

# PARK LABREA NEWS

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## Adopt-a-Basket Takes Trash Off Melrose

Local Group Talks Trash & Responsibility

BY AMY LYONS

Melrose Avenue Neighbors in Action (MANA) enjoyed a small victory earlier this month, when nine businesses along the avenue agreed to participate in the City of Los Angeles's Adopt-a-Basket Program. MANA representatives went door-to-door to get merchants on board with the program, a cleanup effort that appears to be

working already. The baskets were delivered just a few weeks ago and their adopted caretakers are doing their part to keep them well maintained.

Mitchell Singer is a MANA member who campaigned to get the baskets in place.

"We went to any merchants we could and asked people and many people said yes, at least two thirds. It was really a pleasant surprise to see that all the merchants want the same thing the neighbors do, which is a clean, safe interesting Melrose," Singer said.

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Photo by Amy Lyons

The Groundings Theatre is one of nine businesses who have Adopted-a-Basket to hopefully keep trash off the streets.

## Big Numbers Expected at Big Sunday Volunteer Event

Project Began in 1999 as Local Mitzvah Event

BY KRISTEN ORSBORN

David Levinson never really meant to cause such a ruckus. As a full-time writer for television, theater and film, Levinson just wanted to do something to give back to Hollywood's Temple Israel, his synagogue. That was in 1999, when Levinson was successful in getting about 300 of his closest friends, colleagues and fellow worshippers to volunteer and do community service.

Eight years later, the word has spread, and in an aston-

ishing example of getting the word, some 50,000 volunteers are expected to show up to volunteer for Big Sunday this weekend, which has swelled to become the

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Photo by Charlie Hess

David Levinson, right, began the project as a mitzvah event for Temple Israel, in Hollywood, eight years ago.



Photo by Kristen Orsborn

Thousands of Armenians and their sympathizers marched in front of the Turkish Consulate building on the 6300 block of Wilshire Boulevard, protesting the 1915 mass murder and genocide of more than a million Armenians by the Ottoman Empire.

## Thousands of Armenians Cram Wilshire Blvd. in Protest

Demonstrators Demand Recognition and Restitution from Turks

BY KRISTEN ORSBORN

Nearly 2,000 Armenians and their sympathizers flooded the 6300 block of Wilshire Boulevard Tuesday afternoon to commemorate the 92nd anniversary of the Armenian genocide and to protest Turkey's involvement and subsequent

denial.

The crowd, mostly swathed in black clothing and sporting red armbands, marched back and forth in tight formation in front of the Turkish consulate building near the intersection at Fairfax Avenue.

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## Kids Paint the Park Red Last Saturday

Tattoos Were the Main Attraction at WeHo Fair

BY KRISTEN ORSBORN

A man stood twelve feet tall, a tattoo artist branded anyone willing to wait in a long line, and sheriffs deputies watched in amusement as two little girls draw all over a parked police cruiser. Sound like a mob scene? Hardly. The man was walking on stilts, the 'tattoos' were actually face paintings, and the graffiti was done in crasable marker.

Such was the scene at West Hollywood's 12th annual Kids Fair, held last Saturday at the West Hollywood Park near the intersection of Melrose Avenue and San Vicente Boulevard.

The event, coordinated by the city's Department of Social Services, was a showcase for local schools, public safety programs, local law enforcement, and other community agencies. Free health and dental screenings were also available.

"Family and kids make up a large portion of West Hollywood's population," Social Services

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Photo by Kristen Orsborn

Austin, 9, watches as his friend Daniel, also 9, gets a flaming sun tattoo at last Saturday's West Hollywood Kids Fair. No need to be alarmed, moms, the tattoos are temporary.

## Weiss Wants Cheaper Housing for Local Police

BY EDWIN FOJVEN

The Los Angeles City Council continues to pursue a program that would lure experienced law enforcement officers to its police department, and Los Angeles City Councilman Jack Weiss, 5th District, recently called for a report on how such a program could be implemented.

The city is looking at incentives that could be provided, such as subsidized housing. Due to the high cost of real estate and skyrocketing rents, Weiss believes some of the most talented prospects may not even consider the Los Angeles Police Department as an option.

"The fact is that 75 percent of the Los Angeles Police Department officers live outside the city," Weiss said. "I want to create more opportunities for affordable housing for cops, especially the young recruits."

