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Beverly Hills Weekly

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Issue 468 • September 18 - September 25, 2008

Fresh faces in education

Newly hired faculty discuss what brought them to
the BHUSD



cover story • page 9



WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

You can write us at:
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SNAPSHOT

letters & email

“Hilton Referendum”

It is fascinating and disturbing to observe the efforts of the Beverly Hilton and Beny Alagem to co-opt and purchase the voters of the City of Beverly Hills. It is clear the City Council, elected to protect us, is under his control. The Maple Counseling Center has fallen under his sway, and now the Beverly Hills Educational Foundation has succumbed. Our residential streets are filled with hired hands knocking on doors and handing out literature describing a mythical Hilton Project. (The reality, of course, is significantly different.) There are endless advertisements in our local newspapers, one of which has, for a long time, been under the sway of the Hilton. A seemingly endless supply of former Beverly Hills Mayors march to Alagem's drummer, having forgotten that at one time they served the people of Beverly Hills.

On November 4, the voters will have their say. Will they stand still and allow our community to be purchased by an endless flow of dollars? I, for one, do not believe so.

*Richard A. Stone
Beverly Hills*

“General Plan”

Beverly Hills, our “home town,” has since the early twenties been a small town with “a big city reputation.” World wide recognition came early because it was “home to the stars” who created a prime residential community. It has flourished over these many years as a unique and beautiful residential area with an excellent school district where the residents have enjoyed an enviable quality of life in our neighborhoods. All of the residents, from the mansions north of Santa Monica Blvd., to the proud owners and renters of the lovely single family residences, the lovely duplex homes and the many charming rentals south of Santa Monica Blvd. Take great pride in the fact that we live and work in Beverly Hills.

It appears, that today, there are two visions of Beverly Hills for the next fifty years.

One vision is uncontrolled and rapid growth favored by the pro-developer faction fueled by the vision of unimaginable wealth for the city and perhaps the excitement of even more international recognition. Perhaps it is a veiled attempt to become a “mini New York.”

The other vision is to maintain the enviable residential character of our beloved city that most residents treasure. We have a vision of a city that has a controlled and rational growth plan. A plan that will enhance our residential character of the city and not overwhelm our neighborhoods with floods of cars, visual ugliness and unbearable noise. We do not want to see the issu-

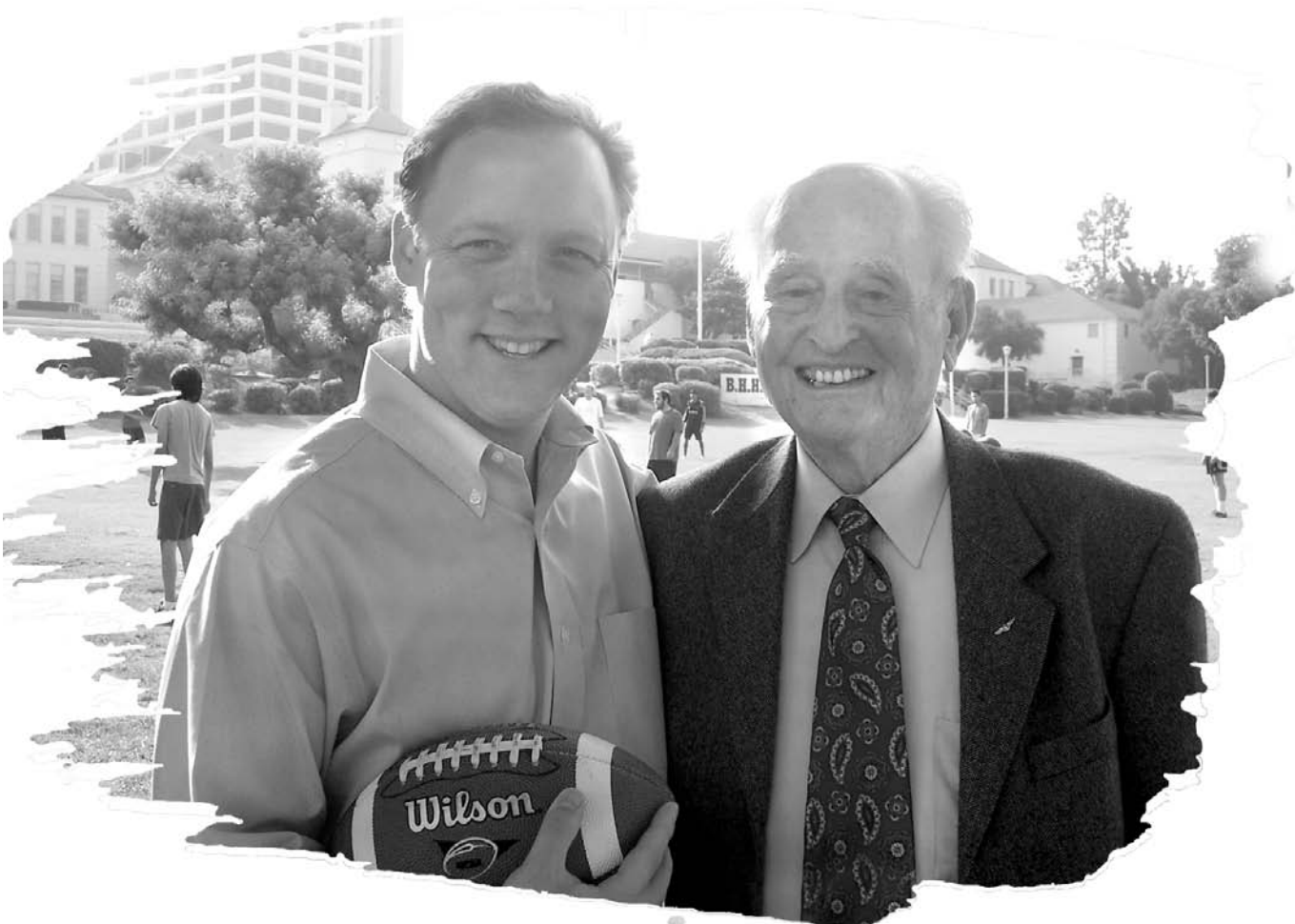
ing of multiple variances to savvy developers who hire savvy lobbyists to smooth the way to success after success in manipulating the established building codes of our city.

As residents, we now stand at the threshold of a new general plan for our city. This plan should reflect what we want our city to look like in the next fifty years. It should not be a plan that reflects the current needs of the “for profit developers,” most of whom do not reside in our city. This new general plan, also, should not reflect the “money crisis mentality” that has run amok in our city for the past several years. The leadership of our city must recognize that the voters will not tolerate the questionable reasoning that only the ability to grant more height and density to the commercial areas that are adjacent to our residential neighborhoods will assure and provide the needed funding for a first class fire and police department and to continue to provide JPA funding to our schools.

A draft general plan that does not consider the impact of a potential increase in height and density, one that could amount to 5,200,000 new square footage of commercial buildings to an area that surrounds prime residential neighborhoods is a worthless document. There should be no consideration of these potential changes for the commercial areas adjacent to the southwest residential neighborhoods.

