



Partly cloudy,  
temps in the  
mid-60s

## INSIDE

- Pro bono work offered by BH law firm pg. 3
- WeHo school holds kindness challenge pg. 12

Volume 35 No. 5

Serving Beverly Hills, West Hollywood, Hancock Park and Miracle Mile

January 30, 2025

# BHHS students protest teacher's absence

## ■ Instructor Romeo Carey placed on paid leave

BY TABOR BREWSTER

Beverly Hills Unified School District students and community members made their voices heard at a board meeting on Jan. 29, expressing support for a teacher who has been placed on administrative leave. Romeo Carey,

See **Instructor** page 25

photo by Tabor Brewster

Journalism instructor Romeo Carey was placed on administrative leave on Dec. 1 and is currently under investigation by the BHUSD.

## ■ Parents speak out at school board meeting

BY TABOR BREWSTER

Several parents of displaced Palisades Charter High School students are pleading with the Beverly Hills Unified School District to allow the enrollment of their children after approximately 40% of the Palisades school burned down.

Palisades Charter High School

was severely damaged in the Palisades fire, which erupted on Jan. 7 and destroyed thousands of homes and businesses. The campus has remained closed since the fire began, and classes have moved online. According to administrators, the school is actively searching for a physical location to hold classes.

On Jan. 14, Gov. Gavin Newsom signed an executive order allowing displaced students to attend schools outside of their district. With the

future of Pali High still uncertain, some families are attempting to enroll their children in different schools, including in Beverly Hills.

In a BHUSD board meeting on Jan. 28, parents of displaced Pali High students pleaded with the school board members to allow their children to enroll in the district. According to the parents, BHUSD administration told them that the district would allow Pali High students to enroll, and some families were successfully able to enroll their children. However, other students were not granted enrollment after receiving a notice from the BHUSD that enrollment had been paused.

"My kids applied Day One, and they are still not in," Pali High parent Sasha Noorafshan said. "I was reassured, not to worry, you will take my children. I went home and told my kids three times all week, as they cried ... I said don't worry, Beverly Hills is being incredible, amazing. And guess what? They won't take my kids even though they processed their information."

Three other Pali High parents, and members of the BHUSD community, echoed Noorafshan's pleas in the board meeting. Beverly Hills

See **Pali High** page 26

photo courtesy of Palisades Charter High School

Palisades Charter High School, pictured before the wildfires, sustained severe damage in the Palisades fire. Some displaced students are now hoping to enroll in BHUSD.

# Fire debris removal underway

## ■ Residents can opt-in for free clean up

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Residents who lost homes in the Palisades and Eaton fires were cleared to start the non-hazardous debris removal process on Jan. 28 as part of a new step in the relief effort.

Property owners can opt-in to a government-led program for free debris removal or can hire a contractor. Whichever method is chosen, residents must start the process by filing a Right of Entry form with the county for the free debris removal program, on which they will opt-in or opt-out of the program. The deadline for applying for the free service is March 31. For those who do not file a Right of Entry form, the county will consider it a decision to opt-out of the program.

Debris removal is occurring in two phases: hazardous waste removal overseen by the Environmental Protection Agency, which is ongoing, and debris removal conducted by the Army Corps of Engineers, which



photo by Tabor Brewster

A program has been implemented in the Palisades and Eaton fire zones for free non-hazardous debris removal.

will begin soon. The EPA is currently removing hazardous waste property by property.

A Right of Entry form clears crews from the Army Corps of Engineers to start removing debris once the EPA clears a property. Residents must file the form to start the process, officials said. Owners who decide to hire a pri-

vate contractor can start debris removal as soon as the EPA gives clearance, a Right of Entry form is approved and the proper permits are issued.

"These forms are a critical step to get debris cleared off residential properties so residents can begin rebuilding. As of [Jan. 28], I'm

See **Debris** page 25

# Displaced families ask BHUSD to enroll students

## ■ Parents speak out at school board meeting

BY TABOR BREWSTER

Several parents of displaced Palisades Charter High School students are pleading with the Beverly Hills Unified School District to allow the enrollment of their children after approximately 40% of the Palisades school burned down.

Palisades Charter High School

was severely damaged in the Palisades fire, which erupted on Jan. 7 and destroyed thousands of homes and businesses. The campus has remained closed since the fire began, and classes have moved online. According to administrators, the school is actively searching for a physical location to hold classes.

On Jan. 14, Gov. Gavin Newsom signed an executive order allowing displaced students to attend schools outside of their district. With the



photo courtesy of La Peer Hotel

West Hollywood hotels offering discounted rates for fire victims such as the Kimpton La Peer can house people for longer than 30 days.

# WeHo approves urgency ordinance on housing

## ■ Council makes more short-term rentals available to fire victims

BY RANCE COLLINS

At last week's City Council meeting on Jan. 21, West Hollywood enacted an urgency ordinance for displaced fire vic-

tims. The legislation allows for some of city's stringent rental laws to be circumvented in order to facilitate those needing temporary housing.

"West Hollywood has always found a way to play a role across the region – we see the need and we find our way to step up and support," Mayor Chelsea Byers

See **WeHo** page 26

**DORDICK**  
**LAW CORPORATION**

Established in Beverly Hills since 1987



Catastrophic Injury &amp; Wrongful Death Cases for Plaintiffs Only

Toll Free: 800.555.5595  
**DORDICKLAW.COM**  
Ethics • Civility • Results

## CALENDAR

### L.A. Phil

The LA Phil presents "Schubert, Strauss & Saariaho" on Thursday, Jan. 30, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 2, at 2 p.m. at the Walt Disney Concert Hall. The concert features Schubert's "Symphony No. 8, Unfinished," Saariaho's "HUSH" and Strauss' "Death and Transfiguration." Susanna Mälki conducts the concert, which features Verner Pohjola on trumpet. Tickets start at \$20. 111 S. Grand Ave. laphil.org.

### Petersen Museum kids workshop

Families with children 7-10 are invited to the Petersen Automotive Museum for "Mini Motors: Route 66" on Saturday, Feb. 1, from 9-10 a.m. The Mini Motors workshop series offers young people a hands-on adventure where they can explore the world of cars. Held on the first Saturday of every other month, the events include experiments, art projects and a chance to explore the museum's car collection. The workshop is free with museum admission. Adult tickets are \$21; \$13 for youth 12-17 and \$12 for children 4-11. 6060 Wilshire Blvd. petersen.org.



### Beyond the Streets

Beyond the Streets, in collaboration with Tlaloc Studio and curator Ozzie Juarez, presents Art Bazaar, a free market uniting Los Angeles art enthusiasts on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 1-

2. The event features more than 30 visionary creatives, highlighting L.A.'s vibrant creative economy with an eclectic mix of clothing, books, ceramics, fine art, zines and prints. Enjoy music, local food vendors and a welcoming atmosphere. 434 N. La Brea Ave. beyondthestreets.com.

McVicar: Tap Dancing On My Mother's Grave." The evening also features comedians Michael Turner, John Conroy, Jay Light, Debra DiGiovanni, Sam Salem and Saul Trujillo. Tickets are \$13.89. 8162 Melrose Ave. improv.com/comic/kim+mcvicar.

### LACMA art workshop

Join a pop-up art workshop in the Los Angeles County Museum of Art's Boone Children's Gallery on Saturday, Feb. 1, from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. The exhibition-based workshop encourages creative inspiration, and no prior art-making experience is necessary. Staff members work with participants to help them make their own art. In observance of Black History Month, the event coincides with the exhibition "Imagining Black Diasporas: 21st-Century Art and Poetics," exploring how Black artists around the world create powerful aesthetic connections. Admission is free; all ages are welcome. 5905 Wilshire Blvd. lacma.org.



### The Broad 'Unsettled Voices'

The Broad is holding "Unsettled Voices," an Indigenous music, visual and spoken word performance on Sunday, Feb. 2, from 1-3 p.m. in the museum's Oculus Hall. The performance showcases two extraordinary Indigenous artists as they delve into themes of reconciliation and creativity. In "Unsettled Voices," Tongva (Gabrielino) educator and musician Lazaro Arvizu Jr.



and Khoi Khoi violinist Lynn Daphne Rudolph unite for a dynamic blend of music, spoken word and visual art. Their collaboration draws from The Broad's reforestation project "Social Forest: Oaks of Tovaangar," South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission and Joseph Beuys' "In Defense of Nature." Tickets are \$25. 221 S. Grand Ave. thebroad.org/events/unsettled-voices.

### 'Monument'

Holocaust Museum Los Angeles is showing "Monument" on Sunday, Feb. 2, from 2-4 p.m. Filmmaker Michael Turner documents his first visit to a Holocaust memorial created by his grandmother, Lici, a Hungarian Jew whose parents and sister were killed in Auschwitz. "Monument" weaves together an intimate family story with ongoing discussions examining memory preservation through monuments and memorials, as well as the dissemination of history in public spaces. 100 The Grove Drive. holocaustmuseumla.org.



### Kim McVicar & Friends

Don't miss "Kim McVicar & Friends" on Sunday, Feb. 2, at 7 p.m. at the Hollywood Improv. McVicar, a comedian and former professional dancer from Canada, has two standup specials: "Kim McVicar: Please Notice Me" and "Kim



### Classic cinema

Join American Cinematheque for "Cinematic Void Presents Two-Minute Warning" on Monday, Feb. 3, at 7 p.m. at the Los Feliz Theatre. Charlton Heston leads an all-star cast including John Cassavetes and Beau Bridges in a 1976 thriller about a gunman who sets his sights on a sell-out crowd at a championship football game. 1822 N Vermont Ave. american-cinematheque.com.

### Beverly Hills Chamber

The Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce is holding its February "Get to Know Your Chamber" event on Tuesday, Feb. 4. Learn about the benefits and opportunities available to members and what the chamber is doing to assist them. New, current and future Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce members are welcome. Networking begins at 8:15 a.m., followed by a presentation at 8:30 a.m. Participation is free, but registration is required. 9400 S. Santa Monica Blvd. members.beverlyhillschamber.com.

### Alex Warren

The Grammy Museum welcomes breakout star Alex Warren on Tuesday, Feb. 4, at 7:30 p.m. Warren, who is known for the hits "Before You Leave Me" and "Burning Down," will discuss his debut album "You'll Be Alright, Kid" and will perform. Tickets are \$30.59. 800 W. Olympic Blvd. grammymuseum.org/event/spotlight-alex-warren.



### Andy Garcia and CineSon All Stars

Grammy Award-winning music producer and musician Andy Garcia and The CineSon All Stars return to Catalina Jazz Club on Thursday, Feb. 6, with their "Cuban Jam Session." Garcia, who is also an award-winning actor, recently performed at the Kennedy Center Honors paying tribute to another Catalina Jazz Club favorite – Arturo Sandoval. Doors open at 7 p.m., show starts at 8:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$57. 6725 W. Sunset Blvd. catalinajazzclub.com.



### Japanese art

Join Japan Foundation, Los Angeles for an evening of creativity and inspiration during "Painting Ethereal with Miki Yokoyama" on Thursday, Feb. 6, at 7 p.m. Contemporary mixed media artist Yokoyama will guide participants through a hands-on workshop, helping them create unique artworks by drawing with acrylic pens on dyed canvases. The workshop corresponds with the foundation's ongoing exhibition "Ethereal: Interpretations of the Ryūgūjō Myth by Dwight Hwang and Miki Yokoyama." No prior experience is needed. Admission is free, but reservations are required. 5700 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 100. jflac.org.



photo by Edwin Folven

Los Angeles County leaders have made arrangements allowing the fire department to accept donations.

## L.A. County fire department donations aid operations

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved a motion on Jan. 21 by Supervisor Janice Hahn, 4th District, and Chair Kathryn Barger, 5th District, to enable the public to easily donate to the L.A. County Fire Department through the Los Angeles Emergency Preparedness Foundation.

"Since these unprecedented wildfires began there has been an outpouring of support for our first responders and people asking how they donate to our fire department and those risking their lives on the frontlines of these fires," Hahn said. "I am grateful to the Los Angeles Emergency Preparedness Foundation for stepping up so that this generosity can reach our brave, selfless firefighters."

Since the wildfires began on Jan. 7, hundreds of residents, organizations and businesses have expressed interest in providing financial assistance to the Los Angeles County Fire Department. However, the fire department is currently only able to accept in-kind donations and monetary donations made via mail-in

check. The fire department does not have a mechanism in place to accept online donations via credit card or debit card. Additionally, the fire department does not have an established foundation to accept donations on its behalf.

"Countless residents have reached out in the last two weeks with generous offers to support our first responders who've been on the front lines battling these wildfires," Barger said. "My heartfelt thanks to the Los Angeles Emergency Preparedness Foundation for bridging the gap to allow funds from so many kind supporters to make their way to our incredible Los Angeles County Fire Department."

The motion, which passed unanimously, allows the Los Angeles Emergency Preparedness Foundation to manage the receipt and disbursement of donor funds on behalf of the nonprofit Los Angeles County Fire Department. People interested in making donations to the L.A. County Fire Department are encouraged to visit laepf.org/lacofd.

## Mayor's order extends tax relief to businesses impacted by wildfires

Mayor Karen Bass issued an emergency executive order on Jan. 24 to waive 2025 business taxes for companies impacted by the wildfires.

The order directs the Los Angeles Office of Finance to draft an ordinance to waive the taxes.

"My directive to City Hall is clear – we are going to do everything we can to rebuild our communities, and that certainly includes not taxing business owners who are already going through so much," Bass said.

"Our businesses are the backbone of our recovery and need urgent relief. That's why I'm introducing a motion to deliver immediate and tangible support in tandem with the mayor's executive order," said Councilwoman Traci Park, 11th District. "By waiving these taxes, we are sending a powerful message: aiding our businesses is a top priority."

Bass's order was issued in coor-

dination with Park, who represents the Pacific Palisades and will lead council action on the proposed ordinance.

The emergency executive order aims to provide economic relief to people and businesses directly impacted by the fires. It will provide relief from the payment of the city's gross receipts tax for businesses that have been directly impacted by the wildfires. Additionally, the order directs the Office of Finance to report on providing relief from the city's transient occupancy tax at hotels for fire-displaced victims. The Office of Finance is directed to report back on providing relief from transient occupancy tax for any person staying in a hotel between Jan. 7-April 6 because their primary residence was damaged or destroyed by fire and the cost of their stay at a hotel is not reimbursable.

For information, visit mayor.lacity.gov and lacity.gov/lastrong.

## BEVERLY PRESS PARKLABREA NEWS

Founded 1946

8444 WILSHIRE BLVD.  
4TH FLOOR  
BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90211  
(323)933-5518  
BEVERLYPRESS.COM

MAILING ADDRESS:  
P.O. Box 36036  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90036

Michael Villalpando  
PUBLISHER

Karen Villalpando  
EDITOR & PUBLISHER

Edwin Folven  
editor@beverlypress.com  
EDITOR

Rance Collins  
rance@beverlypress.com

Tabor Brewster  
tabor@beverlypress.com  
REPORTERS

Chris Erskine  
COLUMNIST

Michael Krikorian  
Tim Posada,  
Rebecca Villalpando  
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Lionel Ochoa  
GRAPHIC ARTIST



The Beverly Press and Park Labrea News are weekly newspapers, published on Thursdays. Mail subscription is \$120 annually. Decreed newspapers of general circulation, entitled to publish legal advertising, Feb. 10, 1960 by Superior Court Order No 736637. Decreed newspapers of general circulation, entitled to publish legal advertising in the City of Beverly Hills and the County of Los Angeles, Dec. 22, 2020 by Superior Court Case Number 19STCP04891. Government Code 6008.

# Eaton fire victims get pro bono legal help

■ Beverly Hills attorney Gary Dordick offers assistance with damage

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

As residents return to their homes after the devastating wildfires in Los Angeles County and authorities investigate how the fires started, ads have been popping up by attorneys promising to assist victims in their time of need.

Those ads prompted longtime Beverly Hills attorney Gary Dordick to take action, using his

experience in handling fire cases to offer pro bono assistance to victims of the Eaton fire in Altadena. Dordick and his family also sustained a loss when a home they owned in Malibu burned down. Knowing that fire victims need someone they can trust, he and his team of attorneys and legal professionals are helping people with claims for damage or destruction of their homes, cars and businesses, free of charge.

Dordick believes the Eaton fire was caused by the negligence of Southern California Edison, and said he plans to sue SCE. When that

happens, and if residents opt in, Dordick said he will fight to recover additional compensation for the victims' emotional distress for injuries or deaths and will charge a contingency fee only on that portion of the case. Right now, the goal is to help people with immediate needs, he said.

"After watching the news day and night, just hoping and praying they got a handle on the fires to stop the loss, I started seeing all of these attorney ads popping up on the television and my social media, and it was disturbing to me. I saw lawyers that I know who have no business handling fire cases because they don't know what they're doing. I saw law firm after law firm seeing this fire and the devastation as an opportunity to make money and take advantage of people suffering, and it got out of control," Dordick said. "This is the time where lawyers should help people. It's a time where our community needs

lawyers to do what they can to help build back the city, not just profit from others' misery. So I started a campaign that I would handle all of the Eaton fire property damage cases for free, that my staff will do everything we can to make sure people can get compensation for all of the things that they lost."

Dordick said he and his team are already assisting approximately 30 families from Altadena. He added that he is focusing on the Eaton fire because he believes there was negligence on the part of SCE. He referred to video footage that shows flames near the base of an SCE



photo by Edwin Folven

The Eaton fire in Altadena damaged or destroyed more than 10,400 structures, including many along North Lake Avenue.

electrical tower on the hillside above Eaton Canyon. A video that surfaced earlier this week shows flashes of light in the area where the tower is located on the night the fire began.

"We're going to file a lawsuit against Edison, as have many other law firms. There appears to be significant evidence that the Eaton fire originated with their power lines. I have been involved in other cases like this in the past, and I think the evidence is compelling against them," Dordick said. "I note that they are publicly indicating that there may be other causes of the fire, but they have not yet determined the cause of the fire. I think from the videotape evidence it seems clear, but I agree that we all have to wait until we get more evidence and that we finish our inves-

tigation. And in the end, I think the origin of the fire will rest with Edison."

Los Angeles County Sheriff Robert Luna said at a briefing on Jan. 29 that the cause of the Eaton fire remains under investigation. The sheriff's department is working with a team of federal investigators to determine the origin of the blaze and the location where the fire erupted.

"From the very beginning, we summoned our federal partners, specifically the ATF working with the U.S. Attorney's Office, to make sure that we were collecting everything and we didn't have any gaps," Luna said. "That investigation continues. I have no doubt, based on the expertise of these teams that we brought in from a national level,

See Legal page 25

## Lawsuits alleging racism advance in Beverly Hills

■ Attorneys sue city, school district

BY TABOR BREWSTER

The city of Beverly Hills and the Beverly Hills Unified School District are currently being sued for alleged racial discrimination. Attorneys Brad Gage and Ben Crump held a press conference on Jan. 23 to update the public on the status of the cases.

The claim against the BHUSD was initially filed by two Black teachers on Dec. 9, alleging discrimination, harassment, retaliation, racial comments and physical threats.

One of the instructors – the school's fashion design teacher Bella Ivory – alleged that she and a group of Black students were victims of racism during a demonstration celebrating the victory of President-Elect Donald Trump on campus on Nov. 6. She and Black students spoke at a school board meeting on Nov. 12, alleging that a pro-Trump mob of students marched through the halls, shouted racist language and attempted to enter her classroom, where seven members of the Black Student Union were present.

The second Black instructor represented in the claim remains anonymous.

Gage added that the lawsuit against the school district includes alleged instances of racism against Black and Latino students.

"The schools are a place where students are supposed to learn right from wrong and how to be good model citizens," Gage said. "The allegations in our claim are that at the school, kids who are making racist comments – or physically attacking other students because of their race – they're not getting punished. They're staying in the school. But the victims – who are African American and Latin American – they are suffering. Many of them have had to leave the school because of fear, because of persecution."

BHUSD parent Tene Medford said at the press conference that her son has experienced racism at Beverly Hills High School.

"My son has been called [the n-word] several times," Medford said. "The young lady who called him [the n-word] said that she would lie if he reported her. That's the most dangerous account of any, where someone knows that they're wrong and yet

will hurl these terms and make the child afraid to report and come forward."

In response to the complaint filed by the two Black teachers, the school district said it has not found evidence of racism.

"We do not have evidence that suggests that there was racism at the recent spirited demonstrations, however BHUSD has implemented proactive measures to ensure that any concerns related to racism and antisemitism – perceived or real – are addressed promptly and effectively," BHUSD Superintendent Michael Brey said in a statement.

Brey added that the school district is meeting with organizations including the NAACP and the Anti-Defamation League "to deliver professional development for staff, workshops for students and community engagement sessions."

"These initiatives will focus on empathy, active listening and fostering dialogue among diverse viewpoints," Brey wrote.

The statement also noted that the school district is continuing to review policies and protocols that address discrimination and facilitating conversations to "educate students on the balance between free speech and respect for others."

Two class-action lawsuits have been filed against the city of Beverly Hills, alleging that hundreds of Black people were profiled and discriminated against by the Beverly Hills Police Department. The first lawsuit, filed in August 2021, includes more than 1,000 plaintiffs who allege that they were wrongfully arrested in Beverly Hills after being stopped by unmarked police cars between August 2019 and August 2021. The lawsuit seeks \$500 million in damages.

