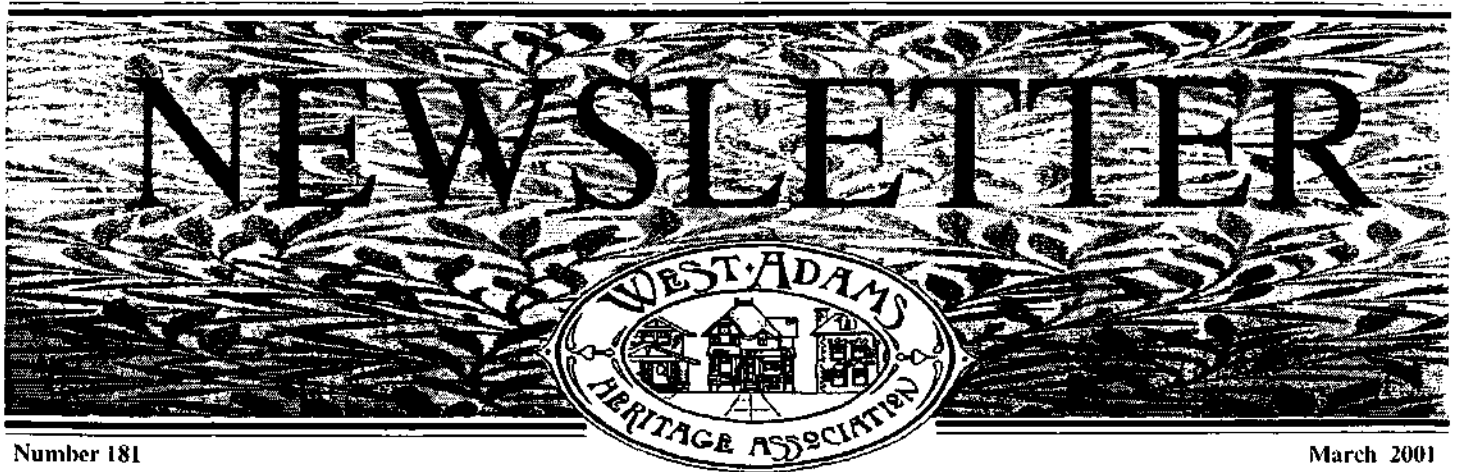


"...to support preservation of the West Adams community's architectural heritage and beautification activities, and to educate Los Angeles' citizens and others about cultural heritage and restoration techniques. . ."



Number 181

March 2001

## West Adams Targeted for Neighborhood Improvement Monies

by Laura Meyers

Look for new roofs, paint jobs, landscaping and other exterior improvements in the neighborhood. Starting in April, the city is slated to start pumping grant monies and other funds for public and private projects into the area.

West Adams has been selected for a new Targeted Neighborhood Initiative (TNI) project, a designation that will result in the city spending \$1 million per year for each of the next three years within the TNI boundaries of Vermont Avenue on the east, Western Avenue on the west, the Santa Monica Freeway on the north and 29th Street on the south. The TNI includes all of the new West Adams-Normandie HPOZ area, most of the Community Redevelopment Agency's Normandie 5 project area and parts of the former CRA Adams-Normandie 4321 project area. The first \$250,000 is expected to be allocated next month.

"There's a tremendous opportunity here, especially with the HPOZ in place, to improve the facades in this residential area," noted David Roberts, a deputy in Councilman Mark Ridley-Thomas' 8th District office. Among other ex-

penditures, Roberts expects that grants for up to \$20,000 each for exterior improvements will be available, although applicants will probably need to show low or moderate income status.

The city has scheduled a community meeting to discuss the TNI on **Wednesday, March 7**, at 7 p.m. at the Vermont Avenue Elementary School Auditorium, 1435 W. 27th Street.

"We're looking for a community wish list," said Roberts. "All of the projects will be bricks and mortar, to improve the area."

It is important to attend this initial meeting if you want your own wish list of neighborhood improvements to be considered. Sample program can include street lighting programs, street beautification projects, park improvement programs, commercial facade programs and, of course, home improvement programs.

It's expected, too, that community members' concerns about the city's criteria for overseeing the grants will be discussed, since there has recently been a controversy in an adjacent TNI project area. In that case, the city's Hous-

Continued on page 10

### South Seas Update

Everybody is asking, what's happening with the South Seas House? The WAHA newsletter reported several months ago that the city's Recreation and Parks Commission had approved, finally, a contract with architect Michelle McDonough to design and oversee the restoration of this Historic West Adams landmark. But although three months have passed since the contract signing, there haven't been visible signs of change on the property.

As it turns out, there have actually been several steps forward during this period, albeit with one step back. McDonough reports that she's been actively working on the design schematics, with input from the city's building and

Continued on page 7

**Begorrah! WAHA's Meeting and  
St. Patrick's Pot Luck is March 18 --**  
see page 11 for details

### Possible Funding for Neighborhood Councils

by Robert Greene

Councilman Mark Ridley-Thomas floated a plan in February to quickly allocate \$10 million to neighborhood groups to spend however they want.

Speaking at a meeting called to review the city's official draft plan for launching neighborhood councils, Ridley-Thomas said his funding proposal would press city officials to show whether they are serious about their commitment to civic participation.

Each of perhaps 200 councils would get \$50,000 under the apparently impromptu plan, which Ridley-Thomas presented toward the end of a heavily attended three-hour

Continued on page 10

## WEST ADAMS HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

2263 S. Harvard Boulevard  
Historic West Adams  
Los Angeles, California 90018  
323/735-WAHA

[www.neighborhoodlink.com/la/westadams](http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/la/westadams)

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## One WAHA Perspective

### A WAHA Wish List

WAHA Needs You!

