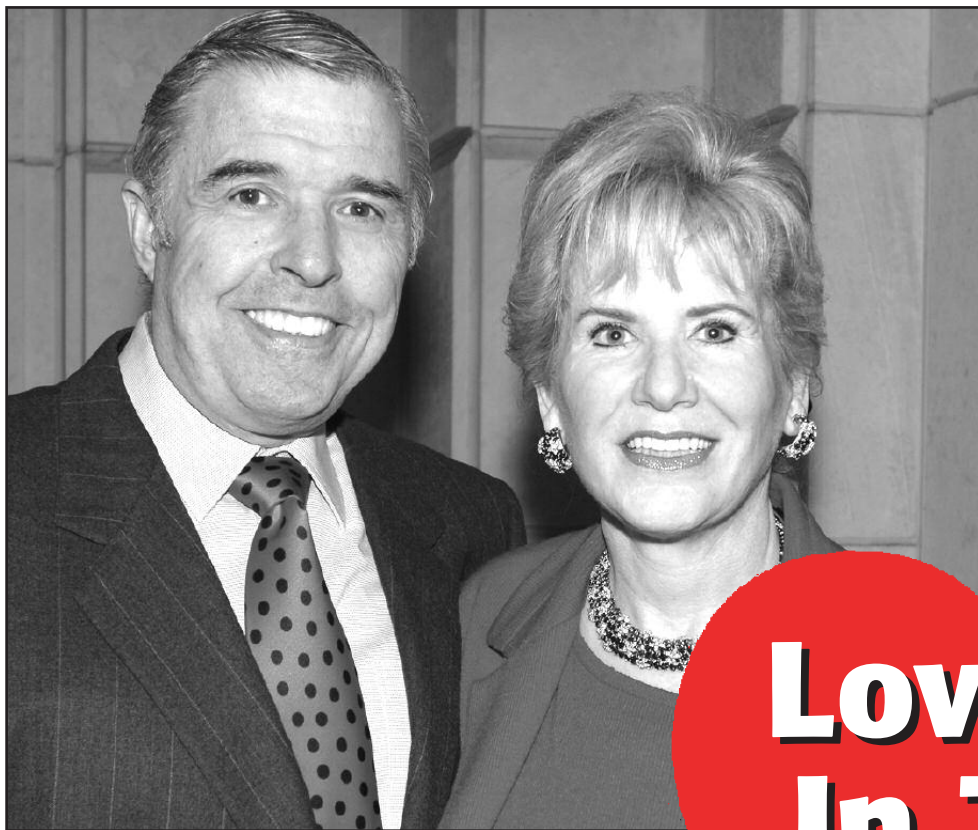


# Beverly Hills Weekly

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Issue 332 • February 9 - February 15, 2006



**Love Is  
In The  
Air**



**Four Beverly Hills couples share their real-life love stories.**

cover story • pages 12-13



### Correction, Issue #331:

• In the cover story, the address for the Robinsons-May mixed-use project was incorrectly identified. It is located at 9900 Wilshire Boulevard. The 9200 Wilshire project is a mixed-use project proposed for Wilshire and Palm Drive.

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## Beverly Hills Weekly

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## Friends of the Library Will Not Participate In Library Donation

Fund-raising group votes 'no'; Historical Society votes 'yes.'

By Andrea Simpson

After being asked by city staff to receive a targeted donation for cabinetry in the library, the Friends of the Library voted 'no' in a closed session to act as the pass through for the Profiles In History in-kind donation.

Joseph Maddalena, president and CEO of Profiles In History in Beverly Hills, plans to donate display cases for use in the Beverly Hills Public Library, approved by the council a few months ago. The six custom-made cases would have a total value of about \$60,000.

The display cases will be located in the southeast corner of the library lobby and display a variety of historical material in subjects that range from the arts to the sciences. All exhibits will be brought as a result of Profiles In History's clients and contacts. The displays will be a catalyst for new school field trips and programs, including a proposed program that will feature well-known older citizens as resources for young writers and artists.

After making a presentation to the Friends of the Library Board of Directors concerning their participation with the gift of funds, Library Director Beverly Simmons and Community Services Director Steve Miller asked the Friends to receive the gift of funds, which as a 501-C-3, the group would deposit and then issue a check to the business constructing the cabinets. Maddalena has to use



Friends President  
Myra Demeter

funds from a foundation to pay for the cabinets and the gift must go to a 501-C-3 organization.

According to Recreation and Parks Vice Chairperson Jill Tavelman Collins, city staff felt the Friends would be the most logical choice to receive the funds, but Friends board members felt otherwise. Collins said the board has provided no reason for its deci-

sion.

Recent budget cuts have led local libraries to turn to sponsors for donations.

Friends President Myra Demeter said what the board voted on was not to turn away funds, but to act as the pass through.

"This is a pass through of funds that were

to be 'directed giving', that is, that it was not funds, per say. The donation was going to be passed through, in terms of funds turned into cabinetry. We never turn down funds; we work very hard in our two bookstores to earn money. Our mission is to support the collec-

*city & schools cont. on page 5*



## NOTICE OF COMMISSION VACANCY

CITY CLERK  
455 N. Rexford Drive  
Beverly Hills, CA 90210-4817

BYRON POPE, CMC  
Acting City Clerk  
(310) 285-2400 FAX:  
(310) 385-0862

### ARCHITECTURAL COMMISSION

The Beverly Hills City Council is seeking qualified residents to fill two upcoming vacancies on the Architectural Commission. **Please note: One of the two positions requires the applicant to be a licensed architect (Beverly Hills residency not required).** The initial term of office for both positions is two years. At the discretion of the City Council, the Commissioner may be reappointed to a second term of four years. The appointees will be required to file an initial and an annual "Statement of Economic Interests" financial disclosure.

In order that we may preserve the integrity of the application and interview process, please direct all inquiries to the City Clerk, City Manager or the Director of Community Development. Please DO NOT contact the City Councilmembers or the members of the Architectural Commission regarding the vacancies.

Application forms for the Architectural Commission, along with a description of the duties of a Commissioner, and filing details are available for pickup in the City Clerk's Office, Room 190, 455 N. Rexford Drive, or call 310.285.2400 to receive an application and information by mail or by email.

**The deadline for filing applications for this Commission has been extended to Friday, March 3, 2006 at 5:00 p.m.**

BYRON POPE  
City Clerk

The City Council of the City of Beverly Hills, at its regular meeting to be held on **Tuesday, February 7, 2006 at 7:30 p.m.** in the Council Chambers of the City Hall, 455 N. Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210; will hold a public hearing, to consider:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS AMENDING REGULATIONS GOVERNING ALTERATIONS TO NONCONFORMING BUILDINGS AND AMENDING THE BEVERLY HILLS MUNICIPAL CODE.

Under the city's current regulations governing remodels and alterations to nonconforming buildings, the threshold at which a remodeled building loses its nonconforming rights and is required to be built to current zoning standards (with respect to setbacks, height, etc.) is based on the percentage of the replacement cost of the building. The proposed Ordinance would amend these regulations for buildings on single family lots and will employ an objective method to determine this threshold by calculating the percentage of the combined area of the roof and exterior wall that is removed or replaced.

The City has determined that it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility the adoption and implementation of the proposed Ordinance may have a significant effect on the environment. The Ordinance is therefore exempt from the environmental review requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations.

All interested persons are invited to attend and speak on this matter. Written comments may also be submitted and should be addressed to the City Council, c/o City Clerk, 455 N. Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210 and should be received prior to the public hearing.

Please remember, if you challenge the Council's action in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the hearing before the City Council or in written correspondence delivered to the City, either at or prior to the hearing.

If there are any questions regarding this notice, please contact the Community Development Department at 310.285.1123. Copies of the proposed Ordinance are on file in the Community Development Department, and can be reviewed by any interested person at 455 North Rexford Drive, Room G-40, Beverly Hills, CA 90210.

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## Local Doctor Claims Headache Sufferers Will Suffer No Longer

By Irv Rudman

Dr. Yoav Stein, who runs Zone Healing Chiropractic in Beverly Hills, has just released a free report that is apparently causing a sensation among longtime headache sufferers. Drove of migraine victims are reportedly flocking to his office to find out if they are really suffering from a special type of headache only a small percentage of the doctors in the country can properly diagnose and treat without potentially harmful medications. I recently sat down with Dr. Stein to talk about why he thinks this free information is causing such a stir.

