNDER THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

The OpenBH program was started during the Covid-19 Pandemic to temporarily ease regulations related to open air dining on public and private property and is currently scheduled to end in December 2023, however, this program may be extended further by the City Council. The City Council has directed staff to work on permanent changes to the City's open air dining program throughout several City Council Ad Hoc Subcommittee meetings. Based on direction provided by the Subcommittees, the following open air dining program items have been developed for review and approval by the City Council:

- A) Amended Open Air Dining Ordinance: The draft ordinance consists of proposed code changes for City Council for review and adoption. At their July 13, 2023 meeting, the Planning Commission reviewed the draft ordinance and adopted a resolution recommending City Council adoption of the draft ordinance, as well as providing guidance to staff to create a guidelines document for the architectural review process for open air dining permits, and provided Council comments on the extension of open air dining areas beyond the restaurant's facade and in front of adjacent tenants' facades as the Commission did not come to a consensus that topic. The draft ordinance proposes code changes in the Beverly Hills Municipal Code (BHMC) that may include but are not limited to the following:
  - Article 27 of Title 10, Chapter 3 of the BHMC
    - o Changes to the parking requirements for open air dining located on private property
  - Article 35 of Title 10, Chapter 3 of the BHMC
    - o Changes to the development standards and requirements, and review processes
    - o Addition of development standards and review processes related to parklets in the public right-of-way
- B) Parklet Guidelines: The City Council will consider adopting parklet design guidelines which include a set of minimum standards for design, construction, and maintenance of parklet dining (dining located in parking meter spaces). The Guidelines also provide details for a 'Kit of Parts' designed and pre-approved to provide a more streamlined permitting process.
- C) Fees: The City Council will consider a resolution to increase and make amendments to certain fees and service charges that are charged to the public for the various activities and services as set forth in the Schedule of Taxes, Fees, and Charges for fiscal year 2023-2024. The new fees are proposed for leasing of public right of way for sidewalk and parklet dining use with the adoption of an Open-Air Dining Program ordinance. These fees would become effective on December 11, 2023.

D) Procedures: The City Council will receive information on a streamlined application process for open air dining and discuss the compliance period for converting existing temporarily approved open air dining areas (Open BH program) into permanently approved open air dining areas.

This project has been assessed in accordance with the authority and criteria contained in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the State CEQA Guidelines, and the environmental regulations of the City. Since the project does not authorize construction, and makes minor changes to existing development standards that apply to a fully built-out area of the City (in the commercially zoned areas), there is no possibility that it may have a significant effect on the environment. In addition, the project reflects minor changes in land use limitations, and do not result in changes to land use or density. Accordingly, the City Council will consider a recommendation to find the project categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to Sections 15061(b)(3) and 15305 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations.

#### HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Members of the public may participate in the meeting by attending in-person or telephonically; and may view the meeting through live webcast or BHTV Channel 10 on Spectrum Cable.

#### Public Comment Participation:

- Oral Comment/Listen only: (310) 288-2288
- Email: <a href="mailto:cityclerk@beverlyhills.org">cityclerk@beverlyhills.org</a>
- Video (during public comment only): <a href="http://beverlyhills.org/comment">http://beverlyhills.org/comment</a>
- To Watch Video Live: <a href="http://beverlyhills.org/live">http://beverlyhills.org/live</a> or
- On-Demand: <a href="http://beverlyhills.org/citycouncilmeetings">http://beverlyhills.org/citycouncilmeetings</a>
- In-Person: Submit a Speaker Card to the City Clerk at the meeting

#### How to Submit Public Comment (Email/Video):

It is recommended that public written comments be submitted to the City Clerk's office by 12:00 p.m. on the meeting date. Public comments will also be taken during the meeting when the topic is being reviewed by the City Council/Parking Authority. Written comments should identify the Agenda Item Number or Topic in the subject line of the email. The City Clerk will read only the first three minutes (approximately 350 words) of a written comment. In the event of a large number of written comments on one item, written comments may be summarized by the City Clerk's Office. The entire written comment shall be archived in full as part of the record.

If a comment is received after the agenda item is heard, it will not be a part of the record. Public comment via video conference will be no longer than three (3) minutes per each individual comment, subject to City Council discretion based on the anticipated length in the meeting. In-person speaker cards may be submitted to the City Clerk directly during the meeting.

Any interested person may participate in the meeting and be heard or present written comments to the City Council. According to Government Code Section 65009, if you challenge the Council's action in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City, either at or prior to the public hearing.

#### In Person Participation:

All interested persons are invited to attend and speak on this matter in person. Please see the above information on the location and time of this meeting.

If there are any questions regarding this notice, please contact **Angelina Ramirez** in the Community Development Department at (310) 285-1154, or by email at **openairdining@beverlyhills.org**. Please also contact the planner listed here to add your email to the interested parties list for this ordinance, so that important updates and notifications may be sent to you.

HUMA AHMED City Clerk



Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Beverly Hills will make reasonable efforts to accommodate persons with disabilities. If you require special assistance, please call (310) 285-2400 (voice) or (310) 285-6881 (TTY). Providing at least forty-eight (48) hours advance notice will help to ensure availability of services. City Hall, including the Council Chamber and Room 280A, is wheelchair accessible. The City Hall Council Chamber and Room 280A are also equipped with audio equipment for the hearing impaired.

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# EMPOWER YOUR GIVING WITH A DONOR ADVISED FUND



By Steve Gamer

hen it comes to strengthening the social fabric through philanthropy, there is no better vehicle for most people than a Donor Advised Fund (DAF) offered by a nonprofit like the Jewish Community Foundation of Los Angeles (The Foundation).

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About the author: Steve Gamer is vice president of advancement for the Jewish Community Foundation of Los Angeles, which manages more than \$1 billion in charitable assets and distributed \$160 million in grants in 2022 to causes locally, nationally and around the world. He has 30 years of experience helping funders achieve their philanthropic vision.

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JEWISH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION LOS ANGELES

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#### BOSSE, from page 1

denounce antisemitism and call on the U.S. government to double down on its support of Israel and do everything in its power to bring back the hostages taken by Hamas on Oct. 7.

It was organized by the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and the Jewish Federations of North America. Bosse was part of a 300-member delegation from the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles, which is led by Rabbi Noah Farkas.

"Our Federation was incredibly proud to lead the Los Angeles delegation for Tuesday's March for Israel in Washington D.C.," Farkas told the Courier. "Now more than ever, we must unite as one national and global community to show solidarity and support for Israel."

"This march was a powerful and inspiring show of strength and love," he added.

Prior to the march, Bosse and several other California members of the Jewish Federation including State Senator Henry Stern (D-Los Angeles), met with U.S. Senators Alex Padilla and Laphonza Butler to share their views on the Israel-Hamas conflict.

"They heard us loud and clear and they knew we were here for a reason," said Bosse. "They seemed very receptive to our very strong feelings about Israel, the hostages and antisemitism."

The trauma of Oct. 7 coupled with the spike in antisemitism have made the last few months incredibly hard for members

of the Jewish community.

For Bosse, who is the daughter of an Auschwitz survivor, the past weeks have been especially heavy.

"My mom always told me I had to tell her story long after she's gone to ensure that it would never happen again and I honestly never thought that it would," said Bosse. "But now we are essentially living in a time where the antisemitism and the Jew hatred is at a state of an emergency."

After all the pain Bosse has felt recently, Nov. 14 lifted her spirits and made her feel whole. A favorite moment of hers was when the crowd sang the Israeli national anthem, the "Hatikvah," which literally means "the hope," in unison.

"It gave me the chills, everybody was singing and people were holding up their signs," she said. "They were so proud to show their support and to feel such a sense of unity and community. Lately, many of us feel very alone with the rise in antisemitism."

Bosse grew up everyday hearing her mother telling her to never, ever, give up and to always speak out against hate. On Nov. 14, she felt like she made her mother proud.

The next day Bosse headed to Fort Lauderdale, Florida to attend the North American Mayors Summit Against Antisemitism. She sat on a Nov. 16 panel entitled "How Cities Can Lead the Fight Against Rising Antisemitism" and shared how the city of Beverly Hills has worked to combat hate.

"I feel that I am using this opportunity to

really try to help educate, learn from other communities and share what we as a city are doing to provide a safe place for people to practice their faith," she said.

Between the march and the conference, Bosse said this is one of the most important weeks of her life.

"I will always fight for Israel and against antisemitism and quite honestly against any type of hate," she said. "If we don't speak out for each other then we lose the soul of humanity." •

#### COMMISSION, from page 1

and president of Crest Real Estate. "We've really worked hard to come up with something that protects it at all levels and always has the requirement, now or in the future, to come back in front of your commission to make sure that if someone is taking something away...it is because it is enhancing the views of a neighboring property owner."

While Planning Commission leaders lauded the applicant and his representatives for their creativity and collaborative spirit in finding a solution that would have also benefited the uphill neighbor, they ultimately rejected their zone text amendment request and proposed construction project, stating that it wasn't justified, would adversely affect residents and would undermine the neighborhood's character, scale and integrity.

"As a matter of public policy, which is what we're talking about here, this would not be a good thing for a new ordinance or a good thing for the culture or history of Trousdale," Planning Commissioner Chair Gary Ross said. "I share with my colleagues not just ambivalence about this but lack of support."

Trousdale area development standards are some of the most restrictive in the city. In order to preserve views and maintain the unique character of the area, all 599 single-family residential lots in the Trousdale area are required not to exceed a 14-foot height limit. The height restrictions were placed in 1985 and were revised in 1987.

Under Trousdale's current zoning ordinances, the applicant's construction project wouldn't be allowed. Trousdale's zoning ordinances currently limit grading on properties only to the existing level pad and in areas that do not exceed a 20% slope. The applicant's project requires grading that goes beyond the existing level pad in an area with a slope of at least 45% and possibly 60%.

In order to amend the Beverly Hills Municipal Code, the Planning Commission would have to first vote in support of the proposed zone text amendment. Next, they would have to direct staff to draft a resolution. Afterward they would vote on whether they support recommending the resolution to the City Council.

Although the zone text amendment proposal would have allowed exceptions to development standards in the Trousdale area, it would have applied only to a limited number of residents. According to the Planning Commission's report, only two of the 14 properties identified as having either partial or complete second stories are also greater than one acre and would therefore qualify—one of which is the applicant's property.

To facilitate such projects, the applicant's representatives proposed changing the city's municipal code to allow grading and excavation beyond the existing level pad on slopes that exceed 20% in order to

construct a daylighting basement.

During the more than two-hour meeting, some commissioners expressed concern over the proposed construction project, saying it would cause congestion on Trousdale's already narrow and winding roads given the amount of trucks it would take to remove all the dirt. Other commissioners said the zone text amendment request failed to meet the city's benchmark.

"When I'm looking at a zone text amendment, I'm thinking it has to either be something for the properties affected that everyone wants or the city decided it's a good thing for everyone," said Planning Commissioner Jeff Wolf. "I appreciate the attempts made and the desire to try to work with the neighbor, but I have to look at it from the standpoint of the community in general, and from that standpoint for this zone text amendment I can't make the findings and won't be supporting recommending this to the City Council."

The Planning Commission also heard from members of the public. "Even though generally we would want consistency with codes, over time there are situations where a zone text amendment may help a neighbor or resident," one member of the public who supported the proposal said over video. "It shouldn't be denied because of a generalized fear or conjecture."

However, other Trousdale residents disagreed.

"The language of the amendment is very vague," one Trousdale resident argued.

"When things are decided in one or two meetings, there can be unintended consequences," another resident said, pointing to privacy and comfort issues for neighboring property owners.

Some commissioners suggested that they might be more amenable to a request from an applicant that asks for flexibility in where a second story could be built, as a way to help minimize the impact on the uphill neighbor's view.

The applicant and his project representatives will have an opportunity to appeal the Planning Commission's decision in December. However, Somers told the Courier he's not sure yet what they will do.

"The issue was that they seemed to feel that by providing one daylighting basement... somehow this opened the avenue for others to achieve it, even though the language is very specific that it couldn't be approved on any other property where it would have a detrimental impact," he said.

"If this was the same condition on other properties, where we were helping a neighbor and not hurting others, why would that not be accepted within the code? Isn't that what we are trying to do—to make sure we are good neighbors?"



#### NOTICE OF ELECTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Regular Municipal Election will be held in the City of Beverly Hills on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 for the following Officers:

#### For Two (2) Members of the City Council (Full term of four years)

The nomination period for candidates begins on Monday, November 13, 2023 and closes on Friday, December 8, 2023 at 5:00PM.

If nomination papers for any incumbent officer of the City are not filed by December 8, 2023, 5:00PM (the 88th day before the election), the voters shall have until the 83rd day before the election, Wednesday, December 13, 2023 at 5:00PM, to nominate candidates other than the person(s) who are the incumbents.

If the number of persons who have been nominated for those offices does not exceed the number to be filled at that election, appointment to the elective office may be made as prescribed by § 10229, Elections Code of the State of California.

Vote centers will be open at 11-day and 4-day vote centers throughout Los Angeles County. Election day is on March 5, 2024 and vote centers will be open between the hours of 7:00AM and 8:00PM. Please visit beverlyhills.org/elections or lavote.gov for additional information.









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#HarryWinston



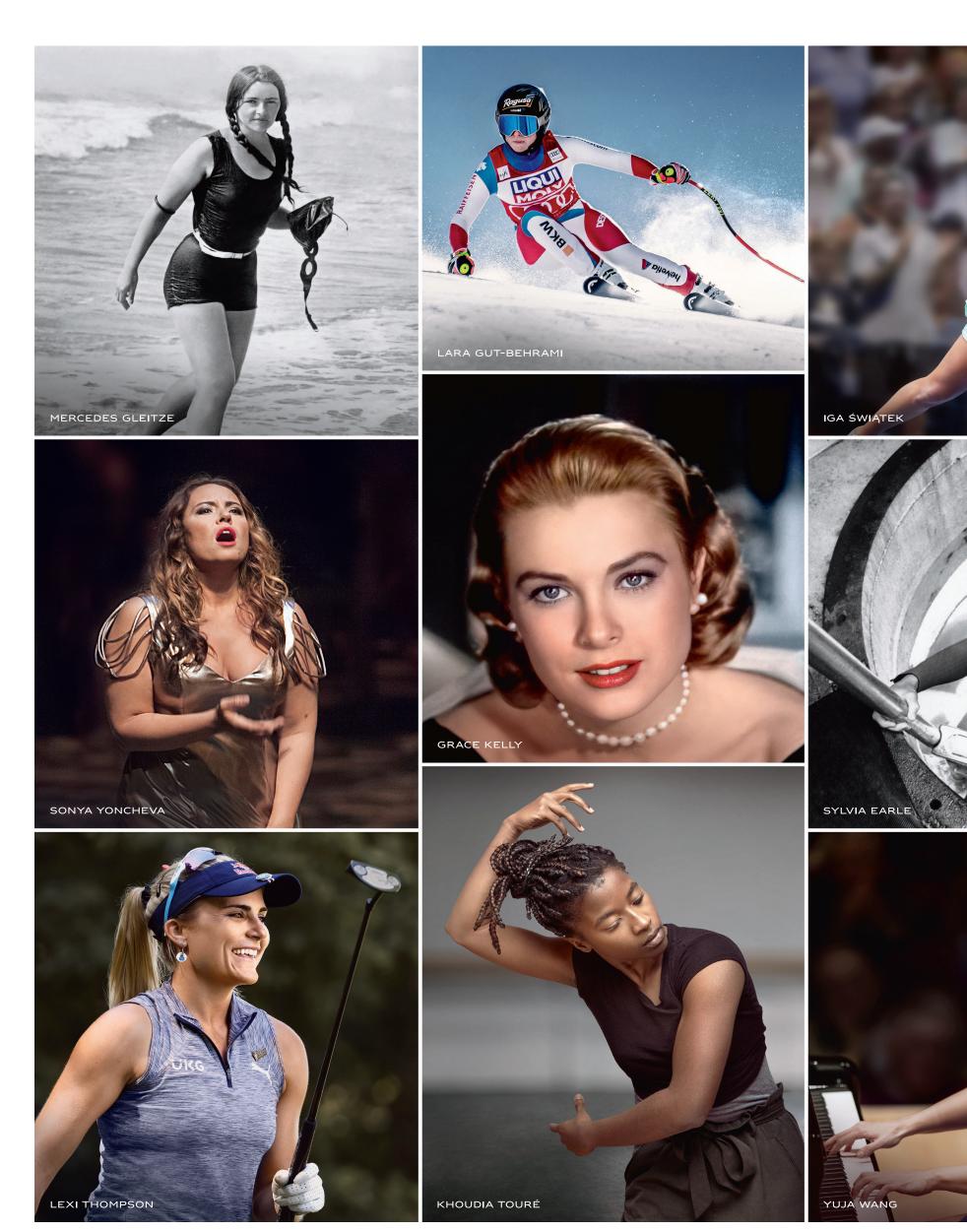
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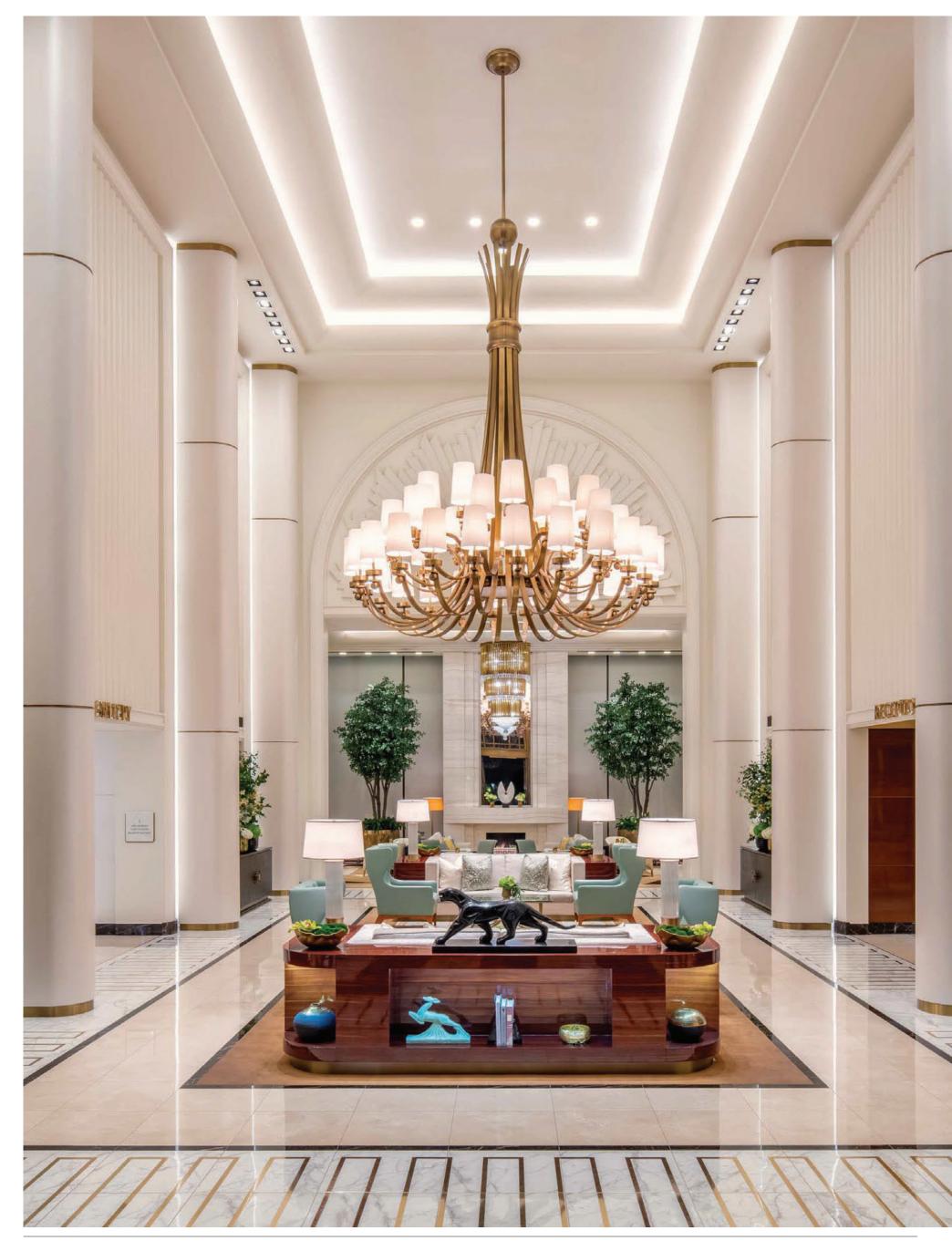
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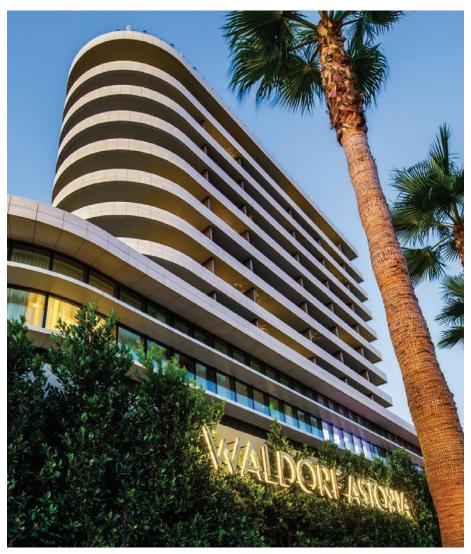
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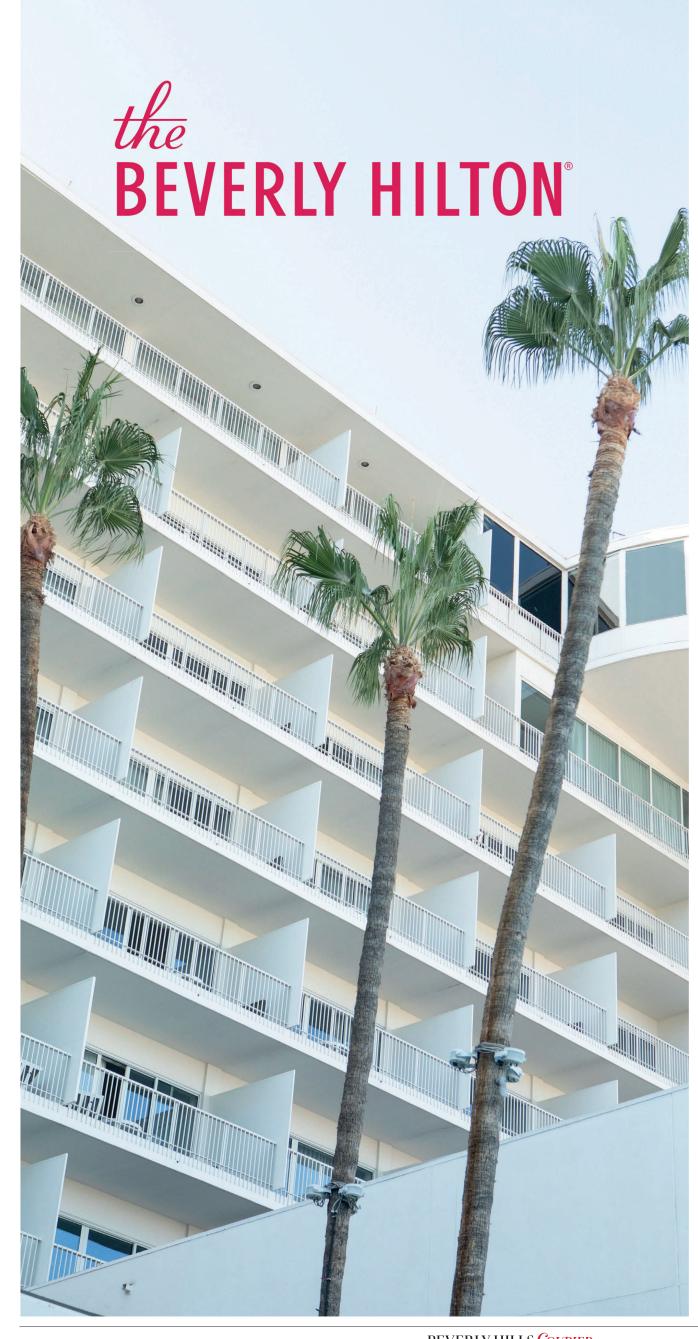
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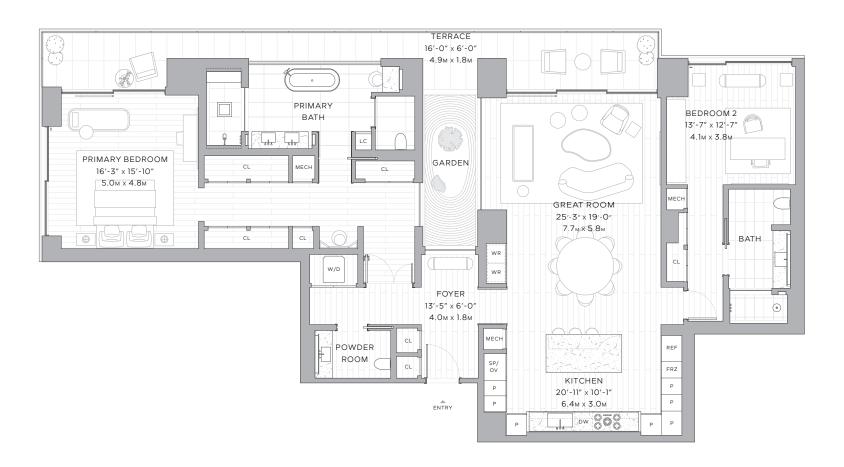
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LISA FRIEDMAN BLOCH