Elections for the Board of Directors will be held in April (see box below), but we have some pressing needs right now. There's no time like the present to step up, serve, and contribute your expertise to this vital and growing organization.

Right now, we need:

\* A Secretary! Attend the board meetings, take minutes, prepare a summary for the newsletter and occasionally write official WAHA correspondence. Contact President Linda Scribner, 323/735-1385.

\* Hosts/Hostesses for our monthly WAHA General Meetings. Do you like to throw a party without spending all the money? This gig is for you. WAHA's monthly events are sometimes "hosted" (that is, we provide the food) by the organization, and sometimes pot luck. They are open to all members and guests, usually free of charge, and attendance can vary. But hey, we bought these big old houses just to entertain, right?! If you can open the doors of your historic home to use, please contact Events Co-chairs Alma Carlisle, 323/737-2060, or Greg Stegall, 323/734-7725.

\* Newsletter writers. Do you have something to say about preservation, food, gardens, local history, zoning? Write it up! Better yet, join the newsletter committee. We meet monthly, over dinner, to plan out the newsletter and other WAHA publications. We also gossip and giggle a lot. If your creative soul wants to reach out, contact Publications Director John Deaven, 323/737-7761, or Newsletter Editor Laura Meyers, 323/737-6146.

## Candidates Needed for the WAHA Board

It's that time of year again, and this is just another reminder that elections for the WAHA Board of Directors will be held in April. A number of positions will be available, including that of Volunteer Coordinator. If you have interest in this or any of WAHA's Board positions please step forward and be counted. West Adams Heritage Association needs you!

WAHA has a fifteen-person Board of Directors, and to keep the organization viable, all positions must be filled. Officers of the Boards are elected by the Board Members at their May retreat meeting after the election of the Board by the general membership. Any of the current members (listed on page 2 of this Newsletter) would be happy to talk to you about Board activities.

If you are interested, submit your candidate statement (a short paragraph, 100 words or so) to WAHA Board President, Linda Scribner by March 10, 2001, in time for the April Newsletter deadline. Candidate Statements will be published in the April Newsletter.

The members Board of Directors are the heart and soul of this organization, and without a full and competent board WAHA could cease to function. So if you believe WAHA serves a valuable function in the West Adams community or if you have ideas on how the organization should be run, please step up, serve and contribute your expertise!

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**Community Calendar for March 2001**

All committee meetings begin at 7 p.m.

- 3/7 TNI meeting at Vermont Elementary
- 3/14 Community Relations Committee meets at Jacqueline Sharp's, 2229 S. Gramercy Pl. 323/766-8842
- 3/18 WAHA General Meeting (see page 11)
- 3/20 Newsletter Committee meets at Laura Meyers', 1818 S. Gramercy 323/737-6146
- 3/21 Zoning & Planning Committee meets at City Living Realty, 2316 1/2 South Union, Suite 2 Contact Tom Florio 212/749-8469
- 3/21 Membership Committee meets at John Kurtz', 2102 W. 24th St., 323/732-2990
- 3/22 WAHA Board Meeting - contact Linda Scribner 323/735-1385

**Block Club Captains  
and  
Neighborhood Leaders:**

Please call WAHA's  
Community Relations Committee  
323/766-8842

So we can know about, support, and write about  
your important projects and issues

## WAHA Membership Renewal Notices On Their Way

Individualized invoices for WAHA Membership renewal, will be mailed out mid-March to members who need to renew their memberships for the 2001 - 2002 year. Memberships in WAHA go from April to April every year. New WAHA Membership Cards will be mailed out in mass at the end of April, when the current membership cards expire. Typically if you don't renew the membership, you are taken off the Newsletter mailing list and the May or June Newsletter is the last one you receive.

New WAHA Memberships taken out late in 2000 were extended through the 2001 - 2002 membership year, so if you took out a new WAHA Membership in December you will not have to renew during this upcoming renewal drive. You won't be getting an invoice, but you will be getting a new membership card in April.

If you have any questions about the status of your WAHA membership you can contact John Kurtz Membership Committee Chair 323/732-2990.

## HUGE YARD SALE IN LAFAYETTE SQUARE

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**SATURDAY, April 28TH**  
8:00 A.M. UNTIL 5:00 P.M.

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Doors Hardware  
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For more information or to phone for reservations call 213-747-7419

**Fourth Annual St. Patrick's Day  
Celebration**

**DATE: SATURDAY,  
MARCH 17, 2001  
6 TO 10:00 PM**

The Board of Directors invite you to an event benefiting the *Sunshine Mission/Casa de Rosas*, LA's oldest continually operating shelter for women at the home of Drs. Ann and Edward Dorr. Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with music and Irish supper and libations at the historic Durfee House, 1007 W. 24th Street, on March 17, 2001. (corner of Toberman and 24th Street, one block east of Hoover. Parking is available.) Back by popular demand is the group *VoiceOver*, the trio who dazzled guests last year.

♦ Suggested donation \$40.00 per person.

Please respond by using the form below and mail with your donation to:

**Casa de Rosas Inc., 2600 So. Hoover, L.A., Ca. 90007, Att. Fred Hollister.**

Your donation helps provide housing and supportive services for homeless and at risk women in a safe and supportive environment.