**Irv Rudman:** Why are so many headache sufferers frustrated?

**Dr. Yoav Stein:** I think it has something to do with the way most doctors look at headache cases. Often times they don't do a thorough check to see what's really going on in the patient's body so they don't have a clue about what's giving the patient a headache in the first place. Then they try to approach the problem by using medications. Since the doctor isn't addressing the root cause of the headaches, the headaches keep coming back and they tend to get worse. And on top of this, these medications may have dangers

and risks that could potentially hurt the patient more than headaches.

**Rudman:** So the cure can actually make it worse?

**Stein:** Exactly. A lot of times the pills we take to get rid of a headache do a whole lot more. They don't just target your headache and leave the rest of you alone. That's why you hear so many stories of people having strokes, hemorrhages or liver damage just from taking over-the-counter drugs. People don't understand there are serious risks associated with any medication if they are taken for the wrong ailment or

abused. And the stronger the drug, the more harm it may do to you.

**Rudman:** You said some doctors don't look, or can't pinpoint, the real cause of headaches?

**Stein:** Yes. I'll give you an example. There's a type of headache called a Cervicogenic headache. If you suffer from it, it feels as horrible as any headache can feel, but there's a catch: The cause of this kind of headache isn't in your head at all. The real cause of this kind of headache is in your neck. Let me share a common story with you. I recently had a patient who came to me because she had severe headaches and the doctor she was seeing could not help her. I did some tests and found out she had some damage in her neck that was basically sending abnormal signals to her brain creating the headaches.

**"I did some tests and found out she had some damage in her neck that was basically sending abnormal signals to her brain creating the headaches, just like a broken tooth can. The good news is I knew I could help her and in no time she was feeling better than ever and has not had a headache since."**

-- Dr. Yoav Stein

just like a broken tooth can. The good news is I knew I could help her and in no time she was feeling better than ever and has not had a headache since. My files are full of stories like this.

**Rudman:** How many headache sufferers do you think have Cervicogenic headaches and don't know it?

**Stein:** I've heard anywhere from 25-85 percent of the headache suffering population. No study has really pin-

pointed it, but there was once one study where half of the group was giving regular pills and other half just had their necks treated as if they had a Cervicogenic headache. Both groups felt better, but when the study ended the group that had their necks treated still felt better while the other group that got drugs reported their headaches came right back.

**Rudman:** It sounds like anyone who has continued to suffer from headaches for a long time should get their necks checked, just in case. How can my readers get in contact with you?

**Stein:** Well, since my office is so busy, I'm going to have to ask your

readers not to call me directly if they have any questions. I've set up a special hotline they can call to order my free report to find out more about how my Headache Severity Evaluation can pinpoint the real cause of their headaches, and better yet, how to get rid of their headaches forever without any drugs. Call today because there's no point in living with headaches another day when you don't have to.

To order a copy of Dr. Stein's free report, call (800) 475-6702.

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Friends Board member Betty Harris

tions, programs, lectures, etc. of the library and we give them over \$150,000 a year. This was a very different situation and we had never dealt with anything like this," Demeter said.

According to Friends board member Betty Harris, the board felt it was not appropriate to accept the check because it would have been a form of advertising for the donating company. Harris, who did not attend the meeting, said she agrees with the board's closed ballot decision.

"In view of the fact that this gentleman has a business and he buys and sells, we just felt that was not appropriate for the Friends of the Library, even though we were assured, both by Beverley Simmons and Steve Miller, that there would be no prices on any of these," said another Friends board member and past president Adriane Lorin. "Even the fact that the question came up made us feel rather uncomfortable; the questions regarding whether they'd be for sale or whether people could come in and there'd be price tags on them. Since he is a businessman and it's what he does for a living we just felt that it was not appropriate for us in any way, even though we would not be held responsible for any part of it."

Collins disagrees.

"If the reason is that they think it's publicity for the gentleman, he's going to be filling those cases for four different exhibits a year for five years and the only thing he wants out of it, I think, is, 'This display is sponsored by...' I don't think that's a lot of publicity, but everybody wants something," Collins said.

According to Lorin, the Friends vote was unanimous, and never before had the Friends participated in a closed count.

"We felt that the time had come. We had gotten so many requests that one of the board members really stood up and said she was tired of all these requests for

Friends for doing these things," Lorin said. "That is not our job description. We are a fund-raising organization to better the collection of the library and to help in areas where there is not enough funding from the city or wherever else, and we're there to enlarge and enhance the collection, and this is what we've always done. And more recently we've been asked to do all kinds of things that have not been in our provenance."

Demeter said she felt the discussion and vote was precedent setting.

"We had never dealt with a pass through type entity before and so whenever something out of your realm comes in you do have a lot of questions," Demeter said.

Demeter said there was more than one reason for not participating.

"We had an extensive discussion in executive session; people had many questions they felt were not answered. There was a time element, we were asked to make a decision quickly and I think that after the discussion I heard many different things from people. But if I were to try to determine the general sentiment, it was that we just didn't have complete or enough information to make a decision and we were under time pressure," Demeter said, adding that specifics "should not be discussed outside of that session."

Collins said she won't understand the decision until the board gives her a reason.

"Until they personally give me a reason why they don't want to accept this, I don't really understand it because it's for the benefit of the community," Collins said. "If [the Historical Society] ha[s] to act as the pass though, we will. I don't really understand why they wouldn't want to bring more of the community to the library and the residents."

The Beverly Hills Historical Society voted last week to receive the gift from Profiles In History if the Friends of the Library decided not to participate.

"The only reason I might be disappointed is because it puts limitations on other people trying to donate things," Collins said, "and then they have to find another 501-C-3 that it has to go through."

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# where are they now?



## Ken Gelms

Beverly High Journalism Teacher, 1960-1965

Public Information Officer, 1965-1985

Solana Beach, CA

### How did you first get to Beverly Hills?

I was working at the *Glendale Independent* during the summertime and a person used to work at the Glendale News Press and had gone into public information for the Glendale school district came in with a news release and said, "Ken, there's a job opening that I know of that you'd be just great at." He said they wanted someone with journalism training and teaching experience. Coincidentally, I taught journalism in the LAUSD for six years before I went to Beverly Hills. But I said, "Nah, I'm happy doing what I'm doing." He said, "Think about it and let me know." A week later I said, "What's this place you're talking about." Frankly, I didn't know Beverly Hills from a hole in the wall. Every job I ever went into after I got out of college and the

Army I always went into the interview thinking, "I gotta get this job, I gotta get this job!" This one, I applied for it and I went in with the idea, "I don't give a darn if I get it or not. I love doing what I'm doing." It was a whole different feeling and the superintendent said, "Well, I see that's your resume and portfolio, when can you start?" I said, "In September. I want to interview the Board of Education." He said, "Why?" I said, "Because I want to see how committed they are to this position. I don't want to quit Los Angeles [Unified], come here for a year and have a 3-2 count saying they don't want the position anymore." I thought that was pretty gutsy, so I had my interview with them and asked each one of them point blank what they thought of it and if they saw it as a personal public information posi-



tion or for the district, and I was satisfied and told Superintendent [Ken] Peters I'd take the job.

**What was it like being a journalism teacher at that time?**

Well, I was trained in journalism and I have a degree in journalism so it wasn't something new to me. I went to the University of Illinois and I went into the Army. I got out of the Army and some of the newspapers folded out there and my wife didn't want to move from Southern California so I went back to school and got my teaching credential. And during the summertime I worked in newspapers in Glendale called Jerry Deal Publications. They had about six or seven papers-- the *Glendale Independent*, the *Wilshire Press*, the *Los Feliz News*, and I had took vacation shifts for all of the different editors going from paper to paper. At any rate, I had two backgrounds-- the teaching credential and journalism.

The school district wanted somebody to teach *Highlights*, [be a] journalism teacher and part-time public information officer. For five years that I taught, my classes won every national award possible for a high school newspaper.

**Why did you decide to pursue journalism?**

I had grandiose ideas of being a foreign correspondent and journalism was the way to go. But I never even got close to being a foreign correspondent (laughing).

**The famous journalism teacher Romaine Pauley preceded you?**

I didn't follow right after her. The guy I succeeded was Reynold Johnson. I don't know how long he'd been there, but Romaine Pauley had been assistant principal for some time. I was very confident in my own abilities. [Johnson] wasn't much of a legacy in my opinion. He had the kids call him by his first name and he was buddy-buddy [with the students] and anybody could do what they wanted to do and I'm a little more of a disciplinarian than that. One thing I did do when I took over journalism is that it used to be a dumping ground. Anyone who couldn't find a class somewhere else got dumped in journalism and when I got there I changed all that. I looked through records and consulted with English teachers and sent out a personal letter to about 100 students I felt would be really good students and I invited them to come in one afternoon. I didn't tell them what it was about, but I thought about 75 of them would come in and then I gave them my pitch to apply to journalism and I made it highly selective telling them only 25 would be selected and that's how things happened for the next five years and it was an honor to be in journalism instead of a dumping ground.

