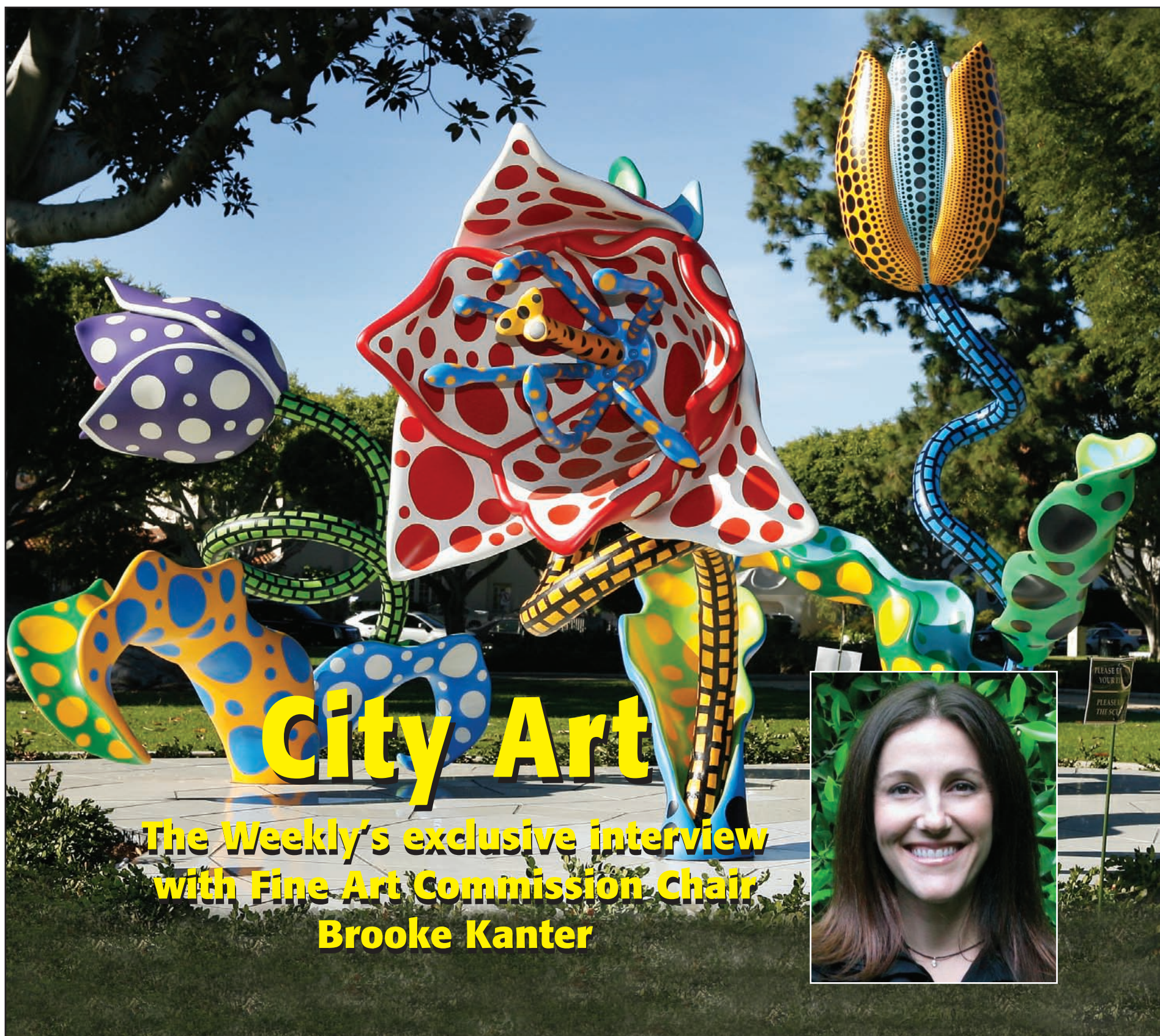


Beverly Hills Weekly

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Issue 452 • May 29 - June 4, 2008



City Art

The Weekly's exclusive interview
with Fine Art Commission Chair
Brooke Kanter



letters & email

“Hilton Revitalization”

For a city filled with such bright folks, it’s interesting that we condone editorials in the Courier that are written in a tone better suited for grade school kids. Take the last installment headlined “Referendum on Smiles and Curses.”

According to this piece Beverly Hills is the happiest place on earth (perhaps more so than Disneyland). Here almost everyone smiles, waves and greets one another and generally cares about everyone else’s well being. Yet there are some unhappy persons, too. These persons don’t like skyscrapers and too much development. And they don’t smile much.

The gist of all this is if you want to be a smiler not a frowner, don’t sign the referendum on the Hilton development. Got that kids?!

Richard Baker
Beverly Hills

There isn’t any small town in the world

except Beverly Hills that has 29,000 city manicured palm and flowering trees lining the residential streets...plus the pride of the residents in maintaining the “small-town feeling.”

A few citizens have insisted that Beverly Hills “has to have” the proposed Waldorf Astoria Hotel on the Hilton Hotel property for the additional revenue to pay the firemen, police and schools. It does not follow that anyone, except the developer, has to also have the two proposed condominium towers crowded into the same property, which would be in violation of our existing building codes.

Herb Wallerstein
Beverly Hills

The idea of pushing for a referendum on the Hilton’s plans for its upgrade and the addition of a Waldorf Astoria is a shameful waste of our city’s time and money.

Our elected officials and our professional staff did an extremely complete study. The owners responded to their s and our citizens suggestions, and made modifications.

This project represents significant income to our city/ and we should promote it, not cause it to be delayed.

Allan David Gallant
Beverly Hills

Bravo to former Mayor Max Salter for actively and truthfully trying to educate people about the benefits of the Hilton’s plans for revitalizing the property. In this town, people get criticized for supporting projects that require change. The Hilton plans are change that we welcome because of the enormous financial benefits it will bring to the city. And I applaud the Hilton for taking an active stance in protecting their vision for the property – a vision that was approved by the City Council. I see no need for the City to spend thousands of dollars for an election to vote on a project that was thoroughly reviewed and ultimately approved by a majority of our elected City Council.

Daniel Simons
Beverly Hills

The battery of headlines about budget shortfalls and service cuts side-by-side with stories about the Beverly Hilton Project should give us all some perspective: The former is about how much money will be taken out of City coffers, while talk about the Hilton centers on

letters cont. on page 9

Corrections, Issue 451:

El Rodeo Principal Pat Escalante and music teacher Will Aardappel’s names were spelled incorrectly in the brief “El Rodeo students showcase their talent.”

WHAT’S ON YOUR MIND?

You can write us at:
140 South Beverly Drive #201
Beverly Hills, CA 90212

You can fax us at:
310.887.0789

email us at:
editor@bhweekly.com



SNAPSHOT



‘SEUSSICAL’ THE EL RODEO MUSICAL WHITTIER DRIVE

Fifty seventh and eighth graders at El Rodeo (pictured above) were the stars and crew of the school’s performance of “Seussical,” the school’s third such production, directed by second grade and performing arts elective teacher Amy Arebalo and music teacher Will Aardappel.

