

“...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. . .”

# NEWSLETTER



Number 177

October 2000

## Historic Cuzner Residence Being Restored

by Michael S. Smith

June 21st, 1998, is a day that will remain in my memory forever. It was the morning we in West Adams Heights awoke to the smell of smoke and the scream of fire trucks. On that morning we found that an arsonist had set fire to the magnificent 8,000-square-foot, Mission Revival style Cuzner Residence, located at 2091 South Harvard Boulevard (see WAHA Newsletter, August 1998). For over two years the house has sat vacant. With almost 50% of the structure destroyed by fire, we knew it would take a minor miracle, or at least the right people, to bring this mansion back to its former glory.

Well, despite nay-sayers, miracles do happen! Thanks to the preservation efforts of one family, a piece of historic West Adams will be saved!

Helen and Frederick are West Adams Heights newest neighbors. They purchased the Cuzner residence in August and immediately began removing fire debris from the house. They plan to restore the house inside and out -- recreating the roof lines, replacing damaged windows and charred wood paneling, and even installing a vintage 1904

wood-burning stove! They are attempting to save as much of the ornate corner roof-tile pieces as possible to incorporate into the new tile roof. They expect that they will have the restoration completed in six to eight months, provided Building and Safety cooperates.

Helen indicated that the inside was in surprisingly good condition, considering the devastating fire. She explained that the house was saved in part because the frame of the house is entirely constructed of redwood, which has a natural fire resistance. The use of redwood shouldn't be surprising, considering

that James Cuzner ran what was considered to be the largest lumber dealership in Southern California in the late 1800's, with William G. Kerckhoff. (Kerckhoff's house, located at 734 West Adams Boulevard, is Los Angeles Historic-Cultural

Continued on page 10

## Joe Ryan Wins Bortfeld Award

On Aug. 27th, WAHA President Linda Scribner announced the winner of the 1999 Bob Bortfeld Award, WAHA's highest award. This year the winner is Joe Ryan, who among other accomplishments founded the annual Angelus-Rosedale Cemetery Tour held each October. Joe joins an impressive list of past winners, including Kathleen Salisburg (1988), Harry Anderson & Dave Raposa (1989), Harold Greenberg (1990), Lindsay Wiggins (1991), Jodi Seigner (1992), Jon Rake (1993), Lana Soroko (1994), Norma Latimer (1995), John Kurtz (1996), Audrey Arlington (1997), and Jim Meister (1998). The nominating letter that was read by Linda at the recent Ice Cream Social is printed here below:

Dear President Scribner,

The time has come to consider WAHA member Joe Ryan for the Bob Bortfeld Award. Joe has always been interested in history. As an avocation, he spent many long hours studying historic documents, with a special emphasis on

Continued on page 10

Look inside the newsletter for a flyer announcing WAHA's annual holiday tour, "Monuments for the Millennium." This is your chance to purchase advance tickets to this always sold-out event, before the invitation is mailed to the public.

### Charmed

#### WAHA's Annual Halloween Party

#### IT'S A TRICK-or-TREAT COSTUME PARTY!!!

Prizes awarded for the best costumes!

John and Nancy Deaven's

2410 4th Avenue

323/737-7761

Saturday, October 28

6:30 - 10:30 p.m.

Pot Luck Theme:

Fall Harvest - Scary Finger Food

**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** by Anna Marie Brooks

*The Treat of A Lifetime*

This Halloween you can score a tasty treat not likely to be available in LA for decades to come. The National Trust for Historic Preservation's national conference *Saving America's Treasures in the 21st Century* opens October 31st in downtown LA and you can still get in on the action.

As a WAHA member you can give and receive treats. On Thursday, November 2nd, WAHA is hosting one of the week's forty field sessions. Conference attendees who participate in "Homes of Historic West Adams" will bus from the Biltmore Hotel to West Adams to experience Van Buren Place, a National Register District, with tours of the homes of Norma Latimer and Bob and Irene Grant. The group will then move on to the Durfee Mansion where they will also enjoy refreshments. The session will conclude with tours of the Gray House, home of Ed Trooper and David Raposa; and the Thomas Butler Henry Residence, home of Charles Roche and Joseph Ryan. Along the way participants will hear about and steal glimpses of the Automobile Club of Southern California, the Doheny Mansion, Sunshine Mission, St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral, and many of West Adam's handsomely restored homes.

There are still a few tour volunteer opportunities available and you may win one by calling either volunteer coordinator Pam McCreight at 323/732-4439 or Clayton de Leon at 323/734-0660.

Congratulations to Linda Scribner and Jennifer Charnofsky for winning this field session for WAHA amidst a field of very competitive applicants. Thank you for putting us on the national map.

WAHA is giving all conference participants the treat of learning more about West Adams and WAHA by visiting our booth at the Conference Resource Center at the Biltmore Hotel. While there visitors also may purchase selections from our fine WAHA merchandise line for the ultimate souvenir and/or holiday gift.

You may share your WAHA congeniality with visitors from across America by calling me, Anna Marie Brooks, at 323/735-3960 to volunteer to fill one day-time shift between Wednesday, November 1st and Saturday, November 4th. (Sadly, this will not admit you to the conference itself, although it will allow you to peruse the Resource Center offerings.)

Finally, you may indulge in the full conference experience by registering as a conference participant either by the day or for the entire event, October 31st thru November 5th. The plethora of educational sessions will leave you with the feeling that there are more houses with great candy than you can ever visit in one Halloween night. Behind the many doors are treats such as: "A Guerrilla Style Guide;" "Bits and Bricks: The Digital Revolution and Historic Preservation;" "Heritage Tourism: the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly;" and "Monster Houses: When Your Neighbor's Dream House is a Nightmare."