You Are Invited to a Benefit for the Sunshine Mission/Casa de Rosas Inc. by the Staff and Board: Carole Aulori, Hugh Biele, Ed Dorr, Michael Dever, Brandi Neuwirth, Susan Peck, Michele McDonough, Pamela Johnson, Jean Frost, L. Shanti Blanton, and June Dunbar

Contact Person: Fred Hollister 213-747-7419

Directions: from the 10 Frewy, south on Hoover to Adams, east on Adams one short block to Toberman, north on Toberman two blocks to 24th and Toberman. From the 110 Frewy, west on Adams to Toberman, north on Toberman two blocks to 24th and Toberman

\_\_\_\_\_ Please reserve for \_\_\_\_\_ persons on March 17 at \$40 per person.

\_\_\_\_\_ I cannot attend but enclosed is my donation of \_\_\_\_\_.

Please provide your name, address and phone

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_






## IN THE GARDEN: 10 CAL ROSES

No matter how large or small your garden, as long as you have a patch with full-day sun you can grow roses. And though we're at the tail-end of the time period for bare-root plantings, you can plant container roses all Spring and Summer long.

But oh, how to choose? There are very nearly 2,500 varieties to select from in the U.S. marketplace. But not all of these varieties will flourish in your garden. Forget cold-loving Gallicas. Southern California has a nine-month growing season, which is a terrific plus, but it also has high heat and drought conditions.

In its March 2001 special issue on roses, *House & Garden Magazine* asked Clair G. Martin, the Huntington Botanical Gardens' rosarian and author of *100 Old Roses for the American Garden* (Workman Press), to evaluate the best ten roses for a Western garden. His favorites include those with Asian bloodlines, like Hybrid Teas, Chinas and Noisettes.

### Garden, Paint Contests Slated

Every June, West Adams Heritage hosts a special gardens general meeting where we learn more about our own garden plots and take a look at our neighbors' efforts to beautify their homes and gardens. This year is no different.

WAHA is looking for entries for the annual Garden and for the Painting Contests. The deadline is April 10. The May newsletter will publish all the nominees of outstanding gardens and/or new paint jobs for the year (perhaps with a map) so members can view each entry. We will announce an official weekend in May when WAHA will photograph the nominated gardens, and that will be the time for members to review the nominees, so Gardeners, Heads Up! Be sure your spring garden is in its best form in May.




Please feel free to nominate any paint job done in the 12 months, or any outstanding garden in your neighborhood. This is a good opportunity for people outside your immediate neighborhood to not only know about major improvements throughout the West Adams community but also give them a chance to see them.

All nominations, with address and homeowner's name, should go to Ed Trospen (2515 4th Avenue, Historic West Adams, Los Angeles 90018; 323/734-2010 phone, 323/730-0432 fax, or e-mail: edtrospen@aol.com). Look for details about the June garden meeting and contest awards in the next issue of the newsletter.

In alphabetical order, Martin's favorite roses are:

- \* Altissimo (1966) Large crimson flowers, single-blossomed climbing rose
- \* Cardinal de Richelieu (1840) Purple-red flowers, once-blooming
- \* French Lace (1980) Ivory blooms, scented Floribunda
- \* Golden Celebration (1992) Golden English rose, strong Tea rose fragrance
- \* Lady Hillingdon (1910) Pale yellow Tea rose
- \* Mutabilis (date unknown) Each blossom changes from yellow to pink to deep red
- \* R. Alba Semi-plena (date unknown) The "White Rose of York," once-blooming
- \* Sun Flare (1981) Bright yellow clustered flowers, very disease resistant
- \* Tamora (1983) English rose, fragrant apricot-colored flowers on a small bush
- \* Tradescant (1993) Velvety red flowers, blooms all year

Read all about roses in *House & Garden's* March 2001 special issue, on newsstands now.

### Garden Calendar

#### Things to do in March

*Danger of frost continues, and it is another rainy month. Plants are beginning to bloom.*

#### PLANT

\* Spring-blooming perennials; dig and divide emerging summer- and fall-blooming ones

\* Summer bulbs, including calla, canna, dahlia, gladiolus, and tuberose, in fast-draining, well-amended soil

#### CHORES AND MAINTENANCE

\* If you haven't already, prune your rose bushes; use organic fungicide to control mildew and black spot on roses

\* In the vegetable garden, build arbors or other supports for vining vegetables (beans, cucumbers, peas)

\* After it rains, set out bait for snails and slugs

-- Courtesy *The Garden Calendar*  
Fulcrum Publishing  
[www.fulcrum-gardening.com](http://www.fulcrum-gardening.com)

## Through My Eyes Only A USC Booster

By John B. Deaven

In May 2000, I joined the WAHA Board of Directors, along with newcomers SeElcy Caldwell, Anna Marie Brooks, and Clayton de Leon. This month let's focus on Clayton. His spacious 1911 Arts & Crafts house, designed by architects Alfred and Arthur Heineman, is only six houses south of mine, on the west side of 4th Avenue. It is next door to Dave Raposa and Ed Trosper's 1909 home, also a Heineman house. The original owner of Clay's house was Dr. Harold Smith. This house was the "main course" house on the 1996 Holiday Tour, which featured Kathleen Salisbury's memorably delicious cranberry glazed grilled chicken. I remember it well. More recently, the WAHA monthly social for September 2000 was at Clay's, where we all saw a great slide show on West Adams mansions. That was a lovely, warm evening with pretty tables on his big outside deck and back lawn.

