

J Living

Rosh Hashanah 5782

RECIPES:
L'Dor V'Dor

THE VILLAGE
by Cornerstone

ISRAEL
*A Leader in
Inclusive Travel*

Rosh Hashannah
Around the World

**Defending
Jewish
LOS ANGELES**

CONTENTS



JLiving

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JLiving Media promises to be a celebration of Jewish people — leaders, entertainers, executives, social activists and families. It is a showcase of Jewish identity in all its modern day forms, highlighting trends in travel, fashion and entertaining as well as a resource for parenting, celebrations and connections to community. L'Chaim.

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THE VILLAGE

by Cornerstone

Coming soon to
9224 W. Pico Boulevard
*(on the corner of
Pico and Glenville!)*



Elevating the Entire Community

The way a community treats people with disabilities is very telling. In the Beverlywood area of Los Angeles, there's a growing understanding that meaningful interaction with adults who have developmental disabilities uplifts everyone.

"When I was growing up," Hendel Schwartz said, "I never saw anybody with a disability. There was some sort

This New Year, celebrate renewal and community with a first-of-its-kind inclusive housing project located in the heart of Beverlywood!

of stigma attached, but we're not living in those times now."

Individuals with differences are integrated into so many aspects of community life—from schools to workplaces—but there's still a long way to go.

"We can't sit on our hands," Hendel adds, "especially when we realize what the future could be."

Hendel and Eric Schwartz are among a group of families who have successfully raised children with intellectual or developmental disabilities (I/DD) and are working hard, through a charitable organization called Cornerstone Housing for Adults with Disabilities, to ensure the creation of The Village in the heavily Jewish greater Beverlywood area of Los Angeles on Pico Boulevard, near Beverly Drive. They envision a fully inclusive, new 64-unit apartment community that will provide housing, support services, social enrichment, and job opportunities for a mix of adults who are able to take care of their own basic needs.

“There’s a need for this,” Eric Schwartz says. “We will impact the larger conversation about people with disabilities and serve as a model nationally.”

Hendel and Eric’s son, Daniel, has been working at a supermarket in Beverly Hills—a job he loves—for fifteen years. Diagnosed with cerebral palsy, Daniel benefited from many special services as a young boy.

“When you have special needs, you can feel very isolated,” said Daniel’s mother, Hendel. “Now an adult, Daniel needs both privacy and the opportunity to be social with friends. The Village will provide people like Daniel with much-needed community.”

Aviva Krieger, whose husband Scott serves on the Cornerstone board, adds that the location of The Village in the middle of a vibrant Jewish community is a major factor in providing quality of life.

“This will really allow both the participants and the community to benefit,” Aviva says. “What’s in the location now is not very attractive. People are excited about a beautiful new building with lovely common areas, landscaping, and an exciting ground floor retail space. It will elevate the whole neighborhood!”

Dr. Ernie and Frieda Katz became involved with ETTA when their son,

Jacob, now thirty-eight, was just eight years old. Jacob attended Santa Monica College and now has a job as an office assistant at the local YULA Boys High School, which he walks to every day.



DANIEL SCHWARTZ

“When we heard that The Village would be right in our backyard, where Jacob is familiar with everything, it’s an incredible thing!”

“Not only will it give the residents of The Village an opportunity to interact with and be part of the community. It gives the community a chance to come in, participate, and see people with special needs being included”, said Dr. Katz.

Jacob’s parents describe him as the unofficial mayor of Beverlywood, with strong connections throughout the community, largely through ETTA and its volunteers.

“Through ETTA programs and his job in the office of the YULA Boys High School, Jacob has worked with hundreds of young adults, seeing them grow throughout the ranks” Frieda said. “Not only did it make an enormous impact on Jacob, it was an important experience that the high schoolers and program participants cherished as well. That’s why it’s so important that a project like The Village be included in the fabric of the greater Beverlywood neighborhood.”

COMMUNITY VOICES

Discover what some potential residents of The Village have to say about the exciting new development.



“The Village project is so meaningful to me because it would be a place where I can continue to connect to my community. The Village would be a place where I could look forward to being around close friends... and the fact that social events will be held there is exactly what I need in my life!”

