



Clear and sunny, with temps around 60

# BEVERLY PRESS

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Volume 35 No. 3

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

January 16, 2025

## Magic Castle extends lifeline to fire victims

■ Hollywood relief effort fulfills urgent needs

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Approximately 200 people impacted by the wildfires came to the Magic Castle in Hollywood on Jan. 14 for a relief effort organized by the Academy of Magical Arts.

The Magic Castle's parking lot

on Franklin Avenue was filled with clothing, shoes, household goods, toys, personal hygiene items and other necessities donated for fire victims, who were also provided freshly cooked meals. Academy of Magical Arts chief operating officer

See **Magic Castle** page 21



photo by Edwin Folven

Fire victims Nicole Dorsey, holding her child, and Luke Bilyk, of Altadena, selected clothing during the relief effort at the Magic Castle.

## Fire destruction comes into focus

■ Palisades, Eaton fires burn nearly 40,000 acres

BY TABOR BREWSTER

The full extent of the damage in Los Angeles' historic firestorm is becoming clearer as strong winds subside and firefighters gain control of the destructive blazes.

The unusually strong Santa Ana winds peaked on Jan. 8, spreading fires rapidly across Los Angeles as firefighters struggled to contain the flames amid drier-than-average conditions. Although winds subsided over the weekend of Jan. 11, the National Weather Service again issued a "Particularly Dangerous Situation" and red flag warnings on Jan. 15. However, as of press time on Jan. 15, no additional wildfires were sparked.

Los Angeles County Fire Chief Anthony Marrone said in a press conference on Jan. 15 that the Eaton fire has burned 14,117 acres of the Angeles National Forest and urban areas near Altadena. The fire has leveled entire neighborhoods in Altadena, displaced thousands of residents and killed at least 16 people. More than 7,000 structures have been damaged or destroyed. The fire is 45% contained as of press time on Jan. 15.

Los Angeles City Fire Chief Kristin Crowley said the Palisades fire has burned 23,713 acres of the Santa Monica Mountains and urban areas including Pacific Palisades and Malibu. Similar to the Eaton fire, the Palisades fire has destroyed entire neighborhoods, leaving blocks that once contained homes and businesses unrecognizable. At least nine people have died and 5,316 structures have been destroyed. The fire is 19% contained as of press time on Jan. 15.

The Hurst fire, which erupted in the Sylmar area on Jan. 7, has burned at least 799 acres and is 97% contained, according to CalFire. Other wildfires – including the Sunset fire that erupted in the Hollywood Hills on Jan. 8, and the Kenneth Fire that began in the West Hills on Jan. 9 – have been fully contained.

Curfews have been imposed in areas where evacuation orders and warnings have been issued, and the U.S. National Guard has been deployed to protect neighborhoods that were impacted by the fires. Authorities have arrested dozens of suspects for suspected looting and at least three for suspected arson.



photo by Tabor Brewster

U.S. National Guard troops were deployed to areas impacted by the fires, including the Santa Monica and Pacific Palisades border.

"Justice will be swift. Justice will be significant if you want to take advantage of this tragedy," Los Angeles County District Attorney Nathan Hochman said at the press conference.

Hochman's office announced on Jan. 15 charges against two sus-

pects accused of arson in the City of Industry and Irwindale.

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass said Los Angeles was "not quite out of the woods" on Jan. 15, as high wind warnings continued. She advised residents to prepare

See **Fire** page 21

## Hotels in West Hollywood offer discounted lodging

■ City opens more resources for fire zone evacuees

BY RANCE COLLINS

In response to the mass evacuations, hotels in West Hollywood have stepped up, offering special rates for displaced L.A. County residents. The city's tourism board, Visit West Hollywood, sprang into action last week, working with luxury lodging along the Sunset Strip to provide temporary housing options.

"In the wake of recent events, West Hollywood and our hotels stand united to support those affected," West Hollywood Travel + Tourism Board's chief marketing officer Jeff Morris said. "With all our hotels fully operational, we are committed to providing a welcoming haven for



photo courtesy of 1 Hotels

The 1 Hotel West Hollywood is among the properties offering reduced rates for fire victims.

evacuees. Many properties in our community have stepped up with special rates and thoughtful measures, such as pet-friendly accommodations, complimentary breakfasts and waived parking

See **Hotels** page 22



photo by Tabor Brewster

An emergency shelter at the Pan Pacific Recreation Center hosted evacuees during the Sunset fire.

## Sunset fire swiftly doused

■ LAFD firefighters save structures in Hollywood

BY TABOR BREWSTER

Firefighters worked overnight to contain the Sunset fire that burned through approximately 43 acres of the Hollywood Hills on Jan. 8. The

fire – which threatened many hillside homes and iconic businesses in the heart of Los Angeles – was quickly suppressed. No structures were damaged, according to CalFire.

The LAFD alerted the public after the fire near Runyon Canyon erupted at approximately 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 8. The blaze set the community

See **Sunset fire** page 21

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CALENDAR

**'Beethoven & Tchaikovsky'**

Join the LA. Phil for "Beethoven & Tchaikovsky" in four concerts from Thursday, Jan. 16, through Sunday, Jan. 19, at the Walt Disney Concert Hall. The performance includes Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 5, "Emperor," and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 6, "Pathétique." Led by Swiss conductor Philippe Jordan, the concert features the LA Phil and pianist Yefim Bronfman. Showtimes are at 8 p.m. on Jan. 16 and 18, 11 a.m. on Jan. 17 and 2 p.m. on Jan. 19. Tickets start at \$79. 111 S. Grand Ave. laphil.org.



**'Hurricane Kate'**

Scott Golden's "Hurricane Kate" runs from Friday, Jan. 17, through Saturday, Feb. 1, at the Stella Adler Theater. Directed by Katierose Enriquez, the production follows four estranged siblings who discover what makes them a family after their mother dies. Set along the Gulf Coast in 1994, the comedic drama explores generational trauma, mental health and the constant search for belonging, with the most dysfunctional kind of family. Proceeds from ticket sales benefit A Light in Dark Places, an organization dedicated to reducing the stigma of suicide. Showtimes are at 8 p.m., Thursday through Monday; 4 p.m., Sunday. Tickets are \$30. 6773 Hollywood Blvd. eventbrite.com/e/hurricane-kate-tickets-1110957546929?aff=oddtcreator.

**Ruskin Art Club**

Join the Ruskin Art Club for "John Ruskin, James Whistler and the Ghost of Turner," a virtual program on Saturday, Jan. 18, from 10-11:30 a.m., via Zoom. Enjoy a special opportunity to hear scholar Marjorie Cohn, curator emerita of the Fogg Museum at Harvard University, discuss the famous 1878 libel case of James Whistler vs. John Ruskin. RSVP required by visiting us02web.zoom.us/j/3563370764?pwd=aVZXTHUySXFMY9PcHhZK0VDRzJQdz09&omn=83763681130#s-join-url.

**Short plays**

Open-Door Playhouse, known for award-winning online audio dramas and comedies, presents four short plays live on Saturday, Jan. 18, at 5:30 p.m., and Sunday, Jan. 26, at 4:45 p.m., at the Stephanie Feury Theater in Hollywood. Part of the 30 Minutes or Less Festival, the plays include "Two Girls," delving into the harrowing realities of sexual assault, and "No..?" focusing on trauma and the struggle for empowerment, on Jan. 18. "The Suitcase," a short play about a married couple coming to a major decision about their life together, and "Randall and Ward Attend the Theater," about two men who have a heartfelt discussion as they stand in line for their weekly Saturday night at the theater, will be held on Jan. 26. Tickets start at \$10. 5636 Melrose Ave. 30minutesorlessfestival.com.

**Josh Gad**

Center Theatre Group is holding "In Gad We Trust: An Evening with Josh Gad" on Saturday, Jan. 18, at 7 p.m. at the Kirk Douglas Theatre. Actor and comedian Gad offers a distraction from the inescapable existential dread of the present day in the form of an adventure. He will share stories ranging from fatherhood to self-image and his career. Audience members will receive a signed copy of his book "In Gad We Trust." Tickets are \$89. 9820 Washington Blvd, Culver City. centertheatregroup.org.



**'The Great Lover'**

The Robey Theatre Company welcomes audience members for a reading of Alexandre Dumas' comedy-drama "The Great Lover" on Sunday, Jan. 19, at 3 p.m. at the Los Angeles Theatre Center. "The Great Lover" debuted in 1839 in Paris. The notorious Duke de Richlieu wagers that he can seduce the first girl he sees. He's thwarted by the Marquise de Prie, but Gabrielle (the girl) is placed in a terrible predicament with her fiancé. Ben Guillory directs a cast that includes Tiffany Coty, J.C. Cadena, Dane Gbrayes, Nic Few, Jessica Obilon, Kermit Burns, Stan Sellers, Jason Mimms and Joshua Bruce. Admission is free; reservations are requested. 514 S. Spring St., downtown. therobeytheatrecompany.org.



learn techniques and principles, as well as doing work with the county through the regional Contractor Development and Bonding Program. To register, visit eventbrite.com/e/bonding-101-tickets-1125575740339?aff=oddtcreator.

**Kemper Donovan book signing**

Author Kemper Donovan will discuss and sign his book "Loose Lips: A Ghostwriter Mystery" on Tuesday, Jan. 21, at 6:30 p.m. at Diesel, A Bookstore. The bestselling host of the "All About Agatha" podcast injects the spark of a Golden Age murder mystery into the present, as a ghostwriter's skills are put to the test aboard a bestselling author's decidedly insalubrious cruise. Books are available for purchase and include admission to the event. 225 26th St., Ste. 33, Santa Monica. dieselbookstore.com.

**Piano Spheres**

Piano Spheres is holding a performance by Colombian American pianist Andrés Jaramillo titled "A Journey of Immigrants" on Tuesday, Jan. 21, from 8-10 p.m. in Thayer Hall at the Colburn School. Jaramillo, Piano Spheres' Leonard Stein Resident Artist for 2024-25, specializes in music by contemporary Latinx composers. Through solo piano works, the artist explores the emotions, perspectives and approaches inherent in the immigrant experience, intertwining the composers' cultural backgrounds with those of their new homelands. Jaramillo will perform three new compositions by Paola Márquez, Jorge Salazar and Josh Rodriguez. Join Jaramillo, Márquez, Salazar and Rodriguez for a free pre-concert discussion at 7 p.m. moderator Veronica Krausas. Admission is free. 200 S. Grand Ave. pianospheres.org.



**'Melomaniacs'**

Caroline Nagy, a 2024 WeHo Artist Grant recipient, presents "Melomaniacs: The Improvised Journeys of Independent Musicians" on Wednesday, Jan. 22, from 7-8:30 p.m. in the West Hollywood City Council Chambers. The program transverses arts research, advocacy and live performance by showcasing independent musicians living and working in West Hollywood. Admission is free and open to the public; tickets are required. 625 N. San Vicente Blvd. eventbrite.com/e/melomaniacs-tickets-1020148741347?aff=oddtcreator.



**Holocaust film**

Join Holocaust Museum Los Angeles for a screening of "Making of Memoryhouse" on Thursday, Jan. 23, at 6:30 p.m. at The Wallis. The documentary film follows choreographer Melissa Barak as she and her creative team bring a ballet inspired by the Holocaust to life. A post-screening conversation will be held with Barak, Holocaust survivors and Holocaust Museum L.A.'s chief impact officer Jordanna Gessler. Tickets are \$16.50. 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd. tickets.thewallis.org/20352/20353.



photo by Edwin Folven

The suspects committed a smash-and-grab robbery in a jewelry boutique in the Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills.

**Five arrested after robbery at hotel in Beverly Hills**

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

The Beverly Hills Police Department arrested five male suspects on Jan. 10 after they committed a smash-and-grab robbery at a jewelry boutique inside the Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills hotel. The BHPD is still searching for additional suspects and the incident remains under investigation, Lt. Kevin Orth said.

Police received multiple calls about the robbery at approximately 12:30 p.m. at the hotel at 9850 Wilshire Blvd. Multiple suspects

smashed glass cases and stole jewelry. A security guard was injured during the incident, Orth said. The guard was treated and is recovering. The suspects fled the hotel in at least two vehicles. BHPD officers located a black Mercedes-Benz sedan allegedly used in the crime

See Arrests page 22

**WeHo pushes back mayoral installation ceremony**

BY RANCE COLLINS

West Hollywood's Jan. 13 mayoral installation was pushed back a week due to the ongoing wildfires. While no major fires or incidents were reported in West Hollywood, city staff cited impaired air quality, wind concerns and the Palisades and Eaton fires among the reasons for the postponement.

Vice Mayor Chelsea Byers will now assume the role of mayor on Jan. 21, during the regular 6 p.m. City Council meeting. Councilman John Heilman will be sworn as vice mayor.

"With so many people in L.A. County suffering incredible losses, postponing the celebration seemed the appropriate thing to do," Heilman said. "This will be a challenging time for the entire county. We are very fortunate in West Hollywood that we weren't directly impacted by the fires. We owed a great deal of gratitude to the city and county firefighters who responded so well to the fire in the Hollywood Hills."

The Sunset fire, which erupted on the evening of Jan. 8, was contained within a few hours. Initial evacuation orders and warnings extended as far south as Sunset Boulevard and included many blocks within West Hollywood's boundaries.

"There have been such strong responses from our sheriff's department and our fire department, our

See WeHo page 22

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

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

The three nearest facilities offering comparable services are as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This notice is provided in compliance with California law.

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8444 WILSHIRE BLVD.  
4TH FLOOR  
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MAILING ADDRESS:  
P.O. BOX 36036  
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The Beverly Press and Park Labrea News are weekly newspapers, published on Thursdays. Mail subscription is \$120 annually. Decreed newspapers of general circulation, entitled to publish legal advertising, Feb. 10, 1960 by Superior Court Order No 736637. Decreed newspapers of general circulation, entitled to publish legal advertising in the City of Beverly Hills and the County of Los Angeles, Dec. 22, 2020 by Superior Court Case Number 19STCP04891. Government Code 6008.

**Contracting webinar**

L.A. County is holding a virtual small business contracting webinar on Tuesday, Jan. 21, from 3-4:30 p.m. The free interactive webinar helps small business contractors



# Beverly Hills school district offers fire relief

## Community organizes book drive for impacted schools

BY TABOR BREWSTER

The Beverly Hills Unified School District is offering support to schools affected by the Palisades and Eaton fires through various initiatives.

On Jan. 13, the district offered space in its Hawthorne campus for the Palisades Charter High School community to reconnect after the school was severely damaged in the Palisades fire. According to the school's principal Pamela Magee, the fire destroyed approximately 40% of campus facilities. Palisades Charter High School is currently looking for a temporary campus to hold classes.

"We have a unique opportunity to show the strength and resilience of

our community in the face of adversity," Magee said in a statement. "By coming together, we can ensure that our students can stay in their learning environment, with their friends and mentors, at a time when they need it most."

PCHS staff, administration and board members gathered at the Hawthorne campus to support one another and discuss the recovery of the school. Guest speakers included Magee; California first partner and documentary filmmaker Jennifer Siebel Newsom; member of the governor's advisory council on physical fitness and mental well-being Dr. Nisha Devi; executive director of the Mindsight Institute Dr. Dan Siegel; mental health advocate Ross Szabo and Los Angeles Unified School District Board Member Nick Melvoin, 4th District. "I've been inspired by the out-

pouring of kindness and support from people who want to help our Palisades school communities, including BHUSD opening their doors to Pali High's staff this week," Melvoin said in a statement. "Amid so much heartbreak and uncertainty, I think it was comforting for Pali's teachers and staff – some of whom also lost their homes – to gather in person and begin to talk about the future. I'm immensely grateful to BHUSD for providing the space to make that possible."

The Beverly Hills Education Foundation provided breakfast and lunch at the event, partnering with local businesses Beverly Hills Bagel, Nicole's Kitchen, Boulon and Fashion Bistro.

"We are honored to support our neighbors during this difficult time," BHUSD Superintendent Dr. Michael Bregy said. "This marks the beginning of our collective efforts to help neighboring schools, and we will continue to find ways to offer hope and healing."

To donate to Palisades Charter High School's recovery efforts, visit [givebutter.com/raiseipali](http://givebutter.com/raiseipali).

In addition to providing physical space to PCHS, the BHUSD is mobilizing its community to help rebuild elementary school libraries that were destroyed by the fires. The BHUSD PTA is partnering with Los Angeles children's book author Kristi R. Bradbury and over 100 authors worldwide to rebuild lost library book collections across Los Angeles. The district's Hawthorne campus will serve as a delivery hub



photo courtesy of BHUSD

Staff from Palisades Charter High School gathered on the BHUSD's Hawthorne campus to offer each other support and reconnect after the fire destroyed approximately 40% of the school.

for books, where they will be distributed to each school affected by the fires. Anyone interested can select a book online by visiting [bhUSD.org/books](http://bhUSD.org/books) and choosing the Hawthorne Campus address, 624 N. Rexford Drive. Upon checkout, the book will be automatically shipped to the Beverly Hills school and then distributed to libraries in need.

Bregy said the book donation drive is a reflection of the BHUSD community's willingness to support its neighbors.

"This is without a doubt the most generous city I have worked or lived in. I have had more emails than ever before with offers of support and together we are able to play a small

role in standing with our fellow educators for all students," Bregy said. "As a community, we have the opportunity to make a big difference for lots of schools. With our Parent Teacher Student Association, PTAs, former BHUSD employee Kristi Bradbury and over 100 authors worldwide, we're working to replace every book lost in the fires, rebuilding many elementary school libraries completely. Join me and please go to [bhUSD.org/books](http://bhUSD.org/books) to send a book to a school in need. This is about more than books – it's about hope and recovery for all students. Together, we are stronger, and now is the time to play our part in helping those impacted."



photo by Tabor Brewster

Beverly Hills installed a flag display to memorialize those who died in the Oct. 7, 2023, attack.