For additional fees you may join field sessions and take those LA tours you've always meant to book. This way you can wear an imaginary mask and gain an out-of-towner's perspective on our city's and region's preservation treasures.

*Saving America's Treasures in the 21st Century* is a gigantic preservation feast of breakfasts, lunches, lectures and receptions - all offering wonderful opportunities to mix with other preservationists from across the nation. And, it's right here in our city.

Take advantage of this incredible preservation showcase now. For registration information call 800-944-NTHP or e-mail: [HYPERLINK](mailto:HYPERLINK) "mailto:conference@nthp.org" conference@nthp.org. Enjoy this once in an LA lifetime event as we treat the nation to the preservation wonderfulness that is WAHA.

**Inside This Issue**

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Through My Eyes Only: Your Halloween Hostess | 4  |
| In the Garden: Autumn Bulbs Resources        | 5  |
| News from Around the Blocks                  | 6  |
| A Thought for Food                           | 7  |
| A Blue Line Pitch                            | 8  |
| California Painting Exhibits                 | 9  |
| Birthdays                                    | 10 |
| Member Discounts                             | 11 |
| Classified Ads                               | 12 |
|  | 15 |

**Community Calendar**

All committee meetings begin at 7 p.m.

**October**

- 10/7 Angelus-Rosedale Cemetery Tour
- 10/11 Community Outreach Committee  
Jacqueline Sharp's home  
2229 S. Gramercy Place  
323/766-8842
- 10/14 WAHA Special Event  
An Evening at Olvera Street  
Meet at Linda Scribner's  
1749 S. Bronson  
5 p.m. (see details this page)
- 10/17 Newsletter Committee  
Michael Smith's home  
1915 S. Oxford 323/734-7725
- 10/18 Zoning & Preservation Committee  
at City Living Realty  
23161/2 South Union, Suite 2  
Contact Tom Florio 213/749-8469
- 10/26 WAHA Board Meeting  
Anna Marie Brooks hosts  
323/735-3960
- 10/28 WAHA Halloween Event  
John and Nancy Deaven's home  
2410 4th Avenue  
323/737-7761  
Think FABULOUS Costumes!  
Potluck: Fall Harvest
- 10/31-11/5 National Trust Conference  
(see details page 2)

**So Much To Do, So Little Time:****A WAHA Special Event:  
An Evening at Olvera Street**

Come join us for margaritas and a delicious Mexican dinner and a walking tour, and a shopping opportunity on L.A.'s most historic street! A special dinner (no-host) with a no-host bar is planned at La Colondrina (The Swallow) Mexican Cafe, 17 Olvera Street, in El Pueblo de Los Angeles (the birthplace of Los Angeles).

**Saturday, October 14  
5 p.m.**

Where to meet: Park on 1700 S. block of Bronson

How: We'll meet you at Linda Scribner's, 1749 S. Bronson Ave., at 5 p.m., and go by special bus to Olvera Street (yes, you can safely drink the margaritas!), and later return to Linda's by bus. We will have plenty of time to stroll along this historic street, tour the Avila Adobe, and see other historic buildings. Then comes dinner with our neighbors at La Colondrina.

RSVP: Alma Carlisle 323/737-2060

**And Mark Your Calendar for  
WAHA's November Meeting**

On Sunday afternoon, November 12, we'll gather at the home of newlyweds Allen and Zhenya King, 1261 Victoria Avenue.  
(Check out your November newsletter for details!)

**Don't Forget Craftsman Weekend in Pasadena!  
October 6-8**

Lectures, receptions, exhibits, tours and workshops -- nearly everything an Arts & Crafts Era fan(atic) could desire.  
Call Pasadena Heritage for information 626/441-6333.

**A Job Well Done**

As WAHA grows, so do the items that our association owns. Thus, Greg Stegall and Michael Smith agreed to "house" our items. On Sept. 16, WAHA members went to Greg and Michael's home at 1915 S. Oxford to sort, organize, and inventory our WAHA property. Michael put together four new, metal shelf units in their garage, and everyone joined in counting dishes, mugs, glasses, silverware, trays, T-shirts, paper goods, etc. President Linda Scribner wrote it all down, as Allan Eriksen organized the shelves. Also there that day were John Kurtz, Anna Marie Brooks, Jim Meister, Tom Florio, Jacqueline Sharps, John Deaven, Judie Schoening, Audrey Arlington, Don Pemrick, Robert Totten, Debra Losnick, along with Robert and Debra's children, Michael and Rachel, who came in uniform directly from their first A.Y.S.O. (American Youth Soccer Organization) game. The afternoon concluded with a delicious barbecue lunch, prepared by Greg, in their backyard, under the shade of their wonderful trees that everyone admired.

## Through My Eyes Only

Two issues ago I wrote about one of WAHA's best bakers, Diana Weihs, who made a lovely chocolate cake for our recent ice cream social held at Ralph Robinson and Robert Pederson's beautiful property in Wellington Square. Lucky Cat Slater won that cake, which she allowed me to sample. It was delicious!

Next to Diana's cake at the August social was a dinosaur cake, won by John Kurtz's visiting nephew Christopher Schleh from Virginia. This month I want to write about the creator of that cake since I know her so well. She will be your hostess for WAHA's annual Halloween party for the 4th year in a row, and I've been married to her for the 15th year in a row! She is Nancy Tucker Deaven, the creator of many artistic cakes from her "almost famous" kitchen, as seen in the Susan Blakely/John Saxon film "My Mom's a Werewolf" and T.V. commercials for Hallmark Cards and Kraft "Easy Mac!"

