

L'Shana Tova – Wishing You A Sweet New Year!

# BEVERLY HILLS COURIER

The Newspaper of Record for the World of Beverly Hills

VOLUME XXXVIII NUMBER 38 \$135 PER YEAR - \$1.25 PER COPY • www.bhcourier.com

SINCE 1965

September 26, 2014

## THIS ISSUE



Infiniti of Beverly Hills hosted "Showroom Chef" last Thursday. **4**



Fajita is a 4-month-old Westie/Schnauzer mix puppy looking for a home! **4**



Friends of Greystone held their annual membership drive on Sunday. **5**



JEM Hebrew School helps children make their own shofars. **5**



Josh Flagg teams with The Courier to tour exquisite westside properties. **11**

- Arts & Entertainment **13**
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George Christy, Page 6

Reports Surfaced About Hillary Clinton's Regular and Rigorous Workouts With A Trainer, According To Amy Chozick Of The New York Times For Strength During The Long Arduous Presidential Campaign

Editorial from Rabbi Pressman AND MORE

## CLASSIFIEDS 25

- Announcements
- Real Estate
- Rentals
- Sales
- and More



## Normans Triumph

Powered by stout defense and strong running game, Beverly Hills High football team beats San Gabriel 35-0 for the team's first victory since 2012. For the full story on the win, see **Sports** on page 16.

## No City Council Review For Beverly Hills Waldorf Astoria

By Matt Lopez

The Beverly Hills Waldorf Astoria successfully surmounted an unexpected hurdle on Tuesday, when the City Council voted 4-1 not to bring the project up for review. Councilman John Mirisch, the lone dissent, had asked his colleagues to review the process which led to Community Development Director Susan Healy Keene approving

(see 'WALDORF ASTORIA,' page 20)



The Waldorf Astoria

## BAA Writes Last-Minute Letter of Support For Somma Haul Route In Exchange For \$30K

By Victoria Talbot

In a last-minute letter to the Los Angeles Planning and Land Use Management (PLUM) Committee, the Bel-Air Association (BAA) Land Use Committee faxed a letter the evening before a scheduled hearing on a Haul Route Application for the massive project at 10697 Somma Way. The letter expressed support for the haul route.

The Bel-Air Association made the decision to support doubling the potential hauling and extraction in the area, according to residents, without contacting any Somma Way homeowners for their in-

put or opinions. The move seems to have laid down the gauntlet between the BAA and the Bel-Air Homeowners Alliance (BAHA), and become the fodder for a membership drive over resident's opposition to that action.

The Bel-Air Association website states that its mission is, "to enhance the quality of life in Bel Air. We are a non-profit organization that maintains Bel-Air as a safe, beautiful and vital community. This vision becomes a reality by encouraging participation from our

(see 'SOMMA HAUL ROUTE,' page 18)

## Beverly Elder: Mary Dohn, 104, Good Shepherd Lamb

Part 5 in a series on Beverly Hills residents who have grown with the Centennial City.

By Laura Coleman

Mary Dohn moved to Beverly Hills in 1948, a newlywed Catholic schoolteacher from Indiana who had grown up with strong Midwestern family values.

"I always thought I'd get married, that I'd stop working and have a family," Dohn recalled of the dream she'd harbored since childhood. At 38, she met fellow Indianan Bernard Dohn, 12 years her senior, and the two were soon married.

"He was interesting and involved in the world's activities and was people-caring," she



Mary Dohn

recalled of the man she was married to for 42 years until he died in 1990.

After a "lovely" honeymoon in Bermuda, the Dohns drove two cars ("probably" a

(see 'MARY DOHN,' page 19)



Celebrity Photo/Scott Downie

**PEACE PEOPLE** — Ringo Starr and Barbara Bach participated in the International Day of Peace celebration with John Varvatos Fall 2014 ad campaign for peace and love event that supports Peace Rocks at the Varvatos West Hollywood boutique.

Celebrants included Paul Stanley, Madchen Amick, Parker Young, Tommy Davidson, Zach Gilford, Glen Hughes, Bailey Chase, Aasif Mandvi, Nick Simmons, Joe Walsh.

For more photos, see George Christy's column on page 6.

## SOMMA HAUL ROUTE

(Continued from page 1)

membership through awareness, communication, response, and community endeavors . . . utilizing a broad array of strategies to define and resolve issues for the individuals we serve."