Clay was born in the city of Hilo on the Big Island of Hawaii, where he grew up. After high school there, Clay joined the U.S. Air Force for four years, where he became a sergeant. The Air Force took him to Mississippi, Texas, Alaska, and California. He received a ROTC scholarship for engineering, which he used at the University of Southern California. After receiving his bachelor's degree, he went back to Hawaii for four years, to be a graphic artist. However, he returned to the mainland to work on his master's degree at USC, and it was during this time that he met Dave Raposa through associates from USC. Clay first wanted a Victorian house in North University Park. However, when he saw Dave and Ed's interior, Clay was suddenly introduced to the world of Craftsman homes.

Clay made an offer to buy his current home on July 4, 1999, the same day he attended the annual WAHA 4th of July picnic, coincidentally next door at Dave and Ed's. The offer was ac-

cepted, and Clay had his housewarming on September 26 of '99. I remember that well. I'm sure my neighbors do, too. It was the only housewarming that I have ever attended where the USC Trojan Marching Band performed. It was a mighty blast!

Yes, indeed, Clay is "Mr. USC." As an undergraduate he dreamed of joining the marching band, yet the only instrument he ever played was a guitar as a teenager. For three months he took lessons on the tenor saxophone. The USC audition involved a week at band camp, where he had to prove that he could memorize and play a piece while marching. Clay says it was both musically and physically challenging: He was accepted, and he was in the USC band for three years. The first year that he joined, USC went to the Rose Bowl! "Was that physically challenging?" I asked. Clay replied, "I got on the bus at 3 a.m., and back on the bus at 7 p.m., very painful and numb."

Clay keeps a vast assortment of USC memorabilia in his home, including USC lamps, coasters, pillows, dishes, glasses, mugs, autographed footballs, and banners, among many items. Clay's current job is at USC, naturally. He teaches microcomputers for a department within the School of Engineering.

When Clay joined the WAHA

Board, he truly dove into many obligations that he volunteered for. After our May 2000 kick-off retreat at the Biltmore Hotel, he volunteered his home for the very next Board meeting, in June. He was also an active participant in the 2000 Holiday Tour, as a member of the singing quartet at the check-in location, the Congregational Church. Clay organized this quartet from participants in his own church, the Temple Baptist Church on 23rd Street — close to USC, of course! And Clay sings in that church's choir. In short, Clay loves music.

During the short time that Clay has been in his huge house, he has had four nice filming opportunities. First, early in 2000, rhythm and blues singer "T.Q." filmed a music video there, standing in some scenes on Clay's roof singing the song, "Daily." Just a few weeks later, "The X Files" TV series filmed at Clay's house, flooding all of 4th Avenue with huge bright lights. Third came a commercial for Fox-TV, promoting the NFL season in a spot that featured Minnesota Vikings receiver Randy Moss. Just this past January, J.C. Penney Department Stores filmed yet another commercial.

Many of us in WAHA are concerned that Clay is all by himself in that enormous, 4,000-square-foot residence. However, he really isn't. Clay has three cats and — safely separate — two birds. And I'm really not all that surprised that one of the birds can whistle the USC Fight Song!

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## South Seas Update Continued from page 1

safety, and engineering officials.

At the same time, Michael Wooden, a senior staffer with Recreation and Parks who is responsible for running programs in more than a dozen parks and community centers, has been assigned to develop the eventual programming at the South Seas House. To that end, Wooden has prepared a survey, enclosed in this newsletter, to help generate ideas and indeed wider community interest in the South Seas House project. "Although we already know in general what kinds of things we can run there," explains Wooden, "we really want the community involved in the process."

Wooden also hopes to schedule a community meeting, perhaps as early as April (watch this space for the time and place).

Wooden is enthusiastic about the property's restoration. He expects the South Seas House rehab to be completed by 2002, "in time to celebrate its centennial birthday with an event," he says.

Unfortunately, the South Seas project has once again been somewhat orphaned in the Recreation and Parks Department Planning section, which is the subdivision responsible for overseeing the actual rehab. The assigned project manager retired recently, and the new project manager, Fred

David, has had to start from scratch. He was slated to meet with McDonough in late February. Although he was provided some background materials by his predecessor (unopened at the time he was contacted by this newsletter), they did not appear to include the architectural/engineering survey prepared by the University of Southern California's School of Architecture back in the mid-1990s, David said. Moreover, at the time of the interview, he was unaware of the historic nature of the property, or, indeed, the fact that it was located in Historic West Adams — though that will surely have changed once he's met with the architect.

## Make Your Voice Heard

Attend a public workshop sponsored by the Community Conservancy International to view and comment on the draft plans for the proposed Baldwin Hills Park. This is your opportunity to have input on the design and vision for this world-class park plan.

There are two workshops, with identical agendas -- just choose your most convenient date.

Wednesday, March 14 5:30 - 9 p.m.

Saturday, March 17 1 - 4:30 p.m.