This is a vision that has no merit.

*Gloria Seiff
Beverly Hills*



CATCHING UP
MORENO DRIVE

Board of Education member Steven Fenton (left) caught up with F. Willard Robinson (right), Beverly High's principal from 1959-1975, last Saturday.



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BHEF's \$3 million deal with Hilton draws fire

Hilton's donation estimate based on all condos being sold

By Jacquelyn Ryan

Some residents are crying 'unethical lobbying' after the Beverly Hills Education Foundation (BHEF), a 501c3 non-profit organization that supports the Beverly Hills Unified School District, announced last week it has "secured a unique endowment" of \$3.24 million over 30 years from the Beverly Hills Hilton on the condition that referendum Measure H passes in the November election.

As a 501c3 non-profit, BHEF is prohibited from "attempting to influence legislation," according to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), which monitors charitable organizations and provides their tax-exempt status. Some question if BHEF crossed that line when agreeing to the terms of this deal.

"If Measure H passes, allowing construction of the condominiums, the condominium association will be required to give BHEF \$108,000 a year for the next 30 years for a total of \$3.24 million dollars," said Devorah Hankin, CEO of BHEF, a non-partisan non-profit fundraising group that supplements BHUSD's state funding and helps pay for teachers, staff, programming and supplies for all five public schools. "This guaranteed endowment will be the largest contribution ever provided to the BHEF by a single source."

Upon hearing the news, some of BHEF's past donors or board members have

announced they will no longer be financially contributing to the foundation and expressed frustration at what they call the political alignment.

"Clearly, Measure H is a highly charged political issue and for [BHEF] to get involved, it is a defacto endorsement," said John Mirisch, who writes Blog Beverly Hills and openly opposes Measure H. "What they're saying is that you'll get this money if [Measure H] passes. That's almost tantamount to a bribe and that's why it's so highly inappropriate."

The Hilton argues that the agreement is not a bribe and that it has been "a strong supporter of BHEF for a long time. We are the sponsor of the Team BHEF program and have participated in the Apple Ball and lots of the community efforts around education," according to Ted Kahan, president of Oasis West Realty, the company that owns the Hilton. The BHEF-Hilton agreement stemmed from conversations about how to make the new project more beneficial to the schools, Kahan said.

But the \$108,000 yearly donation rate is not a fixed or guaranteed number, according to Kahan. That number is contingent upon the number of condominium owners on the Hilton property.

"The \$108,000 assumes that there will be 90 condominiums and dues assessed against



each of those 90 condominiums," said Kahan. "[The fee will be] paid likely as part of the homeowners' fee that will be \$100 per month per condo. It will be part of the official condominium documentation so it will be an absolute obligation of the condo owners that they have to make this contribution."

But if, say, only half of the condos are sold, the donation rate from the condominium association will be closer to \$54,000 a year. Though, Hilton representative Marie Garvey said market analysis shows that all condos will be sold and that 90 condominiums is a "modest estimate." Garvey said the Hilton may

build up to 130 condominiums.

Regardless of the donation details, some have questioned whether BHEF can maintain its 501c3 status after becoming involved in the political issue.

"If anyone is saying we're in violation of 501c3, the BHEF in no way endorsed the Hilton revitalization project. This was not quid pro quo. The Hilton neither asked nor received any favor or any endorsement from BHEF," said Hankin. "A 501c3 cannot endorse a political candidate but may lobby. The BHEF as a matter of policy, not law or

city and schools cont. on page 7



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

DATE: September 25, 2008
TIME: 1:30 pm, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard
LOCATION: Commission Meeting Room A
Beverly Hills City Hall
455 North Rexford Drive
Beverly Hills, California 90210

The Planning Commission of the City of Beverly Hills, at its REGULAR meeting on Thursday, September 25, 2008, will hold a public hearing beginning at 1:30 pm, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, to consider:

An application for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) pursuant to Beverly Hills Municipal Code Section 10-3-1604 to allow a 6,280 square foot automobile showroom "Auto Gallery Motor Cars" to be located at **447 N. Canon Drive.**

This project has been assessed in accordance with the authority and criteria contained in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the State CEQA Guidelines, and the environmental regulations of the City. It has been determined that this request is qualifies for a Class 1 Categorical Exemption (Existing Facilities) under the authority provided by the CEQA Guidelines Section No. 15301 and no significant environmental impacts are anticipated.

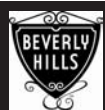
Any interested person may attend the meeting and be heard or present written comments to the Commission.

If you challenge the Commission's action in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City, either at or prior to the public hearing.

If there are any questions regarding this notice, please contact Rita Naziri in the Community Development Department at 310.285.1136. Copies of the applications, plans, and Categorical Exemption are on file in the Community Development Department, and can be reviewed by any interested person at 9357 West 3rd Street, Beverly Hills, CA. 90210.

Approved as to form:

Jonathan Lait, AICP, City Planner



NOTICE OF COMMISSION VACANCY:

PLANNING COMMISSION

The Beverly Hills City Council is seeking qualified residents to fill one upcoming vacancy on the Planning Commission. The initial term of office for the position is two years. At the discretion of the City Council, the Commissioner may be reappointed to a second term of four years. The appointee will be required to file an initial and an annual "Statement of Economic Interests" financial disclosure.

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

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

The deadline for filing applications for this Commission is Tuesday, September 30, 2008, at 5:30 p.m.

BYRON POPE, CMC
City Clerk

briefs

Obama's Beverly Hills fundraisers raise close to \$11 million

Democratic presidential nominee Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) brought in almost \$11 million dollars for his party and his campaign at two separate star-studded fundraisers in Beverly Hills on Tuesday, initial reports show.

An estimated 300 people attended the day's first fundraiser, a \$28,500-per-person soiree held at Greystone Mansion. Around 800 people joined Obama at the Beverly Wilshire later that evening, where a ticket cost \$2,500 per person. Proceeds from the Greystone event go to the Democratic Party and money from the Beverly Wilshire event will go toward Obama's presidential campaign.

Delshad appears on Chabad telethon



Beverly Hills City Councilmember Jimmy Delshad donated \$1,800 and asked in English and Farsi with others to match his donations at the Chabad of the West Coast's "To Life" telethon that raised over \$8 million last weekend.

"It's an amazing time. The energy is very high. People behind the cameras are clapping their hands, jumping up and down," said Delshad. "What you see on T.V. is only a microcosm of what's happening behind the scenes."

