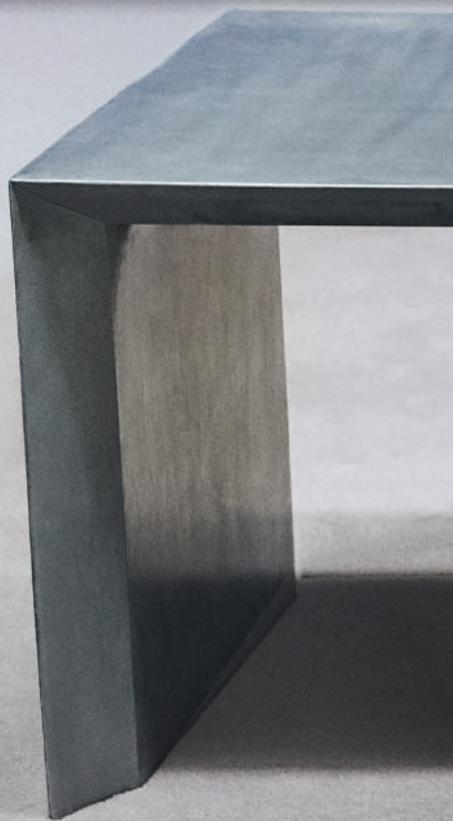


STYLE

JEANIE BUSS, THE LAKERS' LEADER







LOUIS VUITTON





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PUBLISHERS IN STYLE



LISA BLOCH



JOHN BENDHEIM

It's the holidays and the perfect time to celebrate the women in our lives. This is especially true as we bring 2021 to a close, after a challenging 18 months of a new normal.

Where would we be without their vital support, friendship, and partnership? Layer on top their courageous, selfless acts and their extraordinary capacity for empathy. Let's honor their humanity, creativity, and accomplishments. And let's encourage them to pursue their passions and influence social change.

The ideal woman to bring this message home in this Holiday STYLE issue is one of our own, the incomparable Jeanie Buss. Having lived a good portion of her impressionable years in one of the most famous and historical Beverly Hills mansions, Jeanie knows what it means to be a part of our wonderful Beverly Hills community. As a smart, focused and impassioned force, she has changed the look of the NBA during a trying time in our history. And she did it after the heartbreaking tragedy of losing Kobe Bryant. With the support of the world, Jeanie found the strength, resiliency, and courage to push forward and accomplish what she wanted, and what we needed from her as the leader of the Lakers. As the only female owner to ever win in the male dominated business of men's basketball, Jeanie Buss has triumphed, and she continues to do so in her own inimitable STYLE.

Thank you, Jeanie, for leaning in and showing our city what "community" really means by providing the Courier this feature interview.

In the holiday spirit, and with gratitude, shower the women and men in your lives with love, chocolate, and gifts. Help them and yourselves with useful exercising practices with an eye toward a healthy brain. Examine ways to make your homes even better with new design thinking. Explore electrifying new advances in how to move around Los Angeles. And read the reflections of our city's leaders on the importance of philanthropy and giving back at a time when generosity and kindness are needed more than ever!

Thank you to our phenomenal local, national and global advertisers who support STYLE and our Courier newspaper each week.

John and I, and the Courier team, wish you the best of health, happiness, and an abundance of quality time with your loved ones during the holidays and throughout the new year. And we hope you always turn to the Courier for your local news and events, and heartfelt community connections in Beverly Hills and beyond!

LISA BLOCH, PUBLISHER



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The Irresistible Gift of Chocolate

BY MAUREEN HARRINGTON

Beverly Hills is the epicenter of high-end chocolate boutiques, with more shops per capita devoted to the candy than any other American city. These five boutiques sell luxe chocolate creations using European chocolate. Considered the ne plus ultra in the confectionary world, Swiss chocolate is to the 7/11 candy bar rack as LaTour is to Two-Buck Chuck.

Stop for a quick treat, order thousands of dollars in personalized business gifts or purchase for festive parties. With increasing numbers working from home, it would be a Godsend to get a package of goodies to soothe the soul on a scary Monday or jittery Tuesday. Better yet, take a box to make your marriage proposal all the sweeter.

All of the listed emporiums will design personalized orders, and each ships nationwide. Check for special holiday hours.



THE CHOCOLATE BALL THAT MAGICALLY MAKES HOT CHOCOLATE

CHOKOLATTA

255½ South Beverly Drive
(424) 278-1998
Daily: 8 a.m.- 8 p.m.
Chokolatta.biz

Open just two years, newcomer Chokolatta has a different take on their handmade chocolates, filling many of their bonbons with Latin American flavors, along with traditional French-inflected fillings. Owners Oscar and Andrea Maldonado moved to Los Angeles from Guatemala and Mexico, respectively, opening their first shop in Hollywood and a second on South Beverly Drive. Oscar, an accountant by trade, partners with his wife, a culinary school graduate, to fulfill her chocolatier dreams.

The sunny café and chocolate shop is more casual than the other Beverly Hills boutiques. It's less posh and more neighborhood. Decorated for the season with boughs of greens, the case of multicolored bonbons sparkles in the light. Customers can choose one or ask for a mixed box of up to 24 to their taste. One is filled with tequila and others are flavored with hibiscus and mango chamoy. At holiday time, families love the seasonal chocolate ball which when dropped into hot milk melts, transforming into a delicious drink.

A year-round best seller is the chocolate-covered strawberries. The large, perfectly formed berries come encased in either dark or light chocolate and make a wonderful holiday dessert or afternoon snack. Andrea says that almost any fruit can be dipped in the molten chocolate. Another gift idea is the snowmen or reindeer, loved by children and adults. Boxes or baskets can be filled to clients' specifications so the gift giver knows the recipient will enjoy everything included.

Their corporate clients have included universities, one of which ordered 500 pieces, and a winery as well as comedian George Lopez's charity. The cast of Netflix's "Lucifer" has filmed in their shop and now come into buy for themselves. "We feel that we're offering a little different experience to customers," says Andrea. "These are the flavors of our homeland."

JOHN KELLY CHOCOLATES

9525 South Santa Monica Boulevard
(310) 734-7228
Mon-Sat: 10 a.m.- 6 p.m.
Sun: 12- 6 p.m.
johnkellychocolates.com

John Kelly Chocolates' look is understated elegance with monogrammed glossy dark brown paper, coordinating with the shop's interior design. Though holidays at John Kelly are a Santa Claus-free zone (The seasonal wrapping has a scattering of gold snowflakes), their best-selling candy is as homey as granny's apron. The partners, John Kelson and Kelly Green's signature creamy fudge was inspired by a family recipe and then taken to culinary heights with artisanal ingredients in all their handmade candies.

Chocolate lovers in the know immediately recognize the John Kelly signature touch of brightly colored ribbons. They can be personalized with a corporate logo or a newborn's name. Legendary rocker Steven Tyler loves their fudge so much he hauls carry-on bags stuffed with their chocolates to Hawaii. Their newest product is a boozy box of bourbon filled bonbons. Service is gracious with everyday folk cared for just as carefully as regulars Renee Zellweger and Viola Davis.

Their 11-year-old business has a robust and growing corporate trade according to the partners, but they'd rather tell a personal customer story than talk numbers. A local financial advisor started buying yearly holiday assortments for clients after he got so many thank you notes and comments after his first order. None of his previous gifts had elicited such strong reaction. Seeing the return on investment, he just upped this year's shipment.



WINDOW INTO JOHN KELLY'S FESTIVE SHOP
PHOTOS BY SERAFIN CANCHOLA/FUSEBOXWEST



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and Rose de Noël creations.

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EDELWEISS CHOCOLATES

444 North Canon Drive
(310) 275-0341
Mon-Thur: 10 a.m.- 6 p.m.
Fri-Sat: 10 a.m.- 8 p.m.
Sun: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Edelweisschocolates.com

Established in 1942, Edelweiss still has candymakers in back working on the machinery that inspired the famous Lucille Ball television episode. A loyal customer before her death, Ball got the idea for the hilarious show from Edelweiss. Now too many to name celebrities come into the cozy little space with or without children. The recipe for the famous fluffy marshmallow filling was the original owner's and remains the most popular candy. The holiday season special is enlivened with peppermint.

The fifth owners, Steve and Madlen Zahir, have had the shop for the last 20 years and now work with their son, daughter and son-in-law. They haven't changed the look or feel of the cozy interior or their instantly recognizable shiny red bag. That's not to say, that even after all these years, their customers can't surprise them. One morning, a man appeared with \$10,000 in cash and instructed them to fill all the baskets and boxes available. He then loaded everything into a truck. They still have no idea who he was.

Though they won't talk about current customers, Madlen says that Frank Sinatra's preference was the maple truffle. He'd pick up a box, go across the street to a bar, and with Dean Martin eat the candies with martinis. Liz Taylor loved the turtles, and Katherine Hepburn mentioned Edelweiss in her memoir. The shop's Rolodex is filled with years of notes on customer favorites, along with closely guarded addresses and phone numbers.

Their corporate gift chocolate baskets are cause for celebration when they arrive at agencies and law firms. Orders for business gifts are already rolling in, and the back room hums with staff hand dipping and carefully packing the candies. Nothing has changed at Edelweiss.

andSons Chocolatiers

9548 Brighton Way
(310) 276-2776
Mon-Fri: 8 a.m.- 5 p.m.
Sat: 9 a.m.- 4 p.m.
Sun: Closed
and-sons.com

Originally opened by Aviva Covitz in 1983 as a Teuscher Swiss chocolate franchise, her two sons Marc and Phil decided to take luxury chocolate in a different direction. They gave up Teuscher but kept their corner location, redesigned to reflect their contemporary tastes. The corner location's takeout window for coffee and snacks is buzzing all day with locals and out-of-towners. Their unique packaging designs, commissioned from a different artist every year, carry out their modern approach.

The candy display cases resemble jewelry counters. Los Angeles artist Maggie Lochtenberg's mural of a cacao tree coils around the ceiling. The colorful confections filled with unique flavors including hazelnut praline and pop rocks fit snugly in the special gift collection boxes,

named after Beverly Hills streets.

andSons' partnership with the Huntington Botanical Gardens honors that verdant landscape. The box includes chocolate covered nuts, Orange and Pecan Pralines, using the Huntington's Valencia oranges and a jar of the Huntington Orange Marmalade, along with Black Tea Caramel made from the Huntington's own jasmine and citrus flavored tea. The container art depicts five of the Huntington gardens.

Their updated design and creative fillings have become a go-to for many businesses, especially those whose clients appreciate the unexpected. Their seasonal flavors include eggnog, spiced caramel, dark chocolate mint and saffron with marzipan. They do more traditional holiday chocolates like turkeys and Santa Clauses but with a modern spin. They are happy to personalize for weddings or other special events and ship nationwide from their L.A. Arts District kitchen staffed by chocolatiers using the best ingredients from around the globe.

As the brothers say, "Not your mom's chocolate shop."

BEVERLY HILLS TEUSCHER

371 North Camden Drive
(310) 734-7734
Mon-Sat: 11 a.m.- 5 p.m.
Beverlyhillsteuscher.com

Tom and Tara Gallop, known as Mr. and Mrs. Truffle, took over the Teuscher franchise, one of nine in the U.S., from andSons and moved across the street. While andSons' décor is clean lined modern, the Teuscher shop is giddy kitsch, exactly as all their franchise shops across the globe are. Handmade flowers fill the window and climb walls to the ceiling; examples of tiny box toppers made by the same Swiss artisan for 40 years line the display cases, and the famous truffles are lined up behind glass. The Champagne truffle filled with Dom Perignon is their most popular confection, but there are hundreds of choices especially for the holidays. Try a nutcracker or a Santa Claus.

Because Teuscher is known globally, many customers come in knowing what they like. Chrissy Teigen and her kids chose the rich hot chocolate, which many say is as good as the iconic drink at Angelina's in Paris. They're not sure that Brad Pitt likes pralines exactly, but his assistant bought \$5,000 worth of the Orangerie boxes because orange is his favorite color. A woman who'd never been to the Beverly Hills location called to order \$35,000 in corporate gifts after hearing Oprah considers them the best. That's branding! Now she's ordering more for a holiday party. That's return business!

Chocolate is part of the language of love and the Gallops' story certainly proves that. An actor best known for his role on "Will and Grace," Tom was dating Tara when she told him that if he really loved her, he'd buy her a chocolate shop. So, he did. Then he went even further. While touring Teuscher's factory in Zurich, he got down on one knee and proposed to her.

After just three years, Mr. and Mrs. Truffle are a neighborhood fixture with passersby stopping in the door to say "hi." Their many Middle Eastern customers know Teuscher from their travels. Here they can order a truffle filled with a special rose oil, rather than liquor, and the staff helps those others with dietary restrictions choose. In this shop, there's love all day long.



