



# Local News & VIEWS

Beverly Hills · Bel-Air · Brentwood · Santa Monica · Pacific Palisades · Malibu

## Brentwood

### Nutcracker

For the 36th year in a row, The Westside Ballet School will delight audiences with *The Nutcracker* at the Wadsworth Theatre in Brentwood on December 13 and 14.

The holiday classic tells the story of young Clara who receives a nutcracker for Christmas and is transported to a magical world of Sugarplum Fairies and villainous mice.

The performances will showcase the students of the Westside Ballet School who are some of the best pre-professional dancers in the nation.

Past casts have included Anna Liccica (American Ballet Theater), Melissa Barak (New York City Ballet, Los Angeles Ballet) and Andrew Veyette (New York City Ballet) among others who have gone on to careers with premier ballet companies throughout the United States.

Performances are at the Wadsworth Theatre in Brentwood/Los Angeles on December 13 at 2:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m., and December 14 at 1:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m. Wadsworth Theater: 11301 Wilshire Blvd, Brentwood,

CA 90073. Call Ticketmaster at 213-365-3500 or purchase through [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com). All tickets are \$26. For more information, visit [www.westsideballet.com](http://www.westsideballet.com)

### Beiter to Better VA GLAHS

Beiter Named Head of Los Angeles VA Permanently.

The Acting Director of the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System (VA GLAHS) Donna Beiter, RN, MSN was named to the position permanently. Beiter has been with the VA GLAHS since 1999. Prior to her current position, she served as the Associate Director for Nursing and Patient Care Services.

### Don't Rev up for Measure R Quite Yet

On November 5th voters approved a half cent sales tax increase with the proviso that the additional funds go toward MTA projects to relieve Angelino's traffic headache. However, don't expect the sound of jack-hammers just yet.

There are many MTA projects vying for the funds. One of the most talked-about projects, the Westside

expansion of the subway, doesn't get to hop on the money train until sometime between 2013 and 2015 according to the MTA's current plan.

The real winner appears to be Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa who is running for reelection next year and will surely tout this victory as it has been on the top of his 'to do' list. The real losers are those of us who pay the increased sales tax and have trouble with delayed gratification.

### Every Litter Bit: No More Plastic Dry Cleaning Bags

By WILL LEIVENBERG

Eighteen years ago, Jane Wyler grabbed an old garment bag, threw her dirty clothes inside and toted it to the dry cleaners instructing them to hang her clean clothes in it, no plastic please. She has perfected her 100% cotton bag with a drawstring on the bottom and a zipper in front. Jokingly, Wyler called herself a Reusenik.

"Plastic dry cleaning bags are wasteful and unnecessary," says Jane, a Brentwood native, mother of three and long-time environmental advocate. "The Clothesnik is a really simple way to make a difference."

Today, Wyler's company, Reuseniks, is making the Clothesnik a ubiquitous, fashionable and



functional must-have items. Donna Karan just selected the Clothesnik for her new Urban Zen stores, and locally, Fred Segal, Living Green, Weathervane, Green and Greener, and other fine boutiques sell the bag. Recently, the Clothesnik won First Place in the Sundance Channel's "What's the Big Idea" contest, and green catalogs such as buygreen.com and greenopia.com are hawking the bags online. Entertainment Tonight sent out over 1,000 invitations screening the Clothesnik as the invite itself to their Emmy Awards bash sponsored by People Magazine.

The Clothesnik has been purchased in large numbers by corporations wishing to deliver a message of eco-friendliness, and by dry cleaners eschewing those awful plastic bags and catering to the true needs of their customers. Ed Begley, Jr., Rob Reiner and Jamie Lee Curtis, all notable environmentalists, use and reuse the Clothesnik. The Clothesnik also sells online at [www.reuseniks.com](http://www.reuseniks.com)



Clara and the Princes are entertained by the Mirillons in Westside Ballet's "The Nutcracker." Photo Credit: Todd Lebeck.