

BEVERLY HILLS NEWS

Celebrated Mathematician Turns 100 in BH



HONORED— Surrounded by family, Dr. Abolghassem Ghaffari, 100, (center) shakes hands with Beverly Hills Mayor Jimmy Delshad (left). *Photo by Faye Sadou*

By Tina Page

Dr. Abolghassem Ghaffari's latest accomplishment, reaching 100 years old, was marked by a short ceremony in the Beverly Hills City Council chambers honoring this celebrated mathematician's contributions to our modern understanding of space and science.

Born in Tehran on June 15, 1907, Dr. Ghaffari has traveled the world in the last 100 years helping to put a man on the moon with the U.S. space program and working with Albert Einstein in Princeton's Institute For Advanced Study on the Unified Field Theory of Gravitation and Electromagnetism.

Educated at the Daro-

lfonoun School in Tehran, Dr. Ghaffari traveled to France in 1929 with a full scholarship to study mathematics and physics at Nancy University.

He received his doctorate from the Sorbonne. In 1936 he worked at the Paris Observatory on celestial mechanics, and then returned to Iran to teach at the University of Tehran in 1937.

In 1938, Ghaffari was drafted into the military where he served until 1941. In 1950, the mathematician was invited as a Fulbright Scholar to Harvard University where he lectured on Differential Equations and continued his research on Gas Dynamics.

After making the move to the United States permanent in

1956, Ghaffari worked for the U.S. National Bureau of Standards in the mathematics division until it granted him permission to begin working for NASA, where he served as its first Iranian employee.

His primary responsibility during his work for the manned space program was to determine how to get a rocket to and back from the moon, which was a key issue for the Apollo 11 and 12 missions. Ghaffari retired from NASA in 1972 after receiving an award from NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in recognition of his contributions to Aerospace education during the first decade of space exploration.

Despite retirement and a

lifetime worth of contributions to the world in the fields of math and science, Ghaffari continues to receive awards.

In 2005, he was presented by the Association of Professor and Scholars of Iranian Heritage with the distinguished scholar award for outstanding achievement in the advancement of science.

"It's a great accomplishment to be able to come from Iran and make the contributions he has made," Beverly Hills Mayor Jimmy Delshad said.

"His knowledge in math and physics and astronomy has been quite remarkable. One of the reasons I presented him with the certificate was to show that Persian Americans have contributed a lot to America. I want to also encourage others. By me giving him that acknowledgement, I was encouraging other Persian-Americans that we can make a difference in our new country."

At 100, Ghaffari walked to the podium Thursday night to accept his certificate with pride and spirit.

He was joined by family and friends beaming with delight at seeing such a humble man deservedly honored by his community. His lucidity impressed those in attendance.

"I just want to have the sharpness of his mind and body he still has," Delshad said. "He is a model for me to stay alert and stay active to keep my mind very active. When I reach 100 I hope I'll be just as sharp and to the point and I'll be very healthy. I'm learning from him to set an example for others in our community."

Lohan Gets Single Day in Jail For Beverly Hills Charges

Actress Lindsay Lohan was spared felony drug conviction charges Thursday when prosecutors charged her with seven misdemeanor counts following her twin drunk-driving arrests in a plea deal.

Lohan will spend one day in jail, serve 10 days of community service and complete a drug treatment program under the deal reached at the Beverly Hills Superior Court.

"It is clear to me that my life has become completely unmanageable because I am addicted to alcohol and drugs. Recently, I relapsed and did things for which I am ashamed. I broke the law, and today I took responsibility," Lohan said in a statement.

The district attorney charged Lohan with two counts of driving under the influence of alcohol, driving with a blood-alcohol level above .08 percent legal limit, being under the influence of cocaine and one count of reckless driving.

Following an hour-long conference in Beverly Hills, at which Lohan's attorneys entered the pleas, Los Angeles County Deputy District Attorney Danette Meyers said Lohan did not receive any special consideration because she is a celebrity.

Lohan's attorney entered pleas of no contest to charges of driving with a blood alcohol level over the limit of .08 percent, being under the influence of cocaine and

reckless driving. In exchange, two counts of driving under the influence were dropped. A no contest plea is neither an admission of guilt, nor a denial.

A Beverly Hills Superior Court judge ordered Lohan to serve four days in jail on the charges, but reduced the sentence to two days and gave Lohan one day of credit for time already spent in jail. She must serve the time before January 18.

The judge also ordered Lohan to perform 10 days of community service and attend 18 months of an alcohol education program during her three-year probation.

The *Mean Girls* actress was first arrested May 26 after crashing her Mercedes on Sunset Boulevard in Beverly Hills and fleeing the scene to seek medical treatment. She checked herself into a rehabilitation facility after the incident, which she left July 13 after six weeks of treatment.

The 21-year-old actress was arrested again July 24 after a woman called 911 to report she was being pursued by Lohan in the actress' SUV. Police arrived and arrested Lohan, who had a blood-alcohol level of between 0.12 percent and 0.13 percent.

