

HERE!

BEVERLY HILLS MAIN NEWS

INDEPENDENT STUDY

(Continued from page 1)

Area Fault Investigation Report outlines many of the hazards associated with the tunneling project, such as fault rupture, gas explosion and ground settlement, Exponent's overarching opinion is that neither report demonstrates the present findings as based on rigorous risk assessment(s) on these subjects. Specifically, no attempt is made to quantify or even qualitatively assess the potential risks from these scenarios. No quantitative nor qualitative risk assessments have been presented to either a) estimate the likelihood of such events or b) characterize the potential severity of such events to the public.

"... It is Exponent's view that the alternative Constellation Boulevard station, while generally in a more favorable location with regards to faulting issues, is instead faced with potential methane gas hazards which could represent at least as great a hazard to the public as the faulting hazards associated with the Santa Monica Boulevard station. In the absence of a quantitative risk assessment, the choice between the stations is more likely to be made on the basis of risk perception rather than risk quantification. Additional steps can and should be performed at both station locations to better quantify the seismic and gas hazards at these locations..."

"The proposed tunneling project has been characterized as having a low probability of causing disturbance to overlying structures based on the application of a simplified methodology for assessing such hazards and optimistic assessments of tunneling proficiency using pressure-face tunnel boring machines (TBMs). Frequent reference is made to previous favorable experience in the Los Angeles Basin using such de-

vices. Such references, however, have little meaning in the absence of detailed data from the earlier projects.

"Even if the actual ground disturbances turn out to be as low as anticipated, the subway tunnels are projected to extend beneath older neighborhoods that are underlain by old, fragile water lines that could experience damage as a result of even minor soil disturbances. Special precautions will be needed to safeguard these lines from damage during construction. Gas hazards will not be insignificant for the proposed project. Most of the narrative in the reports focuses on gas hazards within the tunnel segments during construction. Almost no attention is paid to the potential for gas releases to the surface as a result of tunneling activities or to the future safe operation of the Constellation station, which would extend into geological deposits that have been closely associated with gas hazards at other locations in the Los Angeles Basin.

"Substantial shortcomings exist in the efforts carried out to date to locate early wildcat wells along the proposed subway alignments, especially in the vicinity of BHHS. The reports are mute regarding the potential surficial hazards of encountering well casings during drilling or the ramifications of having to stop drilling and remove a casing while the TBM is parked beneath a sensitive structure. It is Exponent's opinion that unknown factors such as these will preclude tunneling beneath the high school while in session.

With regards to future construction of deep foundations in the vicinity of subway tunnels, the reports are somewhat vague and address only the concerns raised by BHHS. Other stakeholders along the route may also anticipate future construction activities that could be potentially impacted by the

presence of underlying subway tunnels."

MTA obtained the consent of Beverly Hills in 2006 to dig its Westside Subway Extension through the City routing under Wilshire Boulevard continuing under Santa Monica Boulevard. In October 2010, MTA suddenly switched its plan by placing the tunnel under Beverly High in order to benefit Century City developers. MTA's own ridership studies showed that the original route – with a station on Santa Monica Boulevard – was preferable. The MTA seismic study, if accurate, shows some earthquake faulting from thousands of years ago that might impact the Santa Monica location. MTA has used that report to argue that it must tunnel under Beverly High. The MTA study also purported to show faulting under Beverly High. To date, the actual trenching reveals no such faulting. The Beverly Hills Unified School District Board of Education is opposing the tunnel under Beverly High. MTA's board is expected to vote on a final EIR toward the end of next month.

The study supports the conclusions and positions of the BHUSD's Board of Education, its experts and attorneys in opposing MTA's plans for a tunnel under Beverly High. It is not known whether reform City Council members John Mirisch and Lili Bosse will now be able to obtain a third vote on the council from Mayor Barry Brucker, Vice Mayor Willie Brien, M.D., or Councilmember Julian Gold, M.D., to defend Beverly High from the MTA's plans.

The Courier obtained these excerpts from City staff on the basis they would not be identified. The Courier submitted its California Public Records Act demand to obtain a copy of the complete final report.

Banker Gould—A Success Legacy, As Told By His Family

By Rachel Schwartz

When 14-year old Joe Gould embarked on his cross country trek from Chicago to Los Angeles during the depression, driving his widowed mother and siblings to California, he never imagined that

one day, he would rise to establish a bank in Beverly Hills. Gould's story is chronicled in *Remembering Joe*, which could have been lost when he died at age 83 in 2005. With the help of legacist Loren Stephens, Gould's memoir was

written by his wife, Dorothy, who completed the book together with her sons Marc and David Gould, and her grandchildren, Sarah and Justin.