Location: West L.A. College Fine Arts Theater (park in Lot 8)

For directions call Silissa at 310/475-0797 ext. 4 or e-mail: [silissa@ccint.org](mailto:silissa@ccint.org)

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or

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*The following are changes to the WAHA  
Membership Directory for 2000. Please up-  
date your copy of the directory if you want  
to keep it current.*

#### Correct:

Mary Ann Hutchinson's Phone = (213) 383-1990

#### Update with New Information

Carla Fantozzi & Tony Palermo, 940 S. Windsor Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90019-1925, (323) 938-0415

Donald W. Leonard, 74 Fair Oaks Street, San Francisco, CA 94110-2209  
(415) 642-3730

Alice McHugh, 2060 Pepperwood Drive, Sandy, Utah 84092-4702

Michael Valent, 28 Scenic Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95407-8209

Clare Wright, 17700 S. Avalon Blvd., #339, Carson, CA 90746-0203 (310) 532-0522

#### Add (and welcome) new WAHA members

Jeff Bentow, P.O. Box 35133, Los Angeles, CA 90035, (310) 202-0330, FAX (310) 202-0979

Bart & Carol Bingaman, 10511 Ormond Street, Shadow Hills, CA 91040 (818) 504-0940

Helen & Frederick Booker, 2091 S. Harvard Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90018

Don & Elaine Brown, 440 S. Arden Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90020 (323) 935-8281

Congregational Church of Christian Fellowship, 2085 S. Hobart Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90018

Jory Felice & Elise Pearlstein, 617 N. Plymouth, Los Angeles, CA 90004

Bob & Gail Fenner, Elizabeth Fenner & Brian Robinson, 1616 Ruhland Avenue  
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266, (310) 379-2301

Cheryl Francis Harrington, 2114 8th Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90018 (323) 732-3133, FAX (323) 732-2613

Kharon Hathaway & Holly B. Heaven, 3035 4th Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90018  
(323) 732-3279

Gene Hoggatt, 1111 Cambera Lane, Santa Ana, CA 92705-2342 (714) 832-8719

Lanita Jacobs Huey & Stan Huey, 1919 S. Harvard Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90018

Todd Hunter, 1935 8th Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90018

A. J. & Hilary Lentini, Aria & Talia Lentini, 1625 Cimarron Street, Los Angeles,  
CA 90019, (323) 634-1921

Dominique Martinez, 2266 W. 24th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90018 (323) 735-0421

John & Angela McDaniel, 2045 S. Oxford Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90018  
(323) 735-4993

Kathleen Reimer & Phyllis Reimer, 2238 W. 25th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90018  
(323) 730-0303

Steve Rowe, 1626 5th Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90019 (323) 733-9600

Rives & Ronald Wiggins, 800 Manhattan Avenue, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266  
(310) 937-7791

Bun Ja Yoo & Whoo Ho Yoo, 1937 S. Hobart Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90018





## Resources by Judie Schoening

Meeting all the new people who have or are about to join WAHA on the recent tea at the Farwells' inspired me to get back in the groove and write a new column for all of you out there. I have received only one new resource and unfortunately did not write down the name of the person who sent this - please forgive me. I do remember that whoever sent was quite enthusiastic. Please add to Appliance Repair: Antique Stoves Restoration. Sunday Ortiz is located on Western Avenue. Best to call first.

I do have several suggestions of my own. We visited a new Lowe's on Bellflower Blvd. We found them very helpful and knowledgeable. The lumber prices are quite comparable to Home Depot AND the quality is far superior! On the same trip, we went to POTTERY at 18881 S. Hoover in Gardena. This is an outlet for red clay pots. They have seconds, closeouts and also firsts. The pots go from 1' to 40" and are really well priced. They are located where the 110,

the 405 and 190th Street come together.

Now for a real find. Alfredo Johnson of Lucky Chimney recommended Mortarless Building Supply for tile. We visited this marvelous supply house. They specialize in Arts and Crafts, handpainted, discontinued and remakes of tile. They have a large supply of old tile as well as new. They can replicate or match colors. They are extremely knowledgeable and pleasant!!! As Alan said, they have tiles you just want to buy to own never mind install. On their card it mentions that they also have landscaping stone. They are open on Saturdays as well as during the week.

Speaking of Lucky Chimney, Alfredo redid ours for us and said that it was a good thing we had decided to do it as there was more damage than was first seen and that it was now safe to have fires. (Whew - just in time). I sent a copy of the invoice which has the guarantee on it to our Insurance company. Hopefully this will impact positively on our rate as did the furnace replacement. Don't forget to let your Insurance company know about improvements.

Our daughter in San Diego recently had to replace her hot water heater. She had a tankless one with an electronic pilot put in. Apparently the energy savings are enormous. With natural gas rates increasing dramatically, we suggest looking into this when next you must do this. She bought hers at Home Depot but had to get a specialist to install it.

Are you in the market for a nice corporate, wedding, baby or other gift? Or do you want to buy something lovely for your own home? Buyer's Services in Beverly Hills has no windows on the street and doesn't advertise but they carry wonderful merchandise at excellent prices. They also do Wedding and Gift Registries with some interesting features. You must use a referral name so feel free to use mine. They are located at Robertson and Olympic (NW corner) and have a parking lot off the alley next to the gas station. 379 S. Robertson Blvd. Beverly Hills 90211 310/273-8526  
Kathryn Ruth

Finally, to check a Contractor's License -CSLB (Contractors State License Board) call 800/321-2752 or go to [www.cslb.ca.gov/](http://www.cslb.ca.gov/)

### Preservation Begins At Home



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Ph: 323/663-3292 Joe Ranieri Jr.

### Neighborhood Council Funding Proposed Continued from page 1

session in his South Los Angeles district. It had first been briefly proposed by City Attorney James Hahn a few weeks earlier, during a mayoral candidates forum conducted as part of Ridley-Thomas' annual 8th District Empowerment Congress annual meeting. The idea clearly piqued Ridley-Thomas' interest.

"We'll test people's resolve as to what their commitment to funding neighborhood councils actually is," Ridley-Thomas told City Hall staff and area residents at the Governmental Efficiency Committee meeting.

This idea highlights the quandary in which officials find themselves as the June 15 deadline for action on a neigh-

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### Targeted Neighborhood Initiative Continued from page 1

ing Department handed out one of the TNI grants so a property owner could replace historic windows with aluminum sliders, and stucco the Craftsman-style house. Moreover, the Housing Department did not initially require that property owner obtain a building permit before the grant monies were forwarded to the contractor.