Weiss, who chairs the city council Public Safety Committee, had originally called for a report on the feasibility of the project last year, but revisited the matter recently. City staff members are now also looking into whether city owned

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## INSIDE

### Weekend Weather

Clear, sunny skies through the weekend, with temperatures expected to reach 80 degrees by Saturday.

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## Mitzvah Becomes Marvelous Event

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largest region-wide volunteer day in America and in Los Angeles history.

"I just kind of backed into this," Levinson explained. "I never intended for it to get like this, but I'm proof that anyone can do more than they thought. I just like the idea of people helping people."

Last year, more than 32,000 volunteers turned out for Big Sunday, which connects volunteers of various races, religions, ethnicities and socioeconomic groups to churches, schools, non-profits, or neighborhoods that need some extra help.

"The spirit of service and active engagement is what builds communities in Los Angeles," Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa said. "Improving our neighborhoods and helping others makes us proud of where we live and forms connections across the entire city of Los Angeles and the entire Southern California region. No one should miss out on this history-making event."

The mayor's office is joining forces with the Big Sunday project, and erected a 10-foot "volunteer-meter" outside City Hall to track the recruitment of volunteers for projects across Los Angeles, Orange and Ventura counties, and the Inland Empire.

"What makes Big Sunday different from other grassroots volunteer projects is its unique philosophy: everyone, regardless of how rich or poor, how old or young, your race, religion, gender or ethnicity, can help someone," Levinson said. "Everyone helps, everyone wins. Last year we were successful beyond our wildest imagination. It was incredibly moving to see how many people — of all ages, from all over town — wanted to work together and lend a helping hand."

Big Sunday's projects vary almost as much as its volunteers do. Singing to seniors, painting fences, and tending to abandoned animals are just a few of the hundreds of projects that need volunteers this

weekend.

"This program works for us, it's that simple," SOVA Food Pantry Resource Development Specialist Maxine Meyer said. "Besides the fact that we get exposure just by our name being in the Big Sunday promotional materials, we get a lot of people coming in here on that day who might not ordinarily have come in. We have a great experience, and we like being involved."

Levinson said the sheer variety of

**"I'm proof that anyone can do more than they thought. I just like the idea of people helping people."**

David Levinson  
Big Sunday Founder

projects is one thing that makes Big Sunday so successful in recruiting volunteers.

"As far as I'm concerned, the volunteers should actually get something out of it," he explained. "I always tell people, 'Don't do something you don't want to do.' I mean, if you hate gardening, don't garden, or you'll be miserable."

Levinson said even if people can't volunteer, they can still help by donating clean, unused socks and underwear.

"We never get enough of that stuff," he explained.

Volunteers are still needed for projects across Los Angeles, with several locations in the area, like The American Cinematheque, AIDS Project Los Angeles, Jewish Family Services, the SOVA Food Pantry, and the Amanda Foundation animal rescue group.

For more information on volunteering in Big Sunday, visit [www.bigsunday.org](http://www.bigsunday.org) or call (323)936-1419.

## Egyptian Theater Tours to be Held Mother's Day & Father's Day

The American Cinematheque presents Mother's Day weekend tours on May 12 and 13 at 10:30am and Father's Day weekend tours on June 16 and 17 at 10:30am at the Egyptian Theatre. Mothers and fathers will get a special treat when they come to the Sunday, May 13 (Mother's Day) or Sunday, June 17 (Father's Day) tours. Hour-long docent led tours of Grauman's first movie palace on Hollywood Boulevard (he later became involved with the Chinese) take visitors behind the scenes to see what it would have been like to be in a Sid Grauman stage show (with a visit to the old dressing rooms and singers' boxes, where there is a display of original-to-theatre Egyptian themed furniture as well as artifacts from the early days of the property) Check out our state-of-the-art projection booth, discover the painstaking restoration work and the marriage of modern technology with a landmark of Hollywood history — and more! Tours are approximately one hour long and culminate with a

screening of "Forever Hollywood. Meet in front of the box office.

Group tours can also be arranged at other times. Call (323)461-2020 ext. 121 for details. Tours are held once a month on a select weekend. Tours are at the Lloyd E. Rigler Theatre at the historic 1922 Egyptian (6712 Hollywood Blvd. between Highland and Las Palmas) in Hollywood. Advance tickets available at [www.fandango.com](http://www.fandango.com).