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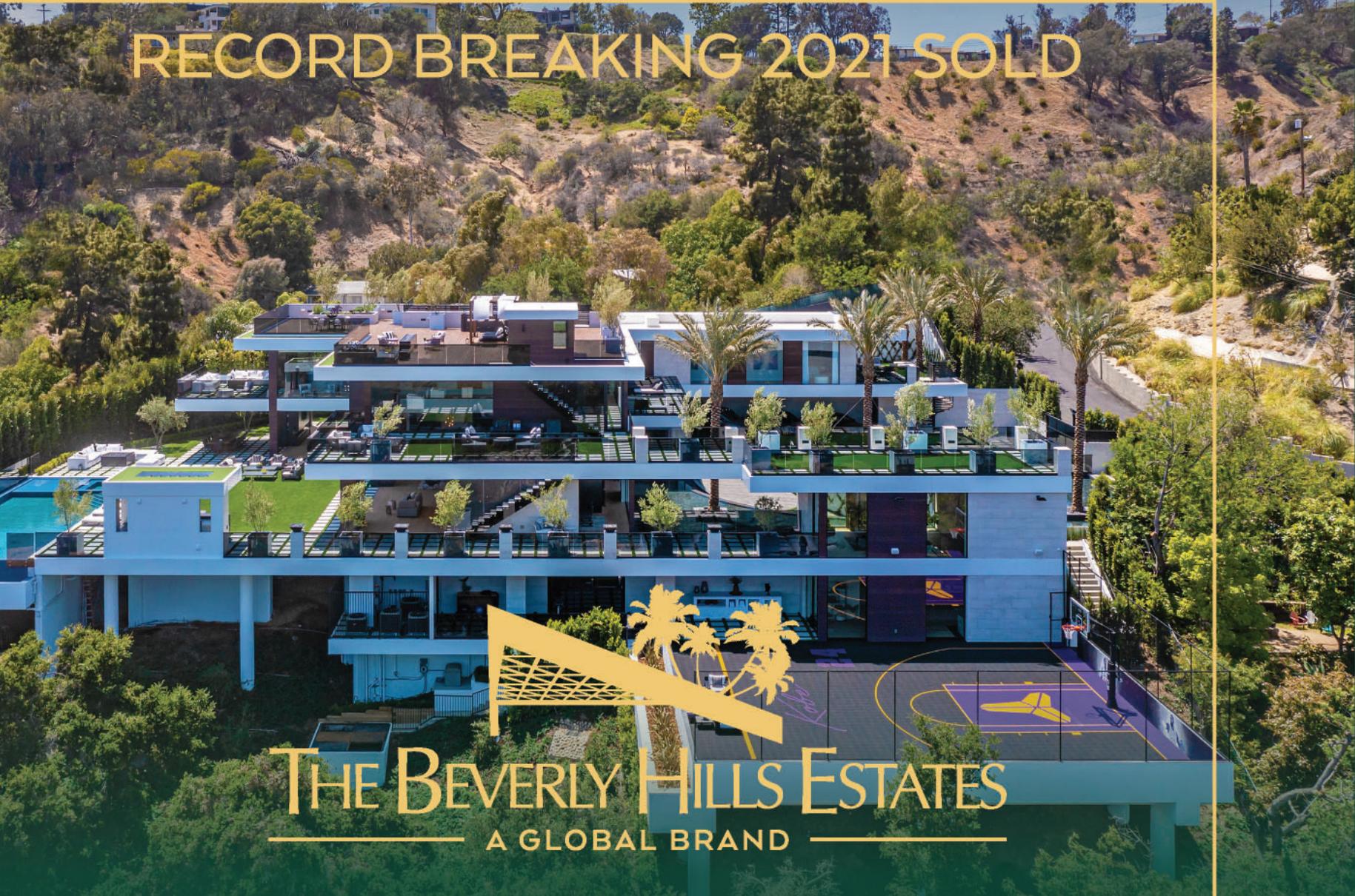
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Home Design in Style

BY CAROLE DIXON

During the last 18 months our world has changed: jobs, families and the way in which we use our homes. Upgrading and expanding our residences has taken on new meaning, as homes became offices. Kitchens now have added importance, as have outdoor areas, for socially distant gatherings. While other businesses have slowed down, interior designers have never been in higher demand.

The Courier spoke to some of the world's best known interior design experts who make sure the homes of Tom Ford, Courtney Cox and the Kardashian clan are Architectural Digest ready. We asked about trends they are excited about and advice as to the most important rooms to invest in now.



A ROOM FIT FOR A PASHA, PROVIDES LUXURIOUS COMFORT. MARTYN LAWRENCE BULLARD

Martyn Lawrence Bullard

British-born interior designer Martyn Lawrence Bullard has graced the covers of every major home décor-design magazine and is internationally known for jet-set clients and chic boutique hotels from Palm Springs to Mexico. Currently working on homes for Tommy Hilfiger, Alessandra Ambrosio, and Ellen Pompeo—all while finishing the Four Seasons Residences Los Angeles—the “A.D.100” and Elle Décor “A-List” designer just launched a new collection with The Shade Store.

What’s a pertinent piece of advice that you can give a client wanting to upgrade or enlarge their surroundings at this time?

I think it’s very important for a client to really think about what they want and need from their homes today. After spending almost 18 months at home, we have learned what our spaces mean to us and how we use them. A dining room, for example, may now function as an office, the kitchen as a Zoom studio, etc. So, when thinking about upgrading to a bigger home or even extending the one you’re in, think about how you want to use the spaces, and do you really need to expand to cover all your needs or just rethink the spaces you have?



BRING NATURE HOME. MARTYN LAWRENCE BULLARD



ADDING A BAR FOR GUESTS IS A MUST. TRACIE BUTLER

Can one space function as two; do you need specific rooms to function in different ways than the way they did traditionally or do traditionally functioning rooms now have multi-function and need to be easily transformable? These are all questions to ask yourself before moving to a bigger space as that bigger space may not actually really be needed.

Since we are spending so much time at home, what brings people the most pleasure?

Comfort is the recipe for modern luxury. It is our ultimate pleasure. Comfortable furniture, sheets, towels, rugs, all the basic luxuries that delight all the senses. Don't just buy for looks, but for ultimate personal comfort levels that make you happy.

What do you believe to be the most important area of the home for resale value?

Without a doubt: the kitchen. The primary bathroom and primary bedroom are all crucial selling points too. They are the areas we imagine ourselves living in. They are the fantasy areas that create the biggest emotional response in most of us.

What has been new and exciting for you in home interior design? Any new inventions or trending ideas for a refresh of the home?

The return to color and pattern is a strong trend. People are

embracing joy in their interiors; they want freshness and they want it to feel exciting. Colored, painted walls and specialized finishes like lacquer are becoming commonplace, and the use of wallpaper is very fashionable. It's the easiest way to add personality to your spaces and create individual stylish interiors. Be bold, decorate with abandon, never follow trends, instead make them!

Tracie Butler

Since opening her design firm in 2001, native Angeleno Tracie Butler has traveled the world designing homes, and even restaurants for Hollywood's top talent including Eva Longoria. Butler studied architecture at the University of California, Los Angeles, where she came to appreciate art. She is currently working on homes in the flats of Beverly Hills, West Hollywood, Malibu, London (through drawings and Zoom calls), along with a private unit in the Fairmont Century Plaza's new residential towers.

What's new and exciting in interior design? Any new inventions or trending ideas for a refresh of the home?

Things are getting better in L.A., and it feels positive. All my young clients in their 20s are obsessed with bringing nature into their homes right now. They can't have enough plants. They're in every corner and on every piece of furniture—even hanging from racks in the kitchen. It makes it feel homey. I've even done digital flowers on wall coverings. Those '70s built-in planters in entryways are even coming back, along with hanging ferns in macramé holders.

What's a pertinent piece of advice that you give a client wanting to upgrade or enlarge their surroundings at this time?

Be patient. Orders that used to take a few hours now take a few months. We present a client with a plan, but when it's time to place the order, items have been discontinued, or won't be in stock for a year. Ninety percent of my goods are from Europe, and we can't get what we want or have to wait. Italy was hit the hardest and they make so many of our fabrics, textiles, and chandeliers! But I tell my clients, 'It will get done, it will be flawless and will increase the value of your property.'

What is the most important area of the home for resale value?

Raise the ceilings—it gets people's attention. Though the kitchen and great room are paramount because families are spending so much time at home. Equally important are bars and movie theatres. There is a huge resurgence of home entertaining.

Don't forget the entryway. I feel like it sets the tone of your whole house, and you can't neglect it. You want people to come in and immediately get that emotional connection. I always try to do a beautiful entry no matter what the size or ceiling height; it's really good for resale. So many people spend their money in the other rooms, but the immediate impact and value is equally important.



A ROUND TABLE IN THE LIVING ROOM ALLOWS FOR WORK OR DINING. TRACIE BUTLER



KITCHENS NOW ACCOMODATE A MULTITUDE OF TASKS FROM HOMEWORK TO ZOOMING. RYAN SAGHIAN

Since we are spending so much time at home, what brings people the most pleasure?

My number one request is for cozy and comfortable spaces. Number two is setting up stylish home offices that look good for Instagram and Zoom. Interesting wallpaper or a space where they can film in front of a beautiful backdrop are frequent requests. Clients are buying virtual backdrops, but I say let's just do the real thing so you can live in it and enjoy it.

Outside they all want really amazing landscaping so they feel comfortable having guests in the backyard. Indoor-outdoor living space with a fireplace and outdoor kitchens are great additions but done in a way where they are connected to the houses—not removed. Out by the pool is a no-no. If they don't have a loggia, and there is no place to create it, we build a pergola.

Ryan Saghian

Ryan Saghian is a recognized talent leading a new wave of millennial designers. He has become a social media sensation with his raw, but at the same time, refined sensibilities. His fluency in vintage Hollywood styles can be seen at his flagship showroom, Ryan Saghian Home on Robertson Boulevard. Since opening in 2016, he has introduced a line of couture furniture, wall coverings, dinnerware, a luxury rug collection and most recently a tile collection in partnership with DOMVS Surfaces. His work has been featured in Elle Decor, Architectural Digest, Vogue, House Beautiful, Robb Report and Traditional Home.

What's new and exciting in interior design? Any new inventions or trending ideas for a refresh of the home?

For decades people have used paint to alter a room's mood and vibe. You can transform a room just by changing the color and texture of the walls. Right now, I am seeing a huge trend with plastered walls and my personal favorite is Roman Clay by Portola paints. They have taken the classic Venetian plaster concept and made it moodier and more organic.

What's a pertinent piece of advice you give a client wanting to upgrade or enlarge their surroundings at this time?

Most people tell you to go brighter and lighter to make the space look more expansive, but I do the opposite. I think that darker walls and darker furniture give an element of mystery, and the room starts to feel like it's bigger than it actually is.

Since we are spending so much time at home, what brings people the most pleasure?

In Los Angeles, it's outdoor living spaces. I cannot tell you how many clients called me for outdoor furniture and accessories, so they can take advantage of the California weather! Additionally, people started caring much more about their bedrooms rather than focusing on areas most seen by guests.

What do you believe to be the most important area of the home for resale value?

The kitchen: hands down! Specifically, appliances. An upgraded kitchen with all the bells and whistles available from leading manufacturers is a major plus. Aesthetics can always be tweaked with minimal cost, but appliances are a major investment. When a home offers the state of the art, it's a major selling point.

Kathy Ireland

Kathy Ireland graced the covers of hundreds of glossy magazines as an international supermodel long before she opened her global design business in 1993. Her solely owned company began at the family kitchen table and is now the highest-ranking woman-owned licensing business in American history.



GAME ROOMS MEAN EVERYONE PLAYS AT HOME. RYAN SAGHIAN

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Celebrity Real Estate Agent Josh Flagg with
Businesswoman & TV Personality Adrienne Maloof

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She is the youngest person to be elected to the Licensing International Hall of Fame, and the IHFRA, International Home Furnishings Representatives Association, is bestowing the prestigious Icon Award on the designer.

What's new and exciting in home interior design? Any new inventions or trending ideas for a refresh of the home?

We're seeing major shifts in how furniture is scaled for the way people are living today. More than ever before, rooms must be multi-purpose. Our job is to help families and parents designate specific family and work areas.

We're seeing exciting color palettes with Pantone's colors of the year in 2021 - from the brilliant Illuminating Yellow to the complimentary and calming Ultimate Grey. Another perfect example of a relaxing tone is Benjamin Moore's color of the year for 2022, October Mist.

What's a pertinent piece of advice that you give a client wanting to upgrade or enlarge their surroundings at this time?

Determine your own personal style. For me, that is always the starting place with every client. Be inspired by your travels—what do you remember from a trip? Was it a warm leather chair? A crisp white flokati rug?

Please, test your paint color before you commit! Put samples on your walls. Understand how the light will impact it. Do you have high ceilings? That will make a difference. We all know the colors that make us feel calm or stress us. Be flexible. If you love a dining room table for 12 and you don't have room for it, expand or change your space. Or live with the usual table for six and clear out some furniture.

Anything we can do to make our homes feel bigger will be increasingly important, as 70 percent of our population will be living in smaller spaces by 2050. One vital design principle is an ancient tradition—find an area rug design that you love and make it your color palette. For example, if it's blue, we know that metallics and whites will be complimentary. Another maxim in the design industry: shiny, fat, tall and matte. Make sure that a room includes an element of each - something shiny and eye-catching, hefty and centered, tall and room expanding, and calming matte.

Since we are spending so much time at home, what brings people the most pleasure?

The word we keep coming back to is balance! Having special places in the home for family time, work, school for the kids, eating and relaxation is critical. Decorators may put together a beautiful space, though designers will ensure that it is functional for your family's needs. We bring comfortable, functional, stylish and fun products and interiors to our customers' homes—from our Home and Garden collections with Twin Star, to our Home and Office collections with Bestar Bush Furniture.

What is the most important area of the home for resale value?

