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MOBILE STROKE UNIT – Emergency Responders from the UCLA Stroke Unit and Beverly Hills Firefighters and Paramedics joined the Mayor and philanthropists Steve Gordon and Henry Gluck Tuesday to usher in a new era in stroke care with the Mobile Stroke Unit. Pictured (from left): Fire Captain Ettore Berardinelli; UCLA CT Tech Kevin Brown; EMS Programs Administrator Sean Stokes; Fire Captain Jonathan Borer; Fire Battalion Chief Scott Stephens; Firefighter/Paramedic Jacob Morrow; Firefighter/Paramedic City of Santa Monica Kenny Harrell; Firefighter Adam Meinhardt; Engineer Melissa Hillis; UCLA Critical Care RN Fidelia Pineda; Firefighter Bryan Miller; Engineer Dirk Seib; Engineer Selvin Sotelo; Firefighter Brien Hager; Dr. May Nour; Beverly Hills Mayor Julian Gold, MD; Henry Gluck; Steve Gordon; and Beverly Hills Fire Chief Greg Barton. For more on the Mobile Stroke Unit, see page 5.



WALK THIS WAY—Beverly Vista teachers (from left) Katina Vallens, Laura Rogers, Tracey MacGregor and Amy Arebalo are among the scores of Beverly Vista staff to leave school on Monday at 3:15 p.m., wearing black, in a show of solidarity with the teachers' union.

Impasse With Beverly Hills Teachers, District Officials Seeps Into Classrooms

By Laura Coleman

In a year that has seen a multitude of academic successes often dwarfed by the inner and external turmoil swirling around the Beverly Hills Unified School District, the current standoff between the Board of Education and the teacher's union is now threatening to encroach on students' education.

For the past week, per instructions by the Beverly Hills Education Association (BHEA) to its members, teach-

ers have been doing the minimum amount possible once the school day ends in an effort to put pressure on BHUSD in its contract negotiations with its teachers' union as part of a painful negotiation tactic known as "Work to Rule."

"Many parents are upset about how the 'Work to Rule' may affect their children. It's an unfortunate situation for all, to say the least, and we all hope it gets resolved soon as we know

(see 'BHUSD TEACHERS' page 7)

'Rent Banking' Covered At Second Rent Stabilization Ordinance Meeting

By Victoria Talbot

Landlords and tenants filled the Municipal Gallery Sunday for another round of facilitated dialogue with Prof. Sukhsimranjit Singh, moving a step closer to a conclusion of the discussions on the finalization of the Rent Stabilization Ordinance (RSO).

This meeting focused on three issues and options that can be read in the report presented by Paul Silver, Vice President of HR&A Advisors, Inc. The HR&A report forms

the basis for the discussions.

Banking of annual rent increases, in which landlords can "bank" a portion of the allowable annual rent increase to be used at a later date, is a component for many cities with rent stabilization ordinances, according to the HR&A report. The use of rent banking allows property owners some flexibility to cover expenses, but can also result in unexpectedly large rent increases for the tenants.

(see 'RENT STABILIZATION' page 13)



Barry Avrich archives

AN HONORED GENTLEMAN — Romanian born Ben Ferencz is the focus of *Prosecuting Evil*, a documentary, produced by Barry Avrich, about the conviction of 22 Nazi officials. Ben was 27 years old at the time of the trial.

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

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The Toronto International Film Festival Premieres *A Star Is Born* Starring Bradley Cooper and Lady Gaga, Also The Already-Acclaimed *First Man* With Ryan Gosling About Astronaut Neil Armstrong.

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Lili Bosse To Receive Fred Hayman Visionary Award At Golden Palm Awards Gala

By Laura Coleman

Two-time Beverly Hills Mayor Lili Bosse has been selected to receive the inaugural Fred Hayman Visionary Award at this year's Best of Beverly Hills Golden Palm Awards Gala.

Slated for Monday, Oct. 15 at the Montage Beverly Hills, the annual gala produced by the Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce recognizes outstanding local businesses and people.

"I can think of no one more deserving of this award. Her vision and energy are contagious and good for our City," said Chamber President Todd Johnson.

(see 'BOSSE VISIONARY' page 10)



Lili Bosse

Activists Seek Shooshani's Removal From Planning Commission

By Victoria Talbot

A string of controversial meetings of the Planning Commission that culminated with Commissioner Joe Shooshani personally confronting resident Debbie Weiss has led Ronald Richards, president of the Beverly Hills Hillside Protection Association (BHHPA), to send a letter to the City "requesting the removal of Planning Commissioner Farshid Joe Shooshani."