## Local leaders welcome news of Israel-Hamas ceasefire

BY RANCE COLLINS

The announcement of a ceasefire deal between Israel and Hamas was met with hope from Los Angeles officials and organizations on Jan. 15. The conflict, which began on Oct. 7, 2023, had been in tense negotiations for months. President Joe Biden and Secretary of State Anthony Blinken played a crucial role in mediating.

Dozens of hostages taken by Hamas, including two American citizens, are expected to be released as part of the deal, and the war-torn Gaza Strip will see its first glimpse of peace in over a year.

Jewish Federation Los Angeles said it welcomed the news.

"For more than 460 days, our beloved Israeli family members held captive in Gaza have endured unthinkable suffering," the federation wrote in a statement. "They have never left our hearts, our prayers, or our collective resolve to see them brought home. Today, we hold onto hope that the first phase of the agreement will lead to a more secure Israel and a more peaceful region. We remain vigilant in our work to support victims of Oct. 7, which includes caring for hostage families; rebuilding devastated communities; providing physical, mental and emotional rehabilitation; and supporting the effort to bring Diaspora Jewish communities and the people of Israel closer together."

Full details of the negotiations had not been released as of press time. However, Biden took credit and cited the May 2024 deal brokered by him and Blinken.

"After 15 months of unimaginable pain, there is some hope that hostages and their families may be reunited," Assemblyman Rick Chavez Zbur (D-Los Angeles) said. "Hamas began a conflict that has caused untold suffering for Israeli and Palestinian civilians. I pray this is the beginning of a better path forward."

The Oct. 7, 2023 attack killed 1,195 individuals, while nearly 46,000 Palestinians and hundreds of additional Israeli citizens, as well as journalists, academics and humanitarian aid workers of many nationalities have died in the ensuing war.

"[The] announcement of a ceasefire and hostage deal between Israel and Hamas is much welcomed news for families of hostages who will be released, their family members, friends and the Jewish community at large, including here in West Hollywood," West Hollywood Mayor John Erickson said. "It also signals our collective hope for peace in the region including the possibility of Gaza no longer being under the thumb of a terrorist organization like Hamas. West Hollywood stands alongside the Jewish, Israeli and Palestinian communities impacted by this war and remains fiercely committed to lasting peace and security."

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photo by Edwin Folven

The Los Angeles City Council is examining ways to better prevent fires when high winds are anticipated.

## L.A. looks at more restrictions during Red Flag Warning days

Los Angeles City Councilwomen Katy Yaroslavsky, 5th District, and Nithya Raman, 4th District, introduced a motion on Jan. 14 to improve and expand Los Angeles' Red Flag Warning System to ensure that high fire risk areas are adequately secured prior to major fires.

The city's Red Flag Warning restrictions currently only limit street parking on specific streets throughout parts of the city's Very High Fire Severity Zones to ensure emergency vehicles can navigate roads. The windstorms and wildfires have clearly identified the need for additional mitigation measures to reduce the risk of fires and increase access for emergency response vehicles on high wind days, the councilwomen said. The motion seeks to formalize and expand Los Angeles' response to National Weather Service Red Flag Warnings and Particularly Dangerous Situations, known as PDS.

Since the start of the windstorm and wildfires on Jan. 7, council offices in impacted areas have been coordinating hillside park closures in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones – including in Griffith Park and Franklin Canyon – despite Red Flag Warnings having been enacted. Construction work in hillside areas and debris hauling continued throughout the fire emergency, and reports were received about large gatherings in high-risk areas and barbecuing in public parks near hillsides. The activities pose a significant fire risk and can impede roadways, highlighting the need for more proactive work and coordination to secure high fire risk areas, the councilwomen added.

"This past week, my team was on the ground dealing with issues in our hillsides that made it clear we need better systems in place for emergencies like these," Yaroslavsky said. "We learned a great deal in real time, and this motion is about using those lessons to create standardized practices that will keep our hillsides and communities safer in the future."

"We have seen just how high the stakes are when it comes to preventing the rapid spread of wildfire," Raman said. "We need crystal clear protocol and formalized practices for implementing precautionary measures, closures and restrictions, and coordinated operations for relaying these messages to the public. This is non-negotiable for protecting our communities in high fire risk areas."

The legislation instructs the Emergency Management Department, Los Angeles Fire Department, Los Angeles Police Department, Department of Recreation and Parks, Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, Department of Building and Safety, Department of Transportation, FilmLA, and all other relevant offices and departments to report within 30 days on existing and new protocols and measures in response to Red Flag Warnings by the National Weather Service. Additionally, the City Administrative Officer has been instructed to provide a report on increasing the fine for violation of any existing or future Red Flag Warning ordinances.

For information, visit [councildistrict5.lacity.gov](mailto:councildistrict5.lacity.gov) and [cd4.lacity.gov](mailto:cd4.lacity.gov).

## Restaurant community provides comfort

■ Businesses supply free meals for firefighters, evacuees

BY TABOR BREWSTER

As wildfires devastate communities across Los Angeles, local restaurants are coming together to support first responders and those that have been displaced by the historic disaster. Many restaurants in Beverly Hills, Los Angeles and West Hollywood are offering free or discounted meals to firefighters and people who have been forced to leave their homes.

The Hideaway, a Mexican steakhouse in Beverly Hills, is offering its three-course "Uno, Dos, Tres" meal free to evacuees and first responders through Friday, Jan. 17.

"In the Beverly Hills community, the restaurants have always had each other's back," said Bart Clemmer, The Hideaway's general manager. "Right now, we're embracing the people who need it most – the people who feel alone in this. They just know that they are not alone. If we can just help out in a simple way of offering somebody a free meal, that's great. Somebody comes in and gets a margarita – every little bit helps for people just to return back to normal, return back to safety, to actually feel that they're part of a community and they're not alone in these trying times."

The Hideaway is located at 412 N. Rodeo Drive. For information, call (310)974-8020 or visit [thehideawaybeverlyhills.com](http://thehideawaybeverlyhills.com).

Crustacean, a Beverly Hills restaurant that specializes in modern Vietnamese cuisine, is offering free pho and garlic noodles to firefighters and evacuees until at least Jan. 17.

The restaurant is owned by House of An, a family-run business which also operates fine dining establishments in Orange County, Santa Monica and San Francisco. Elizabeth An, House of An CEO, said that local businesses coming together to offer relief is a testament to the strength of the community.

"To the brave firefighters who risk their lives to protect us, and to the individuals and families who have been displaced or lost so much, you are in our hearts. It's our hope that the meals we've had the privilege of sharing bring a small measure of comfort and a reminder that you are not alone," An said.

An sympathized with those that have lost their homes due to the fires, as her family was displaced from Vietnam following the fall of Saigon in 1975.

"Although the circumstances may differ, my family knows firsthand the fear, degradation and emptiness that come with losing home and all you've ever known," she said. "It's a suffering and a climb we wouldn't wish on anyone. If there's even a small way we can help alleviate that burden, we will always endeavor to try. We will continue to stand with our community and do what we can to help as we rebuild together."

Crustacean is located at 468 N. Bedford Drive. For information, call (310)205-8990 or visit [crustaceanbh.com](http://crustaceanbh.com).

Other restaurants in Beverly Hills offering free or discounted meals include Bacari, Lawry's The Prime Rib, Marea and Spago.

Pink's Hot Dogs, a longtime



photo by Edwin Folven

Pink's Hot Dogs, located at 709 N. La Brea Ave., is serving a special hot dog that benefits the Los Angeles Fire Department.

Hollywood staple, is saying thank you to firefighters and first responders for their service during the fires in Southern California with a special LAFD Hot Dog.

Owner Richard Pink said he was inspired to create the new hot dog because of the fire department's rapid response to the Sunset fire, which erupted on Jan. 8 in Runyon Canyon and was contained the following day. Pink is donating 100% of the proceeds from sales of the hot dog to the Los Angeles Fire Department Foundation.

"The fire department did an amazing job. They saved Hollywood," Pink said. "This is our way of saying thank you. We are very grateful for the amazing job they did."

The LAFD Hot Dog is an all-beef stretch hot dog topped with New York red onions and golden mustard, in tribute to red and gold colors of the Los Angeles Fire Department. It is priced at \$7.95. Pink said the hot dog will be available through at least Sunday, Jan. 19.

The Los Angeles Fire Department Foundation provides equipment to the department and funds programs that help save lives and protect communities. The LAFD Foundation oversees the Adopt-A-Fire-Station program, which improves living and working conditions in the city's 106 fire stations, and supports youth outreach and education programs.

Pink's Hot Dogs is located at 709 N. La Brea Ave. For information, call (323)931-4223, or visit [pinkshollywood.com](http://pinkshollywood.com).

Dupar's – a longtime Los Angeles diner known for its hot cakes – is offering a 50% discount to police and firefighters dining in at its restaurant within The Original Farmers Market.

"At Du-Par's, we stand with our community during these challenging times. Our hearts go out to all those impacted by the recent events, and we want to show our support for the incredible work being done by our police officers and firefighters," owner Frances Tario said. "To express our gratitude, we're offering 50% off to these heroes. We deeply appreciate the dedication, hard work and resources being poured into protecting our communities. Thank you for your service – we salute you for your courage and commitment to keeping us safe. Together, we are L.A. strong."

Dupar's is located at 6333 W. 3rd St. For information, call (323)933-8446, or visit [dupars.net](http://dupars.net).

Additional restaurants in Los Angeles offering free or discounted food include Blu Jam Cafe, The

Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf, Detroit Pizza Depot, Hard Rock Café, Jon and Vinny's, Linden and Mother Wolf.

In West Hollywood, free and discounted meals are offered at Benny's Tacos and Rotisserie Chicken, Bravo Toast, Prince Street Pizza and Salties Girl.

Beyond the restaurant industry, individuals and organizations in the Los Angeles community are providing thousands of meals to first responders and evacuees.

Our Big Kitchen L.A., a kosher meal prep kitchen, has stepped up to support emergency workers and displaced families amid recent devastation in Los Angeles. On Sunday, Jan. 19, OBKLA will convene 100 volunteers from across the region to prepare and deliver 500 meals to evacuation centers and first responders.

"This outpouring of support highlights the incredible strength and unity of our community," said Yossi Segelman, OBKLA's executive director. "We are honored to be able to serve those who are working around the clock to protect and care for others, as well as those who have lost so much in the wake of this disaster."

To donate or volunteer, visit [obkla.org](http://obkla.org).

Other organizations providing meals to those affected by the fires include the Hollywood Food Coalition and Project Angel Food. To donate to the Hollywood Food Coalition, visit [hofoco.org/donate](http://hofoco.org/donate). To donate to Project Angel Food, visit [angelfood.org/donations/donate](http://angelfood.org/donations/donate).

Julie Stromberg, a Brookside neighborhood resident, L.A. Central Planning Commission member and longtime neighborhood advocate, is providing meals to fire stations. Together with United Neighbors – a coalition of residential groups throughout California – Stromberg is organizing the funding and deliveries of home-cooked meals to firefighters across Los Angeles.

Stromberg said she started organizing meal deliveries after asking a firefighter what she could do to help.

"He said, 'the firefighters are really tired. They're working a lot. They have to make meals every day, for lunch and dinner. When they do that, there's at least one crew member who has to go to the grocery store and get everything. Then they have to come back, then they have to cook, and they're just so tired. They would really appreciate to just have a meal.' I [said], I can do that," Stromberg said.

## Tax filing deadlines extended for people impacted by wildfires

The Internal Revenue Service and California Franchise Tax Board have announced tax relief for individuals and businesses in Southern California affected by wildfires.

Taxpayers in affected areas have until Oct. 15 to file federal individual and business tax returns, and make tax payments. The IRS is offering relief to people in areas designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency as being impacted. Currently, individuals, all households and business owners in Los Angeles County

qualify for tax relief. For information, visit [irs.gov/newsroom/tax-relief-in-disaster-situations](http://irs.gov/newsroom/tax-relief-in-disaster-situations).

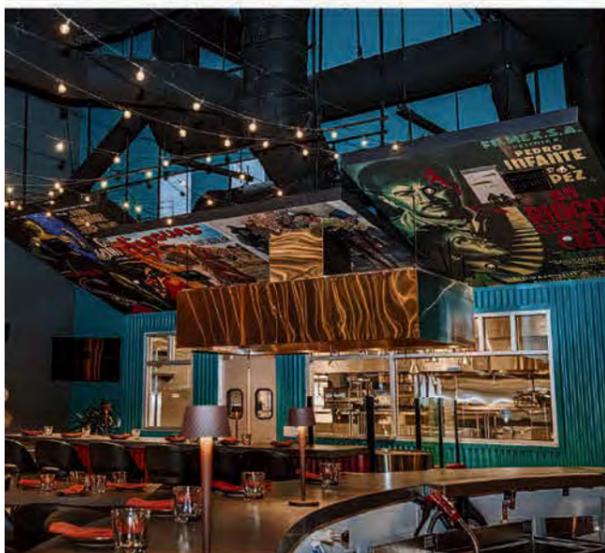
Taxpayers who live outside the disaster area but could potentially qualify for relief are encouraged to call the IRS at (866)562-5227.

The California Franchise Tax Board has also extended the tax filing period to Oct. 15 for people and businesses affected by wildfires. Taxpayers affected by a disaster may claim a deduction for a disaster loss. For information, visit [ftb.ca.gov](http://ftb.ca.gov).



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# Housing providers step forward to help

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

To provide relief to victims of the devastating wildfires in Southern California, many apartment and property owners are offering support and making special accommodations to ensure displaced people find housing.

The Apartment Association of Greater Los Angeles is offering a multitude of housing resources on its website at [aagla.org](http://aagla.org), providing a centralized place for people seeking rental housing in Los Angeles. Apartment Association of Greater Los Angeles executive director Daniel Yukelson said property

owners throughout Los Angeles have stepped up to offer assistance.

“We launched a site [on Jan. 13] and we now have more than 1,000 listings. We’ve had an overwhelming response,” Yukelson said. “There’s lots of different incentives being offered. Property owners want to step in and help.”

Park La Brea, which has 4,250 units, is among the large properties offering special help to people affected by the wildfires. The complex at 6200 W. Third St. is owned and managed by Prime Residential, which is offering similar assistance at its properties from Oxnard to San Diego, totaling approximately 9,500 units.

“We are always looking for any opportunity to help our community. It’s important as a housing provider. Prime is very connected to the community at large,” said Aryn Thomez, vice president of property management for Park La Brea. “This is a great opportunity to support our community. We have already seen an uptick in people who are interested.”

Prime Residential is offering regular term leases with waived early termination fees for the first 12 months at Park La Brea and all of its Southern California properties. Also, Prime Residential is waiving application fees and pet deposits.

Thomez said the company is taking other steps to help. Employees are being offered time to volunteer so they can help in communities affected by the fires. Prime Residential is providing lunches



photo by Edwin Folven

Park La Brea is among the properties offering special incentives to those seeking to rent housing.

and essential supplies to fire departments and emergency response teams and will be organizing food and clothing drives at its properties to support residents in need.

“We are looking holistically to do anything we possibly can,” Thomez added.

Other rental property owners in the area are taking steps to help people in the fire zones find housing. A spokeswoman for AIR Communities, which owns the Broadcast Center Apartments, Palazzo East Apartments, Palazzo West and Villas at Park La Brea, said they “will work” with anyone displaced in the areas affected by fire to find a unit in their properties.

Yukelson said he has received

reports about price gouging, with significantly inflated rental rates. It is illegal for property owners to raise rental rates more than 10% during a state of emergency, which was declared in California regions affected by wildfire on Jan. 8. He added that the potential for price gouging emphasizes the importance of Apartment Association of Greater Los Angeles’s list of available housing, as it includes legitimate owners offering to help.

“On our website, there are a lot of property owners offering discounts on security deposits and fees,” Yukelson said. “The big one is Park La Brea. Park La Brea is a longtime member.”

For information visit [aagla.org](http://aagla.org) and [parklabrea.com](http://parklabrea.com).

## Annual countywide homeless count postponed by fires

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority has postponed the 2025 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count for at least 30 days due to fires throughout Los Angeles County.

The Homeless Count was scheduled to be held from Jan. 21-23. The decision to postpone was approved by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Recent wildfires have created significant disruptions including the evacuation and displacement of individuals experiencing homelessness. LAHSA determined that conducting the point-in-time count under current circumstances would compromise the safety of volunteers and the accuracy of the data collected.

“The safety and well-being of our community, including those experiencing homelessness, is our top priority,” LAHSA CEO Dr.

Va Lecia Adams Kellum said. “We are grateful to HUD for their understanding and flexibility in granting this postponement. This will allow us to conduct the point-in-time count when conditions are safe and ensure that we obtain reliable data that accurately reflects the current state of homelessness in our community.”

LAHSA currently anticipates a 30-day postponement and is working with partners to finalize an appropriate date and reschedule the count. In the Beverly-Fairfax and Miracle Mile areas, the Mid City West Neighborhood Council coordinates the count, and Television City operates as a staging area. Representatives from Television City said they will open the doors to volunteers on the rescheduled date.

Information and updates will be provided as they become available at [lahsa.org](http://lahsa.org).



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## Museums offer free admission in wake of fires

■ \$12 million arts emergency relief fund launched

BY RANCE COLLINS

In response to the ongoing wildfires, Los Angeles County museums have provided artistic refuge to those affected. Collectively, the museums are working together to provide a relief fund for artists, as well.