In both drunken driving arrests, Lohan was found in possession of cocaine in an amount below the 0.05 grams required for felony charges.

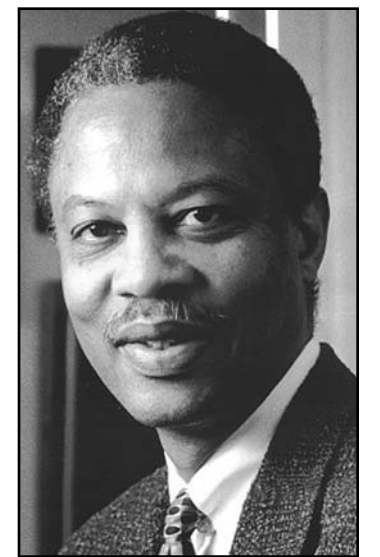
Arthur Johnson, Former Cedars-Sinai Chief of Staff, Dies

Arthur I. Johnson, M.D., M.P.H., a respected physician at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center for more than 30 years, died on Aug. 19 at age 65 after a long illness.

A well-known obstetrician/gynecologist at Cedars-Sinai, Dr. Johnson was the first physician in the history of the medical center to hold all elected offices of the medical staff during his career. He was also the first African-American to serve as Cedars-Sinai's Chief of Staff (from 1998 to 2000), the first African-American elected to the hospital's Board of Directors, and the first African-American to complete an OB/Gyn residency at the UCLA School of Medicine.

An advocate for expanding access to health services and educational opportunities for underserved women and youth in Los Angeles, Dr. Johnson received many honors for his commitment to diversity, including a President's Award from the NAACP.

"Dr. Johnson's commitment to improving the health of individuals and the community in general was evident in his work at Cedars-Sinai and in the count-



ARTHUR JOHNSON M.D.

less programs and organizations he supported throughout Los Angeles," said Paul A. Silka, M.D., the medical center's current chief of staff. "His contributions will continue to have a positive impact in the community for years to come."

Donations to a memorial scholarship in Dr. Johnson's name can be made at www.drarthurjohnson.com

Jamba Juice Closing Sparks Beverly Hills Rent Discussion

By Kathrin Klenshteyn

The recent closing of a Jamba Juice store on South Beverly Drive in Beverly Hills sparked discussion by store operators about rental rates on that street and in the area.

Most of the store's owners refused to give their names, but many expressed frustration with rising rental rates.

The owner of the House of Tailoring, near South Beverly Drive, recently had to move from his location on the street because his rental rates doubled from \$6 per square foot to \$12.

"I was in that location for 17 years," said the owner, who did not give his name, adding that it is getting much harder for business owners to stay on the street.

Another owner of a business on South Beverly Drive who also wished to remain anonymous said many rents in the area are doubling.

"You're working to pay the landlord," the owner said. "The landlords have to stop being greedy."

Also, the owner said, mom-and-pop stores that offer unique, high-quality items need support in terms of reasonable rents.

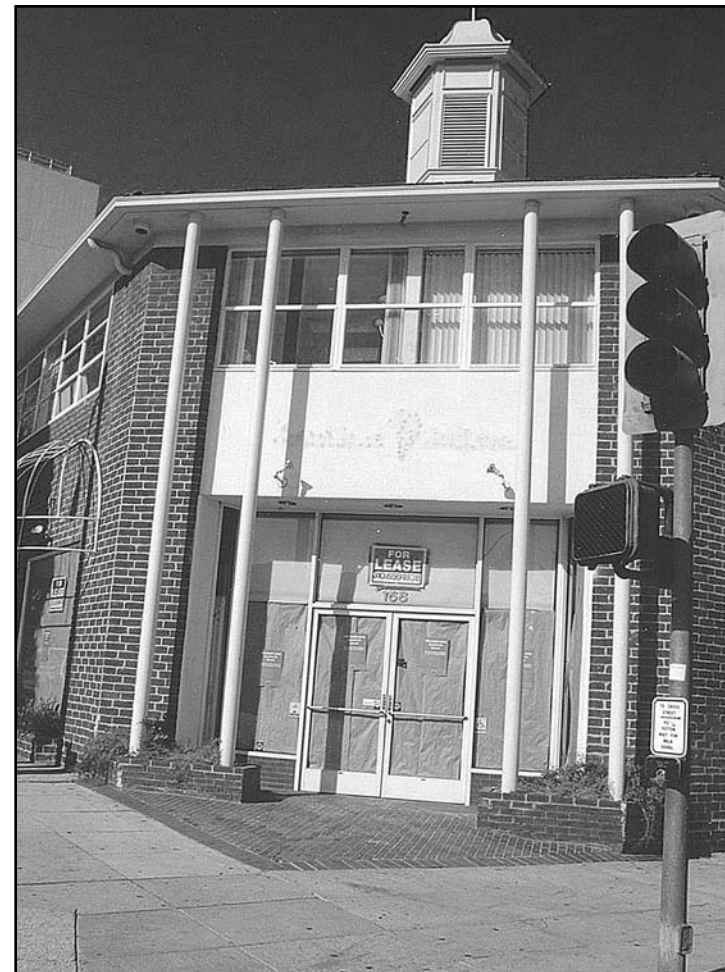
"He's asking a lot for the spaces," the owner said, of one particular landlord who owns the Four Corner Investment Company.