Remodels, renovations, and simple upgrades that won't break the bank can make such a significant difference and bring recaptured value to our homes. Colorful window treatments, coordinated throw pillows,



COMFORT AT HOME IS IMPORTANT RIGHT NOW. KATHY IRELAND

and fresh door and cabinet hardware will give an entirely different look on a very reasonable budget and without days of effort. Recently we turned a non-descript, dated kitchen into the epitome of European Country luxury, for less than \$25,000. There are always ways to bring in a fresh style that will increase value, while utilizing and repurposing functional pieces.

Trip Haenisch

Trip Haenisch is an award-winning interior designer and author. He is known for combining refined aesthetics with a laid-back twist. The internationally acclaimed Haenisch designs have appeared in Architectural Digest, Elle Decor, Vogue and The New York Times, along with numerous coffee table books. His work has landed him in the coveted "A.D.100 List" and he was named one of The Hollywood Reporter's "25 most influential Los Angeles-based interior designers." His famous clients include Courteney Cox, Laura Dern, Molly Sims, Sacha Baron Cohen and Isla Fisher, celebrity hairstylist Chris McMillan, Netflix exec. Scott Stuber and William Morris Endeavor Co-CEO Patrick Whitesell.

What's new and exciting in interior design? Any new inventions or trending ideas for a refresh of the home?

For me, trends are less interesting than the idea of timelessness. But I've been called a lot in the past couple of years to help executives who are redoing rooms for an office and Zoom meetings. Texture is more important to me than color and pattern. Now there's an increasing number of textural and sculptural furniture available. I'm also seeing more of a maximalist approach to design.

I started doing development spec projects—one that is about to be sold on two acres in Malibu, and a project for producers Mary and Kathryn Bowen, who built a beautiful Spanish-style home. This is normally not my thing, but I was able to lighten it up with blonde floors.

What's a pertinent piece of advice you give a client wanting to upgrade or enlarge their surroundings at this time?

For me making something pretty is not the challenge. What's more challenging is creating a home with spaces that function. Nothing is worse. Why spend so much money on a room that no one goes into? Clients need to think about how they live. Are you missing something? What would solve that lack? Maybe it's an outdoor area with a fire pit and a water element. Upgrading materials like floors can be expensive, but that is something you might choose to do. I started using a Sydney Harbor paint with a live component in it that creates this magical depth and looks so much better than standard paint. You could upgrade an entire room just by doing that.



WHILE WE'RE HOME, KEEP THINGS SPACIOUS. TRIP HAENISCH



HOLIDAY 2021



NOVEMBER
DECEMBER

1

• **Thanksgiving at Home**

Enjoy a festive feast in the comfort of your home with our Thanksgiving kits.

Preorders begin today until November 21

\$450 Per Kit | Serves 4 to 6

25

• **Belvedere Thanksgiving Celebration**

Family Style Menu
11am to 6pm

\$35 Free Flowing Champagne
\$155 Per Person | \$65 Kids

• **Thanksgiving Afternoon Tea**

Seatings 11am, 1:30pm, & 4pm
\$125 per person

29

• **Menorah Lighting**

Hotel guests are invited to join us in the lobby for cocktails & light bites.

At Sundown

1

• **Tree Lighting Ceremony**

Join us for an evening of cocktails, canapes & live holiday entertainment with hotel guests and locals.

7pm to 9pm

3

• **Holiday Pet Adoption**

Hotel guests, locals, and employees are invited to come adopt a pet in partnership with our local pet adoption agency

11am to 5pm

8 & 15

• **McQueen Wreath Making & Cocktail Class**

In partnership with McQueen Flowers, join us for a special holiday wreath arranging class with McQueen florists & our in-house mixologist to create one of a kind holiday cocktails.

6pm to 8pm
\$175 Per Person

17 - 24

• **Holiday Carolers**

Enjoy the festive season at the hotel with our live holiday carolers on the front drive.

6pm to 7pm

19

• **Santa Brunch at The Belvedere**

A La Carte Menu
11am to 2:30pm
Live Holiday Jazz Band

24

• **Christmas Eve at The Belvedere**

Pre-Fixe Menu
5pm to 10pm
\$35 Free Flowing Champagne
\$150 Per Person | \$65 Kids

• **Santa Claus Naughty & Nice List**

Photos with Santa
12pm to 5pm

25

• **Belvedere Christmas Celebration**

Family Style Menu
11am to 7pm
\$35 Free Flowing Champagne
\$175 Per Person | \$65 Kids

• **Christmas Afternoon Tea**

Seatings 11am, 1:30pm, & 4pm
\$125 Per Person



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- Complimentary Lobby Lessons with Our Mixologist featuring Holiday Cocktails, Thursdays, 5pm to 6pm
- Holiday Cheers at The Roof Garden, Enjoy Half Priced Cocktails, Fridays, 4pm to 6pm
- Brunch at The Belvedere featuring Live Holiday Jazz Music, Sundays, 11am to 2:30pm
- Holiday Piano Music at The Club Bar, Wednesdays through Saturdays, 5pm to 8pm
- Seasonal Holiday Cocktail Menu at The Club Bar
- Festive Holiday Tea
- Kisses Under The Mistletoe!

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- In-house kids open Santa's gifts on Christmas morning & enjoy hot chocolate & breakfast with Peter Bear

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POWDER ROOMS ARE A HUGE PLUS. SIENNA OOSTERHOUSE

Since we are spending so much time at home, what brings people the most pleasure?

A kitchen is really important to people. Individuals with bad kitchens don't really experience home life as fully as they'd like to. For example, I have a really small house and kitchen, but I cut out a part of my wall and put in a counter that opens up to my living room. Now entertaining is so much more fun for me and my guests.

I remember going into Betsy Bloomingdale's home years ago. She had an incredible house, but the kitchen was an afterthought. In those days, the only people in the kitchen were the staff. Now a gorgeous, exposed kitchen flowing into a family room is what we want. Homes are so open right now, but you also need a place to break away and have some privacy like a 'man cave.' Not to generalize, but women want their homes to be beautiful and functional, while for men, technology and comfort are critical. I frequently hear comments like 'I just want a comfortable chair with my TV, talk to my wife about everything else.'

What is the most important area of the home for resale value?

Kitchens can turn potential buyers off if they're not functional and appealing. I think resale value will be high if your home is welcoming. When a buyer walks in, they get a visceral reaction to the aesthetic. You appeal to the senses with music playing, scented candles, seeing a fire going. You want a visitor to feel like all they need to move in is their toothbrush. The primary bedroom is also very important, along with the bathroom and closets. I've seen beautiful homes, but a tiny closet can kill a sale quicker than anything.

Sienna Oosterhouse

Sienna Oosterhouse, who counts Tom Ford among her long-time clients, is a widely known Los Angeles-based interior designer whose inspiration is architecture. The Michigan native worked alongside Brad Dunning where she honed her technical skills. She works with clients

The Final Word from a Local Expert

We also checked with Rayni Williams, owner of The Beverly Hills Estates and one of the region's most acclaimed real estate professionals. Rayni and her partner, Branden Williams, have not only sold more than \$8.6 billion in real estate, they represent a world-famous clientele as trusted advisors. Rayni summed up for the Courier her thoughts on what impacts a home's value the most. "There are three major elements to a home that are the most important: the kitchen, family room and the primary closet," she said. For the latter, "Dual closets are key, and in the primary bath dual water closets and sinks in the same area with a large, shared shower is what most couples want."

throughout the U.S. and is currently immersed in projects in Beverly Hills, Palm Springs, Hancock Park and Montecito.

What's new and exciting in home interior design? Any new inventions or trending ideas for a refresh of the home?

It has been a pleasure to see people really using their homes, finding ways to improve their personal environment. Many of my clients are doing remodels that had been put on the back burner for years. Rooms have become multifunctional, much more so than ever before. Everything from pizza ovens to pottery wheels are the new norm.

What's a pertinent piece of advice you give a client wanting to upgrade or enlarge their surroundings at this time?

Make sure you have all your materials planned and secured. Supply is lower than usual, and shipping times have increased greatly. You don't want to be stuck with a job half done because you don't have the shower valve! You will have less chance for delays if you shop locally.

Since we are spending so much time at home, what brings people the most pleasure?

It can be many things for different kinds of people. Cooking (and especially baking) has become very popular. Home gyms, golf simulators and even good old dance parties are now in our homes. A good music system is key. Sonos works well. Privacy is important too. Being able to get away from the outside world and be with your own family.

What is the most important area of the home for resale value?

That's hard! The kitchen, bathrooms, storage, location, natural light are all crucial, but the kitchen ranks pretty high for most people. I do believe you will get more out of the sale with an updated kitchen over other upgrades in the home.



THE RIGHT CONFIGURATION MAKES A LIVING ROOM MORE WELCOMING AND FUNCTIONAL. SIENNA OOSTERHOUSE

A portrait of Jeanie Buss, a woman with long, wavy blonde hair, wearing a black collared shirt. She is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is dark with a patterned, geometric design in shades of gold and brown.

A legacy of leadership and success.

Jeanie Buss believes in bringing talented people together and giving them a platform to be their best. It's the formula she used to help the Los Angeles Lakers win their 17th title, and it's why they've teamed up with East West Bank to make a difference in our community. You can expect that same approach when you partner with our Private Banking team. We go beyond banking to deliver exceptional service centered around you. We're here to help you win.

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Wealth of Spirit: Giving at Holiday Time

BY ANA FIGUEROA

If, as Albert Einstein famously said, “The value of a man resides in what he gives,” then Beverly Hills is a city of great worth. Beyond the trappings that have caught the attention of the world, a spirit of generosity and a desire to make a positive difference for others lie at the heart of Beverly Hills.

A city blessed with riches has shown a true wealth of spirit during these most challenging of times. No sooner had the pandemic hit than civic groups were mobilizing to provide masks for first responders and meals to front line workers. Volunteers shopped for the elderly and businesses struggled to keep employees on the payroll.

“The pandemic has certainly shown us the strength of the human spirit,” Councilmember Julian Gold, M.D. told the Courier. “We have seen tremendous resilience in the face of adversity, whether from front-line workers, families caring for each other, or being unable to care for or even see their sick relatives, to amazing acts of kindness and compassion. Acts of giving in this time make that resilience a little easier. In many ways, it brings out the best in us.”

In terms of philanthropy, these times have brought out the best in the entire country. According to “Giving USA 2021: The Annual Report on Philanthropy in America,” a record \$471 billion was donated to charities in 2020. That’s an increase of more than 5% over the previous year.

The fact that the growth took place during an economic downturn is especially remarkable. The pandemic as well as the racial justice protests of 2020 are credited with the uptick in contributions from individuals, foundations, corporations and bequests. The biggest surge in giving in 2020 came from foundations, many of which adapted to meet the needs of grantees during the pandemic. A prime local example is the Jewish Community Foundation of Los Angeles. The organization fully pivoted its institutional grantmaking to focus exclusively on addressing need from the pandemic. In September, the Foundation announced the award of \$3.7 million in grants to 45 local institutions, including 22 nonprofits and 23 synagogues for pandemic relief and recovery.

“Of the \$3.7 million in Reimagine Grants, about \$1 million of that total was awarded to 23 synagogues, including numerous in Beverly Hills and on the Los Angeles westside. The trauma and the toll that the pandemic has taken on synagogue staff has been tremendous. You could call it an invisible impact of COVID. By taking care of the people who lead the synagogues, we’re taking care of the people who go to those synagogues,” Naomi Strongin, Vice President of the Center for Designed Philanthropy at the Jewish Community Foundation of Los Angeles, told the Courier.

The “Giving USA” report does cite a bit of less positive news. It lists a few categories of nonprofits that have experienced an overall decline in giving. Sadly, one such category is arts and culture. That should not bode well in a city filled with creative giants, such as Beverly Hills.

“We value giving back, civility and love. It is sacred to the core of who we are. The more we give, the better we feel. This is us.” - Vice Mayor Lili Bosse

Councilmember John Mirisch expressed his feelings on the topic to the Courier. “These continue to be tough times, and not everyone is in a position to support charitable organizations. But for those who are, there are so many worthy causes to choose from. Especially in tough times, we need arts and culture more than ever, and I hope people would consider supporting cultural institutions,” said Mirisch.

As we approach the second holiday season of the pandemic, life does appear to be returning back close to normal. Though, we all realize it may never be quite the same. For one thing, the grand-scale charity events and galas that Beverly Hills was known for have yet to come back. Still, the spirit of giving lives on, albeit in different ways.

“Since the pandemic, we have been forced to reevaluate what is important and ways to extend resources to those in need. The true essence of a resilient human spirit is that we shall thrive again, and we will move forward,” Beverly Hills City Clerk Huma Ahmed told the Courier.

“We are amazingly fortunate,” added Gold. “We live in a place which much of the world cannot even imagine. Sometimes we get lost in the aggravation of the moment, but it is important to step back and regain that perspective. Philanthropy is not a seasonal event. It should be a continuous understanding that the world around us is not so fortunate as we are and offers a continuous opportunity, within each of our own means, to help those who need that help.”

Worthy causes surround us this time of year. But the maxim that charity begins at home is also true, and it is one in which Beverly Hills excels.

“The human spirit is ultimately good, kind, loving and generous,” Vice Mayor Lili Bosse told the Courier. “Beverly Hills, although world famous and iconic throughout the world, is truly a loving, open-hearted community that feels like family. We have all been through a very challenging time, but I know with all my heart and soul that our connection to goodness and caring for one another is stronger than ever. We value giving back, civility and love. It is sacred to the core of who we are. The more we give, the better we feel. This is us.”



MAYOR ROBERT WUNDERLICH



VICE MAYOR LILI BOSSE



COUNCILMEMBER JOHN MIRISCH

The Courier reached out to community leaders in Beverly Hills to ask about charities they personally support during the holidays. To no one's surprise, their responses were far-reaching and impressive in their thoughtfulness.