- Adam Breall, 31



“I am very excited by the possibility of living in a brand-new apartment in the near future and meeting the other residents of The Village. It sounds like it would be a very cool place.”

- Alex Forsythe, 24



“I love that it would be right by my house and it’s right in the city where I would be able to go home if I wanted to, but also it feels far enough away where I would be able to be independent and on my own. Independence is important to me.”

- Nicole Savitsky, 23



OUR DREAM:

A Deep Dive into the Soul of This Community

The dream began thirty years ago with the creation of ETTA, a nonprofit dedicated to providing support and services to Jewish people with developmental disabilities. Psychotherapist Dr. Michael Held continues to lead the board and staff of ETTA, now the largest agency of its kind in Southern California, serving upwards of seven hundred individuals

every month. The next frontier in the evolution of the dream is the creation of The Village: A supported, independent apartment community in the heart of Beverlywood built by a newly created 501c3, Cornerstone Housing. Dr. Held serves as the project's Executive Director. "Our vision of inclusion has always involved the surrounding

neighborhood, so that those we serve can lead full, integrated lives, as independently as they are able," said Dr. Held. "A person who has a learning or developmental disability has the right to be in a community that feels natural—which is usually the community in which he or she grew up, where family and friends live, where they worship and volunteer.

What we mean by inclusion is that when residents walk down the street, other people know them, and they know others.”

Dr. Held points out that, over the decades, autism has become the prominent form of intellectual and developmental disability (I/DD) and that while each person with autism is unique, many struggle with social interaction and communication.

“Our vision of inclusion has always involved the surrounding neighborhood, so that those we serve can lead full, integrated lives, as independently as they are able.”

“To best meet the housing needs of this tsunami of young adults coming of age, we’re focused on the emerging model of supported independent apartments.” Dr. Held explained that this project is geared to serve those who don’t require overnight staff to ensure their safety. “These apartments are for individuals who can manage their own personal needs and seek both housing and community.”

He describes The Village as a community within a neighborhood, in which the ground floor will be devoted to retail and employ adults with various disabilities where feasible. The second floor will be a community space with a kosher dining hall, a fitness center, and laundry facility, plus a coffee bar for both residents and neighbors, as well as a beautifully terraced indoor/outdoor gathering space for programming of all kinds.

“Residents will lead the way in creating their environment,” Held said, “and

the professional staff will be there to support and assist them. We’re even planning a podcast studio!”

Purchasing the land and building this apartment community in the center of Beverlywood was very intentional. In fact, the board and staff of Cornerstone Housing, the 501C3 that will build The Village, see its location in a city center as a national model. If you’re going to be fully inclusive, the thinking goes, you must provide housing opportunities for people in their own neighborhoods, particularly when so many in this population are unable to drive.

“This is going to be a beautiful building, with two subterranean floors of parking, two stories of retail and community space, four floors of 64 apartments, attractive landscaping, and a 5000 square foot rooftop with an unobstructed, panoramic view. This addition will completely enhance and elevate the neighborhood and will make people feel good,” Held said with pride.

While The Village is designed to meet the needs of adults with I/DD, it will be populated by a mix of adults who understand what an inclusive community like this can mean for enhancing one’s life.

“We’re already hearing from community members who want to



be involved,” Held said with palpable enthusiasm. “A chef and published author offered to teach Challah and dessert making; a retired librarian said that she’d like to coordinate events. We have so many talented people in this community – from a cellist to an origami expert – who will bring exciting opportunities to our residents.”



DR. MICHAEL HELD

Today, Dr. Held wants to share this story. He and his team are confident that people will be attracted to the goal and nature of the community being formed and will want to support its development in whatever way they can. Demolition will start this fall, with groundbreaking anticipated for the spring of 2022, and potential opening occupancy in April 2024.

When asked what initially drew him to serve this population, Dr. Held was hesitant to generalize. “I met people diagnosed with developmental disabilities who were so honest and open, with absolutely no guile, people who had a tremendous capacity for gratitude. I was deeply inspired and continue to be filled with joy.” Dr. Held is absolutely certain that there are countless people whose lives will be enriched and whose souls will be elevated by living in a community of neurodiversity.