The telethon, which was created in 1980, is known its studio filled with large crowds of dancing rabbis and guests, including many celebrities. It was broadcast nationwide from Hollywood



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

DATE: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2008

TIME: 1:30 pm, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard

LOCATION: Commission Meeting Room A
Beverly Hills City Hall
455 North Rexford Drive
Beverly Hills, California 90210

The Planning Commission of the City of Beverly Hills, at its REGULAR meeting on Thursday, September 25, 2008, will hold a public hearing beginning at 1:30 pm, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, to consider:

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: A request for a Conditional Use Permit pursuant to Beverly Hills Municipal Code Section 10-3-2733 to allow required parking to be located off-site in conjunction with the conversion of an existing office use to a medical use. Approximately 20,101 square feet of existing office floor area is proposed to be converted to medical floor area in the building located at **9090 Wilshire Boulevard**. However, because medical floor area requires a higher parking rate than does office floor area, the building will have a parking shortfall of 44 spaces. These 44 spaces are proposed to be located at 9150 Wilshire Boulevard. , the Planning Commission may grant a Conditional Use Permit authorizing offsite parking.

This project has been assessed in accordance with the authority and criteria contained in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the State CEQA Guidelines, and the environmental regulations of the City, and it has been determined that the project is exempt from CEQA regulations pursuant to Section 15301 of the State CEQA Guidelines in that the project does not involve any new construction or floor area but would result in a change of use from general office to medical office for a portion of an existing building.

Any interested person may attend the meeting and be heard or present written comments to the Commission. Comments may be submitted in writing to the Planning Department prior to the meeting date and written or oral comments will be accepted at the Planning Commission meeting at the date and time noted above.

If you challenge the Commission's action in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City, either at or prior to the public hearing.

If there are any questions regarding this notice, please contact Ryan Gohlich at the Planning Department at 310.285.1194. Copies of the application and plans are on file in the Planning Department (which is currently located in a temporary building at 9357 West 3rd Street), Beverly Hills, CA. 90210.

Jonathan Lait, AICP, City Planner



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

DATE: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2008

TIME: 1:30 pm, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard

LOCATION: Commission Meeting Room A
Beverly Hills City Hall
455 North Rexford Drive
Beverly Hills, California 90210

The Planning Commission of the City of Beverly Hills, at its REGULAR meeting on Thursday, September 25, 2008, will hold a public hearing beginning at 1:30 pm, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, to consider:

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: A request for a Development Plan Review and Tentative Parcel Map for the conversion of an existing 24,450 square foot three-story office building to a commercial condominium building and a modification of the Conditional Use Permit that allows medical uses within the building located at **8536 Wilshire Boulevard**.

This project has been assessed in accordance with the authority and criteria contained in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the State CEQA Guidelines, and the environmental regulations of the City, and it has been determined that the project is exempt from CEQA regulations pursuant to Section 15301 (k) of the State CEQA Guidelines.

Any interested person may attend the meeting and be heard or present written comments to the Commission. Comments may be submitted in writing to the Planning Department prior to the meeting date and written or oral comments will be accepted at the Planning Commission meeting at the date and time noted above.

If you challenge the Commission's action in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City, either at or prior to the public hearing.

If there are any questions regarding this notice, please contact Georgana Millican at the Planning Department at 310.285.1121. Copies of the application and plans are on file in the Planning Department (which is currently located in a temporary building at 9357 West 3rd Street), Beverly Hills, CA. 90210.

Jonathan Lait, AICP, City Planner

between 4 and 10 p.m. on Sept. 14 this year.

Delshad has been involved with the telethon for ten years, he says. The last few years, he has appeared on the telethon to speak in English and Farsi "to get the Persian Jewish community to meet and match my contribution," said Delshad.

"When I was there, after giving the challenge [to match my contribution], you could see Persian names of people donating on the bottom of the screen," said Delshad. "The Persian community was really getting involved."

The \$8,092,269 raised during the telethon will go in part toward the Chabad Residential Drug Treatment Center in Los Angeles, as well as Chabad's Camp Gan, which has been a safe haven for Israeli girls escaping rocket attacks in Sderot, according telethon documents.

"Chabad does wonderful things for the entire community, religious and non-religious, Persian and non-Persian, Jews and non-Jews, whether it's drugs or mental or other problems. I respect them for their acceptance and tolerance," said Delshad.

Chabad of the West Coast provides several social services and is prominent in educational and nonsectarian community activism.

Play Couture's Grand Opening

Pictured: Play Couture owner Trevor Levin, Mayor Barry Brucker, former CTR president Herm Shultz and Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce account executive Steve Shandobil

Several 7 to 16 year olds strut down a runway showing off their own personal style at last week's grand opening of Beverly High ('99) grad Trevor Levin's clothing boutique Play Couture on South Beverly Drive.

Levin has traveled extensively throughout Europe and Asia studying fashion and learning its importance in varied regions of the globe. Passionate about combining his observations abroad with his experience growing up in Los Angeles, Play Couture allows Trevor's dream to come to life. His hard work and extreme dedication have been the underlying force in his efforts to provide an often overlooked demographic with unique and stylish apparel.



BHRA hosts 'virtual debate'

The Beverly Hills Residents Association is hosting a virtual debate over Measure H, the referendum measure regarding the 'Beverly Hills Hilton Revitalization Plan' to build a Waldorf=Astoria and two condominium buildings.

Representatives of the Beverly Hilton and the Citizens Right to Decide Committee, which filed petitions to create the referendum measure, will answer a group of approximately 10 questions submitted by residents and chosen by a committee from BHRA's Board.

The committee will submit the questions to the Hilton and Citizen's Right group for answers and rebuttal, and then publish the answers on its Web site within the next three weeks.

There are currently no other debates scheduled for this issue in the city.

"Our basic goal was to create an easy way to get unbiased, clear information out from both sides and you don't have to leave your house or watch an hour of t.v.," said BHRA president Alan Kaye, who said this is the first time BHRA has held a virtual debate.

Beverly Hills residents who wish to submit a question have until Wednesday to send questions to secretary@bhresidents.org.

For more, go to bhresidents.org.

Yom Kippur service available on DVD

Anyone who cannot get to temple for the High Holidays this year can receive a free-of-charge DVD of the Yom Kippur Kol Nidre service from the Creative Arts Temple of Beverly Hills.

The Creative Arts Temple of Beverly Hills has taped their Yom Kippur Kol Nidre service and edited it into a one-hour version, for easy viewing by the homebound and hospitalized, isolated soldiers, or anyone else who cannot make it to a live service.

The DVD service is led by Rabbi Jerry Ram Cutler and Cantor Lorna Lembeck, and filled with choir music and special readings by celebrity temple members and friends such as Jon Voight, Jerry Stiller and Estelle Harris.

The DVD is available completely free-of-charge to all — individuals and institutions alike — by calling the temple office at (323) 965-1818 or emailing info@creativeartstemple.org. The DVDs are shipping now, while supplies last.

Reynolds featured in new Beverly Hills showcase

The 'Beverly Hills Showcase, A Series of Entertainment at Roxbury Park' will present Debbie Reynolds, in an evening of comedy and song on Oct.10. Dick Van Patten will be master of ceremonies.

Reynolds is known for her numerous appearances in movies, on stage and television, and is well-known for her role in "Singin' in the Rain" and her Oscar-nominated performance in "The Unsinkable Molly Brown."

