

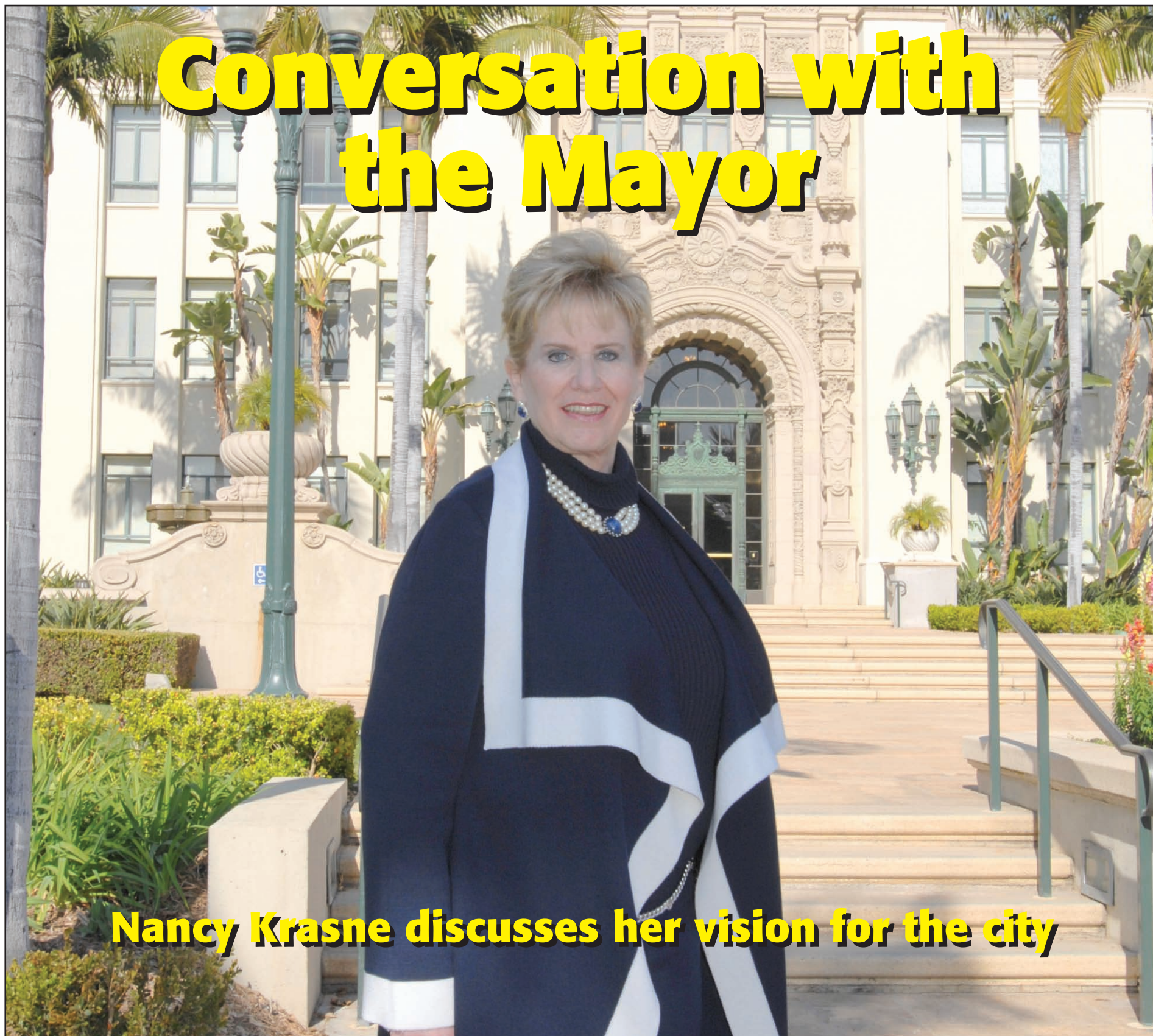
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Issue 496 • April 2 - April 8, 2009

Conversation with the Mayor



Nancy Krasne discusses her vision for the city



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SNAPSHOT

letters & email

"You heard it here first"
[Issue 495]

It is quite rare that I feel the need to write regarding Rudy Cole's column - However, I wanted to relay my perspective on comments made supporting the functionality of the Board of Education.

The Beverly Hills Board of Education has not been a 'well functioning' board. If you speak to the board members individually, as I have...each of them will tell you that they are not a well functioning board. There is a tremendous amount of in- fighting both publicly and off camera. There have been personal assaults, emails, letters to the editor against fellow board members, and frankly a significant issue of lack of respect to one another.

What I am stating is a FACT and not a matter of opinion.

This has become such a problem within our community that Jon and I are underwriting one of the Country's best Facilitators to help them function more professionally and respectfully as a board. President Meshkaty announced this at the last board meeting.

Mr. Cole mentions Dr. Brian Goldberg. Dr. Goldberg was the one who suggested to me that the Board have a facilitator work

with them because of how dysfunctional they are- he told me that I was the only one that he knew that could get them all to agree to it..and in fact, he was right. Initially, I believe each member did not think that even such a retreat would make a difference since their manner in behaving towards each other was so divisive..but, then they all did agree to do this.

Board functionality is not about if mem-

bers agree on issues- I think strong differences of opinion are important and healthy- but this Board of Education has had no professionalism and public demeanor in the manner of how they agree to disagree — RESPECT is expected and deserved by our community.

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Beverly Hills

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CHANGING OF THE GUARD WILSHIRE BOULEVARD

Madame Mayor and the new city council at the Installation Ceremony Tuesday night at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

From left: Dr. Willie Brien, Jimmy Delshad, Nancy Krasne, Barry Brucker, and John Mirisch

Beverly Hills Weekly

Issue 496 • April 2 - April 8, 2009
Beverly Hills Weekly Inc.

Founded: October 7, 1999
Published Thursdays

Delivered in Beverly Hills, Beverlywood, Los Angeles

ISSN#1528-851X

www.bhweekly.com

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Sent via US Mail
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advance

Adjudicated as a
newspaper of general
circulation for the County
of Los Angeles. Case #
BS065841 of the Los
Angeles Superior Court,
on November 30, 2000.



briefs

Farewells and new beginnings for the City Council

Distinguished professionals, residents, family and friends filled the Samuel Goldwyn Theater of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Tuesday night at the City Council and City Treasurer community installation ceremony (see photo page 2).