JOHN BENDHEIM

eason's Greetings! The 2023 Holidays have begun!
As we surround ourselves with friends and loved ones, we're reminded of the people who have helped shape us into who we are today. For many, it's the women in our lives, be it our mothers, sisters, daughters, co-workers or friends, who have been our source of strength and guidance, and our greatest influence.

In this issue of STYLE, we celebrate outstanding women in our city, past and present. Excelling in a variety of fields, from the arts to the sciences, their voices influence the community of Beverly Hills and the world beyond.

We begin with a few of the amazing women, some behind the scenes, in "The Women of The Wallis" who influence our city's cultural crown jewel.

In "Heddy Lamarr's Beverly Hills Legacy," we tell you the surprising story of how a Golden Age actress, living in Beverly Hills, influenced the ways we communicate and navigate in our modern world.

Weight loss is a hushed, trending topic. Two leading Beverly Hills-based doctors weigh in on Ozempic and similar drugs, and influence the conversation. What you learn in "The Real Skinny on Weight Loss" may surprise you.

Holiday time is synonymous with shopping and movie time! Our curated list of designer "Must-Haves for the Holidays" will undoubtedly influence your wish list, as will our "Top Picks for Holiday Viewing."

And last but not least is our featured cover story of Eva Longoria. In this exclusive interview, the globally-known actress, director, producer, entrepreneur and philanthropist illustrates how she "Redefines Star Power" and influences the world.

A big thank you to my partner, Publisher John Bendheim who, once again, made the near impossible a reality for our featured profile. And to our local and global advertisers who support STYLE and our weekly Courier, we are forever grateful.

John and I and the Courier team wish you every happiness as you share precious moments and fun celebrations with family and friends during this holiday season. And may there soon be peace in the Middle East, Ukraine and throughout the world.

Best Wishes,

LISA FRIEDMAN BLOCH, PUBLISHER

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# The Women of The Wallis

BY LINDA IMMEDIATO



DEBBIE ALLEN (FAR LEFT) TEACHING FLAMENCO ON THE PROMENADE TERRACE PHOTO COURTESY OF WALLIS ANNENBERG CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Arts. After all, the center exists because of the strong, powerful and influential woman whose name is emblazoned on the building's facade. But behind every great woman, is a great woman, and in the case of The Wallis, there are many. In total, more than a dozen women hold positions on the board. All are dedicated to ensuring the cultural crown jewel of Beverly Hills remains the beacon of inclusiveness and diversity and the globally recognized epicenter of the arts that the city deserves.

Here, we introduce a few of these women, each representing a different facet of the colorful mosaic that comprises The Wallis. Debbie Allen, who needs no introduction, has been instrumental in bringing dance to the center and to the community of Beverly Hills and beyond. As a board member of The Wallis, Executive Director of the Annenberg Foundation (and the right-hand woman to Wallis herself) Cinny Kennard exerts her influence behind the scenes, keeping in close contact with The Wallis Executive Director and CEO Robert van Leer to ensure the institution receives the support it needs from the foundation. Last month, Daphna Nazarian was named Executive Vice Chair of the board of directors at The Wallis. She has been one of the key figures helping to raise the necessary funds to keep the center's many community outreach educational programs going and expanding.

#### DEBBIE ALLEN

Debbie Allen's contribution to the world of dance is indisputable and immeasurable.

To many, she might best be remembered for her award-winning performances as the hard-nosed principal choreographer at a fictional performing arts school in the hit '80s TV show "Fame." But Allen has worn many hats in her career: actress, dancer, choreographer, singersongwriter, director and producer. She has won six Emmy Awards, a Golden Globe and five NAACP Image Awards, among many others. Allen was appointed by President George W. Bush to represent the United States as a Cultural Ambassador of Dance. She has the distinction of being named a Kennedy Center Honoree with an artist in residence there for over 15 years.

Allen has long been a leader in the arts and has taught and mentored generation after generation from communities that otherwise would not have the support to pursue dance. She also sits on the board at The Wallis and has played an important role in bringing people from every age and background to the city of Beverly Hills together in celebration of dance.

In fact, her influence at The Wallis was there from the very beginning when it was still a post office. Wallis Annenberg had invited her to an initial meeting where conversations were centered around the architecture, and what was going to go where. Allen sat back and listened before chiming in, "The architecture? Where is the dance studio?"

Years ago, Allen's sister, actress Felicia Rashad, introduced her to Annenberg. The pair later met for lunch and over the course of that meal, Allen shared her plans to build a dance school that would focus on underserved Black and Latino communities. By the time the check came, Wallis had offered a grant to help make it possible. In 2001, Allen opened the Debbie Allen Dance Academy. (Last year, the Academy moved into a new facility inside the Rhimes Performing Arts Center in Mid-City. The 25,000-square-foot space was donated by TV powerhouse Shonda Rhimes.)

Annenberg and Allen remained close over the years, and when plans for The Wallis were taking shape, Allen was asked for her input.

"I think that for me, the most fulfilling thing was to help them understand that the footprint has to be open to the community," Allen said. "When you go to Europe and places all over the world, there are squares everywhere that are busy with people drinking tea or sipping wine while they enjoy performances around them. The Wallis has that footprint in that wonderful terrace that opens itself up to the whole community."

After The Wallis opened, and Allen joined the board, the question was—what to do with that terrace?



Allen, inspired by those bustling European squares, came up with an idea. She offered to lead a series of free dance lessons covering dance from all parts of the world, like salsa, African, flamenco and hip-hop to the public on the terrace. And Dance Sundays with Debbie Allen and Friends was born.

"We started that program, right out of the box, with no real funding and no real planning. Sometimes that moment of spontaneity in creativity is lightning in the bottle," said Allen. "And I started teaching those classes, and I was out there in that hot sun sometimes. I was out there on Mother's Day. My family was so mad at me. They said, 'Nobody's going to come!' That day, I had around 250 people that had bused in from all over to be with me on Mother's Day."

Allen encourages all to dance, even when everyone is watching. "For me, the spirit of the dance lives inside everyone. And they just have to let it come out. Let it come out! Don't be afraid to touch it," she said. "Dance is the most original of all the art forms. Before man could make an instrument, we were dancing. Before we had language, we were stomping on the ground, jumping and leaping and celebrating life, births, deaths or begging for good weather."

Dance Sundays remains an enormously popular part of The Wallis' free summer programming on the Promenade Terrace, which has been expanding ever since. Events like Sunday Funday, a series of family-friendly entertainment such as puppet shows and children's musicians are now held in the outdoor space. "This is all at no cost to the community other than their time, their interest and curiosity," said Allen. "That's what you have to pay. And it doesn't get much better than that."

And though The Wallis has its own independent committee responsible for its dance programming, and Allen praises them for their diversity, she certainly has had influence. Allen said she pushed to bring in Black choreographers like civil-rights activist and dance visionary Alonzo King, the gifted Crenshaw-based Lula Washington and Camille A. Brown, whose work, a combination of contemporary and ancestral styles, often explores themes surrounding African American identity.

But for Allen, dance is more than an art form, she truly believes it can save the world.

"I believe dance can lead to solving some of the problems in the world right now," she said. Then, as if channeling the no-nonsense character that made her famous, she added, "If I could just make everyone dance, I could straighten this mess out, bring them all to the ballet bar and make them 'hold, and hold, and move' until they do it right."

As funding is increasingly slashed from school arts programs, she said now more than ever we need to fill in those gaps left by the lack of political will to prioritize arts education. "This is why we can't survive without somebody like Wallis Annenberg, and the Wallis Annenbergs of the world, and the Shonda Rhimes of the world, and the people who will help make things possible that the government just doesn't do," she said

As a Culture Ambassador of Dance under President George W. Bush, Allen was tasked with traveling the world from China to Brazil to Cuba to define cultural diplomacy. She discovered that no matter where she went, no matter the issues that were dividing the people of that nation or dividing nation from nation, dance was a common language that transcended everything. It allowed for communication, for people to sit at the same table and begin to understand one another.

"I remember when I was a little girl growing up in Houston, Texas, I couldn't be in 'The Nutcracker' because everything was so segregated. It was the middle of the civil rights era," she shared. "So, I have an understanding of the price of freedom. I watched all the people, who were my elders, marching in the streets and saw things as a kid that no kid should see. And now it's happening again. Just when we think we have reached a point of another plateau of success, we slide backward. So, this is why The Wallis is so important, and what we're doing at the Debbie Allen Dance Academy is so important. What we do has to be measured by the change it makes in people's lives."



CINNY KENNARD AND ROBERT VAN LEER AT THE WALLIS
PHOTO COURTESY OF WALLIS ANNENBERG CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

#### **CINNY KENNARD**

For the past nine years, Cinny Kennard has served as Executive Director of the Annenberg Foundation, and unofficially, as CEO Wallis Annenberg's right-hand woman. She is also a member of the board at The Wallis.

Her relationship with Wallis Annenberg goes back decades.

"I've had the great blessing to work with Wallis on different projects on and off for probably 20 years," Kennard said. "It's been a tremendous opportunity to actually learn, working beside her, about philanthropy, impact and leadership. And she's a great mentor, as well as the boss."

It was largely due to Wallis and the Annenberg Foundation that The Wallis was willed into existence, thanks to generous grants and donations from both. So, it's no surprise that the foundation considers the performing arts center one of its key projects.

"The Wallis is its own entity with phenomenal leadership helping to secure amazing artists and entertainers," explained Kennard. "But Wallis and I sit on the board. We keep very, very close to The Wallis to ensure that Beverly Hills has a flagship enterprise around the arts. The close relationship is something to which Robert van Leer, Executive Director and CEO of The Wallis, can attest. Kennard regularly checks in with him and the pair maintain a close partnership.

"The Wallis and the Annenberg Foundation is a deeply important relationship. And it goes way past the funds that the Annenberg Foundation has given us," said van Leer. "It is a truly symbiotic relationship, where we both want the best for the center and for its future in all dimensions. And Cinny, in her role at the foundation and as a member of the board, is an important leader in the broader cultural community and as part of The Wallis in Beverly Hills."

For Kennard, what distinguishes The Wallis from other cultural institutions is its experimental and innovative approach to the arts. The center is often referred to as "the Kennedy Center of the West" because of its multidisciplinary programming, which includes theater, music and dance. Even comedy has a place on its stages. But it's also somewhat of an incubator where established and emerging talents are given the freedom to explore new ways of expression.

"The Wallis tries to do things that are different. In a lot of ways, it's a laboratory. It's a place to try things. And I think that's what makes it distinct from other places," said Kennard. "Beverly Hills is known, certainly for its greatness around the world, but honestly it hadn't been known for its cultural footprint. The Wallis changed that. It is a cultural epicenter right in the middle of Beverly Hills."

And though it's located in Beverly Hills, Kennard points out that The Wallis has tentacles that reach far beyond the city's borders.

"I think what everybody's most proud of is that on any given day you can see school buses ringing the courtyard around The Wallis, bringing in kids from underserved neighborhoods and communities of color from all over the city for the GRoW program to learn about theater and music," she explained. "So, it's not just sitting here serving one

THE WOMEN OF THE WALLIS CONTINUES ON PAGE 52



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# Top Picks for Holiday Viewing

BY NEELY SWANSON



KAIMONA IN "NEXT GOAL WINS"
PHOTO BY HILARY BRONWYN GAYLE, COURTESY OF SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES

he runaway success of this summer's biggest hit, "Barbie," brought a wide swath of the public back into theaters. Certainly, "Mission: Impossible - Dead Reckoning Part One" got the summer ball rolling, but this holiday season is different, even though strikes by both the WGA and SAG-AFTRA slowed the momentum. The hope expressed in the massive grosses of "Barbie," a meaningful movie wrapped in a cotton candy wrapper, and "Oppenheimer," a serious film of depth and substance that proved audiences still have the attention span to absorb history when told compellingly, is a major relief, not just for studios but also for audiences who want more than superheroes on the screen. So here we are, on the cusp of winter and a flood of Oscar hopefuls. This year, because of the strikes, is something of an anomaly with release dates pushed and the number of major films that premiered earlier than usual. The box office results have been rather topsy-turvy, especially when you factor in "Barbie" and "Oppenheimer," but still dominated by superheroes and testosterone-driven muscle movies, with a little Disney animation thrown in.

A number of interesting films have already opened, and many are still in theaters. Martin Scorsese's "Killers of the Flower Moon" was highly anticipated and will begin streaming on Apple TV+ later in the year. Sofia Coppola's recently opened biopic "Priscilla" about Priscilla Presley was nominated for a Golden Lion at the Venice Film Festival earlier this year. "The Bikeriders," a gritty road movie based on the book by Danny Lyon stars the immensely photogenic Jodie Comer and Austin Butler and Tom Hardy. Originally scheduled to premiere on Dec. 1, it has been delayed due to the actors strike but is anticipated to open before the end of the year in order to qualify for the Oscars.

Hope springs eternal for the lasting power of the films that are opening just prior to Thanksgiving through Dec. 25.

To the Holiday Season and beyond!

#### **NOVEMBER**

#### **NOVEMBER 17**

"May December" is by the always intriguing Todd Hayes. Through Gracie Aatherton-Yoo, a character based on Mary Kay Letourneau (the teacher who seduced her 12-year-old student), Hayes paints an uncomfortable picture of what happens when she is interviewed by an actress about to play her on screen. Starring Natalie Portman as the actress and Julianne Moore as Gracie, you can expect to be uncomfortable in the black humor universe that Hayes usually weaves.

"Rustin" is the long-ignored story of Bayard Rustin, civil rights activist and leader, and organizer of the 1963 March on Washington. Instrumental in the fight, he was left behind by the leaders he helped because he was gay. Directed by George C. Wolfe and written by Julian Breece and Oscar-winner Dustin Lance Black, the all-star cast, led by Colman Domingo as Rustin, includes Glynn Turman, Chris Rock, Jeffrey Wright and Audra McDonald. This is a must-see for me. Having opened in theaters on Nov. 3, it has just begun streaming on Netflix.