Mayor Robert Wunderlich:

"Andrea and I have adopted the Shalom Institute, home of Camp JCA Shalom, as our primary organization to support. We also support a variety of organizations, but we feel that we can have greater impact by focusing on a smaller organization whose mission we enthusiastically endorse and where our efforts make more of a difference.

The Shalom Institute operates Camp JCA Shalom, a Jewish summer camp; Shemesh Farms, an organic farm providing meaningful employment and community for adults with diverse abilities and special needs; environmental educational programs; adult and family retreats; and other community activities.

The current need to support the Shalom Institute is great due to the back-to-back impacts of the Woolsey Fire, which destroyed the entire Camp facility in Malibu in November 2018, followed by the COVID pandemic. Our two children were enthusiastic campers and staffers at the Camp. We saw the enormous impact that the inclusiveness of the Camp had on them and want to make that magical experience available to others as well since Camp is an unaffordable luxury for many families. We strongly embrace the full vision of the Institute, developing community, inclusiveness, and environmental sustainability."

Vice Mayor Lili Bosse:

"The Maple Counseling Center and Beverly Hills Education Foundation (BHEF). As a Past President of BHEF and a proud alumnus of our Beverly Hills schools, BHEF is part of the essence of my being. Our Beverly Hills schools helped shape me into the person I am. Our kids are the foundation to our beautiful future of our beloved city. I will forever be grateful for the education I received by our amazing school district and vow to always pay it forward," said Bosse.

On the Maple Counseling Center: "These last few years have been so deeply challenging for all of us. I am so grateful to this beloved organization for providing a place for the community to nurture our heart, mind and soul. A safe space to build strength and insight into our mental health and provide life tools for hope and wellness."

Councilmember John Mirisch:

"Our own Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts is deserving of all the support it can get, as are two wonderful institutions in neighboring Los Angeles, the LA Philharmonic and LA Opera. Less well-known in Southern California is the New York-based Teatro Nuovo, which redefines the operatic experience for lovers of bel canto.

The California State Summer School for the Arts, held each summer at CalArts, is a wonderful program to allow our youth to develop and hone their creative talents.

I'd strongly recommend support of two nonprofits that focus on health: ASH - Action on Smoking and Health, whose Board I am privileged to serve on, and whose goal is to build a world with zero tobacco-related deaths. The UCLA Goldberg Migraine Program, started by my parents Wendy and Leonard Goldberg, is a valiant and groundbreaking attempt to find treatments and cures for a debilitating illness that impacts so many, but for which there has been so little relief over the years."

Councilmember Julian Gold, M.D.:

"First, we like to support organizations the subject of which have touched us personally, whether medical research for diseases our family has experienced or social causes which we feel are important. Secondly, we like to support organizations which support our community, not just Beverly Hills, but the community which surrounds us. This includes our city services, our religious institutions and social service organizations."

City Clerk Huma Ahmed:

"While there are many truly wonderful charities, my particular two favorites are the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank and the Maple Counseling Center. There are many families within our region who have serious food insecurities, which have been intensified during the COVID-19 pandemic. I have observed entire families struggle with sudden loss of income and/or resources. This one is special to me because no one should go hungry if we all do our part and pitch in.

Mental health groups also need a special shout out. They are dealing with an unprecedented environment with people suffering from minor to serious mental health issues. It has become increasingly difficult in the current climate because mental health impacts all ages and demographics. You just don't know what someone is going through until you walk in their shoes."

Councilmember Lester Friedman:

"The holiday season is not only a time to gather and celebrate with family but also a time to remember those not as fortunate as ourselves. Simone and I support the children at Hope Street Family Center in downtown Los Angeles. Hope Street provides prevention and no-cost early intervention services for low-income young families with the mission of educating children and strengthening families in the underserved downtown area of Los Angeles. Children are our future and educating and building strong family relationships provide a path to those disadvantaged by poverty and a lack of educational opportunities," said Friedman.



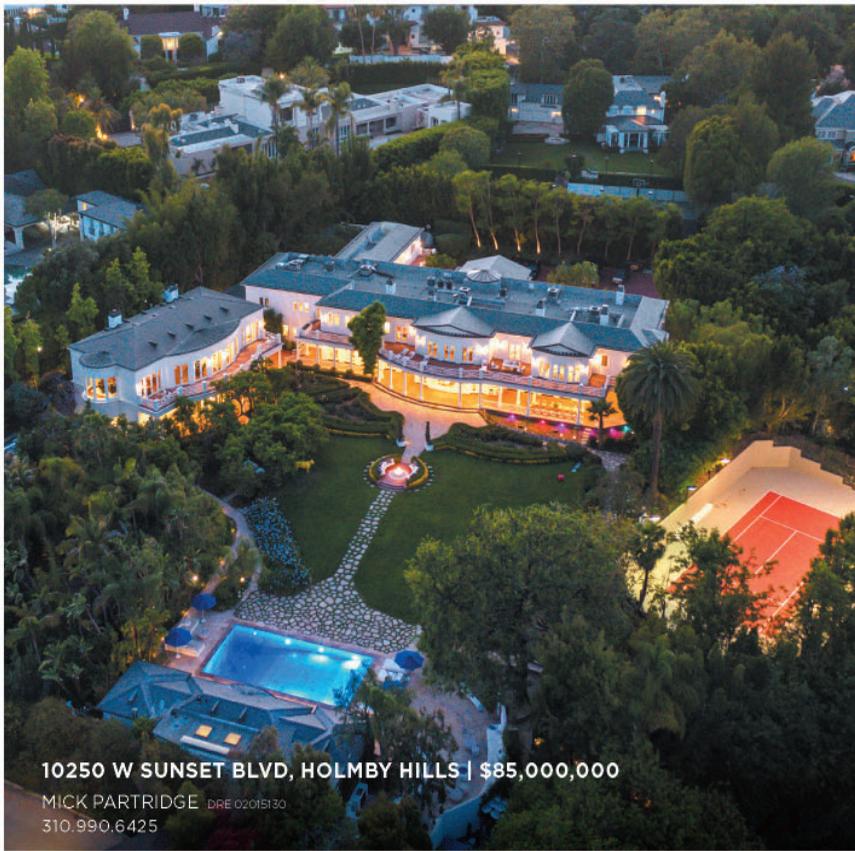
COUNCILMEMBER JULIAN GOLD, M.D.



CITY CLERK HUMA AHMED

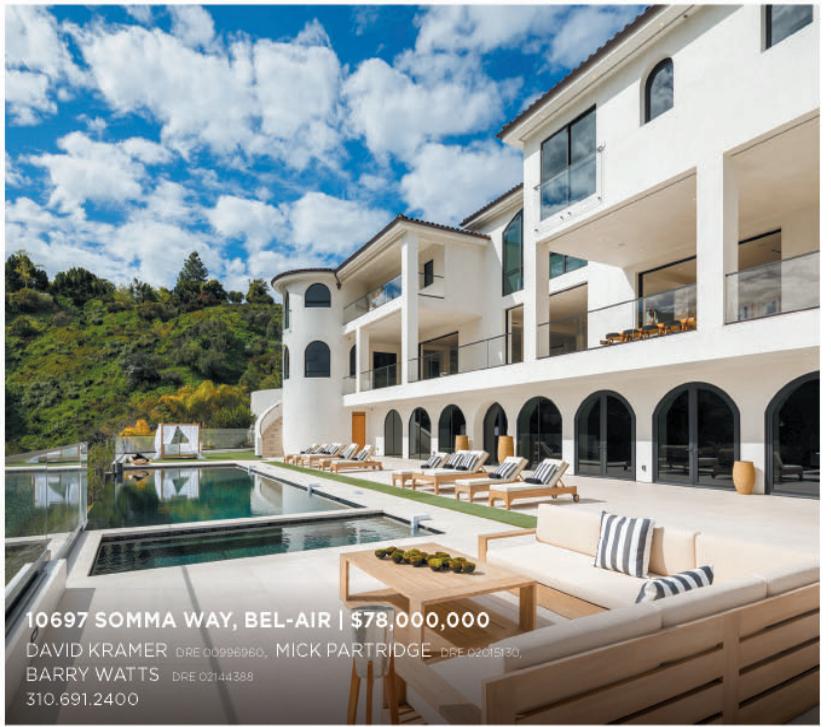


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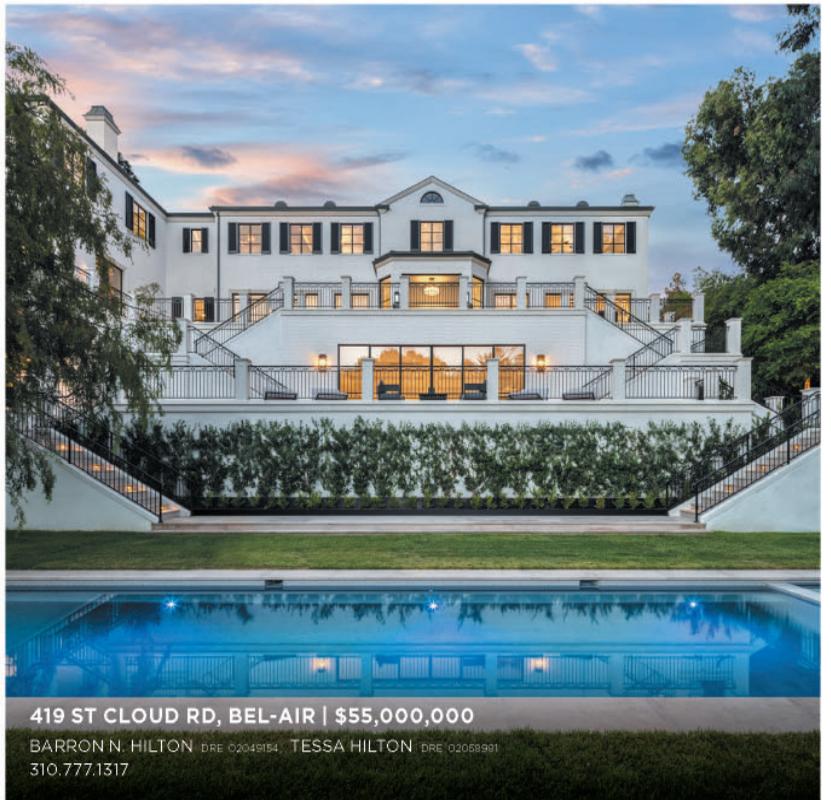
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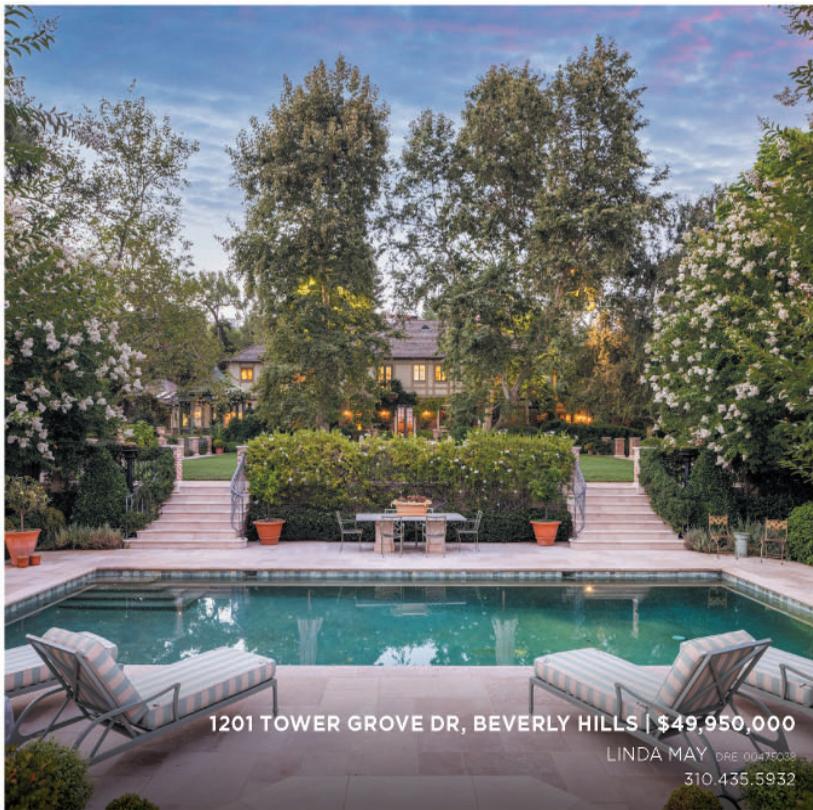
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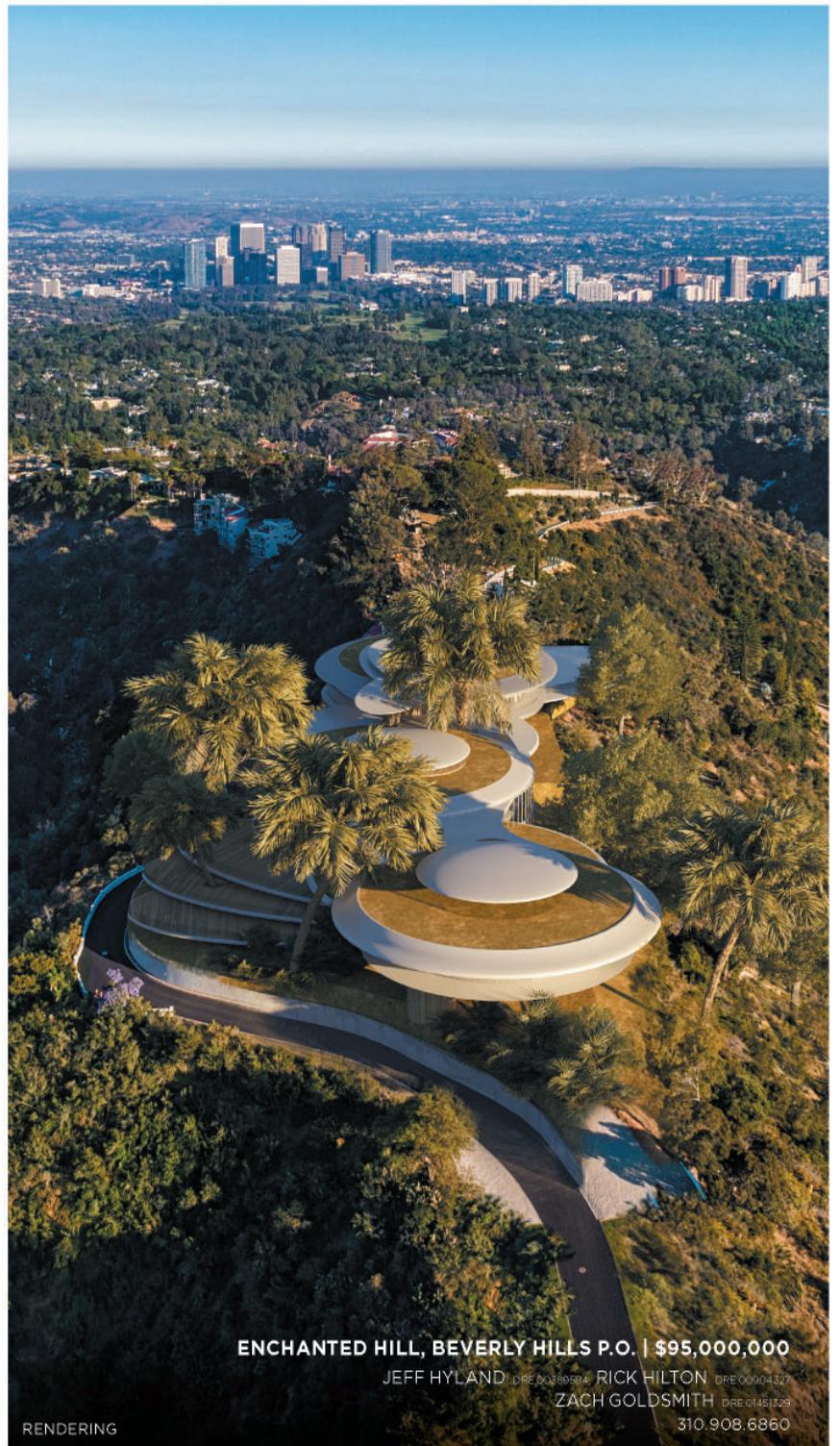
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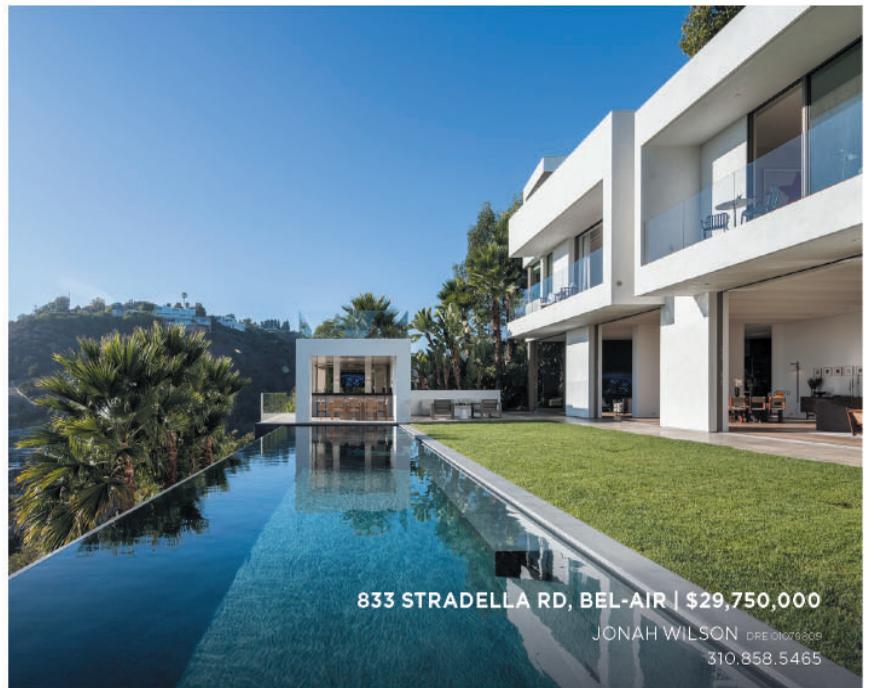
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PHOTO BY FRANCE AND JESSE