Beginning with a rendition of "God Bless America" by City Clerk Byron Pope, the night was filled with laughter, some tears, and hope.

Former California Governor Gray Davis (1998-2003) was also in attendance.

Retiring councilmembers Frank Fenton and Linda Briskman were honored for their years of work on the council. Fenton presented his farewell speech in a short comedic video.

Briskman spoke of the "tabloids of a cross-town bully," and said, "My work in Sacramento, Washington D.C. and this community has spoken for itself."

Briskman also thanked former Mayor Vicki Reynolds, her mentor.

Re-elected councilmember Barry Brucker "improv-ed" through technical difficulties and reflected his year as

Mayor with a film of significant achievements of the city over the past year.

John Mirisch emphasized the importance of the voice of residents, and how he himself, was "Joe Beverly Hills." He then added a monologue in his best Jimmy Stewart impression, from the well known movie, Mr. Smith Goes to Washington.

Mirisch, who became a citizen of Sweden during the 20 years he was in Europe, acknowledged Consul General Ersman in Swedish.

"Yes, it's true: I'm the first American-Swedish Councilmember in the history of our City. I'm also the first City Councilmember to live East of Wetherly, the first fourth generation Beverly Hills resident to serve on the Council and the first councilmember whose parents also graduated from BHUSD schools," said Mirisch.

He added, "I'm also the only registered Republican on the council. I'm the only member who lives South of Santa Monica, and while I look forward to representing the entire City, I'll make sure that the South's voice is not forgotten. I'm the only councilmember with a small child."

Mirisch promised to represent and speak for the people of Beverly Hills and passionately closed his speech by saying, "This is our town, and nobody better ever forget it. This is our town, and we have



Bobbe Joy Dawson honored by Crohn's and Colitis Foundation

Mitchell Dawson, Bobbe Joy Dawson, and Portia Dawson with the Woman of Distinction award

no intention of giving it back or giving it away. And this is your City Council, and we, the residents of BH, are going to be the ones to decide about our own City, and to do our best together to protect, preserve and improve our home, no matter what problems or challenges we face. We are the solution.

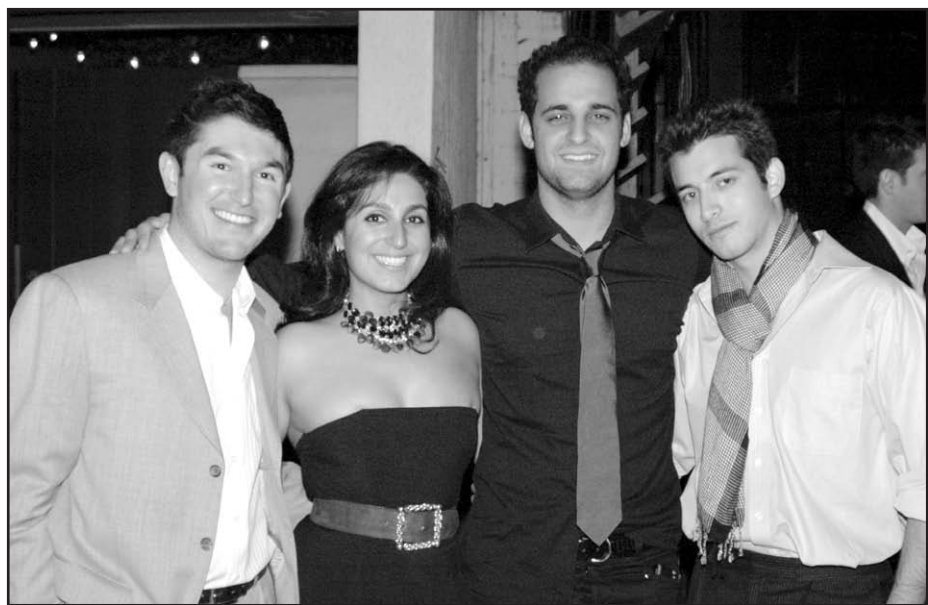
Dr. Willie Brien also took the stage and spoke of his vision for city improvements. He stated his plans to improve traffic, create health seminars for Beverly

Hills residents, and enhance inner city transportation for seniors.

"I pledge to work to review and assess the budget and make sure that the money of tax payers is being allocated and spent responsibly," said Brien.

Brien also stressed the need to work on the General Plan, and his intention to create a summer internship program, in which students learn the fundamentals of working for City Government.

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Maccabi event raises \$10,000 for Jewish athletes

Ari Friedland, Candice Illouljian, Bobby Djavaheri, and Greg Sherman

Over 350 people gathered last Wednesday to raise money and awareness for Jewish athletes competing in the Maccabi Games.

The Maccabi event was held at Guy's Nightclub in West Hollywood.

The Maccabi games are the longest-running Jewish sports event, and occur every four years. It is the largest Jewish event in the world including approximately 10,000 athletes.

Maccabi also encourages life skills, such as leadership and sense of community.

"Maccabi provides a safe haven for young Jewish children. It helps mobilize youth through sports and education all over the world," said Candice Illouljian, Vice President of programs and events.

She is part of what she calls, "Team Family," which is the Los Angeles chapter of Maccabi World Union Young Leadership. Other US chapters include Miami and New York.

The six-part committee also includes Ari Friedland (Co-chair), Greg Sherman (Co-chair), Bobby Djavaheri (VP Outreach), Tiffany Ganjian (Secretary), and Noya Sandberg (Treasurer).

The money raised will help sponsor Jewish athletes for the games later this year. Another local Maccabi gala will be held in May. For more information, visit www.maccabiah.com.



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89 district employee permits are ethnic. Of the 19 City employee permits, seven are White (non-Hispanic) students.

This data suggests that eliminating opportunity permits would actually increase diversity, rather than against discriminate students.

Since permits are on a year-to-year basis, this topic will rise again. School board members will continue to have discussions on permits in the future.

“My hope is that this data will put to rest once and for all that lowering opportunity permits is not racist,” said Goldberg.

Comment from school board member Myra Lurie was not received by press time.

Museum of Tolerance expansion approved

The Los Angeles Planning Commission is moving forward with an expansion, creating a new banquet and reception venue at the Museum of Tolerance.

The expansion could affect neighboring Beverly Hills homes.

Steve Dahlerbruch, president of Beverly-Roxbury Homeowners Association, believes the expansion would create more traffic in addition to the bus staging and employee parking.