Gage announced during the press conference that a second class-action lawsuit has been filed, alleging that the racial profiling by the police department has continued since 2021.

The city denied the allegations in a statement.

"The city of Beverly Hills is an international destination that always welcomes visitors from across the country and around the world," the statement read. "The role of the Beverly Hills Police Department is to enforce the law, regardless of race. The city denies and will continue to strongly defend itself against these ongoing allegations."

## CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD FIRE RECOVERY RESOURCES

DONATE & VOLUNTEER  
[WEHO.ORG/WEHORESPONDS](http://WEHO.ORG/WEHORESPONDS)



WEHO  
RESPONDS



INFORMATION & UPDATES  
[GO.WEHO.ORG/FIREUPDATES](http://GO.WEHO.ORG/FIREUPDATES)



photo by Edwin Folven

Senior Lead Officer Paul Jordan, shown in 2019, was well-known for his work throughout the Hollywood area.

## Hollywood community mourns a hero in blue

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

The Hollywood community and the Los Angeles Police Department are mourning Senior Lead Officer Paul P. Jordan, who died in a solo vehicle crash while off duty on Jan. 22.

Jordan was with the LAPD for more than 29 years and had served at the Hollywood Division nearly 22 years. He was known as a positive force in the community and as a senior lead officer, was involved in many facets of policing.

"It's terrible. This has directly affected many people at the station," said Capt. Craig Heredia, commanding officer of the Hollywood Division. "He was an all-around good person. He loved his wife and loved his children. He was a hard worker and led by example."

Heredia said Jordan was driving home from work when the crash occurred. According to the California Highway Patrol, Jordan was on the Ronald Reagan (118) Freeway east of Sycamore Avenue in Simi Valley around 8:55 p.m. on Jan. 22 when his pickup traveled onto the westbound shoulder, struck a curb, continued down an embankment and collided with a tree. CHP units responded to a call about the collision and locat-

ed the 58-year-old driver, later identified as Jordan, who sustained fatal injuries. The specific cause of the collision remains under investigation by the CHP's Moorpark station.

Jordan's many assignments over the years included working on a security detail for the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce's Walk of Fame star ceremonies. Ana Martinez, the chamber's vice president of media and talent relations and organizer of the star ceremonies, fought back tears as she described Jordan.

"I had just talked to him and had posted something about him and the other officers protecting the Hollywood Sign and the Hollywood Bowl from the fires," Martinez said. "He was a very nice man. He was a sports fanatic and he loved the Dodgers. I couldn't believe it. It was so sad. He was one of the good ones. Everybody is so affected by the whole thing."

"He had his family, and he had his Hollywood family," Heredia added. "I've had conversations about him with many people in the community and they are as heartbroken as we are."

In 2019, Jordan helped organize the division's celebration of the LAPD's 150th anniversary.

See Officer page 26

## Suspects sought for vandalizing driverless car

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

A group of suspects caused significant damage to a Waymo driverless ride-hailing vehicle on Jan. 25 while the unoccupied car was stopped in traffic near the Beverly Center.

Police received multiple 911 calls about the incident, including one from a passerby around 4 a.m. who reported that a group of approximately 100 people, including many juveniles, attempted a street takeover near Third Street and La Cienega Boulevard. The caller also said the group was vandalizing a Waymo vehicle and they heard gunfire or fireworks.

Minutes later the group dispersed, police said. Another 911 caller reported the group was fleeing the area and the suspects were gone when officers arrived. They found no evidence of a shooting, but officers located the white Jaguar belonging to Waymo, which had its windows smashed, passenger door pried open and the interior damaged. Multiple videos of the vandalism incident were posted on social media.

Officers contacted Waymo using a passenger smart screen inside the vehicle. A Waymo representative met officers at the scene and took custody of the car.

Lt. Mark Ro, with the LAPD's Wilshire Division, said detectives are working with Waymo to obtain video footage from the vehicle, which is equipped with "hundreds" of cameras that help it navigate city streets. No arrests have been made



photo courtesy of onseenc.tv/YouTube

A crowd vandalized a Waymo vehicle near the Beverly Center in a video that was posted on social media.

but police are confident they will be able to identify the suspects involved based on the video.

Waymo spokesperson Julia Ilina confirmed the vehicle was stopped at a red light on Third Street when the vandalism took place. She added that Waymo is working with police to identify the suspects.

"We condemn any form of vandalism to property and are working closely with local safety officials," Ilina said. "While these sorts of events are rare, we take them extremely seriously and remain committed to improving road safety and mobility in the cities where we operate."

She added that Waymo has

approximately 100 vehicles in Los Angeles. Waymo also operates driverless ride-hailing vehicles in Phoenix and San Francisco. A Waymo car was vandalized in the Bay Area last year and the incident was also caught on video and posted on social media.

The cars are equipped with technology to deter vandalism, including being able to move away from the scene, emitting audio signals and contacting authorities, she added. It is unclear if any of the preventative measures occurred during the Jan. 25 incident on Third Street.

Anyone with information is urged to call Wilshire Division detectives at (213)473-0476.



D LINE SUBWAY EXTENSION PROJECT  
Section 1 – Beverly Hills

### We're building better transit from DTLA to the Westside.

#### January Updates

The contractor continues to work on the north side of Wilshire Bl between San Vicente and La Cienega. Intermittent lane reductions take place during off peak hours. Work is also taking place on the plaza level by the station entrance.

## WeHo deputies arrest homicide suspect from neighboring county

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Deputies from the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station arrested a man on Jan. 27 who was wanted for murder in the city of Fontana and are assisting the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department with its investigation.

West Hollywood patrol deputies saw two individuals allegedly involved in narcotics activity in the 1000 block of Sierra Bonita Avenue and detained the men, authorities said. They determined one of them had an outstanding homicide warrant and arrested the suspect, identified as Ronalee Barrett Stanberry, 37. The other man was detained and released after authorities determined he had no connection with

the homicide and there were no grounds to hold him further.

Stanberry was wanted for the murder of an elderly victim on Jan. 10. San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department deputies responded to a business in Fontana for an unprovoked assault in which a suspect attacked a male victim with a baseball bat. The 79-year-old victim died at a hospital on Jan. 21.

West Hollywood Sheriff's Department leaders said the arrest highlights the outstanding work of deputies in proactively policing the community. Anyone with information about the crime is urged to call the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department's Specialized Investigations Division at (909)890-4904.



213.922.6934  
metroline@metro.net  
metro.net/dline



# LUNAR NEW YEAR



Embrace the Year of the Snake's wisdom, transformation and personal growth  
with exclusive offers from your favorite brands and restaurants.

ALMA • ARHAUS • BLUE RIBBON SUSHI BAR & GRILL • DAVID YURMAN  
GUCCI • LUCY ZAHREN & CO. • THE FOUNTAIN BAR • TODD SNYDER & more

JANUARY 29 - FEBRUARY 12

Caruso Signature Members earn Double Caruso Coins at participating retailers.

Not a member?



JOIN NOW

*Caruso*

# GMCLA raises its voice at The Abbey

## Concert benefits MusiCares

BY RANCE COLLINS

Los Angeles, famously, is a place full of creatives. When disaster strikes, the residents here respond with their talents, using those gifts to raise funds, awareness and spirits. The Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles, which spent its first decades racked by the HIV/AIDS crisis, is no stranger to using voice to uplift those who are suffering. On Feb. 4 at 8 p.m., GMCLA will partner with The Abbey Food & Bar for a special concert benefitting MusiCares, a nonprofit foundation that provides resources to musicians and music professionals in times of need.

"We're in the midst of preparing for our March concerts at the Saban, and we've been in rehearsal since early January," GMCLA executive director and producer Lou Spisto said. "But clearly, when this disastrous set of fires occurred and affected so much of Los Angeles, we decided we wanted to do something, and we contacted The Abbey."

The Abbey's owner Tristan Schukraft said that the benefit concert aligns perfectly with the famous club's philanthropic history.

"West Hollywood has always been a city that rallies together during challenging times, and The Abbey has always played a central role in that," Schukraft said. "After the Northridge earthquake, The Abbey provided free meals to people in need, and we've continued that tradition every time disaster strikes – most recently offering meals to those displaced by the fires and to first responders. We're more than just a bar; we're a gathering place and safe space for our community. It's our role to protect and support the people who make Los Angeles what it is."

Schukraft added that GMCLA is "a force for change," that uses music to promote love, acceptance and equality.

"Their values align perfectly with The Abbey's mission of creating a space that celebrates the LGBTQ+ community. Together, we're amplifying the message that when we

come together, we can make a real difference," he said.

All of the proceeds of the \$20 tickets will be donated to MusiCares.

"We think of people who work in music as the stars that we see and hear and view and stream. But the vast majority of people who work in the music industry, in the arts industry, are not people who make a lot of money, and a lot of these folks are struggling. Many, many of them lived in the Altadena-Pasadena area. Some of them have been impacted by businesses who closed in the Palisades and on the coast," Spisto said.

For GMCLA member John Sterling McLouth, the benefit concert will be personal.

"A dear friend of GMCLA perished from the Palisades fire in Malibu, and members of the chorus will be singing at her memorial service in March," Sterling McLouth said. "For me, our upcoming benefit concert with The Abbey will be an evening of coming together to release and share through song and to nourish and help rebuild Los Angeles, by the generous contributions from both GMCLA and The Abbey's supporters."

The program will include roughly 30 to 40 of the over 200 chorus members, who will perform on the main dance floor of The Abbey's sprawling space. They will perform 15 (or so) songs, including a couple from their upcoming March 22-23 concert, "Rhinestone Cowboys," which will be a tribute to country music with a lineup that includes nods to Dolly Parton, Reba McEntire, Johnny Cash and Shania Twain.

GMCLA also operates other community outreach opportunities including Alive Music Project, which brings together members of the chorus for assembly presentations to middle and high school students through the Los Angeles area. The presentations typically include a choral master class, as well.

Schukraft said his company, Tryst Hospitality, works to give back to the community by not only hosting fundraisers, but supporting minority owned businesses, offering free vaccine clinics and providing free access to HIV-prevention medication.

"Giving back is core to who we

## Physicians Aid Association offers fire relief

Physicians Aid Association is available to help physicians, their dependent families and physicians-in-training who have been affected by the wildfires in Los Angeles. Temporary assistance for basic living necessities such as food, rent, transportation, utilities and medication may be available to qualified applicants.

Physicians are encouraged to call (310)427-7892, visit [lapaa.org](http://lapaa.org) or email executive administrator Sunnie Rose at [sunnie@lapaa.org](mailto:sunnie@lapaa.org) for additional information and an application for assistance.

All applicants are treated respectfully and with confidentiality. Requirements are simple. An open application timeline enables the board of directors to efficiently review for consideration all applications as they are received.

PAA aid is not a loan program. It is an individual and personal grant program and there is no require-

ment for reimbursement.

The Physicians Aid Association was founded by Dr. Elizabeth Hohl in 1937 during the Great Depression to help physicians in need. Since then, thousands of physicians and their families in Los Angeles County have been aided with housing and financial assistance through PAA's benevolent giving program. In the last 10 years, PAA has given over \$1.7 million to physicians, family members and medical students in need.

"Our donors, through their compassion and generosity, make our mission of 'physicians helping physicians' possible," PAA president Dr. William Hohl said. "They help us to continue and make a meaningful difference in the lives of our less fortunate colleagues with a tax-deductible contribution."

For information, to apply for assistance and to make a donation, visit [lapaa.org](http://lapaa.org).

are, and right now, the city needs us to come together and show that when times are tough, we take care of each other," Schukraft said. "This isn't just a concert – it's an opportunity to support those who need it most and to show the power of what we can do when we stand together. Whether you've been to The Abbey a hundred times or it's your first visit, this is a night you won't want to miss."

"Music does help heal," Spisto added. "It's just a great moment to be together."

For information and to purchase tickets, visit [gmcla.org/lafirebenefit](http://gmcla.org/lafirebenefit).



photo by Gregory Zabilski

The Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles will perform a special benefit concert at The Abbey on Feb. 4.



in conjunction with the  
MENSCH FOUNDATION

honors Holocaust survivors, including our  
Temple member and benefactor, David Wiener.

MENSCH AWARDS  
shall be bestowed upon

Please join us for this  
Shabbat dinner in honor  
of the survivors as we pay  
tribute to them on Friday  
evening, February 21

Shabbat Dinner at 5:30 p.m.  
Please lobby at Temple of the Arts

\$75 per person

For further information and  
RSVP to [geigersa@gmail.com](mailto:geigersa@gmail.com)



David Wiener  
Holocaust Survivor

David Meyerhof  
Holocaust Educator

Gabriella Karin  
Sculptor and  
Holocaust Survivor

## UPCOMING EVENT ON THE CLOOBECK STAGE

THU  
13  
FEB

GABBY BERNSTEIN: CHANGE YOUR LIFE

• The Saban Theatre - Beverly Hills, 8440 Wilshire Blvd. Beverly Hills, CA 90211  
DOORS 6:30PM. SHOW 7:30PM  
UNDER 18 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A PAYING ADULT

~ UPDATED EVENT DATE ~

gabby bernstein

#1 new york times best selling author



JOIN GABBY TO DISCOVER A PATH TO HEALING THAT CAN LITERALLY CHANGE YOUR LIFE!

DOORS 6:30PM. SHOW 7:30PM.

VIP TICKET - \$199 + APPLICABLE FEES

EVENT TICKET - \$69.50 / \$49.50 / \$39.50 + APPLICABLE FEES  
UNDER 18 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A PAYING ADULT.

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

[HTTPS://WWW.AXS.COM/EVENTS/726864/GABBY-BERNSTEIN-CHANGE-YOUR-LIFE-TICKETS?SKIN=SABAN](https://www.axs.com/events/726864/gabby-bernstein-change-your-life-tickets?skin=saban)

SABAN THEATRE

(323) 658-9100 | [BHTOTA.ORG](http://BHTOTA.ORG)

8440 Wilshire Blvd.  
Beverly Hills, CA 90211

# Jan. 23 Sepulveda fire quickly contained

■ Beverly Hills Fire Chief says city remains prepared

BY Tabor Brewster

A brush fire that broke out late on Jan. 22 near the 405 Freeway was quickly contained by firefighters. The Sepulveda fire erupted at approximately 11 p.m., and an evacuation warning was issued for parts of Bel Air and Brentwood, according to the Los Angeles Fire Department. LAFD Chief Kristin Crowley said 60 fire engines and seven water-dropping helicopters were deployed to the fire. By 2 a.m., the fire was controlled and the evacuation warning was lifted. By Jan. 24, the fire was 100% contained, having burned 43 acres.

"I'm very glad to share with everybody that we were able to stop the forward progress of this fire around 1:30 this morning. That was through very well-coordinated ground and air resources in regard to how we stop this fire from getting into these local neighborhoods," Crowley said on Jan. 23.

LAFD firefighters remained on the scene throughout the day on to extinguish hot spots. Crowley said the department utilized drones to search for potential flare ups.

"I'm very proud of our first responders, our LAFD members who worked the scene from the second that this fire broke out and then all the way through the incident ... to the point where we stopped the advancement of the fire and we were able to safely lift that evacuation warning so our community members could get back to their homes," she said.

Los Angeles City Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky — who represents the 5th District, including Bel Air — said in a statement that she was grateful for the rapid response



Brush fires originating in canyons and hills have become a primary focus for firefighters amid recent destructive blazes.

to the fire.

"I want to express my deep gratitude to LAFD, LAPD and first responders. The swift and coordinated response — deploying multiple engines and helicopters overnight — was instrumental in stopping the fire's spread and protecting lives and homes," Yaroslavsky said. "I'm also deeply grateful for their close communication with my team throughout the night. Together, we worked to provide real-time updates to residents, relying on community leaders to share accurate information quickly through WhatsApp groups and phone calls. This teamwork was critical in keeping our neighbors informed and safe."

Although the fire did not impact Beverly Hills, Beverly Hills Fire Chief Greg Barton said the BHFD monitored the blaze, as it does with all fires in the Los Angeles area.

"When that fire happened, I got a phone call about it. I was able to be in contact with the commanders there just to find out what was hap-

pening in case it did happen to affect Beverly Hills," Barton said. "There was not a concern for Beverly Hills with that fire, and at that point there were so many resources in the area that the L.A. City Fire Department with all their firefighters were able to jump on it and really knock that down quickly."

During the Palisades fire, many firefighters from the Beverly Hills Fire Department were deployed to the blaze to assist with the control efforts. The city of Beverly Hills has also implemented many proactive measures to prevent fire outbreaks within the city, including clearing excess brush and ensuring reservoirs are at full capacity. Barton said the city is exploring further preventative actions such as a potential city-wide evacuation drill this summer. He added that while the city and fire department have taken steps to prevent and control fires, it is essential for the community to take necessary steps to prepare for an emergency.

"There's always a possibility of some type of catastrophic wildfire. However, the best thing that Beverly Hills is doing is the support [from] the council," Barton said. "Anything that we need, the council will provide. They're very good about ensuring public safety here in Beverly Hills."

He added that Beverly Hills resi-

## L.A. County, city announce wildfire relief funds for small businesses

In the aftermath of devastating windstorms and wildfires that have disrupted lives and businesses across Los Angeles County, the Department of Economic Opportunity and the Los Angeles Economic and Workforce Development Department announced the launch of the L.A. Region Small Business and Worker Relief Funds. The two funds create a public-private partnership to provide immediate relief for wildfire-impacted small businesses, nonprofit organizations and workers and are now welcoming philanthropic contributions.

As part of the launch, DEO is directing \$1 million in existing grant funds toward the impacted communities as part of the relief effort. The funds will be managed in collaboration with the county's Center for Strategic Partnership and Southern California Grantmakers, the county's fiscal sponsor.

The disaster is projected to cause economic damage exceeding \$250 billion and has already become one of the costliest natural disasters in recent history. Beyond property damage, businesses and workers in affected areas face compounding challenges from job losses due to closures and significant income disruptions. The new funds offer targeted relief in the form of cash assistance grants as the region starts its longer-term economic recovery efforts.

Applications for the funds for eligible small businesses and workers are set to open in February, offering grants between \$2,000 and \$25,000 for eligible small businesses and nonprofits and \$2,000 for displaced workers. DEO and EWDD have partnered with

Southern California Grantmakers and AidKit as third-party administrators to spread awareness of the opportunity, assist with the application process and distribute funds directly to awardees.

"The wildfires have had devastating impacts across our communities, disrupting the lives of residents, workers and small business owners," said L.A. County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, 3rd District. "L.A. County has launched the L.A. Region Small Business and Worker Relief Funds, ensuring critical financial support reaches those who need it most. Together, we're committed to rebuilding our communities quickly and equitably, ensuring no one is left behind in the recovery process."

"Altadena is known for its beloved small businesses, committed nonprofits and dedicated workers who've invested countless hours of their time, talent and passion into their community," L.A. County Board of Supervisors Chair Kathryn Barger, 5th District, said. "Rebuilding Altadena means we have to bolster our local economy, local businesses and nonprofits, and local workforce. This grant program will offer a helping hand when employers and employees need it most."

Organizations interested in contributing can contact Stephanie Holloway, head of intergovernmental relations and development with the DEO, at [sholloway@opportunity.lacounty.gov](mailto:sholloway@opportunity.lacounty.gov), and Libby Williams, director of small business with the Mayor Karen Bass' office at [libby.williams@lacity.org](mailto:libby.williams@lacity.org).

For information, visit [lacounty.gov/relief](http://lacounty.gov/relief).

dents should take individual proactive steps in the event of a fire emergency.

"Residents need to be prepared. There used to be a fire season. Now, as you can see in the last few years, it's a year-round concern," he said. "Residents should always be prepared. They should have a go-bag ready to leave at a moment's notice just in case ... These fires are bring-

ing that to light — it can happen quick, and you need to be prepared to evacuate ... It is truly a team effort. It's the fire department, the police department, all the city staff coming together — but it's the residents as well. Them doing their part with their brush clearance and hardening their homes, that is so key to ensuring that any community can survive a wildfire."

## Notable Quotes

*"The basis of our government being the opinion of the people, the very first object should be to keep that right; and were it left to me to decide whether we have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."*

Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826)

from a Letter to Colonel Edward Carrington, Jan. 16, 1787

With local, regional and national media including newspapers targeted by the Trump administration, it is important to call attention to the value of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Public Broadcasting Systems and National Public Radio to our nation. We urge our readers to support the efforts of these national outlets and to local outlets like the Beverly Press and Park Labrea News.

CPB is a private, nonprofit corporation authorized by Congress in the Public Broadcasting Act of 1967. CPB is the steward of the federal government's investment in public broadcasting and the largest single source of funding for public radio, television, and related online and mobile services. CPB's mission is to ensure universal access to non-commercial, high-quality content and telecommunications services. It does so by distributing more than 70% of its funding to more than 1,500 locally owned public radio and television stations.

CPB by the numbers:

386 radio grantees, representing 1,220 public radio stations  
158 television grantees, representing 361 public TV stations  
245 of the total 544 radio and TV grantees are considered rural  
99% of Americans have access to public media  
More than 70% of CPB's federal funding goes directly to local public media stations  
Less than 5% of funding is spent on CPB operations

Sources: Bartlett's Familiar Quotations; CPB.org



8. I've been messy in life; I'll be messy in death.
9. They say you can't take it with you, but what if you can?
10. Probate. Must be fun.