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Many unanswered questions remain in death of Beverly High senior

Student dies after 15-story fall from Century City condominium building

By Lauren Gabbaian



Bianca Khalili

Beverly High senior Bianca Khalili died Monday night, reportedly after falling off a 15th floor balcony in an condominium building on Century Park East, according to police reports.

passed away shortly after emergency services arrived.

Khalili was reportedly with friend Dora Afraim at the home of one of Afraim's family members. What happened next is unclear, though one report indicates the girls may have been arguing over a boyfriend and the argument got out of hand. Khalili had previously spent the Memorial Day weekend in Palm Springs.

Criminal defense attorney Ron Richards speculated the police are currently looking into all possibilities – checking for video surveillance, eye witnesses and the body's trajectory for clues as to what transpired.

Richards went on to say that Afraim could be charged or not depending on how much a role she played in the fall. If the death were entirely accidental, with Khalili losing her balance and slipping off the balcony,

criminal charges are unlikely, though the family could file suit against her for wrongful death. However, if a playful push carried more strength than intended, Afraim could be charged with manslaughter.

No arrests had been made as of press time.

People who knew Khalili, who sometimes went by the nickname "Binky," had only good things to say about her.

"She was so congenial and friends with everybody," Allegra Peyton, a former Beverly classmate said.

In addition, three clubs were created on the Facebook website, paying tribute to Khalili.

Maple Center counselors have been on hand at Beverly High to debrief and support students, faculty and staff since Tuesday. Maple Center Clinical Director Harold Young said approximately 40 students, in addition to teachers and other staff, have been seen by counselors per day.

Beverly High Principal J Guidetti did not return calls for comment; however, a recorded message from him was sent home via autodialer, reporting the minimal facts of the incident.

Superintendent Kari McVeigh declined comment.

Funeral services will be held today at Eden Memorial in Mission Hills at 2 p.m.



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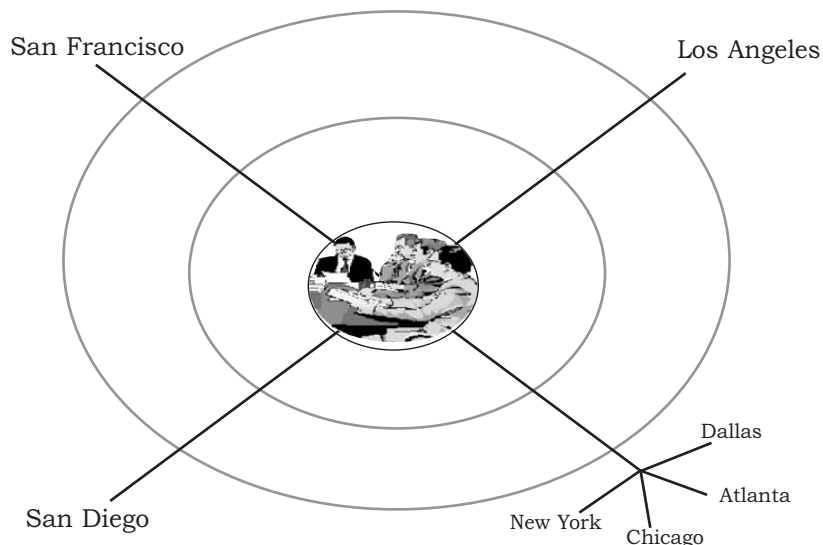
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briefs

Looking Beyond to host ninth annual gala



After eight years of holding charity luncheons to benefit disabled children, Looking Beyond is hosting its first black-tie evening "soiree" at the Beverly Hills Hotel on June 4 at 6 p.m.

Each year, Looking Beyond honors one person or set of people with a disability with the Soaring Spirit Award for their ability to inspire others. This year, the honorees are Dick and Rick Hoyt, a father-and-son team who have competed in over 224 triathlons, despite the fact that Rick, the son and a graduate of Boston University, is a spastic, quadriplegic, non-speaking person, having been born with cerebral palsy. Though the two live in Boston and just finished their 26th Boston Marathon, both men are set to attend the gala to accept the award.

A silent auction at the gala will feature items donated by Rodeo Drive boutiques such as Tiffany & Co. and Van Cleef & Arpels as well as vacation packages to destinations such as London and the Maldive Islands.

All money raised will go toward organizations that help disabled children, such as the UCLA Intervention Program, the Los Angeles Children's Hospital and the Special Olympics, as well as many more.

For more information and tickets, e-mail betty@sddaniels.net or visit www.lookingaboveandbeyond.org.

Elementary schools' API scores rise while Beverly High and overall District scores drop

BHUSD elementary schools all saw growth in their Base Academic Performance Index (API) ratings between 2006 and 2007 of at least three points, with Hawthorne reaching an unprecedented high rating of 900, according to a report released by the California Department of Education last week. Beverly High's Base Academic Performance Index (API) rating fell 23 points and BHUSD's by seven points.

The API is a numeric index ranging from a low of 200 to a high of 1,000, which serves to measure the academic performance of schools based on statewide tests, such as the STAR test and High School Exit Exam, administered to students in grades two through 12. Schools are encouraged to maintain a Base API of 800 or higher.

Schools are also ranked in comparison to other, similar schools across the state. A school's statewide rank compares its API to the APIs of all other schools statewide of the same grade level. All five BHUSD schools attained a statewide ranking of 9 or 10, where 10 is the highest.

A school's similar schools ranking compares its API to that of 100 similar schools across the state, using demographic data such as school size, mean parent education level and percentage of English learners. While the ranks of Beverly Vista and Hawthorne rose from 7 to 8 since 2006, other schools' rankings dropped by at least two ranks.

Changes to the curriculum recently approved by the Board of Education, such as requiring students take science in the ninth and 10th grades, are aimed at improving these scores.

Newsweek also released its annual list of top 5 percent of high schools in the country last week. Beverly actually rose 34 places over 2006 to receive a rank of 367 out of 1,258 high schools in 2007. However, it still trails similar schools, including El Camino (314), Mira Costa (270), Santa Monica (195) and Palos Verdes Peninsula (157). Newsweek bases its ranking system on the ratio of the number of Advanced Placement tests taken to the number of graduating seniors.

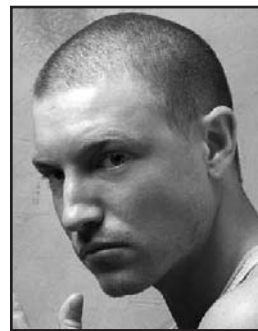
Beverly Hills 90212 condominium prices almost double in April 2008

For April 2008, sale prices for single-family residences in the 90210 zip code decreased 12.8 percent for the 10 homes sold in the area. The price median in the 90210 zip code of a single-family residence was \$2.1 million. In the 90211 area, sale prices for a single-family home increased by 16.3 percent and the price median was \$1.6 million. For the two single-family residences sold in the 90212 area code, sale prices increased by 16.3 percent and the price median was \$2.1 million, according to the report released by Data Quick Real Estate News <http://www.dqnews.com>.