According to Dahlerbruch, the Beverly-Roxbury Homeowners association and the Beverly Hills planning department teamed up to address traffic issues that would arise in the area, especially on Beverwil and Roxbury.

“The questions were addressed to the point where they were asked to work with the office of [LA] councilman Jack Weiss to resolve those questions. Although they were addressed by the commission, they were not included in the commission hearing,” said Dahlerbruch.

The museum was approved to hold 18 “third-party” events each month until 10 PM, with a maximum of 500 guests at each event.

“I am disappointed by the Los Angeles planning commission. They are allowing too many events per month. There will be much more traffic in our area and heavy usage from third parties will impact Beverly Hills,” said Dahlerbruch.

Susan Gans, a Los Angeles resident,

briefs cont. on page 7

New data shows opportunity permits are overwhelmingly Caucasian

Permit demographic data for the current BHUSD students shows 72 percent of opportunity permit students are White (non-Hispanic).

The Board of Education received the information from the district administration last week.

Although the long and heated debate over permit students has come to an end for now, new information contradicts a key argument from the permit-supporting side.

Guidelines for the inter-district policy also include meeting BHUSD’s four behavior criteria and clearly state that the permit may be revoked at any time.

State Education code requires the school district to have information such as this demographic data available.

The controversial issue came to a decision made by the school board March 11, to continue approving permits on a year-to-year basis, along with other terms and conditions.

“This data would have been helpful months ago when I originally requested it. It shouldn’t have taken so long to receive this information. It would have been more useful during the discussion on reducing the number of opportunity permits” said Board of Education member Dr. Brian Goldberg. “It is useful now so people can see that racism isn’t the issue, but the damage to our City’s reputation has already been done.”

Supporters of permits argued that those opposed to keeping opportunity permit students were taking part in a discriminatory and potentially racist act. However the data contradicts this opinion.

Of the 579 students enrolled with an opportunity permit, 418 are White (non-Hispanic). African American opportunity students are the second highest ethnicity enrolled at ten percent. The next category of students are Hispanic/Latin, which make up 7 seven percent.

117 Diversity permit students include 40 Korean, 24 African American, and 14 Hispanic/Latino students for the majority.

Although District and City permits were not a part of the debate, demographic data shows approximately half of the



Beverly High Alumni Association inducts 2009 Hall of Fame members

From left to right: Carl Issacs, Lynn Stalmaster, Dana Wood, Stewart Tinsman

Beverly alumni, family and friends gathered at Beverly High to induct new members to the Beverly Alumni Hall of Fame Thursday evening.

The Alumni Association ceremony inducted four individuals for 2009: Loretta Isaacs Weinberg, Herbert Katz, Don Davies, and Lynn Stalmaster.

New Jersey state senator Loretta Isaacs Weinberg graduated from Beverly in 1952. Since elected in 2005, Weinberg has served on the Senate Health Committee and Senate State Government Committee. From 1975 to 1985, Loretta served as the Assistant Administrator to the County of Bergen, and was a member of the Teaneck City Council from 1990 to 1994. She was elected to the New Jersey General Assembly in 1992. Her award was accepted by her brother Carl Issacs, Beverly Class of ‘49.

Former Santa Monica Mayor Herbert Katz, served on several commissions in the City of Santa Monica, and was one of the co-founders of the Third St. Promenade. Katz, who passed away this January, served on Santa Monica City Council from 1984-1992, and 2000-2007. Katz served one term as Mayor from 2007-2008, and was re-elected to City Council 2008. He graduated from Beverly in 1948. Katz’s award was accepted by his daughter Dana Wood.

Prominent educator Don Davies, Class of ‘44, is an international teacher and has received numerous awards in the field of education. He also served as Executive Secretary of the National Commission on Teacher Education and Professional Ethics. Prior to receiving his PhD from Columbia University, Davies taught journalism for four years at Beverly and was faculty advisor to the Highlights. Davies’ classmate Stewart Tinsman accepted his award.

Lynn Stalmaster, Class of ‘45, is a veteran casting director who has over 50 years of experience working with the top of the entertainment industry. After college, Stalmaster opened an independent motion picture and TV casting office, and worked with many directors, including John Huston, Stanley Kramer, and Robert Wise. His casting credits include over 400 productions such as Fiddler on the Roof, Superman, Deliverance, Jeremiah Johnson, and Roots, for which he received a special award from the Academy of Television Arts and Science.



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El Rodeo’s spring musical “Dear Edwina Jr.”

Photo: Dana Findley

The cast and crew of El Rodeo’s spring musical are all smiles. The students performed two shows: March 31 and April 1. The directors of the show are choral teacher William Aardappel and 2nd grade teacher Amy Arebalo.



BHHS Girls' Basketball, Soccer Players Receive All-Southern Section Honors

Top-ranked Normans boys' tennis team defeats third-ranked Santa Monica.

By Steven Herbert

Beverly High sophomore power forward Morgan Mason was a first-team selection for the Southern Section girls' basketball All-Division II-A team, while teammates Miranda Abdul-Mansour and Javonna Young were named to the second team and John Braddell shared coach of the year honors.

Mason averaged 16 points and 6.6 rebounds per game, Abdul-Mansour, a junior forward, 10.2 points and 6.2 rebounds, and Young, a senior center, 9.7 points, 9.8 rebounds and 2 blocked shots helping the Normans to a 24-10 record and the team's first berth in a Southern Section championship game.

Braddell shared the coach of the year award with Kevin Kiernan, who guided Santa Ana Mater Dei to the division championship.

Girls' Soccer

Beverly High senior forward Emily Litvak was a first-team selection to the Southern All-Division III team, while Norman goalkeeper Rebecca Gold, also a senior, was a third-team selection.

Litvak had 26 goals and 11 assists. Gold had a 0.88 goals against average and 10 shutouts, helping to the Normans to a 12-8-2 record and a second-place finish in the Ocean League.

Boys' Soccer

Beverly High senior defender Erik Munzer was a third-team selection to the All-Division IV team.

Munzer scored a team-high seven goals and his 14 points were one behind Daniel Kohen for the team lead.

Boys' Tennis

Beverly Hills 11, Santa Monica 7

Gary Parizher and Daniel Ho both won all three of their singles sets as the Normans opened Ocean League play with a victory March 24.

Parizher lost only three games in winning his three sets, while Ho lost four.

The Beverly Hills doubles teams of James Ephrati and Jonathan Jason and Andre Herd and Donovan Suh both won two of their three sets.