JEANIE BUSS

The Courier's Lisa Bloch sat down with Jeanie Buss to talk about her life, her leadership, and her Lakers legacy.

BY LISA BLOCH

Standing in the grand two-story lobby of the UCLA Health Training Center, I'm drawn to the large painting by Victor Matthews, an abstract tribute to 40 years of Laker legends.

"Hi Lisa!" I turn to Jeanie Buss, smiling, warm and welcoming. It's a personal greeting, not by an assistant, but the owner herself of arguably the greatest franchise in NBA history, today valued at \$4.6 billion. She moves my attention to the nearby commanding golden door, the majestic gateway all Lakers pass through every day. I begin to imagine the past and future "greats" on their way into the Laker training sanctuary, as Jeanie leads me up the imposing staircase to the executive offices.

Just outside her suite, the championship rings are displayed in a glass-encased shrine. Jeanie explains the winning story behind each uniquely designed ring. I can sense her humble pride and the fond memories they elicit. On the wall hangs a painting, by Megan Moore, depicting seven Laker superstars, commissioned by Phil Jackson for the team. Jeanie shares, "These were the guys, the core team that won 2000, 2001, 2002. It's kind of like basketball paradise."

Turning the corner, past sweet Delores, a teacup Maltese in her mini daybed, Jeanie guides me into her office. I gasp at the sight of the royal Laker procession. Eleven exquisite gold Tiffany trophies are perfectly placed on the credenza, the stunning basketball facility, their backdrop beneath. Jeanie offers, "Hear the beat of the balls bouncing? (Of course, I could.) It's the heartbeat of the center."

The Los Angeles Lakers had won 16 titles, 10 of which under the leadership of Dr. Jerry Buss. Given the franchise's championship culture, one may have thought success would come easily in the next era.

But after her father's passing, the Lakers' winning record disappeared. Jeanie knew she had to make tough decisions to win the Lakers' place back atop the mantle. Courageously, as President, she released her brother, head of basketball operations, and restored the Laker dynasty to its former glory, after a decade of absence.

Earning the most recent trophy, awarded in 2020, Jeanie led the Lakers to their 17th Championship, tying for the most ever won by one team in the NBA.

Jeanie is more than an owner; she is now the driving force behind this legendary sports franchise, and she is leading in her own style.

CEO World Magazine lists Jeanie Buss in the "top 10 most powerful women in the business of sports." Adam Silver, the Commissioner of the NBA, calls Jeanie "NBA royalty" and tells the Courier, "She has been an influential and respected voice in our league for decades."

As the first female controlling owner and President to win an NBA championship, Jeanie Buss holds the sceptre as the Queen of the Court.

Jeanie Marie was born September 26, 1961, the third of four children of Dr. Jerry and JoAnn Buss. Challenged as a young girl by the heartbreaking divorce of her parents, Jeanie found sports to be a welcome pastime. As Jerry was building his lucrative real estate business while owning and running the Los Angeles Strings, he didn't have much time for his eldest daughter. Still, he invited her, beginning at age 14, to attend many World Team Tennis meetings. In high school, Jeanie played girls basketball at Pacific Palisades High School and was the official scorekeeper for the high school boys basketball team.

Bouncing from one home to another, she entered another type of competition, the Miss USA program. Jeanie finished as a finalist in the Miss Beverly Hills Pageant and won the crown in the Miss Palisades Pageant. Upon her acceptance to USC, she decided to move full time into her father's new home, the renowned Pickfair estate in Beverly Hills. It was 1980, the year after Dr. Buss bought the Lakers and the Great Western Forum.

Within the first months of living with her dad, Magic Johnson appeared at Jeanie's front door to begin his career as a Laker. He was 19, and Jeanie was 17. In what was Magic's, Jerry's, and Jeanie's rookie year, the Buss family won their first championship, in 1980, thanks in part to fellow teammate veteran Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. With the thrill of this first victory, the absolute desire to win was forever cemented.

Under her father's tutelage, Jeanie grew more fascinated with sports. At age 19, Jerry offered her a job, while still in college, as General Manager of the Strings. He also introduced Jeanie to a young woman he was impressed with, Linda Zafrani. Forty years later Linda (now) Rambis is the Executive Director of the Lakers and works alongside Jeanie in every aspect of the Lakers' organization.

After graduating with honors in business, all the while learning by her father's side, Jeanie was appointed head of the Los Angeles Blades roller hockey team and named "Executive of the Year" by the league. Impressed with her abilities, Dr. Buss increased her role. He named her President of the Forum, while upping her responsibilities in the Laker organization including serving as the Alternate Governor on the NBA Board of Governors. In 1999, she was named Executive Vice President of Business Operations for the Lakers, and eventually, Vice President of the Lakers. At the same time David Stern, the Commissioner of the NBA, assumed Jeanie would run the Los Angeles WNBA team. But Dr. Buss corrected him and said Jeanie is going to run the Lakers one day.

During her meteoric rise, Jeanie was always guided by what felt right to her. A large picture of Jeanie as a little girl hangs on the wall behind her desk. She says that it honors the little girl in her heart and is meant to remind her not to lose that spirit in a world that can be crushing. "Little Jeanie inspires me to be strong, to remind me of who I am at the core."

JEANIE BUSS

“Jeanie learned from her father what it takes to run a successful NBA franchise. She has built on that knowledge and established her own identity and leadership style.” - NBA Commissioner Adam Silver



ARTIST: MEGAN MOORE

Always having a mind of her own, she appeared in *Playboy* after her only marriage ended in 1995. She began to receive more press attention when she was highlighted in a *Sports Illustrated* article about the Buss family headlined “She’s Got Balls.” Shortly after, Phil Jackson, of the Chicago Bulls dynasty, arrived to coach the Lakers. Jeanie began dating him, which turned into an engagement. The high-profile Los Angeles relationship ended after 16 celebrated years.

Following her father’s passing in 2013, the Laker’s ownership was placed into a trust with the beneficiaries including Jeanie, her two older brothers, her younger sister, and her two half-brothers. Jeanie became team President and the representative for the Lakers on the NBA Board of Governors while continuing to oversee the business and basketball sides of the Lakers. Her brother, Jim, became Executive Vice President of Basketball Operations.

But after three straight years of the Lakers missing playoffs, when Dr. Buss only missed the playoffs twice in 32 years, Jeanie knew she had to make changes.

“Pressure is a Privilege” says Billie Jean King, Jeanie’s dear friend. In 2017, Jeanie did not fold. Instead, she created a partnership with UCLA Health and led the building of one of the finest training facilities in the NBA. She fired her brother as head of basketball, and a nasty fight ensued in the courts and on the world stage. But Jeanie prevailed, saying she did not attain new power. She exercised the power that she had, and the judge agreed.

Jeanie asked Magic Johnson to come back to steady the ship, and the two welcomed Rob Pelinka, Kobe Bryant’s lifelong basketball manager. Together they enticed “game changer” LeBron James and reshuffled the coaching staff. Quickly it became clear the Lakers were back on their path toward greatness.

But Jeanie could not have predicted what was to come.

In 2019, less than a year after he was greatly responsible for signing LeBron James, Magic resigned, telling the press before he talked to Jeanie. Later he said, “If I talked to her first, I would have never stepped down.” Then Jeanie’s mother passed. David Stern, her close confidant and mentor, suddenly collapsed and later died. And little did she know, she was approaching one of the worst tragedies in NBA history.

One month later, Kobe was killed in a helicopter crash with his

daughter, Gianna, devastating all of Laker Nation and the world. As a warrior and leader, Jeanie pushed forward, even in the face of the impending doom of the monolithic pandemic. She remained strong, focused and determined, applying the lessons learned from all the great teachers she had along the way.

Incredibly, in the most emotionally and physically challenging year in NBA history, especially for the Lakers, Jeanie led the Lakers to win the championship title.

Her story has made history. And not just in basketball.

Jeanie is a leader who endorses female empowerment. As co-founder and investor of WOW, Women of Wrestling, Jeanie helps to provide a path for female athletes. Working toward refining leadership as a woman, and encouraging diversity, she dyes her hair rainbow colors in support of Laker Pride Night, a celebration of LGBTQIA+ history month. And this 2021-22 NBA season, Jeanie proudly welcomes Shay Murphy to the Lakers coaching staff, the second female coaching associate in the team’s history.

Having a soft spot for comedy, Jeanie is joining comedy star Mindy Kaling and comedy writing star Elaine Ko, as Executive Producer along with Linda Rambis, for a 10-episode comedy series for Netflix, based on the back office of a female-led NBA team. While Jeanie has said the show is not based on her life, she believes the nearly 40 years of backstage drama that she and Linda experienced will go a long way. It makes sense as Jeanie has dabbled with stand-up comedy and feels humor has helped her deal with her many losses.