On Jan. 13, the La Brea Tar Pits announced it would offer free general admission through Jan. 17. For information, visit [tarpits.org](http://tarpits.org).

“We hope our museums can serve as spaces of respite, offering comfort and connection with our natural and cultural worlds, while also providing enjoyable and engaging indoor experiences,” the

museum posted on social media.

The La Brea Tar Pits is part of the Natural History Museums of Los Angeles County, which coordinated with Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation to offer mobile museum educational experiences. The pop-up youth camps, with sponsorship from its Hancock Park and Exposition Park institutions, serve children unable to attend school during the crisis. To learn more, visit [nhm.org/educational-resources/mobile-museums](http://nhm.org/educational-resources/mobile-museums).

“The way the artistic community, including our world-famous museums, has stepped up to nourish the minds, bodies and souls of residents during this unimaginably difficult time is both inspiring and illustrative of what it means to be an Angeleno,” Assemblyman Rick Chavez Zbur (D-Los Angeles) said.



photo courtesy of NHMLAC

Mobile museums are popping up to help entertain students affected by the fires.

The Los Angeles County Museum of Art is also providing free admission and free parking, also through Jan. 17. Up-to-date details are available at [lacma.org](http://lacma.org).

“So many need places and spaces – for a moment to grieve, reflect, hope, commune,” the museum said in an Instagram post.

The Petersen Automotive Museum is highlighting its January Cruise-In, where 100% of the proceeds will benefit first responders. The event will showcase many classic vehicles like a 1957 Chevrolet Bel Air and a 1922 Leach Model 22A. Tickets can be found at [petersen.org/events/jan-cruise-in-2025](http://petersen.org/events/jan-cruise-in-2025).

Led by the Center for Cultural Innovation and the J. Paul Getty Trust, the L.A. Arts Community Fire Relief Fund will launch an online portal on Jan. 20 at 9 p.m. Through partnerships with the Mohn Art Collective, which includes LACMA, as well as East West Bank, the Mellon Foundation, the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation, the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Qatar Museums and the Ford Foundation, among others, the total donated already stands at \$12 million. The funds will be distributed to artists and arts workers who have lost their homes or studios in the wildfires.

“Far beyond its borders, the city of Los Angeles shapes our collective consciousness as a locus of astonishing imaginative power and artistic ingenuity,” said Elizabeth Alexander, president of the Mellon

Foundation. “Its people include artists, culture makers, performers and workers in the arts writ large – and its people need the nation’s immediate support. We will stand by Angelenos in the arts in this time of loss and devastation. Mellon is honored to join with the Getty Trust and Center for Cultural Innovation in launching this crucial fund, and to embolden others to do the same.”

The Getty Villa, one of the most treasured among the city’s museums, was threatened by the Palisades fire, though it ultimately avoided the flames. It is currently closed and will remain so through at least Jan. 20.

“I am pleased to report that the Villa remains safe and intact,” Getty president and CEO Katherine E. Fleming said. “While trees and vegetation on the property have burned, Getty structures have been unaffected, and the staff and collections are safe.”

Fleming said that the safety and well-being of the community are chief amongst the Getty Center’s concerns.

“Please know that Getty is committed to being a creative and effective resource as the wider Los Angeles community recovers ... I look forward to a time when we can all celebrate art and beauty together again,” Fleming said.

Updates on the Getty’s progress are on its website at [getty.edu](http://getty.edu).

The Academy Museum offered free admission Jan. 11-12 and highlighted the Motion Picture Television Fund as a nonprofit to lift up during the crisis. Information about the Academy Museum can be

found at [academymuseum.org](http://academymuseum.org).

“Our thoughts and condolences are with everyone impacted by the devastating wildfires,” the museum wrote in a Facebook post. “We are grateful the museum can continue to offer a safe gathering space for the community.”

Holocaust Museum L.A. remains open and is using social media to highlight fire responders, affected families and how people in the community can help. Additional information is available at [holocaustmuseumla.org](http://holocaustmuseumla.org).

The Broad in Downtown Los Angeles was closed for several days due to the fires, but reopened on Jan. 14. The Broad is always free, but notified guests that if they had a timed reservation ticket during the museum’s closure, it would be honored whenever they are able to attend.

“With open arms, we look forward to welcoming you back,” The Broad stated in a newsletter.

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

Los Angeles County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, 3rd District, connected the response from the museums as an example of the city’s heart.

“Seeing the outpouring of volunteerism and generosity ... has given me hope, not only for the work and the recovery that lies ahead, but how we come together as a community,” Horvath said. “Going forward, any success that we see in our rebuild is because people are working together and they’re focusing on helping one another and seeing that kind of generosity and outpouring right now has been absolutely inspiring.”

## New owner sees vibrant future for District La Brea

■ CIM Group acquires shops between First and second streets

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

District La Brea, a full block of adjacent shops and restaurants on the west side of La Brea Avenue between First and Second streets, was acquired in December by CIM Group, which plans to continue current operations at the site.

District La Brea is comprised of approximately 82,210 square feet of commercial space and has a three-story parking structure and 171

parking spaces. It is comprised of a mix of retail, restaurants and interior design businesses, including Arc’teryx, Stone Island, Undeclared, Market, Garrett Leight, Schott NYC, Burrow, Interior Define and AETHER Apparel, as well as Sycamore Kitchen and SUGARFISH by Sushi Nozawa.

The site formerly housed the Continental Graphics complex. The collection of one-to-three-story buildings was renovated and rebranded as District La Brea in 2013, and further developed in 2017. The parking structure at the corner of La Brea Avenue and Second street

features a 30-foot-tall mural by artist Shepard Fairey that wraps around two sides of the structure.

“CIM Group’s plan for District La Brea is to continue normal operations of this special collection of shops and restaurants on La Brea Avenue,” read a statement from CIM Group.

The purchase price for District La Brea was not divulged. Other business owners in the area expressed optimism about District La Brea’s new ownership.

“Overall, what they are doing on that particular block has been an asset to the neighborhood,” said James Panozzo, founder and execu-

tive director of LAUNCH LA, a gallery at 170 S. La Brea Ave. across the street from District La Brea. “It really fits the neighborhood and adds a lot of vibrancy.

There’s the Shepard Fairey mural, which everybody recognizes. It’s very positive. There really are some amazing places here on La Brea that people should know about.”



photo by Edwin Folven

A mural by artist Shepard Fairey is located on District La Brea’s parking structure at La Brea Avenue and Second Street.

## Newsom signs executive order to speed wildfire recovery

Gov. Gavin Newsom on Jan. 12 signed an executive order to suspend permitting and review

requirements under the California Environmental Quality Act and the California Coastal Act to allow



photo courtesy of the office of Gov. Gavin Newsom

The executive order removes certain review processes necessary for building permits in order to allow fire victims to rebuild their homes faster.

victims of the recent fires to restore their homes and businesses faster.

“When the fires are extinguished, victims who have lost their homes and businesses must be able to rebuild quickly and without roadblocks,” Newsom said. “The executive order I signed today will help cut permitting delays, an important first step in allowing our communities to recover faster and stronger. I’ve also ordered our state agencies to identify additional ways to streamline the rebuilding and recovery process.”

The executive order issued by Newsom will: suspend CEQA review and California Coastal Act permitting for reconstruction of properties substantially damaged or destroyed in recent Southern California wildfires; direct state agencies to identify additional permitting requirements – including provisions of the building code – that can safely be suspended or streamlined to accelerate rebuilding and make it more affordable; extend protections against price gouging on building

materials, storage services, construction and other essential goods and services to Jan. 7, 2026, in Los Angeles County; commit to working with the Legislature to identify statutory changes that can help expedite rebuilding while enhancing wildfire resilience and safety.

Newsom will continue to work administratively and with the Legislature to help those affected by the recent fires rebuild what they have lost.

To read the executive order, visit [gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/EO-N-4-25-Rebuilding-Final-signed.pdf](http://gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/EO-N-4-25-Rebuilding-Final-signed.pdf).

Newsom also recently signed an executive order to direct fast action to clear debris. Federal and state debris removal teams are pre-positioned on standby to immediately move into Los Angeles areas devastated by the fires once they are deemed safe by emergency officials.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is working with the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services and the U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency to safely remove and dispose of hazardous waste from homes and structures impacted by the Los Angeles fires.

“California is working closely with the federal government to get debris removal teams quickly into neighborhoods devastated by fire. This is the first step to rebuilding and recovery, and we’re clearing any obstacle to ensure this happens as soon as it’s safe for teams to move in,” Newsom said.

Debris removal teams will clean up household hazardous waste including paint, ammunition, pesticides, propane tanks and batteries in conventional and electric vehicles. It is the first and most complex phase of debris removal, clearing the way for the next phase focusing on structural debris, clearing trees at risk of falling and testing soil for contaminants.

For information, visit [irs.gov/newsroom/irs-california-wildfire-victims-qualify-for-tax-relief-various-deadlines-postponed-to-oct-15](http://irs.gov/newsroom/irs-california-wildfire-victims-qualify-for-tax-relief-various-deadlines-postponed-to-oct-15).

# Longtime West Hollywood business owner Mark Tashman remembered

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Many people are mourning Mark Tashman, founder of Tashman Home Center in West Hollywood, who died on Jan. 4 at the age of 87 at his home in Studio City.

Tashman was a well-known figure in the West Hollywood community for decades. Born in Poland, he immigrated to Israel with his family as a child, and later to the United States at the age of 21. Tashman opened the store – at the time called Tashman Screens & Hardware – in 1961. Over the years, it has grown and expanded, carrying a wide range of products including windows, doors, glass, screens, hardware, tools, plumbing supplies, cleaners and kitchen and bath fixtures. Mark’s son Kenny Tashman, who continues to operate the hardware store at 7769 Santa Monica Blvd., called his father “the definition of a true American success story.”

“He was a really hard worker. He loved America. He loved what the city gave to us,” Tashman said. “He was proud of this city, proud of his

kids and proud of his life.”

Mark Tashman enjoyed traveling, visiting six continents and nearly all 50 states. He was an avid gardener who transformed his backyard with landscaping and fruit trees. Kenny Tashman said his father also loved helping people and enjoyed spending time with his family.

“He loved my mother, Janet, for 62 years of marriage. He had three amazing children and five incredible grandchildren. I was blessed to have him as my father, mentor, partner and friend. He taught me the importance of hard work, family, being Jewish and a proud American,” Tashman said. “He was a great dancer, expert traveler, master gardener and photographer. He made



Mark Tashman

great salami and eggs too. He loved his business, Tashman Home Center, investing in multi-family properties, Israel, and debating politics. I am heartbroken that he is gone, but as he would say, ‘he squeezed the lemon fully,’ and he truly lived a ‘wonderful life.’”

Tashman is survived by his wife Janet; children Kenny and David Tashman and Raquel Rissman; grandchildren Alexandra, Sarah, Maura, Jacob and Aron; sisters Ayala and Ruth; sister-in-law Adrienne; as well as many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services for Tashman were held on Jan. 6 at Mount Sinai Memorial Park in Hollywood. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Jewish National Fund.



photo courtesy of Kenny Tashman

Mark Tashman, left, joined by his son Kenny, founded Tashman Home Center on Santa Monica Boulevard in 1961.

## NCJW/LA helps people in need with clothing

The National Council of Jewish Women, Los Angeles is joining efforts to provide charitable support as wildfires impact communities across Southern California.

The nonprofit is dedicated to empowering women in Los Angeles through economic justice and equity by providing direct cash assistance and skill-building opportunities, and advocating for policies that safeguard women’s financial stability and prosperity.

To support displaced individuals and families impacted by the recent fires, NCJW/LA is offering \$100 vouchers to 1,000 people for the Council Shop stores. The grants are intended to help address immediate

clothing needs and can be used at all Council Shops, including the shop at 360 N. Fairfax Ave.

NCJW/LA also plans to offer more vouchers in the coming months for families rebuilding their homes. To access the grants, contact NCJW/LA’s supportive services manager Selene Lopez or intake coordinator Maria Preciado by emailing [info@ncjwla.org](mailto:info@ncjwla.org).

NCJW/LA is also accepting monetary donations for its Emergency Fund and clothing donations at its Council Shops and Donation Center at 4625 W. Washington Blvd.

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

## Anderson Munger YMCA offers help during wildfire emergency

The Anderson Munger YMCA, located at 4301 W. Third St., is providing relief to victims of fires and is seeking volunteers.

Anyone in the community who knows individuals and families affected by wildfires can pick-up a care package at the YMCA, which also has volunteer drivers who can deliver supplies. The Anderson Munger YMCA also offers free

childcare, showers, wi-fi and essential services. Organizers are seeking donations of eye drops and lip balm that will be delivered to fire stations with cards and messages from the community.

For information and ways to volunteer, visit [ymcala.org/community-response](http://ymcala.org/community-response) and [ymcala.org/locations/anderson-munger-family-ymca](http://ymcala.org/locations/anderson-munger-family-ymca).

## Notable Quotes

*Everything an Indian does is in a circle, and that is because the power of the world always works in circles, and everything tries to be round. In the old days when we were a strong and happy people, all our power came to us from the sacred hoop of the nation, and so long as the hoop was unbroken the people flourished.*

Black Elk [Hehaka Sapa] (863-1950)

Black Elk Speaks, Being the Life Story of a Holy Man of the Oglala Sioux [1961], as told through John G. Neihardt [1881-1973]

Source: Bartlett’s Familiar Quotations

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# High winds, long nights, adult moments

“Now winter nights enlarge,” as the poet says.

So, good luck sleeping the next couple of weeks. If you need help, just read some of my past columns. I could send you a book. Better than Ambien. You’ll sleep like Caesar on the sofa.

Yeah, I’ll joke my way through this, just as I’ve joked my way through 68 years of a hobo life ... marked by much heartache, even more joy.

Fortunately, my family is safe from this horrible round of fires, but many friends lost homes. My sidekick Suzanne lost her place on the bluff in the Palisades, which reflected her taste, her beauty, her family life.

For Suzanne, it’s the place the kids celebrated birthdays, leaned into their algebra, prepped for prom. It was the place they curled up on the couch with a vat of popcorn on Friday nights to watch the latest “Ghostbusters.”

Like her, the house seemed to have an extra layer of lovely. I know she looked forward to the thump and wobble of grandkids there one day, on the buffed oak floors, where the bronze sunlight fell.

All that’s left: The arched entrance she designed. She’s proud of that doorway, the symbolism of it ... the elegant and resilient iron gate. Her home was 75 years old. The brand new place next door melted into the Earth. Like a crayon.

Too soon to say if she will rebuild, or let someone else have a turn. The view includes a necklace of headlights curling along the



by  
Chris  
Erskine

coast, fat and drippy sunsets and hawks floating in the sea breezes. That’s hard to abandon. In many ways, her fate is in the insurers’ hands now.

Then our American spirit will go to work, indefatigable and miraculous.

Is it stronger than hurricane-force fires. I think so. From the San Gabriels to the sea, we’ll soon find out.

By the way, if you’re wondering where God is in these moments, look to the volunteers, the first-responders, the true heroes. Look to this unprecedented outbreak of angels across Los Angeles.

FYI, I saw the devastation of Katrina in person, and what happened in Altadena and the Palisades is less daunting than that. Los Angeles has the resources and wherewithal to make a timely and solid recovery. I predict two to three years.

One indelible TV image still makes me smile: Steve Guttenberg scolding his neighbors for not leaving their keys in the ignitions when they ran for their lives. Really, there are no heroes like celebrity heroes.

We haven’t had an L.A. moment like that since O.J. paraded up the 405 in his Bronco, or Zsa Zsa

Gabor slapped that Beverly Hills traffic cop.

Thanks, Gute. Love ya, bro. Know you meant well.

Mass evacuations are “adult moments” for a city that generally shuns such things. Even a goof like me prepped a “go-bag” in preparation for fleeing the house, as White Fang and I did. My prediction: High-end go-bags will soon be available from Versace.

Meanwhile, Southern California remains a place of celestial beauty – cursed at times and magical at others. Just like pretty much everywhere else.

Right now, the gibbous moon is red and waning. One request: Please send rain – a steady, godly, glorious shower.

Swear, I’ll dance naked in it. Maybe just a small dish towel. Or a sock.

Look, I have the soul of a milkman, the courage of a caterpillar. But as someone who’s been through some awful crud in the past, I can promise you this: Humor is resilience; humor is my Shroud of Turin.

Humor is laughing in the face of the utter ridiculousness of renting super-soaker aircraft from Canada. Hey, Guv’nor. Can’t we swap a few Bentleys, or the Clippers, maybe buy 20 of our own?

And how about an emergency alert system that goes off like a yappy dog?

The other night, still stunned by Suzanne’s loss, my kids’ angst, my own self-doubt and the Chicago Bears’ abysmal season, I finally decided to “eat my feelings.”

Felt great.

Turns out, feelings are delicious. In fact, I’m putting together an “Eat Your Feelings” cookbook, due out in time for the holidays.