Nonetheless, having a West Adams area TNI will certainly yield positive improvements. In other TNI projects throughout Los Angeles, the city has made rehab loans to owners of both single-family and multi-family residences, in addition to the grants program. The city also has improved public "facilities" like sidewalks and curbs. It has also funded commercial district projects. Locally, the expenditures included contributions toward the construction of the new Department of Public Social Services building on Vermont Avenue between 38th Street and 38th Place in the Expo Park West TNI, south of this new TNI project.

This second phase of the city's Targeted Neighborhood Initiative program adds fourteen new communities to the initial twelve in the \$36 million pilot program that began four years ago. Each of the neighborhoods was selected, in part, based on their eligibility to receive Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. Along with the West Adams TNI, another Historic West Adams District neighborhood is on the new TNI list: the Byzantine Latino Quarter, bounded by Alvarado Street on the east, 12th Street on the north, 15th Street on the south and Hobart on the west. This TNI includes a part of Harvard Heights as well as the landmark St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral.

There are also several new TNI areas adjacent to Historic West Adams. They are: Leimert Park (Crenshaw Boulevard on the west, Martin Luther King on the north, Leimert Boulevard on the east and 48th Street on the south); Mid Cities/Adams (La Brea on the east, Santa Monica Freeway on the north, Hauser Boulevard on the west and Westhaven on the west); and Pico (West Boulevard on the east, Pico and San Vicente on the north, Venice Boulevard on the south and Sierra Bonita Avenue on the west).

borhood council plan approaches. Although councils are mandated under the charter adopted by voters in 1999, City Hall leaders have yet to reach consensus on how much money to allocate, whether to hire employees to train and assist the new groups, and how to strike the delicate balance between further empowering communities that already have shown their capacity to organize and those now virtually bereft of resources, organizing experience, and access to City Hall.

The uncertainty over how to proceed was evident at the mid-February meeting as committee chair Laura Chick and members Mike Feuer and Ridley-Thomas criticized the current Department of Neighborhood Empowerment plan for doing too little to assure underrepresented residents get their share of organizing resources. It is exactly those areas that councils were meant to empower, and those areas that should be the early focus of funding, organizing and assistance from the city, department critics argue.

Chick said the department's plan did nothing to assure that residents of those areas are being trained now, in order to file for certification at the same time other areas file.

"I'm talking about communities that don't have a clue what neighborhood councils are and are not going to be coming forward during the first couple of years," Chick said.

Chick, who criticized the department for mailing out 26,000 copies of a half-inch-thick book containing the plan, also expressed concern over the department's proposal to spend only \$75,000 on training. When the figure was mentioned by department General Manager Rosalind Stewart, Chick sat silent for a few seconds before remarking to Feuer and Ridley-Thomas: "I think we've got some hard work, colleagues. Some hard work."

But the three committee members also cautioned that more experienced groups already in the final phase of organizing must receive quick, and tangible, rewards from the city in order to keep the momentum going and to demonstrate to other neighborhoods that the effort is worthwhile.

Officials should not use the disparity in resources among neighborhoods "as an excuse to fail to support those neighborhoods that come forward," Feuer said.

Ridley-Thomas, who in 1993 organized the widely touted Eighth District Empowerment Congress, said organized groups could use the quick payments of \$50,000 for support staff, organizers, or even area projects such as closing alleys or removing graffiti.

But the sharpest disagreement between the committee and Stewart's department, which is backed by Mayor Richard Riordan, came over the level of official city staffing to provide councils. The department's plan calls for initial assistance in preparing councils to certify, but no continuing paid staff to provide basic services such as calling meetings, posting agendas, and providing refreshments, or to take on more ambitious projects such as completing grant applications or encouraging city department leaders to respond to neighborhood concerns.

Continued on next page

## Neighborhood Council Funding Proposed

Continued from page 10

Feuer noted that his own staff provided a great deal of time organizing and assisting the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council before it was capable of taking its own initiative, as did Ridley-Thomas with the Empowerment Congress.

Empowerment Congress leader Romerol Malveaux told the committee that Ridley-Thomas' role was crucial in establishing the organization.

"It was extremely beneficial to have that council office there to help with resources," Malveaux said. Malveaux has also been helping to organize a Neighborhood Council that includes her own Cherrywood-Exposition Boulevard neighborhood, Jefferson Park and a large part of Historic West Adams, including "The Avenues," Western Heights, Arlington Heights and Harvard Heights.

Frank Dixon, a representative of the highly successful neighborhood councils movement in Portland, Ore., told members that city resources and a mission statement underlying city workers' commitment to councils-were key to that city's success. USC Professor Terry Cooper also emphasized the importance of targeted training and resources.

But the city charter's mandate for neighborhood councils envisions a network of organizations independent of City Council members.

If City Council offices are not going to provide staffing, Feuer said, a neighborhood council's success will be subject to the whim of a City Council member, who will decide whether or not to spend discretionary money on the group.

"I think that philosophical approach is wrong...," Feuer said. "It will be setting up our successors to fail."

Chick, who agreed that more staffing is required, called on Stewart's department to prepare a request for bids for contractors to aid neighborhood councils.

The committee also agreed to mandate that neighborhood councils meet at citywide conference to compare notes and develop shared agendas. The current plan mirrors the city charter in recommending, but not requiring, such meetings.

The committee was slated to meet again on February 26 at Grant High School in the San Fernando Valley.