Nancy was born in Kentucky, but she finished school in Indiana. We met at the First Baptist Church of Beverly Hills in 1983, but we were married at the Wilshire United Methodist Church in 1985. We started life together in my small Hollywood pad, yet we were lured to the West Adams area by WAHA member Jerry Mendelsohn. In 1987 we bought our current house, and two months later Nancy gave birth to our first child, Peggy Sue. A year later, as we approached Peg's 1st birthday, Nancy decided to create a pretty pink cake for the occasion. Little did we realize then that we were embarking on the beginning of many wonderful theme cakes created over the years for many imaginative theme parties at our 1902 Colonial Revival house!

We rolled into it slowly. When Peggy was two, Nancy made her a very attractive Winnie the Pooh cake holding a candle in each hand. Then came Peg's 3rd birthday, and a sweet Cinderella doll cake was made by Nancy. That's the party that started us matching themes with a chosen color. Everything that year was blue: Peggy's dress, Mommy's dress, Daddy's necktie, the tablecoverings, the napkins, the plastic plates, and of course, the gown of the doll cake.

By the time Joseph, our 2nd child, was born in '89, we were experienced theme-party givers. His 1st birthday cake by Nancy was a very elaborate, 3-dimensional Humpty Dumpty sitting on a wall. He was so top heavy that he spent the night before the party in the refrigerator to help firm him up. Even though he did crush the wall a bit with his weight, he did not fall until Nancy's knife split him open, on cue, to feed the masses.

The following year, '91, Nancy was almost in tears the night before Peggy's Little Red Riding Hood party. The cake was the big bad wolf in grandma's nightgown and hat in bed. However, the headboard of the bed kept falling over. Unlike other art forms, cake art is a tricky business. It is temporary and perishable. After much frustration, trial & error, and 2 o'clock in the morning (!), Nancy got it to stand.

## Your Halloween Hostess

By John B. Deaven

It was fabulous when finished. Peg was four years old, and the tall, brown candles made a 4-post bed.

When Joe was three, Nancy made him a "brick" house with the Three Pigs. The bricks were delicious chocolate Andres candy rectangles, and everyone wanted a piece of cake with a part of the brick wall. When Peg was seven, Nancy made a Snow White doll cake surrounded by cupcake faces of the Seven Dwarfs. That was another late nighter in her kitchen as she chiseled the cake and sculpted the icing to create seven individual expressions and facial features.

Another memorable night in Nancy's kitchen was in '95 for Joe's Sword in the Stone cake. Nancy wanted me to cut a plastic toy sword in half, long ways, so she could use it for a mold for liquid chocolate to harden in. I did, and she did make a grand cake with a tall edible sword standing straight up in the "stone" cake. However, I cut myself badly that night with a Mack knife, and we both had to take time-out as she bandaged me up. I now have a unique scar to remember that night by, trying to please my special cake maker.

For Peggy's 9th birthday Nancy made a cake of Alice in Wonderland falling down a rabbit hole. Surrounding Alice were nine of the story's characters, again created by chiseled-out cupcakes and sculpted icing. We were both up very late that night before the party, as the children were upstairs tucked in bed. Visions of sugarplums danced in their heads, as Nancy slowly created the faces of the Cheshire cat, the Mad Hatter, the Walrus, the White Rabbit, and the Queen of Hearts, amongst others. Nancy does all of the work, while I lend moral support oohing and aahing by the kitchen sink, washing all of her dirty pots and pans and cloth bags and "tips" for the different colored icings.

In '97 for Joe's Peter Pan party, Nancy created an impressive Captain Hook pirate ship. What made that cake so spectacular were its tall rice-paper sails on licorice poles. We all wondered if those sails would be still standing by party time, and fortunately there were no strong winds in our dining room that night.

One of my favorite cakes that Nancy ever made was Peggy Sue's Betty Boop cake in '98. Nancy carefully created a black & white Betty Boop on a "movie screen" of icing, standing up and facing rows of cookie seats and candied heads in a "theatre," all edible, all on cake! It was a masterpiece, I felt. Nancy did it again for Joe's Lone Ranger cake that same year. She created the black & white masked cowboy, in icing, on a T.V. set. Last year she made Peg a Wizard of Oz cake with the Wizard, Dorothy, and Toto the dog all in the gondola of the Wizard's hot air balloon. This year she made a pink automobile for Peg's "1950's" party. Rounding out the birthday themes throughout our family history were cakes of Barbar the Elephant, Little Bo Peep, The Three Bears, Mickey Mouse, a Cowboy hat, The Little Mermaid, Zorro,

Continued on page 9






## In the Garden: Autumn Bulbs

While most of us think of bulbs as bringing flowers to the spring garden, they can also make quite a display in the autumn.

One of the best known is the so-called autumn crocus, though it is, in fact, not a crocus but a colchicum. They produce large purple, pink or white goblets that are particularly noticeable because they do not have any leaves at this time of year (hence another of their common names, naked ladies). The leaves appear in spring and will have faded away by the time the flowers emerge. There are quite a number of different varieties of colchicum, and it is worth buying a few for their brilliant display. They can be bought dried and planted in the spring, but are better bought "in the green" or in pots.

There are also true autumn species of crocus, including the blue *Crocus Speciosus*, with its distinctive orange-red stigma. Another, much rarer, but very beautiful species, *Crocus banaticus*, is worth looking for. This has the most beautiful lilac-blue coloring. It grows in moist soil and prefers a little shade.

Another crocus look-alike is *Sternbergia lutea*, which flowers this month and next. This has striking greeny-yellow petals. It needs a warm, sunny position — against a wall, for example. Another plant for the same area is *Amaryllis*

*belladonna*. *Amaryllis* have tall, naked stems topped with bright pink trumpets. Another naked plant with pink flowers is the *nerine*, which also likes warm conditions.

A startling fall-season bulb is the autumn snowdrop, *Galanthus reginae-olgae*. These look very similar to ordinary snowdrops and, unless you are an expert, you may be forgiven for believing they had simply got their timing wrong.