Condominium prices in the 90210 area jumped 38.4 percent for the four condominiums sold. The price median of a condominium in the area was \$1.2 million. The median price of a condominium in the 90211 zip code was \$770,000, having decreased by 11.0 percent for the three condominiums sold. In the 90212 zip code there was an increase of 98.1 per-

cent for the sale prices of condominiums and the median price was \$1.3 million.

In Los Angeles County as a whole, the median price for a single family home was \$450,000, having dropped 21.1 percent, and the sale price of condos decreased by 14.6 percent with the median price at \$380,000, since April 2007.



Garrison moved again

Actor Lane Garrison ("Prison Break"), who was sentenced to 40 months in prison for the drunk-driving accident that caused the death of Beverly High student Vahagn Setian last year, is being transferred to yet another prison facility – the sixth in 10 months.

Garrison was transferred to the medium-security California Correctional Institution in Tehachapi, Calif., after only a few weeks at the California Substance Abuse and Treatment Facility in the medium/maximum-security Corcoran State Prison, where actor Robert Downey, Jr., also served time for a drug-related offense.

Garrison's attorney, Harland Braun, said the transfers are standard procedure and not necessarily a characterization of Garrison, who has reportedly been on good behavior.

"He's basically doing his time," Braun said. "[He will] probably be out early next year."

Setian's father Karen spoke to hundreds of juniors and seniors at Beverly, at the school's "Every 15 Minutes" program last week, urging them to make the right choices.



(L to R) Taly Efron, Myra Lupul, Alyssa Durling, Darcy Gratz and Carmen Gratz

Horace Mann gets a makeover

Students, parents, neighbors and friends donned their work gloves and carried their shovels to Horace Mann on May 17 for Beautification Day. Students from all grade levels and dozens of community members attended the event, which involved planting 72 new plants on the school campus.

Interim Principal Marlene Calcines brought her two children, Christian and Casey, and was joined by fifth grade teacher Afi Kashanian, office assistant and mom Annie Espinoza and

Board of Education member and Horace Mann dad Brian Goldberg, who brought his daughter Sofia. Horace Mann PTA President Amy Phillips, her husband Beautification Committee Co-Chairman Allen Zipper and their daughter Marni also helped in the beautification efforts.

The event was funded by the PTA and helped along by discounted supplies at Anawalt Lumber Company of Beverly Hills. Landscape designer and Horace Mann neighbor Susan Kelsey provided designs for the project.



Levine opens Beverly Hills boutique

Trevor Levine, a Class of 1999 Beverly High graduate, has opened a new boutique on Beverly Drive, called Play Couture. The store will cater to children ages 7 to 16 and will offer brands such as Miss Sixty, Diesel and Junk Food.

Play Couture is donating a portion of its first month's proceeds to the Society of Young Philanthropists (SYP), a non-profit organization designed to create a network of distinguished professionals by promoting philanthropic causes through charitable events.

(L to R) Play Couture store manager Lindsay Badcock and owner Trevor Levine.

El Rodeo Xylophone Ensemble earns highest rating at festival

An El Rodeo seventh grade xylophone ensemble earned a superior rating at a Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association festival on May 17.

Band members Robbie Alpert, Jack Ross and Jason Friedberg received the highest rating possible for seventh grade students at the music festival, held in El Segundo. Under the direction of band teacher Andrea Kay, the boys played three Africa melodies and received "Superior" medals for their achievement.

The Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association is a non-profit organization whose active membership is drawn primarily from educational institutions.

Beverly High sophomore asks that families "Save Your Soles"

Kicking off his fourth annual "Save Your Soles" community service project, Beverly High sophomore Ben Waldow asks that families donate gently used kids' hiking boots to the Adventure 16 Donate-a-Pack program. The program benefits non-profit youth organizations in Southern California.

Waldow is a Boy Scout who enjoys camping and the outdoors. For his bar mitzvah community service project in 2005, he and his family came up with the idea to collect hiking boots, and soon found that the Adventure 16's Donate-a-Pack was already in place.

A collection box is available at the Adventure 16 in West Los Angeles. Waldow asks that donated hiking boots be clean and in good shape, and that the laces be tied together to keep pairs together.

Some of the recipients include Camp Laurel, a camp for kids with HIV and AIDS; Foundation for the Junior Blind, and Camp-a-Lot.

For more information, visit www.adventure16.com/discover/dap/index.html



Bakers turn up the heat at annual Pie Bake

It's time for Beverly Hills' annual Pie Bake A'la Beverly Hills and Piesta, a pie-baking contest and festival all about pies, taking place June 8 starting at 9 a.m. at the Beverly Hills Farmers' Market.

Children can enjoy Piesta, a free festival all about pies, which will include a Pieathlon, a pie-eating contest, pie making and sifting for treasures. Plus, pony rides and a petting zoo will also be available for a nominal fee.

All are welcome to enter the contest, where each pie will be judged for best tasting and "most pieutiful." Applications are available at www.beverlyhills.org, but space is limited. For more information, call 310-285-6830 or visit www.beverlyhills.org.

Beverly Hills Health, Fitness & Beauty Expo Features Best of Industry Offerings

Drawing well over 4,000 visitors of all ages, Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce's annual Health, Fitness & Beauty Expo will be held June 1 on Civic Center Drive, adjacent to the Farmers' Market.

The Expo fills the street with over 50 booths and attractions from local and national vendors and providers. Exhibitors provide services ranging from massages at the Elite Personal Physician Services, Inc. booth to Cedars-Sinai's UV Polaroid, which detects skin damage from the sun, to beauty makeovers from Bella Beverly Hills. Businesses like Whole Foods and Il Cono will be giving out healthy food and beauty samples. There will also be live music from The Bruce Garnitz Music & Entertainment Company.

"We are pleased to have so many member businesses serve areas of wellness in the community," said Chamber Vice President Jennifer Corbo.

For more event information, visit www.BeverlyHillsChamber.com or call 310-248-1000, ext. 114.

New Buildings Go Green in Beverly Hills

The Beverly Hills City Council approved an ordinance at its May 20 meeting establishing a green building program which incorporates aggressive environmental building techniques into the design, construction and maintenance of all new commercial, multi-family residential and mixed-use buildings in the City.

The ordinance creates a series of requirements for developers, effective July 7, similar to the green building measures outlined in the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED program (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design). Beverly Hills, however, has tailored the program to be more aggressive, mandating many items that are optional in the LEED checklist.

"This ordinance complements other green initiatives the City has underway, including water conservation and intelligent irrigation, recycling programs, solar parking meters and the reduced use of plastic bags," Mayor Barry Brucker said.

Greenhouse gas emissions from buildings account for more than 40 percent of global warming pollution. The new ordinance will, on average, save over 30 percent on water and 30-55 percent on energy, setting the City on a course towards sustainability by helping to restore, enhance and protect the environment.