This event, co-sponsored by the City of Beverly Hills Community Services Department and the Beverly Hills Active Adult Club (BHAAC), will be held in the Roxbury Park Auditorium, 471 S. Roxbury Dr., at 7:30 p.m. Tickets for the show are \$25.00 and \$50.00 and can be purchased by calling (310) 285-6840. The proceeds will benefit programs sponsored by the Beverly Hills Active Adult Club (BHAAC).

11th Annual Police Pancake Breakfast

Beverly Hills Police Officer Gary Castaldo, Dr. Willie Brien and Vice Mayor Frank Fenton enjoyed the 11th annual Police Service Day and Pancake Breakfast at City Hall Plaza last weekend. Sponsored by the Beverly Hills Rotary Club, the Beverly Hills Police Department began this event in 1998 to say "thank you" for the generous support they receive from the community. Families enjoyed tours of the police facility, displays of police equipment and demonstrations of officer training — in addition to a hearty pancake breakfast!



Brucker announces bid for re-election

Mayor Barry Brucker recently declared his candidacy for re-election to the Beverly Hills City Council in the March 3, 2009 election.

"I am very grateful for the public's trust and proud of my accomplishments as mayor and as a City Council member," said Brucker, who was first elected to public office in 1997 when he ran as a write-in candidate for the Beverly Hills Board of Education. Brucker is the only successful write-in candidate elected in California over the last 15 years.

Currently serving in his first term on the City Council, Brucker has been actively involved in enhancing health and wellness through the 90210 outdoor smoke-free dining ordinance; adopting the toughest ethics ordinance in the state; supporting public schools through the largest JPA funding contract in the city-school history; and insisting on fiscal accountability for all City transactions.



Barry Brucker

"I am extremely proud of the commitment of our entire community as we have launched our 'Green Team' initiative, which includes creating one of the most robust 'green' building standards in the state," said Brucker, who added that this new green building standard has already become a progressive model for other cities to follow.

Brucker is successful business owner who holds six U.S. patents and earned a degree in Business/Economics with honors from University of California, Santa Barbara.

Series Executive Produced By BHHS Alum To Premiere Tuesday

Television has done much to fracture families, particularly as the growing number of cable networks and the creation of Fox Broadcasting and The CW have brought about more and more niche programming that relatively few families watch together.

Jason Goldberg, a 1988 Beverly High graduate, is hoping to reverse that trend — at least for an hour a week — with a game show he is among the executive producers, "Opportunity Knocks," scheduled to premiere Tuesday at 8 p.m. on ABC.

"Opportunity Knocks" consists of host J.D. Roth asking family members questions based directly on their lives, each other and articles found in and around their home, along with interactive challenges, including a husband guessing how many dresses are in his wife's closet and seeing if a daughter can identify a relative on a portrait by her bedroom.

"Technology has been moving where people are so obsessed with technology and work, they forget about the core of the family and how important it is to connect," Goldberg said in a recent interview. "We thought [the show] was a great message to America. I also wanted to make a show that families could watch together."

Goldberg and his fellow producers also wanted to make a show that would be "an event." In an attempt to do that, it was decided that "Opportunity Knocks" would be played on the family's front lawn.

Goldberg is the producing partner of the actor Ashton Kutcher. He is married to Soleil Moon Frye, who starred in the 1980s television comedy Punky Brewster. He was a two-season starting quarterback for the Beverly High football team.

When asked what he learned at Beverly High, he responded discipline, singling out longtime coach and administrator Ben Bushman and former football co-coach Dick Billingsley for praise.

--Steven Herbert

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from the hills of beverly



No City Hotels Oppose Hilton

Waldorf=Astoria has backing from competitors
By Rudy Cole

There is something very different and unique about the referendum on the Hilton Revitalization Plan: The lack of opposition from any other hotel in or near Beverly Hills.

The Montage faced, not only a well organized citizen group of opponents when its approval depended on a vote of the people in 2005, the Peninsula Hotel owners provided major funding for the campaign. Not this time.

The soon to open Montage not only is not opposing the Hilton, its managing director, **Ali Kasikci**, is a very vocal backer of the Hilton which includes a proposed Waldorf=Astoria. Before joining the Montage, Kasikci was the managing director of the Peninsula Beverly Hills.

The Peninsula was not the first Beverly Hills hotel to sponsor opposition against a possible competitor. Back in the 1970s, **Hernando Courtright** successfully funded the campaign against a proposed Four

Seasons at Wilshire and Rodeo Drives – now the site of Two Rodeo.

Ironically, the Beverly Wilshire Hotel now flies the Four Season's flag.

One Beverly Hills boutique hotel, the Avalon on Olympic Blvd., expressed strong approval. "It will be wonderful to upgrade the corner of Wilshire and Santa Monica (site of the proposed Waldorf=Astoria)," said hotel general manager **Scott Mills**. "We will welcome them to Beverly Hills."

The only cautionary note came from **Brendan Carlin** of the Mosaic on South Spalding who questioned the need for more hotels rooms "in our market" which he said includes a new hotel on La Cienga – not in the city.

However, most general managers felt more rooms were actually needed and that the Waldorf=Astoria would help create a greater destination attraction for all hotels in Beverly Hills.

The general manager of the Beverly Wilshire, a Four Seasons Hotel, **Radha Arora**, told me "we definitely support the Beverly Hilton's expansion plans."

Peninsula Beverly Hills managing director **Offer Nissenbaum** said: "We at the Peninsula Beverly Hills welcome all new hotels to our city, provided such projects have the full backing of the community." (A referendum, Measure H, will be voted on this November, that will determine community support.)

In a survey we conducted earlier this week we found no opposition from any other large or boutique hotel in Beverly Hills. Also, many community leaders who opposed the Montage are now supporting the Hilton. More on this later.

So, let's take a look at some of the arguments regarding Measure H and the Hilton plan.

Frankly, when the original Hilton Revitalization plan was unveiled I could not support it. Reducing hotel rooms and adding condominium on the property did not seem in the public interest. Despite the Hilton's argument that even though room count would be reduced, the upgrading of rooms would mean increased city revenues, I thought the loss of hotel guests would not benefit the city's economy.

All that changed when the Hilton announced plans for a Waldorf=Astoria. Not only will that increase luxury, five star quality hotel rooms, it will enhance one of the city's most important gateways at Wilshire and Santa Monica.

What about the condominium element? The reality of hotel financing today makes it impossible to secure loans for hotels without condos. In this economy, that becomes even more critical. The Hilton could simply not construct the Waldorf=Astoria without condominiums on their property.

The opponents of the Hilton cite the 18 floor condominiums as "too big" and yet the condos are dwarfed by structures within one mile of the Hilton. Reality check: We are not some isolated community, we are in the middle of an area with high rises towering over the proposed Hilton condos.

Far more threatening is a plan to construct a 40 foot building right next to Beverly Hills High School and only feet beyond city limits.

The condos are at the city's extremity, bordering on far higher buildings on the Wilshire corridor and totally isolated from residential. Would I support an 18 floor condo further east on Wilshire next to residential? Of course not.