### SOME AUTUMN FLOWERING BULBS

Allium (some varieties)  
*Amaryllis belladonna*  
 Colchicum  
 Crocus  
 Cyclamen  
*Galanthus reginae-olgae*  
 Narcissi — "Paper Whites"  
*Nerine bowdenii*

### HOW TO PLANT

As a rule of thumb, bulbs are sun-loving plants that need very light, sandy, well-draining soil with a good source

Continued on page 6





## Garden Calendar

### Things to do in October

*Planting time is here...*

#### PLANT

\* Evergreen trees, shrubs, ground covers and vines.

Select deciduous trees while in leaf for fall color.

\* Early spring-flowering bulbs. Store tulips and hyacinths in refrigerator at least six weeks until time to plant in mid-November or December. Plant other bulbs in masses (at least 24 if small, 12 if large). Feed with superphosphate when planting and water well.

\* Hardy biennials like sweet williams and wallflowers

#### CHORES AND MAINTENANCE

\* Collect fallen leaves for composting to leaf mold.

\* For Perennials, prepare new beds and borders and renovate existing spaces with organic materials for planting.

\* Fertilize trees, spring-blooming shrubs and roses if they were not fed in September.

\* Overseed warm-season grasses with annual rye for winter color; continue to seed cool-season lawns.

# PETS

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grow  
on  
you.

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 Saturday 7:30 am-2 pm  
 Sunday 10 am-12 Noon

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

## Resources

by Judie Schoening

I heard from my faithful correspondent, Diana Weihs, who tells me that she recently contracted some work with Boston Brick and Stone (listed under Chimney Services) and had a TERRIBLE experience. If you need to hear the details, please give her a call but meanwhile, you may want to steer clear of them. John Kurtz recommends Gustavo Mobile Grooming. He lives in the neighborhood and does dogs AND cats. He brings his van to your home and does the work in the van!

On your behalf, I recently became a member of the League of California Homeowners because they put out a very interesting Newsletter. Membership also includes Contractor Background Checking services Homeowner Insurance Discounts and Wescom Credit Union membership. A recent Newsletter gave the Contractors State license Board phone number 800/321-2752 ([www.cslg.ca.gov](http://www.cslg.ca.gov)) for checking a contractor's license. I understand you can also find out about formal complaints, lapsed and suspended licenses. Among other tips in this issue was to insist on a certificate of insurance from

the contractor or any subcontractor involved in the job. This is very important as you are liable for injuries if the contractor(s) are not covered and your homeowner's insurance carrier may not be very happy about this. Further tips:

1. Get three references (I now keep track of who refers the "resources" and am happy to supply these).
2. Get three bids with written plans so you can truly compare.
3. Never start a job without a thorough written contract. This should include start and completion dates, payment schedule as work to be done. If this is a large job, review with a lawyer.
4. Never sign anything under pressure and always allow yourself 48 hours to consider all aspects.
5. You are not required to put a down payment of more than 10% or \$1000 whichever is less.
6. Don't complete your payments until the job is completely done. Hold back 10% until you are satisfied.
7. Don't pay in cash.
8. Keep a job file including permits, plans, receipts (get receipts for supplies.)
9. If it is a large job with subcontractors involved, make sure you get sign-off signatures from these subs that they have been paid by the main contractor.

These are all good tips which I

think I've talked about in earlier columns but you may want to cut this out and stick it in your Resource Guide. There were several other informative articles in the Newsletter and I am looking forward to further issues. If you would like to join, contact The League of California Homeowners 99 "C" Street. Upland CA 91786.

Don't forget my email has changed: [schoening@mediaone.net](mailto:schoening@mediaone.net) FAX is still 733-3541.

If you phone on my business number 734-8123, that is where the computer with Resource data base is. Hoping to hear from YOU!

PET SERVICES

Gustavo Mobile Grooming  
Ph: 323/733-0216

### In the Garden: Autumn Bulbs Continued from Page 5

of nutrition. That will mean you must amend your naturally-clay-leaning West Adams garden soil with plenty of organic matter and/or mulch, laying the bulbs themselves (autumn-blooming and, indeed, your spring and summer bulbs) on a layer of sand placed at the bottom of the planting hole or trench.

Bulbs look best planted in groups of five or six (rather than rows). You can dig individual holes but it is easier to make a hole large enough for a half-dozen bulbs. Plant at least three times the depth of the bulb itself. (Many gardeners, by the way, plant their spring-flowering tulips and daffodils much deeper than this, to avoid their sprouting too early and being damaged by cold or windy weather. But that is not a concern for autumn bulbs.) At the bottom of the hole, place a specific high-phosphorus, low-nitrogen fertilizer designed for bulbs (like the "Bulb Chow" brand) and then a layer of sand before placing the bulbs. Then cover the bulbs with your amended soil.

*Adapted from The Garden Year: Practical Gardening Month by Month, by Richard Bird (Bramley Books, 1998).*

## MEASURE YOUR SUCCESS!

**Are you losing money and don't even know it?**

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**5670 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1450**

**Los Angeles, CA 90036**

## More Resources

### WEB RESOURCES

By Michael S. Smith

For those of you interested in researching your house or neighborhood the Los Angeles Public Library has added a new database to their growing website, which should make the job a little easier. Thanks to a hot tip from Lyn Gillson, WAHA's resident Historian, we now know that The California Index -- all those pesky little index cards -- have been put online!

The California Index, for those who may not know, is an index (duh) which cross-references local personalities to information about them. For instance, if you know the name of a person who lived in your house, you can enter their name into the database. If they were prominent in any way, or made the newspapers, they may be referenced. The

information you will be provided with will help you locate the article or book reference. Best of all, the database is easy to use. A word of warning, though: the index was sporadically kept in earlier years, so the information can be spotty.