Sam Farzani, the Normans' No. 3 singles player, was a 6-2 winner in the first round, helping Beverly Hills to a 4-2 lead.

The Normans were ranked first in the Southern Section Division III poll released March 23, Santa Monica third.

Mira Costa 14, Beverly Hills 4

Playing without Ho, the Normans trailed 6-0 at the end of the first round of a nonleague match at Mira Costa March 25.

Beverly Hills (5-5) lost both seven of nine singles sets and seven of nine doubles sets. Parizher was a 6-4 winner in the second round at No. 1 singles and Herd was a 6-3 winner in the third round at No. 2 singles.

The Ephrati-Jason team was a 6-4 winner in the second round at No. 1 doubles. The Farzani-Suh team was a 6-3 winner in the second round at No. 2 doubles.

The Mustangs were ranked fifth in the Southern Section Division I poll released March 23.

What's Next?

The Normans are scheduled to play host to Culver City today at 3 p.m. in an Ocean League match.

Boys' Volleyball Beverly Hills def.

St. Bernard, 25-10, 25-16, 25-20

The Normans capitalized on their experience for the victory in a nonleague match at St. Bernard March 19, coach Paolo Alfante said.

"Our passing was there," Alfante said. "We played smarter volleyball."

Middle blocker Josh Yoon, outside hitter Jojo Hakim and setter Martin Shapiro drew praise for their play for Beverly Hills from Alfante.

Jonathan Davidi utilized a jump serve to serve for nine consecutive points in Game 3 for the Normans.

What's Next?

The Normans are scheduled to begin Ocean League play today by playing at Santa Monica beginning at 3:15 p.m.

Softball

Beverly Hills 9, Crossroads 1

Annie Math had three hits and drove in two runs and Rebecca Gold also had two runs batted in for the Normans in a nonleague game at Beverly Hills March 19.

Emily Rosen (3-4) pitched a complete game for Beverly Hills, allowing four hits and one run, striking out four, walking none and hitting a batter in seven innings.

The Normans combined a double by Lexi Silbiger, a single by Tamar Rotstein

and three walks, including one to Math with the bases loaded, for four runs in the second innings.

Beverly Hills added a run in the fourth. Math led off with a single, moved to second on Rosen's sacrifice, went to third on a wild pitch and scored on Gold's single.

The Normans scored three more runs in the fifth and one in the sixth.

The Roadrunners scored their run in the fourth.

What's Next?

The Normans are scheduled to play at Santa Monica today in an Ocean League game beginning at 3:15 p.m.

Baseball

El Segundo Tournament

Mary Star of the Sea 7, Beverly Hills 4

Michael Kerman walked with the bases loaded to force in Joey Livingston with a run in the second and doubled in Jamie Gourley for a run in the fourth, both with two outs, for the Normans in a pool play game at Mary Star of the Sea March 12.

Kerman also scored Beverly Hills' second run in the first, reaching first on an error.

Gourley, who had been hit by a pitch, scored the first run.

The Stars scored five runs in the third to overcome a 3-0 deficit, on three singles, a double, a walk and an error by A.J. Fortier, the Normans' third baseman.

Livingston, the Beverly Hills starter, took the loss, allowing four runs (three earned) and four hits in 2 1/3 innings, walking three and striking out two.

What's Next?

The Normans are scheduled to play West Covina Saturday at 1 p.m., Arcadia Monday at 7 p.m. and La Habra Tuesday at 10 a.m. in Apache Invitational games at Arcadia High.

Beverly Hills is scheduled to conclude tournament play Wednesday against an opponent to be announced.

Boys' Golf

Beverly Hills 180, Culver City 242

Colt Knedler shot a three-under-par 33 and Kristof Sebesteny a one-under-par 35 for the Normans March 17 at Alondra Golf Course in Lawndale.

What's Next?

The Normans are scheduled to play Palos Verdes today at Palos Verdes Country Club in an Ocean League match beginning at 2:30 p.m.

Boys' Lacrosse

Beverly Hills 4, Downey 2

Alex Komlos scored three goals and assisted on Jonny Park's goal for the Normans in a South Bay League game March 17 at Downey.

Beverly Hills scored twice in the second quarter to take a 3-1 halftime lead. The Vikings scored the only goal of the third quarter. The Normans scored the only goal in the fourth quarter.

The first quarter ended in a 1-1 tie.

Norman goalkeeper Matt Kaye made nine saves.

sports cont. on page 8

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Change Of The Guard

Fun and games at city induction

By Rudy Cole

Usually, one meeting is sufficient to induct a new mayor, vice mayor and newly elected councilmembers, but this year it took two council sessions to make the transition with a first ever ceremonial event outside a government facility.

Talk about change! Well, maybe not all that significant, but it was interesting. For the record, the actual, legal oath taking by Mayor **Nancy Krasne**, Vice Mayor **Jimmy Delshad** and just elected members Dr. **Willie Brien** and **John Mirisch** and reelected **Barry Brucker** took place last week at a brief formal meeting at the usual venue: city council chambers at city hall. (This "legal" meeting was necessary to comply with datelines for taking office.)

Tuesday the act moved to the **Samuel Goldwyn** Theatre at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences with the same cast of elected officials, but with a far different oath giving crew.

According to Mayor Krasne, the city was able to take advantage of an agreement with the Academy permitting city use of the audi-

torium three times a year. Krasne chose the venue because she felt it would save the city money: No costly tent to house the usually large attendance and no street closings that inconvenienced both residents and businesses.

For the record, the agreement with the Academy to provide free use of their auditorium was because the Oscar organization received exceptions to providing code required parking when their structure won council approval.

Not the best deal for neighbors, despite some permit parking restrictions. Tuesday's event also found countless parking enforcement officers all over adjoining streets advising those attending events that they should use neighboring free parking.

The theatre setting did seem appropriate. There was high drama, some unintentional humor and one or two good one liners by your elected officials.

As for those watching at home, the audio of some of the speeches had glitches. No comment on whether this was good or bad.

Historically, how the change of mayor council meetings has evolved into major events is hard to trace. Until the 1970s, new mayors, if they did anything, invited a few friends to their homes for very private receptions, most simply took the oath. The next step was an invitation only event outside the council chambers, but when Dr. Charles Aronberg was inducted he opened the party to the whole city. Unlike current practices, Dr. Aronberg's post swearing in party was not at tax payers expense.