"There are facts that make Commissioner Shooshani's removal necessary to maintain the integrity of the Planning Commission," wrote Richards,

who lists nine reasons why he should be removed, including a lawsuit arising out of an encroachment permit he took out at his West Hollywood building. The case involves an oversized JLG lift parked on the street in front of Shooshani's Sunset Boulevard property with an expired permit, that was being used to change a jumbotron sign. The Plaintiffs are the family of a motorist killed in an early morning collision with the lift.

Richards contends the lawsuit influences Shooshani's judgment, noting a "concern of bias

(see 'SHOOSHANI' page 10)

Wells Bring Hope To Honor Stanley Black At September Gala

By Matt Lopez

The longtime philanthropist Stanley Black will be honored on Sept. 23 at the 10th annual Wells Bring Hope fundraiser.

Black has been a well-known supporter and donor to countless organizations in Los Angeles and beyond, including various Jewish organizations (Anti-Defamation League, Jewish Big Brothers, American Friends of Tel Aviv University, American Friends of Hebrew University, Guardians of the Jewish Home for the Aging and others), along with healthcare organizations such as the City of Hope, Vista Del Mar Child and Family Services and Children's Hospital Los Angeles.

In its 10 years, the Los

Angeles-based Wells Bring Hope volunteer organization has drilled more than 500 wells in Niger, West Africa, helping transform more than half a million lives with access to safe water.

The 10th anniversary event will be held at a private Holmby Hills estate from 5-8 p.m. Tickets are \$150, with all proceeds going toward supporting the life-saving work of Wells Bring Hope.

To purchase tickets, visit: <https://wellsbringhope.org/10th-anniversary-fundraiser/>.



Jewish Community Foundation Awards Cutting Edge Grants

By John L. Seitz

The Jewish Community Foundation of Los Angeles (www.jewishfoundationla.org) announced more than \$2 million in grants to nine innovative, local initiatives focused on transforming Jewish L.A.

This year's Cutting Edge Grant recipients serve a wide range of needs, including: training Jewish teen advisors to offer support and guidance to their peers via a smartphone application; educating and empowering Jewish clergy, educators, and older adults on the issue of elder abuse; and building a Spanish language, pro-Israel media presence in Los Angeles.

Foundation President/CEO Marvin I. Schotland stated: "This year's grant recipients are

an exceptionally diverse group of social innovators that together address a broad range of issues in Los Angeles."

Among the organizations receiving grant money were: Act. IL, Bet Tzedek, Fuente Latina, Hillel 818, IsraAID US, Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters, Jewish Family Service, The Jewish Federation of Greater L.A. and Project Miracle.

Established in 1954, the Jewish Community Foundation manages charitable assets of \$1.25 billion entrusted to it by over 1,300 families and ranks among the 10 largest L.A. foundations. Last year, its donors distributed \$100 million in grants to more than 2,600 nonprofits with programs which span the range of philanthropic giving.

(Continued from page 1)

In addition to honoring the beloved local mayor who brought the City BOLD (Beverly Hills Open Later Days) and launched "Walks With the Mayor" alongside the hashtag #BHHealthyCity, the evening will honor five outstanding businesses.

The Peninsula Beverly Hills and Crateful Catering will be honored with the Business Excellence Award; Montage Beverly Hills will receive the Modern Luxury Award; and Gratitude Beverly Hills and Elfiefit will receive the Innovation Award.

Tickets for the black tie event, which includes dinner, beverages and live entertainment by Keith Chagall featuring Dana Bronson Trio, start at \$250 for Chamber members and \$325 general admission.

SHOOSHANI

(Continued from page 1)

due to a conflict of interest arising from construction code violations by a company owned by Commissioner Shooshani which resulted in death."

In the August 23 meeting, Shooshani first attacked the Beverly Hills Hillside Protection Association. He equated a homeowners' association formed by residents at their own expense with lobbyists, who must register with the City if they receive \$5,000 or more for the purpose of influencing City officials on development projects.

"We don't know who they are, how many people, who authorized them, are they legitimate... they call themselves 'president,' who made them president?" he exclaimed at Weiss.

He claimed to have spoken to the mayor and asked that such resident homeowners' associations be placed on the agenda for the Sunshine Task Force. He wants the City to "register" them and to discern their membership and board members in the same manner as paid lobbyists, whose interests are determined by an employer.

Then, citing a video of a Canadian news clip about the Loma Linda project and Francesco Aquilini, Shooshani accused Weiss of being an activist only out of self-interest, to protect her view.