*Story courtesy of the Metropolitan News-Enterprise, a daily newspaper covering the courts, the legal community and state and local government. For subscription information call 213/346-0033.*

*This story also appeared in City Watch, which closely follows the progress of Charter reform initiatives and, especially, Neighborhood Councils. To subscribe, call 213/895-4646 or visit its website, [www.citywatchla.com](http://www.citywatchla.com)*

## Preservation in Los Angeles, and the Los Angeles Conservancy

Learn about the current state of affairs on the local historic preservation front from Ken Bernstein, director of preservation issues for the Los Angeles Conservancy, at WAHA's March General Meeting

**Sunday, March 18**  
**4 p.m.**

at the home of  
Jim Dugan and Catheryne Barrier  
1651 S. Oxford  
in Harvard Heights  
(between Venice and Washington)

It's a Green-Letter Day!  
Potluck theme: St. Paddy's Day

For more information, contact Greg Stegall  
or Alma Carlisle

## Spring Tour of Pasadena's Historic Homes

Pasadena Heritage, one of California's oldest non-profit historic preservation organizations, will host its annual Spring Home Tour on Sunday, March 25. Featuring five exceptional homes from the first decades of the 20th century when Pasadena was the wealthiest community of its size in the country, this drive-yourself tour will highlight the magnificent revival styles as interpreted by Southern California's finest architects.

Ticket prices are \$30 for the general public and \$25 for Pasadena Heritage members. For tickets and information call Pasadena Heritage at 626-441-6333 or visit [www.pasadenaheritage.org](http://www.pasadenaheritage.org)

## BLOCK CLUB & NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS



### ADAMS-NORMANDIE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION (ANNA)

We had an unanticipated burst of attendance at the February meeting. About 45 came, many of whom are looking to buy in our community. It was also the end of our membership drive so several were there to get in on our last membership drawing for the year.

Besides standing reports a good deal of time was devoted to exploring ideas for activities for Earth Day. New member Tres Tanner will helm the effort with unbridled enthusiasm.

We also decided our outing to Descanso Gardens would be open to our entire neighborhood as our first effort of the newly formed Family Fun, Family Support committee. We're not sure how this committee will function but we're determined to provide more opportunities for our neighborhood families and their children.

Members also agreed to support an effort to again request a Neighborhood Matching Grant. This year we will

*Block Club and Neighborhood News is an important and integral part of the WAHA Newsletter -- a place for us to share ideas, information, and upcoming events. To publicize future events, you must provide the information to the newsletter well in advance, no later than the first of the prior month (eg: August 1 for the September issue). To submit "News from Around the Blocks," please contact Michael S. Smith at 323/734-7725. You may also e-mail information to mikegreg@pacbell.net, or fax to 213/894-5335 (please address to Mike Smith).*

focus on refurbishing our paseo which runs from 22nd to 24th street.

Our two month effort to stir interest in our neighbors west of Normandie interested in forming a block club has not been successful. One person attended

who primarily spoke Spanish so she was directed to our Lead Officer who has information on the LAPD program for forming a block club for the Spanish speaking.

We adjourned to Susie Henderson's annual salute to Valentine's Day in the form of fabulous, heart shaped goodies.

## Do You Have Kids?

West Adams families are gathering together for a fun picnic on **Sunday, April 1**, to play, eat, meet each other and to start sharing resources.

Where: MacGowan Mansion  
(Janice Stevenor Dale's home)  
3726 West Adams Boulevard

When: Sunday, April 1  
1 - 4 p.m.

Potluck

Contact: Chris Carlson, 323/735-2130, or  
Karen White, 323/373-0477

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### Mark Your Calendars

WAHA is planning a  
**Historic Church  
Tour, tentatively  
scheduled for May  
19th.**

**We'll keep you  
posted with details**

## A Thought for Food by Alan Schoening

### LITTLE TREASURES OF THE SIERRA MADRE!

The hammers exploded, Bam, Bam, Bam. The drills screeched their reluctance. And the electric saws, capable of separating fingers from hands, created a god-awful racket, preventing me from hearing my daughter Carina, who was talking through a mouthful of 4" deck screws. Yes, we, she and I, were building a large redwood gazebo in her garden. In just two days we converted a pile of lumber into a shade structure filled with hanging pots of epiphylia and hand-made, by Carina, Adirondack chairs and benches. She is better than the son I never had - a photographer, carpenter and all-round fabulous cook too. We had a lot of fun that week-

end.

As a thank you, she and her husband, Joe, treated us to an incredible Dim-Sum lunch in a huge Chinese area of N.E. San Diego, previously unknown to me. It was a major flaw in my knowledge!! Dim-Sum translates to "Little Treasures" and as many of you know, they really are worth their weight in gold. With bottles of Tsingtao beer in hand, we were finally seated in this extremely busy restaurant. Joe, ever the gourmet/gourmand, did the ordering from the carts streaming by our table. "Dimme some of dese" "Dimme some of doze" "Dimme some of dat" In a matter of half-minutes, the table was overflowing with Treasures - roast duck, pork and shrimp dumplings, aromatic beef balls, shrimp toast, pork wrapped in lettuce leaves and more Tsingtao. We ate steadily for an hour, enjoying both the familiar and very new tastes. As Judie was about to compliment me on my similarity to the Smiling Bhudda, we left. To make Dim-Sum is a complicated procedure requiring most of a Saturday. Two winners that I made recently, include:

#### Lamb Meatballs in Sweet and Sour Sauce

<p>2 lbs. Ground lamb 2 Tbs cornstarch 2 Tbs sherry 1/2 tsp salt 2 eggs, beaten 2 cloves garlic, minced</p>	<p>Combine the ingredients and form into walnut-sized balls. Heat 3 Tbs oil and cook the lamb balls, shaking the skillet continuously until done. Add the sweet and sour sauce and serve.</p>
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#### Sweet and Sour Sauced. OOPS!! Sauce.