If you don't do it for yourself, please do it for those you care about.

**KRAMER LAW GROUP**

**Stephen W. Kramer**

5757 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 535 • Los Angeles, CA 90036 • (323)964-7100

[www.thekramerlawgroup.com](http://www.thekramerlawgroup.com)

## Cedars-Sinai welcomes new director of hip preservation

Cedars-Sinai has appointed orthopedic surgeon and scientist Dr. Patrick Whitlock as director of hip preservation in the Department of Orthopedics and as an orthopedic surgeon at Cedars-Sinai Guerin Children's. The dual appointments will allow Whitlock to care for a variety of patients – children, adolescents and adults – with hip-related conditions and structural problems.

"We extend a warm welcome to Dr. Whitlock, who brings to our team years of extensive clinical and research expertise in hip preservation, a rapidly growing subspecialty field," chair of orthopedics Dr.

Mark Vrahlas said. "Dr. Whitlock has a reputation for providing superior individualized care and treatment for young people with hip pain and damaged hip structures, helping preserve the natural hip joint and restoring normal hip function to help delay or prevent future hip replacement surgery."

Whitlock is one of the few specialists in the U.S. skilled at performing periacetabular osteotomy, a complex surgery to treat hip dysplasia, a condition in which the hip socket is not shaped to support the upper part of the thigh bone.

Whitlock is also an expert in the treatment of slipped capital femoral

epiphysis, a condition in which the top of the thigh bone slips out of position; hip impingement, in which the bones of the hip joint fit together improperly; Perthes disease, a rare childhood condition in which blood supply to the head of the thigh bone is interrupted; and large osteochondral defects of the hip using osteochondral allograft tissue. He also has special expertise in pediatric orthopedic trauma.

"Dr. Whitlock is an excellent addition to our pediatric orthopedic program, bringing a specific skillset and knowledge of hip treatments that can help prevent progression of arthritis," said Dr. David Skaggs, executive vice chair of orthopedics at Cedars-Sinai, co-director of the Cedars-Sinai Spine Center and director of pediatric orthopedics at Cedars-Sinai Guerin Children's. "His expertise further emphasizes

our commitment to addressing the unique orthopedic needs of children and adolescents who need early interventions using the most innovative treatments."

In his research, Whitlock develops materials from natural sources to treat avascular necrosis and osteochondral defects – conditions that can cause significant joint pain and dysfunction. He has authored numerous studies published in medical journals and has presented his work at national and international orthopedics conferences.

"It is a privilege to be part of the exceptional orthopedics team at Cedars-Sinai and Guerin Children's – among the best in the U.S. for improving musculoskeletal health," Whitlock said. "I look forward to helping more patients feel better, move better and avoid additional challenges with their hips as they



photo courtesy of Cedars-Sinai

Dr. Patrick Whitlock is an expert on hip dysplasia and other hip-related health issues.

get older."

For information, visit [cedars-sinai.org](http://cedars-sinai.org).

## Schiff, Padilla introduce bipartisan legislation to support firefighters

U.S. Sens. Adam Schiff (D-Calif.) and Alex Padilla (D-Calif.) joined Sens. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) and Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.)

in introducing the Honoring Our Fallen Heroes Act, which aims to expand federal support and benefits for families of firefighters and other



photo courtesy of LAFD

The Honoring Our Fallen Heroes Act expands federal support for families of firefighters and first responders.

first responders who lose a loved one or become permanently disabled due to service-related cancers.

"Our first responders risk everything for us – from the front lines of wildfires to the unseen lines of duty that keep our communities safe. When they lose their lives to service-related cancers, their families deserve the full measure of support they've earned. No one who has lost so much should be left to face hardship alone," Schiff said.

"Firefighters and first responders put their lives on the line without a second thought to protect California communities from the devastating Southern California wildfires," Padilla said. "When they sacrifice their lives or face severe disabilities due to service-related cancers, we have a shared duty to help get their families back on their feet."

The Public Safety Officer Benefits program provides benefits to the surviving family members and loved ones of fire fighters, law enforcement officers and other first responders who die as the result of injuries sustained in the line of duty. The program also provides disability benefits for first responders who become permanently disabled. The Public Safety Officers' Educational Assistance program, a component of the PSOB program, provides higher-education assistance to the children and spouses of public safety officers killed or permanently disabled in the line of duty. The PSOB and PSOEAs programs are administered by the Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance.

Sens. Padilla and Schiff have fought to get Southern Californians desperately needed disaster relief

aid. In the immediate aftermath of the Los Angeles fires, Padilla and Schiff led 47 bipartisan members of the California Congressional delegation in successfully urging then-President Joe Biden to grant Gov. Gavin Newsom's request for a major disaster declaration to expedite timely relief to Los Angeles County residents impacted by the disasters.

Schiff pressed both Lee Zeldin, nominee to lead the Environmental Protection Agency, and Brooke Rollins, Secretary of Agriculture nominee, in their confirmation hearings on their commitment to deploy aid and resources to firefighters battling the fires in Los Angeles on a nonpartisan basis.

To read the bill, visit [schiff.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Honoring-Our-Fallen-Heroes-Act.pdf](http://schiff.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Honoring-Our-Fallen-Heroes-Act.pdf).

## Cedars-Sinai Guerin Children's brings Japanese experience to stage four cancer patient

Health care workers at Cedars-Sinai Guerin Children's turned a wish into a reality for a 21-year-old patient hospitalized with stage four osteosarcoma, a type of bone cancer.

Diego Cruz told his health care team that his lifelong dream was to travel to Japan, which got Child Life Specialist Joanne Ordone thinking.

"Because of his physical condition, he can't travel, but I thought, 'Why not bring Japan to him?' And that's what we did," Ordone said. "We brought both traditional and contemporary Japan to his hospital room."

Thanks to the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo, Cruz had a traditional Japanese experience, starting with a tea ceremony

performed by a tea ceremony master. Cruz sipped from a ceremonial bowl filled with matcha tea while the master chanted.

Next, a calligrapher brought out his ink and brushes to create a traditional calligraphy scroll that read, "May your wishes come true." The calligrapher also helped Cruz write the Japanese character for "strength."

Then, a musician played and sang traditional Japanese ballads describing the four seasons.

Cruz, an anime fan, also received gifts from local shop Anime Station. Of course, no cultural experience is complete without food, and Cruz was able to taste mochi and Japanese cheesecake for the first time.

A visibly emotional Cruz took pictures with guests and family

members and fought back tears as he expressed thanks.

"All the years that I've had chemotherapy, I missed out on all the things I wanted to do in life," Cruz said. "While I saw others living a normal life, I'd be here in the hospital. I never thought I'd be able to do these things, so thank you. It means a lot to me."

Ordone said the afternoon reminded her of the essence of health care.

"Obviously, taking care of the patients medically and clinically is super important, but we're treating the whole person," Ordone said. "It's the emotional and the mental health that is also important, and I believe we got to bring a little bit more joy to this patient today."

For information, visit [cedars-sinai.org](http://cedars-sinai.org).



photo courtesy of Cedars-Sinai

The Japanese American Cultural and Community Center visited patient Diego Cruz's hospital room to help him write in Japanese – one of his longtime goals.

## Westside Food Bank calls for immediate help after catastrophic fires



photo courtesy of Westside Food Bank

The food bank is asking for donations after its shelves were depleted during the holiday season.

A series of devastating fires across Los Angeles County has left tens of thousands displaced and struggling to access basic necessities. Westside Food Bank, which serves the affected Western portion of Los Angeles County, is urgently calling for donations to meet the growing need.

"This is our home, and these are our neighbors," said Genevieve Riutort, president and CEO of Westside Food Bank and co-chair of the Westside Coalition on Housing, Hunger and Health. "The fires have caused unimaginable devastation. Recovery will take months if not years. We're seeing a surge in need, and we can't do this without your help."

The fires have destroyed homes,

schools and businesses, leaving thousands of workers – including teachers, janitors, household employees, gardeners, restaurant staff and retail workers – without jobs or income. Many are turning to Westside Food Bank as a critical source of relief.

Adding to the urgency, Westside Food Bank's shelves are depleted after the busy holiday season. Every \$50,000 raised buys a truckload of nutritious food that can feed local residents in crisis. Bulk purchasing ensures that each dollar goes further, providing life-changing support to families in need. Westside Food Bank is an expert in warehousing and logistics. It has the experience, relationships and dedicated staff to get large amounts of food out quick-

ly. Westside Food Bank did so at the start of the pandemic, but it needs immediate funding to buy more shelf-stable food to supplement the massive amounts of fresh produce it can access through a statewide "Farm to Family" program.

For over 40 years, Westside Food Bank has been the backbone of food assistance on the Westside, supplying free food to 60 local non-profit partners and operating six mobile pantries. For smaller food pantries, our free food is essential – many could not survive without it.

Westside Food Bank needs help now to ensure no one in the community goes hungry during this crisis. Visit [my.wsfb.org/2025fires](http://my.wsfb.org/2025fires) to donate and make an immediate difference.



# *Your Final Wishes,*

THEIR PEACE  
OF MIND

Planning for end of life care is one of the greatest gifts to leave your loved ones. Start the conversation today with Hillside Memorial Park and Mortuary.



[www.HillsideMemorial.org](http://www.HillsideMemorial.org)  
1-877-763-5703

A Community Service of  
Temple Israel of Hollywood

## Belly rubs and rain on the roof

Over the weekend, the secret sauce finally arrives ... a merciful rain in modest amounts, a mother's touch.

On the roof, the tapping of the rain, eight months late. The L.A. Phil never sounded this good. It was like when Jascha Heifetz first found Brahms. Or Koufax, the strike zone.

As we flip through various coping mechanisms – football, soup, beef jerky, truck stops, trick plays, dogs, and now this healing rain – I come across a note from my pal Forrest, who is some sort of street savant. And, like me, a total meatball.

Forrest writes:

"Rubbing a dog's belly hypnotizes them ... The neat thing is that it hypnotizes you, too, which is sort of needed in times like these. Which brings me to taste, since a good soup can be hypnotic in winter, too. Try creamy squash on a similarly colored day. Your mood blends right in, and you're on a smooth creamy high, and then here comes the rain!"

by  
Chris  
Erskine



Forrest then gets into his defense of a cheesy album that I recently mocked, a series of mawkish duets by Barbra Streisand and Barry Gibb. He defends them, saying they offer "a keening lyricism."

He then concludes:

"Can there be something like selective euphoria, and is it a kind of drug you give yourself? We could definitely use some of that right now, and so could the dogs. And whoever equated hypnotism with euphoria, except in times like these?"

Thanks, Forrest, you big meatball.

Listen, if I had a wand, I would wave it. If I had a healing spell, I

would cast it over everything.

In any case, I have adopted a divine resolve to help friends through this terrible, emotional time. Words have always been my cut-rate cortisone.

Talking to another pal over the phone the other night, as the clock ticked toward midnight, with neither of us ready to end a somewhat good day after a bunch of bad ones, I suggested that to lose a house is bad enough, but to lose your entire community is even more devastating.

And, as if in a fable, the greater community has rallied to help the smaller fire-ravaged communities, thereby cementing our need for others.

If these fire disasters are good for nothing else, it's to prove that human beings have enormous, toaster-sized hearts.

So much to look forward to: Forrest's poetic pep talks. My own minor successes – in bars, gyms and poker rooms. To be honest, all my life successes have been minor, save for the birth of my kids and grandkids.

In that vein, Cakes and I had a "grandpa date" the other night in our favorite Mexican joint, more for me than for her. She'd already attended two birthday parties, so she was not desperate for more reverie. When you're 3, reverie follows you around like a personal sun.

I was coming off a significant household chore – hanging a TV. Relatively easy, except this was in brick, where I never know whether to drill the brick or the joint. One might crumble, the other might too. So I bored them both, as I am prone to do.



photo by Chris Erskine

Grandkids and dogs, two of our finest coping mechanisms in tricky times.

I'd also had a fine, greasy brunch with Rapunzel and her husband (Truck) at Rae's in Santa Monica. You know Rae's? Once upon a time, our neighborhoods were graced with little diners like Rae's. Little by little, these eggy treasures are going away, replaced by sushi joints and yoga studios. Yikes. Whiskey-tango-foxtrot, America.

Between courses, Rapunzel tells me about so-called "dirty sodas," where the kids add syrup or creamers to their Cokes. It's a thing, I guess, just as black cows were once a thing. I'm kind of bemused by this development, and I don't even understand why. Maybe it represents some circle of love and life? Can't wait to try.

Anyway, this all led up to my dinner date with Cakes, at the noisy Mexican joint that – pretty sure – heats its nachos with a blow torch.

As we eat, I sneak peeks at

Cakes, as I occasionally do with Suzanne, appreciating her ethereal beauty and toasting the universe for my undeserved grand luck.

Grandchildren are my selective euphoria. Puddles, my new grandson, is only 4 months old, yet I already feel his love, his mirth, his sense of expectation.

Each day, he wakes knowing that he will be warmed, fed, sung to, cuddled. Each day, he wakes to a community that cares.

In a way, we all do.

See, fate can take our homes and health, and muck with our hearts and minds.

But community? That's our dirty soda. That's our cortisone.

That's everything.

For past columns, or books, please go to [ChrisErskineLA.com](http://ChrisErskineLA.com)



photo by Chris Erskine

An endangered species, an old-school diner in Santa Monica.



photo courtesy of the L.A. Parks Foundation

Runners of all ages and abilities will participate in the Griffith Park Run Half Marathon and 5K on Feb. 2.

## Griffith Park Run steps off on Feb. 2

The Los Angeles Parks Foundation is reminding runners and walkers about the Griffith Park Run Half Marathon and 5K on Sunday, Feb. 2. Registration is available online through Saturday, Feb. 1, at 11:59 p.m. Same-day registration starts at 6 a.m. and ends 15 minutes prior to the start of each race.

The Griffith Park Run Half Marathon and 5K start and finish at the Autry Museum of the American West, 4700 Western Heritage Way. The half marathon begins at 7:30 a.m. and the 5K run begins at 10 a.m. Registration fees include a raffle, commemorative medal, T-shirt and sampling booths.

The annual event benefits the L.A. Parks Foundation and Los Angeles city parks. It is open to runners and walkers of all ages and abilities, as well as people with pets. The half marathon course takes participants through the scenic trails of Griffith Park. For information and to register, visit [rungrp.com](http://rungrp.com).

**All Saints' Beverly Hills**  
celebrates

# Choral Evensong

## This Sunday, Feb. 2, at 5 pm

The most uniquely Anglican of services, Evensong will nourish your soul with glorious hymns, melodious chants and beautiful anthems... a perfect place for prayer and meditation.

Featuring the music of Byron Adams and Craig Phillips.

*Reception immediately following. All are welcome.*

504 N Camden Dr., Beverly Hills, CA 90210  
310.275.0123 • [www.allsaINTSBH.org](http://www.allsaINTSBH.org)



# NOW OPEN!

Descanso is a modern taqueria that blends traditional Mexican recipes with modern influence. The concept draws inspiration from the beloved taco vendor, offering unique and engaging dining experiences. You'll witness skilled chefs prepare authentic Mexican dishes at your table "a la Plancha" in a lively setting, immersing you in the ambiance of a bustling Mexican town.

LUNCH AND DINNER | SERVED DAILY

LIVE MUSIC | FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHTS

BRUNCH | SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

HAPPY HOUR | MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY



5773 Wilshire Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90036

MAKE YOUR  
RESERVATION TODAY!

213.672.2444  
[DescansoRestaurant.com](http://DescansoRestaurant.com)

# WeHo students take kindness to the classroom and beyond

BY RANCE COLLINS

West Hollywood Elementary is joining schools across the country for the Great Kindness Challenge. Every year, the challenge provides students a checklist that works to, as its official website states, empower "students to create a culture of kindness." The students have a week to complete the acts. The Great Kindness Challenge started 14 years ago in Carlsbad, and it has since become an international phenomenon, marked on the last week of January.

"We do lots of different activities and exciting things throughout the week to encourage kindness," principal Dr. Elizabeth Lehmann said. "But the best part is seeing the kids go through the checklist and say, 'Oh, hey, I can do this. Oh, that's easy. I can do that. That's all I have to do.' And realizing it's free to be kind. It doesn't cost you anything, but the impact is huge."

The checklist includes 50 tasks for students in second through fifth grade and 20 for students pre-K through first grade. Among the items are smiling at 25 people, sincerely complimenting five people, making a new friend, donating something to an animal shelter, donating to a food bank, cleaning their desk and writing notes of gratitude.

The school kicked off its kindness week on Monday, Jan. 27 with a special welcome event attended

by local dignitaries including West Hollywood Mayor Chelsea Byers and Councilman Danny Hang.

"I absolutely love the Kindness Challenge and I really appreciate West Hollywood Elementary for their ongoing participation in this annual activation as it uplifts the responsibility we all have in making the world a better place," Byers said.

**"The best part is seeing the kids go through the checklist and say, 'Oh, hey, I can do this. Oh, that's easy. I can do that. That's all I have to do.' And realizing it's free to be kind. It doesn't cost you anything, but the impact is huge."**

West Hollywood Elementary principal Dr. Elizabeth Lehmann

The Monday kickoff included what Lehmann described as a "big blow up of rainbows and music."

"A lot of Monday morning blues went out the window right there," she said.

"It was so exciting and heartwarming," Hang said. "It really brought a smile to my face. There's something so powerful about watching kids take the lead in

spreading kindness and positivity. Their energy and creativity in completing acts of kindness – whether it's helping a classmate, writing a kind note or even just sharing a smile and wave. The mayor and I even saw a couple of kids give their teachers big hugs. It reminds us all how even small actions can have a huge impact on others."

In response to the wildfires, some classes have shifted their acts of kindness to have an even larger impact on the community.

"Sometimes the classes will take on class-wide acts of kindness," school counselor Sarah Bennett said. "And so, one of the things that a lot of our younger grades decided to do this year was to do little thank you cards and drawings for both Los Angeles firefighters as well as out of town firefighters to show appreciation and gratitude. It helps our kids realize that their acts of kindness don't have to be centralized to their school."

Lehmann said that the impact on students is immediately visible.

"Seeing the kids so excited about it ... that is really special," she said.

"It's normalizing that acts of kindness and incorporating it into our lives is something that doesn't just happen in one period of one day at school," Bennett added. "It's something that's happening that the parents are signing off on and getting involved in. It's very cool to see it woven, not just at school, but to see the parent involvement, too."

On Friday, Jan. 31, Byers and Hang will return to the campus to judge a door decorating contest, in which students and parents participate.



photo courtesy of LAUSD

Mayor Chelsea Byers, principal Dr. Elizabeth Lehmann and Councilman Danny Hang joined students to kick off the Great Kindness Challenge on Jan. 27.

"Being a part of that welcome party and judging the decorated door contest for the past few years has been such a special way for the city to support the growth of these young people and show them that the world is full of people who care about them and their futures," Byers said.

"Kindness is super contagious

and brings people together, especially during tough times," Hang said. "It teaches kids that they have the power to make a difference in their school, their families and the world. It's a mindset that strengthens a community and creates more understanding and empathy."

For information, visit [thegreatkindnesschallenge.com](http://thegreatkindnesschallenge.com).

**LES IS MORE**  
an hour with the mayor

**Join us for**  
**Les is More: An Hour with the Mayor**

**Event Topics:** Energy Resiliency, Water Efficiency, and Sustainable Food Systems

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3<sup>RD</sup>**  
6:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.

**CITY HALL | MUNICIPAL GALLERY**  
455 N Rexford Dr.  
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

*If you cannot join us in-person, there is a virtual option, too!*

To view the list of panelists and for more information, visit [BEVERLYHILLS.ORG/LESISMORE](http://BEVERLYHILLS.ORG/LESISMORE)

## Letters to the Editor

### Thank you for news coverage, and Chris Erskine's moving columns

As a local resident living near Beverly Hills in Faircrest Heights just south of Carthay Square, I receive the Beverly Press. Its coverage of area news is far superior to the L.A. Times' coverage. If I want to know what is happening in my neighborhood and greater Los Angeles, and what events I should attend, I now turn to the Beverly Press.

However, my favorite part of the Beverly Press is [Chris Erskine's] column. I eagerly anticipate reading every week your words of wisdom, your humorous take on the quotidian.

I especially appreciated your column, "High winds, long nights, adult moments" on Jan. 16. Recently, I posted a picture of a cherry pie baked by my son and ended that Facebook post with the word "yum." I immediately thought of your column's evoca-

tion of the pleasures of eating after disaster and returned to the original post to quote, with attribution, your final words, "Yum, in the face of heartbreak. Yum, in this poisoned, troubled world. I mean, what the hell, right? Yum."

Thank you for writing. Thank you for your vulnerability, your authenticity and self-awareness, your clarity, your wisdom. Like a ball of sticky rice, like a piece of cherry pie, your words inspire and console. Yum, indeed.

Sidney Morrison  
Stearns Drive

*Editor's note: Sidney Morrison is a local author who recently published "Frederick Douglass: A Novel."*

### Chris Erskine's column hits close to home

Re "Dealing with life's hard whisky truths," by Chris Erskine, Jan. 23

You never fail to call to my heart.

This one obviously hits big for those of us who love the Altadena community. Hopefulness is what we need and you expressed all the feelings I'd been having – of loss and compassion and grief and hope. Thank you.

