

# West Adams Matters



Jolly Holiday

Oxford Square

SATURDAY, December 7



### A "Jolly Holiday in Historic Oxford Square" will be held on Saturday, December 7 and Sunday, December 8

When West Adams was first being settled, many considered the location much too distant from the city center, where the grand Victorian homes clustered on Bunker Hill. It was the introduction of the streetcar that was paramount to the growth and expansion of Los Angeles, as the young city began expanding outward from its downtown core at the beginning of the 20th Century. Oxford Square was first laid out in 1907 by Emil Firth, a Bohemian immigrant, who came to America in 1874.

Creating wide avenues and large lots, Firth advertised Oxford Square as a "refined and aristocratic" area, and promoted the inclusion of modern conveniences such as ornamental "electroliers" as well as "wide concrete walks, combination curbs and gutters and oil tamped streets... all completed and of the very best quality. The prices for these beautiful lots range from \$1,000 up and terms are extremely easy."

The development that Firth laid out stretched from Pico north, almost to Wilshire. For this year's Holiday Tour, a Jolly Holiday in Oxford Square, WAHA will be visiting the southernmost area where many of the earlier homes were (continued on page 4)

# Bishop Mansion Update: WAHA's Attorney Files Legal Petition

sunday. Decembe

by Jean Frost, Vice-President, Historic Preservation

As WAHA celebrates its 30th Anniversary we take note of WAHA's effectiveness as a preservation advocacy organization. WAHA has matured and grown in its expertise over time and has successfully negotiated compromises that have resulted in better developments or rehabilitations. However, WAHA was not able to negotiate a compromise regarding the Roger Williams Baptist Church/Bishop Residence development prior to the approval of a project to convert the Bishop Residence to student housing. The issues were described in detail in the October WAHA Matters newsletter.

When the Los Angeles City Council upheld the use of a categorical exemption on September 17, WAHA exhausted all administrative remedies to effect change. Aware that the issues in this case may



WAHA hopes to prevent future historic preservation crises like the unpermitted gutting of the Bishop Mansion

not only affect this historic site but the manner in which changes to historic properties are reviewed in the future, WAHA retained counsel (Amy Minteer of Chatten-Brown & Carstens LLP) and filed a petition to Superior Court.

(continued on page 6)

# **WAHA Launches Preservation Defense Fund**

At this spring's General Meeting, when we elected new members to serve on the Board of Directors, the membership of WAHA also voted by acclamation to pursue "by whatever means necessary" the protection of the Bishop Residence and Roger Williams Baptist Church on Adams Boulevard. Our preservation committee volunteers invested untold hours in research, and attended numerous committee and City Council meetings, in their efforts to fulfill the direction of the WAHA membership.

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### Thank You, WAHA Volunteers:

WAHA has GREAT volunteers, and we'd like to recognize a couple of the best:

Judy Reidel and Alan Hamburger have graciously opened their lovely Country Club Park home to numerous WAHA and neighborhood functions, most recently the Thank You Party for Living History Tour volunteers. We really appreciate it.

As you thumb through many of the issues of the *WAHA Matters* newsletter, you may see uncredited photographs of historic houses and/or our members at play. **Jeff Valdez** often is that unnamed photographer, and we want to give him credit for his beautiful images.

### **Newsletter Committee Forming**

Here's another way to volunteer for WAHA. If you are interested in contributing news, photos, or even ideas to the *WAHA Matters* newsletter, please join us on **Monday, December 9** at 7:00 p.m.

Georgia Toliver's home 1915 Virginia Road (Wellington Square) 323-733-4964

# WAHA's Facebook Page Wants YOU!

### by Lisa Schoening

WAHA's Facebook page has been open for business (www.facebook.com/WestAdamsHeritageAssociation) for about six months now, and we hope you've all managed to make your way there to "like" the page. You don't need to be registered on Facebook to access it: just click on the link and you'll be able to see the pictures and read the posts.

The page is a place to see what WAHA is up to, read about what's going on in the neighborhood and even find recommendations for local restaurants and other businesses. Our most popular posts have been the ones announcing events like



the Ice Cream Social and the announcement of Jean Cade's Bob Bortfeldt Award, so we'd like to encourage you all to share photos of WAHA events with the page whenever you can. And if you've got an event to announce or a local business to promote, send it to us! We're particularly interested in sharing historic photos, especially if you have "now and then" views of your house or your block.

We would also like to hear from the block clubs and preservation groups: if there's a meeting you'd like to publicize or a preservation alert you need to share, send us a brief message with the key details

and we'll help get the word out. And if your group or business has its own Facebook page, please send us the link so we can like you back.