<p>3/4 cup water 1/2 cup sugar 1/2 cup rice vinegar 1 Tbs cornstarch 1 Tbs soy sauce 1/4 cup water</p>	<p>Bring water to boil. Add sugar &amp; cook another minute to dissolve. Add vinegar, cook 1 minute more. Blend cornstarch, soy, and rest of water into a paste. Then stir into sauce to thicken. Pour sauce over meat and serve. Serves 8</p>
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#### Eggplant salad

1 large eggplant  
2 Tbs rice vinegar  
1 Tbs peanut oil  
1/2 tsp salt  
dash of pepper  
1 garlic clove  
several drops of toasted sesame oil

Cut eggplant in half lengthwise. Place cut side down in shallow heatproof dish and steam on a rack until done. About 30 minutes.

Let cool slightly. Remove stem end and peel. Tear lengthwise in strips and cut in half.

Cut garlic clove in half. Rub inside of a bowl or decorative mold with cut surface of garlic, then place garlic at bottom of bowl. Combine all ingredients and pack the eggplant mixture into the bowl and refrigerate overnight.

Arrange lettuce leaves on a serving platter. Invert bowl onto lettuce. Remove garlic and serve.

**Bon appetit!!!**

### Member Discounts

Reminder: The following companies and organizations offer discounts to WAHA members. Show your WAHA membership card when you make your purchase.

Best Lock and Safe Service contact: David Kim  
2203 W. Venice Blvd. Los Angeles 323/733-7716  
10% discount on lock and safe labor and materials

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Meyers Roofing  
5048 W. Jefferson Blvd. 323/733-0188  
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The 24th Street Theater  
1117 24th Street Los Angeles, CA 90007 213/667-0417  
\$2.00 off ticket price

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323/954-8080  
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Papa Cristo's Taverna  
2771 West Pico Blvd. Los Angeles CA 90006 323/737-2970  
10% discount on catered food orders

Vintage Plumbing Bathroom Antiques  
9939 Canoga Avenue Chatsworth, CA 818/772-1721 (hours: by appointment only)  
10% discount on purchases at Chatsworth facility

Boulevard Vacuum & Sewing Machine Company, 5086 W. Pico Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90019, (323) 938-2661  
10% discount on sale of new vacuums, and vacuum service & repair

Wholesale Carpet Liquidators, 1225 E. Washington Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90021, (213) 747-7474, mailto:Wholesalecarpetla@Yahoo.com Contact = Linda Or Parisa  
Discount of between 5-10%, on the purchase of 150 square yards or more of carpet, ceramic tile, wood flooring, and/or vinyl floor covering.

### A Call to Members

If you frequent a local business -- retail store, restaurant, service provider, etc. -- ask them if they would like to offer a discount to WAHA members. Explain that they would benefit from the increased exposure to many local consumers, and would be listed monthly in the WAHA newsletter. Or, call me at 323/733-6869 and I would be happy to contact them.

-- Steve Wallis

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**MAY WE PLEASE PICK HYDRANGEAS** from your West Adams garden for Sarah's wedding on June 23? We particularly want blue or lavender ones and would be happy to put the solution on any volunteered plants that turn them these colors. That should happen within the next 5-6 weeks. If you're willing to "lend" us your blossoms, please call me at 323/731-3900 — Susie Henderson

**FOR SALE:** Never used, recently purchased, tan color, 1.5 gallon toilet. Still in original boxes. Call Lionel at 323/735-5056.

**WOMEN'S SHELTER** at Adams & Hoover needs donations: sewing machine, fabric, microwave oven, plants for garden, table cloths, arts & craft materials, games, puzzles. TAX DEDUCTIBLE. Will arrange pickup. Please call Carole or Michele at 323/731-1408.

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**FOR SALE:** Aluminum awnings for large window or set of windows: 12' 3" wide, 3' high, 3' deep. Standard classic style for most any house. Looks great when painted (all need paint). 4 each. \$20/each. 323/733-6869.

**FOR SALE:** Ten metal stream-lined patio chairs. Reasonably priced - \$10 each. Call Lionel Labeaud at 323-735-5056.

**FOR SALE:** 1950's Mint Green Chambers Stove, Chrome top, good condition. "Retained Heat" cooking in the deep well and in the cast iron oven. Large griddle/broiler combination makes it easy to broil on top of the range. Storage compartment. Call John for info 323/737-7761

**FOR HIRE:** Will stencil home interior or give instruction in stenciling. Call Mary at 323/731-9204.

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**WOULDN'T YOU LOVE TO OWN MUGSY?** He's a big (BIG - 77 pounds), affectionate baby boy white bulldog/pit/mutt mix. Yes, yes, we've been trying to get him a home for a long time....Mugsy is now about 2 1/2 years old, neutered, has had shots. He really needs a great guy to hang with. Please call Laura 323/737-6146.

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# WAHA March 2001 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 TNI Meeting	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 Community Outreach Committee	15	16	17
18 WAHA Event: St. Patrick's Pot Luck	19	20 Newsletter Committee	21 Zoning & Planning/ Preservation Committee; Membership Committee	22 Board Meeting	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

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