Deborah Hudson

### Coverage of ERA developments deserves credit

Re "Biden affirms Equal Rights amendment," Jan. 23 issue

Thank you for this beautiful piece. You truly captured my feelings and knowledge.

What a fine way to start the day. And the picture is epic! Very proud of this article.

Just brilliant.

Zoe Nicholson  
longtime ERA activist



photo by Edwin Folven

Fares will not be required on Metro buses and trains on Feb. 4, as well as Metro Bike Share and Metro Micro transit options.

## Metro offers free rides on Feb. 4 for Transit Equity Day

In observance of Transit Equity Day, Metro will offer free rides on all buses, trains, Metro Bike Share and Metro Micro on Tuesday, Feb. 4.

The offer coincides with Metro's goal of providing equitable access to high quality, reliable and affordable transit service for everyone. Users can redeem a Metro Bike Share 30-minute free ride by select-

ing "1-Ride" at any Metro Bike Share kiosk, online or in the Metro Bike Share app, and using the code 020425. The code may be used multiple times throughout the day. To redeem a free ride on Metro Micro, riders can book a ride using the code EQUITY25.

For information, visit metro.net.

## Metro seeks members for Measure M oversight committee

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority is recruiting three members of the public to serve on the Measure M Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee, which was formed after approval of Measure M in 2016 to monitor and ensure tax revenues are spent for transportation programs.

The seven-member committee, which meets four times a year, approves and directs the scope of work of auditors, prepares an annual report based on the annual audit results, reviews all proposed debt refinancing and reviews any future proposed amendments including the expenditure plan.

"Serving on the committee has been a great way to follow along with critical transportation projects and obtain insight into how Metro works," said Linda Briskman, former Beverly Hills City Councilmember and a six-year Measure M oversight committee member. "The committee carefully monitors Measure M revenues to ensure that they're spent appropriately, and the knowledge committee members bring helps ensure our transportation projects are kept moving."

Paul Rajmaira, who has served on the Measure M oversight committee since fall 2022, has executed a variety of large-scale engineering and construction projects in the transit, water and petro-

chemical industries. He currently works as a strategy consultant helping clients implement large capital programs.

"Serving on the Measure M committee is a great way to contribute to the public and the community," Rajmaira said. "Members contribute their professional expertise to help ensure that Measure M revenues are spent appropriately on critical transportation projects. I would encourage working and retired professionals to apply, as the time commitment is reasonable and giving back to L.A. County is rewarding."

L.A. County voters approved Measure M in 2016 with 71.15% of the vote. The half-cent sales tax measure funds projects to ease traffic, repair streets and sidewalks, expand public transportation, provide seismic retrofitting for bridges and subsidize transit fares for students, seniors and people with disabilities.

Committee members serve five-year terms. The three current vacancies are open to retired federal or state judges; municipal employees, public sector or finance and budget professionals; and transit (operations and labor practices) professionals.

For information and to apply, visit [metro.net/about/measure-m/#measure-m-independent-taxpayer-oversight-committee](http://metro.net/about/measure-m/#measure-m-independent-taxpayer-oversight-committee).

## Metro Feb. 5 webinar updates subway progress

Metro is holding a webinar on D Line subway project construction on Wednesday, Feb. 5, at noon. The webinar will provide updates on all three segments of the project along Wilshire Boulevard from Wilshire/Western to the Westwood/VA Hospital station. The webinar will include information on construction timelines, project milestones and how the new stations will improve transit access from downtown to the westside.

To participate, visit [zoom.us/j/96626476708](https://zoom.us/j/96626476708) and use the webinar ID: 966 2647 6708. To participate by phone, call (213)338-8477.

Plans call for a phased opening of the D Line extension. Section one from Wilshire/Western to Wilshire/La Cienega is anticipated to open in late 2025. Section two from Wilshire/La Cienega to the Century City/Constellation station is anticipated to open in 2026 and section three to the Westwood/VA Hospital station is expected to open in 2027. Work is currently ongoing on all three sections.

At the eastern end of the project, crews are restoring streets and sidewalks and are working underground on the subway stations. Through January 2025, Wilshire Boulevard will be reduced to two lanes in each direction between Oxford Avenue and St. Andrews Place. Left turns are prohibited from westbound and eastbound Wilshire Boulevard to Western Avenue and from eastbound Wilshire Boulevard to northbound St. Andrews Place. The traffic pattern supports civil restoration near the Wilshire/Western staging yard.

At the Wilshire/La Brea and Wilshire/Fairfax stations, crews are repairing streets and sidewalks within K-rail work zones. Lane closures on Wilshire Boulevard may be in place near the stations. Through March, Wilshire Boulevard is reduced to two lanes in each direction at La Jolla Avenue, where a K-rail enclosure is in place on the west side of the

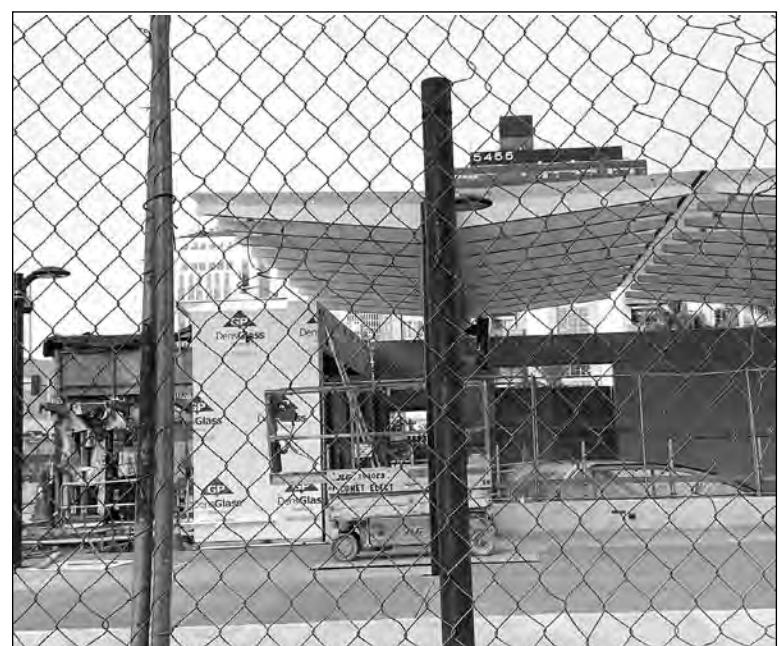


photo by Edwin Folven

Crews are working on the subway station entrance and exit at Wilshire/La Brea.

Wilshire/La Jolla intersection.

Lane closures are also in place near the Wilshire/La Cienega subway station, between San Vicente and La Cienega boulevards. A K-rail work zone remains in place along the north side of Wilshire Boulevard. Intermittent single-lane bump outs may be utilized on Wilshire and La Cienega boulevards.

At the Wilshire/Rodeo station, Metro will start piling and potholing activities in preparation for construction of appendage structures for the future station. Work will take place in multiple stages during daytime hours along Wilshire Boulevard, between Cañon and Beverly drives. The work involves the closure of a single curb lane on Wilshire Boulevard to install piles around the station box perimeter.

The work will occur from just west of the Wilshire/Beverly intersection to a location just west of Crescent Drive. Piling involves drilling holes up to 30 feet deep using a rig, placing steel beams

into each hole with a crane and backfilling the holes with concrete. The work requires temporary curb lane closures on Wilshire Boulevard.

Station construction and concrete placement is ongoing at the Century City/Constellation station.

Placement of structural concrete for the station is substantially complete, and construction of the interior and roof structures is ongoing 24 hours beneath Constellation Boulevard. Traffic lane closures are in place on Constellation Boulevard to support daytime station construction and material deliveries. Eastbound and westbound vehicle access on Constellation Boulevard is being maintained between Century Park West and Century Park East.

For questions and concerns about the D Line Extension project, call the 24-hour project hotline at (213)922-6934, email the project team at [purplelineext@metro.net](mailto:purplelineext@metro.net), or visit [metro.net](http://metro.net).

**BEVERLY PRESS**

**Think Digital**

Go for advertising

**BeverlyPress.com**  
50,000+ Page Views Monthly!  
\$10 per thousand impressions

email: [karen@beverlypress.com](mailto:karen@beverlypress.com)  
[beverlypress.com](http://beverlypress.com)

## RESTAURANT NEWS

### The Peninsula brings 'Hope For L.A.'

The Peninsula has announced a new, nationwide fundraising initiative, "Hope For L.A.," to benefit those impacted by the fires. For every night booked at The Peninsula Beverly Hills, through March 31, a \$5 donation will be made to a nonprofit, government-funded organization providing resources to wildfire survivors. Additionally, each U.S. Peninsula hotel will offer other opportunities for guests to make direct contributions to other charitable groups aiding fire victims. Over the years, The Peninsula's "Hope For" charitable campaigns have helped support thousands of people impacted by natural disaster in Japan and the Philippines. These efforts represent The Peninsula's commitment to both its team members and its communities around the world. For information, visit [peninsula.com/hope-for-los-angeles](http://peninsula.com/hope-for-los-angeles).

Los Angeles. The Peninsula Beverly Hills is located at 9882 S. Santa Monica Blvd.

### Celebrate National FroYo Day at Yogurtland

Yogurtland, the leading self-serve frozen yogurt brand, will celebrate the ultimate frozen yogurt event of the year two ways on National Frozen Yogurt Day, Thursday, Feb. 6 – a buy one, get one free deal and double points for Real Rewards loyalty members.

National Frozen Yogurt Day has become a yearly highlight for Yogurtland fans and the brand is excited for guests to double up on the swirls and the joy of the celebration. The buy one, get one free offer (of equal or lesser value) is valid in-store only at participating locations. Real Rewards members can also earn two times the points

### WeHo restaurants highlighted with Dine LA

West Hollywood boasts some of the best dining and cocktail options in Southern California. Dine LA provides an excellent opportunity to explore many of the city's delicious and diverse culinary options. Running through Friday, Feb. 7, L.A. Tourism will donate \$5 per reservation made to the American Red Cross with a match from Banc of California, raising the total donation up to \$100,000. Diners who are eager to discover new culinary delights or enjoy restaurants they already love will enjoy plenty of options to choose from within the city of West Hollywood.

Participating restaurants include Amour WeHo, Arden, Ardon at The West Hollywood Edition, BOA Steakhouse, Boxwood Café at The London West Hollywood, Connie and Ted's, Crazy Rock'n Sushi, Dtown Pizzeria, Gracias Madre, Granville West



photo courtesy of Katana

West Hollywood's Katana is among the restaurants participating in Dine LA.

Hollywood, Izakaya Tora, Jinpachi, Katana, La Boheme, Ladyhawk at Kimpton La Peer Hotel, LAVO Los Angeles, Merois at Pendry West Hollywood, Puzzle, Rosaline, SUR Restaurant & Lounge, The Roof at The West Hollywood Edition, Toku Unagi & Sushi, Uchi, Zinc Café & Bar and Zinque.

Participating restaurants for

Dine LA will offer specially priced prix fixe menus for brunch, lunch and/or dinner; no tickets or passes are required. A complete list of participating restaurants and Dine LA menus are viewable online at [discoverlosangeles.com/dine](http://discoverlosangeles.com/dine). Prices and meal periods will vary by restaurant and exclude beverages, tax and gratuity.



**More than you NEED, Exactly what you WANT!**

WHATEVER YOU'RE IN THE MARKET FOR!

6333 W. THIRD STREET | LOS ANGELES | TEL. 323.933.9211  
© 2000 FARMERS MARKET LTD. | FARMERSMARKETLA.COM

### This Week's Specials

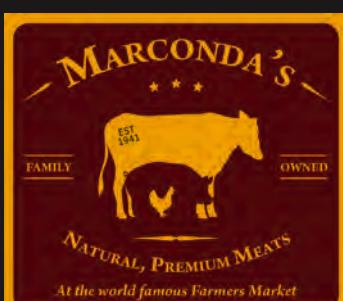
#### Wagyu Sirloin Cap \$17.98/lb.

Reg. \$19.98/lb.

Great on the Grill or Oven Roasted!



With this ad only through 2/5/2025



6333 W. Third St.

323.938.5131

[www.marcondas.com](http://www.marcondas.com)

Family Owned in the  
Original Farmers Market for  
over 80 Years

## \$8.88 Lunar New Year Specials



**Pancake Combo with 2 Buttermilk Hotcakes**  
topped with choice of Bananas, Strawberries or Chocolate Chips,  
served with 2 Bacon or 2 Turkey Links, Butter & Syrup



**Lucky \$8.88 Lunch Special**  
1/2 Sandwich with cup of Soup du Jour  
served with crispy French Fries & a Pickle  
Choice of Ham, Turkey, Tuna, BLT, Cornd Beef or Tri Tip

No substitutions or modifications

SINCE 1938  
**Dupars**  
RESTAURANT & BAKERY

Open Daily  
6am -9pm  
Fri. Sat. Open  
til 10 pm

In the Original Farmers Market • 3rd & Fairfax  
(323)933-8446 • (323)933-8447



Follow Us!  
[@duparsfm](http://@duparsfm)

for any froyo purchase all day, making each experience twice as rewarding (not valid on third party delivery or gift card purchases; please allow up to 24 hours for points to be applied).

As one of the sweetest food holidays of the year, this delicious day brings families and froyo fans together for a moment of joy. There is no better time to take a dessert break and enjoy Yogurtland's premium handcrafted flavors and signature toppings with loved ones. With more than 200 locations across the U.S., these irresistible froyo offerings and promotions are the perfect way to brighten day.

For information and locations, visit [yogurtland.com](http://yogurtland.com).

## Norms presents limited time Mexican dishes

Norms has debuted a new limited time offer menu that's packed with mouthwatering carnitas – traditional Mexican slow-roasted pulled pork and other

SoCal-inspired twists on Mexican dishes. Enjoy a chile verde carnitas omelette for \$14.99, red chile carnitas chilaquiles for \$15.99, a half-pound New York steak adobada and eggs for \$17.99, carnitas fries for \$10.99 or crispy fried fish tacos for \$13.99, among other tasty items. All are available at Norms through April. For information, visit [norms.com](http://norms.com). Norms has several Los Angeles locations, including in West Hollywood at 470 N. La Cienega Blvd.

## Discover the next big songwriter at Desert 5 Spot

Desert 5 Spot, Hollywood's most loved country-themed bar, has relaunched its popular Soft Spot Songwriter Nights for its second season. Hosted by Rainee Blake and Chloe Kat, the acoustic live performances will occur every Tuesday starting at 7 p.m.

Founded in 2021, Soft Spot has believed in transporting individuals to a reminiscent time where all of

See page 17

## Raise a glass for fire relief

Caroline Styne and chef Suzanne Goin will partner with the renowned Billecart-Salmon, house of champagne, for a brunch for fire relief on Saturday, Feb. 8, from 10 a.m.-2:15 p.m. at A.O.C.

The brunch features a menu by Goin and a flight of Billecart-Salmon champagnes. Glasses and bottles of Billecart-Salmon will also be available as a supplement. A percentage of all sales will benefit Restaurants Care, the organization that helps California's food and beverage workers impacted by the recent devastating fires and the Los Angeles Fire Department Foundation emergency wildfire fund.

"When our friends at Billecart-Salmon reached out during the fires to discuss collaborating on a fundraiser together, we immediately said yes," Styne said. "This is such a terrible time in our city and so many people are in need of assistance. It's wonderful to have such a great



photo courtesy of A.O.C.

Enjoy Billecart-Salmon champagne at A.O.C. on Feb. 8.

partner to work with on our fundraising and relief efforts. Not only do we love Billecart-Salmon for the beautiful champagnes that they produce, but we love them for their thoughtful-

ness and generosity."

Pricing is \$125 per guest and may be reserved at [opentable.com/r/aoc-3rd-street-los-angeles](http://opentable.com/r/aoc-3rd-street-los-angeles). A.O.C. is located at 8700 W. Third St.

**Valentine's Sweets**

**Donuts Galore!**

**Hot Chocolate!**

**Strawberry Shake**

**Chocolate Strawberry Pie**

**Dufours**  
RESTAURANT & BAKERY

**Farmers Market • 3rd & Fairfax**  
(323) 933-8446 • (323) 933-8447

**February Pie of the Month**

**Chocolate Strawberry Pie**

**SINCE 1938**

**Dufours**  
RESTAURANT & BAKERY

**In the Original Farmers Market**  
**3rd & Fairfax**  
**(323) 933-8446 (323) 933-8447**

## The Oscars go to the Academy Museum

The Academy Museum of Motion Pictures has announced details of the 2025 Oscars season at the Academy Museum, running through March 30, which invites the public to celebrate the 97th Oscars and delve into Academy Awards history through unique and engaging Oscar-focused events and activities found only at the museum.

Oscars season will see the Academy Museum campus activated for visitors to experience new gallery content, in-gallery tours and programs, Oscar Sundays screenings, Oscar nominee spotlights, this year's Oscar-winning film screenings, exclusive store merchandise, The Oscars Experience and the official Oscars watch party.

"This year, we're delighted to carry forward our commitment to exceptional Oscars Season programming, with an exciting lineup of screenings, panels, and activities for all to enjoy," said Amy Homma, director and president of the Academy Museum. "The Academy Museum has become the ultimate

destination for visitors from around the world to immerse themselves in the art of filmmaking and to celebrate the Oscars."

Oscars Season includes updates to the Oscars galleries that honor the legacy of cinema's most celebrated awards. Highlights include Ryan Gosling's Gucci suit from his "I'm Just Ken" performance at the 96th Oscars, Ke Huy Quan's Actor in a Supporting Role Academy Award for "Everything Everywhere All at Once" (2022), Marlee Matlin's Actress in a Leading Role Academy Award for "Children of a Lesser God" (1986) and Mia Neal's Academy Award for Makeup and Hairstyling for "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom" (2020).

"Oscars Tours: Through the Decades" will take visitors through the history of the industry's biggest night and highlight memorable Academy Award wins. Oscars history tours will run through March 30. Additionally, each month will feature a gallery spotlight, where special guests will explore select exhibition spaces and themes.

These insightful conversations will delve into the connections between gallery pieces and the art, history and science of moviemaking.

January and February will include Oscar Sundays film screenings, highlighting exceptional Black artists who have been nominated for or have won Academy Awards over the last 65 years.

Award-winning graphic designer and creative director Kenny Gravillis will return to the museum on Feb. 6 for Best Pictures of the 1980s with Kenny Gravillis, a look into the iconic era of the 1980s and the creative magic behind the 10 Academy Award Best Picture-winning film posters.

During the week of February 21-March 1, leading up to the Oscars broadcast on March 2, visitors can attend a variety of Oscar nominee spotlights featuring this year's nominated filmmakers.

On Sunday, March 2, from 3-8 p.m., the Academy Museum will host the official Oscars watch party. The evening will feature light hors d'oeuvres by Wolfgang Puck



photo by Tabor Brewster

The annual Academy Award watch party will be held at the Academy Museum on March 2.

Catering, wine from Clarendelle and Domaine Clarence Dillon, access to photo opportunities on the Walt Disney Company Piazza, followed by the live Oscars broadcast in the David Geffen Theater.

Tickets are \$75 for members and \$100 for non-members and include access to the Oscars broadcast and an official Oscars watch party gift bag. Cocktail attire is encouraged, and seating is first-come, first-served.

For a full list of events and ticketing information, visit [academy-museum.org/en/oscars2025](http://academy-museum.org/en/oscars2025).

The 97th Oscars will be held on Sunday, March 2, at the Dolby Theatre at Ovation Hollywood and will be televised live at 4 p.m. on ABC, streamed live on Hulu and air live in more than 200 territories worldwide.

The Academy Museum is located at 6067 Wilshire Blvd.



photo courtesy of The Ebell

The Inner-City Youth Orchestra will perform at The Ebell on Feb. 9.

## The Ebell celebrates Black History Month

The Ebell of Los Angeles, a non-profit organization dedicated to inspiring women and building community through arts, culture and education, invites Angelenos to celebrate the profound contributions of Black artists and learn from trailblazing female leaders with a lineup of concerts, conversations and gatherings happening at The Ebell throughout Black History Month.

The series kicks off on Feb. 9, with a concert featuring the renowned Inner-City Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles, led by

Charles Dickerson.

On Monday, Feb. 10, enjoy a luncheon with media and culture pioneer and founder of SOUL newspaper, Regina Jones, in conversation with journalist and author Karen Grigsby Bates.

On Sunday, Feb. 16 the third-floor sunroom of The Ebell will fill with the harmonious melodies of soprano Thalia Moore and pianist Alonso Pirlo, presented by African Americans for LA Opera.

On the evening of Tuesday, Feb. 18, join trailblazing journalist

Glenda Wina as she shares her experiences breaking down barriers, including becoming the first African American anchorwoman at KNXT (now KCBS-TV).

The series wraps up with a thoughtful book club discussion of Percival Everett's "James," exploring its powerful themes of identity, race, history and the weight of the past.

For a full list of events happening at The Ebell of LA, including the historic Wilshire Ebell Theatre, visit [ebellofla.org/events](http://ebellofla.org/events). The Ebell is located at 743 S. Lucerne Blvd.

## Craft Contemporary has 'Something' to tell

"Amanda Maciel Antunes: I've Got To Tell You Something Now," which consists of a film, an object and an artist book, functions as a portrait of an action of resistance, and an appeal to the intention of memory and stillness. The piece at Craft Contemporary will be on display from Feb. 1-May 4.