To send us material for posting, you can contact the page administrators directly via Facebook message or e-mail us with photos/links/event details at facebook@westadamsheritage.org. With photos, please include any relevant details (including the name of the photographer) and whether or not you'd like to be tagged in the picture when it's posted. We enjoy seeing you all there! ●

# President's Message by John Patterson

It's Holiday Tour crunch time! WAHA's biggest event — and largest fundraiser — is fast approaching, and we're laying the groundwork for the best tour ever!! Our friends just north of Pico Boulevard, the residents of Oxford Square, have graciously invited WAHA to share their neighborhood with our Holiday Tour guests. This will be the first time that this area has been featured on a WAHA tour, and this fact seems to be fueling an early rush to secure tickets. We have already sold over 250 tickets, and we are only in the first week of November (as I sit to compose this message). This is more than five times the volume as last year at this point in time, so we've got our work cut out for us.

We received responses from a great many of our dedicated volunteers who have regularly participated in years past. If you haven't yet replied to the email that went out about two weeks ago, please take a moment to let us know that you are interested in participating, and what role you would like to fill. We'll accommodate your preferences whenever possible. You may send your emails to my address below, or to Volunteer@WestAdamsHeritage.org. As you know, we need a veritable army of folks to cover all the various aspects of this big event.

Based on the rave reviews from last year's tour, we're going to be erecting a big tent again this year to house all of our sitdown dinner guests. We will need a bevy of Santa's Helpers to assist in decorating this large of a space, so let's make a party of it, a couple days before the event — which will be on the weekend of December 7 & 8. If you'd like to docent in one of the featured houses, to help welcome our guests, share some historic details of the neighborhood, and give information about the particular house to which you'd be assigned, we're always in need of people to fill all the slots. There are also six kitchens to staff, so if cooking is a favorite past-time, then this is a great way to participate as well.

So join your friends and neighbors as we launch the holiday season in grand WAHA-style, and lend a hand to help celebrate "A Jolly Holiday in Oxford Square!!"

John Patterson may be reached by e-mail at President@WestAdamsHeritage.org



## WAHA's Website Updated!

WAHA's website has recently been significantly updated in order to provide a greater ease of navigation and a more visually impactful presentation. With more and more of our visitors purchasing WAHA event tickets online (almost 75% for our recent Living History Tour were purchased via the website) it was imperative that we initiate some improvements.

Visitors are greeted with a slide show at the top of the page that features the most important subjects of the day. A simple "click" on the image will take you directly to the in-depth preservation story, or the page where you can purchase tickets for an upcoming tour, like our Holiday Progressive Dinner Tour in early December. To the left, in the screen shot of the home page, are three photo links to featured categories: Preservation, Upcoming Events, and the soon-to-be published "Untold LA," Jett Loe's e-book compendium of West Adams historic architecture.

Just as important are the highly visible links to WAHA's social media: its Facebook page, Twitter page, plus an easy way to sign-up for our email list -- to be better kept informed of all things WAHA. Other links connect to the various WAHA "departments" or areas of interest, and are in the process of being populated with on-going stories and features.

Take a moment to visit www.WestAdamsHeritage.org, and take a look for yourself!  $\bullet$ 

(Left) Screen shot of WAHA's newly updated website

# igwedgeAHA Matters

# 2013 Holiday Tour: History of Oxford Square

continued from page 1

built in this new tract, due to their proximity to the Pico Heights Electric Railway. At the beginning of the 20th century, this area had already developed a sense of affluence due to the relocation of the Los Angeles Country Club in 1899 from near the Rosedale Cemetery to the corner of Western and Pico. This 107-acre site, known at the time as the Pico & Western Links, offered an 18-hole course that was the very expression of a "gentleman's pastime." Golf was extremely popular at this time, but available only to the very privileged. By 1905 "The Links" were relocated yet again, this time further west into Beverly Hills. Eventually this acreage evolved into the residential area we now refer to as Country Club Park.

The establishment of the Harvard Military Academy at the corner of Western and 16th Street (now Venice) was another draw. Marketed by Grenville Emery as offering "a superior education for the sons of Los Angeles Society," this new institution opened its doors in 1900 to serve a growing and affluent urban population.



These two beautiful homes are featured on the 2013 Holiday Tour in Oxford Square. Photos page 4-5 by Jeff Valdez.



Oxford Square advertisement appearing in the Los Angeles Times, May 9, 1909

During the first ten years, several grand residences were built in the Arts & Crafts style, taking advantage of the views afforded by the knoll on which they were built. Firth insisted that the houses constructed in Oxford Square be set well back from the street and walkways, with the garages only at the back of the property. This year's Holiday Tour will visit homes in a variety of styles. We will see an example of an Arts & Crafts "Swiss Chalet," and a two-story traditional Craftsman with its broad covered porch, shingled sides, and incredible interior woodwork. This home features a striking hammered copper fireplace, and much of its original wallpaper is still intact.

The population boom of the '20s expanded the building styles to include many more modest Craftsman homes as well as the introduction of "Period Revival" styles that had already been popular on the East Coast. We will see examples of Spanish Colonial Revival, Neoclassical, and English Tudor.