"Next Goal Wins" is from the always off-beat Taika Waititi, this time directing a feel-good movie about the American Samoa soccer team whose claim to fame is their savage 31-0 loss in 2001. Another World Cup is approaching, and a new coach has been hired to turn them around. Michael Fassbender as the put-upon coach is always worth watching. The film is based on a 2014 documentary of the same name.

"Trolls Band Together" is another entry in the Troll world. Poppy (voiced by Anna Kendrick) discovers that her best friend Branch (voiced by Justin Timberlake) was once part of her favorite boy band. They go on a search for the other members of the band facing obstacles all the way (not the least of which is that the other members of the band are not NSYNC).

"The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes" is a prequel of sorts. Minus those you love (Jennifer Lawrence) and those you hate (Donald Sutherland), this Hunger Games takes you back to the youth of Coriolanus Snow who would, someday in the far future, become the evil President Snow. But for now, Coriolanus must team up with Lucy Gray to turn the odds against them in the Hunger Games.

"Saltburn," directed by Emerald Fennell in her sophomore outing, stars the quirky Barry Keoghan ("Banshees of Inisherim") as an Oxford student out of his depth the summer he's invited to the home of a very posh classmate. With Rosamund Pike, Carey Mulligan and Richard E. Grant in support, expect eccentricity at the very least.

"Thanksgiving" is Eli Roth's newest slasher film. Never lacking a sense of humor, Roth's film is based on a fake trailer he made for "Grindhouse," his 2007 entry in his favorite genre. Inspired by a Black Friday tragedy, a mysterious serial killer (aren't they all mysterious?) arrives in Plymouth, Massachusetts to set up his own buffet platter piled high with the town's denizens. Where will it end?



BARRY KEOGHAN IN "SALTBURN"
PHOTO COURTESY OF MGM AND AMAZON STUDIOS



JOAQUIN PHOENIX IN "NAPOLEON"
PHOTO BY AIDAN MONAGHAN, COURTESY OF APPLE ORIGINAL FILMS
AND COLUMBIA PICTURES

#### **NOVEMBER 22**

"Maestro" is Bradley Cooper's controversial biopic of Leonard Bernstein, controversial primarily because of the prosthetic he uses to portray the conductor. Cooper, who acquitted himself well in his feature directing debut with "A Star is Born," tells this tale through the prism of his complicated marriage to his wife Felicia, played by Carey Mulligan, over a period of 25 years.

"Napoleon" is Ridley Scott's long-awaited tour de force about the man who has, thus far, eluded all who approached him, whether Marlon Brando, Rod Steiger or Charles Boyer. This larger-than-life character whose rise from obscurity to the height of power is here portrayed by Joaquin Phoenix. The love of his life, Josephine, played by Vanessa Kirby, is a witness to most of his post-revolutionary history. It's a lot of ground to cover in  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hours.

"Wish" is Disney animation's holiday gift to families. Asha (voiced by Ariana DeBose) wishes upon a star and gets more than she bargained for when the star decides to join her down on Earth. With music by "Frozen" songwriters Robert Lopez and Kristen Anderson-Lopez, expect Asha to break out in song.

"The Boy and the Heron" is written and directed by master storyteller Hayao Miyazaki, the renowned creator of "Spirited Away" and "Princess Mononoke." He tells the tale of young Mahito Maki whose mother has died and father has remarried. Still mourning, he encounters a gray heron on the estate who leads him into an alternative universe filled with magic.

# Hedy Lamarr's Beverly Hills Legacy

BY LINDA IMMEDIATO

any sirens of the silver screen have called Beverly Hills home. One of the first A-listers, Mary Pickford, took up residence on Benedict Canyon Drive. Greta Garbo, Ava Gardner and Marlene Dietrich lived on North Bedford Drive. While each of these legends has made major contributions to the world of motion pictures, and their influence on pop culture and beauty cannot be denied, there is only one actress whose influence has quantifiably changed our modern world—Hedy Lamarr.

During the height of her fame in the 1940s, Lamarr surreptitiously invented the technology that would make Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, GPS and cell phones possible.

However, it would take decades before she would receive recognition for her contribution. For Lamarr, her legendary beauty was a blessing and a curse. Many would not accept that "the most beautiful woman in the world," as she had been called, could have brains, too.

Lamarr was born Hedwig Eva Kiesler in Austria, Vienna in 1914 to assimilated Jewish parents. Though Louis B. Mayer, studio head at Metro-Goldwyn Mayer (MGM), had given Hedy her big break and her new name, she was forbidden, as were all MGM contract actors, from speaking about religion. Hedy kept the secret so close that her children whom she had with her third husband (out of six), actor John Loder, never knew she was Jewish until after her death.

While under contract at MGM, (Lamarr dazzled in celluloid classics like the 1938 film "Algiers," "Ziegfeld Girl" in 1941 and Cecile B. Demille's biblical epic "Sampson and Delilah" in 1949), she began inventing as a hobby. There is not much in the public record about what drove her to invent or even how she did despite her education, the sum of which was middle school and a spell at a Swiss finishing school for girls. Like so many women of her generation, college was not in the cards. Not that she would've attended; her sights were firmly set on acting. She quit the boarding school to pursue her dream.

Yet the record shows she did invent. Lamarr told Merv Griffin on an appearance on his TV program in 1969, "I was different, I guess. Maybe I came from a distant planet, but whatever it was, inventions came easy for me." Thomas Alva Edison had no formal education at all and thanks to him we have the lightbulb. The idea is the thing. And Hedy had a lot of ideas.

She also had a lot of time on her hands to think of them, especially in the evenings after a day on the set. Hedy didn't like the Hollywood scene, she didn't drink and loathed going to parties. Instead, she preferred to sit at her home on Roxbury Drive and work on her inventions. The star had a drafting table and light, and all the necessary accouterments installed at her residence and spent her evenings sketching out her ideas. Howard Hughes, with whom Hedy had a close relationship, gifted the actress a miniature version of her home setup. This was put in Hedy's movie trailer so she could continue her work in between takes. She is also said to have sent Hughes sketches while he was working on building the fastest plane in the world. Lamarr claimed she bought books on the fastest birds and the fastest fish and cobbled the best parts of both in her drawing to Hughes. And, though the implementation of her idea took engineers to connect a few dots, Hedy's basic concept worked and influenced the design.

Mostly, what we know of Hedy's inventions during this time is that they were largely inspired by World War II, which was already raging in Europe by 1940. She attempted to create a tablet (akin to Alka-Seltzer) that would turn water into Coca-Cola for servicemen overseas. Even with the help of two chemists that Hughes had lent her, Hedy couldn't get it to work.



STUDIO PUBLICITY STILL OF HEDY LAMARR FOR THE FILM "ZIEGFELD GIRL" (1941)
PHOTO COURTESY OF DR. MACRO, PUBLIC DOMAIN,
VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

HEDY LAMARR'S LEGACY CONTINUES ON PAGE 64



### NOVEMBER 16, 2023 - JANUARY 1, 2024

Beverly Hills will glisten with wonderful festive décor throughout the City!

Bring the entire family out to enjoy the holiday shows:

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At City Hall with shows every half hour daily from 6 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

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For more details and to learn more, visit **BEVERLYHILLS.ORG/HOLIDAYSBH** 









# Must-Haves for the Holidays

BY LINDA IMMEDIATO

If there were any doubts that Beverly Hills remains a thriving shopping destination and Rodeo Drive reigns supreme as the most coveted address for luxury retailers around the world, you need only look at the recent roster of expansions. Chanel's new Beverly Hills flagship, years in the making, clocks in at 30,000 square feet, making it the largest Chanel boutique in the country. Balenciaga recently doubled down with a second flagship on Rodeo Drive. And next summer, Gearys will open its new Rolex and Patek Philippe boutiques, the largest in the nation, in the former Dolce & Gabbana storefront.

We celebrate our bustling retail with this curated list of designer must-haves that will take you through the holiday season and beyond. From pumpkin spice-hued items fitting for a family Thanksgiving gathering to products festooned in the festive colors of the holiday season. And from the latest warm and cozy products to help you hunker down at home during precious moments of respite to all-out sparkles for a spectacular New Year's Eve.



## **Emerald City**

- 1. Alluring and enchanting, Bode's shimmering "Siren" gown is aptly named. \$4,000 at Saks Fifth Avenue, 9600 Wilshire Blvd., 310-275-4211 and saksfifthavenue.com
- 2. The "Palm Angels Keon" jacket by Moncler would make even Midas gold with envy. \$2,200 at Moncler, 340 N. Rodeo Drive, 424-354-4562 and moncler.com
- 3. Van Cleef & Arpels 18-carat yellow gold ring with its delicate ribbon of emeralds is like gift wrapping for your finger. \$13,600 at Van Cleef & Arpels, 300 N. Rodeo Drive, 310-276-1161 and vancleefandarpels.com
- 4. Called the "heir" to previous generations of Patek Philippe perpetual calendar chronographs, the "527OP Grand Complications" retains the elegance of its predecessors, with its concave bezel, gold markers and distinguished billiard-green dial. Price on request at Patek Philippe-Gearys Rodeo Drive, 360 N. Rodeo Drive, #2, 310-887-4250 and gearys.com/patekphilippe
- 5. These stunning sculptural **Ferragamo** sandals belong in a museum, along with the Italian designer's other shoes. Better yet, they belong on your feet. \$2,200 at Ferragamo, 357 N. Rodeo Drive, 310-273-9990 and ferragamo.com
- 6. Around the holidays, these evergreenhued, crystal tumblers from Baccarat look the part but don't pigeonhole them. They're ready for their closeup year round. \$600 (set of two) at Neiman Marcus, 9700 Wilshire Blvd., 310-550-5900 and neimanmarcus.com

# **Holly Go Lightly**

1.









- 1. Part of the latest Lock collection by **Tiffany & Co.**, these 18-carat yellow gold and round brilliant diamond hoops will secure a place in your heart. \$6,900 at Tiffany & Co., 210 N. Rodeo Drive, 310-273-8880 and tiffany.com
- 2. This season why not swap those Loubie red bottoms for a Christian Louboutin red patent leather purse? \$1,390 at Christian Louboutin, 477 N. Rodeo Drive, 310-652-5700 and us.christianlouboutin.com
- 3. You'll look as if you were poured into this laminated metallic strapless dress from **Dolce & Gabbana**. It's undeniably hot just like liquid gold. \$2,745 at Dolce & Gabbana, 248 N. Rodeo Drive, 310-888-8701 and boutique.dolcegabbana.com
- 4. Spruce up your holiday decor with this ruby red crystal **Baccarat** Christmas tree and bring a little sparkle to the festivities. \$400 at Gearys, 351 N. Beverly Drive, 310-273-4741 and gearys.com
- 5. Made of sumptuous metallic gold leather, these RH jewelry boxes hint at the treasures they hold inside. \$100 at RH Modern, 8772 Beverly Blvd., West Hollywood, 424-281-1326 and rh.com
- 6. You could wear these **Gucci** crimson velvet wide-leg pants on a red-eye flight to see the family. But throw on a pair of heels and a silk blouse and presto, you're ready to party. \$1,800 at Gucci, 347 N. Rodeo Drive, 310-278-3451 and gucci.com

6.





MUST-HAVES FOR THE HOLIDAYS CONTINUE ON PAGE 66



EVA LONGORIA, CO-FOUNDER OF CASA DEL SOL, WITH HER REPOSADO TEQUILA, WHICH RESTS FOR FOUR MONTHS. ITS WOODY AROMA EVOKES SOFT VANILLA AND SWEET TOBACCO. TO TASTE, IT HAS NOTES OF WILD HONEY, RAISIN AND BUTTERSCOTCH. PHOTO BY BRIAN BOWEN SMITH

NOVEMBER 17, 2023

# EVA LONGORIA

### Redefines Star Power

BY LISA FRIEDMAN BLOCH

wenty-three-year-old Eva Longoria, standing on stage in classic pageant regalia, hears her name announced. Two former winners also clad in pageant sparkle, rush to her side, pin a towering rhinestone tiara in her hair, thrust yellow roses into her arms and swing a shimmering sash across her shoulder.

The year is 1998 and Eva Longoria has just been crowned Miss Corpus Christi, Texas.

Though Eva had plans to earn her master's degree in sports medicine having received her undergraduate diploma in kinesiology, one of the prizes that came with her crown was a ticket to Los Angeles to compete in a prestigious modeling and talent competition. By the end of that contest, 28 agents wanted to represent Eva, enabling her to pursue her other passion, acting.

It would take two years before Eva was cast in her first prime-time speaking role, a job that would earn her a SAG card and elevate her from aspirational to bona fide actress. The role was only three lines, but it was opposite Luke Perry, on the hottest show in the world, the pop culture phenomenon "Beverly Hills 90210."

Today, Beverly Hills 90210 is the place Eva Longoria calls home. Back then, as a struggling actress, it wasn't imaginable for Eva.

"Beverly Hills felt so far. Not in miles, in thought. It was so farfetched." She pauses, realizing the serendipity. "I forgot 90210 was my first speaking role."

By the time Eva settled in Beverly Hills, her accomplishments had defied expectations. But maybe not in Eva's mind. As an actress, producer and director, she has earned 14 awards and 33 nominations, including Golden Globe, People's Choice and Screen Actors Guild Awards. As a global influencer, with 9.7 million followers on Instagram, Eva has earned the world's respect in the entertainment, beauty, fashion, cookware and spirits industries.

And this is just the beginning.

With boundless versatility, passion and talent, Eva uses her influence and insight to overcome the barriers that prevent advancement for minorities, the underserved and the mistreated. Her purposeful mission is to effect real change. Through her foundation and charitable associations, she advocates for women's rights, persons with disabilities and Latinx equality. And, in her spare time, Eva, a seasoned businesswoman, engages in diverse entrepreneurial endeavors.

Focused, determined and driven, she also employs her authentic storytelling to message through her craft. This year, having directed her first highly acclaimed feature film "Flamin' Hot," an "inspirational, feelgood story," Eva, as with many of her projects, used the film as a tool to educate and to provide opportunity.

As the ultimate modern shero, a happily married woman and a new mother, one wonders how does this trailblazing woman of influence do it all?

Long before Beverly Hills, Eva was raised in Corpus Christi, Texas. Her family's roots in the Lone Star State are traced back to 1603 when her ancestor, Lorenzo Longoria, sailed from Spain and arrived in the New World. But it wasn't until 1767 when Eva's 7th great-grandfather received a gift from the King of Spain. It was a land grant of almost 4,000 acres along the Rio Grande, which remained in her family for over a century.

Born March 15, 1975, Eva Jacqueline is the fourth girl behind Elizabeth, Emily and Esmeralda. With her mother, Ella, and her father, Enrique, all have names that begin with the letter "E." Eva explains the family tradition began with her maternal grandmother.

"My mom's mom did that. And my mom chose to continue it. My mom's brothers and sisters all start with an "E." All my aunts, Elda, Elsa, Edna...There's nine of them. Crazy."

Eva was raised Roman Catholic and did not learn to speak Spanish until her mid-30s. When she was young and the darkest skinned in the family, her big sisters would jokingly call her "la prieta fea," a Spanish expression meaning "the ugly dark one." The thought is humorous as she became a world-renowned cover girl.

Eva fondly remembers her childhood on the Longoria farm.

"Growing up on a farm is a gift. I mean, it really is a gift. It gives you an appreciation for nature, animals, gardening and where food comes from. My dad would never let us eat fast food because we grew so many vegetables. He said there was no reason to ever eat out. We would pull carrots from the ground and just eat them. Not even wash the dirt off. We were savages at our ranch. We would run around all day."

It was a different era in the 1980s, before cellphones and video games.

"There was never a choice to stay inside. That was a punishment and the worst thing you could hear growing up on a ranch. It gave me such an appreciation for nature and specifically animals and raising chickens and raising pigs."

Her father taught Eva and her sisters how to handle a gun to hunt. On "Dateline NBC," Eva shared, "I can skin a deer, I can skin a pig. I can pluck a quail. You name it, I've done it."

Giggling, "My first pet was a cow. I mean, it was definitely different." Eva feels it's essential to raise her son, Santiago, with an understanding and appreciation of nature through taking care of animals. Fortunately, she still has her ranch in Corpus Christi.

One of the biggest impacts on Eva's childhood was her sister Elizabeth, whom everyone called Liza. She is intellectually disabled. Ella Longoria was determined to facilitate the best possible life for her eldest, as well as her other three daughters. So much so, she became a special education teacher providing guidance for the family and enabling her to accompany Liza in public school. Eva has shared in the press, "Growing up with a sister with special needs makes you selfless... you think of others first." She also remembers volunteering annually with the Special Olympics. It helped her form her deep conviction to give back.

Today, Eva's Heroes, a nonprofit organization, founded by Eva in 2006, and based in San Antonio, Texas, puts into practice the lessons learned from her sister. It reflects Eva's compassionate and empathetic desire to enrich the lives of other individuals with intellectual special needs.

Despite Enrique working as a tool engineer and rancher, and Ella working full time, money was tight. Years before Eva's quinceañera, the traditional coming-of-age celebration for Latinas, Eva realized there would be no money for her party. As the story goes, she "swiped" her sister's ID and got a job flipping burgers at Wendy's before the age of 15 to make enough money for her celebration. Her grit, determination and self-reliance were being realized.

At Roy Miller High School, Eva not only played three sports, basketball, track and gymnastics, but she also made the cheerleading



TOP: EVA (TOP) WITH HER SISTERS IN TEXAS
BOTTOM: EVA (FAR LEFT) WITH HER SISTERS AT CHRISTMAS
PHOTOS COURTESY OF EVA LONGORIA

squad and head drum major, a near impossibility all at the same time. These extracurriculars led to a cheerleading scholarship at Texas A&M University in Kingsville. Five years later, after winning Miss Corpus Christi and scoring her first trip to Los Angeles, Eva was excited about visiting Hollywood.

"I remember just wanting to go see the [Hollywood] sign when I arrived. All I wanted to do was live in Hollywood so that when I wrote home to my mom, my address would be Hollywood, California on the envelope."

Finding success was not easy. To make ends meet, Eva worked at an executive search firm. Roles offered to a Latina were few and far between. Her dream was to have a recurring role on a soap opera. But first, she needed a break. "Beverly Hills 90210" was it.

As for eventually living in the coveted zip code?

"It was my husband who wanted to move there. We lived in Hollywood. He was the one because of the show ["Beverly Hills 90210"]. One day he said, 'I want to live in 90210.' When we got married, we immediately started looking there. I have my husband to thank for that."

In 2013, a friend set Eva up on a date with José (Pepe) Bastón, a Mexican-born businessman, and a successful Televisa executive and producer. She shared that by date two she was already swept away. Eva told People Magazine, "He was the most handsome man I'd ever seen. He was so charismatic, charming, sweet and funny." When Bastón proposed to her in Dubai, Eva went to social media, posting photos of the couple with the hashtags, #Engaged #Dubai #Happiness. In a white gown designed by her best friend and bridesmaid, Victoria Beckham, Eva married Pepe during a sunset ceremony at his home in Valle de Bravo, Mexico on May 21, 2016. Three years later, Eva gave birth to their son, Santiago Enrique (Santi), in June of 2019.

The timing of the move to Beverly Hills, the Garden City, with her baby could not have been more perfect for Eva.