Jeanie is also executive producing a nine-part docuseries to be released in 2022 on Hulu. Teaming up with the renowned film director Antoine Fuqua, the series will examine four decades of Laker history, and, in particular, the “Showtime” era told by the organization itself.

As a business creator, Jeanie is co-founder and co-owner of Cincoro Tequila, a portmanteau of the Spanish words for five and gold. Originating serendipitously one night in 2016, after an NBA owners meeting, five “golden” participants birthed the business idea. The diners included: Jeanie, Celtics co-owner Wyc Grousbeck and his wife Emilia Fazzalari, Charlotte Hornets owner Michael Jordan, and Milwaukee Bucks owner Wes Edens. Today the company proudly displays four different expressions of tequila.

During the pandemic, the fight for racial equity intensified. Guided by Jeanie and her Lakers, the Los Angeles community learned how sports can teach the world about hate and inequality while promoting empathy, understanding, and a path toward healing. The mural entitled “Leave a Legacy” by Gustavo Zermeño Jr. on the wall of the Bixby Coffee building in the Mid-City area exemplifies this message with Kobe on top. “In the Paint” is also a Lakers’ program Jeanie is proud of. Its mission is to “support and uplift” BIPOC artists.

Adam Silver tells the Courier, “Jeanie learned from her father what it takes to run a successful NBA franchise. She has built on that knowledge and established her own identity and leadership style. She’s inquisitive and thoughtful in her approach and has surrounded herself with other talented executives.”

As a leader, Jeanie exhibits kindness with everyone she comes in contact with, emphasizing collaboration and inclusivity. She is comfortable taking chances, first consulting the most talented people who surround her, one of the many lessons from her father. And she never loses sight of the fact that the Laker Nation is the heartbeat of what the Lakers stand for. Everyone comes together under the purple and gold flag. The platform is bigger than any individual, player or coach.

Within the NBA, Jeanie encourages and supports other teams to do their very best, believing it only makes the league better and more competitive. Commissioner Silver adds, “Jeanie is very active in league matters and is a key member of our Labor Relations and Advisory/Finance Committees. Her perspective is valued by her fellow team owners as well as the players because of her lifetime of NBA experience. She has strong opinions, but she’s also collaborative and understands how to build a consensus.”

When asked whether she would have been Governor for the Lakers if her father hadn’t owned the team, she answers, “Probably not.” But after five years of running the franchise and leading the Lakers to its first championship title in 10 years, she knows she’s got what it takes. “I deserve to be here,” says Jeanie.

An icon in our community, Jeanie has fond memories of receiving the Beverly Hills Courier on her front doorstep in Beverly Hills. Understanding the importance of community connectivity, she has happily honored the Courier with this exclusive and intimate conversation.



JEANIE WITH PORTRAIT OF MARY PICKFORD

It’s holiday time. And the city shines with festivities and lights. It’s also a time of reflection. Can you share a special Beverly Hills holiday memory?

Is there anything better than Rodeo Drive with holiday lights sparkling overhead? Beverly Hills is so beautiful at holidays. I remember one season; my dad took me to lunch at The Grill on the Alley. And he said, “I want to buy your Christmas present today. We’re going to walk over to Tiffany’s and I want you to pick out something special.” I think he knew what he wanted me to get, one of the key necklaces. But it was really about the idea that we spend the time together and create a lasting memory. It was really such a special day.

On move-in day to Pickfair, you found a surprise tucked away in a closet upstairs. What was it? And tell us about the powerful female force looking over you?

My dad bought the Pickfair estate, which was where Mary Pickford and Douglas Fairbanks, the first real movie stars of their generation, lived in Beverly Hills. When they met, they were both married to other people. They got very high-profile divorces, unusual in the 1920s. So, they were kind of shunned by the Hollywood establishment. They moved to the outskirts, to Beverly Hills, to an old hunting lodge. Hollywood was where everybody wanted to be, but they weren’t welcomed in Hollywood.

What treasure did you find?

That first day at Pickfair, I found an Oscar that was Mary Pickford’s.

An Oscar statue? Just collecting dust in the house, and no one knew about it?

Yes. They gave her the honorary Oscar, for Lifetime Achievement in 1976. One of her last appearances on-screen. She passed away in 1979 and the house went into probate. Dad made an offer of what he felt the land was worth and it was accepted. Soon I was studying everything about Mary, and she’s always been an inspiration for me ever since. She started United Artists with Charlie Chaplin, Douglas Fairbanks, DW Griffith, who was the big director, at the time. She was a woman that was at the forefront of her industry and had a seat at the table. And you know, she was the highest earning star and a brilliant business woman.

And therein lies how she has been your north star.

Yes. Beverly Hills is a really great chapter in my life.



PICKFAIR GARDEN PARTY, JEANIE AT 17 WITH FRIENDS



JEANIE EXPLAINING TRAINING CENTER DETAILS PHOTO BY FRANCE AND JESSE



JEANIE: "MAGIC STEPPED IN WHEN I NEEDED HIM THE MOST."

Soon thereafter, a tall, skinny, young man with a big smile named Magic Johnson showed up at your Beverly Hills front door. You learned a lesson in that first encounter about the power of the Lakers. What was it?

When the doorbell rang my father was busy with another matter and asked me to bring Magic into the living room, offer him something to drink. So I was making small talk. Magic said, "You know, I'm really happy that I was drafted by the Lakers, but I'm only going to sign a three-year deal because I want to go home and play for my hometown team in Michigan, the Detroit Pistons." And I went, "What??" I said, "Excuse me for a minute." And I ran upstairs to my dad and said, "You're not gonna believe what he said. He's only going to stay for three years." I'm like hyperventilating, I'm so worried about this. And my dad just calm, cool and collect, didn't miss a beat. And says, "Jeanie, the first time he puts on the Laker uniform and walks up out on the floor at the Forum, he's never going to leave." And he was exactly right, (giggles) because Magic never left. He could be the mayor of Los Angeles. He is Los Angeles!

When you began working for your father, he connected you with Linda Rambis. Tell us about this relationship.

When I started working for my dad, I was a student at USC. When he offered me the job, I said, "Oh great. Now I can quit school." And he said, "No, you have to finish school. Or you can't have the job. You either have to do both or stay and concentrate on school." And of course, I wanted the job and he said, "I want you to work with Linda," who had been working for him for a couple of years. She's an excellent marketer. My dad was so impressed with her and offered her a job on the spot after he met her. He felt that she had the street savvy, the toughness that I lacked and that we would complement each other in terms of skillset. It's been a collaboration since. I treasure it.

Title IX was passed when you were a young girl. Almost 50 years later, we are still far away from equality. In what aspects do you think we may get a little closer to equality in the NBA? More female coaches, female governors, back-office employees? And what about the male and female financial disparity?

Well, it's kind of two different things. Title IX was to give equal access to facilities, and opportunities for male and female athletes. Today you have women who are competing in sports from a young age who train hard and earn a scholarship and have their college tuition paid for. That was the goal of Title IX.

When you start talking about pay, the reason there is a discrepancy is that you get paid based on the revenue that you bring in. And so you

can't say, how can a male basketball player make so much more than a female basketball player? Well, I guarantee you, if the revenues were the same, it would be the same. And if the revenues were more in women's basketball, it would be more than men's. It's about revenue catching up. As an entrepreneur, I say, there's all these female athletes who have trained from the time they were 8, 9, 10, 11, who go on and receive a scholarship to college and compete for their school. Now what do they get to do after? These are athletes who have sacrificed a lot to be at the top of their sport. But unless you're going into the WNBA, or maybe you're a tennis player, or now there's a woman soccer league, there just aren't enough places for women to turn pro to earn money after training and dedicating themselves. So that's why I've invested in WOW, Women of Wrestling. People like me have to make opportunities for female athletes to earn a living, to have a chance to perform to a massive audience, to be given a platform, and rewards for all that dedication from the time they were children with the dream of being an athlete. And so, for me, wrestling made the most sense.

But women have been wrestling.

Only as part of men's wrestling, the side show, the undercard match. They didn't ever get to be the center stage. They didn't get to be the show. And so, WOW is an all-female wrestling league and it's just like wrestling, good versus evil, women standing up for what they believe in, right or wrong, misguided or not. They will fight with passion and, let them fight it out in the ring. Wrestling has some of the greatest athletes that we've ever seen, and it's given a platform to people like Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, John Cena, and Hulk Hogan. They've had a chance to become superstars because of the platform and the personality and the athleticism that they have. Where is that for women? This is a small investment I can make. And it's me personally. It's not the Lakers doing this. This is from my own funds. This is from my own passion. And I want to see these women have a chance to be the stars they were meant to be.

In the NBA, there are less than a handful of female owners in a pool of 30 NBA teams. What about referees? What about coaches, assistant coaches, trainers, women who really understand basketball, not just great players? When will we see more opportunities for women in the NBA?

Compared to where it started 30 years ago? We have so many more female referees in the training system coming up who are gaining the experience to call games in the NBA. It may not be perfect now, but the changes that I've seen in my 30 years are amazing. It's only a matter of



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BILLIE JEAN KING AND JEANIE



JEANIE AND LAKERS' GENERAL MANAGER ROB PELINKA

time that it'll be more reflective of the population. And in all aspects of the business, the front office, ticket sales, broadcasting, sponsorship sales. It's been great to see the evolution. And, you know, if I can inspire the next... I hope that's the case.

With over 400K Twitter followers, tell us about your Twitter profile picture.

Sports Illustrated was doing a story on my family. It was 1998. They interviewed both my older brothers, my younger sister, myself and my father about the family, but about my dad really, and what his plans were with the Lakers when he retired. This was before they had even moved to STAPLES Center. My dad told us all to cooperate with the story, which included a photo shoot. So they sent a photographer to my house. He comes in and he explains to me how he wants to do the picture. Well, I snapped and quickly declined because I told him that I thought he was just trying to make me look foolish. And he goes, "I'm really sorry, but I don't know who you are. I'm a fashion photographer. I've never been hired by Sports Illustrated before. They told me to come and take a picture of you. And the only requirement that I had was I had to somehow put basketballs in the picture. I was trying to find inspiration." He said, "I found that how Italian women hold melons, it's like from your heart." And I go, kind of like a pin-up shot. I love pin-up stars like Rita Hayworth and Betty Grable. I wasn't naked for the shoot, I was wearing a bathing suit, but I didn't realize he could photograph me in a way that you wouldn't know if I was wearing anything or not. And it ended up being this beautiful picture, like a 1940's pin-up. Sports Illustrated loved it so much that they changed the entire article to "She's Got Balls."

A great name for you today.

It foreshadowed a lot. I've had corporate people tell me "I don't know if we can work with you. You have to change your Twitter picture." And I'm like, what are you telling me? To censor a picture that was in Sports Illustrated? It's like, no. I'm not changing it.

In 1995 you were featured in Playboy. What inspired you to do it?

I was coming out of a divorce. I was 32 years old at the time, and I'd always wanted to model in Playboy. My Aunt Susan was a Playboy bunny. My dad owned the Playboy Club in Phoenix, Arizona. Playboy was part of my life. My dad was very good friends with Hugh Hefner, but I auditioned like any other person who wanted to pose for the magazine. They had to send my pictures to Chicago to be approved. I never mentioned anything to my dad until they approved me as a model.

You were called a model?

Yes. I wasn't a centerfold. I didn't qualify.

What a loss for them.

(giggling) No, seriously. It was an experience that I did for me. It was for my own personal growth and coming to terms with who I am and fulfilling a dream. Jimmy Connors, a friend, and member of the L.A. Strings tennis team married a former Playmate of the Year, Patti McGuire. I always looked up to her, and I remember asking her about it. And she said, "Once you do it, it will always be part of your life. You'll be somewhere and when you least expect it, somebody will walk up and ask you to sign a copy of the magazine." Still, to this day, I get people sending me photographs to autograph. And I feel if people take the time to mail them to me and ask me to sign them, then it's something that you do. But Patti was right; it lives forever.



It wasn't enough to play the game—
we're redefining it.

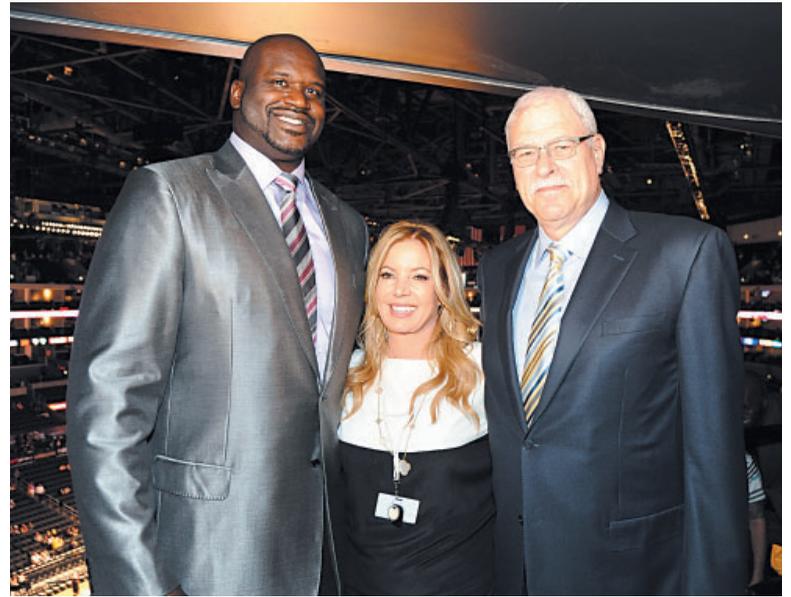

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JEANIE, MAYOR ERIC GARCETTI, AND LINDA RAMBIS AT A GAME



SHAQUILLE O'NEAL, JEANIE, AND PHIL JACKSON

You have said in the press that Dr. Buss was worried; you were so ambitious that you wouldn't create a family. You have also said in the press recently that you are mom now to your players.