One significant impact to Oxford Square occurred when Tenth Street was widened to provide a grand cross-town approach to the newly constructed Coliseum just to the south of downtown. Renamed Olympic Boulevard in celebration of Los Angeles's 1932 Olympics, this wide boulevard separated Oxford Square into two distinct neighborhoods. The building boom continued and by 1940, the infill was complete. The area remains virtually unchanged to this day.

We invite you to join WAHA's most popular tour as we toast the season with a glass of champagne, and celebrate with a different dinner course at each house that we visit during our **Jolly Holiday in Oxford Square.**  $\bullet$ 

WAHA would like to thank the Oxford Square Neighborhood Association and the Olympic Park Neighborhood Council for their support, and specifically acknowledges Architectural Resources Group, Inc. for the extensive research that went into the "Oxford Square Historic Context Statement" (Los Angeles, 2008), upon which this brief synopsis was significantly based.

# 

# Annual Holiday Tour Plans Underway — Helping Hands Are Needed for December 7-8 Event!

WAHA will ring in the holiday season with **A Jolly Holiday in Oxford Square**, at the 27th Annual Holiday Historic Homes Tour and Progressive Dinner, on Saturday, December 7 and Sunday, December 8. We'll make merry amid bright lights and bedecked homes, toasting the season with champagne and an enticing holiday feast.

WAHA has been dressing up and opening our holiday doors to visitors for a quarter century. Since the Holiday Tour's inception a quarter century ago, we have created, cooked up, and dished out not only 26 main courses, but also at least 50 different appetizers, 25-plus desserts, a score of delicious salads, and countless variations (from curried to gingered) of pumpkin and other pureed soups — served up each year to some 600 visitors and volunteers.

As always, many, many, many volunteers are needed for the Holiday Tour. All the houses and kitchens need to be staffed on the nights of the Tour. And we rely on Tour Shepherds to escort our tour guests from house to house. But in addition there are lots of volunteers who assist behind the scenes in other roles, and on other days. Can you help with any of these tasks?

• Prep Cook — Cook or bake in your own home the week before the Tour

• Volunteer Dinners — Pick up and deliver volunteer dinners on Saturday 12/7 and Sunday 12/8, tentatively from 4 to 6 p.m. both days

• WAHA Holiday Party — Decorate, set-up and otherwise assist with this party (for our members and wonderful volunteers) on the weekend following the tour

• Crafty types — We need your creative skills (and possibly your glue guns) to make tourgoer badges and ornaments

• Shopping — Trader Joe's, 99 Cent Store, Smart & Final, Von's, the Flower Mart — they'll all get a WAHA visit or two

• Holiday decorating — Some of our tour properties can use a helping hand hanging ornaments, garlands and other seasonal "attire" during the week before the Tour

Street decorating — Install signs at Tour houses on 9

• Street decorating — Install signs at Tour houses on Saturday 12/7 by 1 p.m. If you are available any of these times, please raise your hand and volunteer. Contact us at volunteer@westadamsheritage.org. ●

# **Purchase Holiday Tour Tickets**

For this year's Holiday Tour, we are showcasing homes exhibiting pride of ownership and quality restoration. As always, WAHA's holiday tour event features a sumptuous progressive dinner, with each course served in one of the featured properties. We also present a walking tour on Sunday afternoon -- without the food.

The tour will raise funds for WAHA, which since its founding in 1983 has used tour revenues to support preservation of the community's architectural and cultural heritage.

Tickets are available online at www.WestAdamsHeritage.org. Prices for the Progressive Dinner Tour: \$65 for WAHA members (limit

two tickets at this price, please); \$75 for non-members until November 22nd. (After November 22nd - \$85 per person.) Tables of 8: \$560 (\$70 per person). Please contact tours@westadamsheritage.org to inquire about group tours; WAHA needs to know about your interest in booking a group tour as soon as possible.

On Sunday, from Noon until 3 p.m., WAHA will also host a self-guided Walking Tour of Oxford Square's holiday tour houses – minus the food. The cost is \$30, with tickets also available online, or at the "door" (the check-in location on Windsor Boulevard.) Doors must CLOSE by 3 p.m., so please plan accordingly.

This year, WAHA is working Oxford Square residents to outreach to their Korean neighbors by offering a Korean language guided tour on Sunday afternoon, and translation during one of the Saturday dinner tours. For more details, please contact tours@westadamsheritage.org.

Tickets may be purchased online at: www.WestAdamsHeritage.org

Or, by mail: WAHA Holiday Tour 2263 S. Harvard Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90018

An order form can be downloaded from the website, and will be arriving to all WAHA members in the mail.





This Swiss Chalet Craftsman residence is one of the homes featured on the 2013 Holiday Tour in Oxford Square

# **Preservation Matters**

# **Bishop Mansion Petition**

continued from page 1

The petition, filed in Superior Court on October 17, seeks to stay the City's Certificate of Appropriateness (the document the City uses to approve a project in the North University Park Specific Plan area), prohibit the City and the owner from proceeding with the project until the CEQA issues are resolved, void the City's project approvals, and require adequate environmental review. The City and the owners were notified and served the petition in the time frame required.