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\*\*The Annual Percentage Yield (APY) for the Silver Money Market account is accurate as of the date of publication and is subject to change without notice. The Silver Money Market is a tiered money market checking account. The Silver Money Market APY will vary based on the balance maintained: \$0-\$9,999 earns 0.00% APY, \$10,000-\$49,999 earns 2.10% APY, \$50,000 and above earns 4.25% APY. The Silver Money Market account requires a minimum opening deposit of \$10,000 and is available for new money only. Accounts with a minimum daily balance below \$5000 are subject to a fee. Fees may reduce principal.



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I had the pick of the crop, I had the greatest groups of students anyone could ever have. I gave them good instruction in journalism, but that and the ability of the kids is why we won all the national awards. One time I had to do district business for an entire week so I had to leave my journalism class and I said, "I have enough confidence in you to do me proud and put out an excellent paper, don't run stuff around the mulberry bush and [print] innuendos and I'm quite certain you'll do it without me." So a substitute teacher came in and when I came back he said, "That's the damnest class I ever had. All I did was sit here; they took care of everything." And they produced the paper on time and everything was fine.

**What other classroom innovations did you create?**

I had two classes-- one of beginning journalism and *Highlights*. I had two staffs, so rather than one staff working each week, they had two weeks to prepare the newspaper. I had an editor-in-chief for one staff and an editor-in-chief for another. That worked out great.

**Tell us about the mechanics of the paper.**

It was letter press and I used to love that. On Thursday afternoon after school they all set it up down in the print shop and they actually put the metal together. They all enjoyed that very much. Today, you have lithograph, you don't have any hot metal, you don't have a slug of type, it's just print-

ed on a piece of paper and taken from there. This was actually working with the metal itself. Each line of type was all put into a chase and locked up with a key and put onto the press with the ink. I don't know of anybody that does letter press printing anymore.

**Are there any students you remember most?**

Bill Rowen; Margie Blatt; Delia Ephron, Nora's sister; and Hallie Ephron. They were all great students. I really don't want to pick someone out over another because I'm going to forget someone and that's unfair. I [also] keep in touch with Bob Perlberg.

**Why did you leave journalism for the district office?**

The reason they took me out of journalism is we had a bond election in those days and they wanted to me to work full time on the tax and bond election, so that's what I did. It was for the first major building program in the district [which later financed new buildings at the high school and other campuses]. Both passed with a 93 percent 'yes' vote. So at that time the greatest boss in the world and one of the finest superintendents, Ken Peters, said, "Stay over here from now on."

**Did you miss the classroom?**

I missed it, but I also enjoyed my district job because it was a very satisfying job. On the various publications that I designed and published I consistently won national

awards, and they even asked me to write a book which I did, *Communication By Design*. In 1978, I was president of the National School Public Relations Association and I was asked by them to write a book on beginning design for school public information people.

**What was the attraction to administration?**

It was closer to what I had originally been trained for in journalism. I was writing news releases after every board meeting and features stories. But I still liked teaching journalism.

**Who do you remember working with most?**

Ken Peters, the greatest boss and superintendent anywhere in the world. I was lucky enough to have him as my boss for 21 out of 25 years. We worked very closely together and I think we had a special relationship.

**Who do you still keep in touch with?**

Ken Peters and Frank Scott, who was the principal of El Rodeo.

**Tell us about hiring legendary journalism teacher Gil Chesterson.**

A woman followed me directly who believed in, "The Medium is the Message", and then they got another guy and they let him do anything he wanted to do-- put the banner line upside down or put the name plate upside down or along one edge because that was "creative." I didn't think

so, but then Gil followed him. I got very well acquainted with him and he was an outstanding journalism teacher. And there again, you have a situation much like mine; he also was in journalism. In fact, he used to write for where I retired to for five years in Big Bear Lake, called the *Big Bear Grizzly*. He had a journalism degree and a teaching credential so he knew what it was all about. He did it just like I did. We never had to make lesson plans to teach journalism, we knew it that well.

**You interacted with a lot of local newspapers.**

[Yes, the] *Beverly Hills Post*, *The Independent*, but way before that there was the *Beverly Hills Press*. I mean, we're going back 50 years; my memory isn't that good anymore (laughing). [Bill Reeder] was the executive editor when it was a daily and he sold it to the *Santa Monica Outlook* and they turned it into a weekly and Bill was the editor until he retired. There was of course the *L.A. Times* Westside section, *Beverly Hills Times* and then it became the *Courier*. Normally, I would send out, or take over personally, news releases of the board meeting, and they were written just like they would be a newspaper, each one a new story, etc. Generally speaking, the weekly papers ran them just the way I wrote them, but the *L.A. Times* had a policy that the reporter was never to take a handout the way it was and always had to rewrite it. I

where are they now? cont. on page 9

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# from the hills of beverly



## Stop The Feuding and Fussing

New opportunities should bring us together.  
By Rudy Cole

It may not have been the best venue or the most sensitive moment to unleash an attack on city government, but about 10 years ago when a local business owner received the "Small Business of the Year" honor from the Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce at their annual award luncheon, he took the occasion to blast city officials for their lack of concern for business interests.

Recently, an entrepreneurial investor from the Bay Area scouted possible sites for an office building development. After meetings with city officials and other developers, she retreated back to San Jose proclaiming "building here is simply too cumbersome a process."

The unhappy businessman was lamenting all the time and energy he had to spend to obtain permission to place an electronic sign in his store window-- one not then permitted under our codes, and the would-be investor was shocked by our strict rules on height and density.

Contrast this to the message being delivered to some 200 residents at a homeowners' associ-

ation meeting who were told that the City Council was on a "development jihad." Ironically, the gathering was at the Beverly Hills Hotel, a business entirely surrounded by single-family residences that would have absolutely no chance of gaining construction approval today.

Incidentally, I was misinformed about one comment at that meeting, which I did not attend. My sources told me that former Mayor **Robert K. Tanenbaum** had joshed that **Larry Larson**, the well known anti-council leader, was the "Idi Amin" of Beverly Hills. I was wrong. He had given that designation to Municipal League president for life, **Thomas White**. My apologies to Idi and Larry.

Of course, I am never sure when Tanenbaum is being funny.

Aside from the lack of taste in so casually tossing around the word "jihad" in our community, where does the truth lie? Are we going through an explosion of development projects? If so, why?

First, a reality check. This council has and

does reflect a continuation of zoning and planning positions taken for over three decades by our city leaders. There have been far more proposals that bit the planning dust than were approved. Just a few examples the more militant and vocal anti-council voices seem to forget: A Gelson's Market on Crescent; a major motion picture theatre bid near Beverly, Canon and Wilshire Boulevard; a medical office building in the Industrial Area; and a Rosewood Hotel at Wilshire and Linden. There were many others, these were simply the most contentious.

Is the council anti-business? It can't be if it wants to continue to pay the bills for the services we demand. The residential community, let's face the reality, pays for about 20 percent of the costs of our excellent city services, including police and fire protection.

However, consider just some of the restrictions this and previous city councils have placed on development: When we faced an explosion of medical office and financial institutions, the council adopted very tough building rules. The frontage of banks and savings and loans were so limited in size as to make new tenancy impossible. Why? Because they paid no sales taxes and only increased traffic. New medical buildings were required to provide far more parking than any other office uses and again because they too produced more trip generation and did little or nothing for city commerce.

The city also has, to the lament of the award winner, tough rules on store signage, far more stringent than our neighbors and designed to protect the quality of retailing and the traditional look and feel of our business areas. Don't even try to place a garish sign on your building unless you want a visit from our vigilant code enforcement officers.

We have one of the best traffic management systems possible, we enforce parking rules vigorously and a far sighted city council years ago purchased property throughout the business area to provide subsidized parking. True, the lots lack imagination in design, but at least we have the property. As for changing residential to commercial, it doesn't happen, not in our village and we have a design review process to halt "mansionization."

This continuing battle of development has some very important lessons. In recent years, some of the more vocal anti-growth leaders tried to prevent Barneys New York-- which, incidentally, replaced an existing bank building. Long before that, there were civic tussles involving Saks Fifth Avenue and even Neiman Marcus! Imagine what Wilshire Boulevard could have been without them.