Joseph Yadegar is the owner of that company and many of the property spaces on South Beverly Drive.

He said the Jamba Juice store could not negotiate the terms of the new lease.

"They couldn't agree on the terms and conditions," he said.

He added that though he did not have records in front of him,



he recalls that the new lease would have raised the rent from about \$7 or \$8 per square foot to \$10. With the juice store's total square footage at about 1,400, the rent would have increased from about \$10,000 to \$14,000.

Anne Baker, public relations manager at Jamba Juice, said she could not comment on what the lease specifications were, but she confirmed that the store left that location because it could not work within the confines of the new lease.

Business owners said land-

lords are asking for equal rental rates on South and North Beverly Drive, but said that factors like parking availability and customer flow make this unfair.

"We don't get tourists," an owner said.

But Yadegar said rates everywhere are climbing.

"I think rents are going up all over town," he said.

That sentiment was echoed by Chamber of Commerce CEO Dan Walsh, who said rents have increased throughout Beverly Hills.



CLOSED FOR BUSINESS — The Jamba Juice on South Beverly Drive closed recently, sparking talk of some skyrocketing rents in the area.

Photos By Judy Okun

He said that when rents increase, businesses are faced either with developing new products, or raising prices on existing products. Larger businesses may have an easier time coping with raising rents as well, he said.

"So there is a natural turnover in the business world," Walsh said. "And what's happening on South Beverly is no different than what's happening on other streets in Beverly Hills or anywhere else."

But business owners think the turnover on South Beverly is too high.

"I know many people that are trying to sell their business and get out," said one business owner.

The House of Tailoring owner added Yadegar is not the only landlord raising rates.

"Other landlords are doing the same thing," he said.

But though rates are getting higher, business is not getting better. The owner said he lost many customers who could not find parking near his store.

In the end, he said rental rates are going up everywhere, including apartment rental rates. But with stores, raising the rent 100 percent is unfair.

"You can raise it 50 percent, but not higher," he said.

Pick-Up Locations:
Beverly Hills Library
City Hall
(Burton Way and Rexford)



VIRTUOSO— 99-year old pianist Paul Cooks hammers out a tune at the Beverly Hills Active Adult Club recently. *Photo by Judy Okun*

'Billionaires Ghetto' by Candy's in UK

CANDY, from Pg. 1A

the property business just a decade ago and made their mark by selling luxury properties to the oligarchs and new wave of migrant super rich, have agreed to pay a staggering amount of approximately \$1.8 billion for a 12.8 acre site. The enclave now has the unofficial title of Britain's most expensive residential development at \$140 million per acre.

Earlier this year, Candy & Candy paid \$500 million for an eight-acre Beverly Hills site at 9900 Wilshire that was once occupied by the Robinsons-May department store.

They plan on redeveloping the site into 252 multimillion-dollar condos and retail complex consisting of two 12-story build-

ings, townhouses and two four-story loft buildings.

Yet, while these two brothers have achieved extraordinary things - today on paper at least, they are both multi-millionaires - plenty of sceptics remain to be convinced of their blue-chip credentials according to *The Independent*, a prominent British newspaper.

One source, a successful entrepreneur in the luxury sector, describes the Candy's as "wide," saying, "do a bit of digging, and you'll see what I mean."

This seems to be a reference to the fact, detailed in their company accounts, that HM Revenue and Customs are currently holding an investigation into the complexities of their firms' tax affairs.

Developer Says Don't Call It Candy

In another saga of Candy & Candy trying to protect its image,

the company has filed a lawsuit against a developer who had the gall to call his project Candy Wharf. The brothers have retained one of the top city law firms to take action against the developers of Mile End's Candy Wharf, a modest residential development which takes its name from its colorful façade.

But Candy & Candy, which has positioned itself at the top of the England's property market through schemes such as One Hyde Park, said to be Britain's most expensive apartment building, is seeking damages, claiming that the term Candy Wharf

infringes its name, which is a registered trademark.

The legal papers filed state that "the plaintiff has become the benchmark provider of luxury property development, design and management services in the UK and as such is recognized by its peers."

But Candy Wharf developer Magri Group defended the scheme's name: "It's called Candy Wharf because the original color scheme looks like candy and there is no likelihood of any confusion on part of the public." The Magri Group also noted that Candy Wharf is targeted at the first-time buyers and not megarich.