EVA AND HER HUSBAND, JOSÉ BASTÓN, ON THE
RED CARPET IN JUNE 2023
PHOTO BY EUROPA PRESS ENTERTAINMENT/EUROPA PRESS VIA GETTY IMAGES

"Not only did we move [here], we moved [here] and then COVID happened. To be able to walk during COVID was like a gift. I lived in the Hollywood Hills for so long. There's no trick-or-treating, there's no walking anywhere. You have to get in your car and get out. And during COVID, it was such a gift to not only walk outside on beautiful streets, but you could also admire the landscaping and the palm trees. You feel like, OK, this is L.A. living. We really felt this is what people think about when they think of L.A., like this street right here, these palm trees right here. And then you get the beautiful tour of these gorgeous homes. I could just walk and walk and walk and just stare at people's gardens and people's fences and people's doors."

And like her attraction to gardens, Eva's character, the sassy, sexy Gabrielle Solis, on the highly successful ABC series, "Desperate Housewives," was desperately attracted, while married, to her gardener. Eva starred on the show throughout its run, from 2004 to 2012, and received numerous awards and nominations.

Cast in the show more than three years after her first speaking role, it would take another three years before Eva was cast in her first feature film. While on "Desperate Housewives," Eva starred in the thriller, "The Sentinel," opposite Michael Douglas and Kiefer Sutherland. She is not shy in sharing her feelings and reflecting on her years of hard work to gain traction in her acting career.

Her roles continued far beyond these few notable ones, and as her star rose, Eva began popping up in high-profile advertising campaigns in both male and female fashion magazines, as well as in many glamorous cover stories in Vogue, People, Harper's Bazaar and Marie Claire. To this day, she is included on most magazines' "top" and "best" lists. In 2005, she became a spokesperson for L'Oreal Paris and remains featured in their print and TV ads today, 18 years later.

In describing beauty as she's matured, Eva has a different point of view from when she was younger.

"It's always wonderful to be called beautiful or be on these lists of most beautiful. And I think it's cliché to say beauty comes from within, but it really does. If you can exude confidence and intelligence and empowerment, there's nothing more beautiful on a woman. And that doesn't necessarily come from makeup and haircare. That comes from knowing who you are. That beauty comes from being empowered in your job, being stable in your relationships. There are so many things that I personally identify with [when it comes to] beauty, and I think it has very little to do with the exterior, but I'm older. I've evolved to this place of really understanding and knowing beauty is deeper and has very little to do with the superficial surface."

As time moved on, Eva broadened her creative energies to include producing projects under her UnbeliEVAble Entertainment company. She began to direct series episodes and documentaries, with an eye toward one day directing feature films. Satisfying her need to message through storytelling, Eva, as a producer, examined the plight of the migrant farmworkers and their dire working conditions in "Food Chains." Similarly, "The Harvest," another UnbeliEVAble documentary, is told from a child's perspective about the deplorable working conditions that "tens of thousands of children face" in fields across the United States every year.

By revealing these true-life stories, through the vehicle of film, Eva reminds us, "I don't speak for the Latino community. I encourage the Latino community to speak for themselves."

Recently, UnbeliEVAble Entertainment was folded into the media holding firm, Hyphenate Media Group. This new venture, which Eva co-founded with Cris Abrego, is part production company, business incubator and talent scouting agency.

To further enhance her activism, at the age of 34, Eva returned to school to earn her master's degree in Chicano Studies at Cal State Northridge.

Aware of the inequities that affect Latinas and wanting to improve their trajectory, Eva created the Eva Longoria Foundation in 2012 with its mission, "to help Latinas build a better future for themselves and their families through education and entrepreneurship."

Along with its advocacy and research, the foundation has funded educational programs such as STEM workshops aimed at school-age Latinas as well as classes and workshops for Latina entrepreneurs. In addition, the foundation has given \$1.9 million in dispersed loans to 220 Latina entrepreneurs, enabling them to employ and retain more than 600 Latinas.



PHOTOS OF EVA AS MISS CORPUS CHRISTI AND AT HER GRADUATION
PHOTOS COURTESY OF EVA LONGORIA

"I just really enjoy it. I love having control of the final product. As a director, you're in charge of everything. I like having the control of the overall creativity."

**B**reaking through to that next step to become a feature film director, as a Latina, albeit an accomplished actress, series television director and producer, took confidence, conviction and self-belief.

"It's definitely hard for women behind the camera for sure. We in no way have gender equity in our industry, but honestly, that's across all industries. There are very few women on boards, women in corporate America, women as CEOs. With Hollywood, people make the assumption we're very progressive so Hollywood's getting it right. We're not. We're far from getting it right. And again, if you look at the numbers, we have less women directing TV and film than we had a couple of years ago. So those numbers dictate we're going in the wrong direction. But how can we be going in the wrong direction?"

Eva advocates that the Hollywood community should course correct and broaden the applicant pool. But first, it has to acknowledge the problem.

"Why wouldn't people be more conscious about hiring women? It's still a problem that we have to address and acknowledge because it's not going to change. And we have so many amazing female storytellers that should have the same opportunity as men to get their projects made."

Eva suggests that the cause of the problem is where change must occur.

"I always hire 'with the lens of other,' whether that's a woman, a person of color, a person with a disability, LGBTQ. I don't think there are people at these studios up in a tower going, let's not hire women and people with disabilities. I think they unconsciously work with who they always work with. It takes a different mind frame to expose them to a different talent pool. Let's tap into a different talent pool that is equally talented. Just because you are doing a diversity hire does not mean you're getting less. In fact, sometimes it makes your movie better."



EVA (LEFT) WITH DIANE WARREN AND RICHARD MONTAÑEZ IN THE CAR FROM "FLAMIN' HOT" AT THE HOLLYWOOD MUSEUM PHOTO BY ERIC LICAS



UPPER RIGHT: EVA DIRECTING ON THE SET OF "THE EXPANDING UNIVERSE OF ASHLEY GARCIA" WITH SANTIAGO IN HER ARMS LOWER LEFT: SELFIE OF EVA ON SET OF "FLAMIN' HOT" PHOTOS COURTESY OF EVA LONGORIA

This year, in her feature film directorial debut, "Flamin' Hot," Eva tells the story of Richard Montañez, the son of a Mexican immigrant and a janitor at Frito-Lay who created the idea for Flamin' Hot Cheetos. Following her own advice, Eva cast a wide net by offering opportunities and opening new doors. What was her takeaway?

"That I could do it. I think a lot of times, specifically female directors say, 'I don't know if I'm ready. I don't know if I know enough, I don't know if I can.' And we go in it with this real vulnerable, insecure position. At least I did. I was thinking, why did I say yes to this? Having that fear of not being ready and then finishing it and going, not only was I ready, I know what I'm doing and I'm good at it! I don't think men do that. I don't think men go, 'I don't know if I want this shot.' It's like they just go, assume the job is theirs and they get it. And so, for me, I think that was the biggest lesson was not only, you can do this, it's you're really good at it."

Proud of the film's message, Eva offered, "There was even a stroke of love in how we did the cholos... This was his [Montañez] lived experience. These characters were real people. And I think that we really were applauded for how we portrayed Latinos in this film, even to the cholos who are real, complex, beautiful people."

The film, "celebrated an immigrant story rooted in the United States," reported the New York Times and was screened with Eva in attendance at the White House with the President, First Lady and 600 attendees. President Biden said, "Opportunity is a cornerstone of our democracy and the American dream. And you'll see in the film, that's exactly what the Hispanic community embodies: opportunity, courage."

This was not the first time Eva was invited to the White House. In 2012, she supported Barack Obama and was one of seven Californians named co-chair of President Obama's reelection campaign.

Of the many hats Eva wears in the entertainment industry, including as a talk show host and podcaster, the one she would choose to wear first and foremost is as a director.

"I just really enjoy it. I love having control of the final product. As a director, you're in charge of everything. I like having the control of the overall creativity."

# HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



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TOP: EVA ON SET WITH SANTIAGO IN A DIRECTOR'S CHAIR MIDDLE: EVA ON SET OF NETFLIX'S "THE EXPANDING UNIVERSE OF ASHLEY GARCIA"

BOTTOM: EVA ON THE FIRST DAY OF SHOOTING AND DIRECTING "THE GORDITA CHRONICLES"

PHOTOS COURTESY OF EVA LONGORIA

Pride-filled and passionate, you can feel Eva's commitment to her Mexican culture in just about everything she does. Combining that with her love of family, food and fun, it's no wonder she explored ideas around cooking as an avenue to hone her business acumen, along with her creative talents, in becoming a successful entrepreneur.

Unlike her character in "Desperate Housewives," Eva loves to cook. A talented chef, Eva has authored several cookbooks inspired by her Mexican roots. She even posts about her cooking skills on Instagram, "There's nothing like a homemade meal and sharing memories in the kitchen with your loved ones." Of late, she posts videos that include her son Santiago. "He's been cooking with me since he was two," she told People Magazine. "Nothing brings me greater joy than feeding my family."

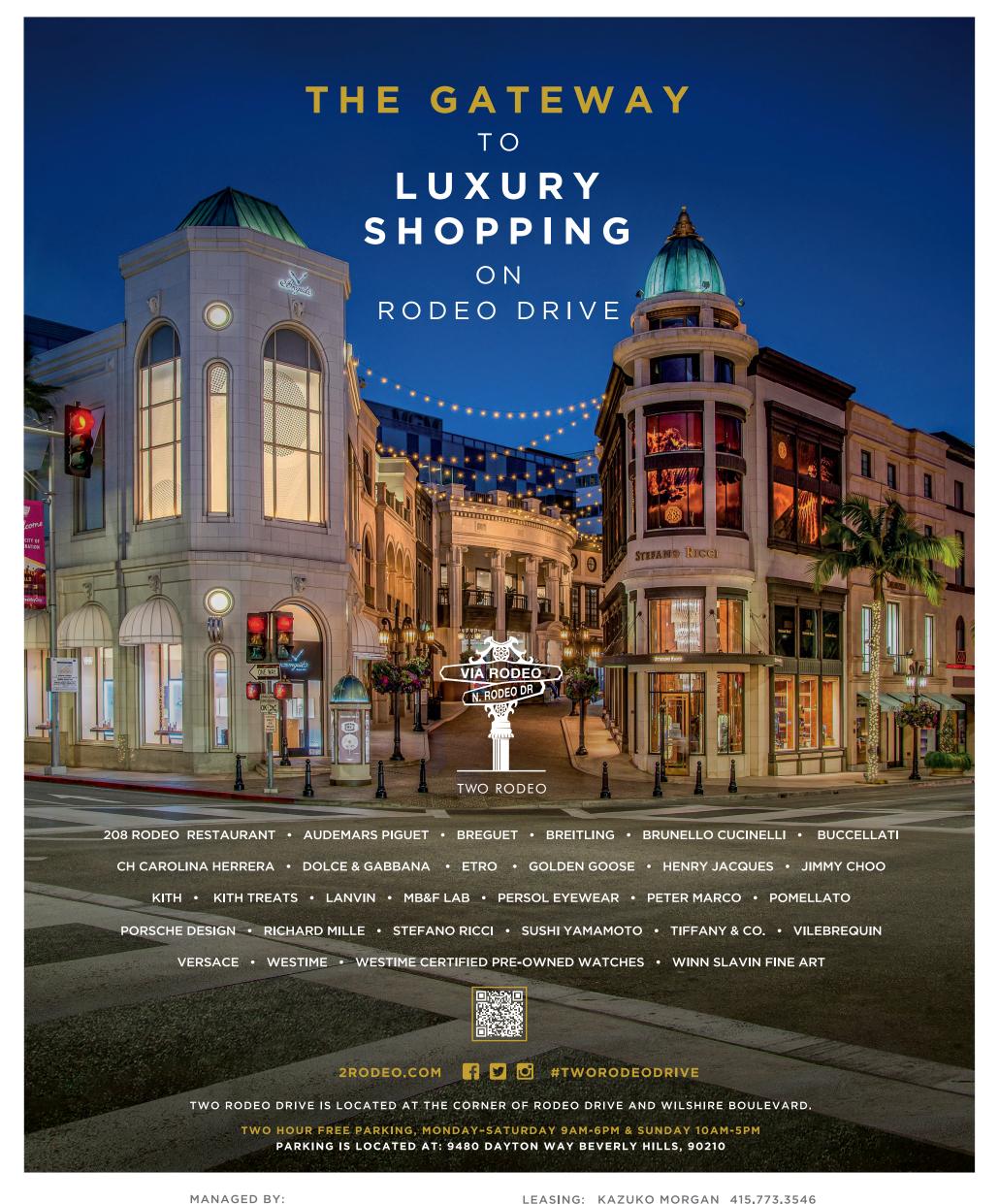
Joy inspires laughter, and when Eva recently launched a new cookware line she named it Risa, Spanish for laughter. From the moment

it appeared on the shelves, it received rave reviews in materials, design and storage simplicity. But not all food endeavors have been successful. Beso, which means kiss in Spanish, a restaurant and nightclub Eva created and co-financed, first opened in Hollywood in 2008, and later in Las Vegas. By 2011, the venture had failed, but provided Eva, as a young entrepreneur, with some valuable lessons.

Casa Del Sol Tequila, which Eva calls her "baby," was founded in 2021 by a female-led team "inspired by the magic of golden hour and the legend of the Aztec goddess of agave, Mayahuel." The company touts that among its many distinctive qualities, instead of sourcing whisky barrels from the United States, it uses Cognac barrels from France. This unique aging process results in an extremely smooth liquid with a distinct flavor and aromatic profile.

Despite the fact that Eva had been approached by many tequila companies over the past 20 years, she chose to become a founder of Casa Del Sol.

"[The company] was really honoring the traditions of tequila making, honoring the jimadores [workers] in the fields, honoring the people of Jalisco, making sure people understood how to drink tequila, the tradition of tequila, the art of tequila. It wasn't a money grab. It wasn't a celebrity endorsement. It was a really authentic approach to celebrating the most iconic symbol of Mexico, which is tequila."



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EVA (CENTER) WITH CASA DEL SOL VICE PRESIDENT OF OPERATIONS ALEJANDRA PELAYO (LEFT) AND HEAD OF CULTURAL & ARTISAN INITIATIVES MARIANA PADILLA (RIGHT)
PHOTO BY BRIAN BOWEN SMITH

"And then when I tasted it, I was like, 'What is this?' The juice is the best in the industry, hands down. We're the only portfolio that ages in Cognac barrels, which gives this insane smoothness. Not that it's a tequila for women, but we have the most women of any company in key positions. We have a female master distiller. We have a female president. We have a female CEO of the distillery. It's important that we have success. So that the industry itself can put more women in positions of power, and go, 'Oh, that works. Women can do this job, too.' All those factors really made it a no-brainer for me to sign on to Casa Del Sol."

The president of the company, Colbi Corbett, shared, "We looked at the landscape, and we really wanted a strong Latina voice as a co-founder in our business. We wanted to be able to have someone authentic and someone who has real genuine ties to the region. [Eva] is an incredibly savvy businesswoman [and] we looked at [her] as a true business partner. She's had a ton of successful ventures in front of and behind the camera. And anyone who knows Eva knows about her grit, her hustle, her ability to make things happen."

As for the company's female Master Distiller, Carmen Gonzalez Alfaro, Corbett adds, "Less than 11% of Master Distillers in the tequila industry are women. We're very proud that Carmen is our Master Distiller. When we go to hire, we want to make sure that we're offering opportunities for women to be successful."

This year on CNN, Casa Del Sol was highlighted in "Searching for Mexico," a six-episode series that explores the lesser-known parts of Mexico. Choosing Eva as the journey's tour guide, Stanley Tucci and the team at CNN made the right choice for a delectable food and travel experience. Eva's favorite segment is Veracruz, the port gateway between Mexico and the rest of the world.

"I really loved Veracruz. I didn't have many expectations for it. This was where everything started. This is the port where the conquest

happened. This is where Indian spices came through, Asian spices, Asian cuisine, African cuisine, everything came in through that port. And so, Veracruz is probably the most eclectic state [in terms of] cuisine. It was so beautiful to see the history that had settled there. And I love Mexico City because it has a bit of everything; you can get Jalisco tacos or Oaxaca tacos or Yucatan fish. Mexico City has so much to offer."

Just as Eva relished exploring her roots traveling Mexico, the holidays give her the perfect opportunity to tap into the traditions, food and celebrations of her culture. Aligning perfectly with what soothes the soul for Eva, it's a special time in the Longoria-Bastón home.

"We're a Mexican household, so we do tamales at Christmas. It's a tradition. You need a whole assembly line to do it. Usually, it's all the aunts and the cousins, and it takes a lot of people. It's labor intensive, but they're so good. I don't know why we only eat them around Christmas."

Eva offers that Santiago witnesses the tamale-making tradition and enjoys the fun when her big family gathers.

"And we make a lot of Christmas cookies called pan de bono. That's been a tradition in my house forever at Christmas time. We make buckets and buckets of them and give [them] out to everybody. Most of our holiday traditions really center around the kitchen."

As for the New Year's holiday and resolutions, Eva shares she would like to better her meditation skills.

"My meditation is my workout, so I have an hour every morning, early. I have to get it in because it's my mental health hour more than my, 'I'm going to work out to get abs hour.' For me, it's really about clearing my head and setting up my energy for the day. But I wish I would meditate longer. I'm inconsistent with my meditation, so that's what I'd like to do better."

If Eva's meditation is her workout, then how does she find peace?

"Well, my family is my peace. Peace for other people may be a spa day. Sometimes they want to escape from their family. But for me, traveling is peace. Traveling with my family [is something] I love to do. I think traveling is still one of the greatest luxuries. It's just so expensive now. But for me, peace is being with my family. But I also think the biggest lesson to people is you don't have to do extravagant, expensive things to find peace. It could be a bath at the end of the night. It could be lighting that incense, lighting that candle that hasn't been lit or throwing in the bath bomb. Use the bath bombs, don't accumulate them. Use the good china, use the good plates. Don't save them for a special occasion. Really live that life. Live!"

And as she lives her best life, who has guided her—who has been Eva's north star, her role model? Who has influenced her and motivated her to move through life as she does?

"I didn't grow up with celebrity culture. So, if you ask people today, 'Who's your role model?' They'll name somebody famous without knowing them, without ever meeting them. When you ask me, it's always my mother, my role model, my example. She taught me about my work ethic. I never have to really look that far to see an example of the woman I want to be. I even think about how much she did when we were young, and that's what makes me feel like I'm not doing enough. I need to do more."

But she doesn't do it alone. "I have an amazing tribe of women around me. My best friends of 30 years are smart, independent, incredible women. There's no truer statement than birds of a feather. Specifically, for young people, who you hang out with is a bigger indicator if you're going to be successful than whether or not you went to Harvard. I've purposely surrounded myself [with] examples of women I want to be."

"When you ask me, it's always my mother, my role model, my example. She taught me about my work ethic. I never have to really look that far to see an example of the woman I want to be."



EVA LONGORIA AND LISA BLOCH SIT DOWN FOR A FOLLOW-UP INTERVIEW PHOTO BY ERIC LICAS

Sharing her time between Beverly Hills, Texas and Mexico is challenging enough. But then to juggle her many business ventures with developing her entertainment projects, advocating for the issues important to her and finding time for her family, it's hard to believe Eva is as productive as she is. Her assistant, Jessica Peron, shared that those close to her know her secret. She's the "master multitasker." Even Steven Forbes at the 2019 Forbes Women's Summit asked her, "Is there anything you aren't doing?" Eva jokingly responded, "Well, I don't sing."

Despite the importance of family to her, Eva decided to have a child later in life. Having lived for 43 years and then having a child was a big change.

"It's changed me completely. People sometimes go, 'Oh my God, your life's so complicated now that you have a baby.' And I'm like, 'No.' He's actually simplified my life because you're no longer the center of your universe...I always felt like, oh my God, I'm going to miss out on that. I have to go there. I should do that. I need to say yes to that. Now, it's so easy to say no if it really takes away from the time with my son. Time is precious. Time is my greatest resource. And so, for me, it's been easy to reorganize my life now because he's such the priority. Everything just falls away. He's actually simplified my life."

