



Cheviot Hills

The greatest neighborhood in the world



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Honeymoon Phase



By Ben Lee

I hesitated writing this month's article for as long as I could because it felt as though every day brought life altering changes in a year that has already pushed us well over the edge of normalcy in a multitude of ways. The insurrection attempt we all witnessed on January 6 potentially will be remembered in our nation's history as an event as scary and horrific as 9/11. And, at least for me, every day since that Capitol attack has felt like waiting for the other shoe to drop. What inexplicable act of violence might happen today? So, at the risk of writing anything woefully dated by the time it went to print, I opted to wait until after the inauguration was over, watching with the hope that it would be a safe, coup-free day and a peaceful transition of power could be achieved. Letting out a sigh of relief that it appeared to go off without a hitch, procrastination is now no longer an option and it's time to get back to business.

We recently received a big batch of old family photos and I was particularly struck by the photo shown here. It's a picture of my wife's grandparents (so my grandparents-in-law?), Victoria and Alfred Harris, taken on their

honeymoon in 1927. They traveled from London to Lido Beach near Venice, Italy where they met and befriended a handful of fellow honeymooners. I thought it was a befitting shot for our February issue, appropriate to commemorate Valentine's Day and the romance that they shared for well over 65 years. But also to embrace the optimism that comes from a honeymoon phase of anything new—whether it's a relationship, school year, job, even a new government administration. There's always something rather exciting about those first few weeks when all the faults and foibles haven't been exposed yet. Everything is open to discovery and exploration, unsullied by experience and cynicism. To their descendents, Victoria and Alf Harris embodied the romantic ideal of a bygone era. They married young after a whirlwind courtship and sailed to New York from England, three sons in tow, in 1939. They embarked on a new life in this foreign country, far from the familiarity of family and friends yet also from the danger and horrors of Europe during a time of war. They traveled further west in 1944 and found their forever home on Glenbarr Avenue in Cheviot Hills, where they lived until they both

died in 1986 and 2008, respectively. There was much to celebrate during those Glenbarr years and to their three sons, eight grandchildren, twelve great grandchildren and all of us who married in to the family, their marriage was an inspiration in stability and partnership, glamour and romance.

As awesome as my wife's and my honeymoon was, I don't think a trip like that could even be possible today. We managed to find an over-water hut on the tiniest island off the coast of the second tiniest island in Tahiti—so small that it was only accessible by boat and could only accommodate 18 people total at one time, and that included the staff. There were no hard line phones, no televisions and this predated iPhones by at least a decade. It was May, 2001 so no one was concerned about the safety issues that became the norm after 9/11 and for two weeks we were essentially cut off from the rest of the world. But like Alf and Victoria, we became friends with another couple who happened to be honeymooning on the island, too. They taught us a card game that they promised would be so good, we'd never want to play anything else. And they were right. For the past twenty years, we've taught it to friends and our boys and will always be grateful to that

random couple on the tiniest island in the most remote speck on earth for giving us this lifelong gift.

Maybe this month you'll get the gift of the Covid vaccine which will lead to the bigger gift of getting to spend time with your loved ones again, free from the worry of getting infected. Perhaps this will be the last Valentine's Day you'll be stuck eating cheap take-out at home and next year you'll get the pleasure of experiencing an over-priced restaurant dinner instead! We have all had to endure this quarantine bubble for so long and we are all exhausted but I am optimistic that brighter days are ahead. The honeymoon phase, if you will, of a new year and a new administration and a new hope for a future full of promise.

So, in honor of Valentine's Day, I hope you'll join me in embracing this period of love in the air and agree that just because it's called 'the honeymoon phase,' does not necessary mean that the gloss has to fade. Sure, the passage of time naturally lends itself to routine and a bit of monotony but why not extend this exciting, hopeful period as long as we can? We've already faced down an attack on our Capitol this year. We can do anything!

My featured listings

BEN LEE PROPERTIES

Cheviot Hills - NEW LISTING!



2839 Medill Pl \$3,575,000

5 Bed / 4 Bath 3,703 Sq. Ft., 7,953 Sq. Ft. Lot

A house unlike any other in the neighborhood, this one needs to be experienced in person to be fully appreciated. Stately, inviting and bursting with personality, this mid-Century Mediterranean, perched high on a quiet cul-de-sac in Cheviot Hills, boasts what are arguably the best views of the city from a variety of different balconies and vantage points. A true tropical escape with an astounding amount of space to run, play or entertain. A much treasured and truly special home that deserves your immediate attention.

Beverlywood - FOR SALE!



9320 Oakmore Rd \$3,995,000

6 Bed / 4.5 Bath

A stately Mediterranean style manor on a tree lined, quiet street in Beverlywood masterfully combines sophisticated elegance with familial warmth. A grand foyer opens to two rooms at the front of the home: an intimate formal living room with fireplace and lovely view of the neighborhood and a handsome private office. Each bedroom is bright and airy with generously sized closets and the front two bedrooms also have balconies. Please visit this gorgeous home today as it certainly won't be on the market for long!

Beverly Hills - FOR SALE!



ROBBIE ROBERTSON'S BEVERLY HILLS ESTATE

\$4,195,000

5 Bed / 5 Bath 3,219 Sq. Ft., 43,542 Sq. Ft. Lot

More moments from the Beverly Hills Hotel yet a world away from the busy city, find your peace in this gorgeous sanctuary of a modern home - sleek and chic with a minimalist, mid-century aesthetic. High ceilings, open floor plan, dark walnut floors, clean lines and walls of glass set the tone for the formal living room and dining room open to the state-of-the-art kitchen. Utterly private with long gated driveway and room to park at least eight cars. Quartz floored and temperature controlled garage.