To find the California Index, go to the Los Angeles Public Library site at [www.LAPL.com](http://www.LAPL.com). Click on the buggy, with the title: "Regional Historical Resources." You will then be given a choice of several different databases, including "The California Index" and "The Photo Collection."

The Photo Collection is another great resource! The library has put on line almost a million photographs from its 2.2 million collection. The collection includes many photos from the turn of the century.

Thanks again to Lyn Gillson for the information, and happy clicking!

### MID-CITY PLUMBING

By Steve Wallis

Need some brass or iron fittings? How about 4" cast iron pipe? Faucets? Valves? Tubs or sinks? Mid-City Plumbing is a local supplier of quality plumbing products at great prices. What about Home Depot, you say? I have found Mid-City's prices and product quality better on many items, including an under-sink waste disposer and incredible bathroom tub and shower fixtures which we got for a fraction of what we would have paid anywhere else.

Mid-City is a wholesale distributor and frequently buys new surplus stock in bulk from national wholesalers and manufacturers, passing on the discounted prices to their customers. Besides high-end custom pieces, they carry standard plumbing supplies such as P-traps, iron and PVC fittings, couplers, toilet float valve assemblies, and pipe. If they don't have the exact specialty item you need, they can order it for you and will pass on their discounted price -- usually close to 50% -- to you. Items ordered are received within days.

Stop by and talk to Ike or his dad, "Pops." If you're lucky, you'll find Pops walking around in his boxy khaki shorts, black socks, and sandals wearing no shirt and chomping on his unlit cigar. These guys are great and I always find it pleasurable dealing with them. Plus, I enjoy giving 'the little guy' my business, especially if I can save some money, too!

Mid-City Plumbing (213/744-1600) is located at 1354 E. Washington Boulevard, just east of Central, right off of the 10 Freeway. They are open until 1 p.m. on Saturdays.

#### Preservation Begins At Home



### City Living Realty

16 years of service to West Adams

David Raposa Broker/Owner 323/734-2001

#### For Sale:

\*1269 S. Victoria - Transitional Victorian, many upgrades, 4 BR, 1.5 BA, turret, den, sunroom. \$349,000

\*1822 S. Bronson - 3 BR, 2 BA, breakfast, sunroom. Newly restored, all new systems. Classic Craftsman! \$349,000

\*The Dr. Grandville MacGowan Residence, Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument #479. Asking \$1,250,000

Take a virtual tour @

<http://tours.bamboo.com/usa/ca/00114011.htm>.

#### Sold:

\* 2114 5th Avenue - Welcome Sydney Wellman & David Hamlin

\* 2233 W. 21st - Congratulations to Lynda & Molly Reiss on their new home in Western Heights

\* 1665 S. Oxford Avenue - Welcome Stacey Anthony

#### In Escrow:

\* 1233 S. Victoria - 4 + 2.5 Craftsman

\* 1919 S. Harvard - 5 + 4 Craftsman

Our New Offices are in the Victorian Village  
2316 1/2 Union Avenue Suite 2 \* 213/747-1337

## BLOCK CLUB & NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS



### Adams-Normandie Neighborhood Association (ANNA)

ANNA members spent the first Tuesday of August participating in the annual National Night Out on Crime. This year ANNA was joined by members of other district 8 block clubs. They wanted to get a first hand experience of how we do it. They got in the swing of it by bringing a pot-luck dish before getting down to the business of making posters and attaching them to picket poles.

About 40 strong marched through the streets with a black and white in the lead. The kids took turns riding with our Senior Lead Officer, Ray Marquez, and loved the experience. After passing out many NNO flyers and ANNA membership forms we headed back to the Holwitz's for the fabulous food. Our eighth successful NNO came to a close around 9 PM.

West Technology, a long time supporter of ANNA's now defunct ARC, presented president Marianne Muellerleile with a complete computer set up for college bound ARC member Michael Aguila. Operations Manager Lily Ho was eager to donate the equipment to Michael, so he will have every opportunity to continue his successful journey through higher education.

Thank you, West Tech!

Our September meeting was devoted to planning our October events.

Please join us for our Annual Garage Sale Saturday, Oct 14, from 9 to 3 at 1656-1660 W. 25th Street. If you'd like to make a tax-deductible donation of usable goods kindly

bring them to 1656 W. 25th on Thursday, Oct 12th or Friday, October 13th, between 4 and 7 PM.

On Saturday, October 28th, from Noon to 3, we will hold our Annual Halloween Kids Party for our area children.

This event was huge last year so we're preparing for an even bigger turnout, with lots of food, games, arts & crafts, pinata, costumes and goody bags.

We finished up our Neighborhood Grant thanks to Patricia Valenzuela, the Project Manager. We also recently became an HPOZ, thanks to Jim Jansen's tireless effort.

President Marianne Muellerleile spoke on ANNA's Pride and Beautification efforts over the years at the recent North Area Quarterly Empowerment Congress Meeting.

*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).*

### AT THE ICE CREAM SOCIAL by Alma Carlisle

WAHA had its Annual Ice Cream Social on Sunday, August 27th, in Robert Pedersen's and Ralph Robinson's Award winning Garden. (Bob and Ralph were this year's winners of WAHA's Annual Garden Contest.) The Ice Cream Social was a dazzling success. About 150 people attended.

A stunning garden, congenial hosts, delicious ice cream, lots of homemade goodies, splendid weather, wonderful raffle prizes, beautiful music, and lots of volunteer work all added up to make this year's Ice Cream Social a successful event.