Petitions to the Court under CEQA have very specific steps and timelines set forth. There is a mandatory settlement meeting which would be set in late November for early December. If the parties cannot come to an agreement, then the administrative record is prepared, a hearing date is requested and a briefing schedule determined.



WAHA wants to see the Bishop Mansion's sunroom/enclosed porch's characterdefining floor-to-ceiling windows and beamed ceilings retained in any new design

WAHA is committed to a positive outcome so that

categorical exemptions are not artificially and unjustifiably applied to our historic resources. The City's expressed internal guideline that a project is exempt from CEQA if it only has a single entitlement, but an exemption would not automatically apply if a project needs two or more entitlements, does not provide for adequate environmental review. In this instance, the developer withdrew a second entitlement request presumably to reduce the number of entitlements to one to meet this standard. As WAHA President John Patterson expressed: "It is imperative that we confront the blatant disregard of the laws that provide us some of the most basic protections of our preservation advocacy efforts."

## **WAHA's Preservation Defense Fund**

#### continued from page 1

WAHA's newsletter has been providing a detailed summary of these proceedings, to keep our membership fully informed about the status of the Bishop Mansion situation. Unfortunately, as has been reported over the last several months, WAHA's advocacy efforts have been met with strong resistance, leaving us no choice but to take the more aggressive approach of legal action.

While it is our sincere hope that we will prevail, and the legal fees invested in this continuing effort may ultimately be reimbursed by the city, it has been determined that it would only be prudent that WAHA undertake an unprecedented fundraising effort, in order to cover those legal expenses incurred as this preservation battle progresses and others which may occur.

At our 30th Anniversary Celebration at the Doheny Mansion last month, WAHA President John Patterson announced the initiation of WAHA's dedicated West Adams Preservation Defense Fund, to financially support WAHA historic preservation efforts and insure that there are assets to continue our preservation advocacy using all of the resources that may be required. These funds will be kept completely separate from our general funds, and invested only in WAHA's ongoing historic preservation activities.

The issues our organization and neighborhoods face are not limited to just this one particular challenge that has evolved into a legal battle. The demise of the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA), has removed that agency's *nominal protection* of many significant historical properties in Historic West Adams. Much effort and investment will be required to nominate for historic designation the many threatened structures that no longer have even a modicum of protection once provided by the CRA.

It is our sincere hope that this fund will attract significant support from concerned citizens as well as organizations and companies that share our desire to protect West Adams' historic legacy. If our readers are aware of any corporations or individuals that should be approached for donations, it would be greatly appreciated that contact information be passed on to WAHA's Board of Directors. WAHA's new website (see related story – page 3) provides a "Donate" button on the right side of the homepage where generous gifts can be easily processed electronically. ●

### - By John Patterson and Jean Frost

# **Art Deco Landmark Bekins Building Facade Threatened**

#### by Jean Frost

WAHA recently attended a hearing regarding the upgraded cellular installation proposed by AT&T to be installed on the Art Deco former Bekins Building (now Public Storage), located at 4174 Pico Boulevard. AT&T wants to install 12 4-G antenna units as attachments to the very visible parapets of the iconic building, and insists that this will have no significant effect on the character of the building. This is disputed by WAHA.

The building itself was determined to be a historic resource, at least for purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in 2011, when Public Storage purchased the building and proposed a rehabilitation and new signage. At that time, the company's own historic consultant determined that this particular Bekins Building was the original model building for subsequent

Art Deco era/style storage buildings that Bekins went on to erect, and thus it was more important than a simple study of period architecture. About a year later, Public Storage was required to go through a second environmental process when it proposed changing the words of the iconic rooftop signs from "BEKINS" Storage to "PUBLIC" Storage.

Despite this, AT&T started the new conversation by stating that the building was not historic, and that therefore it was categorically exempt from a CEQA review. Although it is true that it is not a designated Los Angeles Historic Cultural Monument, it is not correct that it is not deemed historic. It is on the former Community Redevelopment Agency's historic resource list (thus deemed historic for land use entitlements), SurveyLA has identified it as Individually Eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, and its owner's consultant basically determined it to be a historic resource.

AT&T also said it was relying on a letter that had been issued by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), which stated that the project did not have an impact on a historic resource.





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Our Thanks to the Smyrna SDA Church for the use of their parking lot

JOIN US EVERY SUNDAY 9 AM TO I PM AT&T asserted that it

meant their project met preservation guidelines, but it turned out that SHPO had not realized the building was on a list of historic resources; once the state officials realized that SHPO reversed its earlier determination and rescinded the letter.