And then she adds, "Another way it's changed me is it's made my philanthropy so urgent. Ever since he's come into this world, I'm like, we have to hurry up and make the world a better place because it's scary. It's a big job, now more than ever. It's a big job."

Eva could have sat back and enjoyed the fruits of her fame, or retreated into the bliss of new motherhood, which would have been understandable, but she didn't. She worked hard to get to where she is, and when she was given the opportunity to finally produce and direct, Eva pointed that lens squarely at the issues affecting Latinos. Beyond founding her charitable organizations, she's driven to help others get a fair shake. Still, to her, it isn't enough—she needs to do more.

Given what she's already accomplished, and leading by example, we can only imagine what that "more" might look like. One thing is for sure, it will come from her authentic desire to effect change for the better.

And that is what makes Eva a proven woman of influence. •



DAPHNA NAZARIAN
PHOTO COURTESY OF WALLIS ANNENBERG CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

community, it's serving a cross-cultural group of people from all over our region."

Kennard said the foundation is also particularly proud of The Wallis' Creative Aging programs, where classes in creative writing and playwriting, tailored to older adults (age 55+), are offered year round. In these group classes, students are guided through a series of short assignments intended to help them excavate memories and life events, learning the power and importance of finding and sharing their voice. The classes culminate in students reading a selected work on stage at The Wallis. "We're really proud of the effort to draw in the aging community to that theater," said Kennard. "It becomes something much more than just a community theater; it becomes something very powerful, offering relevant and powerful programming for the community on a regular basis for all people from all walks of life."

Ensuring female voices are amplified at The Wallis is equally important, said Kennard, but as you might imagine at a foundation run by two formidable women, it's not a directive, it's part of the DNA of the organization. "It's an instinctive part of our thought process to ask, what have we done for women? And what are we doing to make sure women are valued and not devalued?" she said.

Make no mistake, Kennard is a powerhouse in her own right. She began her career in journalism and was a CBS News correspondent in Los Angeles, London and Moscow and won an award for her coverage of the 1991 Persian Gulf War, where she was boots on the ground in Baghdad and in Israel. "I did what so many women in my generation did, which was to just push through it and not let anything stop me. I put my head down and did the work," she said.

For her part, Kennard is willing to do what she has always done, put her head down and do the work, alongside her mentor and boss. "We are two women working together in this enormous analog universe," she said. "And I'm extremely proud of being part of a duo that's female."

#### DAPHNA NAZARIAN

Daphna Nazarian had a long successful career as an architect before joining the board at The Wallis. She worked for a firm specializing in the revitalization and preservation of historical landmarks in Downtown Los Angeles and later helped develop and remodel residential estates in Bel-Air, Brentwood and Beverly Hills. In 2012, she started her own interior design company.

Recently, Nazarian was named Executive Vice Chair of the board of directors. Van Leer said he is pleased Nazarian accepted the role, "Daphna has been instrumental in her fundraising efforts, and she is deeply passionate and committed to The Wallis and the Beverly Hills community, as a longtime resident," he said. "Following her years of service and dedication as Co-Chair of Development on the board, we've decided to expand Daphna's role with the position of Executive Vice Chair."

Nazarian was first approached and asked to join the board at The Wallis during the pandemic. For her, the decision to devote her time to the arts center was a deeply personal one.

"I was asked to join the board at a very challenging time in my life. It was a time when I didn't have a lot of my own passions and creativity that I had when I was a driving force within my field," she explained. "Surrounding myself with people who had the passion and excitement for their art, and surrounding myself with people who are talented in areas that I'm not, such as music, really became a healing source for me and gave me the strength to find my balance in life."

Nazarian is largely tasked with raising the essential funds to ensure the center is maintained and can implement its most important and fundamental programs like GRoW, which includes outreach to about 50 community schools all over L.A. County each year.

Once a year, Nazarian spearheads an annual gala, but despite the fanfare and glitz, fundraising means asking people for money. "I used to be very shy and initially I thought there was no way I could do it," said Nazarian. "But I believe so strongly in the mission of The Wallis so there was no way I could say no."

Nazarian not only took on the responsibilities, she found she was really good at it. After all, raising money for causes is something that Nazarian grew up with as her family has a rich legacy of philanthropy.

She was 11 years old when her family fled Tehran, Iran during the revolution of 1979. They escaped to America and settled in Beverly Hills. "When we moved here, it was supposed to be very temporary. And within a short while, it became very evident that because we were Jewish, we could not go back," she said. "Iran was our home, then all of a sudden, we weren't accepted. We didn't belong. Sadly, this issue of antisemitism is still relevant all around the world."

In Iran, her mother was heavily involved in charity work from helping the women's suffrage movement there to raising money for orphanages. Once in this country, both her mother and her father wanted to give back, and they focused their efforts on the arts and aiding Jewish organizations. Her father started several different foundations. One gives free loans to Israelis coming out of their compulsory military service so that they can afford college.

Her parents also instilled in her and her siblings a deep appreciation for the arts. She recalls her father once telling her, "You don't have to become a musician or a concert pianist, but music is there for you when you need it. If you're upset or hurt, music is going to be your companion." When she started Girl Scouts in Iran, her father gave her a gift, a book by Marc Chagall. "As an 8-year-old in Iran, what did I know of Marc Chagall? But that became my first introduction to the world of the arts," she said. "And he wrote in it, 'Whatever you do in life, make sure you always take in the beauty that life affords you around you."

Nazarian used these anecdotes to underscore what she feels is perhaps one of the most important missions of The Wallis, exposing children to the arts, especially as arts programs are cut from schools all over the country. "Through the arts, children and young adults are exposed to subjects like social justice and racial issues. They learn new ways to deal with pressures within their communities from lack of education to police brutality or antisemitism. They are also exposed to different cultures. And [The Wallis] does more than expose other cultures, it celebrates and values them. All of this makes it easier for me to go out and say, 'We need help, we need support. Everyone's support adds up.'"

Ultimately, for Nazarian, what these programs do is create a healthier and more tolerant community. "Hopefully, we've given these children an outlet, they won't drop out of school, they won't resort to violence. They'll learn to express themselves in healthy ways and accept and embrace other cultures, and they will extend it to other people so it becomes a ripple effect. And that's the purpose of The Wallis, to create bigger and bigger ripples." •



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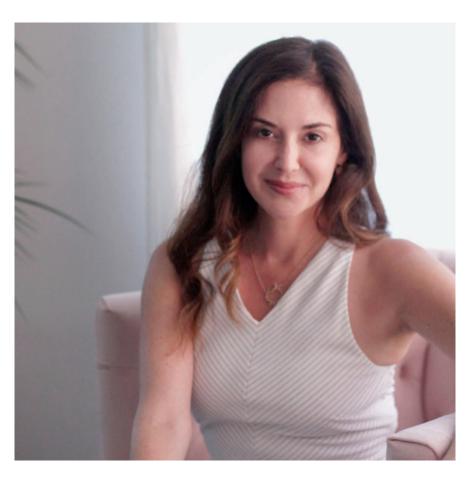


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# The Real Skinny on Weight Loss

BY LINDA IMMEDIATO



DR. SUZANNE WALLACH
PHOTO COURTESY OF DR SUZANNE WALLACH

oesn't it seem these days that we all know someone (or someone who knows someone) who is on Ozempic or any number of its cousins? Or, we've listened with a raised eyebrow to those people who have dramatically lost weight, seemingly overnight, claim they aren't on the weight loss drug and simply changed their diet and started exercising. Then, there are the celebrities who plaster social media with selfies showing off their impossibly reduced waistlines and swear it's not Ozempic. Last year, when Kim Kardashian lost 16 pounds in three weeks to fit into a dress worn by Marilyn Monroe for the Met Gala, she said she owed her new silhouette to daily runs and a sauna suit.

As the world looks to Beverly Hills to set beauty trends, two prominent and highly respected Beverly Hills-based doctors, Dr. Nancy Rahnama and Dr. Suzanne Wallach, are working to set the record straight, and leading the charge in influencing the conversation around Ozempic and semaglutide.

Rahnama is an internist and board-certified obesity medicine specialist, practicing bariatric medicine with a weight loss clinic on Bedford Drive. She earned her medical degree from the University of Southern California, with an internal medical residency at Cedars-Sinai and completed her training with a fellowship at the University of California Los Angeles to earn a subspecialty in clinical nutrition.

Armed with nearly a decade of experience with weight loss drugs specifically, Rahnama has appeared on television news programs, such as NBC's "Today" show, and in print for newspapers including the Wall Street Journal to spread her message. It is quite simple: if you are taking Ozempic and you're not a diabetic, obese or medically overweight, you are likely doing yourself more harm than you realize.

According to Rahnama, "Most people taking Ozempic who do not fall under the FDA requirements for the drug, meaning they don't have type 2 diabetes, or a body mass index (BMI) greater than 30 or a BMI greater



DR. NANCY RAHNAMA
PHOTO COURTESY OF DR NANCY RAHNAMA

than 27 with a comorbidity like high blood pressure, high cholesterol or diabetes are abusing the drug."

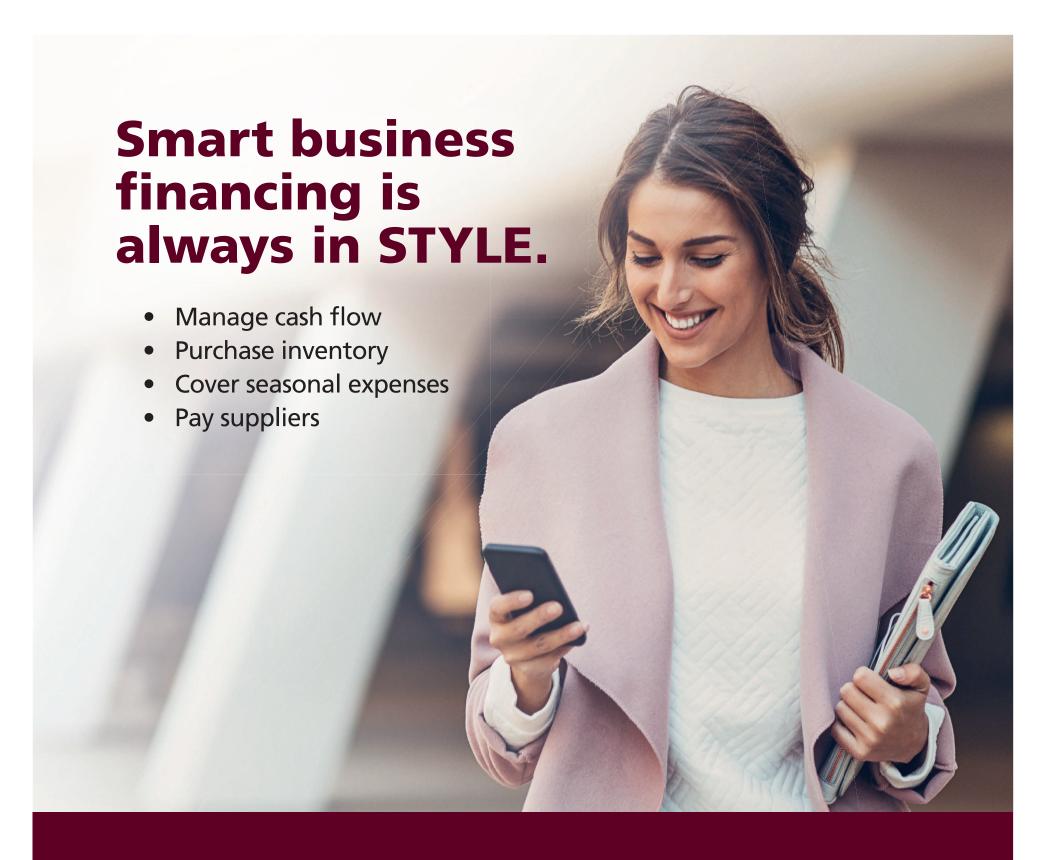
Abuse sounds like a strong word, but she said she feels strongly, "We need to start calling it what it is—'abuse' in order to differentiate between those who actually need the drug and those who don't."

And for her, the distinction needs to be made, not just because of the shortage of Ozempic, which made headlines last year when it was exposed that millions of Americans who did not qualify for it were taking the drug, eating up the supply meant for diabetics. "People who are abusing [it] are far more likely to develop the serious side effects we're hearing about in the news," she said. The dangerous physical side effects that have been reported, so far, range from intestinal blockages to stomach paralysis.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved Ozempic, a brand name semaglutide, for patients with type 2 diabetes back in 2017. Semaglutide, a synthetic form of a naturally occurring hormone called glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1), assists the body in making more insulin, which lowers blood sugar levels for people with diabetes. But early trials showed the drug led to significant weight loss, because it also slows down the emptying of the stomach, causing people taking it to feel full faster and eat less. The results were so dramatic that the pursuit of bringing a semaglutide for weight loss specifically kicked into high gear.

In June 2021, the FDA approved a semaglutide for obese and overweight patients with at least one weight-related condition (such as high blood pressure, type 2 diabetes, or high cholesterol) under the brand name Wegovy.

Last year, the FDA approved Mounjaro, a combination of GLP-1 and GIP (gastric inhibitory peptide). While approval of the drug for weight loss use is pending with the agency, many doctors commonly prescribe it off-label for their overweight patients.



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PREFILLED OZEMPIC SINGLE-USE INJECTION PENS PHOTO BY NATALIAGH/DEPOSITPHOTOS.COM

### "I had one patient who...told me she finally had the confidence to go on a dating app... She had never been on a date before." –Dr. Rahnama

Rahnama explained that while GLP-1 medications have been around for 15 years in one form or another and many such as Trulicity are prescribed by doctors today, many physicians still don't know how to prescribe it, and they don't follow up with patients afterward.

"Many doctors, like your average primary care physician, haven't been educated on how to administer the drug. They don't know what the appropriate dosages are. They lack a deeper understanding of nutrition and don't properly monitor patients after they begin taking it," she said.

When doctors prescribe Ozempic to people who don't fit the FDA criteria for the drug, they often get the dosage wrong because the pharmaceutical guidelines they would normally rely on don't apply. It becomes trial and error. According to Rahnama, the wrong dosage can lead to gastrointestinal issues, which can be so severe they require hospitalization.

If a doctor is administering Ozempic and sending you on your way, you may be unaware of the potential risks from the lack of follow-up. There are several reasons why checking in with patients taking Ozempic is crucial. For one, whenever you lose weight, not all of it comes from fat; you actually lose some muscle and bone mass. Ozempic speeds up that process and is especially of concern in older patients where bone density is already an issue. According to a study done by the New England Journal of Medicine, when researchers looked at a subgroup of 140 participants who fit the FDA criteria for taking Ozempic, they found on average, participants lost about 15 pounds of lean muscle during the 68-week trial. The mean age of participants in that study was 52.

At Rahnama's clinic, patients are required to get their body composition checked to be sure that the weight they are losing is fat and not bone or muscle. They are also required to have lab work done every week or every other week to see whether any other medications the patient is taking should be tapered off. As you lose significant amounts of weight, your blood pressure or

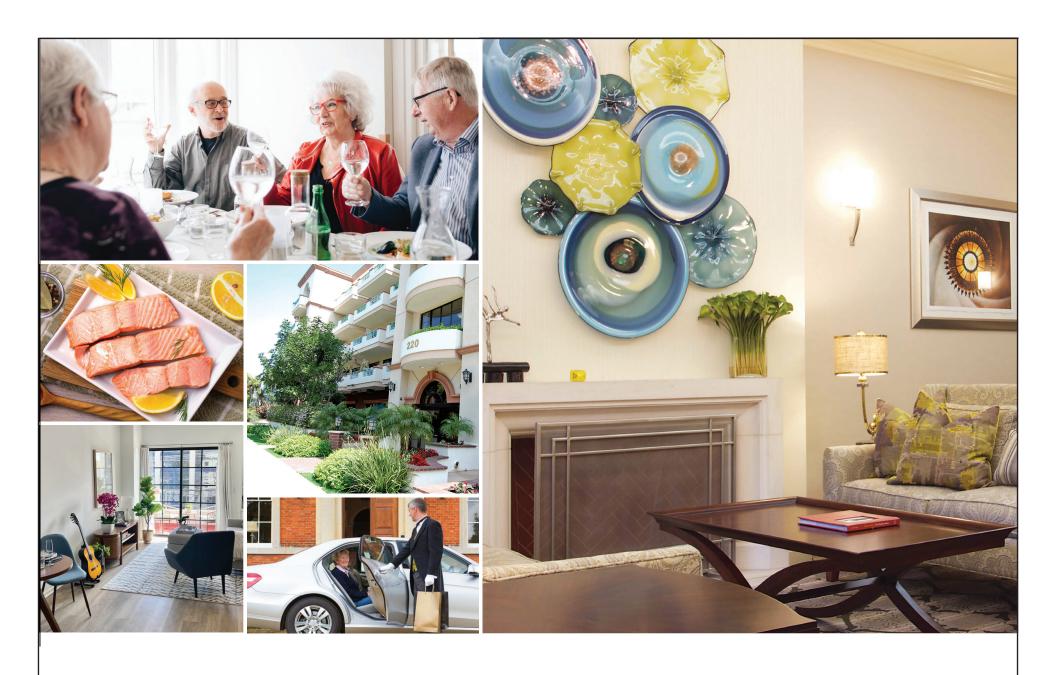
cholesterol might go down, so the medications taken to control those issues should also be reduced. Rahnama wants to catch this and course correct along the way. "Most doctors don't know how to do this monitoring. I don't prescribe the drug unless the patient has committed to a three- to four-month treatment plan while they're using the drug," she said.

Despite the headlines, many are undaunted in their pursuit of a slimmer figure. "I can't believe some of the requests I see," Rahnama said. "And there have been a few times where I've seen a patient and said, 'No,' and they've gotten quite upset. I've explained to them how taking the medication could only cause more harm than benefit because they don't have any weight to lose!" Often, they leave angry and search for a doctor who will give them Ozempic.

It's something Dr. Suzanne Wallach is all too familiar with, and she wants this to change.

Wallach is a licensed marriage and family therapist and the owner and Clinical Director of Suzanne Wallach & Associates and SoCal DBT. She received her bachelor's degree in psychology from Ottawa University, her master's degree in clinical psychology from Phillips Graduate University and her doctorate in psychology from The Chicago School of Professional Psychology. She specializes in personality disorders, with a subset that covers eating disorders, substance abuse and trauma.

While she has notably been featured in the press in her native Canada and has weighed in as an expert across a wide variety of mental health issues, Ozempic is a relatively new issue. And it's one most don't immediately connect with mental health. However, as a therapist, she is privy to the secrets many of her clients wouldn't share with their best friend—like taking Ozempic. She has begun to speak out publicly about the psychological fallout she is witnessing firsthand from the obsession with the weight loss drug.



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"My practice is in the middle of Beverly Hills and half of my clients, none who need it, are on Ozempic," said Wallach. "It's to the point where I almost don't know anyone who isn't on it. All my friends are on it, therapists on staff here are on it. I went to see my doctor, who is based in Beverly Hills about hormone replacement therapy, and he asked me if I wanted Ozempic. And I weigh 105 pounds."

So how is everyone getting their Ozempic?

"It's just so incredibly easy to get it here," said Wallach. "My Beverly Hills clients, again these are not overweight people, tell me they get it from their doctors, who are also in Beverly Hills. I had a client who, when she couldn't find Ozempic in California, had her doctor fill the prescription for it in Arizona, and then she had a family member ship it back to her in Beverly Hills."

Some clients have turned to the internet to purchase it online from compounding pharmacies or they get compounds administered at med spas. Compounds, semaglutide cut with various other additives, are not FDA approved and the agency warns against using them. Because they're unregulated, you have no idea exactly what you're injecting into your body.