Antunes spent 365 days walking up and down a mountain with a piece of cloth, an audio recorder, a cell phone, a GoPro, sewing thread and a needle. The journey began on the first day of the COVID-19 mandated lockdown in Los Angeles. The text was written during the hike and hand-stitched upon reaching the summit each day. The trail leads to the oldest peak in the San Gabriel Mountains, and its elevation is one

of the highest reached in the least amount of geographic time. Persisting in this daily action was a transformative mental and physical exercise of exploring the geographies of personal and ancestral territories.

Resembling the daily journey, the 90-foot scroll of fabric will be displayed in the window lobby area of the museum and fabric will be suspended in several parts of the lobby forming waves resembling the hills of the mountains culminating in an area where a monitor will display the filmed journey.

The final object created for the project is a hand stitched and bound artist book, an assemblage of collected images and text encouraging readers to rethink the nature of our

memories during traumatic experiences. It is the exploration of a particular time and place. It is a story beginning with loss and moving, finally, to acceptance.

The meditative nature of the techniques allows the artist to catalogue and reflect on her memories as she creates. The pauses in many of her works provide metaphorical spaces in which viewers can place their own memories for personal observation and reflection.

The exhibit will have an opening event at 11 a.m. on Feb. 1. For information, visit [craftcontemporary.org/exhibitions/amanda-maciel-antunes-ive-got-to-tell-you-something-now](http://craftcontemporary.org/exhibitions/amanda-maciel-antunes-ive-got-to-tell-you-something-now). Craft Contemporary is located at 5814 Wilshire Blvd.

## Fifteen Percent Pledge gives back to Los Angeles

On Saturday, Feb. 1 at 7 p.m., the Fifteen Percent Pledge will host its fourth annual gala at Paramount Studios, located at 5515 Melrose Ave.

Hosted by Yvonne Orji, the evening is a celebration of Black businesses and their founders. As part of the evening, the Fifteen Percent Pledge awards a selection of Black owned businesses with special awards and grants including the Sephora Beauty Grant and the 2025 Achievement Award.

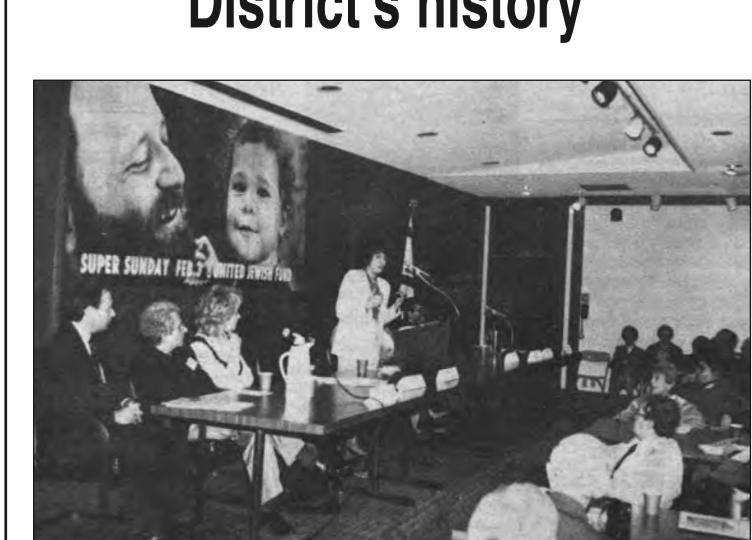
This year, the gala will also create a space to raise additional funds for local Los Angeles businesses

impacted by the recent wildfires in L.A.

In addition to the gala, the Fifteen Percent Pledge will be also hosting a community activation all weekend long, Feb. 1-2, bringing together the businesses who need our support more than ever. All proceeds from the activation ticket sales will go to businesses impacted by the recent wildfires in Los Angeles, while also giving the larger L.A. community an opportunity to shop, eat and support some incredible, local Black-owned businesses. For information and tickets, visit [tickets.15pp.org](http://tickets.15pp.org).



photo courtesy of Fifteen Percent Pledge  
Black-owned businesses will be spotlighted on the Paramount lot Feb. 1-2.



A photograph in the Jan. 31, 1991, issue of the Park Labrea News showed the Jewish Historical Society's celebration of the Fairfax District's 60th anniversary. Lynn Kronzek, author of "Fairfax: A Home, A Community, A Way of Life," discussed the area's history and spoke about landmarks in the community and changes over the years. She also introduced a panel of "Fairfax celebrities" who spoke including then-Los Angeles City Councilman Zev Yaroslavsky, 5th District; Leader Beauty Shop owner Gene Holt, then-LAUSD Board of Education member Roberta Weintraub and Dr. Warren Steinberg, who was principal of Fairfax High School at the time.

## Stars help launch Settecento restaurant

Actors Lukas Gage and Madelyn Cline attended the Settecento grand opening event dedicated to the Palisades Charter High School recovery effort on Thursday, Jan. 23.

Settecento is a new Italian restaurant in Downtown Los Angeles, located at 700 W. Fifth St. For information, visit [settecento.totla.com](http://settecento.totla.com) or call (213)757-7765.



photo by Phillip Faraone/Getty Images for CLD PR

From page 15

their dreams are possible and the music draws them into the world of the writer, inspiring them profoundly. It was created with the intention of fostering a community and providing a platform for songwriters to share their craft in an intimate setting. Artists looking to showcase themselves can find submission forms here. Soft Spot has consistently been committed to featuring 50% female artists on the bill. Songwriter nights are coupled with Desert 5 Spot's Taco Tuesday deal, which offers two tacos for \$10.

For information, visit [desertfivespot.com](http://desertfivespot.com). Desert 5 Spot is located at 6516 Selma Ave.

## Members launches authentic Moroccan cuisine at Kabash

On Jan. 29, Kasbah opened its doors, bringing Hollywood deeply authentic Moroccan food in a truly glamorous setting. The lushly appointed space is hidden within the maze of Members, the vibrant club and restaurant on Sunset Boulevard. Patrons can dine at Kasbah, then spend the evening dancing the night away in the newly renovated nightclub. A nod to the storied history of the building it occupies, Kasbah offers a rich representation of Moroccan cuisine, filling a void in the Los Angeles dining scene that Dar Maghreb left when it closed. The kitchen is a collaboration by Thomas Fuks, founder of 111 Hospitality, and chef Rachida, whom Fuks discovered when eating her food many years ago at his home, alongside the executive chef of Members, Alex Moreno.

Fuks, who is fresh off the heels of opening Amour & Puzzle, has spent years convincing Rachida to bring her talent to a restaurant kitchen. Born and raised in Casablanca, the vibrant heart of Morocco, Rachida brought the legacy of her home to L.A. where she has spent decades cooking for friends and family, slowly gaining a cult following for her signature dishes including comforting Harissa soup and a flavorful Tagine, prepared with either lamb or chicken. Her legacy is her food, and she is working closely with Fuks to bring it life. Together the duo is set to expand on Fuks' passion for adaptive reuse and renovation by harnessing the spirit of Dar Maghreb within the concept.

As Kasbah opens its doors, Members will also debut a new menu from Moreno that is reflective of the nightclub's elevated experience, shifting the cuisine towards small plates and lighter bites.

For information, visit [members.love/kasbahbymembers](http://members.love/kasbahbymembers). Kabash by Members is located at 7627 W. Sunset Blvd.

## Dance classes offered for fire victims

BODYTRAFFIC, the renowned contemporary dance company founded in Los Angeles in 2007 and led by artistic director Tina Finkelman Berkett, will offer free community dance classes and free rehearsal space available to dance artists impacted by the L.A. fires. Community dance classes will be offered Feb. 5 and 12 from 9-10:30 a.m.; rehearsal space is available Feb. 17-28 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

"We are devastated by the destruction caused by the fires in our home city of Los Angeles. As we witness our neighbors experiencing such great loss and uncertainty, it is incredibly heartening to see the ways the L.A. arts commu-

nity is stepping up to support our fellow artists," Finkelman Berkett said. "Los Angeles has always been a city of strength and heart, and at BODYTRAFFIC we are committed to being a source of connection and support. Dance is our way of uplifting and bringing people together, even when tragedy surrounds us."

Registration is required by visiting [bodytraffic.app.neoncrm.com/nx/portal/neonevents/events?path=%2Fportal%2Fevents%2F12921](http://bodytraffic.app.neoncrm.com/nx/portal/neonevents/events?path=%2Fportal%2Fevents%2F12921) or emailing [education@bodytraffic.com](mailto:education@bodytraffic.com).

BODYTRAFFIC's studio is located at 3435 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 200.

# HAPPY LUNAR NEW YEAR

Celebrate with "Lucky 8" special offers from many of your favorite Farmers Market merchants, including:

BAR 326	HOKI SUSHI	MEDITERRANEAN MARKET
BY CANDLELIGHT	HUNTINGTON MEATS & SAUSAGE	MONSIEUR MARCEL GOURMET MARKET
DU-PAR'S RESTAURANT	KAYLIN + KAYLIN PICKLES	NOODLE ART
EB'S BEER & WINE	LIGHT MY FIRE	POLETTE
EL GRANJERO CANTINA	LOCAL ICE	SINGAPORE'S BANANA LEAF
ETTORE VINO E CUCINA	MAGEE'S HOUSE OF NUTS	STARA PIEROGI & SAUSAGE OPENING SOON
FARMERS MARKET NEWSSTAND	MAGEE'S KITCHEN	STICKER PLANET
FARMERS MARKET POULTRY	MARCONDA'S MEATS	WILDFLORA
	MARMALADE CAFE	

Offers valid February 3-10, 2025

SCAN FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF SPECIALS

6333 W. THIRD STREET | LOS ANGELES | TEL. 323 933 9211  
[FARMERSMARKETLA.COM](http://FARMERSMARKETLA.COM)

## Oscars prep: 'Anora,' 'A Complete Unknown,' 'The Apprentice'

### "Anora"

Truly "Anora" should be a top contender for best pic. Sean Baker's Cinderella story about the whirlwind romance between a sex worker and the son of a Russian oligarch is entirely in line with the filmmaker's previous profound films while embracing a more polished treatment.

Ani (Mikey Madison) impresses Ivan (Mark Eydelsteyn) at a strip club, so he schedules some individual sessions with her. As the pair spend more time together, Ivan impulsively proposes tying the knot in Vegas. But that won't fly with his wealthy family. Romance quickly transitions into chaos as Ani navigates a series of events preventing her from staying with her new husband.

Baker tends to depict marginalized groups, from sex workers and adult film stars to families residing in budget motels, with concern and empathy. Normally, he seems averse to a plot line. "The Florida Project" was a slice of life about motel life, while "Tangerine"

served as a day in the life of two trans prostitutes. His films aren't exactly gut wrenching, nor do they avoid heavy moments.

"Anora" features moments of bliss, joy and downright frustration. It all depends on Madison, whose knockout performance compares to none. She deserves the win far more than others.

### "The Apprentice"

That Sebastian Stan would take on this project, knowing the possible backlash is enough to support "The Apprentice." That the film works is truly unexpected. Focusing on such a figure seems entirely unsatisfying. Normally, it's either propaganda or exhausting to endure.

Instead, "The Apprentice" is a story about the digression into a villain. Is it historically accurate? Probably not. But it operates as a splendid, quite watchable cautionary tale complete with a couple very strong performances up for Oscars.

Before Donald Trump (Stan

## ON SCREEN

WITH  
TIM POSADA

paid someone to write "The Art of the Deal," he needed to set himself apart. To help him snuff out a lawsuit about racist landlord practices, he hires Roy Cohn (Jeremy Strong), the lawyer who worked closely with Senator McCarthy and ensured the Rosenbergs were executed in 1953.

The pair form quite the friendship, at first Cohn mentoring Trump. The next 13 years are framed as pivotal for Trump, who develops both his empire and vile characteristics. Stan never plays the orange man like a caricature, instead presenting a nuanced, slow progression. And by the end, any full-fledged more obnoxious characteristics have yet to emerge. What we find here is an origin story that never presents Trump as a former good guy nor pure evil either.

### "A Complete Unknown"

A Bob Dylan biopic has Oscars bait written all over each page. "A Complete Unknown" is the kind of watchable, mid-tier flicks James Mangold ("Ford v Ferrari,"

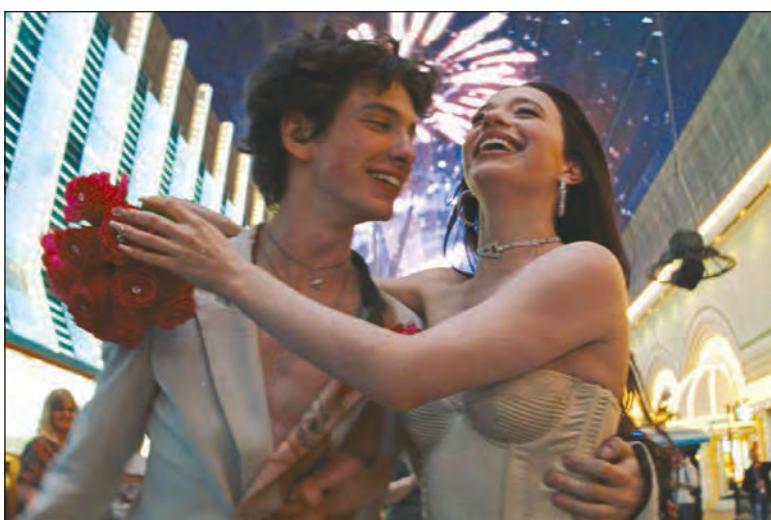


photo courtesy of Neon

"Anora," starring Mark Eydelsteyn and Mikey Madison, is nominated for multiple Academy Awards including Best Picture.

"Logan" does well. It's entirely watchable, memorable at points, but won't earn any wins.

Music biopics go wrong when they cast a wide net. Luckily, "A Complete Unknown" focuses on Dylan up until he donned an electric guitar. Bobby Dylan (Timothée Chalamet) just arrives and introduces himself to Peter Seeger (Ed Norton) and an ailing Woody Guthrie (Scoot McNairy). Soon after, he's performing publicly and in a relationship with Sylvie Russo (Elle Fanning), while he occasion-

ally performs alongside Joan Baez (Monica Barbaro).

The three performances nominated for Oscars land. Chalamet is a wonderful Dylan with a solid singing voice. Norton's Pete Seeger once more proves the man can succeed as a lead or character actor. And Barbaro shines as Joan Baez. She's far more deserving than most in the category (including a frontrunner whose performance shouldn't even be considered for accolades), but like the rest, the film's win potential is quite limited.

## 'This is the night, a beautiful night' at El Capitan

Disney's "Lady and the Tramp" returns to the El Capitan Theatre Feb. 6-9 for a limited engagement.

Guests can take a picture at our "Lady and the Tramp" themed photo op. Guests also have the opportunity to purchase tickets to a Sweetheart Dinner and a Movie. The \$70 Package includes dinner at Miceli's Italian Restaurant and a reserved ticket to "Lady and the Tramp" at 7 p.m.

Feb. 6-9. Limited tickets available, and advanced reservations are

required by calling 1(800)DISNEY-6.

Daily showtimes for "Lady & the Tramp" are 10 a.m., 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Dates and showtimes are subject to change. Tickets for showtimes are \$12 for guests of all

ages.

Tickets are on sale now at elcapitantheatre.com and fandango.com/el-capitan-theatre-aacon/theater-page. All seats are reserved.

The El Capitan Theatre is located at 6838 Hollywood Blvd.



photo courtesy of Disney

Everyone's favorite spaghetti-eating dogs return to the El Capitan Theatre Feb. 6-9.

**FULL STACK PANCAKES  
SHORT STACK PANCAKES  
SERVED ALL DAY!**

**Dupars**  
RESTAURANT & BAKERY  
SINCE 1938

**You'll LOVE our  
S'MORES PANCAKES  
Available for a limited time!**

In the Original Farmers Market • 3rd & Fairfax  
(323) 933-8446 • (323) 933-8447 • frances@dupars-psr.com

**Andre's**  
Famous for its family style atmosphere,  
great food, generous portions  
at affordable prices.

**Pasta, Pizza, Salads  
& More**

**Andre's Italian  
Restaurant & Pizzeria**  
5400 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90036  
(323) 935 1246 • andresitalian.com

## Van Smith to receive costume guild award

The Costume Designers Guild has announced that Van Smith will be honored with the Edith Head Hall of Fame Award presented by filmmaker John Waters at the 27th Costume Designers Guild Awards. The Edith Head Hall of Fame Award celebrates visionary designers whose groundbreaking work has left an indelible mark on the art of costume design.

Van Smith, long considered one of the Dreamlanders, Waters' ensemble of regular cast and crew

## Car community supports Petersen's fire relief effort

Hundreds of car enthusiasts supported first responders and fire recovery efforts on Sunday, Jan. 26, at the Petersen Automotive Museum's charity cruise-in. In partnership with Clarios, OPTIMA Batteries and Lotus Cars Americas, the museum raised more than \$140,000 that will be donated to the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank, Los Angeles Fire Department Foundation and Los Angeles Police Department's West Bureau.

More than 250 items were also collected for distribution to evacuation centers and families impacted by the fires. The American Red Cross offered recovery information and hosted a drive that collected 25 pints of blood.

Ferrari Beverly Hills, Avants, Tesla and the Responsible Battery Coalition supported the charity cruise-in with cars and donations. Waymo donated free rides to and from the event.

The museum is offering complimentary one-day museum admission to all Los Angeles city fire and police personnel through April 26. Personnel can redeem free admission by showing work identification at the front desk.

Families affected by the fires can also enjoy free admission on select community days through Feb. 13. Guests must sign up in advance on the community days webpage. The museum will also provide free field trips and transportation for schools destroyed during the fires.

The Petersen Automotive Museum is located at 6060 Wilshire Blvd. For information about the museum's relief efforts and to make a donation, visit [petersen.org/la-fire-donations](http://petersen.org/la-fire-donations).

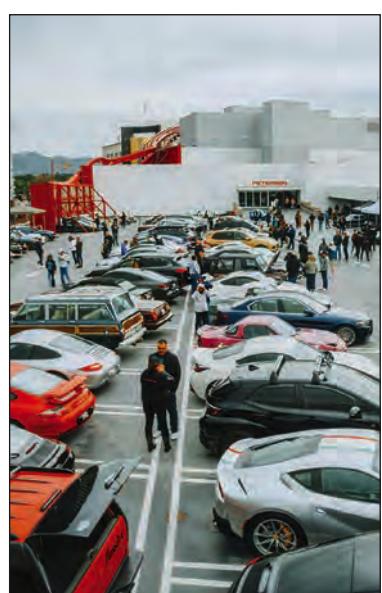


photo courtesy of the Petersen Automotive Museum

The Petersen Automotive Museum's charity cruise-in raised \$140,000 for fire relief programs.

members, created a legacy with his distinctive costume design, primarily collaborating on the iconic films of John Waters. He first worked with Waters on "Pink Flamingos" (1972), including the famous and often copied look of the film's star Divine. From the extreme outfits of the flamboyant criminals and hairdressers in "Female Trouble" (1974) to the grotesque citizens of Mortville in "Desperate Living" (1977), Smith contributed his extraordinary talent to 10 of Waters' works, showcasing his versatility as he delivered both conventional and ironic looks in the later, more mainstream films like "Cry-Baby"

(1990) and "Serial Mom" (1994).

"Van Smith's costumes are one of the main reasons my films' popularity with the twisted public has lasted over the decades," Waters said. "I called him my 'ugly expert,' but his celluloid creations ushered in a new kind of radical beauty. You can't think of Divine without giving Van the ultimate credit – he created this fashion monster's look that still is alarming audiences all over the world."

The awards will be presented at the Ebell of Los Angeles, located at 743 S. Lucerne Blvd., on Feb. 6. For information, visit [costumedesignersguild.com](http://costumedesignersguild.com).

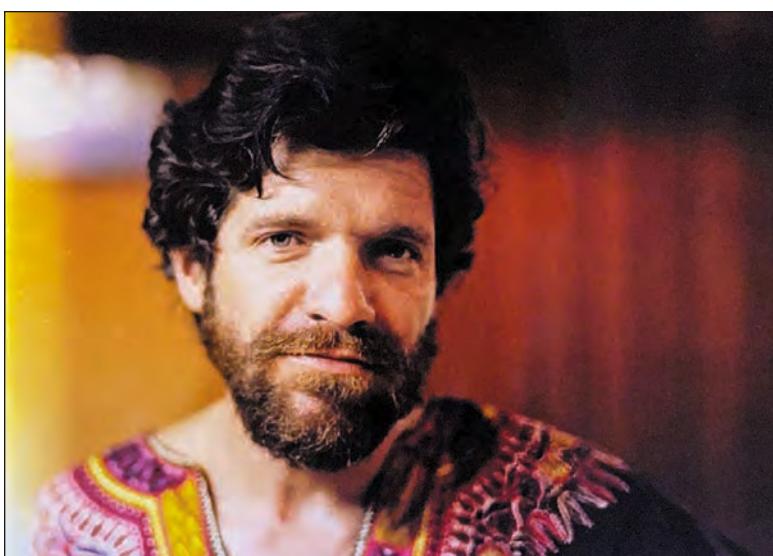


photo by Peter Koper

Costumer designer Van Smith has been a longtime collaborator of filmmaker John Waters.