So, what does all this mean for the city? Will there be drastic changes in city government? Generally, this new council has two members who have been opposed to major new developments, Krasne and John Mirisch, one with a mixed voting record, Brucker - he opposed the Hilton and backed the Montage, Jimmy Delshad who supported both and Dr. Brien who has no absolute position on development issues.

Mirisch and Dr. Brien replaced Councilmembers and former mayors **Linda Briskman** and **Frank Fenton**, both of whom voted for the Hilton and the Montage. In this sense, this is a very important change in city government.

However, it is very unlikely this council will have any decisions to make on projects as large or significant as either the Hilton and the Montage, or 9900 Wilshire and William Morris, in the next few years. They will, hopefully, complete work on a new general plan, but the more pressing challenges will be continuing first rate city services in the face of declining tax revenues.

Mayor Krasne made a special point of wanting to "return" to two hour free parking at all city lots and not just some of those that were approved last year. Certainly, a very popular move with both residents and merchants, but it does mean less money for making very necessary repairs in our parking structures and have any buildings had worse designs?

Krasne got off one of the best lines of the evening: "I want to thank the Academy, what every young woman hoped to say once in her life." Mirisch did point out his history making moment. Because he spent much of his adult life in Sweden, he became a citizen of that

country, now holding dual citizenship. He clearly has the honor of being the first Swedish citizen to serve on our council and he gave a Swedish greeting to his Consul General who attended the event.

Do the new councilmembers and mayor really have a clear mandate from the voters to make drastic changes in policies and programs? Yes and no. Clearly, there is an attitude in the community, even among those who backed the Hilton and the Montage, that the city needs a breather from more massive development projects; at least the process should permit the completion of the general plan to be in place first. However, there are developments not nearly as large in scope that are in the pipeline that should not be side tracked but judged on their own merits. We have too many ugly sections in the business district not to encourage rational and responsible improvements.

But back to the voter mandate question. Several speakers said "we have to listen to the voters." Well, if they spoke about the candidates, it was with a whisper and not a roar. Seventy percent of eligible voters didn't bother to cast a ballot in the last election. This could mean they are not that unhappy with the incumbents or so turned off they refused to even vote. But winning with about 10 percent of the total possible vote does not exactly reach the level of "mandate."

Also, proclaiming that the voters have expressed their opposition to major developments and "sent a message to the council" is not borne out by the numbers. Although it was not a landslide in either case, the voters did approve both the Hilton and the Montage. Some 7,972 electors marked their ballots for the Hilton and 2,272 voted for Mirisch this time and 2,710 for Krasne when she won in 2007. Yes, the larger votes came during a national not local election, but they were real just the same. Incidentally, although Linda Briskman lost this time, she too almost doubled the votes received by Dr. Brien and Mirisch when she ran for a second term in 2005.

Voter revolts? Strong mandates for drastic change? Not quite, but the winners in any election, including Beverly Hills, have a right and even an obligation to be both responsive but also responsible. Reality and not revolutions are what most voters expect and they know all too well that change for the sake of keeping the more zealous backers of their campaigns happy, should not mean disrupting

rudy cont. on next page

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rudy cont. from previous page

a city government of highly skilled professionals that make this one of the safest, best managed cities in the world.

We know Dr. Brien well. He has lived here all his life, served with distinction on our school board, is chief of staff of our leading hospital, Cedars-Sinai. We also know Mayor Krasne very well. She had been a member of two city commissions, a strong supporter of local educational and other city cultural and charitable needs and, although at times very volatile, tries to do what is right and fair. Councilmembers, and both former mayors Barry Brucker and Jimmy Delshad, are also very familiar public servants even though they take different approaches to issue solving. Both will be stabilizing influences for the new council.

The far less known of the five is Mirisch. He does have strong family ties to our community, but has only returned to Beverly Hills since 2007 with a 20 year absence in Europe, mostly in Sweden where he worked in the entertainment industry – something his family did here with great success.

Not surprisingly, Mirisch was somewhat surprised by the dramatic changes that have taken place during his absence, and did not view this with great affection. He quickly became involved in anti-development movements, launching an often humorous, sometimes too confrontational blog. He is both personable and very bright: smart enough to know that this city does not take kindly to extreme postures on any issue.

There are no quick alliances one can assume with this new council although Krasne and Mirisch had many of the same supporters. On the other hand, Brien's backers were many of the same people who backed Frank Fenton and Linda Briskman, with Brucker, our hardest working campaigner, drawing from both sides.

Fenton and Briskman will be missed and they both merit appreciation for their outstanding years of public service – more on both later.

Speaking of former mayors, they have come together in a very loose association and

meet every few months to discuss such issues as the budget and parking. There is no chair or president and they take turns presiding and hosting. The next gathering will be led by former Mayor Maxwell **Hillary Salter**. **Les Bronte** acts as coordinator.

Strange why this good idea has been kept under wraps.

The city lost another legend this week with the passing of **George White**, former president and general manager of the Beverly Wilshire Hotel. George was a civic leader rising from bellman at a European hotel to the top job at the BW and also as president of the Chamber of Commerce.

White would not mind my telling about one incident in his career. It happened when I was an outside public affairs consultant for the hotel and White had received a request to make the hotel available for a feature film:

Woody Allen's early work: "Everything You Wanted to Know About Sex."

He asked me to look at the script to see if it would be "appropriate" for "his" hotel. Well,

there is one hilarious scene in the film involving Gene

Wilder, who becomes romantically involved with "Daisy" a very curvaceous sheep. There is cuddling and one bit where the wife catches the Wilder character in bed with Daisy, but obviously no real love making.

When I described this to White, he almost exploded: "There will be NO SEX WITH ANIMALS IN MY HOTEL." Woody shot the scene at the Biltmore in downtown Los Angeles and I nearly lost my consulting gig.

White, with owner **Hernando Cortright**, helped make the BW a nationally recognized institution. Ironically, both worked hard to stop a proposed Four Seasons planned just across the street from the BW. Today, the hotel is a "Four Seasons" managed operation.

Rudy Cole served for eight years as a member and chair of the city's Recreation & Parks Commission. He was also President of the Greystone Foundation and served on three other city committees. Rudy can be reached at: Rudy@bhweekly.com.

briefs cont. from page 4

strongly opposes the expansion and plans to appeal. Gans is the creator of the website titled "Preserve the Legacy," which supports the museum, but believes the expansion is for the wrong reasons.

"I think that what happened on Thursday was shameful and really shocking. It was quite clear from the outset that the matter had been decided before we walked in the door," said Gans.

