

The New Mayor of Beverly Hills

Iranian-born Jimmy Delshad makes history

By **ESTER MOLAYEME**
Special to The Epoch Times

BEVERLY HILLS — Jimmy Delshad, made history March 27, 2007, in taking the oath as the first Iranian-born mayor of Beverly Hills, and is one of the United States' highest ranking Iranian-American elected officials.

The installation ceremony took place in front of the Beverly Hills City Hall, before an enthusiastic crowd of 700-800, and received wide media attention.

Delshad was sworn-in as a returning councilmember by Max Webb, a Holocaust survivor and philanthropist. Delshad was sworn in as mayor by Fred Hayman, an immigrant himself, considered to be the "father of Rodeo Drive."

Local elected officials who attended the ceremony included California State Assemblyman Mike Feuer who presented Delshad a State Assembly proclamation, West Hollywood City Councilman Jeffrey Prang, former Beverly Hills mayors and members of the Beverly Hills Board of Education.

The two candidates with the highest electoral votes fill the two open seats on the Beverly Hills city council, and the most senior out of the 5 councilmembers is then selected Mayor. Delshad had the second highest vote count, but because he was the most senior councilmember he became Mayor.

The final electoral results were: city planning commissioner Nancy Krasne 2710 (23%), Vice-Mayor Jimmy Delshad 2579 (22%), Mayor Steve Webb 2408 (21%), attorney Maggie Soleimani 2299 (20%), business consultant Shahram Melamed 1266 (11%), and journalist Lizza Monet Morales 347 (3%).

It is estimated that 8,000 of the 35,000 Beverly Hills residents are of Iranian descent, many immigrating after the 1979 downfall of the Shah of Iran, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

The voting ballots were printed for the first time in English and Farsi amid some voter dissension and complaints. Although Delshad was



Courtesy of the City of Beverly Hills

FIRST IRANIAN-BORN MAYOR OF BEVERLY HILLS: Jimmy Delshad.

opposed to translating the ballots into Farsi the forces in the community succeeded in printing the new bilingual ballot.

The fact that three out of the six candidates are of Iranian descent, i.e., Delshad, Soleimani and Melamed, gives ample evidence of the growing Iranian cultural influence in Beverly Hills.

Another example of the Iranian cultural influence is the "Pupil Free Day" at Beverly Hills High School and the four Beverly Hills Elementary Schools for the Iranian New Year called Norooz or Noruz. The free day was given this year on March 21 to accommodate the New Year celebration.

Born in Shiraz, Iran, Jimmy Delshad, 66, immigrated to the United States when he was a teenager. He graduated from California State University, Northridge, and embarked on a very successful career in computer storage technology, marketing his own company's prod-

ucts all over the world; a business he sold in 1999.

As an Iranian Jew, Delshad's victory was not only celebrated by the thousands of Iranian-Americans in Beverly Hills but also by the large Iranian-Jewish community in the greater Los Angeles area.

Best known for his Smart City Initiatives, Delshad promotes the adoption of the latest technological advances to enhance Beverly Hills' safety and quality of life.

Delshad says these initiatives include:

- "Smart Traffic Signals that change according to traffic density and not according to the present schedule."
- "Parking meters that take dollar bills and credit cards and will respond to your cell phone for extending the time on the parking meter."
- "Reusing 'gray water' and wire-

less water meters to conserve and monitor water use for public parks and private purposes."

- "Proactive Intelligent Video Cameras for monitoring of our schools perimeters, parking lots and our shopping centers to help prevent crime or terrorism and improve our homeland security."
- "Automatic License Plate Recognition that scans car license plates in milliseconds and can wirelessly report any stolen car with outstanding warrants so that our police can stop them as soon as possible."
- "Free Internet and wireless broadband communication services to help our public- safety first responders."
- Supporting the previous mayor's (Steve Webb) initiative, "to allow Beverly Hills to use photo radar for issuing tickets to speeders in our residential neighborhood, where speed humps are not practical."
- "Taking a 'Smart Growth' approach to development that recognizes and responds to the needs of residents and business."
- "Incentives to encourage a 'Green Building Initiative' for buildings that conserve electricity, water and are friendlier to our environment by using fewer natural resources and emitting fewer greenhouse gases through a new Fast Track Permit Process."

In addition, Delshad established the citizen hotline, 1-310-AMERICA, linking directly to the Mayor, for reports of dangerous conditions such as sidewalk and road repair safety hazards.

