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# Beverly Hills Weekly

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## **BHEF BOSS**

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# coverstory

## BHEF BOSS

### Tina Wiener on Serving as BHEF's New President

By Danielle Berjikian

**You are starting your term as BHEF president. What are your goals for the organization?**

We know that everyone benefits from having outstanding public schools. So this school year our goal is to bring the community together to support the mission of BHEF. That is current parents, grandparents, alumni, and businesses. We have been really fortunate in the past couple of years to have been [Community Assistance Grant Funding] recipients from



*"It's such a small district and parents actually have the opportunity to be heard and advocate for change"*

the City of Beverly Hills and recipients of the McAlister Foundation Grant. So we've had some great support from local agencies. Last year we had Jaguar Land Rover of Santa Monica come in and join us as a major business sponsor. So in 2023-24, our goal is to build on this to bring in more business partners that are focused on investing in extraordinary educational experiences in Beverly Hills.

We also have been working very closely with the Board of Education to update naming opportunities at our school sites. As El Rodeo comes back online and Beverly High fully reopens, we are excited to introduce donors to legacy opportunities that are available to them.

**What made you want to take this job?**

I came back to the BHEF Board in the fall of 2022. I had been on a couple of times before and worked with past presi-

dents Monique Gibbons and Cindy Trost.

When I came back in 2022, we had a small but mighty executive board led by Sarah Jones. We had accomplished a lot in the past year, but I did see how much we had been impacted by two years of COVID and that there was a lot that needs to be done to rebuild the organization and the BHEF legacy. Ultimately, I took on the role of president because I believe in the mission of BHEF. I also believe in our community at large and their

desire to have outstanding programming in Beverly Hills schools.

**As many of our readers know, you are married to Beverly Hills City Attorney Larry Wiener. You first met when you were both working for the City of Norwalk. Tell us about that.**

Larry and I met in 1990 when I was a planner and he was Assistant City Attorney in Norwalk. Our co-workers were the ones who initially encouraged the relationship and 32 years later, I can't thank them enough for making that introduction. The most challenging part of dating while working together was having Larry review my staff reports and make corrections with a red pen. As time went on, we found that using a different colored pen made all the difference.

**Later you segued from being a planner to being an elementary school teacher.**



Daniel, Larry, Ash, and Tina Wiener

**What made you want to do that?**

Even though I had studied and gotten my degree in urban planning, I always wanted to be an elementary school teacher. I felt very lucky to have the opportunity to be able to pursue that after my planning career. While I was getting my teaching credential, I worked at Beverly Vista as a teaching assistant, which was my first introduction to how outstanding Beverly Hills schools were. My first full-time teaching job was in the Glendale Unified School District as a sixth grade teacher, which was a lot of fun. After I had my kids, I did a bit more teaching at Beverly Vista again.

**In your opinion, what makes Beverly Hills public schools unique?**

It's such a small district and parents actually have the opportunity to be heard and advocate for change. We also have the most amazing teachers and families. Larry attended Horace Mann and when we first moved into town, many years before we had kids, he promised me that I would be so grateful that we lived around the corner from Horace Mann so that our kids could walk to school and that I would not be disappointed by the education they would receive. We have been parents in BHUSD for 18 years now and I would not trade our time here and in Beverly Hills schools for anything.

**What advice did outgoing President**

**Farrah Dodes give you?**

She has encouraged me and shared a lot of her experiences. She was president at a tough time during COVID. A lot of the things that she has been working to accomplish, we're going

to continue to move forward with. I am so proud that she's still going to be on the executive board guiding me as we move forward into this upcoming school year.

**You recently went on an African safari. Tell us about that.**

It was an amazing and life changing experience. [The] sunrises and sunsets were like nothing I have ever seen before. For two weeks, each day we woke up to a new adventure - whether it was on a safari alongside wild animals, flying in a balloon, or riding in bush planes. It truly was one of the best experiences of my life.

**Tell us about your family.**

I have two kids. My daughter's name is Ash. She is going to be a junior at Beverly High where she runs cross country and plays softball. My son Daniel is a senior at Penn State. He decided to join the Penn State curling club and loves it.

**What do you hope to accomplish a year from now?**

I hope that we have really put out the word and encouraged members of our community to rally around BHEF. When I first started in Beverly Hills Unified School District in 2006, it was just a given that parents supported PTA and BHEF at the same time. I hope that we can bring that legacy back to our District.

Academy is expected to provide knowledge and experiences of police work that citizens typically never have the chance to encounter.

Participants will engage in real hands-on experiences, gain insight into policies, procedures, and training, have experiences with specialized units, such as K9, SWAT, and Detectives, and be invited to participate in a ride-along with an officer.

To become a member of the Citizen Police Academy, appli-

cants must meet the following requirements: Be at least 21 years old, pass a background check, never have been a member of prior Citizen Police Academy classes, commit to attending all scheduled sessions, and if accepted, participants will need to show proof of residen-

cy in Beverly Hills.

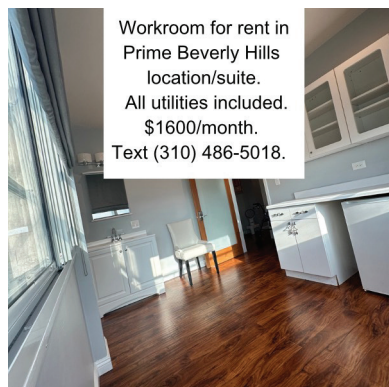
The Academy is a 10-week program, with one additional optional training day. Each weekly session is about three hours.

Applications are being accepted until Aug. 18 and classes will be held from Sept. 7-Oct. 26 from 6pm to 9pm on

Thursdays, with two Tuesday sessions.

Visit <http://beverlyhills.org/departments/policedepartment/getinvolved/citizenpoliceacademyapplication/> to apply.

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