Give some credit to city leaders and business interests for preventing some far less attractive uses. Instead of prestigious, revenue producing retailers we could easily have seen mass merchandizing outlets, and what would that have done to our image? Or, suppose far sighted and responsible leaders such as **Fred Hayman**, **Dar Mahboubi**, **Jerry Magnin** and **Dick Carroll** had not strived to create what is now Rodeo Drive? Would Beverly Hills have become a true tourist destination?

Pro real estate interests? Ask the city's land-

lords. Beverly Hills has, and this may surprise you, far tougher rules on rent increases than Los Angeles.

An example of some miscalculations: Although the proposal to build a Four Seasons at Rodeo and Wilshire was turned down by the voters in part because its insistence on a major banquet facility would have created a day time traffic nightmare when both the Beverly Wilshire and Four Seasons had simultaneous events, the truth is that the Four Seasons refused to modify their demands. But what do we have instead? A retail development on the same property generating far more traffic and far less city revenue, albeit an attractive, innovative structure.

There have been mistakes, of course. The Peninsula should have been given two more floors and more banquet space. We could have welcomed a less intrusive theatre complex. Some compromise should have been reached to bring us a full service, quality food market such as Gelson's, and we could have been more encouraging to plans for a Bloomingdale's on North Beverly Drive.

But a city all out for growth? Hardly.

Which brings us to what is happening lately. It took a vote of the people to actually approve the Montage Hotel and Gardens and we will soon decide what to do with an about to close Robinsons-May.

What is stimulating these and other possible projects is a very dramatic change in the economy, an opportunity we need to understand and which to apply our collective, real community interest thinking, not knee jerk reactionaryism.

It's called "smart growth." Let's face it, we have, despite our insistence on quality, some very ugly, deteriorating commercial properties in our city. For many years, there was simply no investment dollars available to encourage improvements. In fact, following 9/11 our tourism took a dive. The Japanese government even placed a "don't visit" tag on America and our hotel occupancy hit new lows.

The recovery has been very dramatic. Rodeo Drive is without any significant vacancy. The Rodeo Collection, the first big gem on the street, once in trouble, is now completely leased and about to welcome a major new restaurant.

What this means is that we can, if we work together as a community and not as guests on "**Jerry Springer**", make some good decisions for this and future generations.

The question now is not growth, but what kind. We simply must understand that there are some very limited opportunities for improvements that will, no matter what we believe, be developed. We can have quality and community interest development or additions that could change the character of our business area. The Montage was an excellent example. It replaced one of the least attractive portions of the business triangle with a high revenue producing, prestigious hotel.

What few opportunities exist do not represent a building explosion, but a chance to find low traffic generating uses that match the image we insist is Beverly Hills. For Robinsons-May, it means a condo project that could dramatically improve our most important gateway. Housing is the least possible traffic generator and it also means less pressure to

rudy cole cont. on page 9

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demolish apartment buildings for conversions, replacing longtime residents. There are many other reasons this should go forward seamlessly, some we have previously discussed and will again.

So, the economy has created new possibilities to make rational improvements and, once more, there will be changes that could totally comply with current codes and that would be very detrimental to our city, or there could be a coming together for a rational use of the planning process. Yes, we need organizations that work against irresponsible growth, but these same groups need to accept responsibility for their posture on development and work with the city on present and future plans.

Final word: Do you remember the White Front discount stores? They were the forerunner of Best Buy and Fry's, but even less classy. One almost came to Wilshire and Rodeo, but then civic and business leaders came together and avoided a debacle that would have changed Wilshire Boulevard. We have a responsibility to make the same choices, and we can.

\*\*\*

Plans to create a dedicated fast lane on Wilshire for a bus line may work, but there are issues: What will happen to early morning deliveries, especially post office pick-ups? Eliminating all parking on Wilshire needs some careful consideration.

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

*where are they now? cont. from page 7*

got a call from one guy in the Westside section, and he said, "I wish to hell you weren't such a good writer. I have a difficult time rewriting your stuff."

That was only one aspect of the job. A big aspect was the quarterly newsletter to the parents. I took my own photographs, wrote it, designed it and that was called *Blueprint*. During the early 1960s, before Proposition 13, we produced quite a few publications, like one for elementary school grade levels telling parents what they can expect to know after [their childre] got out of this grade, etc. I was in charge of it from scratch-- basic design, photographs, seeing it all the way through publication and getting it distributed.

**What was the dynamic like between you and the newspapers?**

Excellent. They appreciated my honesty and my ability, and I would have some of them call me sometime and say, "Look we can't send anyone out to the board meeting. Will you do it for us?" I said, "I always do," and pretty soon nobody showed up. I just put my hand up.

**The district eventually eliminated the public relations officer position.**

I think it's penny wise and pound foolish. I think communicating with your various publics-- newspapers, vendors, parents, students-- is very vital to community support and vital to getting your program known

and doing a good job. A lot of people when they talk and say "public relations" they're thinking in terms of that's a con job or making everything look good. That's why I refrained from using the words "public relations" and use "public information" and that's what I was in the business of doing-- providing information to a variety of different publics. Of course, the most important publics being the parents, teachers, community and the power structure of the community-- and there is one. There always has been and there always will be. In fact, years and years ago, there was one person that if you ran for the Board of Education, you had to go get that person's blessing first, or you didn't win.

**Why did you retire?**

[Ken Peters] had been retired for four years, my good boss, and I always planned on retiring early, but my 10-year plans often go out the window somewhere. I like to travel so I figured it out that I could and I could do it at 57, so I did.

**How did you get to Solana Beach?**

We had a condo right on the beach about 20 years ago and I liked the area and because of my lung problems I need to be close to the water. After I retired we moved to Big Bear Lake for five years and my wife didn't like the cold, [but] I thought it was great. So then we moved to Oceanside for 10 years and I wanted to be closer to the ocean. Then we moved to Solana Beach. I wouldn't live anywhere else.

**What are you doing now?**

If I hadn't retired when I did, having my heart attack three weeks before I retired would have clinched it. I had to change my eating habits, and tested thousands of recipes so I wrote a cookbook, *Chicken and Fish For Two*, and there are modified recipes from around the world-- low fat, low sodium, low cholesterol, low calorie.

I also collect stamps and for the last two years I've won Best of Division for my stamp displays at the San Diego County Fair. In 2004, [I won for] the "Many Faces of Adolf Hitler" and last year it was the "Golden Age of Japanese Art." Even though I can't travel anymore, I stay pretty busy.

**Do you miss Beverly Hills?**

No. I'm not one of those who looks back. I look ahead.

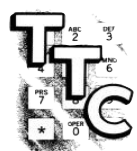
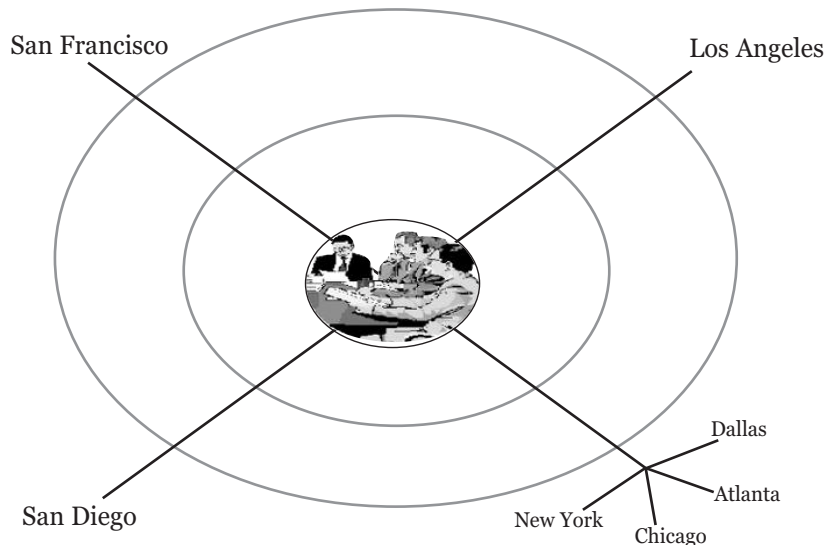
-- Interview by Andrea Simpson

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# briefs

## Alliance Attorney Requests Another Extension In Filing Montage Brief

Beverly Hills Residential Business Alliance attorney Robert Silverstein was supposed to submit a brief in the appeal case against the Montage Hotel Feb. 1, after receiving two previous extensions by the court, and has requested a third extension.

Silverstein filed an application Jan. 27 for an extension in the appeal to overturn Judge David Yaffe's decision to invalidate the Montage referendum.

