



Cheviot Hills

The greatest neighborhood in the world

*Taken at our election party in 2012.
No masks required!*

NO. 92
October 2020

ELECTION DATE 2012



BEN LEE PROPERTIES • Real Estate Broker • Licensed Attorney
www.BenLeeProperties.com • (310) 858-5489

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Supreme Legacies

By Ben Lee

It was a sad day in our house the day Ruth Bader Ginsberg died. It actually started out OK as it happened to be my birthday. But anyone who has experienced a quarantine birthday knows that the novelty has pretty much worn off. Every other year we would've had a hearty barbeque in the backyard with a handful of friends and their kids over to swim and hang out. This year, of course, didn't look like that but it was still nice to have a quiet day at home with just the family. And then, just before dinnertime, we learned that RBG died. I think it hit me a little harder because not only was she a brilliant jurist, steadfast advocate for equal rights and an incomparably progressive American icon... but because she always reminded me a bit of my mom.

It's always a little emotional to celebrate a birthday when the woman responsible for your birth is no longer around so losing RBG that day, too, felt like a double whammy. My mother went to law school later in life. She had already worked as a dental hygienist- a field she never particularly enjoyed but had been a predetermined destiny given her father and older brother were both already dentists. It was always a source of irritation that she was never encouraged to be a dentist solely because women were supposed to be the cheerful sidekicks in the world of medical professionals and cleaning teeth wasn't what she really wanted to do. So, after about a decade of being unhappy, she made the choice to enroll in Loyola Law School. There, she thrived both mentally, socially and emotionally. She graduated at the top of her class, met and married my father and then had me and my brother all

in short succession. My parents opened a private practice together while my mom also taught at Pepperdine Law School. It was while at Pepperdine that my folks befriended a visiting professor and Supreme Court Justice: Antonin Scalia.

Legend has it the dean told Scalia that he should befriend Jeff and Roberta Lee because being new in town, he could use some fun friends to show him the ropes. I remember being in high school and having the Scalia family over for a backyard barbeque



and watching the adults roar with laughter. Given they were at opposite ends of the ideology spectrum, it might have been surprising to see them all getting along with such unbridled enthusiasm. And that's what analysts said of the friendship between Antonin Scalia and Ruth Bader Ginsberg, too. They could be polar opposites when it came to their belief systems but when they got together it was just two great buddies having a lot of laughs. I imagine that mid-1980's Lee/Scalia barbeque made quite the impression as a few months later, my parents were traveling to Washington D.C. with friends and Justice Scalia invited the whole group to go to the Supreme Court, watch the proceedings in session and then have a visit back in his chambers. My parents disagreed with him politically but always talked about that day and what a thoughtful, generous and funny person he was and I think they were quite proud to call him a friend.

The similarities between Ruth Bader Ginsberg and my mom don't end with finding friends in strange places. After closing their practice, my mom stopped being an attorney and became a family law court commissioner for LA Superior Court. Her bench may not

have been as imposing as the Supreme Court's but she felt incredibly humbled by the work and had reverence for protecting the rights of children and parents, suffering in the turmoil of messy divorce and custody pursuits.

Both RBG and my mom were huge fans of the opera. Nothing thrilled my mom more than when my brother became a professional opera singer. She traveled all over the world watching him sing on stage. When he retired from performing and got an administrative job at LA Opera, she was only too happy to relieve him of his complimentary house seats every time he offered. And like RBG, my mother was also Jewish. I don't know how religious or devout Ginsberg was but my mom's Jewish identity was more food and culturally based more than attending services with any regularity. When it came to religion, my mom liked to describe herself as "a culinary Jew," and this was always most evident on the Jewish holidays. Which made RBG's death on Rosh Hoshana all the more poignant. Had it have happened years ago, we probably all would've been at my mom's having dinner together as the High Holy Days were synonymous with roast chicken, chala (and the ever present uproarious

laughter) over at Bubbie's house.

My mom has been gone for four years now. It's so strange to think she died during the 2016 election and never got to witness the outcome or division that has followed since. Ruth Bader Ginsberg won't see the results of the election coming up. I can only imagine that these two highly respected ladies of the law would agree on one very important thing: that it's incumbent upon each and every one of us to vote next month. No matter which way you lean, whether you're happy with this administration or wish for a change, you need to get out there and make your voice heard. Send in your ballot nice and early so it's counted (remember to sign it and use proper postage!) or put on a mask and brave the lines in person. This is each of our democracy and we owe it to our fore fathers, essential workers, Supreme Court Justices and, yes, even our moms to get out there and vote on November 3rd. There may be a void felt over the death of Ruth Bader Ginsberg but I imagine she wouldn't want Americans to mourn for too long. A more enduring legacy that aligns better with who she was while alive is to honor her memory in death. Please vote.

My featured listings

BEN LEE PROPERTIES

Cheviot Hills - GREAT NEW PRICE!