The expansion was approved in an 8-0 vote at a planning commission meeting last Thursday. According to the Los Angeles Planning Commission, determination letters will be sent out later this month.

Bell Schedule/Intervention program at BHUSD

A committee, composed of teachers and administrators, has formed at Beverly High to address concerns about the effects the new intervention program—

which some teachers call ineffective—has had on the educational environment.

The committee is discussing possible changes to the current bell schedule that would allow students and teachers to better utilize the time allotted for intervention tutoring.

Since the BHUSD cut developmental courses and modified intervention courses, several teachers have expressed concerns with the new system, saying their students are not receiving the help they need.

Several district employees have pointed to Beverly Vista English teacher Merle Bauer's class as a model they'd like to see tested in other areas of the district.

Bauer's program "Reading Plus" is a "skills-based class designed to improve the reading comprehension and vocabulary skills of my students."

The program focuses on word analysis, vocabulary development, reading strategies, and study skills, while working at

the student's own pace.

"The data shows that most of my Reading Plus students move up one or two proficiency levels. A few students have even progressed from a basic level to an advanced level in just one year. Results such as these are encouraging, since reading comprehension and vocabulary development are crucial to learning success," wrote Bauer in an email.

In addition to academic skills, the pro-

gram helps students in other ways.

"It also helps to build the students' self-confidence and enthusiasm for reading and learning," said Bauer.

Beverly Hills Education Association president Chris Bushee has said several of his members have expressed concern with the current intervention model, both for themselves as teachers and for the students who need the help.

briefs cont. on page 8



Water is fun!

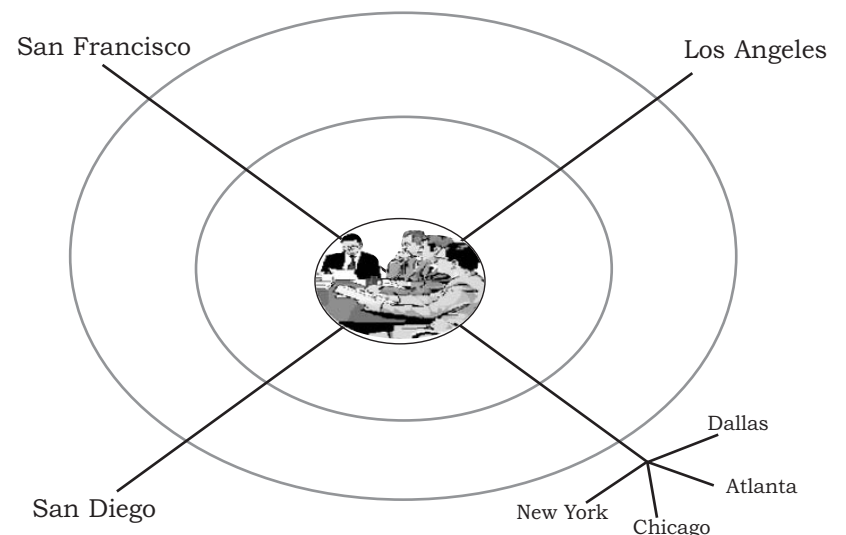
To learn more about the recent drought in California, Ms. Elaine Palazzo's 5th grade class at Beverly Vista got the opportunity to experiment hands-on with a life-like watershed model. Dr. Josephine Axt, classroom parent and Chief of Planning of the LA district US Corps of Engineers assisted the students with the model, illustrating specific scientific concepts such the hydrologic cycle, water conservation, and groundwater contamination.

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briefs cont. from page 7

Currently, students in the high school are offered an additional period on Wednesday afternoons and Thursday mornings in which they can get support in the areas where its needed.

Would a new model squelch Bushee and BHEA members' concerns?

"It may well depend on how that intervention period is utilized. If it's a full-fledged class with consequences for the students not doing what they're supposed to, that's a whole other set of duties," said Bushee.

A new 'set of duties' would require the district and BHEA to negotiate a new contract for the teachers responsible for these classes.

"I have learned that by providing my students with the additional support of the Reading Plus class, while they continue to participate in the regular English class is a highly effective form of intervention," wrote Bauer.

Have you had your breakfast today?

Locals and visitors can enjoy special breakfast offers throughout the city for month of April in the city's Breakfast in Beverly Hills campaign.

According to the International Food Information Council Foundation's 2008 survey, only 46 percent of Americans report eating breakfast everyday.

To emphasize the "most important meal of the day," the Economic Development Division of Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce, in conjunction with the Beverly Hills Conference and Visitors Bureau and City of Beverly Hills created special menu items and promotions throughout the month.

"We realized the economy was turning into a challenging situation. Although Beverly Hills is less of a hard-hit area, we wanted to create a way to attract more

shoppers and diners. It's a great opportunity for residents and well as out of town guests," said Anita Zusman Eddy, Vice President of Economic Development and Government Affairs

For more details and a list of participants visit www.Breakfast inBH.com.

Beverly Hills paves the way

If you drive towards Beverly Hills on Wilshire from Los Angeles, your car probably feels more like a rollercoaster.

But that's Los Angeles county lines. The Road Information Program (TRIP) estimates financial damage at more than \$650 per driver per year. In addition, improper roads in Los Angeles cost automobilists an average of \$778 per year.

The Public Works Department of Beverly Hills actively maintains the roads, with an annual repairing schedule in place.

"It's great that even in these rough economic times, our city is still repairing our streets," said Planning Commissioner Noah Furie.

Construction continues on Roxbury Drive between Charleville and Olympic.

Beverly Hills Tigers named Grand Champions

The competitive cheerleaders of the Beverly Hills Recreation and Parks Program were awarded first place in every division at Sharp's Southern California regional competition. The 45 cheerleaders are divided into three squads: Varsity (6th-8th grade), JV (3rd-5th grade), and Pee Wee (K-2nd grade). The teams now move on to nationals, held in Las Vegas later this month.

Looking for something to do during spring break?

The city of Beverly Hills is offering a variety of camps for children ages 5-15. From arts, to sports, to cooking, children



March Madness

Zachary Gaon dribbles past as Ariel Rafalian tries to block at El Rodeo's version of the NCAA basketball tournament. Student Ambassador Ryan Shoushani coordinated homeroom teams to play a series of games leading up to the championship for grades 6-8.

can spend their spring break learning a new subject and making new friends.

Camps will be offered April 6-10. For more information contact the La Cienega Community Center at (310) 285-6810.