WAHA's sincere and heartfelt thanks go to all the volunteers who helped us enjoy the Ice Cream Social. I know you all remember Betty-Jane Mallery, who was the "Official" ice cream scooper for the day! Audrey Arlington added WAHA decorations to the already splendid garden. Fran Carraway, as usual, combed the neighborhood for "only the best" raffle prizes. Greg Stegall provided luscious vanilla, coffee and mango Haagen Dazs ice cream. Beverly Hill donated the use of her canopy so we could have shade. Thanks to all the cookie bakers, and to Michael Smith, who carried WAHA supplies from his house to the Robinson/Pederson Garden. And a special thanks goes out to John Mitchell and Charles McDougal who cleaned up after us so we could leave the garden as beautiful as it was when we arrived.

Last but not least, many thanks to Bob and Ralph for letting us use their garden for a wonderful WAHA Sunday afternoon!



Left to right: Lily Ho, Michael Aguila, Marianne Muellerleile



## A Thought for Food by Alan Schoening

### THIS IS ONE FOR THE BOOKS!

It was a dark and stormy night on the Seattle waterfront. The rain, creating halos around the freezing cold street lamps, cast a bleak glow on the sodden walkway. I knew that I was hopelessly lost and yet desperate to find the light and warmth of the Pike Street Market. The wind and water wormed its way through my clothes, making puddles in my pockets, eventually finding its trickley route down my goose-pimpled leg and into my shoe. As I squish-squished towards shelter, I did not hear him coming out of the mist. The old man, a down-and-outer, soaked through his tattered, worn-down navy pea jacket, looked just like I felt. "Hey, Buddy," he whispered, "you got a couple bucks for a Latte?" He held out a shaky hand to me, a hand scarred from a laborious existence at sea. "Listen," I said through clattering teeth, "if you'll find us a warm and dry coffee shop, we'll both have Lattes. Do you mind half-decaf?"

We found the coffee shop, we drank lattes and warmed ourselves. We chatted. He talked of a life on ships. I thought of telling him about the fine china business. I asked him what he did when he worked. He replied, "I smoke salmon." "And when you're not working, what do you do?" With a wry smile, and glassed over eyes, he said, "I smoke dope."

All of that took place a long time ago. I avoid Seattle and its waterfront, or is it a coffeefront?? Yet I occasionally do think of that old man, and his comment, "I smoke Salmon." Well! As part of rehabbing, restoring, rejuvenating and rearranging our kitchen, we added book shelves where the flour and potato bins had formerly dwelled.

"I smoke salmon" had by now become my mantra.

So one fine morning I sat cross-legged on the kitchen floor, which is not as easy as it was 40 years ago, not by a long shot. At any rate, I began pawing through cook books. *Vincent Price Treasury*? Nope. *Gourmet* cookbook, also 40 years older? Naa. A forty-year-old *Better Homes New Cookbook*? It has some great pickle recipes, but nothing on smoking salmon.

By now I had researched through three of our 68 cookbooks and decided on short cuts. Faye Levy's *Chicken* cookbook? Skip it. *Cooking in Baja*? Nada. *Curries of Southern India*? Oh no, memsab, I don't believe so. *1000 Chinese Recipes*? Not on your fortune cookie.

Finally, in a lovely little paperback book entitled *The Cape Cod Fish & Seafood Cookbook* I found the nearest thing without going through the elaborate brining process, locating Oregon alderwood, and building a smoker out of an old refrigerator.

Instead, I have a one or two pound center cut piece taken out of an 8-pound salmon. The balance can be fileted or steaked and used that way. Filet and debone the center

cut piece. Leaving the skin on, rub the meaty sides with 1/2 cup kosher salt mixed with 2 tablespoons of sugar. Lay the filets one atop the other, skin side out. Wrap tightly in plasticwrap and wrap again with aluminum foil. Place in refrigerator (near the

Tuborg beer, if possible) for 24 hours.

Remove from fridge and unwrap the filets. Rinse well under running water to remove all undissolved salt. Pat dry and pour 1/2 cup of vodka, YES, vodka, over the meaty sides of the fish and placing a 1/2 cup of fresh chopped dill between the filets, rewrap in plastic and once again with foil. Place in pan with a five-pound weight on top (I generally use a brick) and refrigerate for several days.

To serve, slice extremely thin on a bias or slant cut with an extremely sharp knife and serve atop bagels with cream cheese, garnished with onion slices, tomato slices and capers, OR, make a sauce of 1/2 dijon mustard and 1/2 plain yogurt, mixed with a large pinch of chopped fresh dill and serve on sliced pumpnickel bread using the same garnish.

It is not necessary to smoke dope afterwards.

Bon Appetit!!!

### Through My Eyes

Continued from page 4

Sleeping Beauty, and Pokemon! Fourth Avenue neighbors Ed Trosper and Dave Raposa have witnessed most of them, and we have the photos to prove it.

Although the children's birthdays are Nancy's two mandatory times for this labor of love art form, she will make a fancy Nancy cake once in a while for another occasion. For example, she plans to whip up something special for a centerpiece for our WAHA Halloween party on Saturday, October 28th at 6:30. Also, she agreed to make a belated 3-tier wedding cake for Allen and Zhenya King when WAHA has their monthly social at their huge Victoria Avenue house next month, on Sunday, November 12th. Save the date, and circle your calendar!

Nancy is booked to bake yet again on the evening before Joseph's 11th birthday, Nancy will be in her kitchen once again creating a "Magic" cake. All of WAHA is invited to his party, which is Saturday, November 18, at 6 o'clock. Save that date also, and come be a part of the oohing & aahing!



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### Cuzner Residence Restoration Continued from page 1

606.) With the exception of some water-damaged floors, most of the oak flooring was spared because of 1960's shag carpeting (green of course), which had not yet been removed.

Both Helen and Frederick have experience with historic properties. Frederick is an architect and artist, and operated his own architecture firm here in Los Angeles, before retiring. Together they restored an adobe house in Arizona. Helen also served on the board of that neighborhood's historic zone.