Generally, the notion of eating your feelings has a negative conno-

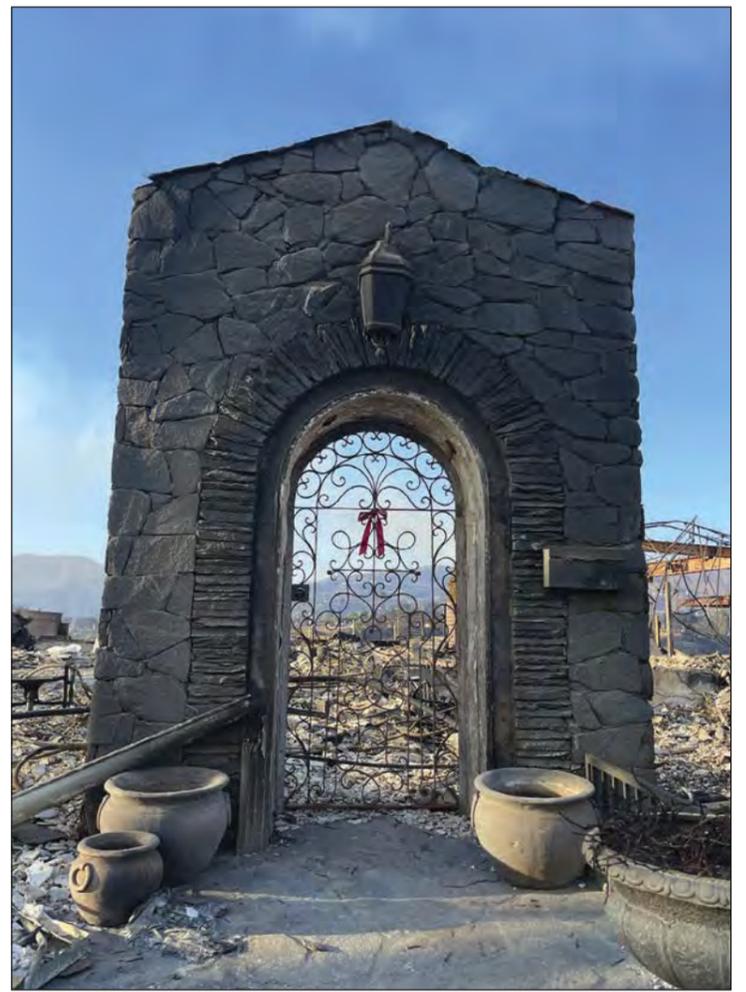


photo by Chris Erskine

The entrance to Suzanne’s family home is all that stands after last week’s fires.

tation, as if you’re eating for pleasure or something.

Well, as your doctor and best pal, I really recommend that you eat your feelings this one time. You’ve earned it.

In my case, I devoured some leftover Thai food from my daughter’s fridge. I ate a ball of sticky rice as you would nosh an apple or a giant

meatball.

Yum, in the face of heartbreak. Yum, in this poisoned, troubled world.

I mean, what the hell, right? Yum.

For past columns, and free Wednesday posts, please go to [ChrisErskineLA.com](http://ChrisErskineLA.com).

## Celebrities help Project Angel Food support fire victims

Grammy-winning musical artist and activist Annie Lennox visited Project Angel Food on Jan. 13 to support staff and volunteers providing relief to communities affected by wildfires.

Lennox, a longtime advocate for Project Angel Food and humanitarian causes, made a significant contribution to Project Angel Food’s Fire Relief Fund, which has raised more than \$500,000. Lennox spent the afternoon in Project Angel Food’s kitchen, thanking more than 50 volunteers and staff.

“Meeting these volunteers was a shot in the arm for me. Being able to flip the narrative from hopelessness to engagement can shift your perspective completely,” Lennox said. “Project Angel Food is adapting to the needs people have, extending what they’ve done for decades, and responding remarkably effectively.”

The fund’s success has been bolstered by major donations, including a \$250,000 grant from the Chuck Lorre Family Foundation, \$25,000 from United Talent Agency and the Nederlander Organization and Hollywood Pantages Theater, and \$50,000 from Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS. Additional donations came from Lennox and actresses Lori Loughlin and Victoria Principal. A live fundraising program on KTLA Morning News raised \$97,000 on Jan. 10.

The call to action was further amplified by Paris Hilton, who after losing her home to fire appealed to her 27 million Instagram followers to volunteer. The surge of support



photo courtesy of Getty/Project Angel Food

Musical artist and activist Annie Lennox joined volunteers at Project Angel Food to help with the organizations’ response to wildfires.

more than doubled volunteer engagement at Project Angel Food in 48 hours. In 2024, Project Angel Food had 3,800 total volunteers. In response to the fires, more than 8,000 offers to help have been made to Project Angel Food.

“It is at times like these that we see humanity at its best,” Project Angel Food CEO Richard Ayoub said. “The support from volunteers and donors has been overwhelming in the best way possible. We are continuing to feed people with serious illnesses, hundreds of whom have been directly impacted by the fires. We are adapting our services to not only deliver medically tailored meals but also provide hygiene products, clothing [and] ready-to-eat meals. Our fire fund is enabling us to meet those needs.”

Project Angel Food has significantly expanded services due to the fires. The organization is serving more than 3,000 individuals daily, up from 2,700 people. Project Angel Food has also introduced fresh meal deliveries along with regular frozen meal distributions, particularly for clients near active fire zones, and is distributing emergency supplies including non-perishable food, water, toiletries, hygiene products and gift cards. The nonprofit is temporarily relaxing qualification requirements to accommodate individuals at immediate risk from the fires.

Members of the public can donate at [angelfood.org/fire](http://angelfood.org/fire), and can sign up to volunteer by emailing [volunteers@angelfood.org](mailto:volunteers@angelfood.org) and visiting [angelfood.org/volunteer](http://angelfood.org/volunteer).



photo by Edwin Folven

A thick cloud of smoke blanketed the Los Angeles area after the Palisades and Eaton fires erupted on Jan. 7.

## Breathe Southern California, Cedars caution about dangers of smoke

In response to the devastating wildfires in the Los Angeles area, Breathe Southern California is cautioning people about the dangers of smoke and is offering resources to help.

During the fires, the air quality index in the L.A. area has reached some of the worst and most dangerous levels. The smoke contains harmful pollutants, including fine particulate matter, that pose serious risks to respiratory and cardiovascular health.

It is recommended people stay indoors with windows and doors shut when smoke is present in their neighborhoods. Avoid outdoor activities, especially exercise. Use an air purifier indoors if available and wear a KN95 or N95

mask outdoors.

“People may think, ‘Well, I don’t see or smell smoke anymore, and it looks sunny like it normally does in Southern California,’ and be lulled into thinking everything is fine,” Falk said. “But much of what can harm us in situations like this doesn’t have an odor. The Air Quality Index system was developed for everyday pollution, and not necessarily to warn us about particles that are not typically in the air because of wildfires,” said pulmonologist Jeremy Falk, MD, associate professor of Medicine at Cedars-Sinai.

For information and resources, visit [airnow.gov](http://airnow.gov) and [breathesocal.org](http://breathesocal.org).

# Metro advises about traffic impacts along subway project

Construction continues on the D Line subway extension project, with crews working at many locations along Wilshire Boulevard.

Street restoration work is in full swing near Wilshire/Western. For approximately four months, Wilshire Boulevard will be reduced to two lanes in each direction between Oxford Avenue and St. Andrews Place. Left turns will be prohibited from westbound and eastbound Wilshire Boulevard to Western Avenue and from eastbound Wilshire Boulevard to northbound St. Andrews Place.

Crews are also conducting street restoration work near the Wilshire/La Brea station. Work zones have been implemented along both sides of Wilshire Boulevard near Detroit Street. Farther west, a K-rail work zone is in place in the middle of Wilshire Boulevard between Courtyard Place and Masselin Avenue.

At Wilshire/Fairfax and Wilshire/La Cienega, crews are

restoring sidewalks, curbs and street lanes. Through March, Wilshire Boulevard is reduced to two lanes in each direction at La Jolla Avenue, where a K-rail enclosure is in place on the west side of the Wilshire/La Jolla intersection.

Wilshire Boulevard is also reduced to two lanes in each direction between San Vicente and La Cienega boulevards, and northbound La Cienega Boulevard is reduced to two lanes just north of Wilshire Boulevard. A K-rail work zone remains in place along the north side of Wilshire Boulevard in January.

At the Wilshire/Rodeo station, piling and potholing work will begin soon to prepare for the construction of appendage structures adjacent to the subway station. Piling involves drilling holes up to 30 feet deep using a rig, placing steel beams known as piles into the holes with a crane and backfilling the holes with concrete. Work will take place in multiple stages dur-

ing daytime hours along Wilshire Boulevard between South Cañon and Beverly drives. Access to 9441 Wilshire Blvd. and 9454 Wilshire Blvd. be maintained during the work.

At the Century City/Constellation station, temporary utilities previously used to support tunneling operations are being removed, which will be followed by the installation of permanent utility infrastructure to provide electrical power to the station. Weekday lane closures are planned from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

For questions about the D Line Extension project, call the 24-hour project hotline at (213)922-6934, email the project team at purplelineext@metro.net or visit metro.net.



photo by Edwin Folven

Lane closures are in place near the Wilshire/Fairfax station, where a K-rail work zone is located along the north side of the Wilshire Boulevard.

## Letters to the Editor

### Thoughts and well-wishes for victims of the fires

Re "Southland ablaze," Jan. 9 issue

Our thoughts are with everyone. The Freehand family is doing OK, and we wanted to let you know that we are thinking of you. We are all deeply saddened for our friends, longtime customers and everyone who has suffered monumental losses over the last few days.

We have re-opened the doors, and we will extend our sale into the first week of February. We hope you are all safe and that you can find some solace and comfort at this terrible time for our city.

*Freehand Gallery*  
8413 W. Third St.

### Hopeful that Councilman Hang lives up to promises in WeHo

Re "Hang plans to bring West Hollywood together," Jan. 9 issue

I am hoping that Danny [Hang] is a leader for the people, rather than a puppet for the outside interests whose money got him and [Mayor John] Erickson elected.

I really want him to succeed in the goals he states he wants, to bring our city back together. But I worry, because despite his being on the Disabilities Advisory Board for several years, he enthusiastically endorsed and still champions scooters, delivery robots and all other obstacles to people living with disabilities and older adults. Also, in the very pretty speech he made, he never mentioned helping people with

disabilities or older adults.

I hope with all my heart that he proves me wrong and that he will say thank you very much to Unite Here local 11 and Streets For All for the hundreds of thousands of dollars they contributed to his campaign, and then thumb his nose at their directives.

*Myra "Mikie" Friedman*  
West Hollywood

The campaign shows that [West Hollywood Councilman Danny] Hang has a lot of work to do to prove that he will be an independent voice. May he lean heavily into [Councilwoman] Lauren Meister's unique ability to be thorough and ask tough questions.

On that topic, Meister stands alone with her keen intellect and care for the city and the bigger picture.

*Alan Strasburg*  
West Hollywood

### Be grateful for speed bumps

Re "Speed bumps are the latest attraction on Van Ness," Dec. 26 issue

Congratulations to writer Michael Krikorian for having speed bumps on Van Ness. My neighbors and I have been trying to get them for years on Citrus between Wilshire and Olympic. Citrus is a major speedway for drivers avoiding Highland, who go very fast and blow through stop signs. So, Michael, perhaps practice gratitude in the new year, and appreciate not getting run over when you cross your street.

*Barb Henderson*  
Citrus Avenue

## CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD CITY COUNCIL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the West Hollywood City Council will consider the following item:

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM PLANNING SUMMARY AND BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2025-26

#### TIME/PLACE OF HEARING:

**Monday, February 3, 2025  
at 6:00 p.m.**

West Hollywood Park Public Meeting Room –  
Council Chambers  
625 N. San Vicente Boulevard  
West Hollywood, CA 90069

The meeting may also be viewed on various platforms. Please visit [www.weho.org/wehotv](http://www.weho.org/wehotv) for all the viewing options.

#### REQUEST:

To solicit input from the public on projects to be funded by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development through the COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) Program. The CDBG program is designed to assist communities in revitalizing neighborhoods, rehabilitating housing, providing public services, and stimulating economic development. The City anticipates receiving an approximate amount of \$226,000 in CDBG funds for the fiscal year 2025-2026. The City proposes to use the funds for Programs for the Homeless which pays for social services, including COVID-19 related assistance to homeless adults within the City of West Hollywood. Funding will also be used for permanent sidewalk repairs to eliminate pedestrian hazards within the City's designated Low- and Moderate-Income Areas.

The City Council Agenda and Staff Report will be available on Wednesday, January 29, 2025, online at [www.weho.org/councilagendas](http://www.weho.org/councilagendas).

The City Council of the City of West Hollywood will hold a Regular City Council meeting and will conduct a public hearing, at which time it will hear and consider information concerning the proposed use of CDBG Funding.

Those wishing to comment on the proposed funding have several ways to submit comments. Please visit [www.weho.org/councilagendas](http://www.weho.org/councilagendas) and read the document entitled, "How to Participate in West Hollywood City Council Meetings". You may contact City Clerk Melissa Crowder at [mcrowder@weho.org](mailto:mcrowder@weho.org) or at 323-848-6356 for more information or if you have additional questions.

For further information regarding the proposed use of CDBG funds, please contact Claudia Duncan at [cduncan@weho.org](mailto:cduncan@weho.org).

BY ORDER of the City of West Hollywood,  
Melissa Crowder,  
City Clerk

**Мы сообщаем вам об обсуждении проекта. Для дополнительной информации R4B ффи на русском языке звоните: 323-848-6826.**

## RESTAURANT NEWS

### Councilwoman joins Streets for All virtual happy hour

Out of respect for everything going on in the city, Streets for All has moved its happy hour with Los Angeles City Councilwoman Ysabel Jurado, 14th District, to Wednesday, Jan. 22 for its first virtual Happy Hour of 2025. Bring a favorite drink and best transportation questions for the featured guest. RSVP for the Zoom link at [streetsforall.org/events/happyhour-jan2025](https://streetsforall.org/events/happyhour-jan2025).

### Gracias Madre innovates Mexican favorites

Dive into bold, plant-based Mexican cuisine at Gracias Madre, where tradition meets inno-

vation. Enjoy dishes that celebrate Mexican artistry from their lunch (\$25) and dinner (\$35) menus like the beloved hearts of palm ceviche or Tres Leches Cake with house-made coconut whip. For information, visit [graciasmadre.com](https://graciasmadre.com). Gracias Madre is located at 8905 Melrose Ave.

### Videre adds mocktails to the menu

For those with a resolution to go dry in 2025, Videre rooftop has come up with a low and no alcohol drink menu called "a new year's quest." Much like its cocktail menu, Videre's talented mixologists took time to make these mocktails creative in name and dynamic in flavor. The Ceremony Punch, with zero proof Ritual gin, strawberry matcha, coconut milk and lemon,

and The Last Banana Muffin, with coffee-infused blood orange Mommenpop and banana liquor, provide a fun pick-me-up without the hangover. For information, visit [viderela.com](https://viderela.com). Videre is located at 6317 Wilshire Blvd.



### Give thanks for Café Gratitude's lunch, dinner menus

Celebrate the art of mindful eating with Cafe Gratitude's vibrant, plant-based menus. Select nutrient-packed entrees from their lunch or dinner menus, starting at \$25 for lunch and \$35 for dinner. For information, visit [cafegratitude.com](https://cafegratitude.com). Café Gratitude is located at 639 N. Larchmont Blvd.



photo courtesy of the Original Farmers Market

Ettore Vine e Cucina offers a selection of signature wines and Italian dishes.

### Italian-flavored Ettore open at Famers Market

Ettore Vino e Cucina, the restaurant and tasting room from Ettore Winery, recently opened at The Original Farmers Market and is a unique collaboration between the organic Mendocino-based winery and L.A.'s Osteria Mamma. It offers a fresh take on the winery experience. Ettore Vino e Cucina features signature wines and a menu inspired by the team's Italian heritage, all set in a vintage organic atmosphere. The space is designed

for relaxation and connection, making it perfect for enjoying a meal while sampling wines. Ettore Vino e Cucina is open daily from 11 a.m.-9 p.m. In addition to the food and wine offerings, Ettore Vino e Cucina has a mini retail section with Ettore wine and olive oils, plus ingredients used in the kitchen. For information, visit [farmersmarket-la.com/merchants/ettore-vino-cucina](https://farmersmarket-la.com/merchants/ettore-vino-cucina). The Original Farmers Market is located at 6333 W. Third St.

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**Korean Style Bulgogi Chicken**  
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# Descanso to cut ribbon on new Wilshire location

The grand opening of the Descanso Los Angeles location on Wilshire Blvd in the historic SAG-AFTRA Plaza will be held on Jan. 23.

Descanso representatives said, as it prepares to open our doors for the grand reveal, that the company is reminded of the strength and resilience of this incredible city. Descanso is proceeding with its grand opening and dedicated a portion of sales from the grand opening weekend to the California

Community Foundation Wildfire Recovery Fund, supporting those impacted by the devastating events of this past week.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held at 4 p.m. It is open until 10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday and till midnight Friday and Saturday. The restaurant will open at 11 a.m. for brunch on Saturday and Sunday. For information, visit [descansorestaurantla.com](http://descansorestaurantla.com) or call (213)672-2444. Descanso is located at 5773 Wilshire Blvd.



photo courtesy of Descanso

Descanso is opening in the former Marie Callender's location on Wilshire Boulevard.

# Retreat to Laguna for stunning getaway

The stellar cliffside Laguna Cliffs Marriott Resort in Dana Point is known for its sweeping ocean views, coastal Californian restaurants and expansive spa. It is the perfect destination to begin a wellness journey in the new year with two specialty offers. For the month of January, The Spa at Laguna Cliffs is debuting the "Coffee and Himalayan Salt Scrub." This scrub combines coffee and Himalayan sea salt for a full-body exfoliation, leaving guests with glowing skin and sore muscle relief. With powerfully regenerative properties, the scrub relieves soreness while also exfoliating and providing hydration to the skin to prevent stretch marks, breakouts, and reduce the appearance of cellulite (\$175 for 60 minutes).