Delshad received congratulations from dignitaries around the world, including those from Iran, Israel, and Austria.

Mayor Delshad stated that he chose to serve on the city council as "a debt to this city and this country that welcomed me and allowed me to use my talents to build a successful life" as well as "to open doors for others who would see me as an example."

Ron Quinlan, a firefighter from the San Diego Fire District, and an instructor at the academy said, "There's a reason why we train. We've always taught them to stay engaged. They stay up on the skills that they learned. The skills they learned were for your safety, safety of their crews, and the safety of the public which they serve."

Quinlan continued his speech by saying, "If you don't go out there on a regular basis and practice the skills you learned, you will lose them and that was a waste of time. Stay engaged because there are people out there who rely on you. They expect a well trained, capable, and physically fit firefighter to show up at their door. They look up to you in admiration."

Students proudly received their Fire Reserve badges at the graduation ceremony, while speakers thanked those who were involved and shared their experiences.

The graduating reservists held a demonstration of the skills they had learned throughout the course of the academy in the training facility behind the El Cajon Fire Station.

In their first demonstration, the 36 reservists had to put out a fire in a large concrete building while rescuing a CPR dummy from the inside. Ladders were set up on the roof and a firefighter cut a hole in the roof to let out the smoke and reduce the heat inside.

Meanwhile, a group of firefighters went in through the bottom door to put out the fire and rescued the simulated victim.

They also demonstrated how to lay down hoses during a brush fire, how to save a victim who is trapped inside a car, and a group of firefighters climbed the stairs of a large concrete

tower to set up a fire hose while others operated the ladders and hoses on the fire trucks.

"What you've seen is that these people have the same level of skills, competence, and confidence that other firefighters have who are actually working full-time as paid firefighters. That's the beauty of this," said Fire Chief Ghio.

Andrew Dorosan, one of the graduating reservists said, "It was a pretty difficult course, but all in all it was worth it. You have to get yourself hyped up for it. We'd do about 400 push-ups in an hour, on top of maybe

200 sit-ups, flutter kicks, and running. It's very physically demanding, and that was the hardest part."

"Fire reserves are certified firefighters and work as the fourth man on a fire engine. There are usually 3 paid firefighters on an engine, including a captain, an engineer, and a paramedic. Having 4 men per engine greatly increases efficiency. By volunteering their time, fire reserves take the next step towards being hired as paid firefighters. As they volunteer, they gain experience and also get their Firefighter 1 certification," said Dorosan.

The 10th Reserve was the first graduating class under the partnership between the San Miguel Fire District, the El Cajon Fire District, and Miramar College. Subjects included live fire training, fire behavior courses, ladder and breathing apparatus evolutions, and others. Many of the graduates claimed that the morning PT training was the most difficult.

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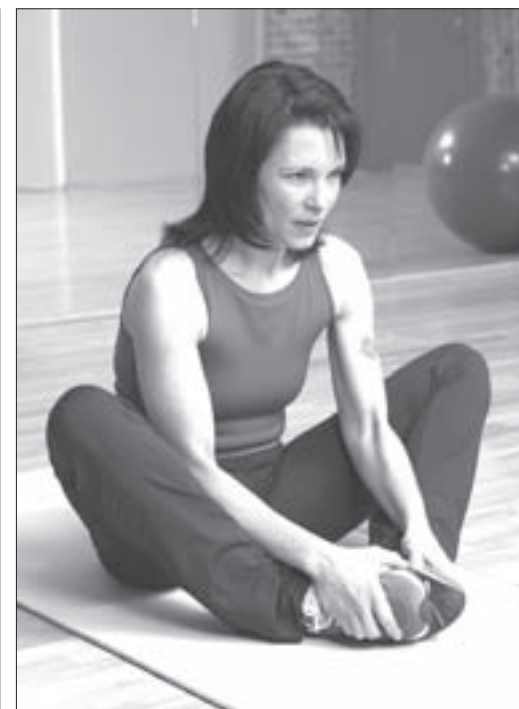
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STRETCHING OUT:
The San Diego Otay Mesa Branch Library is offering a hatha yoga class for beginners.