THE BLUEPRINT

of a Community



A rooftop terrace juxtaposing an oasis of nature with breathtaking city views. A sunlit activity room where residents and community members watch an art teacher demonstrate painting techniques. From the start, every element of The Village's visionary design has pursued a single purpose: to create joy and community.

The Village will provide homes for more than 60 neurodiverse and neurotypical individuals, offering a space where residents and neighbors, friends and family, can celebrate each other's company. With one floor of public shopping and dining, one floor of common spaces, and four floors of apartments, The Village will form a

gathering place and a destination that will add beauty and life to Los Angeles's bustling Pico neighborhood.

"From the beginning, every conversation has been about being inclusive, bringing people together, making people feel good, wanting people to socialize with other people,"

says architect Ewa Opasinski, principal at Urban Architecture Lab. The interior design team, led by Ariel Johnson of Ariel Fox Design, envisions the Village as a “circle of wonder,” describing its ambience with words like “together,” “curiosity,” “balance,” and “independence.”

A project of this magnitude takes, well, a village. All together, about 50 different professionals are working to bring this building to fruition—but the owner, the architect, and the interior designer are the heart of the project, collaborating on a nearly daily basis.

Envisioning and championing this project are Cornerstone, ETTA, and Ensemble Real Estate Solutions and Investments. Partnering with them are Richard Soares’s Urban Architectural Lab, and Ariel Fox Design, with Hannah Askey as project manager. Ewa and Ariel gave generously of their valuable time to share what it is like to work on such an ambitious and innovative project, and to offer a sneak peek at some of the building’s most original features.

BREAKING NEW GROUND

While both Urban Architecture Lab and Ariel Fox Designs specialize in multi-family developments, this project presents the exhilarating challenge of uncharted territory. “The charge was how to create a community that is really the first of its kind in LA,” says Ariel. And not only in LA, adds Ewa. “Projects like this are very rare, especially in urban environments.”

Being the pioneers carries an awesome responsibility; The Village’s team is consciously designing not just a building, but a model. “I really hope this is setting the bar very high for inclusive developments,” says Ariel. “This is going

“Projects like this are very rare, especially in urban environments.”

to not only help the community, but it’s going to help the communities in the future.”

Ewa echoes this sentiment. “We’re creating a catalyst that, if this building is successful, hopefully other developers, other communities, other foundations, will look at this project and say, ‘Hey, it worked in their case. Why don’t we develop something like this?’”



But for this to happen, more legal infrastructure will have to be developed. “As far as I know, there is no piece of legislation that allows for streamlining or expedited approval for the community of people with special needs,” says Ewa. To get their entitlements and permits for The Village, the team had to blaze a two year long, laborious legal and regulatory trail. “I hope someone will lobby city and state officials to create some kind of help, speed up the process, and create ways for more projects like this to happen.”

A BUILDING WITH HEART

Ewa and Ariel immediately embraced the challenge of catering to an unfamiliar audience. Says Ariel, “One of the greatest joys of this project was learning about this community [with intellectual and developmental disabilities, or I/DD]—what they needed, what they love—and then learning some things about ourselves in the process.”

Cornerstone provided some guiding principles about creating a space that would be comfortable for everyone, no matter how their brains process information. These include bright, gentle lighting; soothing colors without stark contrasts; and layout that facilitates accurate depth perception.

“The idea is they can have huge events up here, for family events, holidays, movie nights, whatever. It can be a real active community space.”

“The use was the topmost priority for us in breaking down everything in the program,” says Ariel. “How do we create a community that supports a healthier lifestyle? How can we create spaces that can really assist in creating opportunities, whether it’s educational opportunities or learning a skill of some sort?”

In addition to making the spaces comfortable and functional, the team also thought about how to create joy. Ariel says, “We did a lot of research about sensory rooms and spaces—which is so fun! I want to put these in every project now.”

A VIRTUAL TOUR

A year into the project, before breaking ground, Ewa, Ariel, and their teams have already given their hearts and souls to The Village. “I think about the project when I go to sleep,” says Ewa. “I think about the project when I wake up. It doesn’t stop.” And the results promise to be magnificent.