From Feb. 7-16, The Spa at Laguna Cliffs Marriott will celebrate Valentine's Day with the "Seaside Sweetheart" package.



photo courtesy of Marriott Hotels & Resorts

Take in the cliffside views at Laguna Cliffs Marriott Resort.

The package, made for two, will include side-by-side 60-minute healing touch massages followed by 30 minutes in the outdoor private jacuzzi with complimentary chocolate truffles and champagne (\$600). To continue the relaxing experience, guests will receive an Alluminate Life Candle to commemorate the experience.

To accompany the spa experiences, Lantern's Edge - Laguna Cliffs Marriott's signature restaurant that blends Mediterranean and California classics to create their land-to-sea menu - will cap off

Dry January by hosting a "Mocktail Mixology" event on Friday, Jan. 31 at 5 p.m. At the event, guests will enjoy a spirit-free cocktail tasting and light bites from Lantern's Edge while participating in a crash course into how to make three unique mocktails using spirit-free alcohol that includes a live demonstration from our mixologists (\$55 pp).

For information on all experiences, visit [experienceslaguna-cliffs.com](http://experienceslaguna-cliffs.com). Laguna Cliffs Marriott Resort & Spa is located at 25135 Park Lantern, Dana Point.

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# Blue Plate Specials

## DINNERS FOR 4 - \$40

**#1 Blue Plate EXPRESS**  
 Chicken Pot Pies -moist chicken, green peas, carrots, potatoes and gravy topped with buttery crust.  
 Mixed green salad with choice of dressing  
 Choice of whole fruit pie or a Full Stack Hotcakes

**#2 Blue Plate EXPRESS**  
 Meatloaf - Topped with brown mushroom gravy.  
 Creamy Mashed potatoes  
 Fresh Seasonal Vegetables  
 Choice of whole fruit pie or a Full Stack Hotcakes

**#3 Blue Plate EXPRESS**  
 Turkey Dinner - hand carved with all the trimmings.  
 Creamy Mashed Potatoes  
 Fresh Seasonal Vegetables  
 Choice of whole fruit pie or a Full Stack Hotcakes

**#4 Blue Plate EXPRESS**  
 Macaroni & Cheese Casserole Bacon Garnish  
 Garlic Bread  
 Choice of soup du jour (cups)  
 Choice of fruit pie or a Full Stack Hotcakes

**#5 Blue Plate EXPRESS**  
 (2) Full Stacks - Buttermilk Hotcakes  
 Scrambled Eggs  
 Hash Browns  
 Bacon or Sausage  
 Freshly brewed Coffee  
 Add 5.00 for any Specialty Hotcakes

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# POLICE BLOTTER

The following crimes occurred in West Hollywood, Beverly Hills and the areas patrolled by the LAPD's Wilshire and Hollywood divisions between Jan. 5 and Jan. 12. The information was compiled from crimemapping.com. To report a crime, call local law enforcement agencies: Los Angeles Police Department, Wilshire Division (213)473-0476, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department West Hollywood Station (310)855-8850, and the Beverly Hills Police Department (310)550-4951.

## Beverly Hills Police Department

### Jan. 5

At 8:37 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim near Santa Monica and Wilshire.

### Jan. 6

At 7:35 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9000 block of Wilshire.

### Jan. 7

At 4:21 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 200 block of S. El Camino.

A suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs near Greenway and Sunset at 7:05 p.m.

### Jan. 8

At 5:23 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 600 block of Mountain.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of N. Cañon at 12:31 p.m.

At 4:07 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 200 block of S. Crescent.

### Jan. 9

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of N. Cañon at 3:10 a.m.

At 5:22 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a residential burglary in the 800 block of N. Linden.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 200 block of S. Elm at 8 p.m.

### Jan. 10

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of N. Cañon at 12:05 p.m.

At 12:29 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 9800 block of Wilshire.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 100 block of S. Crescent at 3:30 p.m.

At 4 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of N. Beverly.

### Jan. 12

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft near Carolyn and Marilyn at 12:20 p.m.

At 1:12 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9700 block of Charleville.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of N. rodeo at 5:52 p.m.

At 6:21 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 300 block of S. Palm.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9700 block of Wilshire at 7 p.m.

## West Hollywood Sheriff's Station

### Jan. 5

At 1:46 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8900 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8900 block of Santa Monica at 2:30 a.m.

At 8:46 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of San Vicente.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 7100 block of Santa Monica at 9 a.m.

At 11:10 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1200 block of N. La Brea.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8900 block of Santa Monica at 11:18 a.m.

### Jan. 6

At 9 a.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 1200b lock of Sunset Plaza.

An unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 1200 block of N. La Brea at 2:35 p.m.

At 3:40 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 7700 block of Lexington.

### Jan. 8

At 12:22 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 7100 block of Santa Monica.

### Jan. 9

At 2:05 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 8400 block of Sunset.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1100 block of Formosa at 9 p.m.

### Jan. 10

At 7:40 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft near La Brea and Santa Monica.

### Jan. 11

At 2 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 600 block of N. La Peer.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 7100 block of Santa Monica at 7:30 a.m.

At midnight, an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 600 block of N. Robertson at midnight.

### Jan. 12

At 6:16 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 7900 block of Santa Monica

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

## Funds sought for emergency response program

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved a motion on Jan. 14 to secure ongoing funding for the Advanced Provider Response Unit program, known as APRU. The program provides specialized emergency medical services to the county's most vulnerable residents, offering critical care and reducing unnecessary emergency department visits and ambulance transports.

The motion by Chair Pro Tem Hilda L. Solis, 1st District, and Supervisor Janice Hahn, 4th District, directs the Los Angeles County Fire Department, Chief Executive Office and Department of Health Services to identify a sustainable funding source or one-time bridge funding to maintain and expand the APRU program. The program requires approximately \$7 million annually to continue operations and expand to new parts of the county.

"The approval of this motion is a critical step toward ensuring that the APRU program continues to provide compassionate and critical care to those who need it most. This program is about more than just reducing costs. It's about

meeting people where they are and giving them the right care at the right time," Solis said. "From those experiencing homelessness to individuals struggling with mental health issues or substance use disorders, the APRU units help guide people to the services they need, reducing avoidable emergency department visits and improving their overall well-being. Continuing and expanding this program is not only a fiscal priority but a moral one."

Launched in 2019, the APRU program deploys emergency medical response vehicles staffed by a firefighter-paramedic and a nurse practitioner or physician assistant. The units focus on low-acuity EMS calls, providing basic medical care in the field and redirecting patients to the appropriate follow-up care. The program helps alleviate the burden on emergency departments and EMS systems, especially during high-demand periods. Since its inception, the APRU program has responded to more than 23,000 EMS calls, diverting more than 8,700 patients from avoidable hospital transports and emergency room visits,

including more than 1,200 mental health patients who were directed to crisis stabilization units.

The interventions have led to substantial cost savings, the supervisors said. The program helps reduce the need for expensive ambulance rides and hospital stays. An ambulance transport in Los Angeles County starts at \$2,223, and an average emergency department visit costs approximately \$3,238.

Funding for the APRU program, which has been supported by the American Rescue Plan Act since 2023, expires in March 2025. To bridge the gap, Solis and Hahn have called for immediate action to secure funding through a variety of sources. With the passage of Measure E, a parcel tax initiative to fund the L.A. County Fire Department, the APRU program is expected to receive substantial support starting in 2026. However, until that funding becomes available, the APRU program depends on securing interim funding for the remainder of 2025.

For information about the APRU program, visit [fire.lacounty.gov](http://fire.lacounty.gov).

## Former gallery owner sentenced for embezzlement

The United States Attorney's Office has announced that an internationally known art dealer was sentenced on Jan. 13 to two years in federal prison for embezzling from the bankruptcy estate of Ace Gallery Los Angeles, an art gallery located in Beverly Hills and the Miracle Mile, while acting as the estate's trustee and custodian.

Douglas J. Christmas, 80, of the Mid-Wilshire area, was sentenced by United States District Judge Mark C. Scarsi, who also ordered him to pay \$12.8 million in restitution. Last May, a jury found Christmas guilty of three counts of embezzlement against a bankruptcy estate.

"Instead of performing his fiduciary duty and properly managing the gallery's bankruptcy estate, this defendant chose to use funds that belonged to the creditors of the gallery to make them whole, but for his dream of an art museum that

never came to be," United States Attorney Martin Estrada said. "[This] sentence provides a just punishment for these crimes, which were brazenly undertaken by a thief who gamed a system designed to protect those in financial desperation."

Christmas was the president and CEO of Art and Architecture Books of the 21st Century, which did business as Ace Gallery and had offices in the Miracle Mile and Beverly Hills. In February 2013, Ace Gallery filed a Chapter 11 petition in federal bankruptcy court in Los Angeles and continued to operate while in bankruptcy, with Christmas acting as fiduciary and trustee. In late March and early April 2016, Christmas embezzled approximately \$264,595 that belonged to the Ace Gallery bankruptcy estate, authorities said. It included a \$50,000 check that Christmas signed and was drawn against the estate and paid to

Ace Museum, a separate nonprofit corporation that Christmas owned and controlled.

Christmas also embezzled \$100,000 owed to Ace Gallery by a third party for the purchase of artwork, prosecutors said. Instead, the funds were paid – at his direction – to the Ace Museum. Authorities said Christmas embezzled approximately \$114,595 owed to the gallery by a third party that purchased artwork, but which Christmas instead had paid to Ace Museum's landlord. Christmas funneled money from the bankrupt Ace Gallery for more than three years until April 2016 when the bankruptcy court appointed an independent trustee to run Ace Gallery's bankruptcy estate and Christmas was removed.

The FBI's Art Crime Team investigated the case, which was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Valerie L. Makarewicz, of the Major Frauds Section.

## Defendant sentenced for insider trading scheme

A Brentwood resident was sentenced on Jan. 6 to two years in federal prison for his role in an insider trading scheme that netted more than \$650,000 in illicit profits.

Shahriyar Bolandian, 36, was sentenced by United States District Judge Terry J. Hatter Jr. At the conclusion of a five-day jury trial last April, Bolandian was found guilty of six counts of insider trading. A forfeiture order will be imposed at a later date.

"This defendant – now a convict-

ed felon – illegally traded on inside information to enrich himself and others," United States Attorney Martin Estrada said. "All those who seek to get rich by manipulating the financial markets and taking advantage of others should think again. There will be consequences for this misconduct."

In 2012 and 2013, Bolandian received non-public information about two upcoming corporate acquisitions by publicly traded companies. Bolandian used the inside

information to trade in advance of the public announcements of Integrated Device Technology Inc.'s April 2012 planned acquisition of PLX Technology Inc., and Salesforce.com Inc.'s June 2013 acquisition of ExactTarget Inc.

As a result of the illegal trades, Bolandian's personal share of the scheme's illicit proceeds was \$450,000. Authorities said he used the money to cover previous trading losses and repay loans to family and friends.

## Driver sought in hit-and-run that injured pedestrian

Detectives from the Los Angeles Police Department's West Traffic Division are asking for the public's help in identifying a driver involved in a hit-and-run traffic collision that severely injured a 29-year-old pedestrian.

On Dec. 22 around 2:35 a.m., a newer model white sedan was traveling northbound on Catalina Street approaching Wilshire Boulevard in Koreatown when it struck a pedes-

trian crossing Catalina Street. The driver continued north and failed to stop, identify themselves or render aid as required by law.

Los Angeles Fire Department paramedics responded and took the male victim to a hospital, where he is recovering.

Motorists are reminded that if they become involved in a traffic collision, they must pull over and stop as soon as it is safe and notify

emergency services. Rewards of up to \$25,000 are available to individuals who provide information leading to the identification, arrest and conviction of hit-and-run drivers.

Video of the crime can be viewed at [lapdonline.org](http://lapdonline.org). Anyone with information is urged to call West Traffic Division detectives at (213)473-0238. During weekends and off hours, call the LAPD's hotline at (877)LAPD247.

# Batsheva dances into the Dorothy Chandler

The Music Center continues its exhilarating Glorvya Kaufman Presents Dance at The Music Center season on Feb. 14-16 with Batsheva Dance Company, one of the world's foremost contemporary dance ensembles.

Performing for the first time at L.A.'s performing arts center, Batsheva will captivate Angelenos at The Music Center's Dorothy Chandler Pavilion with the U.S. premiere of "MOMO," a bold exploration of masculinity, vulnerability and identity through the powerful lens of master choreographer Ohad Naharin. "MOMO," which had its world premiere in 2022, has garnered critical acclaim for its raw emotion, mesmerizing choreography and boundary-pushing approach to dance.

"Batsheva's performance of 'MOMO' will be a breathtaking testament to the power of movement and storytelling. The dancers' extraordinary skill and emotional depth will bring Ohad Naharin's bold work to life in a way that is both exhilarating and deeply moving," said Rachel S. Moore, president and CEO of The Music Center. "We are honored to support this incredible work, which bolsters our 22nd dance season's rousing message to dance fearlessly. Batsheva pushes the boundaries of contemporary dance and will invoke all of us to reflect on the world around us."

'MOMO,' conceived by Naharin with former Batsheva dancer Ariel Cohen and members of the Batsheva company, presents a

shared passion of deep sorrow and beauty unfolding on stage. Eleven dancers will perform the breathtaking 70-minute piece to a soundtrack from the album "Landfall" by the iconic Laurie Anderson and Kronos Quartet, with additional music by Philip Glass, Arca and Maxim Waratt."

Batsheva Dance Company, founded in 1964 by the Baroness Batsheva de Rothschild, is critically acclaimed and popularly embraced as one of the world's foremost contemporary dance companies. Ohad Naharin, hailed as a preeminent contemporary choreographer, was the company's artistic director from 1990-2018 and currently serves as its house choreographer. Batsheva is a home for dancers who are collectively committed to ongoing research and adventurous exploration of new forms and ideas of our times. The company practices Gaga, the movement language developed by Naharin based on research into heightening sensation and imagination, becoming aware of form, finding new movement habits and going beyond familiar limits. Batsheva stages 250 performances annually and offers extensive educational activities for young dancers in its dance school and through a variety of courses and workshops.

Tickets to Batsheva Dance Company are available for purchase by visiting [musiccenter.org/batsheva](http://musiccenter.org/batsheva) or by calling (213)972-0711. The Music Center is located at 135 N. Grand Ave.



photo courtesy of The Music Center

Batsheva Dance Company will appear at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion from Feb. 14-16.

# Breakfast Republic pancakes provide hearty relief funds

With the devastation from recent fires affecting thousands throughout Los Angeles County, Breakfast Republic is stepping up in hopes of making a difference in the lives of those affected.

Beginning immediately, 100% of sales from Breakfast Republic's Pineapple Upside Down Pancakes at their locations in Echo Park, Culver City and West Hollywood will be donated to Los Angeles Regional Food Bank. Open daily

from 7 a.m.-3 p.m., stop in to eat for a cause with a stack of pancakes piled high with brown-sugar pineapple and pineapple whipped butter.

The special initiative will run through April 30. Breakfast Republic is located at 7141 Santa Monica Blvd. in West Hollywood, 9901 Washington Blvd. in Culver City and 1918 Sunset Blvd. in Echo Park. For information, visit [breakfastrepublic.com](http://breakfastrepublic.com).



photo courtesy of Breakfast Republic

All sales of the Pineapple Upside Down Pancake will go to those affected by the wildfires.

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# Season announced for REDCAT

REDCAT, The Roy and Edna Disney/CalArts Theater, has announced its 2025 winter and spring season, running Jan. 16-June 14. This coming season will present an extraordinarily unique tapestry of commissioned theater, music, dance, film and fine art exhibitions over six months.

The program delves into identity, legacy, memory, transformation and the intricate relationship between humanity, technology and the natural world.

Cultural and personal histories are examined through Eileen Myles' evocative and poignant reflections on life, as well as Zeinabu irene Davis's cinematic portrayals of Black life and heritage. Annie Dorsen's AI-driven reinterpretation of ancient tragedy and Will Rawls' critique of media representation explores how technology influences our lives and perceptions. Mary Kouyoumdjian and Royce Vavrek use opera to uncover the roots and consequences of prejudice in our highly interconnected world in a co-presentation with LA Opera and Beth Morrison Projects. Morgan Bassichis investigates queer creativity, paying tribute to an

LGBTQIA+ trailblazer, while REDCAT, LA Phil Insight and the Grammy-nominated L.A.-based contemporary music ensemble Wild Up honor the legacies of Julius Eastman and Arthur Russell, uncompromising queer composers, with two separate performances and an exhibition as part of the To the Fullest festival.

2025 will see REDCAT transforming its space and format with experiential theatrical settings. Faye Driscoll's visceral meditation on the human impact on climate change will be performed within the intimacy of the theater-in-the-round while Tania El Khoury crafts a unique dinner party, inviting the audience to join an exploration of archival documents. REDCAT audiences will be invited behind the curtain for Mariana Valencia's rehearsal as a performance, and for the staging of Arthur Russell's minimalist disco piece, the seats of the theater will be removed entirely, transforming the space into an immersive dance party.

The season features innovative multimedia exhibitions with a series of individual presentations across various spaces at REDCAT.

The exhibition "World of Echo" celebrates the legacies of Arthur Russell and Julius Eastman, emphasizing the queer body as a site of liberation and exploring the fusion of classical, minimalist and experimental forms to push the boundaries of music and art. CalArts alum Hande Sever's exhibition examines the construction of historical narratives through cultural and political archives, while the work of Abigail Raphael Collins, also presented in the gallery, investigates the often-hidden connections between the military and the film industry, delving into issues of silence, trauma and the intergenerational transmission of history.