The non-profit American Cinematheque owns and operates the Egyptian Theatre with year-round film festival type programming. The Cinematheque oversaw a \$15 million renovation of the theatre which was completed in December 1998. The theatre was Sid Grauman's first movie palace on Hollywood Boulevard (five years prior to the Chinese). It was the home of the first Hollywood movie premiere in 1922 when it opened with "Robin Hood" starring Douglas Fairbanks on October 18, 1922. October 18 marks the 85th anniversary of the Egyptian Theatre.

## Kid's Fair Celebrates the City's Young Crowd

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photo by Kristin Oshers

Supervisor David Guigni, who has helped coordinate the fair for the last six years, said. "People don't necessarily think of that, because West Hollywood has been more identified as a gay and lesbian community or a senior citizen community. But we have schools from the Los Angeles Unified School District like Rosewood, Gardner, Laurel, and West Hollywood elementary, and the city really supports the local schools with programming and funding."

Saturday's fair gave organizations like the West Hollywood Sheriff's Department a chance to interact with children and impart the importance of the law during a public safety expo.

"It's important for us to introduce law enforcement to these kids," West Hollywood deputy sheriff Tom Brooks said. "And it's important to let them see us in this kind of a setting, rather than on the other side of the law."

The sheriff's booth was a popular stop for participants at the Kids Fair. Children huddled around a sheriff's motorcycle cruiser for a close-up inspection and giddily waited for a turn to leave their mark on it, either by signing their names or drawing pictures with an erasable pen.

"These kids are curious about all kinds of jobs, including mine," Brooks said.

About 2,000 people participated in Saturday's fair, which is in fact a large-scale version of a similar, monthly event the city hosts.

"We do Saturdays in the Park, which is held the first Saturday of the month," Guigni said. "Social services is out with information and entertainment for those, but

this is like a really big version of that."

Bronwyn Jacobs decided to bring her two children, Shadha, 3 and Ayesha, 7, to Saturday's fair. Both are students at West Hollywood schools.

"This city puts on great events," Jacobs said. "My kids always have a great time, and today's been great. They love it here."

The longest lines of the day were holding steady at the tattoo booth, where a mix of boys and girls (but mostly boys) waited impatiently for some artsy, albeit temporary, additions to their faces and forearms.

"The tattoos are awesome," said nine-year old Daniel, who was in

line for thirds, at the very least. "Definitely the most awesome part of the day."

Daniel was facing a tough decision when it was his turn to get inked, so to speak. Flaming sun or flaming skulls? He consulted his friend Austin, who waited patiently in line beside him. A flaming sun won out, just as the sun started to set on the Kids Fair.

"That looks totally awesome," Austin said.

For more information on Saturdays in the Park or any of the organizations at last week's event, call the West Hollywood Social Services Department at (323)848-6400, or visit [www.who.org](http://www.who.org).

## Jeffrey Foundation Announces Upcoming Anniversary Dinner, May 17

The Jeffrey Foundation is holding its 35th Anniversary Dinner and Circle of Love Awards Gala on Thursday, May 17 at 7:00pm at the Beverly Hills Hotel. The ceremony will honor individuals and organizations who have contributed to the Foundation's success. Dinner Co-chairpersons are Mara Beltrami New, Joanna Kermani and Stephanie Hibler.

The Jeffrey Foundation, established in 1972, is a non-profit organization dedicated to serving special needs children and their families in the Los Angeles area.

The Foundation provides therapeutic day care services, recreational programs, pre-school and school age educational services, and family support programs. Services are made possible by gifts and grants, and by designat-

ed public funds.

The foundation will recognize effort to provide service to special needs children and their families, and will honor donors and volunteers who help make the Foundation's work possible.

For more information or reservations, please contact The Jeffrey Foundation at (323)965-7536, or e-mail to [col@thejeffrey-foundation.com](mailto:col@thejeffrey-foundation.com).

## Don't Forget Mom!

The Park Labrea News & Beverly Press will be publishing a

### Special Mother's Day Section

for the next two weeks, May 3 and May 10, 2007.  
Don't Miss this fabulous advertising opportunity...  
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