In keeping with the mission of bringing people together, the entire second floor comprises indoor and outdoor space people can share. And for every space, says Ewa, the team asks itself, “How can we design this so people want to come here and socialize with other people?”

These spaces include a coffee bar, three activity rooms that offer classes to residents and community members, a fitness room that opens onto the terrace, a podcast room, open offices, and more. “There will be a kosher kitchen, and the residents will be able to dine together here,” says Ariel. Residents will be able to celebrate Shabbat and Jewish holidays together in the dining room as well.

The rooms are meant to accommodate every mood—some lend themselves to sitting quietly with a book or iPad, surrounded by friendly neighbors who come over to say hello. Others encourage small groups. And the spaces are flexible enough to accommodate large gatherings. For instance, the three activity rooms are partitioned by bifold walls that can open to create a single large area, spanning the length of the floor. Says Ariel, “The idea is they can have huge events up here, for family events, holidays, movie nights, whatever. It can be a real active community space,” almost like a JCC.

The next four floors are residential, with spacious, sunlit studios and one- and two-bedroom apartments. Dr. Held, the project’s Executive Director, insists that The Village’s apartments should be comfortable for anybody, regardless of their challenges.

On the seventh floor is one of Ewa’s favorite spots: the roof deck. “It literally takes a third of the entire roof footprint. We worked with the landscape architect to create this wonderful space with lots of planters and trees and a trellis. There are string lights, so at night it’s going to be this beautiful, beautiful place to be. You can see the entire city, so I think it allows you to take a breath and just relax. There’s a firepit up there, too.

“The roof deck is big enough to hold bigger gatherings, but the furniture can be rearranged so that on a regular day, we’re creating a bunch of private pockets where people can go read a book, or meet a friend, or just hang out. I can’t wait for this space to happen... it’s going to be wonderful.”



ARIEL JOHNSON



EWA OPASINSKI

A CLOSE COLLABORATION

The owner, architect, and interior designer communicate almost every day, and have for more than a year so far. And throughout the project, Ewa’s and Ariel’s admiration for the Cornerstone team has only grown. Everyone “really, truly cares about the people who will live in the building,” says Ewa. “You can sense it right away from the conversation.”

For Ariel, one of the highlights of the project was a rare live design development meeting. “Dr. Held has an energy around him of incredible love and wisdom. You feel it when you’re in the room. It is quite evident why so many people have followed his lead.” Meeting Ewa face to face was also a treat. “In person, her energy is just explosive—so excited, so curious, so supportive.” Ariel appreciated Ewa’s obvious enthusiasm over the table of finishes she had brought. “We don’t expect fireworks every time, and she was giving us fireworks.”