And when I become grandma, that's when I have to resign (giggles). No, I mean, now I am the age of the parents of most of our players. When I was in the relationship with Phil Jackson, he was definitely the father figure for many of them. And so, it was a natural fit for me to evolve into that role of mother. That was an important time for me to understand as a role model.

You're the mother to all these young players, and the kids keep coming and keep coming.

And it's hard when they leave the nest. It's very hard on me.

Tell us about your mom. We hear so much about your dad. How did she influence you?

My mom just was a sweetheart. I have her laugh and anybody that met her would use the words kind and sweet smile. I like to think that's what I got from her.

Were you close?

Not as close as I was with my dad. I wasn't interested in cooking and homemaking. When I was a kid, my dad would send me out for donuts or whatever, and then I'd deliver the donuts and then I wouldn't leave the room. I'd go sit in the corner, and listen to what they were talking about. I found business fascinating.

In an effort to support your athletes off the court, you have created an environment that encourages their outside interests, in particular their entrepreneurial pursuits. Why is this important?

There would be some people in my position over the years who would say, "Hey, the players made a lot of money, once they're gone, I don't care what happens to them." And to me, it's like, once you've been a Laker, you reflect on our organization, whether you're currently playing or 20 years after you retire. You are part of the Laker family, the Laker brand. It's important that anyone who has been on the Laker team is healthy and thriving and doing well.

Please tell us more about your relationship with Phil Jackson.

He just bowled me over. Like, wait a minute, what's the deal with this guy? As soon as I heard his voice, there was something about his voice that I just knew. And I said to him, if we're going to date, then it has to

come with full disclosure because it will compromise the organization, me and my family. I'm not doing anything on the down low. I'm on a mission of living in truth. Truth was what I was seeking in a relationship, and in my being. That's what attracted him to me.

At the time, I knew how the business worked, but I really didn't understand how the basketball worked. We met at the right time. Being in a relationship with Phil Jackson for over 15 years, it became the most influential relationship of my life. Phil taught me so much about looking at the players as individuals and looking at them as whole, not just them on the court, but their whole surroundings, the whole player holistically. An example is that before the holidays, Phil would go to the bookstore and spend hours picking out books for each individual player. And then when they would go on that road trip, he would hand out books, not just like everybody. He chose specifically books for each player. Shaq would do a book report and like some guys really read them, but there were a lot of guys that would throw them in their locker and forget about them and, sometimes even make fun. I finally said to Phil, after a couple of years, you don't get the appreciation for what you put into it. And he said, "Jeanie, the message isn't just for today. That book will sit on their shelf. And maybe when they become a father or maybe 10 years down the line, they're going to pick up that book. And the message is still there." I definitely learned a lot from him, no doubt.

He must have taught you a lot about you.

Yes. And I treasure that so much. It was an enriching time in my life plus a lot of fun winning championships.

Why is your relationship in the right place today?

He's very happy in retirement, and he spends the majority of his time in Montana. I just wasn't ready to be retired. And there's not a lot for me to do in Montana. Our lives just kind of drifted apart when he took the job in New York. They made us sign an agreement that we wouldn't talk about basketball while he was working for another team. We're still friends today.

Can we talk about your championship ring? I can't help but notice how beautiful it is.

Thank you. This is the female version of the ring. The player version, the lid actually comes off and displays the retired Laker numbers. I can't wear a ring like that and type. This is the right size for me. The L is our secondary logo you see on the uniform. It was nice to feature that, the purple stone, and scores of each round in the playoffs.

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Believing changes had to be made in the Laker organization, you dismissed your brother from his responsibilities, which caused a public family feud. That must've been incredibly difficult.

The majority of businesses in this country are family-owned businesses. Yes, that makes it difficult. But for me, it was what my dad had set up. I would run the business side of the operation and my brother would run the basketball side. He (Jerry) told me many times, if you have to make a change, then you have the authority to make a change. I think everything will be fine and you won't have to. I was patient with my brother. But I was receiving pressure from our stakeholders, like our broadcast partners, our sponsors, our fans, who are the most important. And I couldn't explain their decision process because we had a coach like Mike Brown, who is a great coach, but he's a very defensive minded coach. Then they let him go. They brought in Mike D'Antoni, another great coach, but a very offensive minded coach. When you have a roster of players, you can't switch your roster fast enough to really give that coach an opportunity to be successful. So, we were going through coaches every 18 months. The way Phil would explain it to me is that when you run a team, you first decide, what kind of team do you want to be?

And my dad very, very clearly defined that Showtime entertaining and winning style. Then the next decision you make is who's going to coach that team in that style. When you hire that coach, then you want to give him the players to run that style of play. What they had was all over the map. It was not leading to success. And I'm responsible for revenues and expenses, forecasting 12 months, 24 months, 36 months out in order to plan.

Then he (Jim) was signing players to long-term contracts that were going to put us in a position that would take years to recover from. I turned to Magic Johnson who I trusted and the fans trusted. The Lakers winning is the most important thing to him. He was frustrated with the way things were going with the team. And it's a reflection on him too, even though he wasn't officially part of the organization. But when people see Magic Johnson walking down the street, and ask what's wrong with your Lakers, he had to own it. He told me, I want to help, what can I do? I said, here's what I'm seeing. Can you tell me if you see things the same way? Well, he saw things exactly the same way I did. Of course, we were basically raised by the same person, my dad. I asked him to come in and consult. That created friction and I was afraid that my brother was going to do something that was going to be really detrimental to the team. I made a very quick decision to remove him from his position and put Magic in that job.

You had the legal right to do that?

I knew I had the legal right. He (Jim) didn't understand. That's why it played out in court. He found a legal group who felt they had a loophole and we needed a judge to interpret it. And the judge agreed and confirmed; it's right there in the document.

That's why it was important to me to have Magic, to calm everybody down, to know that if he came back to the organization and to work with me, that he knew that we would be going in the right direction. And he changed everything for us. He turned the team around and brought us LeBron James. Magic stepped in when I needed him the most.

Which made it that much harder when he stepped down.

You know the demands of his job are hard. You have to be here every day, and he's earned the right to not have to work 24/7. It wears on you. He got us going in the right direction, and he knew from there we'd be okay. It was really the right decision.



JEANIE WEARING WOW CHAMPIONSHIP BELT



JEANIE AND DELORES ON A BIKE RIDE



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“I think as time goes on, the appreciation for him (Kobe) and what he stood for will grow. And, I will make sure of that. That’s my commitment.”



JEANIE VISITING “LEAVE A LEGACY” MURAL

So it was not a shock that it happened?

It was a shock. It was the last game of the season. Tim Harris, our Chief Operating Officer, calls me on my cell phone. I’m like, “I’m sorry I’m late, I have a flat tire.” He tells me, “Magic just quit.” And I’m like, “What are you talking about?” And he says, “He’s on camera right now.”

As time has passed, I realized what happened was he was looking for me and he couldn’t find me because I was late. With Magic, he wears his heart on his sleeve. If this is what he’s feeling, he’s got to deal with it right then. And that’s what he did. In retrospect, he said, if I did see her, she probably would have talked me out of it.

And so, while it was a shock, I understand it. And we’re in a really good place. He’s so proud of what we accomplished, and I’m grateful because it wouldn’t have happened without him. Everything worked out the way it was supposed to work out.

After all of your losses of 2019 and 2020 compounded by the pandemic, the enormity of the pressure was unimaginable. What helped you get through? A little help from Delores (sitting in her lap)?

It has been a lot, but I rely on my friendships and therapy. For example, after Kobe passed, our partners at UCLA Health supplied us with grief counselors, not only for our players, but also our entire staff. You know, in the immediate, it’s so heartbreaking. You’re stunned, in shock.

When we returned to basketball, LeBron led us on the court. He talked about how we need to be together and work as a community. It was about getting back to being together, which is through basketball. And you know, he was the beacon for all of us, and he was devastated too.

The impact on the young generation, on our generation, we all are still mourning.

The loss of Kobe is only going to grow more and more profound as time goes on. There’s a void that can never be filled, a hole. He was the player of a generation. I didn’t realize he did that for so many athletes in all other sports. Like when Naomi Osaka won the USA event. She talked about Kobe. She wore his Jersey in her press conference. I had no idea how much he had helped her. He just was the most generous spirit. I could call him, bounce things off of him. He was that kind of person. He’s irreplaceable.

Is there anything else you want to share, as you were so close with him?

He was genuine. The things he said are still timely. You remember all the things that were important to him or what he valued. Hard work, the Mamba mentality, do whatever it takes to win, be at the gym first and put in the work. When you get knocked down, you get right back up.

He showed us exactly what that meant, and that’s who he was. A smart, strategic, good communicator, thoughtful about the bigger picture. It’s no wonder he became a filmmaker.

Remembering him, you just lit up.

I want to live in those moments instead of thinking of the tragedy and the void, the loss, and the emptiness. He made everybody feel good. I think as time goes on, the appreciation for him and what he stood for will grow. And, I will make sure of that. That’s my commitment.

The mural “Leave a Legacy” shows Kobe overlooking the championship year. Standing there as it’s being erected, what did you feel?

Anytime the team can be reflected in street art, it’s authentic. L.A. is so spread out and so diverse, but a mural can unite us. There’s something sacred about that because it’s organic and it’s coming from the people. Once we won the championship, that was the first place I went.

Gustavo Zermeño Jr. (the artist) added Kobe because Kobe was part of the team. He was a part of the inspiration. I get the chills thinking about that. And because of the pandemic, we weren’t allowed to have a celebration. I had to go somewhere and I went to the mural because that felt like a celebration to me. And, you know, at the hour that I was there, people were driving from all over, just coming to take pictures in front of the mural. It was a place to go and reflect on the win. STAPLES Center was locked down. There was just no place to express that joy.

What does it mean that you’ve taken the Laker organization from a non-racist organization to an anti-racist organization?

It means that we are finding ways to be more proactive in doing things to encourage understanding and creating opportunities for all people of color.

There are those who believe that you earned two championships for the herculean feat of holding the team together after the tragedy when others on other teams folded under the “bubble” pressure. Others say that it was a short season, an aberration and not exactly deserved. What do you say?

We were the last team standing and whatever rules or circumstances, we still won. I think it was by far the most difficult because of not having friends or family or the things that comfort you like a pet. They (the players) sacrificed a lot to be in that bubble. And they gave Los Angeles something to cheer about in a year that was so heartbreaking. It would have been easy for them to fold. Instead, they showed resiliency and rose to the challenge.

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JEANIE AND LISA IN JEANIE'S OFFICE PHOTO BY FRANCE AND JESSE

Players and agents believe that if you are a free agent, the best place to go is Los Angeles. Why is having the oldest roster in the NBA not a handicap, as some critics suggest, but an asset for season success?

Instead of old, I like to say we're the least young. What we have is veteran experience. But we need to stay healthy. Every team has its share of injuries. You hope through work and preparation that you've minimized the effect of potential injuries, and your team can play to its potential. The front office has put together a team that compliments each other. With the addition of Russell Westbrook and Trevor Ariza, we have two players who are from L.A. and played for UCLA. They want to make their hometown proud. We must play the games to truly know if we have a team that can compete for a championship.

Between launching and executive producing the Netflix comedy series and executing on stand-up comedy, it's clear the need to laugh is important to you. But to be a performer and stand up in front of an audience and tell jokes, that's bold of you. Especially since you have a very different day job. Tell us about your thinking behind doing this.

That was a challenge to myself to do something I admire. I consider stand-up comedians to be the bravest of all performers as they bare their soul on stage. I believe that humor allows us to process things that are uncomfortable as well as talk about subjects that might not be popular,

but need to be discussed. Having a sense of humor allows people to kind of disarm and diffuse sensitive issues.

Whether you agree with what people have to say, we need to hear each other. We need to listen to how other people think and process. And maybe that's what allows us to change our minds or move closer to a consensus. I think comedy is a powerful tool.

What do you want your legacy to be?

My dad said to me, "You're not going to do everything the same way I did it. You have to be free to evolve the business as necessary."

I like to think that I continued his legacy and built upon it. But it kind of weighs you down. You think, how do I live up to all what came before me?

It's about writing your own chapter in the history books. Every member of the team and staff gets to contribute. It isn't about carrying around 17 trophies on your back. It's about you being the best that you can be and adding to it.

There'll be somebody else after me to carry on because I won't be here forever. And I hope the person who's making these decisions will hold the same values and continue with what Laker fans have grown to love and expect from this organization.

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Exercise Makes You Smarter During the Holidays and Always



BY EVA RITVO, M.D.

Beverly Hills Courier columnist Dr. Eva Ritvo is a psychiatrist with 30 years experience practicing in Miami Beach. She is the author of “Bekindr-The Transformative Power of Kindness” and the Co-Founder of the Bold Beauty Project. Dr. Ritvo received her undergraduate and medical degrees from UCLA and psychiatry residency training at Weill Cornell Medicine.