BAA states that they have "had the opportunity to coordinate with the applicant" and create terms and conditions with which they lend their approval. That includes this:

"For every 500 cubic yards of earth materials moved from the project site, we ask that this developer contribute \$500 to the Bel-Air Association's flagship program "Project Pothole," which funds are specifically earmarked to repair potholes and other street issues exacerbated by the project dirt hauling and construction... If the developer uses double axle dirt hauling trucks, we ask that such amount be increased to \$750 per 500 cubic yards."

It can be construed that this aligns the BAA with the interest of the developer; the more earth exported, the bigger the "pothole fund." The City of Los Angeles Bureau of Street Services is responsible for the proper maintenance of streets, not the BAA.

The BAHA contends the pothole fund is marginal, bordering on laughable, because of the major infrastructure changes that will be needed to contend with the wide array of different projects under construction just on Stone Canyon alone and the thousands of truck hauling trips that are needed to accommodate those projects.

The letter of support also appears in direct opposition to a vocal community of residents who have skyrocketed the BAHA to prominence.

Without consulting the residents affected by the project or the BAHA, "the Bel-Air Association inexplicably sent a letter to the City supporting the hauling route," wrote BAHA president Fred Rosen in a letter to residents.

Then, on Wednesday, BAA attorneys sent another letter to BAHA members who participate in email threads on related issues. "It is clear that this correspondence is being sent at the direction of the Bel Air Homeowners Alliance, with the sole goal of these ongoing communications being to harass."

Though the BAA admits that they have negotiated directly with the developer on Somma Way, the attorney, Andrew Skale of Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo, P.C., writes, "the BAA is not a government agency, it is a non-profit organization that simply wants to help Bel-Air. Hence it is not responsible for permitting, zoning or approving construction in Bel-Air."

Though the mission states

that the organization encourages "participation," the letter threatens that if the emails continue, the BAA will "defend itself by seeking protection via an injunction or restraining order."

The Somma Way project hearing at PLUM drew several residents, present to make public comments in opposition to the haul route, which is a direct threat to the health and safety of the residents, places an unnecessary and added burden on strained infrastructure and represents years of intense excavation, hauling and cement trucks on streets that are so narrow only one vehicle can pass at a time. The project involves removing 50,000 cubic yards of soil just to haul the dirt away, and drilling 270 caissons.

The BAHA was formed in response to increasing public safety issues from the encroachment of overdevelopment and mega-mansion-building. It is a community of residents who have hired legal representation to fight the Somma Way project and others like it that are on the increase in Bel-Air. Residents who were frustrated with the lack of support from the BAA have joined the BAHA. "Their objectives and the community's are no longer the same," wrote Rosen. "They are clearly an organization without leadership."

Legal counsel represented BAHA at the PLUM hearing, where the applicant asked for a two-week continuance following a change of counsel. One week was granted. The PLUM Committee will meet over this again on Oct. 3.

Also on the agenda were two motions proposed by councilmember Paul Koretz. The first is relative to the Los Angeles Departments of City Planning, Building and Safety and the Bureau of Street Services "to report on directives for hillside neighborhood safety, modifications to the exemption process and related matters."

The second motion by Koretz is relative to the Los Angeles Departments of City Planning and Building and Safety, "to report on best practices relating to hillside neighborhood safety, withholding Certificate of Occupancy permits for outstanding violations."

The original purpose of the City's Baseline Hillside Ordinance land-use plan is allegedly to preserve neighborhood integrity and sustainable neighborhoods. To his considerable credit, Koretz has done an about-face and become the first Los Angeles councilmember to seize on this issue. Tom LaBonge, who also represents hillside areas, has joined Koretz in the motions.

Bel Air residents have loudly speculated as to why the Bel Air Association refuses to disclose the names of its board members, or the names of its land use committee.



**ON THE TEAM**—On Monday, the Community Services' Department kicked off its annual six-month leadership and educational program for residents. Forty-two members were selected for the 2014-2015 class of TEAM Beverly Hills. Back row (from left): Stefan Dahlerbruch, Natasha Shabani, Marsha Tauber Sallai, Deborah Frank, Alison Hawkins, Rachel Levin, Merle Bauer, Katherine Shiel, Zachary Okyle, Goldie Cohen, Robert Anderson, Josh Greer, Lucas Harward, Paige Dubelko, Emma Osore, April Jergens, Jay Solnit, Don Rosen, Gail Millan, Lisa Wolfe, Scott Redston, Jon Paul Puno and Josh Emrani. Middle row (left to right): Tanaz Akhlaghi, Sharon Persovski, Tony Storm, Victoria Gordon, Elizabetta Candido, Lindsey Daniels, Stella Sarraf, Andrew Kadar, Lanna Solnit, Michelle Redston, Michelle Khalatian, Kimberly Reiss, Ben Reiss, Isabel Hacker, Michael Smooke, Marjorie Blatt, Vic Nol, and Team BH Administrator Larry Kohn. Front Row (left to right): Assistant City Manager Mahdi Aluzri, Community Services Director Steven Zoet, City Attorney Laurence Wiener, City Manager Jeff Kolin, Councilmembers William Brien, MD, Nancy Krasne, Mayor Lili Bosse, Vice Mayor Julian Gold, and Councilmember John Mirisch. Not pictured: Bernice Balson, Bryan Roberts and Rick Wolfen, BHHS student participants.