A checklist is available at www.beverlyhills.org that guides developers through the green building process, and City staff will be trained to administer the program.

police blotter & arrest summary

ARREST SUMMARY May 27, 2008

JOHNSON, PIERRE DONTE, 28, OF COMPTON, ARRESTED ON 05/25/2008 FOR DRIVING WHILE LICENSE SUSPENDED.

STYCZYNSKI, ROSALIE JANE, 23, OF SHERMAN OAKS, ARRESTED ON 05/24/2008 FOR DUI ALCOHOL/DRUGS.

ZHANG, ANGELA, 24, OF WALNUT, ARRESTED ON 05/24/2008 FOR THEFT: PERSONAL PROPERTY.

DAVIS, DAVID NICHOLAS, 28, OF BEVERLY HILLS, ARRESTED ON 05/23/2008 FOR DISORDERLY CONDUCT: INTOX.

PINK, JEFF ZEV, 64, OF BEVERLY HILLS, ARRESTED ON 05/23/2008 FOR RAPE: NOT SPECIFIED.

MEREJO, ALEXANDRA, 31, OF WEST HOLLYWOOD, ARRESTED ON

05/23/2008 FOR SELL/FURNISH/ETC MARIJUANA/HASHISH.

SIAMAK, SANAZ NEGAR, 29, OF BEVERLY HILLS, ARRESTED ON 05/23/2008 FOR SELL/FURNISH/ETC MARIJUANA/HASHISH.

BARRERA, SONIA CAROLINA, 26, OF LA, ARRESTED ON 05/23/2008 FOR DRIVE W/O LICENSE).

GREIG, ROBERT THEODORE, 39, OF LOS ANGELES, ARRESTED ON 05/23/2008 FOR DUI ALCOHOL/DRUGS.

KERMANSIAHCHI, SHAWN, 20, OF BEVERLY HILLS, ARRESTED ON 05/23/2008 FOR POSSESS MARIJUANA 1 OZ OR LESS WHILE DRIVING.

RUDDY, MATTHEW JOHN, 46, OF SANTA MONICA, ARRESTED ON 05/23/2008 FOR DRIVE W/O LICENSE.

THOMPSON, ALEX SCOTT, 21, OF LOS ANGELES, ARRESTED ON

05/22/2008 FOR DUI ALCOHOL/DRUGS.

VASSILCHEMKO, VLADIMIR F, 58, OF BEVERLY HILLS, ARRESTED ON 05/22/2008 FOR DISORDERLY CONDUCT: INTOX.

ZHUKOV, SERGEY, 23, OF LOS ANGELES, ARRESTED ON 05/22/2008 FOR BURGLARY.

KULKIN, ANATOLYI ALEXANDEROVICH, 18, OF W HOLLYWOOD, ARRESTED ON 05/22/2008 FOR BURGLARY.

YAROSLAV, TSAPOV, 18, OF W HOLLYWOOD, ARRESTED ON 05/22/2008 FOR BURGLARY.

ALPERT, AAREN AVIVA, 22, OF TARZANA, ARRESTED ON 05/22/2008 FOR GRAND THEFT: MONEY/LABOR/PROPERTY.

SANTIAGO, EMILIO CASTILLO, 38, OF LOS ANGELES, ARRESTED ON 05/22/2008 FOR FALSE IDENTIFICATION TO SPECIFIC PEACE OFFICER.

ORDONEZ, RUBIN PARALTA, 37, OF LOS ANGELES, ARRESTED ON 05/21/2008 FOR DISORDERLY CONDUCT: INTOX.

MALE JUVENILE, 17, OF BEVERLY HILLS, ARRESTED ON 05/21/2008 FOR RECKLESS DRIVING: HIGHWAY.

POLANCO, VILMA ELENA, 26, OF LA, ARRESTED ON 05/21/2008 FOR BH BENCH WARRANT/MISD.

SISSEL, HARRISON LANE, 25, OF BEVERLY HILLS, ARRESTED ON 05/21/2008 FALSE IMPRISONMENT: ELDERLY/DEPENDANT.

FOROUGH, SINA, 21, OF LOS ANGELES, ARRESTED ON 05/20/2008 FOR POSSESS MARIJUANA 28.5 GRAMS OR LESS.

DEROSA, JOSEPH MICHAEL, 57, OF LOS ANGELES, ARRESTED ON 05/20/2008 FOR DUI ALCOHOL/DRUGS.

BUYEVICH, ANNA, 27, OF LOS ANGELES, ARRESTED ON 05/20/2008 FOR THEFT: PERSONAL PROPERTY.

PEREZ, STEPHAN NATHANIEL, 26, OF WALNUT PARK, ARRESTED ON 05/20/2008 FOR DRIVE WHILE LICENSE SUSPENDED FOR DUI.

MORENO-CHIQUITO, FERNANDO, 33, OF LOS ANGELES, ARRESTED ON 05/19/2008 GET CREDIT/ETC OTHER'S ID.

REED, JOSEPH ANTHONY, 37, ARRESTED ON 05/19/2008 FOR DUI ALCOHOL/DRUGS.

police blotter cont. on page 7

from the hills of beverly



Some Selected Short Stories

And some doubtful tales

By Rudy Cole

Sad closing: Prime Grill, the upscale, attractively designed kosher steak house on Rodeo has apparently ended a short run at the Rodeo Collection despite attracting a very loyal following. I still think this venue can and will produce a successful restaurant – there are few eating options on our most famous street.

One of the best kept secrets is the Luxe Hotel restaurant just down the street. Very moderately priced, good quality and fine service should make it successful, but it has yet to find a loyal base. It will survive because it is part of the hotel and that small, European operation can, by itself, support the eatery.

What is surprising is the lack of support the fine shops on Rodeo failed to give the Prime or the Luxe. If the owners and managers of the prestigious retailers on the street had supported the Prime, it would easily have survived.

A successful restaurant also means more shoppers for the street. It is too late for the

Prime, but if there is a new restaurant in the Collection just maybe the Rodeo Drive Association can help make it work. After all, the Rodeo Collection was one of the first to make the Rodeo dream a reality. Of course, not without the leadership of **Fred Hayman**.

Can a restaurant work at that address? An earlier generation of happy time seekers will remember that's where the Luau became a legend – your father will explain the exact kind of legend.

Interesting lawsuit filed by **Wolfgang Puck**, our most illustrious culinary marvel, who is trying to protect his brand by enjoining the use of the Wolfgang name on a new steak house on North Canon. Actually, the legal action, according to Puck's lawyers, is for a breach of an agreement made in New York.

But can you imagine any better publicity for a restaurant than what Puck handed the steak house? On the other hand, restaurant experts wonder if our village can sustain one more steak house?