Meanwhile, Mitzi Mogul reviewed the proposed project/wireless 4G installation in detail, as did the affected neighborhood council, United Neighborhoods of the Historic Arlington Heights, West Adams and Jefferson Park Communities Neighborhood Council (UNNC). One thing we learned when reading the older case files was that AT&T's original underlying Zoning Administrator approval back in 1996, granting it the right to have cell antennas, stated that: "The facades of the existing building will not be altered. The surrounding area is generally developed with structures with lower overall heights. The visibility from these properties and from the street will be minimal."

At the hearing, attended by WAHA members Mogul, Jean Frost, and Jim Childs along with Laura Meyers and Norman Gilmore on behalf of UNNC, Associate Zoning Administrator Jim Tokunaga left the matter open until he heard from both SHPO (with an updated assessment) and the City Planning Department's Office of Historic Resources (OHR). Lambert Geissinger at OHR, who acts on behalf of the City's Cultural Heritage Commission, has already stated in an email that the AT&T proposal did not meet the Secretary of Interior Standards (and therefore cannot be categorically exempt from CEQA.) He prefers a facility that would be installed on the rooftop.

WAHA also believes that AT&T needs to seek a less visible alternative. If AT&T insists on this proposed design, then the company needs to have a higher level of environmental review, and, likely, an action by the Los Angeles City Council declaring an "overriding" community benefit.

The case file will be kept open for a few more weeks. If you would like to comment, reference Case No. ZA-1996-927-CUZ-PA4, ENV-2013-2327-CE. Send comments in writing to: jim.tokunaga@lacity.org. ●

# ${f C}$ ommunity Matters

# Your Time Has Value You Can Spend

### by Georgia Toliver

We all love when we find an exchange of services: I'll take your kids to school this week if you take mine next week. I can pick up your dry cleaning and groceries if you help me with my resumé. I'll do your taxes if you paint the trim on my windows.

But, the reality is that two-person exchanges are few and far between. Enter the "mother of invention" — a mechanism for exchanging your services for services you need. This mechanism is a Time Bank.

This is how it works. You join a network where you list your services, such as sugar-free cooking, moving heavy items, dog

grooming, organizing papers, and fixing sprinklers. When you provide your service to someone else in the network, you earn "time dollars." You then can spend those "time dollars" to receive services from someone else in the network. You are no longer limited to exchanging service between two people. Maybe you like driving your kids to school everyday because your gym is in that part of town. A Time Bank gives you multiple sources for the services you need and can provide. Now



## Plant a garden...

tiple sources for the services you need and can provide. Now how likely is it for you to get that tree trimmed, that window unstuck, that errand done from across town where you never go, that set-up for a party you are planning, that garage organized or that lamp fixed? Let's face it. Most of the things we need don't fit nicely into a direct exchange nor a commercial service listed on Google. Time Banks solve that problem.

Time Banks exist all over the U.S. They provide a means for exchanging services between people within communities and recognizing that we all have needs and gifts to share and everyone's time is equal — an hour is an hour.

West Adams has its own Time Bank — West Adams Time Bank, or "WATB." It is part of a larger network of Time Banks — Arroyo S.E.C.O. Network of Time Banks from West Adams to Altadena. WATB is managed by WAHA member and past WAHA President Kathie Adams. Adams has earned time dollars for managing WATB, as well as teaching jam and soap making to members in the network. She has spent those time dollars for massages, Reiki treatments for her dog and weekly gardening help.

Rather than spending federal dollars for services, you can spend time. Sharing and exchanging our time is an opportunity to contribute to the well-being of others in our community.

Every time the well-being of one person is improved, the whole community is improved. WAHA is an organization of members who are always giving their time to improve West Adams. Your time providing clean-up at a WAHA event has value. Your time attending a committee meeting has value. Your time helping a neighbor has value. That value can transfer to getting your garden weeded — which you don't have time to do because you are serving WAHA, or in reality, you neglect because you hate doing it. Time Banking is another way to manage our busy lives and prioritize our responsibilities and interest.

We encourage you to join the West Adams Time Bank. The hours that you volunteer for WAHA are like money in the (time) bank. To start your own Time Bank account, go to:

http://www.ASNTB.com.



... Earn Time Bank Dollars.



# Dig in...

# Community Matters

# Arroyo S.E.C.O. Network of Time Banks

#### **Mission statement**

The Arroyo S.E.C.O Network of Time Banks (ASNTB) is a local exchange system designed to inspire trust and reciprocity. It is a collective working towards empowering the community by facilitating cooperative trade. We aim to serve as a bridge between people from different economic, social and ethnic backgrounds by providing the opportunity for interaction through the exchange of services. The ASNTB aims to encourage systemic social change, economic equality.

#### Assets:

We are all assets.

Every human being has something to contribute.

#### Redefining Work:

Some work is beyond price.

Work has to be redefined to value whatever it takes to raise healthy children, build strong families, revitalize



neighborhoods, make democracy work, advance social justice, and make the planet sustainable. That kind of work needs to be honored, recorded and rewarded.