In the appellants' previous requests for an extension last year, Silverstein cited preparing the opening brief in this case as an "unusual and difficult task"; his recent departure from his former law firm Hill, Farrer & Burrill to start his own firm; other time consuming clients and the Jewish holidays as reasons for more time. At that time, Silverstein did not file the brief on required due date and the Court of Appeals sent him a Rule 17(a) notice in November stating the brief must be filed by the following month, or the matter would be dismissed.

In his most recent request, Silverstein again refers to several factors "impairing" his ability to complete the brief on time. Silverstein points once more to his recent departure from Hill, Farrer & Burrill and the time constraint in training and hiring new employees. Silverstein also writes that he is counsel in other matters including representing a neighborhood group against

the LAUSD, which is planning to acquire many properties by eminent domain to build about 150 schools including high schools, middle schools, primary centers, and elementary schools throughout the Los Angeles area by the year 2012.

He also represents another community organization, the Right Site Coalition in Echo Park, regarding a pending CEQA lawsuit in association with the construction of an elementary school on Alvarado Street just south of Sunset Boulevard.

According to LAUSD Board of Education member David Tokofsky's office, about half of the homeowners out of 21 parcels in question have sold to the district, but there is a group of about seven homeowners who make up the Coalition, some of whom would like to see their property values rise and claim the area is a historic neighborhood, which it is not.

According to the LAUSD, one of the Coalition's claims is that a school is not needed because demographics are shifting. The LAUSD argues that schools in the area still have bungalows, are year-round and crowded, and the hope is to return elementary schools to their traditional format and regain a full-time kindergarten system.

The Coalition also claims that the district didn't follow CEQA guidelines. According to the LAUSD, however, it retained a third party to confirm the validity of its work and results showed the work was performed properly.

According to his brief, Silverstein is also representing another neighborhood group in Upland and another resident whose property is being condemned by another school site and preparing for additional hearings. He also

writes that this month he has been devoting a substantial amount of time to community groups and a property owner in Hollywood regarding land use and environmental issues and case hearings. Many of the filing and hearing dates coincided with the filing of the Alliance brief.

Silverstein has asked for a 20-day extension to Feb. 20.

The Montage referendum, Measure A, passed on March 8 with 4,482 votes for and 3,898 against the project; and in April Judge Yaffe denied motions by the Alliance to invalidate the election results.

## Council Determines Linden Drive Project Eligible for Track I Status

The City Council advised Tuesday that the proposed residence at 800 North Linden Drive qualifies for Track I status, provided the developers agree to specific changes suggested by the Design Review Commission.

The design plans for 800 North Linden Drive were originally approved in December as a Track I project. The proposed residence was determined to meet the criteria for "Italianate" style, one of several pre-approved designs requiring only city staff approval prior to construction.

Had the plans not been determined to be consistent with the Italianate style, the project would have fallen under Track II jurisdiction, requiring approval from the city and the Design Review Commission.

Robert Schwab, neighbor to 800 North Linden Drive, disputed the Track I categorization, and in January requested the City Council review the decision.

At its regular meeting, the City Council directed staff to forward the proposed project to the Design Review Commission for a recommendation on whether the proposed design is in keeping with Italianate design criteria. The Design Review Commission voted 4-1 that the proposed design was not consistent with Track I as an Italianate style, citing inconsistencies in the entrance, windows, doors, accents and roof.

On Tuesday the council heard arguments from both sides on whether 800 North Linden Drive should fall under Track I or Track II.

Joseph Tilem, attorney for Laarni Omingo, the owner of 800 North Linden, claimed that Schwab's objections were not based on design issues but rather on a row of trees located on the 800 North Linden lot which would be cut down in the construction process. Privacy issues are not part of the Track I criteria.

Michael Flattery, another attorney for Omingo, argued that not only did the plans meet Track I criteria, negating Schwab's privacy concerns, but the City Council's jurisdiction to rule on the issue had expired.

According to Beverly Hills municipal code, the city has 30 days to order a review of a decision by a city official. The original decision on 800 North Linden Drive was made on December 14, 2005, which means City Council was required to take action by January 13, 2006. Staff and the City Attorney's Office mistakenly counted the last day to be January 14, 2006, which fell on a Saturday, and with the following holiday on Monday, Jan. 16, extended to Jan. 17.

City Attorney Larry Wiener had advised prior to Tuesday's meeting that the City Council lacks jurisdiction to call up and review

the decision after 30 days and reiterated his advice on Tuesday.

Several local residents spoke against 800 North Linden, claiming that the scale of the proposed design was not appropriate for the neighborhood. Among the speakers was Dennis Roach, who claimed that the project would contribute to a negative trend of oversize homes that will eventually cause Beverly Hills property values to go down.

Steven Roth called the plans "atrocious" and pleaded for the council to "send a message" to the Design Review Commission, while Elliot Megdal called the proposed structure "intrusive."

Steven Albert, an architect and former member of the Architectural Commission, reviewed the plans for 800 North Linden at Schwab's request and compared them with an architectural style guide he owns. He concluded that the proposal was not consistent with the Italianate style.

Robert Weiss, attorney for Omingo, countered that the design plans were created with painstaking attention to Track I and Italianate guidelines.

Community Development Director Mahdi Aluzri confirmed that the Design Review Commission had only cited a few specific areas in which the plans deviated from Italianate guidelines.

Tilem, at the conclusion of the meeting, restated the point that Schwab's privacy concerns do not constitute a legitimate reason to object to the project's design. He offered that the developers would not only keep the trees intact but would pay for them as well if it would end the dispute.

Ultimately, the council ruled that if Omingo agrees to make the changes to the entrance, windows, doors, accents and roof that were specified by the Design Review Commission, then the project may proceed under Track I.

## "College Night" Feb. 15

Beverly High will host "College Night" Feb. 15 at 7 p.m. in the K.L. Peters Auditorium that will include a panel of admissions officers from Loyola Marymount University, Cal State Northridge and Santa Monica College. Topics that will be discussed include how to get started with the college list, SAT Reasoning and Subject Tests and ACT, what colleges are looking for in college admission, the college essay, do's and don'ts, and individual eleventh grade conferences with student and parents will be scheduled.

For more information, call (310) 551-5100, ext. 8304.

## Rodeo Drive Walk of Style To Honor Costume Designers Feb. 28

The City of Beverly Hills and the Rodeo Drive Committee announced last week that costume designers the late Edith Head, James Acheson and Milena Canonero will be honored with the Rodeo Drive Walk of Style Award at a ceremony Feb. 28.

The honorees also will receive a permanent plaque in the sidewalk along the famed street that features their signature and quote. The Rodeo Drive Walk of Style Award honors style icons for their contributions to the worlds of fashion and entertainment. *Vanity Fair* will be

briefs cont. on page 11



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# sports & scores



## BHHS Girls' Soccer Team Routs Inglewood Again

Norman boys' soccer team ties Santa Monica.  
By Steven Herbert

Freshman forward Emily Litvak scored three goals and Gina Hendron and Becca Gold combined on the shutout as Beverly High defeated Inglewood, 7-0, in an Ocean League girls' soccer game at Nickoll Field Jan. 27, routing the Sentinels for the second time this season.

Nikki Sharaf opened the scoring 35 seconds into the game with her ninth goal of the season. Litvak scored off an assist by Amanda Brandeis one minute, 52 seconds later. Litvak scored her second goal at the 6:32 mark off Sharaf's assist.

Beverly Hills increased its lead to 4-0 at 18:43 as Alex Pop scored off Tanya Djafar's assist.

Joey Sundy scored her team-leading 11th goal of the season at 44:10 off Sami Pop's assist. Emily Housman scored off Alex Pop's assist at 53:10. Litvak completed her hat trick at 58:35, off assists by Rachel Kove and Danielle Jonas.

Hendron started and made three saves, while Gold played in the second half and made one save.

The Normans defeated Inglewood, 8-0, in the Ocean League opener for both teams Jan. 11 at Inglewood.

### Beverly Hills 3, Culver City 1

Djafar scored the tiebreaking goal early in

the second half and Jocelyn Karlan added an insurance goal for the Normans in an Ocean League game at Nickoll Field Jan. 25.

Jonas scored in the first half for Beverly Hills, mishitting a cross that ended up in the net. The Centaurs tied the score later in the half.

Djafar scored on a 25-yard half-volley. Karlan scored on a rebound of an Alex Pop shot on a scoring sequence that began with a corner kick.

"I thought overall we played an excellent game," Beverly Hills coach Ryan Franks said. "Particularly, it was nice to see Alex Pop really gain her form from last year [after undergoing knee surgery.] She was definitely the star of the game."