Does remind me of the law suit once filed against the Sands Hotel in Las Vegas by **Sandra Giles**. Sandra, a resident of our community with some fairly good credits in acting and as an advertising spokesperson – she was Miss Boom Boom for a tire company, no explanation needed, sued the hotel for unveiling a mural of her in their lobby that bared all. She insisted she had never posed nude. Did not hurt her career or the hotel, although I am certain everyone involved was very sincere as the story ran in newspapers all over the world.

Giving credit: The reports of the Wolfgang Puck v Wolfgang Steak House lawsuit was first compiled by Courier Managing Editor **Chris Sieroty**. Now Chris has his own reason for making this column. He has told friends that he will very shortly leave the Courier to pursue journalistic options in business reporting, his first love. Last week the Courier lost reporter **Abbey Hood** to ICM.

Unfortunately, our industry was one of the first to feel the Bush economic bust and loads of former journalists are on the street looking for gainful employment. The Courier slots should be filled soon, but Sieroty had deep roots in Beverly Hills and will be missed.

Speaking of filling vacancies, rumors are still making city hall rounds about the possible return of former Community Development director **Mahdi Aluzri**. Mahdi left Beverly

Hills for the more advanced title of Deputy City Manager for Community Development in Rancho Cucamonga.

Now, there have been reports that city officials have been talking to Aluzri about coming back with some incentives: These might include, not only pay and other benefits, but a possible new title of Deputy City Manager or the number two slot under City Manager **Rod Wood**.

Why the urgency? With the departure of Community Development Director **Vince Bertoni** to Los Angeles, the department is without a manager who has been involved in the general plan process – a very critical study that will impact our city for many years. The very talented **John Lait** took over in Planning, a division of Community Development, when Bertoni became the head of the department that manages both Planning and Building and Safety.

However, Lait is new to the city, was not here during the critical pre-approval general plan process and does not have Mahdi's experience or familiarity with the general plan studies.

If Mahdi does not come back to Beverly Hills, the city might well want to consider a suggestion made by former Mayor **Allan Alexander**. Retain the services of a top flight team of planning professionals who could give our city a new and possibly even more exciting vision of our future than we are now considering. It is a daunting task: Plans to renovate, to stimulate economic growth while maintaining the residential feel and look of our city.

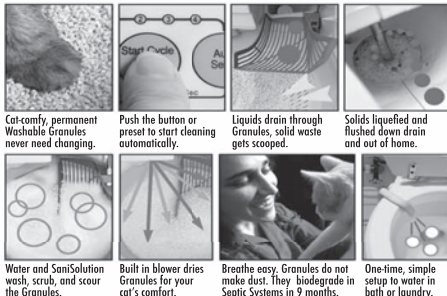
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almost every new development will add to that luster, but there are less than attractive commercial pockets in many areas of our city, even abandoned stores such as those on West Wilshire, that demand change.

A responsible general plan will consider lids on traffic generation, heights and density and pinpoint where rational change can improve the visual as well as the economic condition of the city.

No, this should not lead to a bonanza for developers or a knee jerk reaction against any change by the no-sayers. In between is reality and responsible leadership.

Rumors still out there about The Peninsula finding the means of expanding, either with more rooms or banquet facilities. One of the most persistent has the Peninsula acquiring the Friar's Club, just west of the hotel.

The Friar's ceased being a membership club several years ago and tried operating as a dining and health facility for members and guests, but without any affiliation with the New York Friar's. That entertainment club actually brought a lawsuit to protect the use of its name when our Friar's stopped being a membership based organization. The Club property probably still belongs to the Friar's Foundation.

Here too is a bit of history for the record: Most long-time residents have heard about the gin rummy scandal at the Club – there were peep holes in the club that permitted the professionals to have signals passed to them on what the innocent were holding. **Harry Karl**, the shoe store chain owner, and comedian **Phil Silvers** were two of the big losers.

Less known is an even more bizarre caper. One of the Friar's stalwarts was the Postmaster General **George Jessel**. To honor him, the club commissioned a sculpture of his likeness to be placed inside the club's entrance. Some enterprising thieves made off with the fairly large art work and demanded a ransom for its return. The matter was handled nicely by some of the club's better connected members without the making of a crime report.

Jessel, a movie and vaudeville pioneer, later became a fund raiser for City of Hope and Israel Bonds. As he once said, I left no Cohn unturned in the search for donations.

The story I like best about Jessel is when a Club member approached him to deliver a eulogy, something Jessel did quite often.

"Who died?" Jessel asked his brother Friar. "Well, it was our cat," the bereaved member replied.

"You want me to speak at the funeral of a cat," the incredulous Jessel exclaimed.

"I know, I know," the member responded. "But our family was so attached to Raymond, the cat, that we desperately need closure. If you could do this for us, we would donate \$5,000 to the State of Israel."

A bemused Jessel agreed and gave an emotional farewell to Raymond at a Pet Cemetery. When it was over, the tearful Friar rushed up to Jessel and proclaimed:

"Here's another \$5,000. I had no idea my cat was such a good friend of the Jewish people and Israel."

Next week: A look at the Hilton referendum issue. Some of the rhetoric has been totally

overblown, but there are two aspects of the community-wide debate that is troubling.

Those opposed to the Hilton have an absolute right to circulate petitions and place the issue on the ballot. But when these advocates of democratic process argue that "three members of the council have no right to decide" they are demeaning the rule of law. We expect our courts and our elected officials to vote their consciences within the framework of the law. The Council DOES have the right, no, the obligation to decide just as the voters have the right to overturn their decisions.

But the most disingenuous appeal of the circulators, defended by their more ardent supporters, was the explanation that by signing the petitions "you are ONLY helping put the Hilton on the ballot." That is not what the law requires the petition to say, and it doesn't. By signing you are agreeing that the council vote should be overturned. Read the first, cover page of the petition.

So, the council had the right to approve and the opponents the right to a referendum. That, and only that, is the law. All the hate mail on both sides is out of place in a community that once prided itself on fairness and balanced decision making.

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.

letters cont. from page 2

how much money the project will bring into Beverly Hills. I'm convinced now more than ever that this is an excellent project for our mighty – albeit cash-strapped – city.

Denis Bloch
Beverly Hills

This is the first time I have written a letter to the editor, and what takes place in Beverly Hills compels me to write.

I applaud the owners of The Beverly Hilton for taking a stand against those who want to see the City lose the very significant benefits that their revitalization project will bring to our City and residents.

Unlike the Montage project, which costs the City many of millions of dollars, this project will only bring in tax revenues, as well as improve traffic at a key location and beautify the gateway to the city.

Bottom line is we need this project, the City Council has approved it and it should be built. I refused to sign a referendum petition, and I encourage other Beverly Hills residents to refuse to sign as well.

Jake Metzler
Beverly Hills

police blotter cont. from page 5

May 20, 2008

WATERHOUSE, DEVERA MARIE, 56, OF LA, ARRESTED ON 05/18/2008 FOR 20002(A)VC - (HIT AND RUN:PROPERTY DAMAGE).