Please drive by and welcome Helen and Frederick to the neighborhood, and watch the progress as another one of West Adam's landmarks is bought back to life!

### Bortfeld Award Recipient Joe Ryan Continued from page 1

Western United States history, particularly regarding Los Angeles from 1880 to 1920. Because of his research, his house on South Manhattan Place, which he shares with Chuck Roche, was declared Historic-Cultural Monument #625 by the City of Los Angeles on June 21, 1996. Not only did he do this for his home, Joe also did it for 11 other structures as well. Because of his efforts, 12 houses in West Adams have been declared Historic-Cultural Monuments. Four of them were old mansions on W. Adams Blvd., and most were endangered.

Joe was on the WAHA Board of Directors for six years, along with many years on two other boards: L.A. City Historical Society and Windsor Square-Hancock Historical Society. Also, for five years (1992-96), Joe organized the non-profit L.A. Community Reinvestment Group. It was a coalition of five neighborhood organizations, including WAHA, trying to bring home loans into the West Adams area for low-to moderate-income individuals.

In 1989 Joe organized a tour at the Rosedale Cemetery. This idea of Joe's has become WAHA's current annual Angelus-Rosedale Cemetery Tour every October. Through the years it has gotten bigger and bigger in production. Joe is still an active part of the tour. In 1999 the tour groups started with a history lecture in the cemetery's chapel by Joe.

As a pastime Joe enjoys bookbinding. His bookbindings are a work of art and many grace his beautiful Mediterranean/Colonial Revival Style house. Joe has even taken the time to bind the WAHA Newsletters into impressive, handsome, hardcover volumes. Possibly, in the future, these hardcover volumes will be used to research the history of our very own association.

Several WAHA gatherings have occurred in the house and backyard of Joe and Chuck. Joe has been a very active member in the past, and Joe continues being involved in WAHA, one way or another.

Sincerely Yours,  
John Deaven, Publications Chairman  
WAHA Board of Directors

## A Pitch to Support The Blue Line (Again)

Streets and freeways in Los Angeles are getting more congested every day, and almost everyone agrees that our city needs better public transportation. While some sections of the Los Angeles are getting it, not all are, and we don't yet have a network that makes it easy, quick and pleasant to get around the entire city. But there is something we can do to help complete the regional mass transit network, bringing it close to our own homes and businesses — and the time to get involved is right now!

The LA County Metropolitan Transportation Administration (MTA) is building a light rail line from downtown to Pasadena, and is also planning a light rail line to run between downtown to Boyle Heights, East LA, Montebello, Pico Rivera and Whittier. These lines will link with one another and with the Blue Line (light rail) and Red Line (subway, or heavy rail). We now also have an opportunity to complete the regional network with a line from downtown to Santa Monica along Exposition Blvd. In late March, the MTA voted to study a rail or bus line along the Exposition Blvd. right-of-way with a detour along Venice and Sepulveda Blvd.

The Exposition corridor is already owned by the MTA, and the population density along this corridor is two to three times that of other successful light rail lines. A light rail line could be a quiet and safe neighbor, would benefit business from downtown to the beach, and would make it so much easier for many of us to enjoy the museums and other cultural attractions of our area - without adding to the traffic and parking problems.

Light rail transit is economical to build and offers speed, capacity, and comfort. It is good for the environment, and it has already proven successful in many cities in the U.S. and elsewhere. Nearly every major western US city has or is building light rail. Our own Blue Line to Long Beach boasts the greatest ridership of any single light rail line in the country with nearly 63,000 riders per day! (The Red Line subway is highly successful too, attracting 119,000 riders per day - far more than predicted.)

Technical aspects of the MTA study are ongoing, but community support is going to be critical if this project is going to become a reality. With this in mind, a new organization, Friends 4 Expo Transit, has been formed to coordinate the many homeowners, business owners, and citizens who support a rail line on Exposition. If you are interested in taking part or simply would like your voice to be heard, please call David Saffer at 323-733-5590, or e-mail us at [Exporail@aol.com](mailto:Exporail@aol.com). More information is available at [www.exporail.net](http://www.exporail.net).



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## Attention, Fans of California Paintings

What is made in California? Not just the movies — or, for that matter, the cheese. As many WAHA collectors know, there's also a strong history of local art movements, spanning Victorian era watercolors, Plein Air Impressionist paintings, mid-century Modern works and photography.

Here are some current opportunities to view regional art works:

The USC Fisher Gallery presents "Made in California, featuring work that was made in or inspired by the Golden State. On view until November 4, works include pieces by Claire Falkenstein, miniaturist Gertrude Little (who worked in Los Angeles in the 1920s), architectural photographer Julius Shulman and a set of unusual murals by Maynard Dixon which once decorated the famous, now demolished "Anoakia Mansion" in Arcadia, (which, by the way, was built by the daughter of Lucky Baldwin). For information, call 213/740-4561.

And, as part of its annual Craftsman Weekend, Pasadena Heritage will sponsor an exhibit and sale of antique and contemporary Plein Air art works in October. The opening reception of the exhibit will be held Friday, October 6 (cost: \$30) at the Women's City Club in Pasadena, with the show and sale continuing (tickets: \$10) on Saturday and Sunday, October 7-8 as part of the overall Craftsman weekend festivities (and, guys, don't plan to go Saturday, as that's our own Rosedale Cemetery Tour!). Included are period artists Theodore Lukits, and Hanson Duvall Puthuff and contemporary artists Tim Solliday and Peter Adams. (For more information, call 626/441-6333).