3021 Club Drive \$4,295,000 5 Bed / 5.5 Bath

A sophisticated take on the classic modern farmhouse, this absolutely gorgeous new construction is a feast for the eyes and senses. Built by one of Cheviot Hills' most trusted and highly regarded builders, Bob Skibinski,

no expense was spared in creating this stunning home. Wide planked wood floors, detailed moldings and designer fixtures add to the property's richness in detail and the open floor plan makes it feel spacious and grand. This home benefits

from truly unique design details and an unparalleled craftsmanship that can't be fully appreciated until you witness it for yourself. Be sure and visit today!

NEW CONSTRUCTION!

Cheviot Hills - GREAT NEW PRICE!



3043 Oakhurst Ave \$1,649,000

4 Bed / 3 Bath 2,163 Sq. Ft., 5,000 Sq. Ft. Lot

Cheviot Hills - FOR LEASE!



2890 Forrester Drive \$14,000/mo.

5 Bed / 5 Bath 4,438 Sq. Ft., 7,265 Sq. Ft. Lot

Beverlywood - ACTIVE!



1929 Hillsboro Avenue \$1,995,000

3 Bed / 2 Bath / Den 2,303 Sq. Ft., 7,771 Sq. Ft. Lot

Cheviot Hills happenings

– Westside Stories –

By Michael Harris

Voting in Los Angeles as a matter of history pretty much tracks the voting requirements through the years in the United States. At first only white male landowners were permitted to vote. Then when the 15th Amendment to the US constitution prohibited the denial of voting based on race, there were poll taxes and literacy tests which limited the right to vote. In 1920 the 19th Amendment allowed the woman's vote. In 1965 The Voting Rights Act

was passed by Congress to curtail all forms of voting suppression. In 1971 the voting age nationally was lowered from 21 to 18 years. Thereafter, there were rules passed to protect the rights to vote of persons who did not speak English and those who suffered from disabilities. The later Motor Voter Act and the mail in ballots were designed to make it easier to vote. The right to vote remains a cornerstone of our representative government and requires vigilance to be sure that one person one vote is maintained.

If you enjoy reading these vignettes each month, you may want to check out my father-in-law's book, Westside Stories. It's a memoir/history of growing up on the Westside of Los Angeles in the 1940s and 1950s with great photos, anecdotes and stories. Perfect for the history buff/enthusiast in your family! It's available for purchase on Amazon, just search for Westside Stories by Michael Harris.



Halloween 2020

By Ben Lee

Like just about everything else this year, Halloween 2020 is confusing. Los Angeles' local health department initially banned trick-or-treating due to the pandemic but then back pedaled to say it was not banned but still strongly discouraged. The homeowners on Thayer Avenue, usually a bustling hotspot for crowds of costumed candy seekers have announced they will be dark to avoid crowds. An informal Nextdoor survey among neighbors in Cheviot Hills offered a mixture of opinions, mostly split right down the middle among those who would be participating and those who would not. Some have said that children this year have suffered a lot and want to offer a fun night of traditional revelry. Others are opting to not pass out candy to

strangers at the door, in the interest of exercising caution during this scary time. Still others are figuring out ways to engage in drive by trick-or-treating from inside vehicles, and accepting candy in a no-touch/socially distant way. So, if you opt to venture out with your children this year, be prepared for not as many houses participating, however, there will still be some that are. Perhaps create costumes that include a mask (for parents, too) and try to keep six feet apart from others out in the street as well as those opening their front doors. Whether you choose to celebrate Halloween inside or outside your home this year, I hope you stay safe and try to have fun. Whatever you do, don't pass out raisins. Even during a crazy, confusing and often contentious year, everyone agrees that no one likes those.

– RAFFLE –

By Ben Lee

Thank you to all of you who entered to win the \$50 gift card to Children's Book World. Congratulations to Evelyn Wiles! You are the lucky winner this month. I hope you enjoy spending your gift card at this neighborhood gem of a store. To all

those who entered and didn't win, don't worry as there is always another chance to get something fun and fabulous around the corner! In fact, speaking of corners, be on the lookout for a little gift headed your way soon. Just a small token of appreciation from me to you to say thanks for making our community so special. Hope you enjoy it!

VOTING HELP?

By Ben Lee

Voting is our civic duty to ensure a fair and just democracy, even during a pandemic. You have many options this year: voting early via absentee ballots and mailing them in or finding a sanctioned drop box near by. You could also go in person on November 3 and vote at your local

polling place. If you decide to vote in person, you may want to bring your absentee ballot with you. I believe they need it in exchange for an in-person ballot to ensure you don't vote twice. If it is too difficult to leave your house and you are feeling uneasy about mailing your ballot via the USPS, my 16 year old son and newly licensed driver has offered to pick up your ballot and make sure it's deposited safely and correctly. To utilize his services, send me an email: ben@benleproperties.com or give me a call: 310-704-6580 and I will connect you to him.