#### Reciprocity:

Helping works better as a two-way street.

The question: "How can I help you? Needs to change so we ask: "How can we help each other build the world we both will live in?"

Social Networks: We need each other. People helping each

other reweave communities of support, strength and trust. Community is built upon sinking roots, building trust, creating networks that are built on mutual respect and commitment.

#### **Respect:**

Respect demands accountability.

The voices of all must be heard and heeded so as to promote social justices and compel accountability.

For more information on how to join the Arroyo S.E.C.O Network of Time Banks: Contact by phone (213-973-2265), e-mail (arroyosecotimebank@gmail.com) or through the ASNTB website (www.ArroyoSeco.Timebanks.org).

TO JOIN THE WEST ADAMS TIME BANK: GO TO HTTP://WWW.ASNTB.COM.



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# igwedgeAHA's 30th Anniversary

### THE LIST Let's Dish: 30 West Adams Food Favorites by Laura Meyers

#### The. Best. Dish. Ever.

After 30 years of eating (and 30 years of bringing OPC — Other People's Cooking — to WAHA potlucks), I've developed a hankering for all kinds of individual dishes served at tables throughout West Adams. I may go to one eatery just for its grilled chicken, another for a perfect Caesar salad. In these

30 years, I've had to say a sad goodbye to the teriyaki chicken at Bungo's Japanese Café; to the smoked brisket at Lighthouse BBQ; to the French toast, Gary's chicken salad and the off-menu BLT at Eureka Café; the tuna melt at Maria's café at the Midtown Bowl; and the Atomic burger at the Atomic Café (all restaurants that have closed), but there are still plenty a great dishes to be found in West Adams.

The following are my (current) 30 faves — another list honoring WAHA's 30th Anniversary Year. It's a very personal list. But, we invite you to comment and post your own personal top West Adams choices at WAHA's Facebook page, where this list will be posted.

Indeed, WAHA does like to eat out. We are now knee deep in preparing a West Adams Restaurant Guide, for the first time in a decade, filled with delicious eating-out options, as a "tasty treat" for our members. Look for it soon, and in the meantime...Let's Dish:

1). Artichoke hummus from Mama's Specialty Hummus at the Wellington Square Farmer's Market (Sundays, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.)

- 2). Baby back ribs, Phillips BBQ, 2619 Crenshaw Blvd., 323-731-4772
- 3). Bacaro burger at the namesake restaurant, 2308 South Union Avenue, 213-748-7205
- 4). Baquettes, at the Basque cafe and bakery Etchea, 2280 S. Figueroa, 213-744-1903
- 5). Blueberry pancakes at Jack's 'N' Joes, 2498 S. Figueroa, 213-748-4565
- 6). Bread pudding with whiskey sauce, Harold & Belle's, 2920 West Jefferson Blvd., 323-735-9023
- 7). Buddha dumplings (potstickers in curry sauce) at Trio House L.A.,
  - 3031 S. Figueroa, 213-741-0101
- 8). Cactus (Nopales) salad at Taqueria Los Anaya many WAHA friends clued me in to this!

4651 West Adams Blvd., 323-731-4070

9). Candied yams at Aunt Rosa Lee's, 2781 S. Western Avenue, 323-733-8586

10). Chocolate croissants from Maison du Pain (sold at the Wellington Square Farmer's Market on Sunday mornings – go early before they are sold out!)

11). **Cinnamon and raisin bread**, Homeboy Bakery — double cinnamon, yum. I find their baked goods at local farmers' markets. (www.HomeboyIndustries.com)

- 12). Fajitas at El Cholo's (I prefer chicken), 1121 South Western, 323-734-2773
- 13). Fried chicken, Aunt Rosa Lee's
- 14). Garlic chicken, Cuban style at Caveman Chicken, 2215 S. Vermont, 323-737-3717
- 15). **Garlic rolls**, fresh from the oven, Pasta Roma, 2827 South Figueroa Street, 213-742-0303

16). Mac and cheese, Lab Gastropub, 3500 S. Figueroa, 213-743-1843

17). Maureen DeBose's special oatmeal-chocolate chip-coconutraisin-pecan cookies (look for them at West Adams potlucks.)

18). **Onion rings** at Caveman Kitchen (Pete's Burgers' are good, so are Popeye's Fried Chicken's, but these are my current fave.)