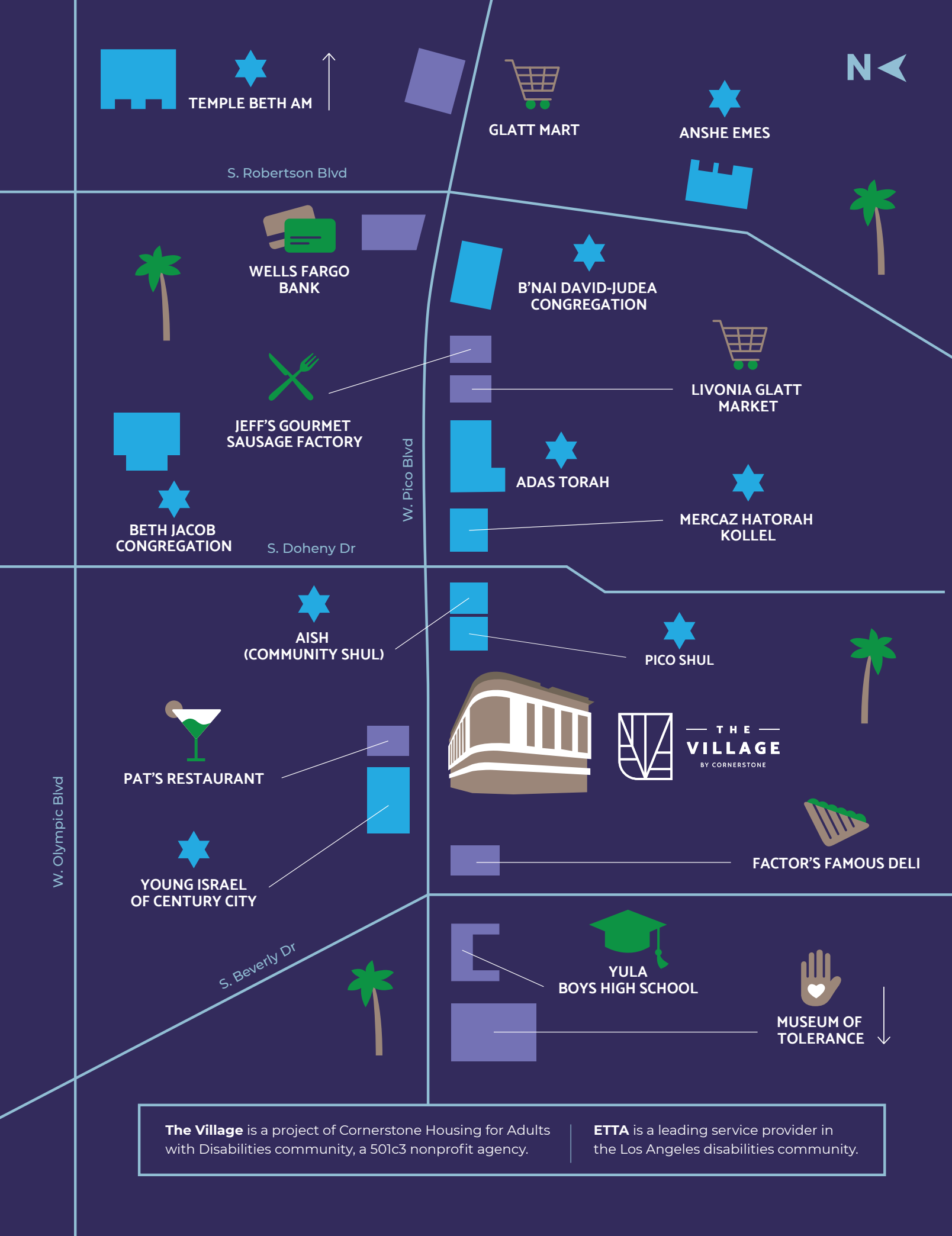


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BETH JACOB CONGREGATION

S. Doheny Dr

W. Pico Blvd



B'NAI DAVID-JUDEA CONGREGATION



LIVONIA GLATT MARKET



ADAS TORAH



MERCAZ HATORAH KOLLEL



AISH (COMMUNITY SHUL)



PICO SHUL



PAT'S RESTAURANT



THE VILLAGE BY CORNERSTONE



FACTOR'S FAMOUS DELI



YOUNG ISRAEL OF CENTURY CITY

W. Olympic Blvd

S. Beverly Dr



YULA BOYS HIGH SCHOOL



MUSEUM OF TOLERANCE

The Village is a project of Cornerstone Housing for Adults with Disabilities community, a 501c3 nonprofit agency. **ETTA** is a leading service provider in the Los Angeles disabilities community.



SUPPORTED BY COMMUNITY LEADERS

from the Ground Up

What is a community? A network of interconnected people who interact, contribute, and support each other, forming the setting of each other's lives.

The Village will create a community unlike any other. It will be a nexus for L.A.'s diverse residents to come together and make an inspiring statement about the unique value of every person. So who can better appreciate The Village's significance than those who devote their lives to serving L.A.'s Jewish and general community?

Jay Sanderson and Sam Yebri boast a panoramic view of the L.A. community and its needs. For more than a decade, Jay has served as president and CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles, where he strives to give every Jewish person in L.A. the resources they need to engage and thrive. Sam is an attorney and community activist who has served on the boards of numerous Jewish organizations. He

was a city commissioner under Mayor Villaraigosa, and he is currently running for Los Angeles City Council to serve the fifth district, which includes The Village and the surrounding Pico-Robertson community.