HERMS, GEORGE HERBERT, 72, OF LOS ANGELES, ARRESTED ON 05/17/2008 FOR 23152(A)VC - (DUI ALCOHOL/DRUGS).

NITA, EMILIAN MADALIN, 29, OF MORTHRIDGE, ARRESTED ON 05/17/2008 FOR 245(A)(1)PC - (FORCE OR ADW NOT FIREARM:GBI LIKELY).

TEJADA, HUGO ALEXANDER, 29, OF N HOLLYWOOD, ARRESTED ON 05/17/2008 FOR 12500(A)VC - (DRIVE W/O LICENSE).

LABOW, SAMANTHA CASEY, 24, OF VENICE, ARRESTED ON 05/16/2008 FOR 23152(A)VC - (DUI ALCOHOL/DRUGS).

REED, LARRY, 50, OF CANOGA PARK, ARRESTED ON 05/16/2008 FOR 3056PC - (VIOLATION PAROLE:FELONY).

MEYERS, KRISTIN JEANETTE, 42, OF LA, ARRESTED ON 05/16/2008 FOR 148(A)(1)PC - (OBSTRUCT/RESIST/ETC

PUBLIC/PEACE OFF).

HERNANDEZ, HENRY, 35, OF LA, ARRESTED ON 05/16/2008 FOR 530.5PC - (USE ANOTHER'S PERSONAL IDENTIFICATIO).

GEISBERG, FRANCIS FORD, 39, OF INGLEWOOD, ARRESTED ON 05/16/2008 FOR 242PC - (BATTERY).

MUHAMMAD, AKHTAB, 58, OF LOS ANGELES, ARRESTED ON 05/16/2008 FOR 166(A)(4)PC - (CONTEMPT OF COURT:DISOBEY COURT ORDE).

MORRIS, RICHARD MAURICE, 30, OF LOS ANGELES, ARRESTED ON 05/16/2008 FOR 459PC - (BURGLARY).

SNOOK, CURTIS DANIEL, 23, OF HOLLYWOOD, ARRESTED ON 05/15/2008 FOR 273.5(A)PC - (INFLICT CORPORAL INJURY ON SPOUSE/COHABITANT).

ARMANI, TAYE, 24, OF HOLLYWOOD, ARRESTED ON 05/15/2008 FOR 273.5(A)PC - (INFLICT CORPORAL INJURY ON SPOUSE/COHABITANT).

HERNANDEZ, JUAN, 47, OF SANTA MONICA, ARRESTED ON 05/15/2008 FOR 647(F)PC - (DISORDERLY CONDUCT:INTOX).

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BHHS Alumnus Wins NCAA Championship!

Norman boys' swimming team wins Pioneer League title.

By Steven Herbert

In the final match of her UCLA career, Riza Zalameda, a 2004 Beverly High graduate, teamed with Tracy Lin to win the NCAA Division I women's tennis doubles championship.

Zalameda and Lin, who were seeded first, defeated Melanie Gloria and Tinstea Rowe of Fresno State, who were seeded second, 6-2, 4-6, 6-3, Monday at the University of Tulsa.

"It was a very exciting win," Zalameda said. "We just came into it pretty confident in our skills. We've been playing for two weeks and our shots are pretty refined. All we had to do was execute."

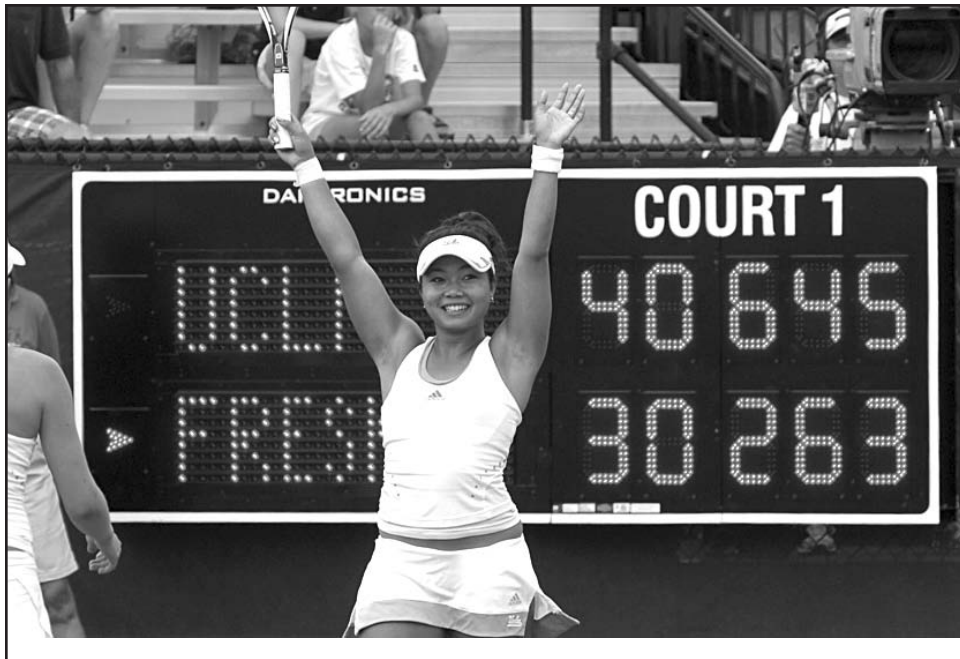
"We knew they were a great team because I saw them earlier this year and we were expecting them to come out big. They did come out big on certain points, but we just toughed it out."

The victory earned Zalameda and Lin a berth into the women's doubles draw at the U.S. Open.

"I've been looking forward to going back to the U.S. Open since I was a senior in high school," said Zalameda, who played in the 2003 U.S. Open as a high school senior, qualifying with a victory in the U.S. Tennis Association's girls' 18 and under championship. "I'm really excited and motivated to practice this summer."

Zalameda played "very well," in the final, Bruins coach Stella Sampras Webster told the Beverly Hills Weekly.

"She's played a lot of big doubles matches in her career and I knew she had been in a lot of big situations and the final was not going to be overwhelming," Sampras Webster said. "She stayed calm and just did a good job leading their team."



Riza Zalameda '04 at the NCAA Division I women's tennis doubles championship, the final match of her UCLA career

Webster said the key to the victory was "not panicking."

"They won the first set pretty easy and then they got down in the second set," Sampras Webster said. "She just really stayed calm and stayed confident and knew that they just needed to get back to playing the way they needed to way. She played extremely well at the net and took chances when they needed to."

The victory came six days after Zalameda helped lead UCLA to its first NCAA women's tennis national championship and was named as the most outstanding player of the team portion of the tournament and

the Intercollegiate Tennis Association's Senior Player of the Year.

Before Zalameda entered UCLA, she said she thought she would only spend two years there, and then turn professional. However, she ended up playing the maximum four years for the Bruins.

"Each year I would reevaluate if I wanted to go professional or if I wanted to stay another year," Zalameda said. "It just seemed right for me every time I did reevaluate to come back. I felt like I wasn't really ready for the pro circuit — mentally, physically, emotionally. I was still maturing."