"What I've really noticed with my clients is that their doctors don't take them off of Ozempic, and they're terrified to go off of it because they don't want to gain the weight back," said Wallach. "It's fueling body dysmorphia and leading to eating disorders. I had a client come in and say, 'I only had two pieces of edamame yesterday. It was great!' And I'm telling them, 'You can't survive on two pieces of edamame. That's not okay. If you weren't on Ozempic, I would be sending you to treatment for an eating disorder!"

Wallach warns of the effect not eating has on the brain, "When you're not eating, whether willfully in the case of anorexics, or simply because you're not hungry because you're on Ozempic, you are starving your brain and it becomes malnourished. Your prefrontal cortex doesn't work correctly so you can't reason correctly, and then depression and impulsivity are more likely."

However, the ease of acquiring Ozempic has led to unexpected and heartbreaking outcomes. "I have adolescent clients who don't fit the criteria on Ozempic. One is 12 years old and the other is 14 and they don't want to be on it. They tell me it makes them nauseous and sick, but they're on it because their parents had an issue with their weight and put them on it. I remember when that happened, really pausing and thinking, this is really getting out of control."

Wallach believes misuse of Ozempic is only going to get worse. "I think it's a combination of the media, the celebrities who are so obviously on it, and add to that doctors that are willing to prescribe it to people that don't need it. And when you have that combination, and it becomes so permeated and acceptable here that you have parents willing to put their children on it who don't need it, I think it's going to get worse," she said.



WEGOVY, AN FDA-APPROVED SEMAGLUTIDE FOR WEIGHT LOSS PHOTO BY MAURICENORBERT/DEPOSITPHOTOS.COM



MOUNJARO SINGLE-USE INJECTION PEN PHOTO BY TANOVAK/DEPOSITPHOTOS.COM

On the other hand, Rahnama said she's watched Ozempic transform the lives of her obese and overweight patients.

Prior to these drugs, the treatment was simply diet and exercise. "This misconception has created a lot of frustration in people who have struggled with obesity, and it obviously has not solved the problem because obesity is now affecting almost 50% of Americans," said Rahnama. "Many people don't realize what overweight people have to struggle with their entire lives," she said, before rattling off a list of problems that come with obesity, "sleep apnea and liver disease and having to take a slew of medications—blood pressure, cholesterol, diabetes, gout and joint pain."

What's more, Rahnama said these patients are prone to depression and anxiety and often lack the self-confidence to do many of the things most of us take for granted.

"I had one patient who, after several months of appropriate dosage and careful monitoring, lost a significant amount of weight. She came into my clinic all smiles; she told me she finally had the confidence to go on a dating app and she was giddy and blushing when she told me that she met someone special. She had never been on a date before."

Another patient of Rahnama had wanted to pursue a new career, but he was terrified of even applying for jobs because he dreaded the in-person interview. After treatment, he had the confidence to go out on interviews and he reported back to Rahnama that he had scored his dream job.

While successes like these from adults are moving for Rahnama, the most touching changes come from her adolescent patients.

Obesity in children skyrocketed during the pandemic. And the numbers were staggering. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "A study of 432,302 children, ages 2 to 19 years, found the rate of BMI increase nearly doubled during the COVID-19 pandemic compared to a pre-pandemic period."

Early this year, the FDA approved semaglutide in patients 12 years or older with a BMI in the 95th percentile or higher for their age and sex. Rahnama says treating these patients is one of the most rewarding parts of her job.

"If you think about it, you can determine a child's entire future by being able to help them control their weight at a young age," she said. "Just imagine how limited their life might be because they're struggling with obesity. Not only does it affect how they feel and how they function, but it also negatively impacts them emotionally. And that emotional impact causes trauma that can hinder them for the rest of their lives."

"One of my young patients was finally able to go on a roller coaster that she wasn't ever able to go on because of her weight, another was finally able to excel in tap dancing because she loved it but was limited by her weight. I think that's a celebration in itself; you're not just changing their bodies, you're changing their lives." •



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1. EMMA STONE AND MARK RUFFALO IN "POOR THINGS"
PHOTO BY ATSUSHI NISHIJIMA, COURTESY OF SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES
2. TIMOTHÉE CHALAMET IN "WONKA"
PHOTO COURTESY OF WARNER BROS. PICTURES
7. LEGA PAS AND NICOLE KENDRIKLIN "AMERICAN FICTION"

3. ISSA RAE AND NICOLE KEMPSKI IN "AMERICAN FICTION" PHOTO COURTESY OF ORION PICTURES, INC.

#### **DECEMBER**

#### **DECEMBER 1**

"Candy Cane Lane," although streaming exclusively on Amazon Prime, deserves mention for no other reason than its star, Eddie Murphy. Definitely aimed at joining the Christmas genre club, mayhem ensues when a rogue elf casts a spell on the family.

"Shayda" stars Zar Amir Ebrahimi (who was so good in "Holy Spider") as the survivor of an abusive husband whose life is turned upside down when the Australian judicial system gives that husband visitation rights, and he schemes to take their child back to Iran.

"Silent Night" is there for you fans of revenge thrillers. Directed by John Woo, there will be blood.

"Godzilla Minus One" – because nothing says the holidays like a retro Japanese monster movie. This is the 37th film in the Godzilla series, if you're counting.

#### DECEMBER 7-8

"Leave the World Behind," written and directed by Sam Esmail, based on the brilliant novel by Rumaan Alam, is a view of a coming apocalypse set on Long Island where race, class and privilege take front and center. With Julia Roberts, Ethan Hawke and Mahershala Ali, one has high hopes that it can capitalize on its stars and underlying material. Streaming on Amazon Prime after a short theatrical run that began on Nov. 22.

"Poor Things," winner of the Golden Lion in Venice, is a much talked about Frankenstein-style film, this time where a young woman, played by Emma Stone, is brought back to life by an eccentric scientist after her suicide and then escapes to a life of debauchery and self-discovery. There will be sex.

"Zone of Interest," based on the Martin Amis novel, written and directed by Jonathan Glazer, is about Rudolf Höss, the commandant of Auschwitz and his wife Hedwig as they strive to create an idyllic life for themselves next to the camp. Winner of the Cannes Grand Prix, it stars Sandra Hüller who is this year's must-watch actress. Hüller starred earlier this year in Justine Triet's Palme d'Or winning "Anatomy of a Fall," an absolute must-see.

#### **DECEMBER 15**

"Wonka"—the prequel. How did he become the go-to guy for the Oompa Loompas? This will be difficult to pull off, but the cast is first rate with Timothée Chalamet starring as the young Willy Wonka, along with Olivia Colman, Hugh Grant and a slew of other excellent British actors in support.

"American Fiction" is a film that comically approaches the acceptance of "style" over substance. When a serious and incisive Black writer's book is lost in the acclaim for a shallow tome called "We's Lives in Da Ghetto," he decides to write his own outrageously stereotypical novel, under a pseudonym of course. Starring the always terrific Jeffrey Wright, Sterling K. Brown and Issa Rae, directed by Cord Jefferson, the highly regarded television writer in his feature debut, also wrote the screenplay based on the Percival Everett novel "Erasure."

"Chicken Run: Dawn of the Nugget" is a film about a chicken named Ginger who has found peace at last for her brood after escaping Tweedy's farm. But chicken-kind is still in danger, and Ginger and her team must break back into the farm to save them. Look for it to stream on Netflix after its theatrical release.

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#### DECEMBER 20-22

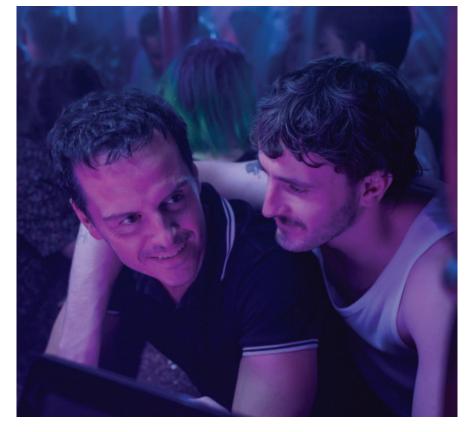
"Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom" is back. Jason Momoa as Aquaman/Arthur Curry must join with King Orm (Patrick Wilson) to protect their kingdom. Returning with him will be those below sea and earthbound inhabitants played by Nicole Kidman, Yahya Abdul-Mateen II, Dolph Lundgren and yes, Amber Heard, with a special appearance by Ben Affleck as Batman.

"The Iron Claw" is, on the surface, a wrestling movie about the Van Erich brothers who dominated the sport in the 1980s. But they face difficulties inside the ring and out. This starry cast includes Zac Efron, Jeremy Allen White and Lily James.

"Rebel Moon—Part One: A Child of Fire" is the latest film from the directorial wand of Zack Snyder, best known for "Man of Steel" and "Army of the Dead." When a peaceful colony on a fictional moon is threatened by a warring army, a mysterious stranger in their midst may be their best hope for survival. Watch for this to stream on Netflix in the near future.

"All of Us Strangers" is the film I'm most looking forward to. A romantic fantasy, of sorts, a chance encounter with a mysterious neighbor leads Adam back to his past, finding his parents alive, just as they were when he last saw them. A bizarre encounter because they died 30 years before. Starring Andrew Scott, Paul Mescal, Claire Foy and Jamie Bell— the cast alone makes this a must-see.

"Migration" is an animated holiday gift to the kids. Think "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation" but with ducks.



ANDREW SCOTT AND PAUL MESCAL IN "ALL OF US STRANGERS"
PHOTO BY PARISA TAGHIZADEH, COURTESY OF SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES

#### DECEMBER 25

"The Boys in the Boat," directed by George Clooney and based on the best seller of the same name, is the ultimate underdog story about the ragtag rowing team from the University of Washington during the Depression. Joel Edgerton leads the cast.

"The Color Purple" takes the 2005 Broadway musical based on Alice Walker's novel and brings star power to bear. Produced by Steven Spielberg, Quincy Jones, Scott Sanders and Oprah Winfrey, the latter three also produced the Broadway musical upon which this is based. The heat in front of the camera is impressive with Taraji P. Henson, Colman Domingo (who's having quite the year), David Alan Grier and Fantasia Barrino, to name just a few. It will be wonderful to see the multitalented Danielle Brooks ("Orange is the New Black") reprise her role of Sofia from the stripped-down 2015 Broadway version of the musical. She will amaze you.

"Ferrari" takes a critical year in the life of Enzo Ferrari, 1957, and the Mille Miglia (the 1,000-mile race) and explores the factors he had to overcome personally and professionally. Directed by Michael Mann, you can expect great visuals and hairpin turns for both the humans and the cars. The A-list stars are Adam Driver as Ferrari and Penelope Cruz as his wife, with Shailene Woodley and Patrick Dempsey in support.

So, start your engines and get back into those theaters. Happy viewing! ullet



TARAJI P. HENSON IN "THE COLOR PURPLE" PHOTO COURTESY OF WARNER BROS. PICTURES

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"I was different, I guess. Maybe I came from a distant planet, but whatever it was, inventions came easy for me."

At one of the rare Hollywood parties she did attend, Hedy met George Antheil. He was an accomplished composer who had come to Hollywood with his wife in the hopes of scoring movie soundtracks. George also had experience working as a certified inspector of artillery ammunition at a U.S. armory in Pennsylvania. Hedy's first husband owned a munitions factory in Austria, and she would often listen in on his discussions with German military officials who came to their home. This common interest is what likely drove Hedy and George to strike up a friendship, according to Pulitzer Prize-winning author Richard Rhodes, who spent years researching "Hedy's Folly," the definitive book on Lamarr's inventions. "I think Hedy looked around and when she heard of George's ammunitions background, she just said, 'You'll have to do." And Lamarr was relentless in pushing her ideas forward. George said of Hedy, "All she wants to do is stay home and invent things...She calls in the middle of the night because some idea hit her." For Lamarr, in George she had finally found someone who was willing to look past her looks and listen to her. She once told a reporter, "A man does not try to find out what is inside. He does not try to scratch the surface. If he did, he might find something much more beautiful than the shape of a nose or the color of an eye."

Lamarr and Antheil designed three inventions during their partnership, but one would change the world.

Outraged by the German U-boats that marauded the Atlantic, targeting passenger vessels and killing all on board, Hedy was desperate to find a way to stop them. Her initial idea was for a radio-controlled torpedo. Then, realizing an enemy could simply intercept the signal and divert the missile, she came up with the idea of frequency hopping. If the torpedo was guided by a radio signal and that signal would constantly and randomly switch frequencies, an enemy wouldn't be able to intercept it, not long enough to change the course of the weapon before the frequency shifted again.

Lamarr enlisted Antheil to put her idea into practice. They worked long hours together, so much so that Hedy offered him and his wife to move into her house to expedite the completion of the patent for their invention. But when Antheil's wife came to visit and saw that every window in the house overlooked the pool, she asked him if Hedy swam in it. She did, and legend has it Lamarr preferred to do her laps in the nude. That put a quick end to the matter. Antheil would stay in Hollywood, with his wife. Though there is nothing to suggest there was ever a romantic relationship between George and Hedy, it's not difficult to see why Antheil's wife put her foot down.

George was stuck making the daily trek to Beverly Hills, where he and Hedy would sketch out concepts for their frequency-hopping device in her living room. The crux of the design, it is thought, was inspired by player piano scrolls, which play tunes by interrupting sound in a pattern. In the case of frequency hopping, the pattern would be random. Antheil had experience with piano scrolls; he synchronized 16 of them to create his orchestral masterpiece called "Ballet Mécanique." For their device, it would be more like 88 piano rolls working in tandem.

When Heddy and George thought they had it, they brought their concept drawings to the National Inventors Council. They were blown away. Believing it could actually work, American inventor and member of the council, Charles Kettering, connected the unlikely inventors to a physicist at Caltech, who designed the electronic device based on their concept drawings.

Lamarr and Antheil were granted their patent, U.S. Patent Number 2,292,387 for their design, called the "Secret Communication System" in 1942, and they presented it to the U.S. Navy free of charge. The Navy took one look at Hedy and said, "Thank you," and stuck it in a filing cabinet, but not before stamping it "Top Secret."

And that was that. It was forgotten.

Hedy was told if she really wanted to help America win overseas, she should go out and kiss for war bonds. And though she wasn't an American citizen, the Austrian native deeply loved this country, so she did. At the Hollywood Canteen set up to entertain the troops, she sold smooches, as well as autographs. Lamarr is credited with raising \$25 million for America's war effort, amounting to over \$343 million today.

Many years later it was discovered, that in the mid-50s, the Navy had unearthed Lamarr's patent, and shared it with a subcontractor to create sonobuoys, bobbing devices that could detect submarines below the water and transmit their locations to passing airplanes above. In 1962, the Navy adapted Lamarr's technology during the Cuban Missile Crisis, and all of the U.S. ships sent to blockade the country were outfitted with frequency-hopping devices. A decade later, the devices were used in the surveillance drones that flew over Vietnam. Today, U.S. Milstar satellites, designed by Lockheed Martin, employ the technology in protecting the most sensitive military communications, including nuclear command and control messaging.

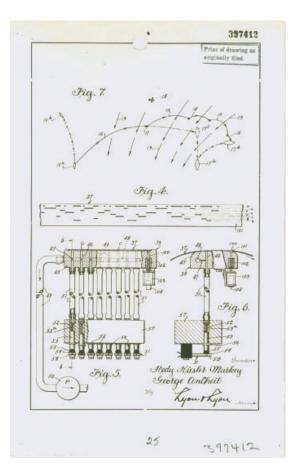


HEDY LAMARR IN "THE HEAVENLY BODY" BY MGM (1944) PHOTO COURTESY OF EMPLOYEE(S) OF MGM, PUBLIC DOMAIN, VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

After the U.S. military released the patent, it became available to the private sector. That's when the communications industry came across the patent and began applying frequency hopping, using digital signals instead of radio waves, first in GPS systems, and later in Wi-Fi and Bluetooth. Each requires a receiver to be able to hop from one digital signal to the other to create a seamless connection.

And though Hedy's contribution was lost to time for decades, in 1997, she was honored by the Electronic Frontier Foundation, after one of its members discovered the patent and made the connection that the "Hedy Kiesler Markey," to whom it was granted, was the legendary actress Hedy Lamarr. On all official documents for the patent, Lamarr used her second husband's surname, Markey, because she thought it would be taken more seriously. Although Lamarr passed away in 2000, she was inducted posthumously into the National Inventors Hall of Fame in 2014 for the development of her frequency-hopping technology.

By 1997, when Lamarr was first recognized for her invention, she would not go out in public and sent her son to accept the award. During the acceptance speech he gave on his mother's behalf, his cellphone rang. It was Hedy, so he answered it and put it on speakerphone for the crowd. She wanted to know how it went. Her son told her, "It's still going, Mom. I'm kinda in the middle of it." The crowd gave her a standing ovation. Privately, however, when Lamarr was told of the award, she quipped, "It's about time."