Stephens, who founded Write Wisdom after a success-

(see 'GOULD,' page 9)



TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES— Hawthorne School celebrated the opening of its new Mac Lab on Wednesday. The lab was sponsored by the Hawthorne PTA and Friends of Hawthorne. Pictured (from left): Principal Kathy Schaeffer, Assistant Principal Christian Fuhrer, Hawthorne PTA Co President Lorraine Eastman, Hawthorne PTA Co President Dana Gilbert and Superintendent Garry Woods. **Courier Photo By Marla Schevker**



SURVIVOR MITZVAH—The Museum of Tolerance played host to the Survivor Mitzvah Project's humanitarian effort to help the last survivors of the Holocaust as a part of Holocaust Remembrance Day, Jan. 26. The project, founded by Zane Buzby, is an effort to bring emergency aid to Holocaust survivors. Hollywood stars read letters and testimonies from elderly Holocaust survivors as a part of dramatic readings called *In Their Own Words*. Pictured is: Liebe Geft, Zane Buzby, Ed Asner, Valerie Harper and Frances Fisher. **Courier Photo By David Murphy**

Preservationists Meet To Discuss How To Save The Hannah Carter Japanese Garden

Bel Air residents and garden lovers met at the Community Magnet School auditorium to discuss what they could do to save the Hannah Carter Japanese Garden, which UCLA is making plans to sell, Tuesday.

The garden was designed by Nagao Sakuri and Koichi Kawana and constructed between 1959 and 1962. The Carter family donated it to UCLA in 1964. Edward Carter, once chair of the UC Board of Regents, died in 1996. Hannah Carter vacated the residence in 2006 and died in 2009.

UCLA first announced plans to sell the garden in November. According to a letter written by Scott Waugh, executive vice chancellor/provost at UCLA, maintenance of the garden exceeds the estimated payout from the endowment by about \$100,000 per year and the lack of parking

"We determined that continued maintenance of the garden was impractical," Waugh wrote in the letter dated Jan. 25.

Waugh wrote the garden (see 'GARDEN,' page 12)



BOTANICAL BEAUTIES—Former B.H. Mayor Jimmy Delshad (left) represented the City at the Cherry Blossom Centennial ceremony at the Huntington Library, Art Collection and Botanical Gardens. He is pictured here with Jun Niimi, consul general of Japan (right). Delshad arranged for Beverly Hills to receive 10 Cherry Blossom Trees, to be planted later this year.

Michelle Obama Concludes BH Visit

First lady Michelle Obama concluded a two-day visit to the Southland Wednesday with a pair of appearances on behalf of her "Let's Move!" initiative and by speaking at a fundraiser for her husband's re-election campaign.

"Let's Move!" is dedicated to solving the problem of childhood obesity within a generation, including bringing grocery stores and other forms of healthy food retailers to underserved communities.

Obama celebrated an example of the progress toward that goal when she speaks at the future site of a Northgate

Gonzales Market in Inglewood Wednesday morning.

The California FreshWorks Fund, a public-private financing fund that has raised \$264 million to invest, has committed \$20 million in financing to Northgate for its first three projects, which are in South Los Angeles and the City Heights portion of San Diego in addition to Inglewood.

The fund is part of a nationwide commitment announced July 20 involving retailers, foundations and small businesses.

Obama will also discuss (see 'MICHELLE OBAMA,' page 14)

GOULD

(Continued from page 4)

ful career as an Emmy-nominated documentary filmmaker, works with individuals and families to capture their legacies and life stories. Often written as gifts to be passed on to children and families, these books are also homages to the uncommon heroism of "ordinary" people.

In *Remembering Joe*, the pen is passed from one generation to the next as each family member contributes their individual and unique experiences of Gould as a husband, father, and grandfather, creating a nuanced, touching and colorful portrait of a unique man.

Dorothy Gould recounts her husband's humble beginnings as the son of poor Jewish immigrants and his ascent in L.A. from restaurant worker during the depression to owner of Gould & Co. Transportation, and later his career in banking.

Together with a group of investors, he founded Hollywood National Bank (later acquired by U.S. National Bank), and then became president of one of its branches in Beverly Hills. He managed to run a model bank in the middle of all the financial industry difficulties, remaining unscathed by the indictments that came down against C. Arnholt Smith, chairman of the holding company.

Gould was called in by regulators to put failing banks on a stronger financial footing. In his wildest dreams, he never imagined he—a man who never graduated high school—would achieve so much success.

After retiring from banking, he worked with his son at David L. Gould Company. Arriving at 6 a.m. in time to

open the office, he worked there until three years before his death. It was a wonderful opportunity for father and son to bond and David, together with Marc, share "Lessons Learned from My Father" in another part of *Remembering Joe*.

Stephens' interest in documenting legacy began in 1996, when persuaded her mother to write her memoir. She wanted to capture her mother's life against the tapestry of the changing role of women in the 20th century.

Though initially resistant to her daughter's pleas, her mother eventually relented allowing Stephens to conduct interviews over a 2-year period. In 2000 she published her mother's life story through her own imprint.

Working on the memoir deepened her relationship with her mother, and when the latter died in 2006, she read passages from her mother's book at the funeral.

The importance of transmitting values and legacy to the next generation is at the source of Stephens' work.

In her workshops at museums all over California, she enables people to collaborate with their parents and family members to fully record their parents' life stories.

"It can be very intimidating to take on the role of interviewer or ghost writer, especially because sensitive issues often come out during this process," says Stephens. "Despite the challenges, this is a very special experience for most people, one they never forget."

For help with writing a life story, or to attend a memoir workshop, visit www.writewisdom.com or call 310-820-2052.

Did you know that Heritage, the World's Third Largest Auction House, has a location in Beverly Hills?

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