"As a tennis player I had to refine my

wants to work."

Zalameda is majoring in cultural anthropology and said she would return to UCLA in the fall quarter to complete her degree.

"I learned a lot about cultures and other countries and other people why they behave the way they do," Zalameda said. "It's something that's always interested me and that's going to help me when I travel around the world playing professional."

Zalameda said UCLA has broadened her horizons.

"When I was younger, I felt like the tennis career was my only option, but now I realize going to UCLA, there's so many more opportunities," Zalameda said.

Boys' Tennis

Beverly Hills 14, Santa Monica Crossroads 4

David Vayzner and the Ethan Bond-Uday Singh doubles team both won both of their sets for the Normans in a Southern Section Division III semifinal match at Beverly Hills May 20.

The defending Division III champion Roadrunners forfeited all nine sets in the third round. Beverly Hills led 8-4 entering the round and would have clinched the match by default because two Crossroads players were unable to play in the final round because of injury and illness and the team did not have any substitutes, Normans coach Mike Margolin said. The Roadrunners then decided to forfeit all the sets in the round.

Beverly Hills led 4-2 at the end of the first round, as Gary Parizher and Vayzner both won their singles sets, 6-0, as did the Bond-Singh doubles team. The James Ephrati-Donovan Suh doubles team got the Normans' other point in the round with a 6-4 victory.

In the second round, Daniel Ho, Beverly Hills No. 1 singles player, was a 6-0 winner after a 7-6 (2) loss in the first round. Vayzner won 6-1, Bond and Singh, 6-3 and the Andre Herd-Jonathan Jason doubles team, 6-4.

Second-seeded Beverly Hills (20-4) was scheduled to play top-seeded Brentwood in Wednesday's final at The Claremont Club, in a match that ended after the Beverly Hills Weekly's deadline.

skills. I was still unsure about myself and unsure what I needed to do to become a professional."

Like she has for the past several summers, Zalameda will be playing in professional tournaments this summer, but now will be paid.

"She could definitely have a career playing doubles," said Sampras Webster, who briefly played professionally in the 1990s and is the older sister of tennis legend Pete Sampras. "In singles, it's really up to her. She can get in better shape. She definitely has a big game that can play on the tour. It's just going to be a matter of how much she

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Boys' Swimming

Pioneer League Finals

Beverly Hills won the league championship, thanks in part to first-place finishes by junior Christian Apt in the 50-yard freestyle and freshman Kevin Suarez in the 100 backstroke May 3 at the Swim-Gym.

The Normans also got a second-place finishes from senior Mikey Lee in the 50 freestyle, senior Jonathan Pony in the 100 backstroke and 100 freestyle and Suarez in the 100 butterfly.

All three Beverly Hills relay teams finished second. Pony, Suarez and junior Willie Zhang all swam legs on both the 200 medley and 400 freestyle relays. Apt swam the anchor legs on the 200 medley and 200 freestyle relays. Daniel Ilinsky swam legs on both the 200 and 400 freestyle relays. Lee and Michael Presas swam the other legs on 200 freestyle relay.

The Normans' other individual event finalists were Zhang (third in the 100 breaststroke and fourth in the 200 freestyle); senior Yusuke Murakami (fourth in the 100 backstroke); sophomore Tracy Ainslie (fifth in the 500 freestyle); Ilinsky (fifth in the 50 freestyle); Lee (fifth in the 100 freestyle); senior Michael Jang (sixth in the 500 freestyle); and Apt (seventh in the 100 freestyle).

Beverly Hills finished with 344 points, 17 more than runner-up Torrance in the seven-team meet.

Girls' Swimming

Pioneer League Finals

Sophomore Young In Lee had the Normans' best individual performance, a third-place finish in the 100 breaststroke, May 3 at the Swim-Gym.

Four other Beverly Hills swimmers also

advanced to individual finals. Junior Michelle Margolin was fourth in the 100 freestyle, senior Kira Xie fifth in the 50 freestyle, sophomore Agnes Rapala sixth in the 100 breaststroke and senior Daryan Namba seventh in the 200 freestyle.

The Normans finished fourth in the 200 freestyle relay and fifth in both the 200 medley relay and 400 freestyle relay.

Beverly Hills was fourth in the team scoring with 199 points, nine behind third-place Santa Monica. El Segundo was first in the seven-team meet with 376 points, winning 10 of 11 events. Torrance was second with 336 points.

Baseball

Beverly Hills 6, Lompoc Cabrillo 1

Matt Ross pitched a two-hitter and struck out seven for the Normans in a Southern Section Division IV wild card round game at La Cienega Park May 13.

The Conquistadores combined a leadoff walk and a single for a run in the first inning, but were only able to get one runner past first for the remainder of the game against Ross (6-1) who won his sixth consecutive start following an Opening Day loss.

Beverly Hills (13-11) took the lead for the good by scoring twice in the inning. Erik Munzer's two-out single drove in Jason Kantor, who had led off with a single. Monte Zimmerman tripled in Munzer.

The Normans scored the game's final three runs in the sixth. Munzer singled in Jackson Kelman, a pinch runner for designated hitter Daniel Berkowitz, who was hit by a pitch leading off the inning. A bases loaded single by Ryan LaSalle-Castro, the No. 9 hitter in the Beverly Hills lineup, drove in Michael Kerman, who doubled,

and Munzer.

The Normans tied the score in the third as leadoff hitter Charlie Bogart reached first on an error by Zach Pecyna, Cabrillo's second baseman, went to second on a wild pitch by Brian Engler, advanced to third on LaSalle-Castro's ground out and scored on Justin Schwartz's sacrifice fly.

Boys' Track and Field

Ocean League Finals

Justin Cooper (high jump), Dominique Sandifer (110 high hurdles) and Jonathan Simmons (800) were Beverly Hills' individual event winners May 1 at Culver City High School.

Sandifer also qualified for the Southern Section prelims with a third-place finish in the 300 intermediate hurdles, while Norman teammate Ashwin Thomas qualified with a second-place finish in the 800.

The Beverly Hills 400 relay team of Kenny Bassett, Julian Sarokin, Elliot Peaks and Trevor Walters also qualified with a third-place finish.

Girls' Track and Field

Ocean League Finals

Brenna Coates (3,200) Andie Sun Woo (100 high hurdles), Andrea Wilson (300 low hurdles) and Micah Winter (pole vault) were Beverly Hills' individual event winners May 1 at Culver City High School.

Norman senior Rikka Springfield also qualified for the Southern Section prelims with third-place finishes in the 200 and 400. Beverly Hills' other individual qualifiers were Raquel Hefflin, who finished second in the 800 and Breanna Smith, the third-

place finisher in the triple jump.

The Normans' 400 relay team of Erica Hill, Springfield, Asia Williams and Wilson also qualified with a second-place finish.

Softball

Hawthorne 5, Beverly Hills 2

Needing a victory to force a tie for third place in the Ocean League, and a playoff game to decide the league's final representative in the Southern Section playoffs, the Normans fell short May 8 at Hawthorne.