PATENT CASE FILE NO. 2,292,387, SECRET COMMUNICATION SYSTEM, INVENTORS HEDY KIESLER MARKEY AND GEORGE ANTHEIL - DPLA - 128F022CFD9421AA10DE72958A7EDF90 (PAGE 37)
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- 3. "The Princess Necklace" by Harry Winston is dripping with white diamonds, cushion-cut sapphires and icy aquamarines, totaling a whopping 186.22 carats. It was inspired by a piece commissioned for a young royal princess in 1977. Price on request at Harry Winston, 310 N. Rodeo Drive, 310-271-8554 and harrywinston.com





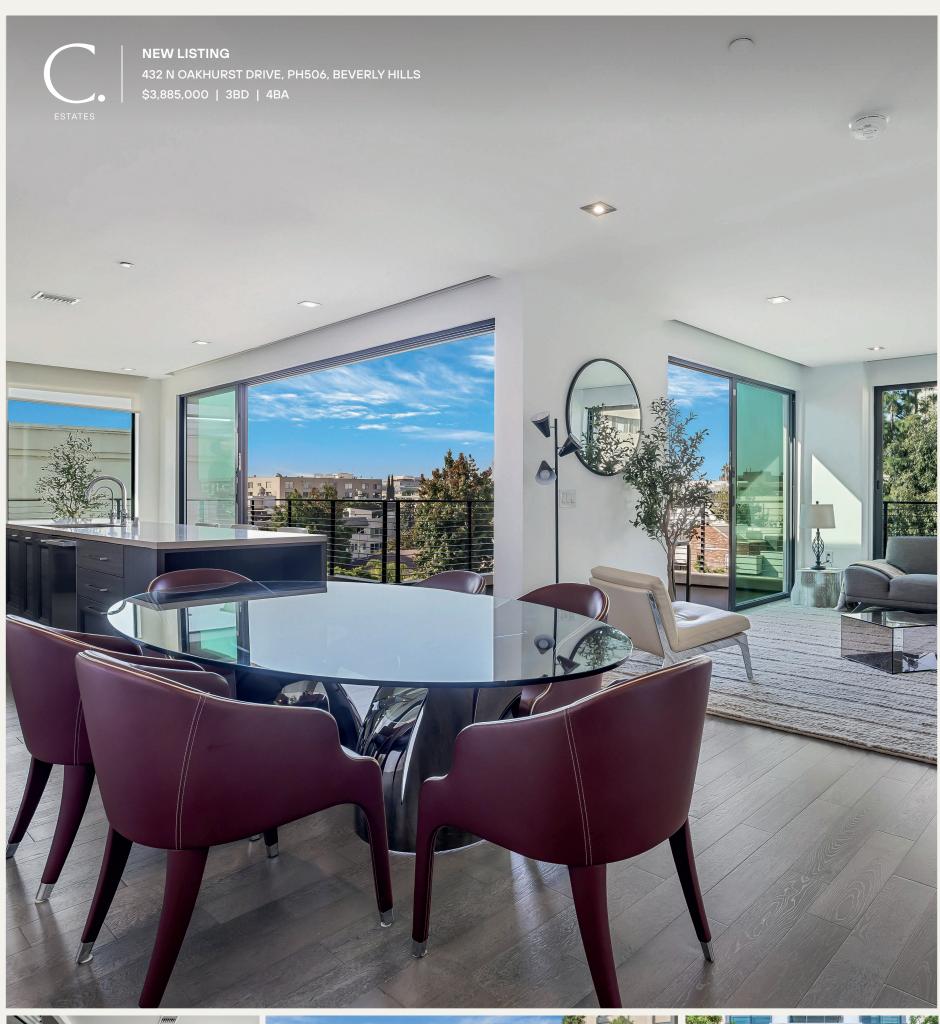








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- 5. The curved banana heels on these silver Tory Burch Mary Janes give the otherwise youthful shoe a grownup, modern look. \$358 at Tory Burch, 366 N. Rodeo Drive, 310-274-2394 and toryburch.com
- 6. Because there's never enough room in the fridge when you're throwing a bash, chill the bubbly in this chic silver Crate & Barrel beverage tub (which also comes in gold and rose gold). \$120 at Crate & Barrel, 438 N. Beverly Drive, 310-247-1700 and crateandbarrel.com











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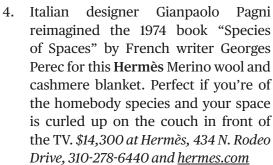
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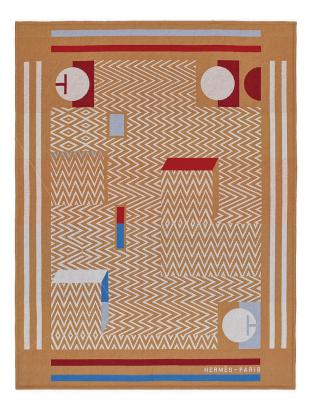
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## **Spice Route**

- 1. Classic suede loafers by **Gucci** get the pumpkin spice treatment in this autumn hue, but they also come in black and dark brown leather for the less fashion-forward gentleman. \$920 at Gucci, 347 N. Rodeo Drive, 310-278-3451 and gucci.com
- 2. The Rolex Lady-Datejust, famously worn by Grace Kelly, gets a revamp in the latest model. It now comes in the watchmaker's signature Everose gold with a chocolate dial and diamonds. \$41,900 at Gearys Rolex Boutique, 360 N. Rodeo Drive, #1, 310-887-4200 and rolexboutique-rodeodrive.com





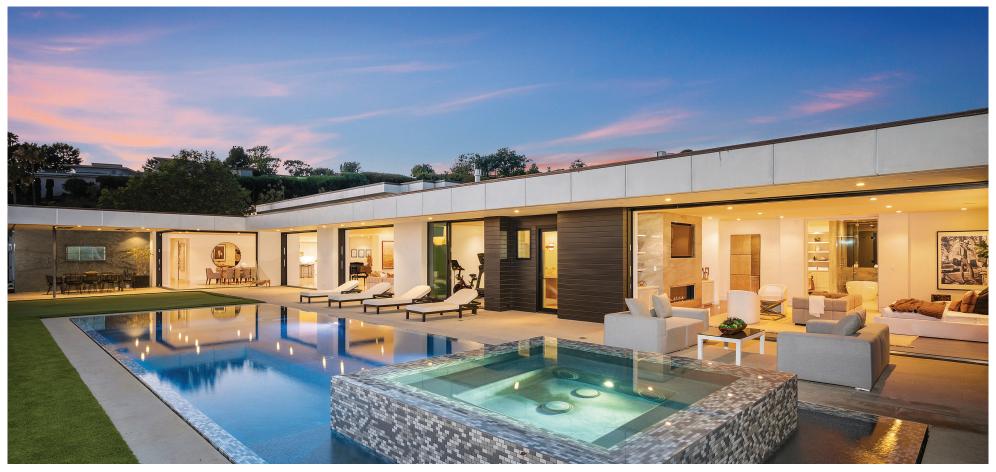


- 5. The Montblanc "Patron of Art Homage to Albert Limited Edition 888" fountain pen honors Prince Albert and his legendary romance with Queen Victoria. Its solid 18-carat gold skeleton overlay is inspired by the Crystal Palace, which Albert built and the color is a tribute to the tartan that Albert had created himself for Balmoral Castle in Scotland. The cap ring bears the engraving of "Albert" and their wedding date just like a wedding band. \$9,300 at Montblanc, 8500
- 6. A drawstring waistband comes in handy after holiday binging, but these cashmere **Louis Vuitton** joggers are stylish as well as comfy. \$2,590 at Louis Vuitton, 295 N. Rodeo Drive, 310-859-0457 and us.louisvuitton.com

montblanc.com

Beverly Blvd., #757, 310-854-0049 and







4 BEDROOMS, 4.5 BATHS | APPROX 5,638 SQ FT | \$14,500,000

Completely redesigned and carefully crafted, this home features open spaces and Fleetwood pocket doors throughout, seamlessly connecting the interior and exterior spaces and providing the ultimate California lifestyle. Situated on one of Trousdale's most sought-after streets, the property boasts breathtaking city and ocean views from nearly every room, setting a new standard for luxury and quality. The renowned contractor, Gordon Gibson, ensured the highest level of craftsmanship. The architecture is a captivating blend of mid-century clean lines and contemporary elegance, creating a harmonious and welcoming atmosphere that maximizes space and proportions. This private and gated residence is equipped with state-of-the-art Crestron home automation, offering effortless functionality and top-notch security. From the frameless glass garage doors to the elegant Calcutta gold kitchen counters and backsplash, every detail was carefully considered. The zero-edge pool houses a floating spa, adding to the property's charm and luxury. This newly redesigned home in Trousdale is truly a masterpiece of sophisticated and thoughtful design.









CHRISTINE HONG 310.433.5590 christinehong@coldwellbanker.com christinehong.net CalRE# 01325115



christinehong.net

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### **Warm and Fuzzies**





- any more about this fleece teddy bear jumpsuit from **The North Face**? OK, it also comes in a hoodie version and both styles are available in baby pink. \$80 at Saks Fifth Avenue, 9600 Wilshire Blvd., 310-275-4211 and saksfifthavenue.com
- 4. After a night of kicking up your heels on the dance floor, you'll want to kick off your shoes and slip on these shearling Brunello Cucinelli slippers. \$1,595 at Brunello Cucinelli, 220 N. Rodeo Drive, 310-724-8118 and brunellocucinelli.com



- 1. If you're going to disappear into a hoodie, shouldn't it be this luxe version from Louis Vuitton? It's made of plush cotton toweling in a gorgeous shade of teal and is embellished with the brand's iconic monogram motif. \$2,750 at Louis Vuitton, 295 N. Rodeo Drive, 310-859-0457 and us.louisvuitton.com
- 2. What's a family game night without an epic game of Clue? This version from Detroit watchmaker Shinola reimagines the old-school mansion as a creepy hotel and comes with hand-illustrated character cards. \$395 at Gearys, 351 N. Beverly Drive, 310-273-4741 and gearys.com

- 5. Add a touch of warmth to any room with these decorative amber and smoke-colored glass bottles by Polspotten. \$340 (set of 4) at Neiman Marcus, 9700 Wilshire Blvd., 310-550-5900 and neimanmarcus.com
- 6. Elevate your pizza game with this portable wood-fired pizza oven from Solo Stove. It comes with everything you need for wood burning, as well as a propane option and a Cordierite pizza stone for the nights you're too tired to fire it up. \$500 at Nordstrom, 10250 Santa Monica Blvd., 424-204-1177 and nordstrom.com







#### WELCOME TO THE VARSOBIA GROUP OF COMPANIES EXPERIENCE

MULTIFACETED COMPANY FOCUSED ON GROWTH, PROFITABILITY, CUSTOMER SERVICE, AND EMPLOYEE DEVELOPMENT



The VARSOBIA Group of Companies: Your One-Stop Shop for Business Solutions



he VARSOBIA Group of Companies is a multifaceted company focused on Growth, Profitability, Customer Service, and Employee Development. A brilliant business model created by Angelo Varsobia, CEO of The Varsobia Group of Companies.

Angelo arrived in Los Angeles, California in 2000. He worked three jobs in order to support himself and his family, who were immigrating to the United States. From working as an accountant by day and janitor by night to bartending on the weekends, Angelo did not have time to waste. Angelo took all of the work experience he gained over the last twenty-plus years and turned it into a brilliant business model that aims to provide solutions to Hotel & Hospitality Sector, Airports, Banking & Financial Sector, Restaurants, Entrepreneurs, Government Sector, Hospitals, Real Estate Agents, Retail Sector, Educational Facilities, Stadiums/Convention Centers, Telecommunications, Travel & Transportation --- while simultaneously creating jobs for residents throughout California and Nevada. Who else would you choose for your hotel, restaurant, or office needs over someone who has worked behind the scenes? There is no need to deal with multiple vendors. With us, you get **one point of contact**.

Under VGC, Premier Property Preservation LLC (PPP) was established in 2017. The company landed its big break in 2018 by providing janitorial services for seven Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) sites in Los Angeles. By 2019, PPP went from cleaning 7 locations to 30 locations, which consisted of deep cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting services. Its reputation eventually spread to Las Vegas, Nevada, where it provided over 50 janitors to the Las Vegas Convention

In 2020, when the world faced uncertainty, fear, and change, PPP took on some of the city and state's most significant issues and provided major solutions. It was through the innovative approach to use a call center and virtual assistants during the pandemic that made it possible for PPP to win the LAUSD (Los Angeles Unified School District) contracts. With this feat, the company was able to surpass one of the top janitorial competitors in the United States. This milestone could not have been possible without Angelo's leadership and his team's innovative approach. Using this momentum, PPP secured all the DMV locations in Los Angeles County and the LAUSD contracts with over 1,100 schools! Most importantly, their service to all LAUSD locations made it safe and possible for schools to reopen their doors. Schools were also in desperate need of staff, and PPP demonstrated remarkable abilities and reliability by hiring over 200 food service employees with the expansion of Varsobia Call Center Services.

Premier Property Preservation LLC prioritizes the well-being and safety of their employees without compromising the efficiency of their work. They take great pride in all they do. Their staff goes through a Live Scan Background Check to ensure the safety of your business and to give their clients peace of mind.

The VARSOBIA Group of Companies is composed of the following: Premier Property Preservation LLC, Varsobia Home Care Services, Varsobia Home Builders LLC, Varsobia Hospitality LLC, Varsobia Property Management & Realty Services, Varsobia Call Center, Varsobia Enterprise Inc., and Varsobia Foundation Inc. They stand in partnership with Regal Acquisition, Music Arts International, Distinctive Construction, Komuna Inc., and, most recently, ReV Up

Everyone is welcome to experience The VARSOBIA Group of Companies. Join them at the next RevUp Real Estate Event, April 26-27, 2024, at the Ahern Event Center in Las Vegas, Nevada!

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### Toast of the Town



- 2. This ornate lambskin purse by **Dior** brings new meaning to the phrase "clutching your pearls"—in a good way. The style is also available in six other shades from sky blue to seashell pink. \$6,600 at Dior, 309 N. Rodeo Drive, 310-859-4700 and dior.com
- 3. Move over, James Bond! This **Saint Laurent** single-breasted tuxedo jacket with satin lapels will leave the ladies shaken and stirred. \$4,590 at Saint Laurent, 469 N. Rodeo Drive, 310-271-4110 and <u>ysl.com</u>
- 4. Former dancing queens will steal the scene in these crystal-studded platforms from **Prada**. \$2,150 at Prada, 343 N. Rodeo Drive, 310-278-8661 and <u>prada.com</u>
- 5. From designer Pamella Roland's Anniversary Collection, this party dress, topped with Champagne-colored sequins at the bodice and fading to cascading tiers of black tulle, says celebration. \$4,995 at Saks Fifth Avenue, 9600 Wilshire Blvd., 310-275-4211 and saksfifthavenue.com
- 6. If Prince Charming were to have left his slipper on the steps of the castle, it would belong to this pair of velvet tassel loafers by **Tom Ford**. \$1,490 at Tom Ford, 346 N. Rodeo Drive, 310-270-9440 and tomford.com





# LOUIS VUITTON

### **HOSTAGE FAMILIES, from page 1**

was ever ordinary. Each was destined to bear witness to the events of Oct. 7 that changed their life's trajectory, leaving loved ones killed and taken hostage.

"It's unimaginable that we could be here tonight at this moment in time," said Mayor Dr. Julian Gold in his welcoming remarks. We all want to do something. What can we do? And so tonight is very much a part of what we can do because what we can do is hear their stories and we can become the messengers for their stories."

Those stories are familiar in their broad strokes, as details began to emerge over one month ago of the worst tragedy to befall the Jewish people since the Holocaust.

"We never imagined arriving at day 36 of this tragedy," said actress and activist Noa Zahavi, a representative of the hostage families in the United States who is working with the group U.S. Forum for Israel. Zahavi helped bring the speakers from Israel to Beverly Hills for the Nov. 13 event, recognizing the inherent power and influence of the city.

In a hushed Municipal Gallery, and later at a private meeting with the Courier, personal stories of unspeakable tragedy unfolded with steely resolve, dignity and remarkable grace. A month of grief had settled on each speaker's face, etched also by the unspoken undercurrent that time is running out for their family members.

One by one, each presenter relayed the personal anguish that will one day be the stuff of history books.

Soft-spoken and wearing a T-shirt emblazoned with a photo of his smiling, lookalike son, Nir Shani described his struggle to keep terrorists from breaking the handle to his saferoom door on Oct. 7. A physical therapist by profession, Nir lived at Kibbutz Be'eri, not quite three miles from Gaza.

"One of the terrorists broke the drywall above my ceiling and used a flashlight inside the room to see who was there. I had to hide close to the door so they wouldn't see me. Then they set a fire and burned the house. I was thinking, 'Okay, I'm going to die.' I was texting goodbye notes," he recounted.

Nir's ex-wife was sheltering nearby, along with the couple's son Amit, 16, and their two daughters. Once the attack started, the family kept in touch for a while on WhatsApp. But then Hamas militants dragged Nir's ex-wife and their children outside and took Amit away in a vehicle. They have not seen or heard from him since.

"When I saw my family that night they were crying and told me Amit was kidnapped. But I felt a relief because I saw my two daughters and my ex-wife and they're alive, which is a better situation than many others. And when they said he was kidnapped, I heard 'alive.' He's a quiet boy. He's a sweet boy. He's demanding little. So, I believe he's holding on and he'll be okay eventually," he said.

Later that evening, Nir implored Courier readers to "do whatever you can to end this nightmare for us. It is non-human. Children shouldn't be held underground in captivity no matter what. And they should be released and the world should demand that."

On Oct. 7, Yoni Asher's wife Doron and their daughters Raz, 4, and Aviv, 2, were visiting Doron's mother in Nir Oz, a kibbutz

only 2 miles from Gaza. Asher, who is in real estate investments, stayed behind at the family's home in central Israel to work.

"My entire family was kidnapped Oct. 7, 36 days ago. And that is why I'm here today," Yoni told the Municipal Gallery audience.

When the attack began, Yoni's wife texted to say they were locked down in a shelter, but then they lost contact. It wasn't until Hamas released a video a "few nerve-wracking hours later" that Yoni learned the fate of his family.

"I saw on Saturday afternoon my family getting kidnapped in front of my eyes on a video released by Hamas itself, on TikTok. They were attacking the communities, the kibbutz and had GoPros for the horror films," he told the Courier.

His wife's mother was killed during the abduction. In the days that followed, Yoni found himself unable to eat or sleep. But he decided that he owed it to his family to care for himself.

"I'm the father. I'm the only man that can represent my family. I'm the only one that can speak out on their behalf. So, I did the bare minimum of eating, the bare minimum of sleeping. And ever since, all I'm doing all morning until night is work and the activity of making them return back home."

As the days go by, Yoni cannot bring himself to look at photos or videos of his family.

"I miss the smell of their hair. I miss the sound of their voice. I am concerned deeply about their mental position, given the fact that they've seen their grandmother die in front of their eyes. And I never did so much work and felt so helpless. And that is why I'm here today," he added.

Since Oct. 7, Yoni has ventured to Germany, to Brussels to speak at the European Union and now to the U.S.

"I know that America and LA are powerful places. And I think that each one of you, now that you've heard us, now that you've seen us, no one will be able to argue with you because you can say, 'I spoke with him, I met him.'"

Yoni told the Courier that his level of hope ebbs and flows.

"After 36 long days and long nights, I can't be more hopeful. I have no time. I don't know if I can call it maintaining, increasing or decreasing. The emotional state is unbearable. But as a father, the only representative left from my family, it is my obligation to fight."

Powerful and resolute though the two men were in describing their ordeal, it was the youngest member of the contingent, Ela Shani, whose observations were perhaps the most profound.

Introduced by Zahavi as "little sunshine," Ela was the first to address the audience and the last to speak privately with the Courier. Ebullient, articulate and self-possessed beyond her years, she was captivating in her descriptions of an idyllic life, innocence lost and the moral imperative to help.

Ela is 14 years old, with long brown tresses and emotive big blue eyes.

She began her remarks in the Municipal Gallery with a description of Kibbutz Be'eri as "a wonderful community that is one big family."

She continued, "We had 1,200 people, but we knew each and every one of them. Our kibbutz is surrounded with beautiful

fields and so many beautiful views. It's a peaceful place where we all live together. We didn't need anything else and it was perfect."

Before Oct. 7, Ela said her biggest problems were "math homework or perhaps an argument with a friend."

Then, she calmly and vividly described the horrors of that day.

"We woke up with shouting of Arabic and sounds of gunshots. I ran into the safe room with my mother, my little brother and a friend of his. We stayed there. But it wasn't long before someone tried to break into our house. We turned all the lights off and stayed silent." she recounted.

As the situation worsened and militants overran the kibbutz, teens began to use a group chat to call for help.

"They were begging for help and we couldn't help. I'm a 14-year-old girl. I was in the same position, locked in the safe room with my family, with terrorists walking around our yard," Ela relayed.

More anxious moments came when the family got word that their grandparents had been injured but were still alive. In the early evening, an army unit came to move them out. Ela found herself shielding the eyes of her 8-year-old brother so he wouldn't see "blood and inner body parts" as they left the kibbutz.

"There was obviously no one to cover my eyes, so I saw it," she said.

Upon leaving the house, shots began to fire in their direction. They ran over pools of blood and bodies on sidewalks.

"I couldn't take my eyes off the kibbutz," said Ela. "I saw houses of my close friends on fire knowing they're still in there and I have nothing to do but keep running."

Eventually, she and her family made their way to a bus to join others who had been rescued.

"We started hugging each other even if we don't like each other very much. We were just happy to see who was alive. And then they started telling us who we lost. And I remember one of my brother's friends, an 8-year-old boy. He ran to us with blood all over his face. He came to my little brother and said, 'They killed Dad and my little

sister.' And just let me give you this detail. His sister is 10 months old, she's a baby. And she was shot while her mother was holding her."

Ela's trauma didn't end after she, her mom and brother were taken to safety in Tel Aviv. A few days later, they received word that a cousin had been asked to identify the body of Ela's father.

"We buried him one day after they identified him because we just couldn't keep his body unburied. It was in no condition to stay in the fridge. They didn't tell me exactly what happened to them. They told me that he was shot and he was burned," she said.

Ela now realizes she is entering a new phase of her life, although she is but a teenager.