I wrote in opposition to an even smaller condo scheme next to Saks because it was out of scale with the neighborhood.

Again, the Hilton property is totally self contained and does not abut residential. The historic Beverly Hills Hotel is smack in the middle of a prime residential area as is the Bel Air.

What about traffic? Since the opposition is focused on the condominium elements of the project, some common sense needs to be applied on this issue.

Residential, of any kind, including condos, produce far less traffic than any other possible use. This is confirmed by the studies, including information available from the ITE, International Traffic Engineers data, but also by your own observations.

Drive down any business triangle street with medical offices and compare that to the traffic anywhere near 211 So. Spalding, cite of a major condominium or the one on South Swall. (Two of our largest). There is no comparison. Equally important, peak hour traffic is our most intrusive and that comes from our major office buildings, not condos or even hotels.

What is really unfair is to make the Hilton the target of opposition because other development projects such as the William Morris, 9900 Wilshire or the Montage won approval. (The Montage by a vote of the people.) We are not going to turn back the clock by opposing the Hilton, only shoot ourselves in the community foot if this fails. (Note: I did not favor William Morris).

In fairness, it is also important to remember that the Beverly Hilton has been a very important good neighbor and, no matter the owner, totally involved in the life of our city, often setting the highest standards of support for city charities. Owner **Beny Alagem** is personally very much a part of Beverly Hills and long before he unveiled his "revitalization"

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plan, a most generous donor to a wide range of civic needs. This is not some "outside" entity with a get rich quick scheme tampering with our zoning codes.

Alagem does have a vision, possibly even wanting to create something by which he will be remembered. He really wants the Waldorf=Astoria to become one of the most exciting hotels in the world, and he compares his concept with the great hotels of Europe.

Has the Hilton made mistakes in trying to convince the community it should approve the project? Of course, but these are distractions and have nothing to do with the merits of the proposal. The BHEF participating plan, the Maple Counseling Center dinner, the long list of people the Hilton retains to work for them – none of this has any real relevancy; the Hilton and Waldorf=Astoria must be judged on the merits.

I know there some people who will strongly disagree with what I have written and most are well intentioned and also care about their city. Labeling them as "crazies" is not productive to good decision making. Both sides need to lower their

voices and let good arguments and reason prevail. I am especially annoyed by the name calling by both sides.

Finally, and as important as any other argument, are the enormous financial benefits this will bring, especially with an uncertain economic future. I will let both sides argue about the amounts, but clearly the Hilton, if approved, will mean critical tax dollars for basic city services – far beyond what the Hilton will use for the improvements. We want the best in police and fire protection? We need to have our own sense of fiscal reality. Ironically, the bed tax dollar jumps will mean that visitors will help pay for services we enjoy.

Lastly, a word for renters: Condos built on commercial property take the pressure off demolition and conversion of rental units. Over 2,000 Beverly Hills apartments could be demolished under current codes, but that is far less likely if larger, more attractive condominiums are constructed on sites such as the Hilton land. Fewer rental units also means increased pressure to increase rents!

One of the newer organizations in our village, and we have a few, is the Beverly Hills Athletic Alumni Association. They managed to bring back one of my favorite former BH school principals, **Robbie Robinson** (see Page 2), now a resident of Idaho, famous for potatoes before Robbie moved there, for a picture taking event promoting their upcoming award dinner.

The event, to be held on October 18 at the Beverly Hilton will honor one of our finest, high school basketball star and 1993 grad **Sam Nazarian**. For information about the association and the dinner, always one of the most enjoyable of the year, call (310) 385-0679 and ask for **Julie Steinberg**.

What to make of the new **John McCain** television spots: He is proudly reminding voters that he stood up to Republicans in Washington and that **Sarah Palin** fought Republicans in Alaska. Are they running on some third party ticket or as third party candidates or do they want the country to

elect even more Democrats to the congress to help them battle Republicans?

Even more evidence of a failed Iraq occupation policy? The regime we put in place is getting even closer to Iran. Of course, when we put young men and women into any war and ask them to fight for their country, we support our troops. It's our political leadership that is failing them.

Another example of no change: Israel is our most dependable ally in the region. When **Saddam** was launching scuds at civilian Israeli targets during the Gulf War, Israel was "ordered" not to respond. Good that we rid the world of Saddam. But now the new Iraq government is ready to expel a member who had the audacity to travel to Israel for a conference on regional security. This is what we have won?

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

city and schools cont. from page 3

bylaw, does not do that and did not do that in this case."

According to an IRS spokesperson, "In general, no organization may qualify for section 501(c)(3) status if a substantial part of its activities is attempting to influence legislation (commonly known as lobbying). A 501(c)(3) organization may engage in some lobbying, but too much lobbying activity risks loss of tax-exempt status."

The IRS' system for determining how much lobbying is 'too much lobbying' is made on a case by case basis but "considers a variety of factors, including the time devoted (by both compensated and volunteer workers) and the expenditures devoted by the organization to the activity, when determining whether the lobbying activity is substantial," according to documents.

Attempting to influence legislation includes, contacting or urging the public to contact "members or employees of a legislative body for the purpose of proposing, supporting, or opposing legislation, or if the organization advocates the adoption or rejection of legislation," IRS documents explain.

No IRS representative would comment on this case specifically.

According to Hankin, BHEF is "not spending a penny" or any resources lobbying on behalf of the Hilton.

BHEF has donated over \$10 million to BHUSD schools since its inception in 1978. Between the 2006 and 2008 school year, BHEF will have given over \$3 million to BHUSD schools, according to Hankin. Recently, the organization handed over a \$600,000 check for technology uses to the Board of Education.

Beverly Hills Board of Education president Myra Demeter sent out a letter this week stating that the Board has no connection to the BHEF and Hilton deal.

"The school district and the School Board were not involved nor were they consulted in any manner regarding these negotiations. The school district has firmly remained neutral on the ballot measure regarding the Hilton Revitalization Plan and recommends to the Board of the BHEF that they honor their long tradition of refraining from the appearance of taking political sides," Demeter's letter read.

Board of Education member Brian Goldberg said he first learned of the agreement by opening up the newspaper on Friday morning. Since then he said he has received at least 12 phone calls and 30 e-mails from resi-

dents commenting on the agreement, 85 percent have been unhappy.

"The timing on taking this gift is not good and gives the impression that BHEF is supportive of the Hilton project and that could cause problems for the bond," said Goldberg, referencing the \$334 million dollar general obligation bond (Measure E) for the school district that is on the November ballot. "I hope

people understand that BHEF is an independent non-profit and are certainly able to accept gifts. The district, though, was not involved in this [agreement]."

The Board of Education is also not obligated to take the money from BHEF should these funds materialize in the future, Goldberg said.

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Many Women with Facial Dark Spots Suffer From Dark Moods ... Dermatologists Offer Hope.

Dr. Robin Schaffran knows just what she'll hear from some of her patients when they walk into her Beverly Hills office.