Beverlywood - IN ESCROW!



9124 Beverlywood St \$1,595,000

2 Bed / 2 Bath 1,513 Sq. Ft., 4,861 Sq. Ft. Lot

Cheviot Hills - SOLD!



3062 Earlmarr Dr \$6,995,000

6 Bed / 9 Bath

Rancho Park - SOLD!



10513 Blythe Ave \$1,995,000

3 Bed / 2 Bath 2,885 Sq. Ft., 6,202 Sq. Ft. Lot

Cheviot Hills - SOLD!



9906 Girila Way \$2,395,000

3 Bed / 3 Bath 2,481 Sq. Ft., 10,139 Sq. Ft. Lot

Beverlywood - SOLD!



1929 Hillsboro Avenue \$1,995,000

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

Cheviot Hills - SOLD!



3043 Oakhurst Ave \$1,649,000

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

Cheviot Hills happenings

Westside Stories

By Michael Harris

The month of February is best known for Valentine's Day. But the name of the month itself is taken from the latin "februum" which means purification and from the word "februa" which refers to the instruments used for purification. These words referred to the month when people were readying themselves for the coming of Spring. This year the words can be

interpreted to refer to the coming of the vaccine to purify us against the Covid scourge. The people of the Westside can hope they will be injected for their purification and to protect themselves from an unseen, airborne menace that has reeked havoc all over the globe. So welcome to February and Valentine's Day and anticipate the coming better days purified in thought and deed because of what we experienced in February.



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.

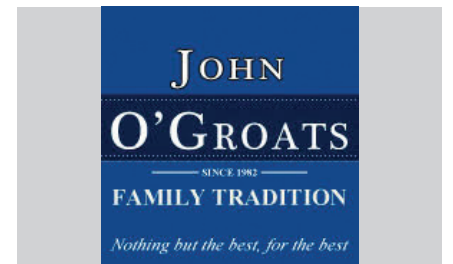
Raffle News

By Ben Lee

Thank you to all who entered our raffle to win a \$100 gift certificate to the fabulous restaurant Six on Pico.

Congratulations to Mary Larkin. You are the lucky winner this month! To all who didn't win this time, don't worry—there is always another opportunity around the corner. This month we are offering a \$100 gift certificate to neighborhood gem John O' Groats. You love their biscuits and fried chicken not

to mention pancakes, BLT's and salads. Now you can order to your heart's content on me! To win, simply send an email to: ben@benleeproperties.com and write JOHN O'GROATS in the subject line. We will select a winner at the end of the month. Good luck!

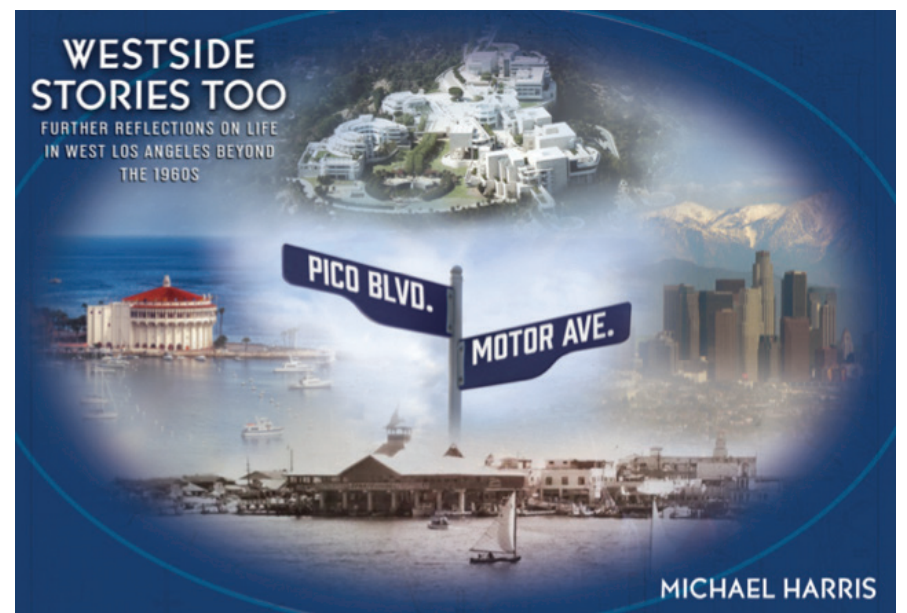


Vaccine Information

By Ben Lee

The news is changing daily, however, just in case you need to know more about how to get the Coronavirus vaccine, here is the website: vaccinatelacounty.com and just in case

you don't have access to the internet, here's their phone number: 833-540-0473. You will be able to sign up for an appointment, get an idea as to when you might qualify to receive the vaccine and learn more general information pertaining to all things Covid 19.



Westside Stories Too

By Ben Lee

If you are a fan of my father-in-law's first book, Westside Stories, you may be pleased to know that a second book is being published. Westside Stories Too takes a look at the history and backstory of some of the most iconic restaurants, shops, sights and sites of Westside Los Angeles from the 20th century. It's a

large, 172 page hardcover book and is offered at a pre-publication price of only \$20. If you are interested in preordering a copy for yourself or the local history buff in your life, please send an email to his publisher: hrrmg@mac.com or call: 310-476-6374. Share that you are a reader of this newsletter to get the special discount. Hope you enjoy!