## City of West Hollywood Celebrates



# FORTY of progress YEARS



[go.weho.org/40](http://go.weho.org/40)

@f X @wehocity



West Hollywood  
40

# AYSO Community Field unveiled at El Rodeo Elementary School

On Jan. 22, Beverly Hills community leaders came together to celebrate the unveiling of The Beverly Hills AYSO Community Field at El Rodeo Elementary School. The milestone highlighted the strength of collaboration between the city of Beverly Hills, local BHUSD schools and community organizations, namely, the American Youth Soccer Organization.

The spectacular field upgrade, made prior to finalizing the new field, was made possible by a \$350,000 donation from AYSO Region 76 to the Beverly Hills Education Foundation last August. The funding supported the expansion

of a state-of-the-art field, perfectly designed to serve El Rodeo students and the wider Beverly Hills community.

"This field is more than just a place for sports – it's a symbol of our shared dedication to fostering connection, collaboration and Educational Excellence in Beverly Hills," BHUSD Superintendent Dr. Michael Bregy said.

The Beverly Hills AYSO Community Field is designed to serve as a multifunctional space, providing students with an outstanding facility for physical activity while also offering the broader community a safe and inviting area

for recreation.

"This project is a shining example of what can be achieved when we work together for a common purpose," BHEF president Tina Wiener said. "Thanks to AYSO Region 76's generous donation and our collaborative partnerships, we've created a space that will inspire and unite the Beverly Hills community for years to come."

The unveiling event brought together city officials, school representatives, community leaders and families, who joined in celebrating the addition of the remarkable resource.

For information, visit [bhuds.org](http://bhuds.org).



School district and local leaders gathered to celebrate the unveiling of the field at El Rodeo Elementary School on Jan. 22.

## BHHS dance show showcases student talent

The Beverly Hills Unified School District proudly presented the Dance Company's 2025 show on Jan. 15 and 16 at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts. The performances showcased stunning choreography and the exceptional talent of Beverly Hills High School students.

Led by teacher and choreograph-

er Dana Findley, the show captivated audiences with a dynamic program filled with creativity, passion and precision. The dancers' hard work and dedication were evident in every performance.

"This year's Dance Company performance reflects the excellence we strive for in all aspects of education," BHUSD Superintendent Dr. Michael

Bregy said. "These students brought joy and artistry to a packed house of community members and beyond, and we couldn't be prouder."

BHUSD extended gratitude to Findley and the performers for their outstanding contributions, as well as to The Wallis for providing a world-class venue.

For information, visit [bhuds.org](http://bhuds.org).

## American Jewish University offers new advanced degree programs

The Masor School for Jewish Education and Leadership at American Jewish University has launched two transformative graduate programs to address critical needs in Jewish education and com-

munity leadership.

The Master of Arts in Early Childhood Special Education and Inclusion and Doctorate in Education in Jewish Education and Communal Leadership programs

mark AJU's continued commitment to empowering Jewish educators. The need for inclusion and specialized support for children with developmental delays and disabilities is more urgent than ever. According to the CDC, approximately one-in-six children in the United States is diagnosed with developmental challenges.

To meet the growing demand, AJU's Masor School is introducing the Master of Arts in Early Childhood Special Education and Inclusion. Launching in fall 2025, the program will train educators to create supportive and inclusive learning spaces in Jewish early childhood centers. Students will gain practical tools and advanced knowledge to ensure that every child, regardless of their abilities, can thrive and fully participate in



photo courtesy of BHUSD  
Holocaust survivor Eva Perlman shared her story of survival, resilience and hope.

## Beverly Hills High School hosts Holocaust survivor

On Jan. 27, Holocaust Remembrance Day, Beverly Hills High School welcomed Eva Perlman, a Holocaust survivor, as a guest speaker. Organized by the BHHS Jewish Club, the event gave students a rare opportunity to move beyond their history textbooks and connect with a first-hand account of the pivotal time in history.

Perlman shared her story of survival, resilience and hope, offering students a deeply per-

sonal perspective on the Holocaust. For many, the event brought history to life, giving students and staff the opportunity to ask questions and better understand the human impact of the tragic period. Her presence, story and vulnerability educated students on the history and humanized lessons of the Holocaust, ensuring its legacy is never forgotten.

For information, visit [bhuds.org](http://bhuds.org).



photo courtesy of BHUSD  
The Beverly Hills High School Dance Company held its annual performance at The Wallis on Jan. 15 and 16.

## Getty Center reopens after fires

The Getty Center reopened to visitors on Jan. 28 after a closure due to recent wildfires across the Los Angeles area.

"It has been a devastating few weeks due to recent wildfires in Los Angeles. We are so grateful to our emergency response staff, first responders and firefighters, and the outpouring of support from you," the Getty wrote on social media. "Art

can bring people together. We hope a visit to the center will give you inspiration, tranquility and a safe place for connection with loved ones."

The Getty Villa, located in the Pacific Palisades, remains closed until further notice.

To book a free reservation at the Getty Center, visit [getty.edu/visit](http://getty.edu/visit).

The Getty Center is located at 1200 Getty Center Drive.



The Getty Center in Brentwood was threatened by the Palisades fire, which spread through the canyons northeast of Pacific Palisades.

photo courtesy of Getty

their communities.

Recognizing the evolving challenges and opportunities facing Jewish organizations, AJU is also launching the Doctorate in Education in Jewish Education and Communal Leadership. Tailored for experienced professionals, the cutting-edge program will prepare leaders to innovate, drive systemic change and advance the impact of Jewish education and communal institutions. Set to begin in 2025, the doctorate program will focus on equipping leaders with the strategic, evidence-based skills required to address complexities and build a vibrant future.

"Jewish leaders today are searching for the tools to create lasting, positive change within their organizations," said Dr. Bruce Powell, dean of the Masor School for

Jewish Education and Leadership. "The Doctorate in Education in Jewish Education and Communal Leadership program combines strategic thinking, evidence-based practices and a focus on systemic transformation, empowering professionals to tackle challenges, seize opportunities and make a profound impact on the Jewish community."

Powell further emphasized the critical role of early childhood educators.

"Through our master's program, we aim to empower educators to foster inclusivity and compassion in their classrooms. By doing so, they'll lay the foundation for stronger, more equitable communities," Powell added.

For information and to apply, please visit [aju.edu](http://aju.edu).

**DIRECTECH**  
YOUR OFFICE IN THE CLOUD

Based in Southern California  
Now Supporting Arizona

866.832.7117  
Sales@DirecTech.net  
[www.DirecTech.net](http://www.DirecTech.net)

One Business Phone System  
That Does It All — For All Your  
Business Locations

Cloud Services

Integrated Contact Center

VoIP Services

Remote Work Solutions

Web Conferencing

**ZULTYS**

# POLICE BLOTTER

The following crimes occurred in West Hollywood, Beverly Hills and the areas patrolled by the LAPD's Wilshire and Hollywood divisions between Jan. 19 and Jan. 25. The information was compiled from crimemapping.com. To report a crime, call local law enforcement agencies: Los Angeles Police Department, Wilshire Division (213)473-0476, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department West Hollywood Station (310)855-8850, and the Beverly Hills Police Department (310)550-4951.

## Beverly Hills Police Department

### Jan. 19

At 12:50 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 300 block of Beverly.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 9100 block of Alden at 1 p.m.

At 7:11 p.m., a suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs near Olympic and La Cienega.

### Jan. 20

An unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 700 block of N. Rexford at 12:53 p.m.

At 11:15 p.m., a suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs in the 400 block of N. Doheny.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 600 block of N. Doheny at 1:25 p.m.

At 1:30 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 200 block of S. Beverly.

### Jan. 21

At 2:20 a.m., a suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs near Santa Monica and Beverly.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 200 block of S. Beverly at 11:50 a.m.

At 1 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 9000 block of Wilshire.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 9500 block of Wilshire at 2 p.m.

At 8:19 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 600 block of N. Camden.

### Jan. 22

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 300 block of N. Alpine at 3:55 a.m.

At 6 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 200 block of S. Tower.

### Jan. 23

At 5:10 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 100 block of N. Bedford.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 700 block of N. Sierra at 12:30 p.m.

At 4:20 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 39 block of Beverly.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 200 block of Stanley at 9:15 p.m.

### Jan. 24

At 2:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 200 block of S. Hamilton.

### Jan. 24

An unknown suspect robbed a victim near Fountain and Gardner at 2:15 a.m.

At midnight, an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 600 block of N. Robertson.

### Jan. 25

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8800 block of Santa

Monica at 3:27 a.m.

At 2:50 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 600 block of N. Doheny.

An unknown suspect committed a residential burglary in the 8600 block of Rugby at 9 p.m.

At 9:30 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim near Ashcroft and Robertson.

An unknown suspect burglarized a

vehicle parked in the 8300 bloc of Sunset at 10:05 p.m.

## Los Angeles Police Department

The Los Angeles Police Department is currently experiencing technical difficulties in posting incidents on the crimemapping.com website and is working to provide updates as soon as possible.

## D.A. files more charges for crimes during wildfires

Los Angeles County District Attorney Nathan Hochman has announced additional charges in connection with the recent wildfires, bringing the total number of individuals charged in fire-related cases to 25. The latest cases include felony charges of first-degree residential burglary and attempt to burn property in Santa Monica and Brentwood.

"As I have stated from the beginning of this wildfire crisis, for those who commit crimes from looting to arson to impersonation of firefighters to price gouging to financial scams, justice will be swift and significant," Hochman said. "You will be arrested, prosecuted and punished to the full extent of the law. Targeting victims of these fires at their lowest moment is despicable and shameful, and this office will

do everything in its power to support the victims and bring their victimizers to justice."

Ivan Ruiz, 35, of Moreno Valley, is charged with one count of felony first-degree residential burglary and one count of felony looting during an emergency or evacuation -second degree burglary. It is further alleged that Ruiz carried out the offenses with planning and sophistication, has had prior convictions and has served time in prison and county jail.

On Jan. 20 at approximately 3:45 p.m., Ruiz allegedly broke into a detached garage with living quarters above it in the 100 block of Mabery Road in Santa Monica. The property is located within an evacuation zone. Ruiz is accused of stealing items from the premises. He pleaded not guilty and will return to

court for a preliminary hearing setting on Feb. 7. Ruiz is being held on \$100,000 bail. If convicted as charged, Ruiz faces six years in prison.

Christopher Reimers, 54, of Los Angeles, is charged with one count of felony attempt to burn property. On Jan. 18 at approximately 1:45 p.m., Reimers allegedly used a butane torch to ignite a brown bag filled with plastic and paper, placed a flannel shirt over the burning bag and placed it beneath a mailbox at the intersection of San Vicente Boulevard and Montana Avenue in Brentwood. Reimers is being held on \$75,000 bail. He pleaded not guilty during an arraignment hearing on Jan. 22. If convicted as charged, he faces three years in prison.

For information, visit da.lacounty.gov.

## Board seeks new ways to prevent domestic violence

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a motion by Supervisors Hilda Solis, 1st District, and Lindsey Horvath, 3rd District, to create an awareness campaign about domestic violence focused on prevention.

Domestic violence, particularly between partners, remains a critical issue in Los Angeles County, the supervisors said. The 2023 Los Angeles County Health Survey indicated that domestic violence impacts women across races, ethnicities and income levels. Approximately one-in-four women report having endured sexual or physical violence from an intimate partner.

An estimated 5.7% of men report physical domestic violence in the county, and 10% of men indicated having experienced sexual or physical violence from an intimate partner.

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health has prioritized addressing domestic and intimate partner violence, and gender-based violence. The county maintains a 24-hour domestic violence hotline to connect individuals to support. The county plans to continue identifying opportunities to raise awareness and provide additional support to individuals experiencing domestic and intimate partner violence, and loved ones of those experiencing abuse.

"I firmly believe that the county must continue to find ways to break the cycle of domestic violence and support our residents experiencing or recovering from domestic violence," Solis said. "One of the most important things we can do is raise awareness amongst our communities to recognize the signs of domestic violence and connect loved ones to needed resources. We must all do our part to keep each

other safe."

"Awareness is essential to preventing intimate partner violence. When we talk about it, validate survivors' experience and center them in the support and care we provide, we can reduce its devastating impact on our communities," Horvath added. "Too many suffer in silence. With this education campaign, Los Angeles County will ensure survivors know they are never alone."

The motion directs DPH's Office of Violence Prevention to work with the Department of Mental Health and the Los Angeles County Office of Education to create a toolkit on raising domestic violence awareness and expanding existing resources. Furthermore, the motion requests the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department to report back on ways to better partner and develop a coordinated response to the needs of victims.

## Court offers temporary debt relief to wildfire victims

In response to the wildfires impacting Los Angeles County, the Superior Court of Los Angeles County is temporarily suspending active collection efforts on delinquent (past-due) court debts tied to criminal, traffic, family law, dependency and civil matters, in addition to juror sanctions.

"The court extends its deepest sympathies to all Los Angeles County residents impacted by the wildfires," presiding judge Sergio C. Tapia II said. "Temporarily suspending active collection efforts on past-due court debt is one small way the court can provide meaningful, timely relief for members of our community."

The temporary pause on collection efforts is retroactive to Jan. 9, 2025, and runs through March 8. It applies to past-due court debt only. Those with past-due court debt tied

to criminal, traffic, family law, dependency and civil matters, in addition to juror sanctions, do not need to take further action to address their debt until the temporary suspension is lifted on March 9.

"The court recognizes the profound impact the wildfires have had on countless residents across Los Angeles County," executive officer/clerk of court David W. Slayton said. "With the suspension, the court is demonstrating its commitment to working within its authority to provide relief where possible."

When collections resume after March 8, court users can address delinquent court debts by calling (844)598-2699 for all juror sanctions and if a traffic ticket or court case was filed at the Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice

Center or at the Beverly Hills, Airport, El Monte, Metropolitan, Santa Monica, Pomona or West Covina courthouses. Call (833)480-8895 if a citation or court case was filed at the Alhambra, Antelope Valley, Bellflower, Burbank, Catalina, Central Arraignment, Chatsworth, Compton, Downey, Glendale, Inglewood, Long Beach, Pasadena, San Fernando, Santa Clarita, Torrance or Van Nuys courthouses.

The court also offers the My Citations online tool to resolve delinquent and non-delinquent court debt for traffic citations only. The tool enables court users to request an extension, payment plan and community service, and to request an overall reduction to the amount due. For information, visit mycitations.courts.ca.gov/home and lacourt.org.

## Artists invited to submit works for exhibition at The Ebell

The Ebell of Los Angeles invites local artists to submit works for the upcoming juried exhibition "A Woman's Place: Visual Voices" celebrating National Women's History Month.

The submission deadline is Feb. 22. The exhibition will be on display at the Ebell of Los Angeles from Thursday, March 20, through Tuesday, April 24. One winning artist will be selected to receive a one-year membership to The Ebell.

An opening public reception will be held on March 20, from 6-8 p.m. Following the reception, viewing will be available by appointment only, or during other public Ebell events.

A panel of three professionals from

the Southern California art community will serve as jurors, selecting pieces for the exhibition. They are Andi Campognone, owner and director of AC Projects and museum manager and curator for the Museum of Art and History in Lancaster; Lilly Dawson, independent curator and principal of Gray Dawson Art Advisory; and Jennifer S. Li, an art advisor, writer and educator.

"The Ebell of Los Angeles has a proud history of supporting women in the arts, and our commitment to amplifying women's voices remains at the heart of our mission," executive director Stacy Brightman said. "This year's exhibition, 'A Woman's Place: Visual Voices,' will celebrate the power of

women's stories and perspectives, inviting artists to explore their experiences, dreams and visions through their work. It is our honor to provide a platform for these vital narratives, and we are thrilled to collaborate with a distinguished panel of women leaders in the Southern California art world to select the pieces. We eagerly anticipate the creativity and passion that will come through in this year's show and look forward to an inspiring celebration of women's voices in visual art next March."

Since its founding in 1894, the Ebell of L.A. has focused on inspiring women and building community. The exhibition takes a deeper look at the interpretation of "A Woman's Place," focusing on the impact of women's stories and the power of visual expression to amplify voices that have often been overlooked or marginalized.

Entries are open to all people liv-



photo by Edwin Folven

The Ebell's exhibition "A Woman's Place: Visual Voices" opens on March 20.

ing and working in Los Angeles, Ventura and Orange counties. The fee to enter is \$25. Artists are welcome to submit up to three 2D entries with a maximum size of 24-inches-by-36-inches, including

frame. For information and to submit works, visit [artist.callforentry.org/festivals\\_unique\\_info.php?ID=14555](http://artist.callforentry.org/festivals_unique_info.php?ID=14555). To RSVP for the reception and information about the Ebell, visit [ebellofla.org](http://ebellofla.org).

## Iranian singers share insights about their artistic journey

The UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music and the Gramian-Emrani Center for Iranian Music present "Voices in Shadow: The Artistic Journey of Iranian Female Singers after the Revolution" on Feb. 5, at 6 p.m. in UCLA's Lani Hall.

Iranian vocalists Malihe Moradi, Sahar Mohammadi Boroujerdi and Mahboub Golzari are featured in a panel discussion of the artistic and societal chal-

lenges faced by female Iranian singers. They will reflect on the challenges of preserving their craft and will demonstrate Persian singing techniques.

Moderated by Shahab Paranj, Gramian-Emrani postdoctoral fellow in music and director of the Iranian music ensemble at the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music, the panel fosters a deeper understanding of the artistic

excellence and cultural barriers Iranian female singers have navigated. Organizers want to encourage dialogue and a broader appreciation of the singers' contributions.

Admission is free. The UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music is located at 445 Charles E. Young Drive East. For information, visit [schoolofmusic.ucla.edu/event/voices-in-shadow](http://schoolofmusic.ucla.edu/event/voices-in-shadow).



photo courtesy of the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music

Sahar Mohammadi Boroujerdi, left, Malihe Moradi and Mahboub Golzari are featured at the forum on Feb. 5.

## Freehand fundraiser supports arts fire relief fund

Freehand Gallery is holding a fundraiser on Feb. 14-15 for people affected by the Los Angeles fires and is donating 100% of the profits from the entire store on those days to the L.A. Arts Community Fire Relief Fund, launched by the J. Paul Getty Trust and a coalition of arts organizations, foundations and individuals.

Visit the store, enjoy a glass of wine and show Valentine's Day love to the people who have sustained

devastating loss in Los Angeles. For an additional month, a special selection of items donated by Freehand Gallery artists and friends will be available, with 100% of the proceeds donated to the fund.

Freehand Gallery offers expertly crafted one-of-a-kind objects made by artists from around the country. The gallery is located at 8413 W. Third St. For information, call (323)655-2607, or visit [freehand.com](http://freehand.com).



photo courtesy of Freehand Gallery

Freehand Gallery offers expertly crafted hand-made pieces, by Los Angeles artist Iris Schneider.

### NOTICE OF TEMPORARY HOSPITAL CLOSURE Effective January 1, 2025

This is to provide public notice that DOCS Surgical Hospital, located at 6000 San Vicente Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90036, will be closing temporarily on January 1, 2025, in order to complete construction of an entirely new hospital facility to replace the existing facility. The new facility, which will be a state-of-the-art hospital facility located at the same address and which will meet all seismic safety and other legal requirements, is expected to open after approximately one year.

The three nearest facilities offering comparable services are as follows:

Cedars-Sinai Medical Center  
8700 Beverly Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90048

Kaiser Permanente  
West Los Angeles  
Medical Center  
6041 Cadillac Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90034

Southern California Hospital at  
Culver City  
3828 Delmas Terrace  
Culver City, CA 90232

DOCS Surgical Hospital provides services to Medicare patients, as do all of the above facilities.

Further information regarding the Hospital's temporary closure may be obtained by contacting the facility or its owner:

Facility:  
DOCS Surgical Hospital, LLC  
6000 San Vicente Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90036  
Tel. (323) 930-1040

Owner:  
DOCS Surgical Hospital, LLC  
8436 W. Third St. Suite 900  
Los Angeles, CA 90048  
Tel. (310) 746-5918  
Attn: Khawar Siddique, Co-CEO

This notice is provided in compliance with California law.



Residents whose homes were destroyed by recent fires can access disaster relief via the county assessor's office.

sibility for property owners. Additionally, with an e-service account, property owners no longer need to rely solely on traditional mail, phone calls or in-person visits, although those options remain available. Instead, they can access services instantly via their email-linked account.

The misfortune and calamity claim program helps property own-

ers affected by wildfires and other natural disasters qualify for reassessment at a reduced property value, lowering property tax bills during recovery.

To qualify for the misfortune and calamity claim program, property damage must exceed \$10,000 and claims must be filed within 12 months of the disaster date.

To file a claim, visit assessor.

laccount.gov/contact/assessor/3. Additional benefits for fire-affected property owners include tax deferrals. Property owners who don't pay taxes through an impound account may qualify to defer property taxes while their misfortune and calamity claim is under review, in coordination with the Treasurer-Tax Collector's Office. Homeowners with impound accounts are encouraged to contact their mortgage lenders for assistance programs.

Prang is also encouraging property owners impacted by the fires to register for a personal e-service account associated with their property on the assessor's website. By registering a personal and confidential account, property owners can keep the assessor's office informed of contact information and access the status of homeowners' exemption claims and change of mailing address requests. Without updated contact information, the assessor's office is forced to rely on the mailing address for a property, which may have been destroyed in the fire. Property owners can create an account on the assessor's website under "My Account."