"A frustrated woman, typically in her 30s and beyond with dark patches on her face, will ask if I can help. It's amazing how common this is," said Dr. Schaffran, "and it's too bad that more people don't go to their dermatologist for help. I love to see my patient's smile when I tell her there are treatments available that can help reduce or eliminate those unsightly brown patches."

Dark patches on the face can be caused by many things, including sun damage, acne

scarring, or inflammation. When those dark, grayish-brown patches occur on the cheeks, upper lip and forehead, the condition may be melasma—also known as paño, mask of pregnancy or hypermelanosis. Whatever the name, the condition is most likely caused by skin cells producing extra melanin—the chemical responsible for pigmentation. Many doctors link these cases to a variety of triggers including sun exposure, hormone changes in women, such as those caused by pregnancy, menopause, and even the hormonal shifts associated with use of birth control pills.

Millions of women in the United States face the dark patches in the mirror every day, and it's especially prevalent in women of Hispanic, Caribbean and Asian ancestry as well as African-American women. Approximately 80% of Latino women report having these types of darkened spots on their faces. It also tends to run in families.

These dark patches don't make people physically ill, but research shows that the psychological and emotional tolls are another story. Not only does the condition affect how many women feel about themselves, it changes how

others see them. A report published in the journal *Evolution and Human Behavior* showed that dark spots on a woman's face are one of the signs that people use to judge her age, and in fact, the presence of spots alone can influence how old a person looks.

"I felt like people thought I was dirty," said Rebecca Brown, 32, a patient diagnosed with melasma.

Ms. Brown's condition appeared after a beach vacation in Cancun.

"The longer the dark patches lasted, the more embarrassed I got," Ms. Brown said. "I covered them with makeup, and I tried

some of the treatments I found at the supermarket."

Those treatments didn't work for her. Finally, she decided to call her doctor.

"Prescription treatments work differently and are often much more successful," Dr. Schaffran said.

Two months after she went to her dermatologist, Ms. Brown said her skin was clear.

"I had basically given up hope," she said. "I didn't realize how badly those spots made me feel until they were gone."

For more information about this condition, please go to www.darkpatches.com, or speak to your dermatologist.



A bright outlook for people with dark spots.

Tri-Luma® Cream can lighten the dark patches of melasma.

Artist's rendition of melasma. Please see Important Safety Information below.

People allergic to sulfites should not use Tri-Luma® Cream. It contains hydroquinone, which may cause a gradual blue-black darkening of the skin. Safety and efficacy have not been established in pregnant or nursing women, or individuals with darker skin. Redness, peeling, burning, dryness, or itching may occur. Exposure to sunlight, sunlamps, or UV light and extreme heat, wind, or cold should be avoided.

www.triluma.com

Tri-Luma® Cream is the only topical product FDA approved to treat moderate to severe melasma. With results in as little as 4 weeks,¹ no other topical cream has been proven more effective than Tri-Luma® Cream. No wonder it's the #1 prescribed product for melasma.²

You can also get a free list of dermatologists in your area who treat this condition. Simply go to www.triluma.com and click on the DermFinder® link to find the name of a dermatologist who can help you start treatment with Tri-Luma® Cream right now.

The sooner you start, the sooner you'll be able to get your melasma under control.

Ask your DermFinder® dermatologist about Tri-Luma® Cream.

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For External Use Only. Not for Ophthalmic Use.

TRI-LUMA® Cream

(flucinolone acetonide 0.01%, hydroquinone 4%, tretinoin 0.05%)

Read this information carefully before you begin treatment. Read the information you get whenever you get more medicine. There may be new information. This information does not take the place of talking with your doctor about your medical condition or your treatment. If you have any questions about TRI-LUMA® (try-LOOM-ah) Cream, ask your doctor. Only your doctor can determine if TRI-LUMA® Cream is right for you.

What is the most important information I should know about TRI-LUMA® Cream? Use of TRI-LUMA® Cream in pregnant women may carry the chance of having birth defects in the baby. Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, may be pregnant, or plan to become pregnant. Your doctor will talk with you about the benefits and risks of using TRI-LUMA® Cream during pregnancy to help decide if the benefits for you are greater than the risks. You may decide to delay treatment until after your baby is born.

If you become pregnant while taking TRI-LUMA® Cream, tell your doctor right away. You should discuss the chances that your baby may be harmed. Using TRI-LUMA® Cream early in pregnancy may be more likely to produce birth defects than using it later in pregnancy.

What is TRI-LUMA® Cream? TRI-LUMA® Cream is a medicine with three active components. You put TRI-LUMA® Cream on your face to treat a skin condition called melasma. Melasma consists of dark (hyperpigmented) spots on facial skin, especially on the cheeks and forehead. This condition usually happens with hormone changes.

TRI-LUMA® Cream is for short-term and intermittent long-term treatment of moderate to severe melasma of the face, in

the presence of measures for sun avoidance, including the use of sunscreens.

TRI-LUMA® Cream showed a significantly favorable safety profile for the long-term treatment of melasma, up to 6 months. Milder forms of melasma may not need treatment with medicine. Melasma can also be managed by staying out of the sun or by stopping the use of birth control methods that involve hormones.

In clinical studies, after 8 weeks of treatment with TRI-LUMA® Cream, most patients had improvements, with 42 (26%) out of 161 patients experiencing complete clearing of their melasma. In most patients treated with TRI-LUMA® Cream, melasma came back after treatment was stopped. If the underlying causes of melasma, such as the use of certain birth control pills or too much exposure to sunlight, are not removed, melasma will come back when you stop treatment. In the long-term studies, patients were treated with TRI-LUMA® Cream on and off, whenever their melasma came back until it cleared. About 300 patients used TRI-LUMA® Cream intermittently (not continuously) for 180 days, and the majority of the side effects were mild in severity. **TRI-LUMA® Cream may improve your melasma, but it is NOT a cure.**

Who should not use TRI-LUMA® Cream? Do not use TRI-LUMA® Cream if you are allergic to the medicine or any of its ingredients. See the end of this leaflet for a list of ingredients.

What should I tell my doctor before using TRI-LUMA® Cream? If you are pregnant, think you are pregnant, plan to be pregnant or are nursing an infant, tell your doctor. Your doctor will decide with you whether the benefits in using TRI-LUMA® Cream will be greater than the risks. If possible, delay treatment with TRI-LUMA® Cream until after the baby is born. Tell your doctor about all the other medicines and skin care products you use, including prescription and non-prescription medicines, cosmet-

ics, and supplements. They may make your skin more sensitive to sunlight.

How should I use TRI-LUMA® Cream? TRI-LUMA® Cream should be used as instructed by your doctor.