- 19). **Panuchos** at Chichen Itza (try the Kibi, too) In Mercado la Paloma, 3655 S. Grand Ave., 213-741-1075
- 20). **Peach cobbler** prepared by Tené Harris, Sweet Beginnings — and do check out her other scrumptious sweets and savories (http://www.sweet-beginnings.com)
- 21). **Pizza** at the 901 Club, 2902 South Figueroa, 213-745-7900

(If you're more into tablecloths and jazz than beer and sawdust on the floor, consider the pizza at PIPs, 1356 S. La Brea, 323-954-7477)

- 22). Quiche at Nature's Brew, 2316 So. Union Ave., 213-741-9393
- 23). Roasted rainbow beet salad, Bacaro
- 24). Samosas at 23rd Street Café, 936 West 23rd St., 213-749-1593
- 25). Sherried fruit from Suzie Henderson's kitchen (ask her nicely.)
- Souvlaki and chicken kebobs, Papa Christo's, 2771 West Pico Blvd., 323-737-2970
- 27). Spicy baked chicken at Golden Bird, 2847 Crenshaw Blvd., 323-732-1228
- 28). Vegetable soup at the Grinder, 525 West 28th St., 213-747-0782
- 29). Waffles (and chicken) at Roscoe's, 5006 West Pico Blvd., 323-934-4405
- 30). Walnut ice cream at Mateo's, 4234 West Pico Blvd., 323-931-5500 ●





# igwedgeAHA Matters

### Take advantage of your paid WAHA membership! These vendors offer discounts to WAHA members. Please be sure to thank them for their support when you use their services.

### **MEMBER DISCOUNTS**

The following companies offer discounts to WAHA members. Remember to show your WAHA membership card when you make your purchase.

#### Ted Gibson, Inc.

2866 West 7th St. Los Angeles 90005,213-382-919520% discount on purchases of art materials and picture frames

**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

#### Washington Dog & Cat Hospital

1692 W. Washington Boulevard, Los Angeles,323-735-029150% off office exams

#### Meyers Roofing

5048 W. Jefferson Blvd., 323-733-0188 10% discount

#### **Lighthouse Stained Glass**

5155 Melrose, 323-465-4475 20% discount off regular class prices with WAHA membership card

#### Cafe Club Fais Do Do

5257 West Adams Blvd., 323-954-8080 No cover charge at door, and 20% discount on all meals.

#### Sherwin-Williams

1367 Venice Blvd. 213-365-2471 20% off regular product price (with WAHA discount card)

#### Durousseau Electric

2526 W. Jefferson Blvd. 323-734-2424 or 323-734-6149 (cell) 10-15% discount on electrical services

#### Lady Effie's Tea Parlor

453 East Adams Boulevard, 213-749-2204 10% discount on all food purchases

#### Los Angeles Stripping & Finishing Center

1120 N. San Fernando Road, 323-225-10735% discount on any single service order over \$1000.No special discount on materials.

#### Lucky Chimney Sweep

Contact: Susan and Alfredo Johnson, 11433 Ruggiero Avc., Sylmar, CA, 91342, 323-258-0828 10% discount on: masonry repair and restoration, chimney cleaning

#### Magic Care Termite Service

1840 W. 220th St., Suite 320, Torrance 90501, 310-548-6700

15% discount

#### Pasadena Architectural Salvage

305 S. San Gabriel Blvd, Pasadena (Tues-Sun),626-535-9655 www.pasadenaarchitecturalsalvage.com10% discount on all purchases

#### Papa Cristo's Taverna

2771 West Pico Blvd. 323-737-297010% discount on catered food orders

#### 8th Avenue Cafe

Inside Ken's Market, 8400 South 8th Ave., Inglewood 323-294-9706, www.purelycatering.com 20% discount on 1st visit – 10% for each later visit

#### True Synergy, Inc. (Gena Davis)

www.mytruesynergy.com, 310-292-4948 FREE 30-minute coaching session

#### **McCabe Property Management**

2461 Santa Monica Blvd., #235, Santa Monica 310-828-4829; fax 310-828-7959 www.mccabbepropertymanagement.com Reduced set-up fee of \$50 for any property (\$150 savings)

#### **Ti-KEN Personal Account Manager**

310-701-2399; fax 310-828-7959 ti.ken.manager@gmail.com

Reduced set-up fee of \$100 for new account (\$150 savings)

#### **Port Royal Antiques**

1858 West Jefferson Blvd. 323-734-8704 10% discount

#### Real Door

3125 La Cienega 310-836-2687 www.realdoor.com 10% discount on products and services

#### Vintage Plumbing Bathroom Antiques

9939 Canoga Avenue, Chatsworth, 818-772-1721 (hours: by appointment only)

### 10% discount on purchases at Chatsworth facility

**Boulevard Vacuum & Sewing Machine Co.** 5086 W. Pico Boulevard, 323-938-2661

10% discount on sale of new vacuums, and vacuum service & repair

#### Jonathan Bert Rollup Window Screens 626-359-0513

5% discount on repairs or installations of rollup screens **A CALL TO MEMBERS** 

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

### WEST ADAMS' LANDMARKS OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY



WAHA presents *West Adams' Landmarks of African American History*, a compendium of photos and brief biographies of more than 70 prominent African Americans who lived in the West Adams area of Los Angeles and their homes. Also included are many buildings of historical importance to the African American community.