For information, visit [assessor.lacounty.gov](http://assessor.lacounty.gov).

## Celebrate the New Year of the Trees at the Skirball Cultural Center

The Skirball Cultural Center is observing the Jewish holiday of Tu B'Shevat with "Roots and Renewal: Honoring the New Year of the Trees" on Sunday, Feb. 2, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Join the center for a free day of gratitude, healing, learning and community in recognition of the Jewish New Year of the Trees with artist-led talks, a curated Tu B'Shevat experience, food samples, guided campus walks, panel discussions and art making. The holiday centers on agricultural and spiritual themes while reflecting on gratitude for the natural world.

Visitors can decorate and fill containers with spices and herbs sourced from local Shemesh Farms throughout the festival. In the Haas Conference Center, join a Tu B'Shevat Experience with FromSoil2Soul creator Devorah

Brous. Enjoy a bounty of locally sourced and sustainably harvested fruit, nuts, seeds, herbs and juices during an exploration of the ancient Jewish wisdom of the "Four Worlds." Additional activities include compost-making with Steven Wynbrandt and pickling with Mary MacVean, former mind and body editor at the Los Angeles Times.

Other special programs include "Ancient Wisdom for a Future Ecology: Trees, Time, and Technology Gallery Tour" from 11-11:45 a.m. Led by artists

Tiffany Shlain and Ken Goldberg, the exhibition and tour draw inspiration from the complex landscape of Los Angeles and the science of tree dating.

"A-Ha! Moments in Art and Science: A Panel Conversation" runs from noon-1 p.m. How can a

moment of insight change the framework of how people think about trees, nature, math, science and humans? Join Goldberg, Shlain and professor Jennifer Chayes, dean of University of California, Berkeley's College of Data Science and Society, for a conversation on nature's big "a-ha" moments.

The Skirball Cultural Center will also hold "Repair Through Intersectional Climate Activism" from 2-3 p.m. on the museum terrace. The event is part of the Getty-led initiative PST ART: Art & Science Collide and in conjunction with the exhibition "Ancient Wisdom for a Future Ecology: Trees, Time and Technology.

Also, help TreePeople's Dirt Doctor heal soil through the magic of mulch medicine in an engaging, educational and fun experience from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., and 1:30-2:30 p.m. During the interactive presentation, guests will learn about the importance of healthy soil and plant an Italian stone pine

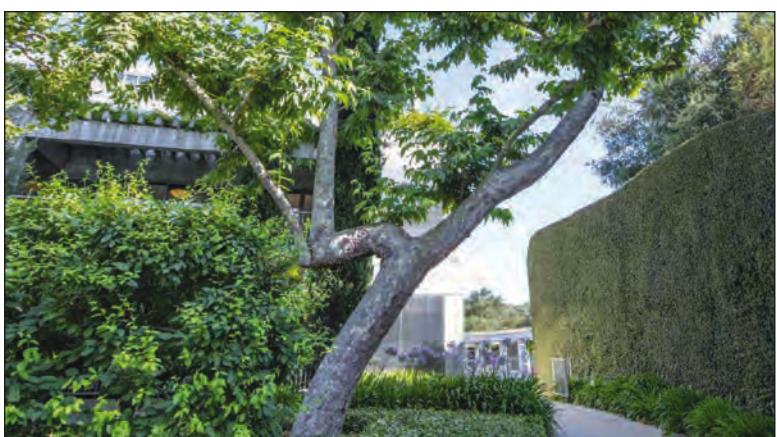


photo by Lindsey Best

The Skirball Cultural Center is hosting activities focused on the environment Feb. 1-2.

seedling to take home.

An Arbor Tour of the Skirball Campus runs from 11:00-11:45 a.m. Learn about the diversity of trees with the center's senior vice president of operations Ben Elisondo. Take a guided Mindfulness Walk from 1-2 p.m. and 2-3 p.m. on the center's grounds and end the day with

"Roots and Renewal" from 3:15-4 p.m. with remarks by the Skirball Center's Rabbi in Residence Beau Shapiro and FromSoil2Soul's Brous about Tu B'Shevat and taking care of the environment.

The Skirball Cultural Center is located at 2701 N. Sepulveda Blvd. For information and a complete schedule, visit [skirball.org](http://skirball.org).

## Join The Hammer Museum for Alice Coltrane exhibition opening

A new exhibition titled "Alice Coltrane, Monument Eternal," running at The Hammer Museum from Feb. 9-May 4, explores the extraordinary life and legacy of jazz legend Alice Coltrane through the work of 19 contemporary American artists and rare archival materials, following themes of spiritual transcendence, sonic innovation and healing. The exhibition captures Coltrane's transformative journey as a musician, composer and spiritual leader, offering visitors an immersive exploration of her profound impact on music and culture.

The exhibition is accompanied

by public programs that invite deeper engagement with Coltrane's life and work, including Turiya Rising, a weekly performance series in the galleries featuring Jeff Parker, Mary Lattimore, Jasper Marsalis, Gerry Gibbs and Billy Childs. Other highlights include "Coltrane on Coltrane: An Oral History" with vocalist Michelle Coltrane and harpist Brandee Younger, and a special symposium inviting scholars, artists, musicians and the public to come together to explore the life and legacy of Coltrane. Additional collaborations include an NTS Radio marathon broadcast and, for the first time

since their original broadcast in the 1980s, episodes of "Eternity's Pillar" will stream on the Criterion Channel.

Join the Hammer Museum to celebrate the opening night of "Alice Coltrane, Monument Eternal" on Saturday, Feb. 8, at 8 p.m. With galleries open late and music filling the courtyard, it is an opportunity to come together as a community and experience the transformative power of art and music. Guests can enjoy a DJ set by Flying Lotus – Alice Coltrane's grandnephew, Steven Ellison – with special guest Webslinger. Admission is free, and food and drink will be available for purchase throughout the night. Hammer members receive priority entry.

Members at the Impact level and above (\$500-plus) are invited to attend the fall director's reception, prior to the public celebration.

The Hammer Museum is located at 10899 Wilshire Blvd.

To RSVP, visit [eventbrite.com/e/alice-coltrane-monument-eternal-opening-celebration-with-flying-lotus-tickets-1107384830839](http://eventbrite.com/e/alice-coltrane-monument-eternal-opening-celebration-with-flying-lotus-tickets-1107384830839).

## GLAAD nominees announced

GLAAD, the world's largest lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer media advocacy organization, has announced the nominees of the 36th GLAAD Media Awards. In a time of unprecedented challenges for LGBTQ people, LGBTQ stories are the antidote to anti-LGBTQ violence, legislation and disinformation.

GLAAD's mission to accelerate acceptance and understanding for LGBTQ people through visibility in media stands stronger than ever, with the 36th GLAAD Media Awards spotlighting 303 culture-changing nominees across 33 categories, honoring outstanding fair, accurate and inclusive representations of LGBTQ people and issues in film, television, gaming, publishing, stage productions, music, podcasting and journalism.

Since 1990, the GLAAD Media Awards have grown to be the most visible annual LGBTQ awards show in the world, sending powerful messages of acceptance to

audiences globally. Nominees for the 36th Annual GLAAD Media Awards reflect work published, released or broadcast between Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 2024.

GLAAD routinely reviews the accuracy and impact of GLAAD Media Awards categories to best reflect the ever-evolving media landscape, including the ways in which media is consumed by audiences and consumers alike. As such, and in recognition of the profusion of news sources in the overall media landscape, this year, GLAAD celebrates the category of Outstanding Blog being updated to Outstanding Independent Journalism. This expanded category will recognize creators and independent news organizations that drive journalism and commentary for and about LGBTQ people and issues.

A tip sheet with a breakdown of nominations by media and trends among the nominees is available at [glaad.org/releases](http://glaad.org/releases).



photo courtesy of The Hammer Museum

Alice Coltrane was an accomplished bandleader, jazz harpist and spiritual leader.



email: [karen@beverlypress.com](mailto:karen@beverlypress.com)

# Bogie's Liquor

Stock up on your favorite beverages for the NFL Playoffs & College Hoops season!



We carry the finest in

• Beer • Wine • Spirits • Champagne • Kegs

5753 Melrose Ave. Corner of Melrose & Vine

Call us! 323-469-1414

[www.bogiesliquor.com](http://www.bogiesliquor.com)

## Project Angel Food brings together art community to support fire victims

Project Angel Food has announced the return of the "ANGEL ART" benefit auction on Thursday, Feb. 27, with 100% of proceeds benefiting the nonprofit's vital work of distributing food to people with critical and life-threatening illnesses.

The event, held in partnership with auction house Bonhams, unites the art community to support critically ill individuals in the aftermath of the devastating Los Angeles fires.

"ANGEL ART" is crucial for sustaining our transformative work. In these trying times, the engagement of artists, patrons and partners like Bonhams is more vital than ever to deliver relief and hope to those who need it most," Project Angel Food CEO Richard Ayoub said.

## ACE awards moved to March 14

American Cinema Editors has announced a new date for the 75th annual ACE Eddie Awards, which were postponed from their original date on Jan. 18 due to the recent wildfires in Los Angeles. The ceremony will now be held on Friday, March 14, at UCLA's Royce Hall, located at 10745 Dickson Court.

As previously announced, the

"We are devoted to supporting our Los Angeles community, where we have been embedded for many years," added Lilly Chan, managing director of Bonhams U.S. "Project Angel Food has always done vital work for our city and their swift response in supporting and adapting to our community's needs in the wake of the devastating fires was truly impressive. We are proud to help amplify their incredible efforts through this auction."

After the devastating fires, Project Angel Food experienced a 10% surge in clients and the number continues to grow. Partnering with the Los Angeles County Food Equity Roundtable, Project Angel Food is stepping in to support overburdened organizations that can no longer prepare or deliver meals.

Many of Project Angel Food's new clients are elderly and are affected by respiratory conditions worsened by poor air quality due to the fires.

Among the highlights of "ANGEL ART" are contributions from artists who despite losing their homes or being displaced due to the fires, have donated works. The auction features works by artists Ed Ruscha, John Baldessari, Robert Rauschenberg, Helen Frankenthaler, Richard Misrach, Peter Alexander, Jeff Koons, Louise Nevelson, Jim Dine, Herb Ritts, William Wegman and Shepard Fairey, as well as emerging artists Awol Erizku, Carmen Argote, Nao Bustamante and Todd Gray.

"What Project Angel Food does every day and in days of crisis is the same – care, nourish and feed people," honorary event chair Alexandra Grant said. "Your support can help bring more deserving clients into the PAF community over a longer term. Food is love."

As also previously announced, "Wicked" director Jon M. Chu will receive the Filmmaker of the Year award recognizing a filmmaker who exemplifies distinguished achievement in the art and business of film, and film editors Maysie Hoy and Paul Hirsch will receive Career Achievement awards for their outstanding contributions to film editing.

"We are incredibly grateful to UCLA and Royce Hall for their flexibility and support in helping us



photo courtesy of Bonhams

Project Angel Food and Bonhams are partnering on an art auction and benefit that supports programs to help people suffering from critical illnesses.

Bonhams.com will present an online auction offering over 60 lots from Feb. 13-27. A free exhibition preview is scheduled on Feb. 25-26 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., and Feb. 27 from 9 a.m.-noon at Bonhams Los Angeles, 7601 Sunset Blvd. Bonhams will host the "ANGEL

ART" auction on Feb. 27, at 7 p.m. featuring a live auction of exceptional artworks. The event starts with a reception at 6 p.m. General admission starts at \$250.

For information and to purchase tickets, visit [angelfood.org/angelart2025](http://angelfood.org/angelart2025).

nominees on March 14."

The ACE Eddie Awards are presented annually to recognize excellence in film and television editing. Winners in 14 categories of film, television and documentaries will be announced throughout the evening which will be hosted by Dave Holmes and presided over by ACE president Sabrina Plisco.

For information and a full list of nominees, visit [american-cinema-editors.org](http://american-cinema-editors.org).

## Friends of Greystone donation brings smiles to Beverly Hills first responders



photo courtesy of Friends of Greystone

Firefighters Benjamin Cheung, left, Melissa Forrett and Austin Hain received the cookie donation from Vicky Swartz, first vice president and treasurer of the Friends of Greystone

The Friends of Greystone recently donated Girl Scout cookies to the dedicated members of the Beverly Hills police and fire departments. The annual tradition and gesture of gratitude acknowledges the tireless efforts of local heroes keeping the city safe and secure. The cookies were delivered by Vicky Swartz, first vice president and treasurer of the Friends of Greystone, a volunteer nonprofit that raises funds to restore and preserve the Doheny Greystone Estate.

"We wanted to find a way to express our gratitude for everything the fire and police departments do for our community," Friends of Greystone president Susan Rosen said. "What better way than with everyone's favorite cookies. It's a small token of our immense appreciation."

The cookie donation brought smiles to the firefighters and police officers, organizers said. The act of kindness shows community support and reinforces the bond between residents and first responders.

For information, visit [greystonemansion.org](http://greystonemansion.org).

## L.A. Zoo hosts Lunar New Year celebration on Feb. 1-2

Celebrate the Year of the Snake during the Los Angeles Zoo's Lunar New Year festivities on Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 1-2. Enjoy vibrant activities and performances honoring the inspiring occasion.

Traditional Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese dance performances will be performed by the Asian Arts Talents Foundation. Visitors can also view Calligraphy, sky lantern and Chinese paper cutting demonstrations and share hopes for the new year at the Wall of Well Wishes. A self-guided "Zoo-diac" tour highlights animals of the Chinese zodiac and special animal feedings will be held at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. The festivities include a Year of the Snake photo op and education stations.

All entertainment and activities are free with paid admission or GLAZA membership. The Los

Angeles Zoo is located at 5333 Zoo Drive. For information, call (323)644-4200, or visit [lazoo.org](http://lazoo.org).



photo by Jamie Pham/ courtesy of the L.A. Zoo  
The Year of the Snake festivities include traditional dance performances.

## The Obama years make a comeback at Kirk Douglas Theatre

Spring 2025 CTG:FWD programming was recently announced, featuring theatrical and musical programs. Two productions are at the Kirk Douglas Theatre: the first is the new musical comedy "44," which began with a sold-out engagement at L.A.'s The Bourbon Room, followed by performances in New York City and Philadelphia and then to Chicago at the time of the 2024 Democratic National Convention. It takes a satirical look at the rise and presidency of Barack Obama, as well as the eccentric political characters he met along the way.

"44" will be performed at the Kirk Douglas Theatre from Feb. 23-March 23 (opening Thursday,

Feb. 27). It is written, composed and directed by Eli Bauman, and is produced by Monica Saunders-Weinberg, along with Bauman.

"As we survived the totally normal and stress-free 2024 election and inauguration day, we hope you'll join us for a look back at the 44th presidency of the United States – when the White House was full of hope, when the president didn't endorse a violent attack on his own vice president and the president's largest scandal was wearing a tan suit," Bauman said.

Tickets on sale to the general public beginning Monday, Jan. 27 at [centertheatregroup.org](http://centertheatregroup.org). The Kirk Douglas Theatre is located at 9820 Washington Blvd., Culver City.

## \$2.5 billion wildfire relief package signed into law

Sen. Ben Allen (D-Pacific Palisades) celebrated the passage and signing of a \$2.5 billion wildfire relief package to boost recovery efforts in the wake of the L.A. fires.

**"The long road to recovery is just beginning ..."**

Sen. Ben Allen  
(D-Pacific Palisades)

"The long road to recovery is just beginning, and these bills are a couple of important first steps to usher us along the path," Allen said. "Relief from these devastating fires is going to require a holistic approach, which will incorporate not just a massive financial undertaking, but strong policy that ensures the best interest of victims and survivors

are upheld through the rebuilding process as well. I am grateful to see this starting to come together and am eager to see the money start flowing as quickly as possible to this community in dire need."

SBX1-3 and SBX1-4 collectively provide \$2.5 billion in upfront costs to support various aspects of wildfire recovery efforts. Much of the funding will prioritize cleanup efforts to remove hazardous waste, as well as to assess and remediate post-fire hazards such as air and water quality, flash flooding and debris flow. Other allowable uses include, but are not limited to, sheltering for survivors, building inspection to expedite homeowner rebuilding and assisting in the rebuilding or recovery of damaged school facilities.

All of the \$2.5 billion package is reimbursable by the federal government.

# Debris removal starts within burn areas

From page 1

pleased to share that we already have more than 600 opt-ins submitted from residents in Altadena and the Pacific Palisades," said Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors chair Kathryn Barger, 5th District. "In the next few days, the United States Army Corps of Engineers will lead the next phase of debris removal, the private property debris removal program."

To complete a Right of Entry form, visit [recovery.lacounty.gov/debris-removal](http://recovery.lacounty.gov/debris-removal) or apply in person at a Disaster Recovery Center. Residents can call the Fire Debris Hotline with questions and if they need help filling out the form at (844)347-3332. In-person assistance also is available from 9 a.m.-8 p.m. at the Disaster Recovery Centers at UCLA Research Park West and in Altadena.

"Debris removal is dangerous and must be handled by experts to protect the health of your family and community. That's why we've partnered with FEMA, the EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of

Engineers to bring in the most experienced resources to assist in this process," said Los Angeles County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, 3rd District. "I'm focused on ensuring we move with speed, safety and efficiency to help [property owners] rebuild as quickly as possible. Los Angeles County is committed to the swift and full recovery of all communities devastated by the Palisades Fire."

Authorities are encouraging residents to work with their neighbors when filing Right of Entry forms, as it will make it quicker and easier for crews to clear larger areas such as an entire block where all of the properties were destroyed. L.A. County Department of Public Works Director Mark Pestrella said the EPA's hazardous waste removal will likely be completed in 30 days. The speed of the non-hazardous debris process is dependent on property owners, said Col. Eric Swenson, with the Army Corps of Engineers.

"The debris removal timeline is

really based on how fast we can get the Rights of Entry turned in," Swenson said. "We have crews standing by, and as soon as we get a batch of our first ROEs, we are going to unleash our crews to those properties and start debris removal. Once a crew shows up to a property, depending on the complexity of that site, it could take two to 10 days to clear the debris. We certainly expect to be done with this whole process in less than a year. It just really depends on how fast we get the Rights of Entry."

Pestrella stressed that those who opt-out of the free debris removal program must still have the debris removed in a timely manner and must file for permits. Private companies must adhere to all federal, state and local regulations. Those who opt-out will not receive reimbursement.

"It's important to note that if you are going to use private contractors to do the debris removal, you will use your own insurance for that, and your own funds for that pro-



photo by Edwin Folven

The EPA is currently removing hazardous waste from properties in the burn areas, which will be followed by non-hazardous debris removal.

gram," Pestrella said.

A multitude of resources for fire victims can be accessed by visiting [recovery.lacounty.gov](http://recovery.lacounty.gov) including links to Federal Emergency Management Agency programs, state of California relief programs and support being offered by more than a dozen county departments.

The city of Los Angeles is offering assistance with housing, sheltering, health care, pets, businesses and preparedness at [emergency.lacounty.gov/recovery](http://emergency.lacounty.gov/recovery). In-person assistance is available daily from 9 a.m.-8 p.m. at the Disaster Recovery Center at UCLA Research Park, 10850 Pico Blvd.



Property owners in Altadena can receive help from Beverly Hills attorney Gary Dordick and his team with rebuilding.

## Legal assistance extended to victims of Eaton fire

From page 3

that the investigation will be thorough, and we will get to where we need to get to, but it's still ongoing."

SCE spokesman David Eisenhauer also said the Eaton fire remains under investigation and declined to comment further on the fire's origin. SCE filed a report with the California Public Utilities Commission on Jan. 27 stating that the utility is cooperating with the county and CalFire officials, and continuing its own assessment of equipment in the

Eaton fire area.

Dordick said while the investigation continues, victims can contact his office for help with claims for damage or destruction.

"We have a team of lawyers and paralegals handling just these cases right now, so if they were to reach out, either through our website or our 800 number, we have people standing by to help and also give advice on what they can do themselves – what they can do and should do."

## Instructor at BHHS receives support

From page 1

archived recordings of the district's board meetings and events, as well as news segments updating the school community on student life and district-related issues. KBEV provides students with journalism experience, and its anchors, reporters and behind-the-scenes crew are Beverly Hills High School students.

According to student journalists who spoke out at the board meeting, Carey's leave stems from KBEV's coverage of an alleged incident involving the assault of a student, in which a video was uploaded to KBEV's YouTube channel. The video, uploaded on Dec. 2 and still publicly available on YouTube, was taken during a pro-Trump campus gathering on Nov. 6, and appears to show the district's executive director of school safety, Mark Mead, with his hands around a student's neck.

In response to a public records request filed by the Beverly Press, the BHUSD provided heavily-blurred security footage of the Nov. 6 campus rally. It is unclear whether the footage shows the alleged incident, due to the blurring.

Mead has also been accused by several BHUSD security officers – in a formal complaint – of harassment, bullying and creating a hostile work environment.

The Beverly Press obtained a letter the BHUSD sent to Carey dated Dec. 1, confirming that he was placed on administrative leave. The letter, signed by assistant superintendent of personnel services Matt Horvath, states that Carey was placed on leave "pending the findings of the district's investigation of the incidents at Beverly Hills High School." However, it does not clarify what "incidents" it is referring to.

Jason Maybaum, a student and co-director of student productions for KBEV, demanded at the meeting that the district explain why Carey was placed on leave.