## Beverly Hills' Entrepreneur Aaron Kumetz Dies At Age 86

By Joan Mangum

It is with a heavy heart I report the Wednesday passing of Aaron Kumetz after a long illness at his Beverly Hills' home. He was 86.

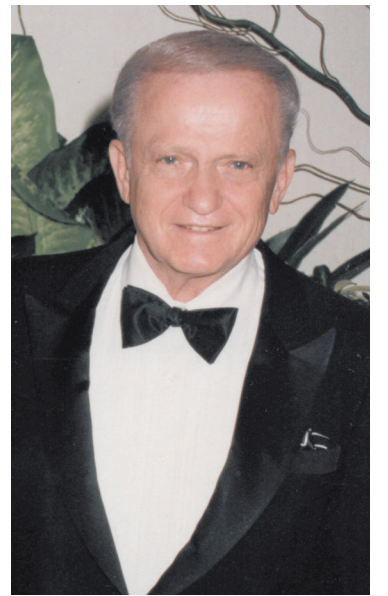
Born in Ternoka, Russia, in 1927, his family emigrated to Mexico where he was raised before moving to California at age 20. While studying chemistry at UCLA, he assisted his parents in establishing a real estate development operation. The Beverly Hills-based Kumetz Company has grown into a major force in that business with holdings throughout

the state and also in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area.

Aaron Kumetz was a wonderful man who enriched the lives of those who knew him and will be greatly missed by his friends and family: his wife Renee; daughters Linda Waxman (Robert) and Dr. Nancy Lee (John); and three grandsons.

Funeral services will be 3 p.m. Sunday at Hollywood Forever Cemetery.

Donations in his name may be made to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research.



Aaron Kumetz

## Jarvee Hutcherson Named To NAACP Image Awards Committee

By John L. Seitz

Jarvee Hutcherson, president of the Beverly Hills-based Multicultural Motion Picture Association, has been named a new member of the nominating committee for the 46th NAACP Image Awards, according to Clifton Beers, director of the awards.

Hutcherson oversees the 1,600 member MMPA organi-

zation, which annually stages the Diversity Awards. He also serves as the national president of the National American Society of Young Musicians, as president/producer/director of Tri-Elite Entertainment, Ltd of Beverly Hills, and as founder/executive director of the Hutcherson Family Foundation.



Jarvee Hutcherson

## Tom Arnold, Oscar De La Hoya, And Kelly Meyer To Be Honored At Peggy Albrecht Friendly House 25th Awards

By John L. Seitz

Peggy Albrecht Friendly House Los Angeles, the nation's first residential program for women recovering from alcohol and drug abuse, will honor Tom Arnold, Oscar De La Hoya and Kelly Chapman Meyer at its 25th annual awards luncheon Oct. 25 in The Beverly Hilton.

Sydney Holland and Sumner Redstone serve as honorary co-chairs at the event co-chaired by Peggy Albrecht and Michael Hollingsworth. Celebrity TV fashion stylist Brad Goreski will emcee.

"Each of our amazing honorees has demonstrated a long-standing commitment as a role



Pictured (from left): Tom Arnold, Kelly Meyer and Oscar De La Hoya

model for civic involvement," said Albrecht.

The Humanitarian of the Year Award goes to writer, producer/actor Arnold. The Man of the Year Award honoree is De La Hoya, an Olympic gold medalist, 10-time world boxing champion and Grammy-nominated singer. Health advocate Meyer will be hon-

ored with the Woman of the Year Award. She is co-founder of the American Heart Association's Teaching Gardens.

Table packages begin at \$1,500 with individual tickets at \$150. For information, call 323-904-4400 or visit [www.FriendlyHouseLA.org](http://www.FriendlyHouseLA.org).