"I miss these little things like going to my grandparents to visit them in the house, just drinking lemonade in the yard or going to my dad's to drink coffee with him and talk. And now our life will just be taken from us. Nothing is going to come back to how it was."

When asked by the Courier if she sees herself destined perhaps for a career where she can help others, she sheepishly whispered.

"My teacher said I could be prime minister one day."

For now, she is using her skills to deliver an eloquent plea for the hostages.

"I'm begging you as someone who went through all of this. I can barely cry. I can barely mourn because people still need us to stay strong. People like my cousin and people like little kids who are still there, kids, elderly, babies, everyone...I opened my speech by saying we're like a big family and we lost 90 people of our family and one of them is my beloved cousin. And we need them back because my dad can't come back and my friends can't come back. But they can. And we need them back because they're holding us together. And each and every one of them is a whole family. Each one of these 241 people is a whole family that can be destroyed if they won't come back quickly."



Photo by Lisa Friedman Bloch

The Courier's Executive Editor Ana Figueroa (left) interviews the hostage families.

# Award-Winning BEVERLY HILLS COURLER

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# **Birthdays**



JACKIE GAGOSSIAN November 18



SHO GAGOSSIAN November 18



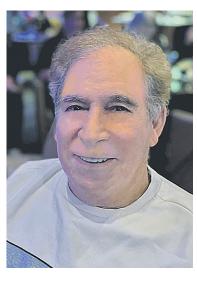
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November 22

# TO HELP SHOWCASE OUR COMMUNITY AT ITS BEST,

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AT LEAST 300 DPI.

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# Astrology

BY HOLIDAY MATIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Usually, you get a better perspective by backing off of your problem but today, getting closer will help you more. Ask your mind to magnify the bits you should be paying attention to. Instinct will kick in and amaze you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Get your work out of the way so you can be relaxed and at ease when it's time to have fun. Tonight, you'll get the chance to enjoy just being you, giving what you want to, nothing more or different than comes naturally.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Even if you would welcome a change, there is something to love about your current status. To embrace where you are is to conserve energy. The more energy you have, the easier it is to make change

CANCER (June 22-July 22). As the chooser instead of the chosen, you're free to pursue what's best for you. In food seek nutrition; in service, efficiency; in friendships, levity. Stick to your rules and standards. It's these criteria that keeps you on track now.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). A true friend is someone who is there for you when you need them. Even if you don't see them often, they are someone you know you can trust. Happiness comes from prioritizing these relationships.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Everyone you meet was a baby once, helpless and in need of being raised. Being in touch with the basic vulnerability we all share emboldens you to take social risks, talk to strangers and generally put yourself out there.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your higher judgment will tell you it's safe to let go of your inhibitions and become closely involved with other people. There's no reason to resist, so allow a relationship to take its natural progression through your life.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Shortly after alighting on the best idea ever, you'll speculate all of the reasons it's really not. This is the natural pendulum swing of ideas. You'll only really know its merit when you take it out of thought form and into reality.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). People gain tremendous self-worth from being able to do things for themselves. So, while your desire is to be of service, you're also well aware that sometimes

it's better to teach others, then stand back and watch them take it from there.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It's surprising how little awareness some people have of their own talents. It takes an outsider to provide illumination. The compliments you give will be meaningful in both content and timing. You help people understand their strengths better.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Though sometimes you've felt crowds were a

nuisance, causing traffic, long lines and other inconveniences, today the crowd is your friend. It offers protection and a certain atmosphere that induces a feeling of well-being and happiness.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're a deep thinker but stay in the shallows today because you will need to decide quickly and without much research. You'll guess well because your perceptive subconscious mind is working all the time.



The eligible dog for adoption this week is Ada. She's a 1-year-old, 7-pound Yorkie-poo. To meet and potentially adopt Ada, please contact Shelter of Hope at 805-379-3538.

shelterhopepetshop.org

PAGE 76 BEVERLY HILLS COURIER NOVEMBER 17, 2023

# CITY COUNCIL RACE, from page 1 campaigns and make other preparations

campaigns and make other preparations, according to City Clerk Huma Ahmed.

As of press time, Alissa Roston has completed and submitted her nomination papers with the city, making her the first confirmed qualified candidate on the ballot. The others, Craig Corman, Tiffany Davis, Myra Demeter and Mary Wells have picked up the necessary packet of documents and plan to submit them in the coming days.

The Courier has learned that at least one other individual has picked up the nominations packet from the office of the City Clerk, and additional candidacy announcements may be forthcoming.

Although it is extremely early in the race, several groups and notable members of the community have already come out in support of specific candidates.

Thus far, Demeter has earned the endorsement of Beverly Hills City Treasurer Howard Fisher and all current members of the Planning Commission.

Roston listed Rabbi Jonathan Aaron,

Public Works Commission Chair Wendy Nystrom, Design Review Commission Chair Terri Smooke, former City Treasurer Mel Spitz and former BHUSD Board of Education President Robbie Anderson among her early supporters in the City Council race.

Davis has been in communication privately with supporters and will announce upcoming endorsements as the race develops.

Corman has secured the support of former mayors Nancy Krasne and Willie Brien

And the Beverly Hills Firefighters' Association (BHFA) has announced its endorsement of Mary Wells' campaign. The organization has scheduled interviews with other candidates and may endorse others as the campaign goes on, BHFA President Victor Gutierrez told the Courier. Wells has also announced that Former Beverly Hills Mayor Les Bronte, BHUSD Board Member Rochelle Marcus and Former Commissioner Judie Fenton will serve as her Honorary Campaign Co-Chairs.

FORMER MAYOR ARONBERG, from page 4 Council bestow on an individual for his support and achievements that impacted the Beverly Hills community.

"Mayor Dr. Aronberg, Chuck, was an exceptional physician and a remarkably dedicated public servant," said Beverly Hills Mayor Dr. Julian Gold. "He served as councilmember and mayor and his amazing achievements span decades, from developing the Joint Powers Agreement with our School District to bringing the paramedic

program to Beverly Hills. His legacy will live on for many generations and he will be deeply missed."

Aronberg is survived by his wife Sandra Aronberg, M.D., daughter Cindy Aronberg and his grandchildren Leo Rheinheimer and Kate Rheinheimer.

Donations can be made in his honor to The Maple Counselling Center, Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles and the Sierra Club. •



Holocaust Museum LA, the first survivor-founded and oldest Holocaust Museum in the United States, broke ground on Nov. 15 on a major expansion of its Pan Pacific Park campus. The new campus is expected to be finished in 2025.

# www.beverlyhillscourier.com



# **Fun and Games**

SUDOKU AND PUZZLE ANSWERS FOR 11/10/23 ISSUE on page 80

SUDOKU 11/17/23 ISSUE												
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1	5	2										
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# COURIER WEEK ELEVEN NFL SCHEDULE

### THURSDAY, NOV. 16

**CINCINNATI @ BALTIMORE** 5:15 PM PRIME VIDEO (BAL -3)

SUNDAY, NOV. 19

LAS VEGAS @ MIAMI 10:00 AM CBS (MIA -13)

PITTSBURGH @ CLEVELAND 10:00 AM CBS (CLE -4)

**ARIZONA @ HOUSTON** 10:00 AM CBS (HOU -4)

**TENNESSEE @ JACKSONVILLE** 10:00 AM CBS (JAX -6 1/2)

DALLAS @ CAROLINA 10:00 AM FOX (DAL -11)

CHICAGO @ DETROIT 10:00 AM FOX (DET -10)

### SUNDAY, NOV. 19

L.A. CHARGERS @ GREEN BAY 10:00 AM FOX (LAC -3)

N.Y. GIANTS @ WASHINGTON 10:00 AM FOX (WSH -10)

TAMPA BAY @ SAN FRANCISCO 1:05 PM FOX (SF -12)

N.Y. JETS @ BUFFULO 1:25 PM CBS (BUF -7)

SEATTLE @ L.A. RAMS 1:25 PM CBS (EVEN)

MINNESOTA @ DENVER 5:20 PM NBC (DEN -3)

MONDAY, NOV. 20

PHILADEPHIA @ KANSAS CITY 5:15 PM ABC/ESPN (KC -2)

Week Eleven Spread by: Danny Sheridan Check your local listings for games schedules. All times PST

### THE NEW YORK TIMES SUNDAY MAGAZINE CROSSWORD PUZZLE 11/17/23 ISSUE

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### DOUBLE TALK BY RICH KATZ / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Rich Katz, of Park City, Utah, does freelance work in corporate restructuring. This is his third crossword for The Times — all Sundays. The puzzle started when Rich was ruminating on the expression "two wrongs don't make a right." One thing led to another, then another. This punny puzzle was the result. Rich does all his constructing at home on a table overlooking a gorgeous Rocky Mountain vista. - W.S.

### **ACROSS**

- 1 Pulled one's pants up?
- 7 Group of mimes, maybe
- got crushed
- 18 Revenue source for a website
- 19 Excitement
- 20 Really bad
- 21 But wait!
- 23 One of the Wayans brothers
- 24 Output of Michel de Montaigne
- 25 Asian honorific
- 26 Bone insert following an accident 27 In the past
- 28 She shares a home
- with Homer 31 Small plateau
- 33 Broad key
- **35** Pig
- 36 Potato, in Indian cooking
- 37 Buffoon
- 38 To peace!
- 41 Totally phat
- 43 Nail-polish brand 44 Queen's accessory
- 45 "Star Wars" queen
- 47 Go 50 Classic Greek
- archetype?  ${\bf 54}$  Word for word, in Paris?
- **ANSWERS FOUND IN NEXT WEEK'S** PAPER...

- 55 Holy Week
- 58 Get ready 59 Place to drop off a package
- 13 Neither crushed it nor 61 With 2-Down, end of the Gettysburg address?
  - 62 Wipe clean
  - 63 Lhasa\_
  - 65 Pointer 66 "E pluribus unum"
  - appears on one 69 Crushed (it) 70 "The Glass Bead
  - Game" author
  - 72 Lipa who sang "Levitating"
  - 74 Martini ingredient 76 Text tweaks
  - 77 Air rights
  - 79 "Cool" that's no longer cool
  - 82 Mind-numbing detail
  - 84 Skip a party, in a way
  - 85 French cosmetics chain
  - 87 Coming 'round again
  - 89 Padre's hermana
  - 90 Psychedelic dose
  - **91** Bare feet
  - 96 Snoon
  - 98 Ones who get setters better?
  - 99 Surface alternative 100 One praised at the Kaaba
  - 101 Actress Rowlands
  - 103 One winging it?
  - 104 "And so on" 105 Professional connections

- 106 Guacamole or tahini 17 "Star Wars" Jedi
- secure, as a computer)
  - 110 "How considerate!"
  - **112** We won!
  - 117 Goes "bottoms up"? 118 Brainstorms
  - 119 Beethoven work once called the "Bonaparte" Symphony
  - 121 Volkswagen model
  - 122 One of eight in a V8

### DOWN

- 1 Visit to the Kaaba
- 2 See 61-Across 3 Certain web portal
- 4 Deliver (on), as a promise
- 5 Beethoven wrote a piece "für" her 6 Relaxation spots
- 7 Lock
- 8 Spoil 9 Yours and mine
- 10 Loan shark 11 Grilled sandwich on
- Italian bread 12 Part of a Western
- herd 13 You might get it for

a lot

- 15 Peak once known as Mount McKinley 16 First state to legalize
  - psychedelic mushrooms

- 108 Air-\_\_\_ (extrayou're saying'
  - confection
  - 26 Commit a holiday-
  - when its middle
  - 30 Flew by

  - Tell"
  - First of Globe Theater

  - 52 Trick
  - 53 Column that might lead to a row? 56 Home-organizing
  - guru Marie
  - 60 Put on airs 63 [purposeful cough]

- 19 "Mmm, I see what
- 20 Hershey toffee
- 22 Scottish toppers
- etiquette no-no 28 Term of address that
- 120 Impatiently agitated 29 Enterprise alternative
  - 32 Have ambitions
  - 34 One of its uses is boring
  - and ollies, in slang
  - 39 Exhaust ... or near the exhaust

  - 43 Memorable part of
  - 49 Infuser contents

  - - 75 Delivery org.

- becomes less formal
- letter is removed
- 35 One doing kickflips
- 37 Red-faced something found
- 40 Wrathful 42 Yoga equipment
- Rossini's "William
- 48 Toss in 51 See in
- 57 Focuses of some sonograms
- **67** Book before Obadiah 68 Like those at the top, it's said
  - 71 Ingredient in perfumes 73 Early ISP

short

64 Salon treatment, for

74 Using an e-cigarette

- 77 Sources of winter strains
- guy' 80 Muse of love poetry
- 81 Blue Ribbon beer
- 83 Connective tissues in the legs, informally 86 Some YouTube
- content, in short 88 Real head-turner
- 91 Midday nap **92** "\_\_\_\_ Girl" (Billy Joel hit)
- 78 "You've got the wrong 93 Ketchup container, maybe 94 "Well, aren't you the
  - cat's meow! 95 Complains, complains. complains
  - 96 Manages to acquire, as a table at a popular restaurant **97** Bear whose porridge
  - was too hot 102 Everglades bird 103 \_\_\_\_ dish 105 Like a leaky pen
- short 109 Word with school or cook

107 Smartphone

predecessors, for

- 111 1040 collector 112 Currency unit in Laos
  - 113 Flight spec 114 Small problem
  - 115 Lead-in to sphere or system 116 Sought office

### BHUSD, from page 4

on Nov. 14 voted to enter into an agreement with them for up to \$135,000 for time and materials, subject to legal review and paid from the general fund.

During the meeting BHUSD Superintendent Dr. Michael Bregy reported that much of his focus for the past month has been on finishing the "Strategic Plan" for the district, an assignment directed by the board.

In other news he noted that, "It was heart-warming to see the number of people that took part in [the BHHS] Unity Vigil on October 30," in honor of the Israeli victims of the Hamas terror attack.

As reported in the Courier's Nov. 10 issue, the BulldogAid Wellness Center for Beverly Vista Middle School students is now open.

"To have this now for our middle school students—and I don't know any other school that has comprehensive services for middle school—means that grades 6-12 now have the opportunity for these services, and we're very proud of this. It was a spectacular

ribbon-cutting ceremony," Bregy said.

He also reported that an "Early Childhood Center" study session was held in partnership with the city.

"We are dreaming what this center should be like upon the reopening of El Rodeo Elementary," Bregy added. He said they will be meeting further with the city to determine what the community wants and obtain more cost information.

"We're excited to be having this conversation because we want to attract young families to Beverly Hills with children from TK through 12," he said.

There was also discussion at the meeting about how to approach the "Ethics Studies" requirement the state is imposing on districts by the 2025-26 school year.

Finally, a reminder was given that the BHHS fall play "She Kills Monsters" will run Nov. 15-18 at 7 p.m. and Nov. 18 at 2 p.m. at the Horace Mann Auditorium.

### AMBASSADOR GAL, from page 5

the extermination of the Jewish people. This has always been their ideology," said Gal.

He added, "I want to remind your readers of something. In 2005, Israel removed its presence from Gaza. Up until then Israelis were living there, but we removed the settlements. We even removed our dead from the cemeteries. We withdrew totally and gave it back to the Palestinian Authority. But then Hamas took over."

With a month now passed since the attacks, calls for a cease-fire or some type of humanitarian pause are mounting from international quarters.

"As an Israeli I say two things. We are not fighting the Palestinians. We are fighting this terrorist group of Hamas. Before we moved in, we begged all the Palestinians from the northern part to go down to the south. The problem is Hamas was preventing them from doing so. Everybody knows that Hamas uses the local population as human shields." said Gal.

He added, "For now we are determined to continue what we are doing. We have to remove the threat of Hamas once and for all. We are in Gaza but with an eye open on the northern front. A substantial portion of Israeli might is concentrated in the north so that Hezbollah is not tempted to open a second front. Let there be no doubt that Israel is strong enough to take care of any threat to Israel. We shall overcome this tragedy." •



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### **PUBLIC NOTICES**

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COURIER 11/17/2023,

11/24/2023, 12/01/2023

### **PUBLIC NOTICES**

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2023226344
The following is/are doing business as: **DENNIS GEWANT** DBA ATLAS JUDGMENT RECOVERY 269 S. Beverly Drive #102, Beverly Hills, CÁ 90212; Dennis Gewant 140 1/2 S. Bedford Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90212 The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL, registrant(s) has begun to transact business under the name(s) listed on JUNE 2010: Dennis Gewant, Owner: Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: October 18, 2023; Published: October 27, November 3, 10, 17, 2023 LACC N/C

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2023162580 The following is/are doing business as: BEVERLY HILLS PLAZA HOTEL & SPA 10300 Wilshire Blvd. Los Angeles CA 90024: Rochelle Sterling 10300 Wilshire Blvd. Los Angeles CA 90024; Donald Sterling 9441 Wilshire Blvd Beverly Hills, CA 90212; The business is conducted by: A MARRIED COUPLE, registrant(s) has begun to transact business under the name(s) listed on JULY 2023: Rochelle **Sterling, Wife**: Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: July 27, 2023; Published: November 17, 24, December 1, 8, 2023 LACC N/C

Notice Inviting Bids: Robertson ADHC is in the process of accepting new bids for food vending for 2024.

Sealed bids will be received by Robertson ADHC at 369 S. Robertson Blvd. Beverly Hills, CA 90211 until 11/30/2023 2:00pm for meals to be served in the center. At said time and place and promptly thereafter all bids that have been duly received will be publicly opened and read aloud. Description of prod-uct for Bid: Breakfast, Snack, & Lunch five (5) days per week Monday thru Friday.

Meals are to be delivered to one (1) location in Bulk form inclusive of milk based on a 25 day menu cycle to be provided by this agency.

All meals of each type must meet the minimum standards set by the USDA for CACFP meals of that type.

The contract will be awarded to the responsible bidder that possesses the potential ability to perform successfully under the terms and conditions of the proposed procurement and is lowest in price. Other factors shall be given consideration when there are sound documented business reasons such as contractor integrity, compliance with public policy, record of past performance, and financial and technical resources.

### **PUBLIC NOTICES**

### NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the Beverly Hills Unified School District (BHUSD), that it shall establish a list of registered contractors per California Uniform Public Construction Cost Accounting Act (CUPCCAA), pursuant to Public Contract Code Section 22030-22045. This list shall include licensed general contractors and specific licensed trade contractors seeking to participate in the solicitation of bids.

Contractors interested in placement on our list of qualified contractors for CUPCCA projects from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 can register online with PQ Bids at:

https://pqbids.com/beverlyhills/.

Contractors can also go to BHUSD website to fill out an application to be included in CUPCCAA contractors' list at the link below:

https://www.bhusd.org/apps/pages/index. jsp?uREC\_ID=41863&type=d&pREC\_ID=2177995

Raphael Guzman, Assistant Superintendent Business Services 255 S. Lasky Drive Beverly Hills, CA 90212

Publication dates:

November 17, 2023 November 24, 2023

### **SUDOKU ANSWERS** 11/10/23 ISSUE

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5	1	2	3	8	6	7	4	9
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### **PUZZLE ANSWERS** 11/10/23 ISSUE

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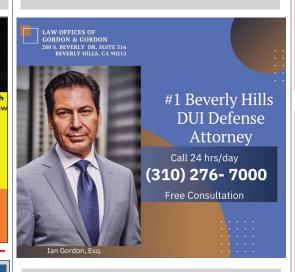
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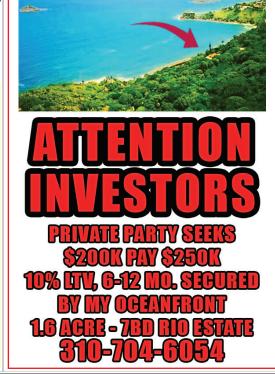


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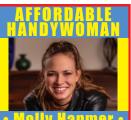
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