Inside the pages of West Adams: Landmarks of African American History, you'll learn about religious and civic institutions that play significant roles in West Adams' (and Los Angeles') black heritage, along with civil rights leaders, entertainers, sports figures, wartime heroes, and trailblazers in their fields and who all helped change the face of Los Angeles. 44 pages,  $8-1/2 \times 11$ , glossy, full color throughout. \$10.

Purchase at www.WestAdamsHeritage.org (click on 'WAHA store'' — 'WAHA books'').

### Planting a Vision in Wellington Square by Reggie Jones

The vision for improving the Wellington Square Farmers Market continues to focus. The weekly Sunday morning event created in March 2010 by Lora Davis and Kathy Lewis is a labor of love to insure that Wellington Square residents



have an established and certified local Farmer's Market in the community. They received seed funding

from Kaiser Permanente to establish the market, and the Smyrna 7th Day Adventist



Church offered Lora and Kathy critical support by allowing the use of Church property for the location of the market and to use their 501C-3 status as a nonprofit institution so the market can have registered certification. Smyrna also wanted to be a partner for the fundamental reason that

the market is essential to living a Smyrna core value — maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

The Wellington Square

community has continually sought more direct investment to improve the local environment. When a financial grant for a beautification project on Washington was rejected, one of the members of the community, Lore Hilburg, offered to fund



Lore Hilburg and Nick Kasparek

the project with a single condition: only native California plants could be used in the project. The reason given was that water costs to maintain the new environment would be minimal since native plants use far less water than other types of plants. This would be a major win for Smyrna, the Market and the community.



Working hard

Photos by Reggie Jones and Laura Meyers

The rest was academic. Community resident Michael Rosner put together the landscape plan. Hilburg secured the plants.

Volunteers from the Wellington Square community executed the labor to bring it to life, including A.J. Banner and Lenroy Butler of the Smyrna 7th Day Adventist Church, Debbie Saunders, Janet and Vince Albrecht, Mary Powers, Steve Davis, Michael Sonntag, Nick Kasparek, Ericson Albrecht, and Gwen Driscoll. Please take note of the change the next time you stroll by. ●

Editor's Note: This is one example of WAHA members' Spirit of Giving -- we will be profiling other people and their good works in the December WAHA Matters newsletter. If you have a proposal for a 'Spirit of Giving' profile, please contact us at news@westadamsheritage.org.



Finished!

# **Community Matters**

# **Interested in a FREE Street Tree?**

Help green our City and beautify your street by adopting a street tree!

The City of Los Angeles currently has a federal grantfunded program in which free street trees are being planted



along the parkways. The only requirements are that participants must agree to water their tree(s) and they must live within the city.

More information and an online "Permission to Plant" form can be found online at www.EnvironmentLA.org. Or, call 213-485-0527 or 213-485-3954.

All sites will be surveyed for eligibility and appropriate tree species selection.

Together, we can beautify our West Adams neighborhoods and create a more sustainable city.

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Roommate Wanted? Vintage Stove for Sale? Garden Plants in Search of New Home? Place your classified ad here to reach preservationminded readers. Contact lauramink@aol.com, NO LATER THAN the first of the prior month.



# Calendar

### **Upcoming Events**



# DECEMBER

WAHA's Annual Holiday Tour: "A Jolly Holiday in Historic Oxford Square" —

Saturday and Sunday, December 7 and 8 (see page 1)

### JANUARY



WAHA "After" Holiday Party — Saturday, January 4 (Hold the Date: Time & Place TBA)

### WAHA Steps Out: Open Mike at Blu Elefant Cafe Sunday, November 17 2 to 4 p.m.

2024 West Washington Blvd. (Harvard Heights)

Please join WAHA in supporting our local business, the Blu Elefant Café, located on Washington Boulevard in Harvard Heights (look for the Blu Elefant!) Drop by between





Where Art & Coffee Meet 2024 W. Washington Blvd LA 90018 | **323-641-0466** 

2 and 4 p.m. on Sunday, November 17, for coffee, tea, sandwiches or desserts. We will have an open mike. Share a song or two or a poem and get acquainted. This newer local venue is getting great reviews on Yelp. Come see what people are talking about.

# WAHA....Creating Our Future by Preserving Our Past

The WAHA Matters Newsletter is a publication of the West Adams Heritage Association. Members and supporters of WAHA are invited to submit articles to the Newsletter. Letters will be published subject to space constraints and will be cut for length if necessary. Articles will be published subject to acceptance by the editors of the WAHA Board. Advertising is subject to the approval of the publishers. Although the Association appreciates its many fine advertisers, the Association does not accept responsibility for claims made by advertisers. Services and products are not tested and appearance of advertising does not imply, nor does it constitute, endorsement by the West Adams Heritage Association. Copyright 2013. All rights for graphic and written material appearing in the newsletter are reserved. Contact Director of Publications for permission.



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