The Cougars broke open what had been a 2-1 game by scoring three runs in the fourth.

Morgan Harding stole home in the first for Beverly Hills' first run, but Hawthorne tied the score in its half of the first, as Gabbrielle Valerio tripled in Ivana Verdin.

The Cougars took the lead for good by scoring an unearned run in the second.

Rebecca Gold singled leading off Beverly Hills' half of the seventh and scored its other run.

Senior Rebecca Rosen was three-for-three for the Normans, who were out-hit, 11-6, and completed their season 7-13, 4-6 in league play.

Rosen (4-8) pitched a complete game, allowing five runs (four earned) and 11 hits in six innings, striking out four and walking two.

Steven Herbert has covered Beverly 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.

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coverstory

CITY ART

The Weekly's exclusive interview with Fine Art Commission Chair Brooke Kanter

By Lauren Gabbai

Tell us about the Fine Art Commission.

There are seven people on the Commission, and we're made up of people from all different areas of the art market. It happens to be a really incredible group right now, including Mark Leonard, who is the head paintings conservator for the Getty, Susan Gersh who is a longtime collector, as well as Curt Shepard. I myself have worked at Christie's for many years, and Susan I think had a gallery many years ago. So everybody has come to it with many different experiences.

Our responsibility is the collection that actually belongs to the City as well as bringing public art to the community. So we've done several loans as well as purchases.

We most recently, in terms of the permanent collection, installed the Yayoi Kusama sculpture on Santa Monica Blvd. between Rodeo and Beverly [Drives] and are looking now to see what we'll do in the future.

We have done loaned works as well, and right now we have been focusing on the City Hall lawn. So in the last couple of years we've had works from Robert Indiana with *The Numbers*, as well as we had Tom Otterness sculptures out there, and most recently, we had the collection of residents of Beverly Hills [Paul and Herta Amir] who were generous enough to loan us their personal collection to put on view there, which was really a wonderful thing for them to do.

What is the Commission up to right now?

We've been looking at other works to purchase for the City, as well as working on an audio tour, which is a cell phone-guided tour – something that will be new to the City. So [all the art works], on [their] plaque, will have a telephone number you can dial from your phone – they have it actually at the Getty, who's been helping us with it – and you'll be able to call in and hear a little bit about each piece from different art scholars. So it will be like a museum guided tour, just out in the public gardens.

How did you get involved in the Fine Art Commission?

I've always been very passionate about the arts, and fine art in general. I worked at Christie's for many years and really focused my energies on arts. A lot of charities I'm involved with are arts organizations, including LACMA and LAX Art.

When someone told me about the Commission, it was a chance for me to do something I was really passionate about and also bring it to the community.

I've lived here since I was in elementary school, and I went to El Rodeo and Beverly High [Class of 1987]. My friends are here, I grew up here, and once I moved back into Beverly Hills – I was only out for a little while – I really felt that this was an opportunity for me to do something and be involved with the city that I care so much about. It just seemed like a great match for me.

What are your personal goals for your time on the Commission?

Well my personal goals are definitely something to help move the Commission forward and to help them continue to grow. I hopefully bring a different perspective to the Commission. Maybe I focus a little bit more on local artists.

For example, the Thompson Hotel. Whenever a developer in the City of Beverly Hills, they have the choice of whether they pay the Commission a percentage of the construction fee, or they can fulfill the art obligation on their own. If they fulfill the art obligation on their own, they need to bring the art to the Commission for us to approve the art.

And the Thompson Hotel just came to the Commission for the approval of work by an artist named Thomas Housago, and he is a Los Angeles-based artist, but his work is very much collected internationally. He was somebody I was very familiar with and was able to talk to the Commission about his work. And I'm really excited the hotel is going to put in his work. He's in the process of casting it now. So I think that even though it's not something that was purchased by the

City, it's a piece that will stay in the City and we feel really good about approving it and being able to guide the hotel in that direction.

What are some things you look for in an art piece?

Art is obviously very subjective. We all feel, I believe, that it's important, that it's something that reaches more than just a few people, as a public work. It's not just about what maybe one of us likes, but what we think will work for the community in general. I definitely think that that is a conversation and has to be a group decision. That's why we've been trying really hard to look at works from many many different artists. Sometimes you need to see so many pieces of art to know when the right one comes across your desk, that that's the one that's really going to work.

And we don't want to make it all minimalist sculpture, like the Tony Smith. We're looking to bring something different to each piece. Obviously the Commission meetings are public record. We welcome the community. We do occasionally hear from local artists who come and want to present their work, and we sit and listen to them. We're open to every artist and every work of art, but we are trying to make wise investments as well.

Is there one particular piece you feel proud of?

Well I'm most proud of the Kusama. The Kusama is the very first public sculpture in the United States by Yayoi Kusama, and she's a major Japanese artist. It was one of those things, when we discussed the Kusama in our Commission meeting, it was almost instantaneous, that everyone agreed this was a work we would be thrilled to have.

We just didn't know if we were going to be able to afford it. Initially it was going to be fabricated [constructed] in Japan and then shipped to Los Angeles, and the price was outrageous. So we interviewed several different fabricators and ended up working with someone right outside Los Angeles named Ironwood. I spent a lot of time doing that myself with Mark Leonard and Barbara Jacobson, who actually was the person who brought the idea of Kusama to the Commission. And she unfortunately recently passed away. We all feel like it's in her memory. It sort of all reminds us of her.

I feel like it's an incredible public

sculpture because it works on so many different levels. I think that children can really relate to it, as well as adults. I think it has a really fun spirit, as well as you can take a little more time with it and it really has an eerie spirit. I think it has a lot of life to it and I think it's really what works ideally for public sculpture.

What are some of the challenges to working on the Fine Art Commission?

I think it's a challenge to make sure what we bring to the community works for everyone, not just for me and not just for the commissioners. I think we have taken a lot of time to really consider that. We've seen some really wonderful works of art that we felt might not be safe or maintain themselves long-term. So I think one of the challenges is making sure everything is available to the community.

Tell us about your family.

I'm married to Adam Kanter and he is an agent at CAA. And we have two girls, Cleo, 6, and Hannah, 8, and they couldn't be cuter. I mean it! I'm mostly with my children, and I spend a lot of time with them. They go to Turning Point [School] in Culver City.

And my family's here – my parents are both here, his parents are both here. We both grew up going to school in Beverly Hills. He went to Beverly also [Class of 1985]. He was one of my brother's friends. We've always been friends, but we didn't start dating until long after college.

What are your plans for after working on the Commission?

I'm not 100 percent sure. I definitely will stay involved with the arts, as a collector, as a lover and as a promoter of the arts. What I'll do – I'm still deciding what I'm going to do tomorrow!



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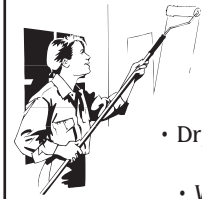
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