

NO. 14  
May 2014



# Cheviot Hills

*The greatest neighborhood in the world*



**BEN LEE**  
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# Have a ball!

By BEN LEE

While most people we know tend to take a trip during Memorial Day weekend, for the last 12 years, this holiday to my family meant one thing: our anniversary.

Lilli and I got married on May 26, 2001 so this month marks our 13th year of wedded bliss. Back then, 13 years ago, Lilli and I were finalizing wedding details and making honeymoon plans. It feels like a lifetime ago, and not just because it's hard to remember our lives before our three children were born, but anything that happened before 9/11, even a wedding, feels like ancient times. But, what's old is new again, and for us, this

Memorial Day weekend is no different. This year we'll not only be celebrating our anniversary, but we'll be attending the wedding of Lilli's sister, Brooke, too. Our boys will don tiny tuxedos for their first trip down the aisle as ring bearers and both Lilli and I are in the wedding party, as well. Home for the holiday is where we're destined to be.

So, to live vicariously for a moment, what will your plans be? What exotic locale beckons your brood? Sure, Cheviot Hills and Beverlywood are ideal places to live but it's great to leave town once in a while, too.

This year, in fact, we thought it might be fun to pose the question as a contest of sorts. Later in the month you'll be receiving an inflatable beach ball, courtesy of Ben Lee Properties. We thought it would be fun to see that

beach ball in interesting locations during Memorial Day weekend and documented in photographs. What constitutes "interesting?" Really, anything you want it to be! Maybe you're going to Timbuktu or maybe you're lounging in your backyard. Art is, as we know, what you make of it.

Entering the contest is easy: just "like" Ben Lee Properties on Facebook and subscribe to my bi-monthly e-mail blast by clicking the "Join My List" tab from my Facebook page. Then, upload a picture of you and your Ben Lee Properties beach ball. You can win a \$200 Amazon gift card for yourself and a \$200 donation to both Friends of Castle Heights and Friends of Overland Elementary.

Enter as many times as you'd like. Judging will take place after Memorial

Day weekend and the winner will be notified by June 1. We'll also highlight some of the runners-ups in a collage of photos in an upcoming issue of this paper.

So, get creative and have some fun this holiday weekend. While my family is ineligible to win the prize, we may just take the beach ball to Brooke's wedding anyway. Because I think I know my wife fairly well and if there's one thing that she would truly love to see is our three boys tossing a Ben Lee Properties beach ball during her sister's formal wedding.

What's more, we try to give gifts to match the traditional anniversary symbols, and, of all things, you're supposed to give textiles for year 13. Plastic could be considered a textile, right? Happy anniversary, honey!



# My featured listings

BEN LEE - ESTATES SALES

## Cheviot Hills – NEW LISTING!



Open Sunday 5/4 2-5pm

**2715 Forrester Drive – Offered at \$4,199,000**

CO-LISTED WITH JACOB HAUSMAN, RFC GROUP

## Beverlywood – NEW LISTING!



Open Sunday 5/4 2-5pm

**8821 David Avenue – Offered at \$675,000**

## Cheviot Hills – JUST REDUCED!



Open Sunday 5/4 2-5pm

**2910 Patricia Avenue – Offered at \$2,145,000**

One of the grandest homes on what is one of the most picturesque streets Cheviot Hills, this over 5000 square foot mansion provides the daily opportunity to live in your own, private resort. The highlights are almost too numerous to list: five large bedrooms, five and a half bathrooms, separate guest house beside the glorious swimming pool, Barbecue entertaining area and spa. Pocket doors allow for open flow or privacy. Plenty of light streams in to each room thanks to the enormous windows and glass doors. The enormous kitchen offers two dishwashers, stainless appliances, breakfast room and a view of both the backyard and greenhouse, perfect for all your orchid or farm-to-table needs. Up the dramatic staircase, behold the master bedroom suite that includes a mini-kitchen, massive dressing room, bathroom with designer stone walls and a colossal closet with plenty of additional storage. As if that wasn't alluring enough, there's likely nothing quite as gorgeous as seeing the view below from your private balcony. Located in the Castle Heights School district, once you live here, you may not want to travel anymore. Your vacation will be your home.

A truly romantic yet ultra stylish home, this warm and inviting house is a delightful oasis in Beverlywood vicinity. With ziggurat archways and refinished hardwood floors throughout, this home defines the Spanish art deco style. Located on a very quiet, private street, the house features a gas fireplace in the living room, a formal dining room off of the kitchen, a separate laundry room, and a finished, detached garage that could double as a studio or office. The kitchen features red Zodiac quartz counters, stainless steel refrigerator and custom flooring to match the counters and cabinetry. Skylight and French doors offer plenty of light. The home features updated baths, copper plumbing, a 200 Amp electrical box, and has a bolted foundation. There is plenty of closet and storage space throughout. The backyard features a beautiful patio with Spanish tiles, perfect for entertaining, a low maintenance garden, and a wonderful lemon tree.