### What's Next?

The Normans are scheduled to play an Ocean League game at Culver City today at 3 p.m., their regular-season finale.

### Boys' Soccer

#### Beverly Hills 0, Santa Monica 0

Norman junior goalkeeper David Roston made five saves in an Ocean League game at Santa Monica Jan. 18.

The Vikings led in shots, 5-2.

"We didn't do a lot offensively, but we played a great game against them," Beverly

of all faiths," Cantor Yonah Kliger of Temple Emanuel said. "Through music we can reach a powerful place, a place which opens our minds to new and exciting possibilities."

For more information about the event, call (310) 288-3737, ext. 232 or e-mail Michael@tebh.net.

### Jack Weiss To Run for City Attorney

Los Angeles Councilmember Jack Weiss announced last Thursday that he will make a run for city attorney in 2007 if incumbent City Atty. Rocky Delgadillo wins the state attorney general seat in November.

If Delgadillo wins, Weiss said he would run for city attorney in a special election that could be next year. If Delgadillo loses, Weiss said he would run in 2009 when Delgadillo is termed out of office.

"My law training is in law enforcement," said Weiss, a 1982 Beverly High graduate. "I served as a federal prosecutor from 1994 to 2000 and I know personally what it takes to fight crime though our justice system and I want a law enforcement position."

As a council member, Weiss is also the chair

Hills coach Steve Rappaport said. "We really challenged a top team."

Senior midfielder Holden Smetana "had a brilliant game," while senior defender Victor Byun, sophomore sweeper Alex Lichtenberg, and sophomore defender Jake Weissberg also drew praise from Rappaport for their play for the Normans.

### What's Next?

The Normans are scheduled to play host to an Ocean League game against Culver City tonight at 6 p.m. at Nickoll Field, their regular-season finale.

### Girls' Basketball

#### Beverly Hills 57, Hawthorne 38

Junior guard Allison Galer scored 22 points for the Normans in an Ocean League game at the Swim-Gym Jan. 13.

Beverly Hills led 14-9 after the first quarter, 28-17 at halftime and 42-28 entering the fourth quarter.

Norman senior center Gwynne Evans scored eight of her 10 points in the first half. Negin Mostadim added nine, Roxy Pirnia five, Rosie McClaren four, Didi Younesi three, and Neeka Shayan and Bettina Shore two each.

### What's Next?

The Normans are scheduled to play an Ocean League game at Culver City at 6 p.m. tonight, their regular-season finale.

### Boys' Basketball

#### Inglewood 63, Beverly Hills 57

The Normans were outscored, 26-11, in the second quarter of their Ocean League opener Jan. 11 at the Swim-Gym.

Beverly Hills outscored the Sentinels, 22-18, in the first quarter, with George Medrano scoring 11 of his 25 points and making the first of his three three-point baskets.

The Normans' four-point lead became a three-point deficit in the second quarter after Beverly Hills senior guard Ben Smyth was called for his third foul, then received a technical foul, which gave him four fouls, one shy

of the Public Safety Committee on police and crime issues. Weiss added that last week he and Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa discussed a counter terrorism program to be implemented throughout Los Angeles.

"When my council term ends [in 2009], my focus is on continuing my efforts in law enforcement and that's why I focus on law enforcement as a council member," Weiss said.

Weiss announced his intention to run on the same day that former Assembly speaker and mayoral candidate Bob Hertzberg said publicly that he also was interested in the job of city attorney.

Weiss represents the city's 5th District, which surrounds Beverly Hills, and includes Century City, Westwood, the Fairfax District, Encino, Sherman Oaks and Valley Village.

He was re-elected to a second term last March and is the second sitting member of the council to announce he's seeking a different job. L.A. Councilmember Alex Padilla is running for the state Senate.

-- Compiled by Anna Scott and Andrea Simpson

of being disqualified. The Sentinels made both free throws off the foul and both from the technical foul. Inglewood retained possession and made a three-point basket.

Medrano's three-point basket just before the end of the quarter cut the Sentinels' lead to 44-33.

The Normans outscored the Sentinels, 13-5, in the third quarter, cutting the deficit to 49-46 entering the fourth quarter. Medrano made a three-point basket and scored seven points in the quarter, while Cosmo Morabbi scored five points, including a three-point basket.

Beverly Hills was outscored, 13-11, in the fourth quarter, despite another five points and three-point basket by Morabbi, who finished with 14 points.

Daniel Leisner added eight points, Mabhod Zargar six, including a first-quarter three-point basket and Cliff Frazier and Smyth two each for the Normans.

### What's Next?

The Normans are scheduled to play host to an Ocean League game against Culver City tonight at 7:30 p.m. in the Swim-Gym, their regular-season finale.

### Girls' Water Polo

Beverly High is scheduled to conclude regular-season play today by playing host to Culver City in an Ocean League game at the Swim-Gym beginning at 3 p.m.

Steven Herbert also covers sports for the Los Angeles Times and The Associated Press. He welcomes feedback and suggestions. He can be reached by e-mail at [StvHerbert@aol.com](mailto:StvHerbert@aol.com), by telephone at (310) 275-7943 or by fax at (310) 273-4519.

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the presenting sponsor of the awards ceremony, with "Entertainment Tonight" and "The Insider" as broadcast partners. The event is scheduled to take place at the historic Beverly Hills Post Office, future home of the Wallis Annenberg Cultural Center.

Salvatore Ferragamo has already been announced as the eighth recipient of the award to be honored during a ceremony Oct. 8.

### Rick Recht To Perform at Temple Emanuel Tomorrow

Rick Recht, the top touring musician in Jewish music, will perform a free Shabbat Service and concert tomorrow at 7 p.m. at Temple Emanuel, located at 300 N. Clark Drive in Beverly Hills.

Recht's "Shabbat Alive!" family service will be an interactive, spiritual musical Shabbat service involving the participation of congregants. The event will also feature special guest Rev. Dr. Clyde W. Oden, Jr., Senior Pastor of Bryant Temple AME Church; the Bryant Temple AME Church Choir; and the Temple Emanuel Youth and Family Choirs.

"Music is a common bond shared by people

# coverstory

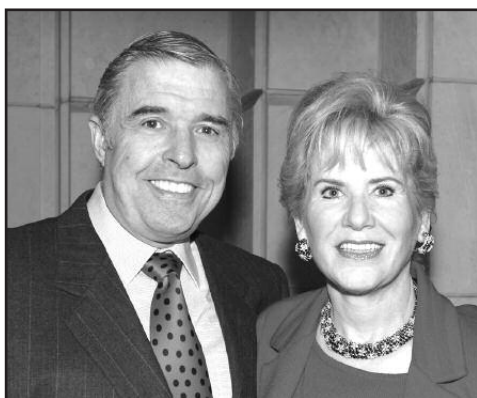
## LOVE IS IN THE AIR

Four Beverly Hills couples share their real-life love stories.  
By Anna Scott

**For this year's annual Valentine's Day cover story we spoke with four Beverly Hills couples about how they fell in love, the qualities that keep them together and how they plan to celebrate this Valentine's Day.**

### NANCY & JIM KRASNE

Nancy & Jim Krasne, both 61, have shared nearly four decades of laughs, and it shows. After talking to the couple for mere minutes, their easy rapport reveals a bottomless mutual affection that comes from being not only spouses but also best friends.



Young love: Jim & Nancy Krasne

Nancy Holoff, a Beverly Hills Planning Commissioner, and Jim Krasne, an attorney with his own practice in Beverly Hills, first met when they were 16-years-old. At the time, Jim was a student at Beverly High, while Nancy attended Uni High in West L.A. They met at a mutual friend's house. Nancy says, "He gave me a ride home and I thought, 'What a nice young man.'"

It wasn't until they ran into each other again as college students at UCLA, however, that they went on their first date and Nancy got her second ride in Jim's car. Nancy remembers it well.

"He picks me up, and he says, 'It's really nice having you in the car. It's so much warmer.' I thought, 'What a lovely thing to say!' Then he said, 'It really cuts down that cross-ventilation with these windows.' And I thought, is this guy for real?"

Jim chuckles upon hearing his wife's recollection.

"I was trying to be funny," Jim explains. Luckily, according to Nancy, Jim was a great dancer, so she didn't write him off immediately.

Within a few months, Nancy was wearing Jim's ZBT fraternity pin. They continued to date throughout college, and in a strange twist of fate, were "married" in a wedding booth at a Mardi Gras-themed frat party on April 3, 1964. They received a fake marriage certificate as a party favor, which they both forgot about until Nancy found it two years later, just days before their actual wedding was scheduled to take place-- on April 3, 1966.