Free legal advice sessions with attorneys this Saturday

The Beverly Hills Bar Association will host a free clinic at Roxbury Park Clubhouse from 10 am to noon April 4.

The Roxbury Park Legal Clinic is free

to the public as a public service to the Beverly Hills Community.

Attendees will get advice on topics such as landlord/tenant, small claims estate planning, divorce, tax issues, and consumer rights.

The Roxbury Park Community Center is located at 471 South Roxbury Drive.

Compiled by Diana Vu and Jacquelyn Ryan

sports cont. from page 5

Peninsula 11, Beverly Hills 3

Komlos, Gianna Nicolosi and Willie Woods scored for the Normans in a South Bay League game March 20 at Nickoll Field.

The Panthers outscored Beverly Hills 4-1 in the second quarter to take a 5-2 halftime lead. Palos Verdes increased its lead to 8-3 entering the fourth quarter.

The first quarter ended in a 1-1 tie.

Kaye made 18 saves.

Harvard-Westlake 10, Beverly Hills 2

Komlos and Russ Siadatian scored for the Normans in a nonleague game at Nickoll Field March 21.

Beverly Hills trailed 2-1 at the end of the first quarter, 4-1 at halftime and 10-1 entering the fourth quarter.

Kaye made 15 saves.

What's Next?

The Normans are scheduled to play at Ojai Thacher today at 4:15 p.m. in a non-league game.

Girls' Track and Field

Mira Costa 74 1/2, North Torrance 52,

Beverly Hills 42 1/2

Kemi Olbnade set a school record by winning the triple jump with a leap of 35 feet, 3 inches, while Raquel Hefflin (800 meters) was the other the individual event winner for the Normans in a non-league meet at Mira Costa March 12.

Beverly Hills (1-1) also got a victory from its 400 relay team of Ashley Austin, Andrea Wilson, Brittany Morgan and Natalie Raab.

Olbnade broke the record of 35-2 set in 1996 by Tee Ka Johns.

Culver City Invitational

Beverly Hills' 400 and 800 relay teams both finished second March 21 at Culver City High School.

Norman junior Breanna Bonner was second in the 300 low hurdles, while Beverly Hills junior Asia Williams finished in a three-way tie for third in the long jump, leaping 15 feet, 9 inches,

Olbnade was fourth in the triple jump, leaping 34 feet, 3 inches and finished in a five-way tie for fifth in the high jump, clearing 4 feet, 6 inches.

Boys' Track and Field

Mira Costa 97, North Torrance 43,

Beverly Hills 29

Trey Haughton won the 400 and anchored the Normans' victorious 1,600 relay team in a nonleague meet at Mira Costa March 12.

Caylin Hauptmann (shot put) was the other individual event winner for Beverly Hills (0-2).

Culver City Invitational

Hauptmann won the shot put with a career record put of 52 feet, six inches, making him the sixth best performer in the event in school history.

Beverly Hills junior Donovan Dickens was fifth in the 110 high hurdles in 16.23 seconds March 21 at Culver City High School.

What's Next?

The Norman boys' and girls' teams are scheduled to face Santa Monica today in an Ocean League meet at Santa Monica beginning at 2:45 p.m.

Boys' Swimming

Beverly Hills 80, Santa Monica 80

Christian Apt won the 50-yard freestyle and Kevin Suarez the 100 backstroke for the Normans in an Ocean League meet at

Santa Monica March 12.

Beverly Hills (0-1-1, 0-0-1 in league competition) also got victories from its 200 freestyle relay and 200 medley relay teams.

Girls' Swimming

John Marrow Invitational

Young In Lee was the top Beverly Hills finisher, finishing eighth in the 100-yard breaststroke March 20 at the Swim-Gym.

Beverly Hills finished 13th with 34 points, 25.5 behind 12th-place Culver City. Palos Verdes won with 278.

What's Next?

The Norman boys' and girls' teams are scheduled to play host to El Segundo in a Pioneer League meet April 16 at the Swim-Gym beginning at 3 p.m.

Steven Herbert has covered Beverly Hills High sports for the Beverly Hills Weekly since 1999. He welcomes feedback and suggestions. He can be reached by e-mail at StvHerbert@aol.com, by telephone at (310) 275-7943 or by fax at (310) 273-4519.

coverstory

CONVERSATION WITH THE MAYOR



Nancy Krasne discusses her vision for the city

By Diana Vu

Mayor Nancy Krasne was installed Tuesday at The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. With a new year ahead of her, Krasne talks with the Weekly about her family and what she sees for the future of Beverly Hills.

What is it like to mayor of Beverly Hills?

Very busy. I never realized the demand that would be put on me. There are five things to do every minute. I go from one thing to the next with phone calls and important things to take care of.

I work for the people of this community, I'm their employee and there's always something to be resolved. I take it seriously, and I don't want to be a bad employee. I'm going to be the best employee I can be for this community.

Whether I'm a Mayor or councilmember, I'm going to do the best job that I can. Therefore, getting problems resolved and helping people find solutions is my goal.

What are your priorities for this year?

First, I really want to bring back free parking. I think it's critical to stay competitive with neighboring cities and have people rediscover Beverly Hills. There are so many things going on in the city.

For instance, you can see millions of dollars worth of art in Neiman Marcus without paying a museum fee. When you first walk in there is the Mariposa sculpture. Most people just walk by without even noticing it. There is fabulous first-class artwork throughout the store.

What I would like for people to do is take advantage of this. Economic times are bad, and if you don't have the money, you can do all of these things. I want people to see these things, and enjoy the city. It's a great environment for the family. We need our two-hour free parking to do that.

The second thing I want is our infrastructure fixed. That means the water pipes, our electrical lines, and our sidewalks. It has to be repaired. We need to renovate and have everything state of the art.

Before we start building new buildings, before we're getting carried away, we need to fix what we have first. We have to be on top of what we have. I think that it's critical and important. And while we're doing that, it'll work. We'll have a new water system up with Coldwater Canon Reservoir; I think all of these

things will make for a fabulous environment and a great residential and business community. A safe place for people to live.

Another thing is, I'd like to see our General Plan finished. I want to see an achievable traffic mitigation plan. I'd like to see the General Plan worked on this year. We've been working on it since 2000, enough already. It's time to finish it, get it done, and put this one to rest.

I think all of these things are achievable.

When will the council start to look at revising the General Plan?