Weiss has catalogued more than 7,000 hours of unpaid work that ultimately resulted in the Hillside Ordinance and the subsequent Basement Ordinance, to keep Beverly Hills residents from having the problems found in communities like Doheny-Sunset Plaza, Sullivan Canyon, Brentwood and much of Bel Air.

She has worked with residents throughout the City, sharing knowledge and experience

to help others learn the language of City Hall to communicate effectively with government.

Her selfless efforts have spawned an enlightened citizenry, which Shooshani has likened to lobbyists.

Their organization is not unlike the Trousdale Homeowners, the Beverly Hills North Homeowners, or the Southwest Homeowners' Association. Those organizations have unnamed membership, informal leadership proceedings and in each case, the same person has led the organization for decades without dispute.

Weiss had come to the meeting to address the Commission regarding personal attacks and a lack of civility at the Aug. 9 meeting when resident Byron Allen disparaged Commissioner Peter Ostroff, Debbie Weiss and Ronald Richards.

Despite his barrage of attacks, his Calle Vista project will progress out of the commission with a 3-2 approval, though it is located on a street that is less than 24 feet wide and where there will be over 6,000 cubic yards of export, mostly bedrock.

That is more than four times the current limit for the street, and more than twice the limit city-wide. Allen criticized neighbors who opposed the project and gathered signatures. Allen told Commissioner Ostroff, who could not make the findings to approve the project, that he should "recuse himself," because he did not have an open mind.

Chair Andy Licht allowed Allen to continue to speak for nearly 45 minutes before allowing Weiss only a 2-minute rebuttal, though she had a formal presentation and represented at least four neighbors in the audience and over 100 people who had signed a petition opposing Calle Vista.

In March, Shooshani led a 21-minute rebuke of then-Chair Lori Greene Gordon, for allegedly not supporting the commission decision at a City Council meeting to approve the Basement Ordinance.

At that time Shooshani expressed outrage that the City Council did not accept the ordinance as the Planning Commission presented it to them, which would have allowed all the pipeline projects to go through under the old rules without further consideration. "This is a slap in our face," he said, overestimating the Commission's authority.

It is difficult to discern what Gordon said that could be construed as undermining the commission's decision. "I want to encourage you to accept the ordinance as written... You have expressed extreme confidence. I want you to have the same confidence in our ability to judge these cases fairly," where her words.

Commissioners are selected by the City Council from applicants who apply for the open seats. They serve at the behest of the council and can be removed from office at any time with a majority vote of the council. They are advisory, though the Planning Commission, Design Review and Architectural Commissions make final decisions that can be called up or appealed at the council level.

Richards contends that in deliberations, Shooshani shows "a repeated lack of analysis to determine required findings... and a failure to uphold the General Plan."

Shooshani has said on at least two occasions that he doesn't support the General Plan because he feels it is out



Pictured: The view in front of Shooshani's building in West Hollywood.

of date. On both occasions, the commission was deliberating the Friars Club project, a mixed-use condominium project that will require a zone change to complete.

Shooshani has openly expressed interest in having his children live in the condominium.

Richards also accuses Shooshani of "failing to prepare in advance of meetings," citing several instances where he says the commissioner demonstrated a lack of familiarity with an agenda item or confused items repeatedly.

Richards said that Shooshani "fails to abstain from inappropriate or rude behavior," when addressing the public. The Commissioner's Handbook states, "anyone who speaks at a public meeting, whether a member of the public or a fellow Commissioner, is treated with courtesy and respect. Behavior that is rude or dismissive is unacceptable."

At the Aug. 23 Planning Commission meeting, Shooshani drove Weiss to tears. "His conduct... has now crossed the line," wrote Richards, calling his attitude towards Weiss "excessively aggressive."

Evidently, "civility" seems

to be in short supply in the Planning Commission.

"At the Aug. 23 meeting he directed the City Attorney to create an unconstitutional... litmus test as to which organizations are 'legitimate,'" wrote Richards, citing *NAACP v. Alabama* (1958), in which "disclosure of affiliation with groups engaged in advocacy may constitute... restraint on freedom of association," and he says such inquiries infringe on the right of freedom of expression guaranteed in the First Amendment of the US Constitution.

"Shooshani's inquiry and implied threats of disclosure are attempts to intimidate expressive association in front of his Commission... We are residents who help bring about profound change and will continue to bring change to what was a series of policies and laws which were jeopardizing the Beverly Hills hillsides," Richards said.

Richards continued: "The BHPA filed the complaint as result of numerous complaints about Commissioner Shooshani. After the Aug. 23 hearing we felt it was time to air this issue publicly. It is time for Mr. Shooshani to resign or be dismissed."