Even after 40 years of marriage, their first

impressions of each other are crystal clear.

"It was his smile," Nancy says. For Jim, it was Nancy's gregarious personality that first caught his attention: "She seemed to be the life of the party, very extroverted." This quality, he adds, "compliments my introvert."

It's a dynamic that still exists between them, as to this day Jim has to "pry" Nancy away from parties. When the Krasnes host one of their popular dinner parties, often entertaining more than 30 guests at a time, it's Nancy who does all the cooking and party preparations, a role she relishes.

Except for their lavish dinner parties, however, Nancy warns, "We're really boring. A really fun night out for us is dinner and a movie."

As for maintaining such a successful long-term relationship, Nancy credits small, simple gestures of affection and never taking one another for granted.

"Jim's favorite thing is getting a hug," she says. "He works out of our home more than in his office. He likes to come in, give me a hug, then go back [to work]," Nancy says.

Jim concurs: "There's plenty of hugging., we're constantly saying, 'I love you,' and that kind of stuff." Jim also notes that, "We think the same way. The only exception to that was when we were raising our kids. I always wanted to be lenient and Nancy was tough, and Nancy was proven to be right. She stood her ground and did a great job with our kids."

Speaking of their kids, Kevin and David are now 35 and 29. Kevin, a 1989 graduate of Beverly High, lives in Beverly Hills and works as a CPA and real estate broker for Lee & Associates. David, who graduated from Harvard-Westlake, lives in New York, where he works for Capital One and plans to pursue his Master's Degree at Columbia University.

The Krasnes don't have specific Valentine's Day plans yet, except maybe a sushi date, but they always do something to celebrate. When they were raising their sons, Nancy would often pay a visit to her favorite local jeweler before Valentine's Day, pick something out and have it gift wrapped. Then, she would give the wrapped gift to Jim and, "He would give it to me in front of the children. That way, the kids thought he remembered." That, Jim jokes, is another thing he loves about his wife: "She thinks like a good private secretary."

However, the Krasnes spend Valentine's Day in 2006, they'll be sure to treasure the time together. As Nancy puts it, "Every day that we're healthy and we're with one another is Valentine's Day."

### DAWNALYN MURAKAWA-LEOPARD & DAN LEOPARD

While the Krasnes will focus on each other this Valentine's Day, another couple will be celebrating the arrival of a third party. Horace Mann Principal Dawnalyn Murakawa-

Leopard and her husband Dan Leopard, a Visiting Assistant Professor of Cinema at USC, welcomed daughter Jennalee on Dec. 18, and are thrilled over their daughter: "She's discovering new things every day. She's a lot of fun," Dawnalyn says.



New addition: Dawnalyn Murakawa-Leopard & Dan Leopard with newborn Jennalee

Their mutual love of children helped bring the couple together in the first place. Dawnalyn Murakawa and Dan Leopard met in 1995, when they were both teachers at James Logan High School, in the Bay Area. Dawnalyn taught English, History and Life Skills, while Dan taught video production. Dawnalyn says, "We had our first conversation because his kids invaded my classroom one day. They just barged into my room."

"They were doing a video production," Dan explains.

Dawnalyn continues, "We ended up teaching together in a program where we shared the same students. They went from my history class to Dan's video class, so we worked together pretty closely in the fall of 1996. Over the course of that time sparks were flying."

The students, however, never caught on to the budding romance. "We're both very good at being professional," Dan says.

These days, Dawnalyn and Dan's professional lives don't overlap, though their shared love for teaching remains a bonding point. Dawnalyn, currently on maternity leave, plans to return to her post as Horace Mann principal in March, while Dan will continue teaching college students at USC.

The two started to date at the beginning of 1997, when Dan asked Dawnalyn out to lunch. They dined at Fat Apple in Berkeley and quickly discovered that they were both reading the novel *The Unbearable Lightness of Being* by Milan Kundera. The coincidence turned out to be the catalyst to their falling in love.

"We kept this mutual journal that we passed back and forth while we were reading it," Dawnalyn explains. "It was the things that we were thinking while we were reading it, and we got to know each other that way. It was really sweet."

In the years since, they've realized what a fateful connection it truly was. While they both still love to read, "Dan is much more of a non-

fiction reader," Dawnalyn says, "so I discovered later what a huge thing it was for him to have read this novel."

Dan describes his proposal to Dawnalyn with sly humor: "I called her father and said, 'I want to know if you'll let me marry your daughter.' He said, 'What?' And that was the beginning of a beautiful friendship." The couple shares a laugh at this, a nod to the shared sense of humor they say is integral to their connection.

A similar comic sensibility isn't the only thing the Leopards have in common.

"Our families are very similar," Dawnalyn says. "Dan grew up in Portland and I grew up in L.A., but we keep discovering how much our parents are alike in odd ways."

"They're both goofy," Dan explains. He goes on to clarify, "That's my word, that's probably not their word. They like to talk, they joke, and they've got good senses of humor."

Family is important to the Leopards, as are holidays. "Our big step was a couple of years ago when we started hosting Thanksgiving at our house," Dawnalyn says. "We do Thanksgiving, my mom does Christmas and my aunt does New Years."

They don't plan to do anything big for Valentine's Day this year, though, except devote attention to Jennalee.

When the Leopards have spare time, their favorite place to escape to is Santa Barbara. They spent their honeymoon there, and "love to walk up and down the main streets," Dawnalyn says. Favorite Santa Barbara spots are the Palace Grill, a Cajun restaurant, and Borders Books and Music. These days, the new parents are sticking close to home, but did recently manage a "date night" of dinner and a movie. "And of course we both love 'CSI,'" Dan says. He jokes that they'll never run out of things to do, since "that's on all the time."

Even without "CSI", it's unlikely that the Leopards will tire of each other's company anytime soon.

"I love his creativity, his curiosity, his thoughtfulness and his sense of humor," Dawnalyn says of her husband.

"Hey, you took one of mine!" Dan protests. But he doesn't have any trouble naming things he loves about his wife: "Her brilliance, her amazing intellect, her incredible kindness and generosity. She's wonderful."

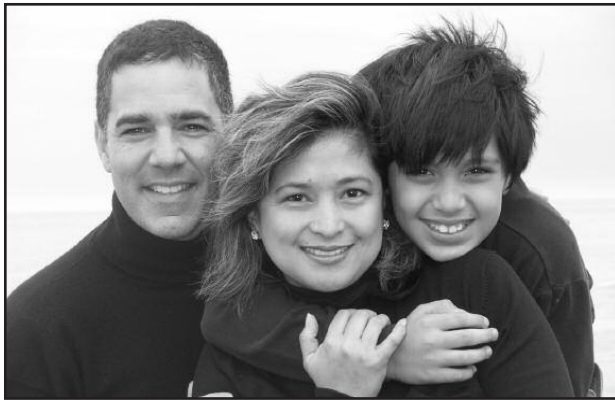
"He's wonderful," Dawnalyn quickly cuts in to say.

To which Dan replies, "She's more wonderful."

### MARC & ANNETTE SALEH

When Marc Saleh and Annette Contreras met at a fund-raiser in 1985, Marc was immediately smitten.

"I remember the day very clearly," he says. "I was making margaritas and a very lovely lady dressed in black came up, and I asked her



*Best friends: Marc & Annette Saleh with their son Anton*

if she wanted a margarita. I found out who she was from other people and built a relationship very slowly from that point."

Says Annette, "I thought this guy was very funny and very smart, that was my first impression, but I didn't pay much attention at the time. I was with a date."

The two began seeing each other as friends before it became romantic, sharing casual lunches here and there. "We became buddies," says Annette. They even went out on double dates, each of them paired with another person. "I remember my date saying, 'You're into that guy,'" Annette recalls, "and I said, 'No,' but..." She trails off with a laugh.

Eventually, Marc and Annette started dating each other, and after a couple of years moved in together. In 1989, after four years as "more than friends," Marc proposed.

"It was very casual," Annette says of the proposal. "We were just at home, he had the ring, and he said, 'So do you want to get married or what?'" Annette says she was surprised, "because this was a guy who said he would never get married and never have children."

Clearly, Marc changed his mind on both counts. The Salehs have one son, Anton, who is 10 and attends the Hawthorne, where Marc is also a graduate. Marc and Annette are active members of the Hawthorne PTA, of which Marc served as president for two years. He's currently vice president of the Beverly Hills PTA Council.

Marc credits Annette for his involvement in the school community. When Marc was first approached to run for PTA president, it was Annette who convinced him to do so.