To help you use the medicine correctly, follow these steps:

- Gently wash your face with a mild cleanser. Don't use a washcloth to apply the cleanser, just your fingers. Rinse and pat your skin dry.
- Apply TRI-LUMA® Cream at night, at least 30 minutes before bedtime.
- Put a small amount (pea sized or 1/2 inch or less) of TRI-LUMA® Cream on your fingertip. Apply a thin coat onto the discolored spot(s). Include about 1/2 inch of normal skin surrounding the affected area. After you have used the medicine for a while, you may find that you need slightly less to do the job.
- Rub the medicine lightly and uniformly into your skin. The medicine should become invisible almost at once. If you can still see it, you are using too much.
- Keep the medicine away from the corners of your nose, your mouth, eyes and open wounds. Spread it away from those areas when applying it.
- Do not use more TRI-LUMA® Cream or apply it more often than recommended by your doctor. Too much TRI-LUMA® Cream may irritate your skin, waste medicine, and won't give you faster or better results.
- Do not cover the treated area with anything after applying TRI-LUMA® Cream.
- If your skin gets too irritated, stop using TRI-LUMA® Cream, and let your doctor know.
- To help avoid skin dryness, you may use a moisturizer in the morning after you wash your face.
- You may also use a moisturizer and cosmetics during the day.

Use a sunscreen of at least SPF 30 and a wide-brimmed hat over the treated areas. It requires only a small amount of sunlight to worsen melasma. Melasma can get

worse even if you don't get sunburn. Only your doctor knows which other medicines may be helpful during treatment, and will tell you about them if needed. Do not use other medicines unless your doctor approves them.

If you get sunburned, stop using TRI-LUMA® Cream until your skin is healed. After stopping TRI-LUMA® Cream treatment, continue to protect your skin from sunlight.

What should I avoid while using TRI-LUMA® Cream? Sunlight or ultraviolet light. Too much natural sunlight or artificial sunlight from a sunlamp can cause sunburn. Dark skin patches may become darker when the skin is exposed to sunlight. You don't have to have a sunburn to make your melasma worse. TRI-LUMA® Cream can make your skin more likely to get sunburn or develop other unwanted effects from the sun. Protect your skin from natural sunlight as much as possible to help prevent further darkening of existing dark patches and formation of new ones. Staying out of the sun is especially important for women who take birth control pills or hormone replacement therapy, and for people who have had dark patches in the past.

Use an effective sunscreen any time you are outside, even on hazy days. The sunscreen should have SPF (sun protection factor) of 30 or more. Use sunscreen year-round on areas of the skin that are regularly exposed to sunlight, such as your face and hands. If possible, protect the treated area from sunlight exposure.

If you spend a lot of time outside, be especially careful of sunlight. Ask your doctor what SPF level will give you the needed high level of protection. If you will be outside, wear protective clothing, including a hat. Do not use sunlamps while you use TRI-LUMA® Cream. Heat, wind and cold. Heat and cold tend to dry or irritate normal skin. Skin treated with TRI-LUMA® Cream may be more

likely to react to heat and cold. Your doctor can recommend ways to manage your melasma under these conditions.

Other skin care products and medicines. Avoid products that may dry or irritate your skin. These may include soaps and cleansers that are rough or cause drying; certain astringents, such as alcohol-containing products, soaps and toiletries containing alcohol, spices, or lime; or certain medicated soaps, shampoos, and hair permanent products. Do not use any other medicines with TRI-LUMA® Cream unless you have consulted your doctor. The medicines and products you have used in the past may cause redness or peeling when used with TRI-LUMA® Cream.

What are the possible side effects of TRI-LUMA® Cream? A very few patients may get severe allergic reactions from TRI-LUMA® Cream. This includes people allergic to sulfites.

They may have trouble breathing or severe asthma attacks, which can be life-threatening.

While you use TRI-LUMA® Cream, your skin may develop mild-to-moderate redness, peeling, burning, dryness, or itching. TRI-LUMA® Cream contains a corticosteroid medicine as one of its active components. The following side effects have been reported with application of corticosteroid medicines to the skin: itching, irritation, dryness, infection of the hair follicles, acne, change in skin color, inflammation around the mouth, allergic skin reaction, skin infection, skin thinning, stretch marks, and sweat problems.

Stop using TRI-LUMA® Cream and contact your doctor if you have

- severe or continued irritation, blistering, oozing, scaling, or crusting; severe burning or swelling of your skin; irritation of your eyes, nose, and mouth
- Some patients using TRI-LUMA® Cream develop dark spots on their skin (hyperpigmentation), tingling, increased skin sensitivity, rash, acne, skin redness caused by a condition called rosacea, skin bumps,

blisters, or tiny red lines or blood vessels showing through the skin (telangiectasia). If you are concerned about how your skin is reacting to the medicine, call your doctor.

General information about prescription medicines

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Do not use TRI-LUMA® Cream for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give TRI-LUMA® Cream to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them. This leaflet summarizes the most important information about TRI-LUMA® Cream. If you would like more information, talk with your doctor. You can ask your pharmacist or doctor for information about TRI-LUMA® Cream that is written for health professionals.

Ingredients: TRI-LUMA® Cream contains flucinolone acetonide, hydroquinone, and tretinoin as active ingredients, as well as the following in the cream base: butylated hydroxytoluene, cetyl alcohol, citric acid, glycerin, glyceryl stearate, magnesium aluminum silicate, methyl gluceth-10, methylparaben, PEG-100 stearate, propylparaben, purified water, sodium metabisulfite, stearic acid, and stearyl alcohol.

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Manufactured by: Hill Laboratories, Inc., Sanford, FL 32773 USA, 20024-1203 Revised December 2003

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coverstory

FRESH FACES IN EDUCATION

Newly hired faculty discuss what brought them to the BHUSD

By Jacquelyn Ryan

Thirty new faculty members have joined the Beverly Hills Unified School District for the 2008-2009 school year. The BHUSD administration hired faculty from various educational backgrounds, as varied as special education and journalism. The following three teachers come from three of the five different schools in the district and are ready to enrich the lives and curriculum of this year's student body.



Laura Dixon
El Rodeo,
Kindergarten

In a sense, new El Rodeo kindergarten teacher Laura Dixon got her start at BHUSD by singing, she says.

Dixon, an Illinois native, moved to Los Angeles in early 2008 to join her fiancée, Ryan Mitchell, who had taken a job with a production company here. Dixon had just graduated from MacMurray College with a degree in elementary education in December 2007.

She took an instructional aid position in February at Horace Mann, where she worked 27 hours a week gaining classroom experience.

One fateful day last spring, Dixon looked up from her work in the classroom to see former Spice Girl Mel B., who asked, "Can anyone here sing?"

Dixon, who has been a singer and theatre performer most of her life, volunteered and joined Horace Mann teachers Christy Fuhrer, Christian Fuhrer, Rachel Pearce and Shana Lanzetta in singing and dancing to Jackson 5's "ABC" on The Learning Channel's game show "The Singing Office."

"They put me on camera and before I knew it I was picked to compete against another group. We didn't win, but we should have!" said Dixon. "We all still laugh about it to this day."

Dixon credits the show with helping get to know people in her school and district. She says she went from being an unknown instructional aid to a face many people recognized.

After spending a few months as an instructional aid, Dixon was dying to get a full-time teaching job. She had flown back to Illinois for a job interview at a school there so she could "gain the experience" that so many teaching positions in Los Angeles required. She was offered the job but turned it down, feeling in her gut that working in Los Angeles with her fiancée was the right thing to do.