This is a stately manor that would fit in perfectly with the grand estates of the English countryside. Nestled amongst a forest of mature fir trees, this supremely private and recently remodeled home proudly boasts original features that makes true Cheviot Hills architecture so trusted and unique. Elegant crowned moldings, hard wood floors, a regal fireplace in the formal living room and exquisite views abound. French doors from the formal dining room open to a freshly-landscaped grassy back yard: perfect for kids to play or for a dog to roam. The kitchen was updated to include all of the state-of-the-art equipment the sophisticated at-home chefs have come to desire: stainless steel appliances, sleek yet impenetrable Kirkstone countertops, an abundance of pantry/storage spaces and a separate eat-in breakfast room reminiscent of English conservatories. Also included on this level of the house is the laundry room, family room/den and office. These two spaces, however, could easily convert into additional bedrooms as they each come equipped with generous closets. The second story of this traditional style home was part of the major architectural overhaul that was undertaken by the current residents. Roughly 1700 of the 3500 square feet were added to make the home comfortable for a growing family. The upstairs bedrooms each possess high ceilings, glorious views and extremely large closets. Two bedrooms have handsome built-in bookshelves as well as romantic window seats, ideal for curling up with a novel. The master bedroom is worthy of the King and Queen of the manor. A vast space with far reaching views, enormous walk-in closet, beautiful bathroom with limestone tiled floors, marble countertops, Jacuzzi bathtub, dual headed steam shower and double vanity. There is also an additional area off the bedroom that could be used for an office, gym, additional closet or even a nursery. Located in the award winning Overland School district, this five bedroom, four bath is the epitome of a truly exquisite and quite regal residence in a picturesque pocket of Cheviot Hills.

Neighborhood  
Game  
Changers!

Cheviot Hills –



SOLD OVER ASKING! Highest Price Sold in Cheviot Hills EVER!

**10259 Monte Mar Drive – Offered at \$4,399,000**

Cheviot Hills –



Highest Price in Country Club Estates EVER!

**2933 Danalda Drive – Offered at \$3,799,000**



# Cheviot Hills' happenings



## Minimum wage hikes

By Michael Harris, Esq.

Homeowners who employ persons around the house will be subject to the latest changes in the minimum wage rules. The minimum will increase from \$8 to \$9 per

hour beginning July 1, 2014.

Further, the Domestic Workers Bill of Rights Bill was passed in 2013. Under this law, a domestic work employee shall not be employed more than nine hours in any work day or more than 45 hours in a

work week unless the employee receives 1 1/2 times the employees' regular rate of pay. In short, overtime pay is now required for home workers.

## Local parent, the president?

By BEN LEE

So, who will be the next president of the United Teachers Los Angeles? The ballots are in and the gentleman who will lead this ultra powerful union of nearly 31,000 members is Alex Caputo-Pearl, a teacher

and parent at our own Castle Heights Elementary School.

Alex has been a teacher for 22 years and received his BA in Political Science from Brown University and MA in Urban and Regional Planning from UCLA. His wife, Anne, is a labor and

delivery nurse and is as active in her union as Alex is in his.

Together, they are highly involved with Castle Heights Elementary and our campus is collectively thrilled that one of our own will be fighting on behalf of our beloved teachers. Way to go, Alex!

### Palms-Rancho Park Library

2920 Overland Ave.  
Los Angeles, Calif., 90064  
[www.lapl.org](http://www.lapl.org)

#### May 3 PSAT Practice Test

10 a.m.  
The PSAT — also known as the NMSQT (National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) — is required if you apply for a National Merit Scholarship. Recommended for eighth, ninth and 10th grade students. Bring No. 2 pencils and a calculator with you to the practice test.

#### May 5 Baby Story Time

10:30 a.m.  
Rhymes, songs, and stories for babies and their caregivers. Recommended for infants up to approximately 18 months. Most activities will be seated.

#### May 7 American Red Cross Blood Drive

11 a.m. — 5 p.m.  
Give blood, give life! Make an appointment by visiting [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and entering the sponsor code "PalmsRanchoPark," or e-mail [Tamara.white@redcross.org](mailto:Tamara.white@redcross.org). Call the Red Cross at (800) RED-CROSS. Donors will receive a buy-one-get-one-free coupon for Quizno's, a voucher for two free tickets to the Laugh Factory, and a voucher for two tickets to an L.A. Galaxy game. Identification is required to donate blood.

#### May 8 SCORE-LA

1 p.m.  
Free one-on-one counseling provided by business professionals to anyone operating a small business or thinking of starting one. By appointment only. Contact Michele Robinson at [mrobins@lapl.org](mailto:mrobins@lapl.org) to schedule an appointment. Each appointment lasts one hour.

#### May 18 'Flora & Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures'

4 p.m.  
A discussion of the Newbery Award-winning book, by Kate DiCamillo, followed by a look at comic books, with artist Rafael Navarro. Copies of "Flora & Ulysses" will be available at the reference desk in May. Recommended for ages 8 and older.

#### May 30 Kids Book Club: 'Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory'

4 p.m.  
Join the library for an afternoon of entertainment as young performers (ages 6-10) from the Mar Vista Recreation Center put on a fun production of "Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory." The singers are going to be the umpa loompas. Copies of the book, "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" by Roald Dahl will be available for check out behind the reference desk. Children are encouraged to read the book before attending the show. Program recommended for children ages 5-10, but siblings are welcome.