Annette herself is the event chair for Hawthorne. In that capacity, she plans all of the special events for the school, including teachers' luncheons, parties and fund-raisers. She is currently working on a celebration for the parents of Hawthorne students to be held at Spark. "It's dancing and dinner," she says, "and I'm very busy organizing that." She's also a member of the Beverly Hills Women's Club.

The Salehs' work with the school community, as well as their business growing oranges for Sunkist at their Ojai farm, keeps the couple busy. When they do have time off they enjoy going to the movies, exploring new restaurants and visiting friends. "We have friends all over," Annette says.

The Salehs put a high value on their friendships. Annette, whose parents live in the Philippines, where she grew up, explains, "We don't have a big family here. Our friends are our family."

In that vein, they will be spending Valentine's Day with a friend who is in "desperate need to go out with her husband," Annette says. "We're her excuse," adds Marc, "So we're all going out to dinner."

Marc says that he "cannot speak highly enough" of his wife. "She makes it a point to make life special. I am so fortunate and so lucky to have her in my life. It makes living an entirely different experience, so much better than I could have imagined."

Annette says, "Every day is exciting. We never have a dull moment. We are the perfect fit."

On that, Marc has the last word, saying simply, "We appreciate each other."

## NANCY & GARY ROSS

Nancy Marantz and Gary Ross met in 1976, when Gary

was a junior and Nancy was a freshman at Beverly High.

Thirty years later, Nancy refers to Gary for the specifics of their first encounter, explaining that her husband is "better at memory questions than I am." Although "several people have claimed to set us up," Nancy remembers meeting Gary at a beach club and says of their introduction, "I definitely coordinated that event. I thought he was cute and really charming."

Gary, as his wife predicted, gives a more detailed recollection of that day: "Jonathan Beach Club, 1976. We had lunch and played doubles paddle tennis." Of his first impression of Nancy, he says, "Lousy paddle player, but the cutest, most adorable girl I ever saw. She was my doubles partner that day, and has been my partner ever since."

The day at the beach club was soon followed by dinner and a movie in Westwood, and the couple continued to go strong for the next decade.

The only time in their history together that the Ross' haven't lived in the same city was during their college years, when Gary attended UCLA and Nancy attended UC Berkeley. Nancy describes the separation as "very hard." Nonetheless, they kept in close touch and stayed together.

When Gary asked Nancy to marry him, Nancy wasn't surprised by the proposal. "We had been together almost 10 years at that point," she explains. She was, however, surprised by the setting.

"We were in a back alley behind a bar. We were out of town for the weekend, and we'd just left the bar." Gary received a call, which turned out to be news that he'd passed his law exams. Right then, Nancy says with a laugh, "He proposed. I don't remember what he said, but he proposed."

Gary says proposing to Nancy the moment he heard he passed the California Bar Exam is one of the most romantic things he's ever done.

Gary now has his own law practice in Beverly Hills, while Nancy sells Beverly Hills and other Westside real estate with Sotheby's International Realty.

Whenever possible, the Ross' like to travel. They even lived in Italy for a year, from 1991-1992, simply because "we wanted to spend time together, before we had kids, and escape our normal lives," according to Nancy.

Now, with two children-- Jack, 10, and Eric, 8, both of whom attend El Rodeo-- and their involvement in local charities, including the Little League Board, the Basketball Board and the PTA, the Ross' rarely have time for long trips. They do, however, try to squeeze in quality time together whenever possible, reserving Wednesday nights as "date nights," when they "go out alone, just us two," Gary says.

On June 15 of this year, the Ross' will celebrate their 20th anniversary at the Bel-Air Hotel, where they were married. They don't have any Valentine's Day plans yet, but may repeat last year's fireside dinner of takeout sushi.

Nancy cites "spending time together and nurturing the relationship" as the key to her and Gary's long term happiness. Gary mentions "friendship, trust understanding and attraction."

"He's a wonderful guy," Nancy says of her husband. "We have a lot of fun together. That's important." Gary returns the sentiment, describing his wife as "adorable, sexy, smart, capable and fun."



*High school sweethearts: Nancy & Gary Ross*

## These couples aren't the only ones with love stories to tell this Valentine's Day. Here are others who continue to enjoy the kiss-like sting of Cupid's arrow:

**Public Works Commission Vice Chairperson Stephanie Pincetl:** "My husband and I met at UC Davis in a course on the Economics of Development. I noticed him across a standing room only class room, and thought, 'Hmm, he looks interesting.' When the classroom changed to an auditorium, I made a point of sitting next to him. The rest is history! We've been married since 1979."

**Fine Art Commissioner Mark Leonard:** "I met my future partner, Ken Hamma, in 1983 at a crowded late night party of young arts professionals in a loft in downtown Manhattan. I was about to leave my position in the Paintings Restoration Department at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, headed towards California, and Ken was visiting New York after having completed his studies in ancient art and archeology at Princeton University and beginning a teaching position at USC. At the time, we were both involved in other relationships, but we struck up a friendship. However, in 1992, we both found ourselves not only newly single but coincidentally working at the J. Paul Getty Museum, where I'm currently head of the Paintings Conservation Department and Ken is Executive Director for Digital Policy and Initiatives at the Getty Trust. Our friendship was renewed and we moved in together later that year. We formalized our relationship by registering a Domestic Partnership in California in 2001, and traveled to Vermont for a Civil Union ceremony later that same year. We moved-- quite happily-- to Beverly Hills in 2002, and enjoy an unobstructed view of the Getty from our home in Trousdale."

**City Councilmember Frank Fenton:** "I was working in the admitting office at Mt. Sinai hospital [later Cedars-Sinai Medical Center] and she was a volunteer there. We met one day at the hospital and spoke for a few moments. That weekend I went to Las Vegas with a buddy of mine and that evening we went to the Sahara Hotel to see the lounge show with Louis Prima and Keely Smith and I ran into Judie in the casino (she was 16). She was wearing a gorgeous blue dress and was absolutely stunning. That was it for me. We started dating and have been together ever since."

**Recreation and Parks Department Publicist Kirin Shamberg:** "As a single girl who had recently moved here from Alaska, I was doing my best to experience the nightlife here in L.A. My girlfriend and I were heading up to the Sky Bar when we stopped at a Persian birthday party to pick up a friend of hers on La Cienega Boulevard, at what used to be called the Blue Palms. When my future husband, Babak Nehoray, walked in the door of the jam-packed party, he had a whole entourage of cousins and friends, and I noticed him immediately. He was gorgeous! Tall, dark and handsome, to say the least. And my mission to make sure he noticed me succeeded: I ensured that I was in his line of vision at all times. But more importantly, we were the two tallest people in the room. So as the story goes, our eyes met above the crowd and the rest is history. The funny part I remember is that when he asked me for my phone number, it was too crowded to write it down, so he said he'd 'memorize it.' I thought I'd never hear from him again and I wrote him off. But sure enough, he called, and we went out four times the next week. And in Los Angeles if you want to go out on four dates with the same person in a week, that's a good sign for the two of you. Two years later we were engaged at The Inn at Spanish Bay in Carmel, and in October 2004 we were married. We just celebrated our one-year anniversary."

**Beverly High English teacher Alice Kuo Shippee:** "Every year I taught *Romeo & Juliet* at Beverly High I would also discuss with my students whether or not 'love at first sight' was possible. If the students asked me if I believed in it, I always said, 'No'-- until I met the man who would become my husband. I was in Las Vegas, of all places, for a bachelorette weekend celebration for [Beverly High English teacher] Celeste McDonald. Our group of 10 ladies attended the interactive play, 'Tony 'n Tina's Wedding', where the audience are the 'guests' and the actors are the 'bridal party.' When the 'best man' walked in, I knew the moment I saw him that I would marry him. He came over to our table, where we played along with the 'wedding' theme (including dancing together). After the play, he met me outside where I found out his real name, Max, and he was subjected to the scrutiny of all 10 of my chaperones. Needless to say, he passed muster, and [English teacher] Loren Newman said to him prophetically, 'See you in L.A.' After a year's long-distance romance, Max moved to L.A. and proposed to me. We were married last July in Palos Verdes and are now expecting our first baby in late May. I do believe in 'love at first sight' and also that miracles do happen-- after all, I found my soul mate in Sin City (and went all the way to Vegas to find an actor to marry-- as if there weren't enough here). This is our first Valentine's Day as husband and wife."

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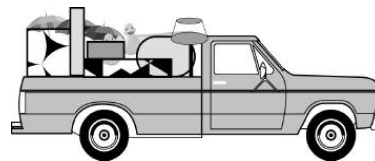
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