Photos.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Compiled by **BETH LAMBERT**
Epoch Times Southern California Staff

April 7

OTAY MESA – *Hatha Yoga for Beginners* will be offered at the San Diego Otay Mesa Branch Library. Adults are invited to come relax and improve their health. The Otay Mesa Branch Library is located at 3993 Coronado Ave. The classes is from 6:00 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. There is no charge. For more information, call the library at (619) 424-0474. Information is also available on the San Diego Public Library website at <http://www.sandiego.gov/public-library>.

April 7

DOWNTOWN L.A. - *Project Taiko: (Re)generation* by top winners of the International Taiko Contest blends taiko drumming with storytelling, spoken word, music, multimedia, and dance. The performance will take place at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center (JACCC) is located at 244 South San Pedro Street in Little Tokyo. It will begin at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$30 to \$35, with discounts for members, groups of 10 or more, students, and children under 15. For more information, call the JACCC at (213) 628-8576 or visit their website at <http://www.jaccc.org>.

April 13

IRVINE – Contemporary Israeli choreographer's *Minus One* will be performed by the Ballets Canadiens de Montreal. Although portions have been performed elsewhere, this is the first time that the entire 85 minutes comprised of 7 ballets will be performed in California. The performance will take place at The Barclay Theater located at 4242 Campus Drive. It will begin at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are available for \$40, \$50, or \$100. The box office can be reached at (949) 854-4646. Information is also available on the Barclay Theater website at <http://www.thebarclay.org>, and at the Ballets Canadiens website at <http://www.grandsballets.qc.ca>.

April 14

ESCONDIDO – The San Diego Archaeological Center will be holding a *flintknapping workshop*. Participants (age 12 and up), led by Affinis Principal Archaeologist Dr. Timothy Gross, can learn how to make stone tools using methods that are thousands of years old. The San Diego Archaeological Center is located at 16666 San Pasqual Valley Road. The workshop lasts from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Workshop participation is \$10 for members and \$35 for non-members. Early registration is recommended due to limited space. For more information, call (760) 291-0370 or visit the Center's website at <http://www.sandiegoarchaeology.org>.

Ongoing through May 27

GLENDALE – *Man of La Mancha* is being performed by A Noise Within. Based on Cervantes' famous *Don Quixote*, A Noise Within describes this musical as a "testament to hope, courage and the joy of being truly alive." Performances take place at the Masonic Temple Building at 234 S. Brand Blvd. Performances begin at 8:00 p.m. with 2:00 p.m. matinees. Show days vary, due to alternating performances. Tickets are \$34 to \$38. A full list of performances and other information can be found on A Noise Within's website at <http://www.anoisewithin.org>. They can also be reached at (818) 240-0910.

Ongoing through May 13

DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO – *Tell Me a Story: Narrative Photography Now* is on exhibit at the Museum of Photographic Arts (MoPA). It contains photography by contemporary artists who address narrative in their works. MoPA is located at 1549 El Prado in Balboa Park. Hours are Tuesday through Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Thursday until 9:00 p.m. Admission is \$6 for adults, \$4 for students, seniors, and military, free to children under 12, and free to everyone every second Tuesday of the month. For more information, call the museum at (619) 238-8777 or visit their website at <http://www.mopa.org>.

March 31 through April 15

SANTA MONICA – *Charlotte's Web* will be showing at the Morgan-Wixon Theatre. Based on the book, this children's production tells the story of a little pig Wilbur and his friend Charlotte the spider, who embarks on an effort to save her friend. The Morgan-Wixon Theater is located at 2627 Pico Blvd. Performances are Saturdays and Sundays at 11:00 a.m. Entrance is \$7 general admission, and \$5 for children under twelve. For more information call the theater at (310) 828-7519 or visit their website at <http://morgan-wixon.org>.

Ongoing every Tuesday

FULLERTON – *The After School Club* will be meeting at the main location for the Fullerton Public Library. Children from kindergarten through sixth grade are welcome to come participate in programs including storytelling, puppets, hands-on dramatics, crafts, and special guest visits. The Fullerton Public Library Main Branch is located at 353 W Commonwealth Avenue. *After School Club* programs begin at 4:00 p.m. There is no charge and no registration is required. For more information, call the library at (714) 738-6334 or visit the Fullerton Library website at <http://fullertonlibrary.org>.

Want to include your event in the "Calendar of Events"?
Please send us an email at least two weeks in advance of your event to:
scalevents@epochtimes.com.



Joshua Philipp/Epoch Times

RESERVISTS IN TRAINING: Putting out a fire in a concrete building.