REDCAT continues its programmatic collaboration with CalArts showcasing the work of students and guest artists through an exciting series of events this year, beginning with Macarena Gómez-Barris' talk as part of the "Ecofeminisms: Practices of Survivance Lecture" series. The CalArts Film/Video Showcase will feature four nights of screenings showcasing new films by BFA and MFA students, including experimental animation and long-form works. The season will also highlight the CalArts Writers Showcase, featuring creative experimentation from the graduating



photo courtesy of REDCAT

Faye Driscoll's "Weathering" will present at REDCAT Feb. 6-8.

MFA Creative Writing students. The CalArts Spring Dance program will showcase emerging artists Trisha Brown, Lil Buck, Genna Moroni, Omar Ramón de Jesús and Jobel Medina. This two-night event will feature performances by the graduating class of 2025, including a restaging of Brown's "Glacial Decoy," with costumes and set design by Robert Rauschenberg and new works by several choreographers.

"Our upcoming season embodies REDCAT's commitment to experimentation, collaboration and genre-

expanding artistry, to amplify voices that challenge, provoke, and transform. It's an invitation to experience L.A. art and performance at its best, with work that resonates across disciplines and opens new pathways for dialogue, discovery and experimental mediums," said João Ribas, Steven D. Lavine Executive Director of REDCAT and vice president for Cultural Partnerships.

REDCAT is located within the Walt Disney Concert Hall complex at 631 West 2nd St. For information, visit redcat.org.



photo courtesy of Broadway in Hollywood

After a brief pause due to the fires, performances at the Hollywood Pantages Theatre have resumed.

# Pantages donates \$125k to wildfire relief

The Hollywood Pantages Theatre, owned and operated by The Nederlander Organization is stepping forward to provide critical support for those affected by the devastating wildfires impacting Los Angeles and surrounding communities.

On Jan. 14, the organization announced a \$125,000 donation, split amongst five key organizations which provide relief and assistance to firefighters, first responders and countless others impacted by the devastation. These organiza-

tions include: Los Angeles Firefighters Foundation, Los Angeles Police Foundation, Entertainment Community Fund (formerly known as The Actors Fund), Project Angel Food and Broadway Cares / Equity Fights Aids.

"Our hearts go out to everyone affected by the devastating fires impacting Los Angeles and our surrounding communities," said Jeff Loeb, president of The Hollywood Pantages Theatre. "We are deeply

grateful for the heroic efforts of our firefighters, first responders, and the countless neighbors who have stepped up to lend a helping hand during this difficult time. Your courage, resilience, and compassion inspire us all."

Hollywood Pantages Theatre is hosting a landing page on its official website, located at [broadwayinhollywood.com/lastrong](http://broadwayinhollywood.com/lastrong), where motivated citizens may donate to any one of the above listed organizations.

## VINTAGE

PARKLABREA NEWS

### Van Gogh exhibit becomes a smash hit

**Thousands Gogh to LACMA for Opening**

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

The long anticipated exhibit, "Van Gogh's Van Goghs: Masterpieces From the Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam," opened to the public on Sunday as thousands of people lined up at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art to view works by the 19th century Dutch painter.

Approximately 5,400 people filed through the galleries in the new LACMA West Building during its opening day, and an estimated 7,000 visitors are expected daily while the exhibit remains in Los Angeles through May 16, museum spokesman Adam Coyne said.

"In many ways, it is the art event of the decade," he added. "Although it probably won't end up breaking records, because we had the 'Treasures of Tutankhamen' exhibit in 1978 that drew 1.2 million peo-

ple. We are expecting more than 900,000 people to attend."

The Van Gogh exhibit is comprised of 70 paintings that transcend the artist's entire career including early masterpieces such as "The Potato Eaters" to "Wheatfield with Crows," which was painted the year of his death. LACMA is one of only two museums in the United States to host an exhibition of the paintings, which are on loan from the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam while it is undergoing renovation.

"We are extremely grateful to LACMA for providing a temporary refuge for these pieces," said John Leighton, director of the Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam. "This exhibit will allow a whole new group of people on the West Coast to experience Van Gogh. These pieces will not travel again in these numbers in 1978 that drew 1.2 million peo-

"Self-Portrait with Fall Hat" 1887, is one of 70 works of art on exhibit in Van Gogh's Van Goghs at LACMA West.

The blockbuster exhibition "Van Gogh's Van Goghs: Masterpieces From the Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam" opened 26 years ago at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, as shown in the Jan. 21, 1999, issue of the Beverly Press and Park Labrea News. It was one of the most well-attended exhibitions in the museum's history, with 5,400 people filling the galleries on opening day, and more than 900,000 people attending through the exhibit's closing in mid-May of that year. The exhibition featured approximately 70 paintings by the 19th century Dutch artist and was held in the LACMA West Building, which now houses the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures. Visitors flocked to the museum to see masterpieces including "Potato Eaters," "The Cottage" and "Wheatfield With Crows," as well as several portraits including Van Gogh's "Self-Portrait with Grey Felt Hat," which accompanied the article.

# Japan Foundation opens 'ETHEREAL' exhibition

The opening reception for "ETHEREAL: Interpretations of the Ryūgūjō Myth by Dwight Hwang and Miki Yokoyama" will be held on Jan. 21.

The Ryūgūjō, or Dragon Palace, is a mythical undersea kingdom in East Asian folklore, often depicted as a magnificent, otherworldly palace beneath the ocean. In Japan, the legend of Ryūgūjō appears in classical Japanese literature, including the Manyōshū (8th century) and Heiji Monogatari (12th century). The myth has inspired many interpretations, with locations across Japan claiming ties to the myth. The exhibit explores this myth.

Join the Japan Foundation, Los Angeles to celebrate two artists reimagine this myth through their practices of Gyotaku and mix

media, exploring the eternal cycle of life, death and rebirth beneath the waves. For information, visit [jflalc.org/event-details.php](http://jflalc.org/event-details.php)

/243/ethereal-interpretations-of-the-ryugujo-myth. The Japan Foundation, Los Angeles is located at 5700 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 100.



photo courtesy of JFLA

The "ETHEREAL" exhibit will be on display from Jan. 21-March 15.

# Production Design Award nominees revealed

The Art Directors Guild has announced the nominees for its 29th Annual Excellence in Production Design Awards. The ceremony, hosted by acclaimed actress and comedian Rachael Harris, will take place on Feb. 15, at the InterContinental Los Angeles Downtown.

The ADG Awards celebrate excellence in production design across theatrical motion pictures, television, commercials, music videos, and animated feature films. The 2025 Cinematic Imagery Award will be presented to Academy Award-

nominated director and filmmaker Jason Reitman, whose body of work includes "Juno," "Up in the Air" and "Saturday Night."

"This year's nominees showcase the incredible artistry and vision that define our craft and our industry. We're thrilled to bring the guild together to celebrate the achievements of these incredible Production Designers and their Art Departments," said show producers Michael Allen Glover, and Megan Elizabeth Bell, in a joint statement.

In addition, the ADG will honor Lisa Frazza, Barbara Mesney, Dan

Sweetman and J. Dennis Washington with Lifetime Achievement Awards. Legendary production designer Carl Jules Weyl will be inducted into the ADG Hall of Fame as part of the ceremony.

Among the nominees are "The Brutalist," "Nosferatu," "Wicked," "Twisters," "Inside Out 2," "Bridgerton," "Squid Game," "Agatha All Along" and "Hacks."

For information and a full list of nominees, visit [adg.org](http://adg.org). The InterContinental Los Angeles is located at 900 Wilshire Blvd.

# Awards season soldiers on in Hollywood

## ■ Front runners emerge in precursor horse race

BY RANCE COLLINS

Oscar season is upon us, and in the lead up to the ceremony the critics' groups and industry guilds are bestowing their respective honors on an increasingly narrow set of films. Betting markets are all in a handful of movies and performers, and Reddit threads discuss endlessly who might – or might not – end up in the winner's circle.

Last week, the fires got precariously close to Hollywood Boulevard and destroyed – forever

– some landmarks indelibly linked to our entertainment lineage, including the Will Rogers State Historic Park. Talking about gold trophies may seem frivolous at the moment, but this year's show – to me – will be a chance for our community to come together behind a medium that fueled our blockbuster growth and sustains us to this day.

Movies are what put Los Angeles on the map. Film and television is a giant industry for our town, even after a pandemic and strikes put a strain on it. Thousands upon thousands of jobs depend on the success of box office, streamer clicks and Neilson ratings. Awards, bring much needed exposure to projects

that might otherwise be lost, celebrating an artform that not only brings people together, but keeps Angelenos employed. The awards themselves are a cottage industry, with everyone from publicists to caterers waiters to fashion houses to hotel workers depending on the ceremonies to make rent – it's not just about celebrities adorned with glitz and the glam. Or rather, the glitz and the glam doesn't just appear from the ether. In actuality, the Oscars brings \$130 million to the local economy – and that was in 2013 dollars – according to the Hollywood Reporter.

Art is who we are. And the show always goes on.

I'm more than ready this season – and getting readier by the day. I've been making frequent use of my AMC A-List pass, consuming anything and everything that might end up with a statuette. Per usual, I've walked away from some movies thinking, "Eh..." and others thinking, "Wow," only for the king-makers to disagree with me. It's all a little arbitrary after all – art is subjective. How do we pick favorites?

But you see, quality is only one factor. If quality was all that matters, we'd have a boring "best of" list of Best Pictures dating back to the Oscars' humble beginnings. Instead, we have wild cards like "The Greatest Show on Earth," the 1952 winner that is, quite frankly, terrible. It was just lucky enough to have a bunch of stars and be directed by Cecil B. DeMille, who was viewed as overdue at the time. The Academy couldn't have known then that they should have waited for "The Ten Commandments" in 1956, but that would've denied us another bonkers winner, "Around the World in Eighty Days." That won largely because it was a big budget, widescreen spectacle at a time when the industry was needing mammoth productions to pull audiences away from their television sets. See? Each year tells us something about the climate of the industry and the world at large.

So, what's the narrative this year? Well, I can tell you what will be nominated for Best Picture without a shadow of doubt: "Anora," "The Brutalist," "A Complete Unknown," "Conclave," "Emilia



photo courtesy of Mubi

Demi Moore is the Best Actress frontrunner for her performance in "The Substance" (2024).

Pérez" and "Wicked." Up to 10 films can be nominated in the category. I'd put the next up as "Dune: Part Two," "Nickel Boys," "A Real Pain," "September 5," "Sing Sing" and "The Substance."

As to the winner? That's still anyone's guess. Smart money is on "The Brutalist," which is – admittedly – my personal favorite and likely the most ambitious movie. Its star, Adrian Brody, is the front runner for Best Actor, as well, although Timothée Chalamet's portrayal of Bob Dylan in "A Complete Unknown" is stiff competition. But for Best Picture, I'm leaning toward "Wicked" right now, because I'm thinking that the more populist, hopeful film – one that has galvanized theaters, mind you – meets the unique social and political moment.

My favorite category, and the one that I believe is the most interesting historically, is Best Actress. After all, Best Actress gave us Joan Crawford accepting an Oscar in bed when she was "too ill" (read: nervous) to attend the ceremony. It gave us Halle Berry's groundbreaking, heart-wrenching elation. It also almost gave us "La La Land" as Best Picture, since it was Emma Stone's winning Best Actress envelope that led to that infamous snafu.

Demi Moore gave an acceptance speech for the ages at the Golden Globes last week when she won Best Actress in a Musical or Comedy for "The Substance." Her journey from a "popcorn actress" to a serious contender in her 60s is a relatable, root-able comeback story

– the kind that won Crawford her Oscar, Jessica Tandy her "Driving Miss Daisy" trophy and, just recently, Michelle Yeoh her recognition for "Everything Everywhere All at Once." I have Moore as my walk-away winner.

Mikey Madison for "Anora," Karla Sofia Gascon for "Emilia Pérez" – who would be the first trans actress ever nominated – and Cynthia Erivo for "Wicked" all seem like locks for nominations, but that fifth slot ... that one is the most contentious race in the game. Nicole Kidman ("Babygirl") and Angelina Jolie ("Maria") made it to the Globes. Marianne Jean-Baptiste is a critical darling in "Hard Truths." Pamela Anderson has been the real surprise of the season thus far, racking up a Globe nod and a Screen Actors Guild nom for "The Last Showgirl." With that movie hitting wide release just last week, and her co-star Jamie Lee Curtis also managing a couple of key Supporting Actress notices, she's my pick for the fifth slot.

I, of course, have opinions elsewhere. A Culkin for Supporting Actor? Saldaña versus Grande for Supporting Actress? But that's all my predictions for now. The awards soldier on, though the telecasts themselves may eventually be scaled down, postponed or fundraiser-hybrids. This is a key part of our city's identity, and I – for one – am more excited than ever to celebrate the uniquely Los Angeles artform.

The 97th Academy Awards is scheduled to air on ABC and stream on Hulu March 2 at 5 p.m.



photo by Rance Collins

Sidney Poitier's Best Actor win for "Lilies of the Field" (1962) is one of the Academy Awards' greatest moments.

## Holocaust Museum L.A. to screen civil rights documentary for MLK Jr. Day

In honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day and in collaboration with Jewish Story Partners, Holocaust Museum L.A. presents the Los Angeles premiere of the acclaimed new documentary, "Ain't No Back to a Merry-Go-Round," on Sunday, Jan. 19, at 6 p.m. at AMC The Grove.

"Ain't No Back to a Merry-Go-Round" is the little-known story of the first organized interracial civil rights protest. In June 1960, five Howard University Students arrived at Glen Echo Amusement Park in suburban Maryland and sat on a segregated carousel. When the Jewish community near the amusement park joined the protest, a history-making partnership was born. The pickets attracted Nazis, congressmen and a press avalanche. Picketing together over the sweltering summer led to partying together, and union organizers mentored student activists. Ten 1961 Freedom Riders, including Stokely Carmichael, were incubated on the

Glen Echo picket line.

Using never-before seen footage, the testimonies of four living protesters and immersive storytelling, Emmy Award-winning director Ilana Trachtman has created the powerful film. "Ain't No Back to a Merry-Go-Round" also features the voices of Jeffrey Wright, Mandy Patinkin, Bob Balaban, Lee Grant, Peter Gallagher, Dominique Thorne, Alysia Reiner and Tracie Thoms.

Following the screening there will be a panel discussion with Trachtman and Pastor William D. Smart, president and CEO of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference of Southern California, moderated by Joumana Silyan-Saba, director of policy and discrimination enforcement for the city of Los Angeles.

For information, visit [holocaust-museumla.org/event-details/film-screening-aint-no-back-to-a-merry-go-round](http://holocaust-museumla.org/event-details/film-screening-aint-no-back-to-a-merry-go-round).

AMC The Grove is located at 189 The Grove Drive.



photo courtesy of Holocaust Museum L.A.

The documentary tells the story of the first organized interracial civil rights protest in 1960.



### 10 Reasons Why I Don't Want An Estate Plan

1. I want large sums of my hard-earned money to go to a law firm.
2. I want the government to decide who gets my life savings.
3. What for? My house is only worth a half-million dollars.
4. I really don't care who raises our children.
5. I want a total stranger to go through all of my personal papers and financial affairs.
6. I like family fights – especially unnecessary ones.
7. I don't care who inherits my hard earned money.
8. I've been messy in life; I'll be messy in death.
9. They say you can't take it with you, but what if you can?
10. Probate. Must be fun.

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

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## Andaz West Hollywood unveils 'Is L.A.' collection by Pete Kasprzak

Andaz West Hollywood, the iconic Sunset Strip hotel celebrated for its rock-and-roll history, is set to unveil its new gallery exhibition this month by multimedia artist Pete Kasprzak titled "Is L.A." The latest exhibition in the hotel's rotating gallery space is a vibrant tribute to the energy and urban landscape of Los Angeles, capturing everything from the Hollywood sign to aerial views of the city through Kasprzak's colorful, dynamic style that blends graffiti and music influences. The exhibit will be on display in Andaz's Mezzanine Art Gallery through March, with a public launch event on Jan. 30, from 6-9 p.m. at Andaz West Hollywood.

Located in the heart of Los Angeles, Andaz West Hollywood has a storied history as a cultural

icon, once frequented by rock-and-roll legends like Led Zeppelin, Duran Duran and The Who. The hotel continues its artistic legacy through its Mezzanine Art Gallery, a vibrant space that showcases contemporary works from both established and emerging artists, offering guests an engaging platform to connect with innovative creativity.

Kasprzak's diverse and celebrated career includes collaborations with the Toronto Maple Leafs and Toronto Raptors, along with permanently displayed works at Scotiabank Arena. His work has been featured in major retail spaces like Sears, Walmart and Kmart, as well as in films and television. From his beginnings as a Toronto high school artist to restoring works by Andy Warhol, Banksy and Pablo

Picasso, Kasprzak's journey exemplifies artistic excellence and innovation, making his exhibition at Andaz West Hollywood a compelling addition to the hotel's creative offerings.

"From the Hollywood sign to new freeway signs inspired by the city's music culture, my works represent the fast-moving spirit of L.A.," Kasprzak said. "I've collaborated with photographers and musicians like Tommy Lee, Lil' Kim, and Rob Zombie to bring new layers to my art. Living in L.A. is a continuous creative process, and I want to share the energy of this city with the viewers."