If you do one thing during the holidays, it should be this: get up and move!

It is so enticing this time of year to stay huddled around friends and family, indulging in festive meals and celebrations. That is definitely part of what makes the holidays special. But it is also important to put exercise on your list of priorities. In fact, research shows that exercise pays off in more ways than previously recognized.

We all know that exercise will make you look and feel better. But did you also know that it makes you smarter? Forget the old “dumb jock” stereotype! A dear friend of mine with a Harvard M.B.A. says he looks for rowers when he is seeking new hires. He says they are usually brighter, harder working and really understand the mechanics of working as a team.

Studies from around the world have conclusively shown that regular exercise leads to enhanced memory, mood, cognitive functioning, and learning capabilities. It even makes your brain larger! It also helps prevent neurological changes associated with aging and several neurological diseases.

If you haven't been convinced or inspired enough yet to make exercise a part of your daily routine, here are a few insights to get you moving. And if you have already made exercise a part of your life, I hope you enjoy learning a bit more about how it works.

Tip 1: Bring on the BDNF

Our brains secrete an amazing chemical called brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF). When you exercise, you secrete higher levels of BDNF, which allows you to make new neurons in your brain, mostly in the hippocampus. The hippocampus mediates several higher brain functions, such as learning, memory, and spatial coding. When you add new neurons in this region, you will see improvement in any or all of these areas.

If you think about it, it makes perfect sense. When our hunter-gatherer ancestors ran off to chase dinner, they had to find their way home without Google Maps. So, when they went out for a trek, their brains secreted BDNF to help them get back safely. Those who were best at doing so survived and passed their genes to us.

Once we recognize the powerful role of BDNF, we owe it to ourselves and our children to make sure exercise is a major part of our daily routine. It no longer makes sense to say, “I don't have time to exercise,” or “I've got too much to do to get ready for the holidays.” The fact is, everything you do after the exercise will be more efficient. I wish I knew this when I was in medical school and gave up four years at the gym for my chair in the library.

Tip 2: Promote positive effects

Certainly, you have heard of the “runner's high.” Exercise increases the number of neurotransmitters like serotonin, dopamine and norepinephrine and endorphins, which are known to accelerate information processing and make us feel better. When these chemicals are released together, they result in hyperstimulation of the mind, which allows for an increased focus of attention and reaction time for at least two hours. So, if you have a mentally challenging task to do, the optimal time is up until two hours after your work-out, which explains the large crowd we used to see at the gym in the early morning.

Exercise also has antidepressant effects. Studies have shown that as little as one hour a week can decrease the risk of relapsing to a

depression. Not only are you boosting your happy chemicals, but you are also giving your brain an opportunity to enhance clearance of cortisol, which makes you feel anxious and stressed. This means that those who frequently exercise are more equipped to manage stress and control their emotions better.

As your heart rate increases during exercise, blood flow to the brain increases. As blood flow increases, your brain is exposed to more oxygen and nutrients. This leads to enhanced blood vessel growth in areas of the brain associated with rational thinking as well as social, physical and intellectual performance.

Tip 3: Pass on benefits to your progeny

You can make your unborn children smarter. It's true. Studies have shown that babies born to moms who exercised regularly during pregnancy performed better at age 5 on general intelligence tests and oral language skills. Other studies found increases in math and language tests. And one research group was able to show that three months of regular exercise changed the DNA in men's sperm in genes associated with Schizophrenia, Parkinson's disease and other brain disorders, theoretically reducing the likelihood of these diseases manifesting in their offspring.

Tip 4: Stick with it

Regular exercise has been shown to counteract diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's as well as age-related mental impairment and atrophy. Moderate levels of exercise enforce the human body's antioxidant defense system. It's important not to overdo it, though. Not all of us are cut out to be professional athletes. Extreme exercise has been shown to disrupt a number of metabolic and physiological processes and can lead to impaired cognitive performance. According to guidelines published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, adults should get at least 150 to 300 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic activity, like brisk walking or fast dancing, each week. Adults also need muscle-strengthening activity, like lifting weights or doing push-ups, at least two days each week. Gain even more benefits by being active at least 300 minutes (five hours) per week. Increase amount and intensity gradually over time. Bigger gains have been suggested with more complex activity, which requires you to build or acquire a skill. An example of this is exercise that challenges your balance or thinking, like tennis, yoga or dancing.

Tip 5: Play well with others

According to the renowned psychiatrist Ira Glick, M.D., “Most sports serve several functions from a mental perspective. First, drive discharge (i.e., the ability to use the sport to divert strong aggressive and competitive drives to useful outlets). Second, playing with others lends itself to increasing self-esteem and mastery. Third, and arguably most important and a crucial feature is the ability to delay gratification.”

As you can see, the reasons to work out are plentiful. As we go through the second holiday season of the pandemic, we should remain focused on our health. Exercise is the best way to combat the stress that tends to increase this time of year. So, grab some shoes and get out there. Invite family members to join you in some robust activities at the beautiful parks and walking tracks in Beverly Hills. We are so fortunate to live in an area where the weather is hospitable almost all the time. There's no reason your holidays can't be happy as well as healthy.

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Electrifying Your Holiday Wish List



BY TIM LAPPEN

The Courier's Fine Autos Contributor Tim Lappen is the Fine Autos Editor for Haute Living, Haute Time, Haute Residence and Haute Auto and a partner in a Century City law firm, where he chairs his firm's Family Office Group and the Luxury Home Group. He can be reached at TLappen@gmail.com, and his website is www.LifeInTheFastLane.org.



THE LUCID AIR PROMISES ELECTRIC LUXURY WITH RANGE TO SPARE.

“**M**ay you live in interesting times.” Based on your age and where you went to school, that phrase can mean several different things. But it’s used here to reflect that we are on the cusp of a new age, a time when “electric car” or even “hybrid” doesn’t mean “counterculture” or “eco-freak” or any of the many slightly pejorative connections which these cars may have had in the past. Today’s offerings include hyper-luxury and ultra-sophisticated options which can meet, and even exceed, what the best of the “normal” ICE (internal-combustion engine) choices can provide.

This piece covers some of the newest and most-sophisticated cars around and includes several vehicles which are fully—or partially—motivated by electricity. And note they come from a disparate group of manufacturers worthy of a United Nations meeting: America, England, Italy and Germany. And, when you consider from where some of their major components were sourced, even more nations are at the party.

Here are six of the latest and greatest worthy of your consideration. And to make things easier for you, most of these cars have Westside showrooms so you easily can stop by and see them for yourself.

Lucid Air - Lucid is a relatively new entry to the car world. Originally a battery-manufacturing firm, it morphed into a car company and, most recently, had a public offering. Based in Newark (Northern California), this firm decided that having the first vehicle be a luxury version, called the “Air,” was the way to go. Four variants have been announced—the Air Pure, the Air Touring, the Air Grand Touring and the Air Dream—and their base prices range from just over \$77,000 to about \$170,000. With a projected range (depending on battery, body size, etc.) of up to a whopping 520 miles, they aim to make “range anxiety” a thing of the past. Lucid opened a sales office on Wilshire Boulevard in Beverly Hills to show the world that they, indeed, had a real car for the real world. The electric motor can produce up to 1,111 horsepower (not a typo) and can move one model of this luxury car from 0-60 in 2.5 seconds (yes, that’s quick!) on up to a top speed of a reported 186 mph. (Put that in your hemp pipe and smoke it!) Battery charging has been improved, too, so you can add about 300 miles of driving with a high-speed charger in about 20 minutes. (Note that, with electric cars, range, performance, charging speed and other metrics can vary depending upon a variety of issues, including choice of battery, temperature, driving conditions and type of charger used.) The Lucid Air definitely is a four-door sedan worth checking out.

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McLaren Speedtail - The McLaren brand, as an automotive manufacturing company, only dates back some 30-plus years, but they were involved with the industry long before that. New Zealander Bruce McLaren started his eponymous company in 1963 as a racing team. In the mid-1980s, McLaren Cars (later McLaren Automotive) was formed and that led (to the delight of hypercar aficionados everywhere) to the 1990 creation of the F1, a supercar that sold for close to \$1 million (back when that was a lot of money for a car) and which today can fetch in the \$20 million range. A few McLaren supercars have shown up since (here's looking at you, P1 and Senna), but the Speedtail is considered the worthy mantle-wearer to the F1's crown. A hypercar with both gasoline and electric motors to get it going, it boasts a total of 1,036 horsepower (!) and has the street cred to back it up. With 0-60 in 2.8 seconds, the top speed is 250 mph, all at a price of over \$2 million. Just a glance at the extremely-long rear tail and the fully covered front wheels gives you an idea that this is a car going places, and quickly. While some of the other cars in this article are a little more about Point A-to-Point B driving, perhaps even spiritedly, the Speedtail is about Point A to anywhere with lightning speed and razor-sharp handling.



THE SPEEDTAIL IS STRIKING INSIDE AND OUT.



CRUISE IN SILENT, ELECTRIC, TECHNOLOGY-ASSISTED, CADILLAC LUXURY.

Cadillac LYRIQ - This definitely isn't your father's—or anyone else's—Cadillac as it's not yet available, but it will be soon—an all-electric Cadillac four-door crossover starting with the 2023 model year (though deliveries are scheduled to commence during the first half of 2022). Reservations opened in September and sold out in 10 minutes! Why? Well, it's great looking, has a ton of special features and people (finally) are loving (or at least are accepting) fully-electric cars. The specs—a Cadillac-estimated 340 horsepower and a Cadillac-estimated over 300 miles of range with a full charge. With high-speed DC fast charging for properly equipped public stations, owners can add an estimated 76 miles of range in about 10 minutes of charging time and with home charging, it offers a segment-leading 52 miles of range per hour of charge. Special features? Here's a teaser: Available Super Cruise, the industry's first true hands-free driver-assistance technology for compatible roads; a brilliant 33-inch-diagonal advanced LED display with the ability to emit over 1 billion colors; Cadillac's next-generation Active Noise Cancellation system; Slim-line LED headlamps with choreographed lighting sequence; and an AKG Studio 19-speaker audio system with headrest speakers. Sound good? Get to your local Cadillac dealer.

Happy Holidays



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Maserati MC20 - Many of us have seen the two and four-door Maseratis around town, mostly the Quattroportes, Ghiblis and Levantes. However, the far rarer MC20 is right at home with its supercar competition. Developed with a mid-engine twin-turbo 3.0-liter V6 developing 621 horsepower, 530 pound-feet of torque, the MC20 knocks off 0-60 in under 2.9 seconds and has a top speed of 202 mph. A hand-built production supercar, it gets its name from “Maserati Corse,” which means “Maserati Racing” in Italian. Twenty have been built so far and deliveries are scheduled to start right around the date you’re reading this. Pricing starts at \$212,000, but the typical U.S. buyer adds the carbon fiber package and a few other options, bringing the average sales price to about \$275,000. So far, the most popular color combination is the launch color, which is Bianco Audace (“Bold White”), a special matte warm white with a blue mica iridescent sheen, which gives the car the look of a marble when sun hits it.



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THE MERCEDES-MAYBACH S580 IS UNMISTAKABLY A MERCEDES S-CLASS WITH ALL THE FEATURES OF THE FUTURE.

Mercedes-Maybach S580 - You may recall the Maybach (pronounced “My-bach”) name from when, in 2002, Mercedes decided to create an upmarket sub-brand, perhaps to compete with the BMW/Rolls-Royce family of vehicles. However, that foray was not overly successful and production stopped a few years later. Then, a few years ago, Mercedes brought back the name (it’s the last name of William Maybach, Mercedes’ chief designer in the early years), and the model profiled here is the Mercedes-Maybach S580, a high-end S-class (and they also are offering a Mercedes-Maybach GLS, a very high-end SUV). With a price starting at \$184,900, it’s certainly near the top of the S-class sedan price range, but the creature comforts available on this car – fully-reclining rear seats, wine refrigerator, crystal goblets, etc. – put it in a class by itself. Its closest competitor would be a rolling palace. As expected, it drives like a dream, rides like a cloud, and coddles the occupants.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LUCID MOTORS, MCLAREN AUTOMOTIVE, CADILLAC/GENERAL MOTORS, MASERATI NORTH AMERICA, AND MERCEDES-BENZ USA

Ferrari Purosangue - Last but certainly not least (and certainly not yet here), this latest offering from Maranello is so new that it’s really little more than a well-leaked secret. There’s no official photo or drawing, and the only available pictures are ones created by artists (and we can’t use those here). The company’s leadership was famous for saying that Ferrari never would create an SUV, but time changes (and pronouncements sometimes pass with their proclaimers). The luxury-SUV segment of the industry has been a huge success for Porsche, Audi, Bentley, Lamborghini, Rolls, Range Rover, BMW, Mercedes, Aston Martin, Alfa Romeo and Maserati, so it seemed inevitable that Ferrari would join this rolling party at some point. The rumor is that the Ferrari Purosangue (which literally means “pure blood” but colloquially means “thoroughbred”) will arrive late in 2022 or in 2023 with a price in the mid-\$300,000s. It presumably will be an all-wheel drive SUV (as most of today’s SUVs are) with a front-engine, possibly with a hybrid component but likely to have a Ferrari V8 or even V12 to motivate it (and also to provide a soundtrack that Ferraristas have come to know and love). That’s all we have so far, but at least you now know that it’s coming to a driveway near you.

We hope that you’ve enjoyed this little sojourn into the land of luxury and exotica. If you hurry, you may be able to have your holiday dream delivered on time to enjoy it for the New Year.

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