Just days later, Dixon interviewed with El Rodeo for the kindergarten teacher position and was hired the Friday before school began. Kindergarten enrollment at BHUSD schools has been booming and El Rodeo was forced to

add an additional kindergarten section only days before school began.

"I was worried that being hired so late I wouldn't be able to get the classroom ready or get the supplies I needed," said Dixon. "But it all went well and I'm really happy. Everyone was so welcoming."

"Kindergarten is great because [school] is new for the kids, new for the parents and it's new for me," said Dixon, who has a class of 17 students.

When Dixon isn't teaching, she and her fiancée, who will be married on June 27, 2009, are exploring Los Angeles, she says. They have fallen in love with Manhattan Beach, which reminds her of vacations to Florida as a child.

"I would love to be a teacher here for a long time," said Dixon. "It's important to stay in district and become tenured but really it's such a great school."



Christina Cryer
Beverly Vista,
Second grade

Christina Cryer spent part of her summer teaching third graders in China how to speak English.

"It was really hard, surprisingly. They don't respond. They just look at you. So I used a lot of pictures and talked slowly. They read better than they speak. Sometimes they would spell out words so that I could understand them," said Cryer, who was able to travel across China after her two-week teaching job was up.

Santa Rosa native Cryer says she "loves to travel" and particularly loves to go to Portugal and Spain.

Cryer's family still lives in Northern California, except for her brother who settled down in Tennessee after being stationed there in the Army.

Cryer started at BHUSD as a long-term substitute teacher for a second grade class last February. Previous second-grade teacher Tina Weiner retired to raise a new baby.

"I transferred from Sonoma State to [California State University, Northridge] and I would drive by Beverly Vista occasionally and think that is just the nicest school," said Cryer, who started her career as a substitute in the Los Angeles Unified School District schools in the San Fernando Valley.

Cryer began as a full-time second-grade teacher this year.

"I have the nicest group of children and I'm so happy to be here," said Cryer. "I see students from last year and they are saying 'congratulations, you got the job!' I think they were disappointed I wasn't teaching third grade."

The first day was a little overwhelming, Cryer noted. But the Beverly Vista "community" was there to help her every step of the way, she said.

The best moment Cryer has had at Beverly Vista yet was on a field trip to the Getty museum last year.

"I had a group of five kids and they were looking at the brochure and saw statues. They said, look we're here on the map so if we go this way we should be able to see them. They had mapped out the entire Getty to get to the statues. It was so neat to watch them navigate and these were five kids who didn't necessarily work well together," Cryer said.



Phillip West
Beverly High,
English and
Journalism

Phillip West only started at Beverly High last Monday, almost a week after school had begun.

West has taken on the brave task of filling the English and journalism position at Beverly High, which has been a revolving door for teachers over the last few years.

Former journalism teacher Mimi Nguyen resigned suddenly over the summer when she decided to move with her fiancée who took a job in the San Francisco bay area.

Though a little "overwhelmed," West isn't intimidated by the large task before him. He has 11 years of teaching experience under his belt, including work at Los Angeles Unified School District and charter schools in the Pacific Palisades.

West was on a team that developed charter school Renaissance Academy in the Pacific Palisades, which was recently shut down for financial considerations, and Port of Los Angeles high school in San Pedro.

West graduated from Georgia State University, a school in his hometown of Atlanta, with a dual-degree in broadfield social science and theatre performance. He received his master's in educational administration from California State University, Dominguez Hills. He has an administration credential, but "I have no desire to do that anytime soon. It's like an insurance policy."

West, who has a strong background in drama, says journalism just sort of fell into his lap one day when he was teaching at an inner-city middle school. The school's administration just approached him and asked him to lead a journalism program.

"It was small little venture on the part of very talented writers there. I took courses and tried to learn as much as I could," said West. "So to

say I'm an award-winning journalist.... Well..." wouldn't really be accurate, he laughed.

"I'm amazed. [Beverly High] is a great school and great staff. Everybody seems to happy to be here, the students and the teachers seem to feel truly blessed to be here. I see teachers arriving as early as 6, 6:15 in the morning and then staying until 6, 7 or 8 o'clock at night. It's not the norm that I've seen. The students [work hard] as well. It's contagious," said West, who has stayed until 8 or 9 at night working with his journalism students last week.

The journalism students and West will soon be traveling to St. Louis to take part in a national newspaper competition. When they return, West says the journalism students are going to begin reworking their newspaper "Highlights" and their news broadcasts to create more consistency from issue to issue.

When West isn't teaching, he is spending time with his two-year-old daughter Soojan, surfing, or renovating his home, a 118-year-old Victorian home in San Pedro near the harbor that he and his wife Youngsin purchased a little over two years ago.

West says he also loves to travel. He's been to 38 countries and is "hoping to pick up many more."

Other New BHUSD Teachers:

Beverly Vista

Ashley Ireland
Jennifer Postlewaite

El Rodeo

Danielle Cole
Kathryn Feeley
Emily Greenfield
Randy Hurwitz (also at Hawthorne)
Rebecca Metrano

Hawthorne

Michelle Kaye

Horace Mann

Nancy Berger
Hardeep Gosal
Lori Levi
Ethan Smith
Michelle Stadford

Beverly High

Sharon Bramblett
Alexander Breitman
Melony Bronder
Rhonda Williams (Brown)
Kalina Estrada
Camellia Hasempour
Lynne Heneidi
Ross Landgreen
Kathryn Marks
Katie Murray
Miyako Polk
Mary Ellen Quade
Emily Smith

New BHHS Assistant Principal

Kelly Tabis

MEASURE H WILL CREATE A DRAMATIC IMPROVEMENT IN THE WILSHIRE AND SANTA MONICA INTERSECTION

"With their extraordinary donation of property to create new lanes on these two major streets and their commitment of funds to synchronize the traffic lights,



The Beverly Hilton Revitalization Plan will significantly reduce congestion. It is a good plan and it will work."

– Sam Schwartz, International Traffic Management Expert



EXISTING CONDITION



PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

- Measure H is not a traffic generator: 90,000 cars pass through this intersection every day. The project will add a total of 325 new car trips* through the intersection. That represents .0036 of all daily trips – about 1/3 of 1%.
- Measure H creates two dedicated left turn lanes on Wilshire Boulevard using 1,200 linear feet of Beverly Hilton property to alleviate the bottleneck by widening the street.
- Measure H creates a new westbound lane on Santa Monica Boulevard using 992 linear feet along The Beverly Hilton property.
- No lanes on Wilshire Boulevard, Santa Monica or Merv Griffin Way will be closed during the day.
- \$5 million in a Traffic Improvement Trust Fund established upfront, prior to construction, to pay for new lanes, synchronize traffic signals on Wilshire and Santa Monica Boulevards and initiate further mitigation measures.

THE *Beverly Hilton Revitalization Plan*

www.YesMeasureH.com



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