Both Jay and Sam have long-standing relationships with ETТА and, now, Cornerstone Housing for Adults with Disabilities—the new 501c3 that is building The Village.

Jay first connected with ETТА when he joined the Federation: "The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles has long championed an inclusive, welcoming Jewish community for everyone. We wanted to create inroads and bridges into communities that, for various reasons, have obstacles in their way to having rich, meaningful Jewish lives. We became early partners with ETТА, because ETТА was doing something that no one else was doing: prioritizing this population [with intellectual and developmental challenges], looking

at housing this population, looking at creating a higher quality of life Jewishly and communally."

Sam serves on the ETТА board and has chaired its government affairs efforts over the last several years. As a member of the Iranian American Jewish community—his family fled Iran when he was a year old—he appreciates ETТА's relationship with that community. "One of the things that makes ETТА so unique is that it reaches out and serves all corners of the Jewish community in such a welcoming, positive way. To ETТА's enormous credit, it built early and meaningful inroads in the Iranian American Jewish community, in a way that's sensitive to the values, traditions, and cultures of our community."

Both Jay and Sam recognize the gaping vacuum that The Village will fill. Sam says, "Everyone deserves a great place to live, a place to work, and a place to live a dignified life. There's a massive need to provide that kind of housing and opportunities for Jewish adults

with special needs. The Village meets that need head on, in a really innovative way.” Jay elaborates on ideal conditions The Village will offer its residents. “Living independently is really important. And so is being in a community and having access to resources. The Village hits all those targets. It will create community, housing opportunities, and employment opportunities for this very important population, and it will do it in—arguably—the heart of the Jewish community.”

Sam sees The Village as part of the community’s responsibility to care for its own. “A community should be



JAY SANDERSON

judged by how it treats and cares for its most vulnerable. A cornerstone of our Jewish tradition is to take care of the widow and the orphan, and those who are in need.”

But The Village will serve much more than the community with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). Sam sees it as “a semi-JCC. I think it will be a real hub for the entire Jewish community, including the Iranian Jewish community, to engage with the residents and with the businesses there at The Village. We’re all hungry for connection with other Jews, we’re all hungry for service opportunities, we’re hungry for places that we can spend time with other people. And this will be—when built, G-d willing—a

real center for Jewish life in the heart of Los Angeles.”

The Village will also unite the various segments of the community, erase prejudice, and build bridges. “When I think of inclusivity,” says Sam, “I think about the need to focus on what we share, as opposed to our differences, whether they are ethnicity or religious denomination or ability.” The Village will help people do that, he says. “It will address and help overcome some of the stigmas about what it means to be an adult living with disabilities in Los Angeles and the Jewish community. The more we can integrate and engage together, the faster those stigmas disappear. I think The Village is going to be transformative, not only for folks who live there, but for everyone who visits.”

“This housing development will serve as a nexus—for residents, for neighbors and for businesses—to come together and make an inspired statement about the unique value of every person.”

– **RABBI KALMAN TOPP**
Beth Jacob Congregation

Sam feels The Village is coming at a critical moment for Los Angeles. “The success of a community is how it grows and evolves. We need new, innovative, transformative projects like The Village if this community is going to continue to grow and attract the type of investment and commitment it needs. The Village is going to revitalize Pico. It will not only provide valuable housing, but create an incredible event space, a



SAM YEBRI

garden space on the rooftop, valuable retail on the ground floor, and a kosher food court—all of which will create foot traffic and job opportunities and meet some of the needs of the local community.”

But The Village’s impact will spread far beyond the Pico-Robertson neighborhood. Sam says, “If this works, hopefully we can build this type of housing all throughout Los Angeles. A lot is riding on the success of The Village, not only for the Jewish community, not only for the special needs community, but really for housing and inclusivity in Los Angeles at large.” And why stop with L.A.? Jay says, “When this is up and running, and successful, as it will be, I expect this to inspire other “Villages” across the country.”