The public launch event on Jan. 30 will provide an opportunity to meet the artist and experience his latest work. The exhibition will be

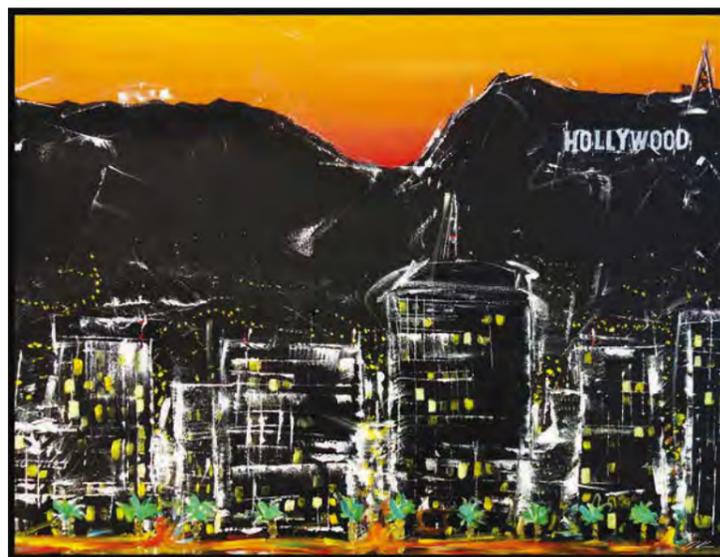


photo courtesy of Andaz West Hollywood

Kasprzak's works are inspired by iconic destinations in Los Angeles.

open to the public through March, inviting guests and art enthusiasts to explore Kasprzak's striking interpretations of Los Angeles, set against the backdrop of the hotel's

storied history.

For information, visit [hyatt.com/andaz/laxss-andaz-west-hollywood](http://hyatt.com/andaz/laxss-andaz-west-hollywood).

Andaz West Hollywood is located at 8401 Sunset Blvd.



photo courtesy of BHUSD

Sarah Zhang will study chemistry at the prestigious Ivy League school.

## Beverly Hills High School senior accepted into Yale University

To kick off the BHHS College Decisions Series, the Beverly Hills Unified School District announced that Beverly Hills High School senior Sarah Zhang is heading to Yale University. A proud member of the class of 2025, Zhang will be studying chemistry at one of the world's most prestigious universities.

Zhang's time at BHHS has been truly inspiring. She was a dedicated member of Academic Decathlon, where she found not just a team but a family united by a shared passion for learning. From traveling to state competitions to hosting trivia events, Zhang created unforgettable memories while excelling academically. Having joined BHUSD in third grade and attended Beverly

Vista Middle School, Zhang has become an incredible scholar and musician. She plans to explore academia and possibly dive into the pharmaceutical industry. The BHUSD look forward to seeing what Zhang's next chapter brings.

Zhang's journey through the BHUSD exemplifies the values of academic excellence and personal growth. From her early days at Beverly Vista to her leadership and achievements at BHHS, Zhang's dedication and ambition have left a lasting impact on the school community. Her success with the Academic Decathlon team is a testament to her hard work and ability to foster meaningful connections, blending camaraderie with intellec-

tual curiosity.

In addition to her academic accomplishments, Zhang's talents as a musician and her focus on innovation reflect her multifaceted approach to learning. Her decision to study chemistry at Yale University marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter, where her aspirations in academia and the pharmaceutical industry are sure to lead to groundbreaking contributions.

"Sarah Zhang is a shining example of the outstanding students we nurture at BHUSD," BHUSD Superintendent Dr. Michael Brey said. "Her journey to Yale is a source of immense pride for our district, and we eagerly anticipate her future successes."

The entire BHUSD community congratulates Zhang on this incredible achievement and wishes her the very best as she embarks on this remarkable journey.

## ABFF honorees include Keke Palmer

The seventh American Black Film Festival has announced the honorees of its annual awards ceremony recognizing excellence in the motion picture and television industry. Presented by NICE CROWD, the 2025 ABFF Honors will take place on Monday, Feb. 17 at the SLS Hotel in Beverly Hills hosted by actress and comedian Zainab Johnson. The intimate, non-televized dinner will feature ABFF honorees and festival partners.

The Excellence in the Arts Award (Female) will be awarded to Oscar-nominated actress Aunjanue Ellis-Taylor, acclaimed for her portrayal of Oracene Price in King Richard, which earned her numerous awards and nominations. Ellis-Taylor currently stars in "Nickel Boys," adapted from Colson Whitehead's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel. The award recognizes a highly acclaimed artist for their body of work and distinguished career achievements.

Excellence in the Arts Award (Male) will be given to Emmy-nominated and award-winning actor, director and producer Giancarlo Esposito, celebrated for his role as Gustavo "Gus" Fring in "Breaking Bad" and "Better Call Saul." Esposito has earned multiple accolades including Critics' Choice and NAACP Image Award. The award recognizes a highly acclaimed artist for their body of work and distinguished

career achievement.

The Renaissance Award will go to Emmy award-winning multi-hyphenate entertainer Keke Palmer ("Nope," "Turnt Up With the Taylors"), a singer/songwriter, producer, author, television host and passionate voice of the millennial generation. The award is presented to a trendsetting content creator in recognition of their outstanding work and commitment to championing diversity, equity and inclusion in the motion picture and television industry, through their work.

"For decades, these incredible ABFF honorees have captivated audiences and shaped the cultural landscape with their groundbreaking work," said NICE CROWD CEO and president Jeff and Nicole Friday. "It's a privilege to honor Aunjanue, Giancarlo and Keke for their extraordinary contributions to both the industry and our shared culture. This year is particularly special as we welcome Zainab Johnson as the host of the ABFF Honors, celebrating her inspiring journey from winning the 2013 ABFF Comedy Wings Competition to now leading this incredible celebration. We look forward to recognizing their remarkable achievements and coming together with our amazing ABFF community to honor their lasting impact."

For information about ABFF Honors visit [abffhonors.com](http://abffhonors.com)

## Jane Fonda honored at annual Hammer gala

The Hammer Museum has announced that actor and activist Jane Fonda and artist Lauren Halsey will be honored at the 20th annual Gala in the Garden on Saturday, May 17. The Hammer's annual event honors artists and innovators who have made profound contributions to society through their work.

"Jane Fonda has been a force for

change for 50 years, as much for her contributions to cinema as for her outspoken activism," Hammer Director Zoë Ryan said. "She has been especially vocal as an advocate for protecting the environment, founding the Jane Fonda Climate PAC, and speaking regularly to raise awareness about the unprecedented threats we all face. Lauren Halsey is one of the most dynamic

artists working today, with an upcoming sculpture park scheduled to open in South Central Los Angeles in 2026. Through her non-profit Summaeverythang Community Center, she helps to feed the community with produce boxes sourced from local farms. Both Jane and Lauren are committed to building a more just world – a value at the core of the Hammer's mission – and we are fortunate to have them as part of our community."

The museum's largest fundraising event attracts cultural and civic leaders in Los Angeles, as well as artists, collectors and patrons of the arts. The last Gala in the Garden in 2024, which celebrated previous Hammer director Ann Philbin on the occasion of her retirement, raised \$3.6 million for the museum.

Proceeds from the gala support the Hammer's dynamic and internationally acclaimed exhibitions and public programs. Exhibitions on view at the time of the Gala in the Garden will include "Head for the Hills! Selections from the Hammer Contemporary Collection and Grunwald Center for the Graphic Arts"; "Performance on Paper"; and three Hammer Projects featuring artists Colectivo Cherani, Lap-See Lam and Renata Peterse.

For information, visit [hammer.ucla.edu/support/gala-in-the-garden](http://hammer.ucla.edu/support/gala-in-the-garden). The Hammer Museum is located at 10899 Wilshire Blvd.



photo courtesy of the Hammer Museum

Actress Jane Fonda has been an outspoken climate activist.

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## 'Three Less Good Ideas' appear at theaters across L.A.



photo by Stella Olivier

"The Great Yes, The Great No," will perform from Feb. 5-8 at The Wallis.

The Centre for the Less Good Idea, Johannesburg headed by founders William Kentridge and Bronwyn Lace, Los Angeles Residency presents "Three Less Good Ideas in Los Angeles," a residency from Feb. 1-8 with performances at The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, CAP UCLA's Nimoy Theater and The Broad.

The Centre for the Less Good Idea is an interdisciplinary incubator space, committed to free-spirited experimentation and collaborative-art, based in Maboneng, Johannesburg.

"The Centre is a long-term test of a strategy for making art and making meaning," Kentridge said.

"Is it a viable way of finding understanding, of constructing meaning, or simply a way of making art?"

The Wallis, CAP UCLA and The Broad have joined together to present three facets of the work of "The Centre for the Less Good Idea."

"A Defense of the Less Good Idea" features a talk by William Kentridge and Bronwyn Lace and three short form works at The Nimoy Theater at CAP UCLA, located at 1262 Westwood Blvd., on Saturday, Feb. 1 at 8 p.m. Tickets are available at [cap.ucla.edu](http://cap.ucla.edu).

"Unsettled Voices" will perform at The Broad, located at 221 S.

Grand Ave., on Sunday, Feb. 2 at 1 p.m. Tickets are available at [thebroad.org](http://thebroad.org), and the museum features related works that are also a part of Getty "PST ART: Art & Science Collide," including an exhibit and an actual Los Angeles reforestation project.

"The Great Yes, The Great No" will feature at The Wallis, located at 9390 Santa Monica Blvd., with five performances Feb. 5-8. Tickets are available at [thewallis.org](http://thewallis.org).

With these presentations, the goal is to find the less good idea by creating and supporting these kinds of experimental, collaborative and cross-disciplinary arts projects.

## Donation drop-off hosted at Vintage Land

Vintage Land, announced that the Los Feliz Flea will host a special donation drop-off and volunteer opportunity event to support those affected by the recent wildfires across Southern California. Happening Saturday, Jan. 18 from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at Vintage Land, located at 1030 Alpine St., the donation drop off will be located at the VR Escape Room on the ground floor of the building.

The Los Feliz Flea and its vendors encourage flea market goers and Angelenos to help make a dif-

ference for our local community by donating essential items and volunteering your time. All collected items will go directly to the Pasadena Humane Society and Flintridge Retreat Center in Pasadena, where they will provide much-needed aid to those impacted by the wildfires.

"At Los Feliz Flea, we believe in the power of community and the importance of coming together in times of need," said Los Feliz Flea Co-Founder Phillip Dane. "This event is an opportu-

nity to not only provide tangible support but also to show the resilience of our neighbors in the face of adversity. Every donation, no matter how small, can make a meaningful impact on someone's life."

Additionally, a portion of the vendor fees will be donated to the American Red Cross of Greater Los Angeles to further support wildfire relief efforts. More information on the drive can be found at [vintageland.la/help-our-neighbors-affected-by-the-la-wildfires](http://vintageland.la/help-our-neighbors-affected-by-the-la-wildfires).

## Intuit Dome to host 'FireAid' concert on Jan. 30



photo courtesy of Intuit Dome

The stadium in Inglewood will host a benefit concert to support victims of the wildfires that have devastated Los Angeles communities.

Intuit Dome will host a benefit concert dedicated to rebuilding communities devastated by wildfires and supporting efforts to prevent future fire disasters throughout Southern California. "FireAid," an evening of music and solidarity, will take place on Thursday, Jan. 30, with performers and ticket information announcements scheduled for the coming days.

Proceeds from the concert will go towards a nonprofit created for this event that will focus on rebuilding infrastructure, supporting displaced families and advancing fire prevention technologies and strategies to ensure L.A. is better prepared for fire emergencies. The special event is produced by Shelli and Irving Azoff and the Azoff family, in conjunction with Live Nation and AEG Presents.

For information on tickets, donations and sponsorships, visit [intuitdome.com/fireaidrelief](http://intuitdome.com/fireaidrelief).

Intuit Dome is located at 3930 W. Century Blvd., Inglewood.

## Holocaust stories shine through fire

The 17th annual Holocaust Survivors Brunch, hosted by Sinai Temple Religious School's seventh graders, stood as a poignant tribute to memory, resilience and community. The event was inspired by the vision of the school's director Danielle Kassin, Holocaust survivor and seventh grade teacher Elaine Seltzer and a group of dedicated parents who have been involved with the school for the past 17 years. The event has become a cherished tradition that continues to honor survivors while educating younger generations about the importance of remembrance.

When the event was first started 17 years ago, more than 200 Holocaust survivors gathered, sharing their stories of survival and courage. Although the survivor community has diminished due to the passage of time, this year's event welcomed more than 30 survivors, each a testament to strength and perseverance.

The event is a multigenerational effort. Many parents, along with their children – now alumni of Sinai Temple Religious School – continue to attend and support the event. The enduring connection speaks to the lasting impact of the brunch and its role in preserving the legacy of Holocaust survivors.

This year's event also featured Beverly Hills Vice Mayor Sharona Nazarian, a devoted temple mem-

ber and supporter. Her presence underscored the importance of community leaders coming together to honor the past and ensure that its lessons shape a brighter future.

Cantor Marcus Feldman and Benjamin Fingerhut sang and played Yiddish songs, while survivors sang along and some even got up to dance. Rabbi Gavriella Kornsgold spoke to the students and the survivors about hope. Students asked questions to the survivors including, "what gave you strength to continue through these difficult times?"

The event was held despite the deadly wildfires that have displaced many families across the L.A. area, underscoring the importance of stories of survival even during the most trying of times.

"We decided to keep the flame going, despite the fact that many families have been evacuated and know so many others whose homes are no longer here. When people asked if the event was still on, we did not hesitate, and told them, we must keep this flame alive," Kassin said. "Our hearts go out to all of the those who have suffered and are suffering. In the midst of a dark time, we were able to bring in light, by hearing many stories of strength and survival. May we go from strength to strength."

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



photo courtesy of Sharona Nazarian

The event was attended by Holocaust survivor Harry Davids, religious school alumni Chloe and Ariella Hekmat, Holocaust survivor Eva Perlman, religious school director Danielle Kassin, Holocaust survivor Monika White, Beverly Hills Vice Mayor Sharona Nazarian and Holocaust survivor Lea Radziner.

## Blue Note Jazz coming to the Sunset Strip

The iconic Blue Note Jazz Club is expanding to Los Angeles, bringing the legendary reputation of its renowned New York flagship to the heart of L.A.'s dynamic music scene. Designed specifically for Los Angeles, the new venue will offer an intimate atmosphere paired with programming similar to its New York counterpart's: world-class jazz performances from celebrated icons, rising stars and genre-defying collaborations that reflect the evolution of jazz.

The new club is set to open its doors in March on Sunset Boulevard in Hollywood. The venue boasts two performance spaces: a main showroom with a 200-person capacity as well as secondary "B Side" room with a 100-person capacity. There will be a full-service kitchen and beverage menu, open for brunch and dinner throughout the week.

"We are excited to bring the Blue Note experience to Los Angeles, offering the same inti-

mate atmosphere and world-class performances that have defined our New York club," said Tsion Bensusan, COO of Blue Note Entertainment Group.

In addition to the new venue, Blue Note and the LA Phil confirm a partnership for the newly named Blue Note Jazz Festival – formerly the storied Hollywood Bowl Jazz Festival – beginning the upcoming Hollywood Bowl season. Presented by the LA Phil, the 2025 edition of the festival kicks off on June 14 at the iconic Hollywood Bowl. This partnership reflects a shared commitment by both organizations to supporting and showcasing jazz artists. The full lineup will be announced on February 18 alongside the complete Hollywood Bowl 2025 season announcement. Tickets will go on sale May 2025 at [hollywoodbowl.com/events/series/384](http://hollywoodbowl.com/events/series/384).

For information about the new club, visit [bluenotejazz.com](http://bluenotejazz.com).

# Magic Castle offers victims a lifeline

From page 1

Herve Levy said he felt the need to help and put out a call for donations to the academy's members on Jan. 10. Within four days, a mountain of donations poured in, and they were made available to fire victims on Jan. 14. Volunteers from the AMA, which operates the Magic Castle, staffed the event to help victims find items they need.

"This is so terrible. We needed to do something to help the community. We were so overwhelmed by all the clothing, all the food and drinks that we received," Levy said. "And as soon as we asked for volunteers, we got 50 or 60 right away. A lot of people here wanted to help."

Levy said one of the goals of the AMA and the Magic Castle's relief effort was to give people respite from the trauma they are facing by providing entertainment. Magicians performed for the victims, which included families with young children.

"It's a moment of need. It's our own community, not just the Magic Castle, but the entire neighborhood," said magician Dennis Forel,

an AMA member for 48 years. "The [Sunset] fire actually got within a half mile of here, so it affected a lot of our neighbors. To give back to our neighbors is something very important to us and myself personally."

Many fire victims who sought items at the Magic Castle said they had lost everything, including their homes. Linda Zeng and her friend Kelly Friedman, both of Altadena, lost their apartments in the Eaton fire.

"It's so helpful, to have these volunteers take you through this, sort of shop for you, because I've never been in a situation where I've felt so emotionally overwhelmed," Zeng said. "I'm really thankful that they're able to do it at such a central location."

"It's just nice to see that people care, that people want to help out in an emergency," Friedman added. "It definitely helps in the short term, as you have to rebuild your wardrobe and get dog food, things like that. It's so stressful, so to just have that little help goes a long way."

Luke Bilyk and Nicole Dorsey,

who had not yet been back to their Altadena home, also gathered items at the Magic Castle.

"Our house is still standing from what we know, but we don't know in what shape," Dorsey said.

"It brought both of us immediately to tears, not only to see all the people who came and dropped things off, but the work and the manpower of all the people," Bilyk added. "Sometimes it takes a natural disaster to have everyone realize that we're not so different from one another. And in reality, humanity is the most important part. You see it beautifully shining through in horrible moments like this. It's beautiful to see, and our hearts really go out to all the volunteers here."