Immediately. There shouldn't be any new proposals going on until the General Plan is addressed. You can't plan for something and work around the General Plan. I don't like zoning around. So, if you put the plan in place, then everything falls into place in an orderly fashion. Otherwise, you're always "making-do," "making it work" kind of thing. I like an orderly process.

Once a school teacher, always a school teacher. You can't teach multiplication before you teach addition. Because multiplication is really a success of addition.

That's how I work.

Speaking of being a teacher, in what other ways has being a teacher influenced your position as Mayor?

Even though I do not tread over school territory, I watch over the schools like a mother watches over her children. Even though I do not say anything to the schools, I am there to protect the schools and this community.

It's my responsibility to ensure that the schools stay vibrant and healthy. It's my responsibility to make sure any funding we can give to them, they get. I will do whatever I can to be supportive of the school district without interfering.

What responsibilities does the mayor have that other councilmembers don't have?

Speaking on behalf of the council, the city, and all its constituents is different now. I represent the community, I must be poised and gracious and watch what I'm doing. I certainly do not want to offend anyone or omit anyone.

In other words, I don't want to say ladies and gentlemen, and forget to say children if they're

in the audience. You have to be conscious of everyone there and know who you're speaking to so that you don't forget or neglect someone. As a councilmember, you're speaking and representing the whole city at functions and special events, on a day-to-day basis. Even though your job description is the same, it's not quite the same.

What responsibilities does the mayor have that the city manager doesn't have?

The entire council basically sets the policy for the city. The City Manager runs the city. We [City Council] set the policy, the City Manager implements it. And the city staff works for the City Manager, not the City Council.

Tell us about your new plan for spotlighting Beverly Hills' businesses.

I'm not going to spotlight just businesses. I look at Beverly Hills as where the world meets. I would like to implement a plan called "The Heart of Beverly Hills," and this program will highlight outstanding residents, professionals, public service employees, and businesses. All of those components make it unique. Without any one of those parts, it doesn't cut it.

Each week I'd like to point someone out, for instance, Dr. [Emanuel] Wasserman, the orthodontist, finds people throughout the world, and he helps reconstruct their jaws. An oral surgeon will come in and reconstruct them physically, and he donates his time and reconstructs their teeth. He is just phenomenal.

That's the thing about this city, it happens everyday. There will be no spotlight on them, but they just give. People look at Beverly Hills and they think that we just take – we don't. We are a very caring and giving city. Look at the [Police] Department's Black and White Ball, or the Backdraft Ball, our merchants just give and give and give.

My feeling is I support the merchants who support the city.

How exactly will you highlight these individuals as part of your "Heart of Beverly Hills" program?

I'd like to have them come in and talk to us about what they do. What better way to support them than by giving them the recognition that they so rightly deserve by the council? I can see giving them lunch or a gift basket, and just special recognition.

These people have supported us through this time of a recession and economic meltdown. What better way can we help them, by supporting them? This is time to live, play, shop, enjoy your life, and stay in Beverly Hills.

That's my philosophy on that topic and that's what I intend to do.

Should the Montage Lot be two hour free parking?

I think the community felt it was going to be free parking. When it was the "T" Lot, it was always free. And when the Montage [Hotel] came into existence, I think the community still thought it would be free. And it didn't. Councilmember [Linda] Briskman said it was always meant to be a paid lot.

In fact, I was down there yesterday, and the Montage lot sits empty. There are maybe 40-50 cars in the paid area. The entire lot is basically empty. It costs the city the same whether it's empty or full. Therefore, why not open it up to free parking? Why should the city have it that way? I want to put that in light instantly, and bring back parking to Beverly Hills and

encourage shoppers to come.

I'd also like to see some parking moved from the South Beverly lot up to the Montage lot, as far as the monthly parking. So we can free up the South Beverly lot for residents who want to go shopping. That happens to be my personal opinion; I don't know how the rest of the council feels.

Tell us about the two new councilmembers John Mirisch and Willie Brien.

I know it sounds funny, but I stay out of the council race. I don't endorse other people that are running. I don't believe in endorsing. I support everyone and try to keep the playing field level. I think everyone should have an equal shot of being elected. It's up to the people of the community to decide who will serve the best.

As for John [Mirisch] and Willie [Brien], I think that they will serve incredibly well, and Councilmember [Barry] Brucker has been a great colleague. I really enjoy serving with all of them.

I think it's a well balanced council, but like I said, I'm one of five. We're probably going to have heated discussions, differing discussions, because reasonable people will differ. On the other hand, I don't know what the outcome would be, because if we did, we wouldn't need a council.

It remains to be seen. That's what makes this country great, and that's what makes this city great.

The true test will be when I start looking at the voter fraud issue. It's a real touchy one. I think it's time to look at the way we're voting. It's time to say, we have a problem, and we need to look at this.

In a city where you only have 21,000 or so voters, and a few votes can change the entire outcome of an election, it's appropriate. It's ok to say "enough". We need identification for municipality elections. Or at least test the law. I don't know what will happen, but I'd like to see where it goes.

Under the Patriot Act, you need an ID to get on an airplane, why shouldn't you need one of your most important rights? To vote.

How does your husband Jim feel about you serving on the Council?

He's really proud. And his parents were long time residents. They lived here in Beverly Hills, they were in their late nineties when they passed. They would be so thrilled. What's funny is Jim just calls himself "Mr. Nancy," because all these years I've been "Mrs. James". We've been married like 45 years, he just laughs and thinks it's amusing, but he's so proud.

Tell us about your children

I have two boys. Kevin Allan is 38, he graduated from Beverly High ['89], and he's actually moving to Pittsburgh. My other son, David Joseph is at Columbia getting his MBA.

What lessons have you learned from previous mayors that you will use for your term?

There are so many. Every previous mayor has taught me something. There isn't a day that goes by that I don't learn something new.

[Former Mayor] Tom Levyn taught me the best thing of all. He taught me one word, and I think it's one that will carry me through my year and my entire life. And that word is respect. He said always be respectful. No matter who you're talking to, be respectful. It's true. Be respectful, and it always works out.

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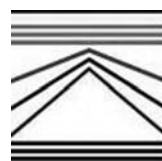
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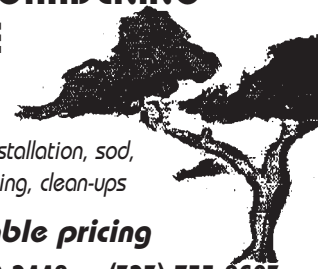
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