"Either reinstate Mr. Carey or give us the reason why you won't."

Just tell us," he said.

Many other students, parents and alumni echoed Maybaum's concerns.

"I'm deeply concerned about the message this sends to our school community. How can we, as future journalists, leaders and active citizens, learn to stand up for truth and integrity if our mentors are silenced for doing the same?" said Deborah Cohen, a BHHS student and KBEV member.

The alleged incident involving Mead and Carey's administrative leave are the latest in a series of controversies facing the BHUSD. At least two claims have been filed by three separate teachers regarding the same pro-Trump campus demonstration on Nov. 6. Fashion design teacher Bella Ivory alleged that students who participated in the demonstration later targeted her classroom, shouting racist slurs and insults. Several Black students have said they have been victims of racism in the school district. Additionally, former substitute teacher Joanie Garratt claims she was wrongfully terminated from the district after she criticized President Donald Trump and the pro-Trump gathering on Facebook.

Current BHUSD Athletic Director Tim Ellis was accused of racism in Ivory's claim. Ellis has also been accused of sexual harassment in a separate wrongful termination lawsuit filed by Robbin Cafagna, a former tennis coach in the school district.

The school district's current assistant superintendent for student services, Laura Collins-Williams, is actively suing BHUSD for alleged transgressions including discrimination based on race, age and gender, retaliation and a hostile work environment.

Additionally, a civil lawsuit will return to trial on Feb. 24 to determine damages awarded to former Beverly Hills High School student Laurie Siegman after former teacher Henry "Hank" Friedman admitted to sexually abusing her

between 1978 and 1981.

Student Zac Hasson called attention to the allegations during the school board meeting on Jan. 28.

"In the past few months, many allegations have been levied against BHUSD. These allegations include multiple accounts of racism, abuse of their unprofessional behavior, censorship, sexual harassment and the assault and battery of a student by a member of the administration," Hasson said. "The administrators at the center of these allegations – director of security Mr. Mark Mead, director of athletics Mr. Tim Ellis and assistant superintendent Dr. Matt Horvath – are still actively working for the district, while Mr. Romeo Carey – who is so well-liked by his community that in under 72 hours over 600 people have signed a petition to bring him back – has been placed on administrative leave for over a month. Am I the only one who notices a bias there? Am I the only one who sees a problem with allowing someone who has assaulted students and someone else that has been accused of sexual harassment to come to campus while banning a teacher that has had nothing but great things said about him by his students?"

Hasson added that most of the time in the KBEV classroom since Carey's absence has been spent "doing nothing."

A change.org petition was created to call for the reinstatement of Carey. In three days, it amassed over 700 signatures.

The board members did not address the concerns over Carey's absence during the board meeting, as the matter was not on the agenda.

In an interview, BHUSD Board President Rachelle Marcus declined to comment Carey's administrative leave, citing an open investigation and the confidential nature of personnel matters. However, she said that the BHUSD community will receive an update after the investigation concludes.

## Senators secure housing funds

On Jan. 24, U.S. Sens. Adam Schiff (D-Calif.) and Alex Padilla (D-Calif.) announced more than \$8 million in initial housing assistance federal funding for the Los Angeles area and California from the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Rapid Unsheltered Survivor Housing program. RUSH, distributed under the Housing and Urban Development Emergency Solutions Grants program, provides emergency grant

funding to state and local governments to support emergency shelter operations, rental assistance, relocation costs and supportive services for individuals and families who are unhoused or at risk of homelessness. The funds can be used to support people displaced due to recent wildfires and those who were experiencing homelessness before the fires.

For information, visit [schiff.senate.gov](http://schiff.senate.gov).

# WeHo boosts housing options for fire victims

From page 1

said. "People impacted by the fires will be looking for housing for a variety of reasons and making new lease timelines available in our city will enable more people to find suitable accommodations faster through this transition period."

In March 2024, the West Hollywood City Council passed a law that required year-long minimum leases for single-family homes and condominiums. The item was intended as a safeguard against perceived abuses by Vrbo, Airbnb and other short-term rental companies. Previous lease minimums of 30 days, Councilman John Erickson said at the time, allowed "people to stay there and not be a part of the community."

"With tens of thousands of structures destroyed or damaged, over 200,000 residents have lost their homes or are unable to return to their homes at this time," Councilwoman Lauren Meister said. "The emergency ordinance will allow people to live in the city of West Hollywood without a year lease – to give them much-needed

time to put their lives back together without a year-long commitment. The city is planning to implement some administrative measures to help prevent abuse – and council will be following this closely. I hope that through this emergency ordinance, the city is able to provide some relief for those who were impacted by the fires and looking for a place to call home for whatever length of time they need."

The urgency ordinance requires the leases to be longer than 30 days, but shorter than one year.

"We have worked hard as a city to prevent abuses to our housing supply by short-term and vacation rentals," Byers said. "As this ordinance came forward, we discussed a number of protective measures, including proof of impact and a reporting timeline, to ensure these precious housing resources are utilized to support long-term housing needs for fire-impacted communities. We know landlords have found many ways to exploit this crisis with price-gouging and we will be vigilant to protect against this and

other abuses."

The rentals are subject to the protections of the city's strict rent stabilization ordinance. West Hollywood is also waiving fees for home-share license applications to expedite the process and has provided authorization to hotels to house evacuees for more than 30 days without the usual requirements for housing registration.

"This is all about getting people back on their feet as quick as possible," Councilman Danny Hang said. "The ordinance makes it easier for fire victims to find temporary housing, giving them a safe and stable place to stay while they figure out their next steps and look toward rebuilding."

West Hollywood City Manager David Wilson has also been authorized to direct city resources toward the emergency response. Wilson also has the authority to report price gouging. Rent increases have been reported across Los Angeles County since the wildfires, so much so that the county has set up resources to assist with complaints, available at



photo by Jon Viscott

The West Hollywood City Council authorized an urgency ordinance for fire victims on Jan. 21

[dca.lacounty.gov/pricegouging](http://dca.lacounty.gov/pricegouging).

"We want to make sure that the majority of our community, which are renters, still stay safe from predatory practices by landlords and other individuals," Erickson said. "But we want to also make sure that individuals that live here have the capability to rent out extra rooms or their house ... it's allowing them to play a part in the recov-

ery by offering what is oftentimes the most precious, and that's housing stock."

"West Hollywood is all about compassion and community," Hang said. "This really shows how much we care about stepping up for our neighbors when they need it most. West Hollywood is dedicated to supporting neighbors in times of crisis."

## Officer with Hollywood Division remembered

From page 4

which included special guests, exhibits, demonstrations, entertainment and tours of the police station. Heredia said Jordan, who was 11 months from retirement, had a special assignment every December, appearing as Santa Claus at the Hollywood Division's annual holiday toy giveaway.

"He did it every year," Heredia added. "He dressed as Santa and his wife dressed as Mrs. Claus and they gave toys to the children. They loved it. That was part of their holiday routine."

Other colleagues also expressed condolences, including Commander Steve Lurie, who formerly served as commanding offi-

cer of the Hollywood Division.

"Officer Jordan was a wonderful community member and a great cop. He loved Hollywood, he loved the community that he served and he will be greatly missed," Lurie said. "When I was the commanding officer in Hollywood, I frequently relied on Paul to help me learn about the Hollywood community, reach out to those in need and help me navigate my work as a captain. He was simply an exemplary person. What a tragic loss."

Heredia said funeral services for Jordan are pending. The LAPD's Employee Unit is assisting the family in working out the many details that need to be addressed after an

officer dies.

The Los Angeles Police Relief and Assistance Foundation has started a Blue Ribbon Trust Account for Jordan and his family. People can make an online donation by visiting [lapra.org/blueribbontrust-donation.html](http://lapra.org/blueribbontrust-donation.html). Donors must reference the recipient's name, Paul Jordan, and the account number 5831216876. Donations by check can be mailed to LAPFCU, P.O. Box 10188, Van Nuys, CA 91410. Reference the donation recipient's name and account number in the check memo. LAPFCU also has branch locations where in-person donations can be made. For information, visit [lapfcu.org](http://lapfcu.org).

## LAHSA announces improvements in outreach

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority announced significant performance improvements in the rehousing system's outreach and interim housing interventions. LAHSA's latest Key Performance Indicator data shows that in fiscal year 2023-24, 45% more people moved from the street to permanent housing; 32% more people moved from the street to interim housing; and 29% more people moved from interim housing to permanent housing.

"This data shows that our changes to LAHSA and the

rehousing system are working. We are getting more people off the street and into a permanent home," LAHSA CEO Dr. Va Licia Adams Kellum said.

The data release provides additional context regarding the Los Angeles area's decline in homelessness compared with a nationwide increase of 18%, as detailed in the U.S. Housing and Urban Development's 2024 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report. LAHSA is seeing progress following the implementation of new initiatives. Since

March 2023, LAHSA has implemented several new programs that are moving people indoors.

Adams Kellum worked with Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass to create Inside Safe. LAHSA provides support and coordination to Inside Safe and the county's Pathway Home.

LAHSA has created a team whose job is to prevent bottlenecks in the rehousing system, allowing more people to move forward on their journey to a safe and affordable home.

For information, visit [lahsa.org](http://lahsa.org).

## Beverly Hills appoints new commissioner

The Beverly Hills City Council on Jan. 28 announced the appointment of Jeffrey Daniels (FAIA) to the Architectural and Design Review Commission. Daniels will contribute to the growth and aesthetic development of the city. For information, visit [beverlyhills.org/1097/Design-Review-Commission](http://beverlyhills.org/1097/Design-Review-Commission).

High School student Maor Baradarian expressed support for the displaced students, arguing that the district should allow them to enroll.

"Put yourself in their shoes. Going to that high school your entire high school career, and you're so excited to graduate this semester on the football field just for it to be burned to a crisp," Baradarian said. "I cannot imagine that ... We should help our fellow Angelenos."

BHUSD Superintendent Dr. Michael Bregy said during the meeting that the district "scrambled" to accommodate displaced students after Newsom's executive order was issued. He said the school district enrolled 44 displaced students as a result of the Palisades fire.

"While we do recognize the responsibility that we have, bringing in this group of 44 and seeing where their schedules are, where their placement is, we have to be mindful of our capacity and our resources and the staffing that we have for the current school year," Bregy said. "We are still working on that. This has been a high priority of ours and we will continue to be responsible

## Answers From Page 27

B	L	A	S	C	U	T	G	L	O	M
D	I	N	K	F	I	S	R	I	P	E
R	A	D	I	L	O	C	O	I	N	A
G	R	A	N	A	D	A	O	M	A	H
P	A	G	O	P	O	M	A	R	E	U
E	L	I	S	G	H	R	I	E	S	U
K	A	B	U	R	R	O	M	A	R	N
O	R	E	B	O	D	I	S	M	I	L
E	M	N	A	N	T	A	T	E	D	Y
S	Y	S	A	S	H	L	I	Z	A	Y
N	A	I	N	G	N	U	F	S	H	A
O	L	L	A	I	N	A	A	O	R	E
B	E	S	O	A	R	I	T	T	O	S



photo courtesy of the city of Beverly Hills

# Classified Advertising

email:karen@beverlypress.com

## BUSINESS & SERVICE DIRECTORY



### COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL PAINTING CONTRACTOR

Full Service Contractor  
Exterior • Interior  
Residential • Commercial  
Office • Industrial

As a family and locally owned painting contractor since 1990, our goal is to enhance the appearance of your home or office. The choice of colors, quality of paint materials and craftsmanship is the center of our work.

Call (626)332-8918 • [www.anthonysrosaspaintingcontractor.com](http://www.anthonysrosaspaintingcontractor.com)



### Anthony Rosas Painting

Quality Work & Materials  
100% Work Guarantee  
Accurate Estimates - No Surprises  
Start on Time - Complete On Time

### YOU DON'T HAVE TO DONATE A KIDNEY TO SAVE A LIFE DONATE YOUR CAR, BOAT, REAL ESTATE, OR PLANE!

We take donations in any condition, with fast, free pickup.

Every donation is tax deductible.

100% of the proceeds help save the lives of people needing organ transplants on MatchingDonors.com, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.



Call us at 781-821-2204

or donate online at

[MatchingDonorsDonations.com](http://MatchingDonorsDonations.com)

### HANDYMAN

#### HONEST HANDYMAN DOES IT ALL

*Serving the Westside for 32 years*

#### ROOF REPAIRS

#### WATER DAMAGE REPAIRS

- Plumbing • Electrical • A/C
- Tankless Water Heaters
- Tile • Flooring • Painting
- Fence • Brick Wall Repair
- Carpentry • Windows • Decks
- Kitchen & Bath Specialist

#### FORT CONSTRUCTION

General Contractors

*Call Manny*

(310)729-9612

(424)284-3314

Lic#465817 Bonded • Insured

[fortconstructionla.com](http://fortconstructionla.com)

### HAULING

#### GARAGE CLEANING & HAULING

#### FREE ESTIMATES

  
YARDS  
TOO  
CLEANUP  
AND HAULING

#### CALL MR. ANDERSON

(323)236-1222

### COMPUTER

#### The Disc Doc

Computer Problems?  
I CAN HELP!

- Troubleshooting
- Lessons
- Purchase Consultation
- Phone Support

Joel Rothman

323.240.5112

[TheDiskDoc@mac.com](mailto:TheDiskDoc@mac.com)

### INCOME TAX

**ALL YEAR INCOME TAX**  
Professional Tax Return Preparation  
**10% DISCOUNT FOR NEW CLIENTS**  
5967 W. Third St. Suite #201  
Los Angeles, CA 90036  
Phone (323)937-3848  
FAX (323)937-9970

Across street from Park Labrea  
[email:allyearservices@yahoo.com](mailto:allyearservices@yahoo.com)

### WEBSITE DESIGN

#### Tell your story.

Make an impact on your audience. Growth isn't a goal, it's an outcome.  
[mackeycreativelab.com](http://mackeycreativelab.com)  
[info@mackeycreativelab.com](mailto:info@mackeycreativelab.com)

**MACKEY CREATIVE LAB**  
Web. Brand. Design. Media.

[www.mackeycreativelab.com](http://www.mackeycreativelab.com)  
[info@mackeycreativelab.com](mailto:info@mackeycreativelab.com)

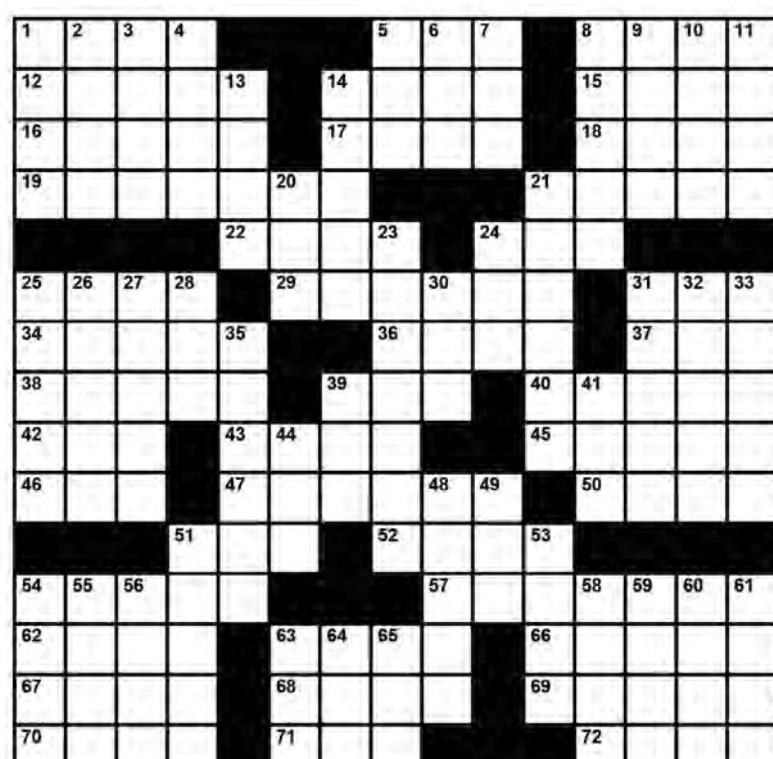
### Crossword Puzzle by Myles Mellor

#### Across

1. "Gil \_\_\_" (Lesage novel)
5. Director's word
8. Grab, with "onto"
12. Grunts
14. Porgy and bass
15. Opportune
16. Dashboard feature
17. Prefix for motion
18. Lead-in to much
19. Nicaragua city
21. Biggest city in Nebraska
22. Partner of circumstance
24. Hurler's pride
25. When doubled, a Pacific capital
29. The Iron Horse
31. Aus.'s continent, abbr.
34. Donovan of "Clueless"
36. "La Dolce Vita" setting
37. It's stranded, for short
38. Mile-high Asian capital
39. Small British isle
40. City in northern France
42. Copper, e.g.
43. Japanese sashes
45. Photographer's request
46. River to the North Sea
47. Swimming
50. Prepared to drive
51. Light-colored wood
52. Actress, Minnelli
54. One time capital of Japan
57. Portuguese city
62. Partner of circumstance
64. Donald Duck, to Huey, Dewey and Louie
65. Like a starfish
66. "The Tempest" king
67. Charles River sch.
68. Invoice fig.
69. Humbug's partner
70. Warning sound
71. Ridicules
72. The NCAA's Buckeyes
73. "How the Grinch Stole

#### Down

62. Arrest
63. Part of a buzzing swarm
66. Previously
67. Earthenware pot
68. Delicate
69. Puccini opera
70. Gershwin opera heroine
71. Tree loved by squirrels
72. "Quit it!"
22. Five-time Wimbledon champ
23. Despite, for short
24. Fairy tale writer
25. Director Wertmuller
26. Deep-sea fish
27. Smaller plateau
28. Daytime TV drama
29. Heartthrob
30. Boxer, for one
31. Some are vital
32. Relating to a word sequence
33. Purpose
34. Sri Lanka export
35. Warning sound
36. Ridicules
37. The NCAA's Buckeyes
38. "How the Grinch Stole
39. "The Tempest" king
40. Charles River sch.
41. Invoice fig.
42. Warning sound
43. Ridicules
44. Heartthrob
45. Boxer, for one
46. Some are vital
47. Smaller plateau
48. Daytime TV drama
49. "How the Grinch Stole
50. "The Tempest" king
51. "The Grinch" director Howard
52. "The Grinch" director Howard
53. "The Grinch" director Howard
54. Sesame Street regular
55. Donald Duck, to Huey, Dewey and Louie
56. Like a starfish
57. "The Grinch" director Howard
58. Charles River sch.
59. Invoice fig.
60. Ridicules
61. Heartthrob
62. Boxer, for one
63. "The Grinch" director Howard
64. "The Grinch" director Howard
65. "The Grinch" director Howard
66. "The Grinch" director Howard
67. "The Grinch" director Howard
68. "The Grinch" director Howard
69. "The Grinch" director Howard
70. "The Grinch" director Howard
71. "The Grinch" director Howard
72. "The Grinch" director Howard



Christmas" director Howard

31. Sesame Street regular

32. Donald Duck, to Huey, Dewey and Louie

33. Like a starfish

35. "The Tempest" king

39. Charles River sch.

41. Invoice fig.

44. Humbug's partner

48. Peachy-keen

49. Lao-\_\_

51. Book of maps

53. Pre-med course, abbr.

54. Pull

55. Ivy League school

56. Painter's medium

58. Corp. money managers

59. Party giver

60. Major oil corp.

61. Spring

63. Fed. auditing agcy.

64. Actress, Long

65. Ancient animal shelter

answers on page 26

# Don't worry we only look nice! Fighting aggressively for over 37 years.



(left to right) Dylan Dordick, Esq., Taylor Dordick, Esq., Gary A. Dordick, Esq., Nava T. Dordick, Esq., Michelle Dordick, Esq.

## Gary A. Dordick

CAALA Hall of Fame Inductee

CAALA Trial Lawyer of the Year

CAOC Trial Lawyer of the Year

Verdictum Juris Trial Lawyer of the Year

ASCDC Civility Award

Loyola Law School's Champion of Justice Award

Daily Journal Top Plaintiff Lawyers Award

Daily Journal Top 100 California Lawyers Award

Bernard Jefferson Award of Excellence

Best Lawyer in America Who's Who Award

## Our Notable Results

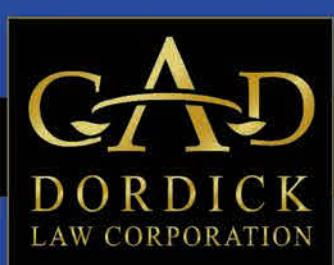
**\$2.28 BILLION** Sexual Assault Jury Verdict

**\$900 MILLION** Sexual Assault Jury Verdict

**\$125 MILLION** Auto Accident Jury Verdict

**\$72.6 MILLION** Bar Fight Jury Verdict

**\$55.3 MILLION** Negligent Security Jury Verdict



Beverly Hills • DTLA • Riverside

**DORDICKLAW.COM (800) 555-5595**

## **PERSONAL INJURY LAW FIRM**

Established in Beverly Hills in 1987

**Sexual Assault Auto/Motorcycle/Truck Accidents Product Liability Wrongful Death**

*All cases handled on a contingency fee basis. If we don't win we don't get paid.*

This is an advertisement and is not a guarantee, warrantee, or prediction regarding the outcome of your legal matter.