All of the items and food that was left over after the event was routed to those in need. The food was donated to police and fire personnel and the remaining goods will be distributed by food banks to people impacted by the fire.

"The Magic Castle has been a part of the L.A. community for 62 years," Levy added. "We want to do



photo by Edwin Folven

Volunteers helped fire victim Linda Zeng search through the extensive collection of donated clothing.

what we can to support our neighbors and people across Los Angeles who have been impacted by this unprecedented tragedy and bring a little magic into their lives for even a few moments."

Magician Paul Green, who performed card tricks during the relief effort, added that he was happy to help.

"Here at the Magic Castle, which

is our clubhouse, it's important for us to show the community that we're just more than tricksters," Green said. "We care about the community. We care about people who have gone through some horrible, horrible times. So if we can give them things that they're going to need, if we can put a smile on their face, that makes it all worthwhile for us."

## Sunset fire extinguished in Hollywood

From page 1

on edge as the fire threatened homes and Hollywood landmarks including the Walk of Fame, the TCL Chinese Theater and Musso and Frank Grill.

A mandatory evacuation was issued between Laurel Canyon Boulevard to the west, Hollywood Boulevard to the south, Cahuenga Boulevard/101 Freeway/Highland Avenue to the east and Mulholland Drive to the north.

Residents in the area between Coldwater Canyon Boulevard to the west, Sunset Boulevard to the south, Laurel Canyon Boulevard to the east and Mulholland Drive to the north were advised to prepare for a potential evacuation by packing an emergency "go bag." The evacuation warning area included portions of Beverly Hills and West Hollywood.

By 10:30 a.m. on Jan. 9, all evacuations had been lifted and residents began returning to their homes. Many people stayed at an emergency shelter located at the Pan Pacific Recreation Center, 7600 Beverly Blvd., during the evacuation period. According to a Red Cross worker, the shelter will remain in place for possible evacuations.

The fire impacted nearby schools. The Beverly Hills Unified

School District closed its campuses on Jan. 9 and 10, reopening on Jan. 13. While no BHUSD schools were under immediate threat, many staff members reside in areas that are "significantly impacted," BHUSD Superintendent Dr. Michael Bregy said, in an e-mail to the BHUSD community.

"We understand the inconvenience this closure may cause, particularly for working parents, and we appreciate your understanding and patience as we navigate these challenges together," he added.

Similarly, all Los Angeles Unified School District schools were closed on Jan. 9 and 10 due to wildfire threats.

The Sunset fire was followed by a structure fire in Studio City at approximately 9 p.m. on Jan. 8, and the Los Angeles Fire Department advised neighbors of a potential evacuation. Several other homes caught fire, but the blaze was extinguished within about an hour, according to the LAFD.

The fires in the Hollywood Hills and Studio City followed a series of devastating wildfires across Los Angeles, including the Palisades and Eaton fires, which together have burned over 40,000 acres and killed at least 24 people.

Local leaders applauded fire-

fighters for their efforts and advised residents in Los Angeles to be prepared for high wind conditions.

Assemblyman Rick Chavez Zbur (D-Hollywood), who represents the 51st District, which includes areas of Santa Monica, Beverly Hills, West Hollywood and Los Angeles, expressed support for residents affected by the fires.

"My heart is broken by the devastation that our communities are experiencing as a result of the fires, including the recent Sunset fire in the Hollywood Hills," Zbur said. "Large portions of Santa Monica and Southern California have evacuated to assure the safety of residents, as well as our loved ones and pets. I'm very grateful to the first responders who are working round the clock to keep us safe. I am working closely with the speaker and governor, and I can assure you the state of California is committed to caring for the needs of all the affected residents, including the immediate emergency response and responding to any and all cases of price gouging. This incredibly difficult crisis will be followed by the challenge of recovery. Please know that my office is here as a resource through all of it. Please follow all directives from local emergency officials, and above all stay safe."

## Fire response remains robust

From page 1

for potential evacuations.

Rick Caruso – whose namesake real estate company owns several properties including The Grove, Americana at Brand and the Palisades Village, which was largely spared during the destructive blaze – criticized Bass' response to the fires. Caruso ran as a Democrat against Bass in the 2022 mayoral election, ultimately losing the race. He called the city's response to the fires an "absolute mismanagement," as the water supply ran dry in the Pacific Palisades. Caruso has also faced criticism for hiring private firefighters to protect the Palisades Village and his home in Brentwood.

L.A. County Public Works Director Mark Pestrella said the Los Angeles municipal water system is not designed to fight wildfires, but rather small structure fires within neighborhoods.

When asked by a reporter during the press conference if the fire department could have done more to prevent the Palisades fire, Crowley defended the LAFD's response.

"In regard to the LAFD's position and pre-positioning of our resources, we followed the system in place," Crowley said. "The sys-

tem in place looks at the overall weather and risk. With that we pre-deployed the resources in very calculated ways throughout the city, also not knowing where a fire might start and might not start."

The Los Angeles City Council has taken several actions to expedite fire recovery, provide support to impacted residents and prevent future wildfires. The council approved motions on Jan. 14 that call for reports on the origins of the fires and the response from the departments involved.

Additionally, it approved a motion asking the fire department and LADWP to provide weekly updates on infrastructure, including reservoirs and other water resources used to fight fires.

"We also directed DWP to report back on a root cause analysis of what caused the lack of water pressure in the hydrants and the water system that resulted in dry hydrants during the peak of the fire and the Palisades," Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky, 5th District, said in a social media post. Yaroslavsky announced that the council added housing and lodging to the list of prohibited price gouging activities. She also announced that the city will be examining ways to prevent behavior that increases fire risk.

## Schiff launches website with fire resources

U.S. Sen. Adam Schiff (D-Calif.) has launched a one-stop webpage with fire resources in response to the ongoing wildfires in Los Angeles County.

The website will be continually updated as resources become available. It is accessible through Schiff's website and through his official social media channels.

"Whether it's help from the Small Business Administration or FEMA, or how to deal with your insurance companies, we want to make sure that you get the assistance you need to find housing to stay on your feet to get help," Schiff said. "We want

to make sure no one is going through these wildfires or their aftermath on their own. There's help."

Schiff has been working with local, state and federal stakeholders to rapidly deploy federal response and recovery resources to Los Angeles County. Notably, Schiff pushed President Joe Biden for the federal government to approve 100% federal coverage for disaster response and quickly issue a natural disaster declaration.

In addition to his efforts to bring support to Los Angeles County, Schiff has visited affected areas in Altadena and the Pacific Palisades,

as well as evacuation centers across the county. During visits, Schiff engaged with numerous officials from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, Governor's Office, California Office of Emergency Services, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, county of Los Angeles, city of Los Angeles, American Red Cross and many nonprofit and private sector partners.

For information on resources, visit [schiff.senate.gov/wildfire-resources](http://schiff.senate.gov/wildfire-resources).

## Disaster recovery center opens

Los Angeles County has opened a Local Assistance and Disaster Recovery Center at the UCLA Research Park West, 10850 West Pico Blvd. Hours are 9 a.m.-8 p.m.

Agencies providing assistance to the public at the site include the Aging and Disabilities Department, Office of the Assessor, Department of Animal Care and Control, Department of Child Support Services, Department of Children and Family Services, Department of Consumer and Business Affairs and Department of Economic Opportunity. Also included are the Los Angeles County Fire Department, Los Angeles County

Homeless Initiative, Affordable Housing Department, Department of Medical Examiner, Department of Mental Health, Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Department of Public Health, Department of Environmental Services, Department of Public Social Services and the Emergency Response Team. Additionally, members of the public can receive help from the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk's Office and the Department of Treasurer and Tax Collector.

For information, visit [recovery.lacounty.gov/recovery-centers](http://recovery.lacounty.gov/recovery-centers).

# Hotels help displaced residents find lodging

From page 1

or resort fees, to help ensure displaced individuals find comfort and care during this challenging time. Our hearts go out to everyone impacted, and we remain steadfast in our dedication to being a trusted refuge for those in need.”

Hotels offering deals in West Hollywood include 1 Hotel West Hollywood, Kimpton La Peer, Hotel Ziggy, Chamberlain West Hollywood, Mondrian Los Angeles, Andaz West Hollywood and Petit Ermitage.

“The overall aim is to respond to the needs of Angelenos who have been impacted and need relief and refuge at this very difficult moment in their lives,” West Hollywood assistant city manager Jackie Rocco said. “Hotels in West Hollywood stepped up immediately with compassion and generosity. The city of West Hollywood, the West Hollywood Travel + Tourism Board (Visit West Hollywood), and the West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce have been working in close communications and cooperation to provide information and links that connect evacuees, first responders and those otherwise impacted to hotel rooms for stays.”

Rocco cautioned, though, that many of the participating locations are already at capacity.

“That said, each day is different, and the impacts of the fires are constantly changing and evolving. So, those in need of a hotel stay are urged to contact hotels for updated information, as stays may be avail-

able,” she added.

“[The hotels’] generosity exemplifies the community spirit that defines West Hollywood,” Councilman Danny Hang said.

Many other area hotels have opened their doors for evacuees with discounted rates. Among those are AC Beverly Hills, Burton House Beverly Hills, the Universal Hilton, the Hollywood Hotel and the W Hollywood. The Godfrey Hotel Hollywood has reduced rates by roughly \$100 – to as low as \$135 – for evacuees and first responders.

“Our hearts and prayers are with those who were affected by the recent events in the Pacific Palisades and Eaton fires,” The Godfrey’s director of sales and marketing Tiffany Young said. “We understand this is an incredibly devastating time in which we must come together as a community to help those who were displaced or lost their homes ... We will continue to offer aid in any way we can to ensure our community and firefighters have the resources they need to be supported as they navigate this process.”

While not providing discounted rates, both the Beverly Hills Hotel and the Peninsula Beverly Hills provided statements of support for fire victims.

“We continue to grieve for our beloved city and everyone affected by the devastating wildfires,” Dorchester Collective communications representative Leslie

Lefkowitz said. “Many of our guests and employees have experienced unimaginable loss and our primary focus is to provide the best care possible for everyone staying with us and working at the hotel. Having said this, we are also participating in a variety of external efforts and initiatives to help those directly impacted, including the firefighting community, and will continue to do so as we navigate these very trying times.”

“The Peninsula Beverly Hills remains in full operation and is available to those who have been affected by fires,” the hotel said in a statement. “We continue to extend our heartfelt care to our guests who have been impacted by the fires, and our thoughts are with everyone in our beloved community during this tragedy.”

Additionally, FEMA representatives set up shop at various libraries across the county, including at the West Hollywood Library.

“I visited the site [Jan. 12] and met with FEMA officials who coordinated with our own city staff, and helped approximately 70 individuals and families displaced by the fires go through the FEMA application process,” Hang said. “FEMA officials were also on site the following day [and] approximately 90 individuals and families were assisted with their FEMA application process. I greeted one survivor from the Palisades who lost her home. She was deeply grateful to be alive and apprecia-



photo courtesy of the Godfrey Hotel Hollywood

The Godfrey Hotel Hollywood has a nearly \$100 discount available for fire evacuees and first responders.

tive of FEMA’s efforts to assist her.”

“We had a number of families already there all day on Sunday,” West Hollywood Mayor John Erickson said. “Our city staff were helping organize and facilitate people to help with the intake process, to make sure they were got water and snacks, and that continued on Monday as well, with our park staff helping out, and FEMA was there. It’s been really, really great to see the collaboration.”

The city activated West Hollywood Responds, a program used during times of crisis to help drive aid for those affected. A list of organizations seeking volunteers and contributions can be found at [weho.org/wehoresponds](http://weho.org/wehoresponds).

“We’re all in this together, across the county and across the city. As

we know, when something impacts one of us, it impacts all of us. The city, our resources and our facilities are always there to help make sure everyone’s getting everything they need,” Erickson said.

“During the emergency, our local firefighters and law enforcement officers have been working around the clock to assist in areas which have been directly impacted, while simultaneously working to keep us safe in West Hollywood,” Councilman John Heilman said. “We have also responded by encouraging residents and businesses to support those in need by donating to reputable organizations who are providing relief. One of my core values is certainly keeping the community safe. As a city, we also prioritize helping those in need.”

# WeHo postpones mayoral installment

From page 2

local heroes, our businesses, community members – everyone is stepping up in this moment of crisis and coming together for everyone across the city and county,” Mayor John Erickson said. “It just makes me see the true leadership and spirit of Los Angeles is strong, and we’re all here together as we continue to battle and stay vigilant against these fires.”

Councilman Danny Hang highlighted the continuing issues faced by residents.

“The air quality remains unhealthy due to the many fires,” Hang cautioned. “Community members should do their best to stay indoors, and if you are going to be out, please protect yourself with a mask. N95 masks are made available at the West Hollywood Library by the county of Los Angeles.”

Erickson will continue to hold the mayoral title until next week’s meeting.

“It’s always hard to cancel a council meeting, but I think it was

really important at this time. We wanted to make sure we are making the best decision for not only individuals that work at City Hall – making sure they could get back home if they lived in impacted

areas, if the worst could have happened – but also making sure those that were traveling here could be taken care of and be safe. Everyone’s personal safety always has to come front of mind. And I’m really glad the city made that decision, and we will continue to move forward with the city business next week,” Erickson said.

Typically, a separate meeting

without regular city business is held to install the new mayor and vice mayor, followed by a reception. By moving the ceremony back one week, the process will now occur prior to a normal meeting with what is expected to be a packed agenda. Due to the winter holiday, there has not been a West Hollywood City Council meeting since Dec. 16.

# Arrests made in BH robbery

From page 2

and attempted to stop the car. A pursuit ensued that ended near Sepulveda Boulevard and Moraga Drive in the Sepulveda Pass, where five suspects were taken into custody. The suspects were identified as Kevin Turner, 23, Cash Alexander, 20, Jordan Jackson, 20, Kolion Beyan, 20, and James Knight, 19. Beyan is from Hollywood, authorities said. The

other suspects are residents of Los Angeles but the specific neighborhoods in which they live were not provided.

Evidence and property were recovered from the suspects’ vehicle, police said. Orth declined to give any further details, including the total number of suspects.

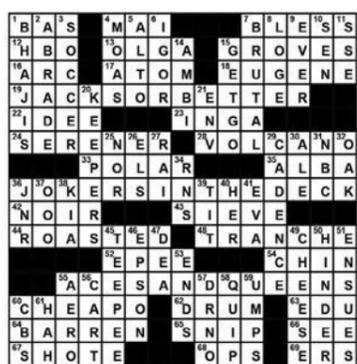
“We are not releasing any further information just yet,” he added. “The detectives are still going through everything.”

The BHPD warned people about committing crimes within the city.

“I would like to remind criminals that the BHPD is fully staffed and ready to respond to any crimes,” Chief Mark Stainbrook said. “During this tumultuous time, as fires affect parts of the region, the BHPD remains steadfast in its mission to protect and serve the community. Crime of any type will not be tolerated in Beverly Hills.”

Anyone with information is urged to call the BHPD at (310)550-4951.

## Answers From Page 23



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**Crossword Puzzle** by Myles Mellor

**Across**

1. Arts degrees
4. When many fleurs bloom
7. Hallow
12. Movie channel (abbr.)
13. One of Chekhov's "Three Sisters"
15. Orange-tree orchards
16. Circle piece
17. Tiny piece of matter
18. City south of Salem
19. Slots game
22. \_\_\_ fixe
23. "Young Frankenstein" heroine
24. More tranquil
28. Mauna Loa, e.g.
33. Extreme, as opposites
35. Jessica of "Fantastic Four" films
36. They're wild when in a pack
42. Roulette bet
43. It doesn't hold water
44. Ridiculed
48. Portion of money
52. Olympic sport
54. Gab
55. High poker cards
60. Shoddily made
62. Beat setter
63. Part of some e-mail addresses
64. Dry
65. Clip
66. "Get the picture?"

**Down**

67. Young pig
68. Photo \_\_\_ (P.R. events)
69. Sounds of hesitation
1. Indian dishes
2. Scrape off
3. Goal-oriented activity
4. Extinct birds
5. Anita Baker, for one
6. Stravinsky or Sikorsky
7. Savage
8. Theater box
9. Continuously
10. Rep.'s counterpart
11. Compass point
14. \_\_\_ dextrous (can use both hands)
15. Start
20. Guards
21. Ltr. holder
25. Fjord country, briefly
26. Chicago trains
27. Bollywood star Aishwarya
29. Intonation
30. Inn intake
31. Cheers network
32. Hardwood type
34. T.L.C. givers
36. Dad's namesake, abbr.
37. Resetting setting
38. Amanti is one

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12			13		14		15				
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22					23						
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42						43					
44			45	46	47	48			49	50	51
			52			53			54		
		55	56			57	58	59			
60	61					62				63	
64						65				66	
67						68				69	

39. Songbird
  40. HRH part
  41. Actress, Mendez
  45. Home on the range
  46. Big name in printers
  47. Narc's org.
  49. Sardo or Havarti
  50. Cut across
  51. Goes on from
  53. Heels
  55. Dynamic start
  56. Shopper's vehicle
  57. Bond opponent
  58. Bon mot
  59. Strike callers
  60. The "eye" in broadcasting
  61. Derisive laugh
- answers on page 22

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

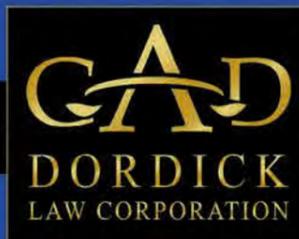
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