Ultimately, The Village is bigger than a building, bigger than a community, bigger even than a city. It is a symbol of humanity, love, and hope. Jay says, “In the world we’re living in today, with the rise of antisemitism, with the rise of anti-Zionism, where Jews are challenged in so many different ways—in the midst of all this, to see the birth of The Village is inspiring. Not only will it benefit the participants, the residents, and the community, but it’s a beacon of Jewish life in a space where there wasn’t a lot of light, and I think it will impact the Jewish community for decades to come.”

Shattering Limits, **BUILDING COMMUNITY**



On the last night of Passover in 1991, Terry and Holly Magady learned that their newborn daughter, Danielle, had Down Syndrome. From the start, they sought out people and programs that didn't put limits on children with learning differences and, as a result, Danielle thrived—in school, in her friendships, and as an independent person. From preschool through Jewish day school and Seminary, Danielle was fully included in classrooms with her neurotypical peers.

"Her closest friends spent all day with her," Terry shared, "and regarded her as just another member of the group, complete with foibles. Not only did she benefit from the inclusion, her friends grew as well.

While in high school, Danielle tutored young girls. She developed a passion for dance and was a central performer in productions. Danielle has taught a Zumba class and would love to teach at The Village.

Nine years ago, Danielle met Shlomo, who also has Down Syndrome, while the two were serving as counselors at adjacent summer camps in eastern Pennsylvania. It didn't take long for them to form a close bond. Shortly before walking down the aisle, Danielle was asked if she was ready. Her reply: "I was born ready."

Danielle and Shlomo dream of living in The Village, an inclusive apartment community that embraces diversity

with opportunities for all community members to grow.

"The Village will be a place where you celebrate life," Shlomo said. "We'll invite friends and family over to sit on the rooftop, have a drink and enjoy the view." Shlomo is looking forward to becoming a leader in the community, continuing to be a public speaker, and building his growing network of friends. Danielle is particularly excited to learn more about cooking in the Demonstration kitchen. Her parents are doing all they can to help make The Village a reality.

The team of committed people who will make The Village a reality in the Beverlywood neighborhood of Los

Angeles believe that every person, no matter their constraints or challenges, is created in the image of the divine. In this deeply Jewish frame, each person must be treated with dignity, and afforded every chance to thrive and enrich the lives of others. The Village will enable more than any of us can imagine today.

One of the key differentiators for the Village is that it will be located in a thriving urban environment, not on the outskirts of the city. Residents, who've lived in the community and developed relationships with doctors, service providers, and friends, can maintain

Danielle and Shlomo dream of living in The Village, an inclusive apartment community that embraces diversity with opportunities for all community members to grow.

those connections without having to readjust. Holly Magady envisions The Village with a dynamic social life—in a prime metropolitan setting that offers access to activities both inside and outside the immediate community. Holly Magady envisions The Village with a dynamic social life—in a prime metropolitan setting that offers access to activities both inside and outside the immediate community.

“I see people who live in the apartments coming and going,” said Holly, “and people from outside availing themselves of classes, workshops and events taking place inside. It will be a happening scene, where young people will choose to hang out.”

to make people more empathetic and more in tune with what makes life meaningful.

In time, our knowledge of what is feasible increases. Years ago, they were relegated to institutional life.



SHLOMO AND DANIELLE

Terry Magady hopes that many of the residents of The Village are neurotypical.

Today, they are breaking barriers, living independently and accomplishing great things.

“We know, from what we’ve witnessed, that relationships between those with and those without disabilities can be transformational,” said Terry. “There’s a deeper understanding of humanity that takes place. When it clicks, disabilities cease to be a barrier.”

“It’s only a matter of knowing that more can be done,” says Terry Magady, as he envisions more adults with special needs getting married and owning their own businesses, like Danielle and Shlomo. This summer, Shlomo started a business cleaning neighbors’ outdoor furniture and Danielle is in Chicago, working as a teacher’s assistant in a summer art program. The possibilities for growth, independence and enriching the community are endless.

Anecdotal evidence and science have shown that regular interaction with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) help

OUR GOAL

Help us reach our Capital Campaign goal—every dollar counts. Naming opportunities are also available.

TIMELINE (at this time)