## HATCHINGS BUT NO MATCHINGS IN OCTOBER?

By John Rentsch

*(Editor's Note: John is once again globe-trotting, and this is a rerun of last year's birthday column. Sorry if we missed your happy day!).*

Fourteen WAHA members, that we know about, celebrate birthdays this month and congratulations aplenty to all of them. But our records do not indicate any anniversaries this month — and I'm sure that is not true. So, AGAIN, your help please to up-date our records. Call 323/735 3500 and leave a message giving us the date of your birthdays (no year needed) AND the dates of your anniversaries.

2nd Claire Smith  
4th Art Curtis  
9th Corinne Pleger  
10th Richard Von Ernst  
11th Judie Schoening  
12th Sada Mozer  
14th Evan Pleger  
15th Kathleen Cooper and Matisse Mozer  
21st Ron Jarmen  
22nd Don Stumps  
27th Don Henderson  
31st Roger Mathison and Loren Smith  
Congrats everyone. ENJOY!

### 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

Washington Dog & Cat Hospital  
1692 W. Washington Boulevard Los Angeles, CA 90007 323/735-0291  
50% off office exams

Meyers Roofing  
5048 W. Jefferson Blvd. 323/733-0188  
10% discount

The 24th Street Theater  
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20% discount off regular product price (you must have a special discount card)

Washington Tire & Wheel  
1951 W. Washington Blvd. Los Angeles 323/731-0781  
Dealer's pricing on all tires and full line of custom wheels (See Bill Fuqua, Jr. for this discount)

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

### 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

**NOTICE: WAHA's combined Zoning & Planning/Preservation Committee has a new standing meeting night: the Third Wednesday of each month, at the offices of City Living Realty, 2316 1/2 South Union Avenue, Suite 2 (intersection of Union, Hoover and 23rd Street). Mark your calendars to join and attend this committee -- it's one of our organization's most important activities. Contact Tom Florio or Eric Bronson for more information.**

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**The silver bells are ringing.  
It's almost that time of year again.**

**Don't forget to reserve your place(s) at  
West Adams Heritage's 14th Annual Holiday Tour,  
"Monuments for the Millennium,"  
scheduled for  
Saturday and Sunday, December 2 and 3.**

*Look for the enclosed flyer in this newsletter.*

Announcing...

## **The Wilcox Travel Club for Children "Educating Children Through Travel"**

The new Wilcox Travel Club for Children was created out of its founder's sense of adventure and excitement. Travel can positively impact young children, and spur them to greater educational achievements.

The Club plans to arrange monthly meetings and field trips (local at first, national and foreign as we grow) to notable destinations. For each outing, an expert also gives a presentation in their specialty.

**We need your help!**

We need individual and corporate financial sponsors. We need lecturers. We need cameras and film. We need people to help donate the food for the kids' lunches (ie: do you have a favorite restaurant you could contact and ask for a deep discount). We need chaperones, and docents. We need transportation.

The need is urgent. Our next scheduled event is just around the corner, on October 21, when Ed Trosper, certified and registered geologist, takes the children on a tour entitled The Marble Masters, visiting historic sites constructed of age-old marble. Please consider donating to this event.

Any sum, large or small, would be greatly appreciated -- as would any of the other items noted above.

Contact Jacqueline Sharps at 323/766-8842.

Thank you very much.

*Remember, it takes a village to raise a child.*

**Please Note:**

WAHA does not endorse or claim responsibility for any of the services, products or "for sale" items advertisers have listed in these pages.

**ADVERTISE HERE!** WAHA classifieds are free to paid members. To place a display or classified, call Janice Lipeles (323/737-2370). Classifieds will be for one month only. If you wish to repeat your ad, please call Janice Lipeles by the deadline. After 3 issues for the same ad, there will be a charge of \$ .25 per word.

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 Remember, the deadline is the 1st of the prior month!

**WAHA CLASSIFIEDS**

**Day Worker Available:** Very affable, strong & hard worker. Will help with many aspects of home rehab (insulation, concrete breakup, painting, oak floor installation). Punctual. Deaf, so must communicate by writing or sign language. \$10 per hour or negotiable day rate. Highly recommended by Joe Kelly. Call Joe at 323/661-4349.

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

**For sale -** 500 antique doors, windows, & house fragments. Call Roland at 310/392-1056.

**Wouldn't you love to own Mugsy?** He's a big (BIG - 77 pounds) baby boy white bulldog/pit/mutt mix who's looking for someone to receive his slurpy love. About two years old, neutered, has had shots. Laura 323/737-6146.

**Experienced housekeeper** looking for work. Recommended by Lynda Reiss. Call Myra at 323/585-4345.

*Roommate Wanted? Vintage Stove for Sale? Garden Plants in Search of New Home? Place your classified ad here to reach preservation-minded readers. Contact Advertising Director Janice Lipeles (323/737-2370) NO LATER THAN the first of the prior month.*



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**Check it out at:**  
[www.neighborhoodlink.com/la/westadams](http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/la/westadams)

**WAHA's new Membership Directory has been prepared. Look for it inside this newsletter.**

# WAHA October 2000 Calendar

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday                             | Wednesday  | Thursday         | Friday  | Saturday   |
|--------|--------|-------------------------------------|--|------------------|---|--|
|        |        |                                     | 4  | 5                | 6   | 7 Cemetery Tour  |
| 8      | 9      | 10                                  | 11 Membership<br>Community Outreach<br>Committee | 12               | 13  | 14 WAHA General Meeting:<br>Historic West Adams Photos |
| 15     | 16     | 17 Newsletter Committee             | 18 Zoning & Planning/<br>Preservation Committee  | 19               | 20  | 21   |
| 22     | 23     | 24                                  | 25   | 26 Board Meeting | 27  | 28 WAHA General Meeting:<br>Historic West Adams Photos |
| 29     | 30     | 31 National Trust Conference begins | Angelus-Rosedale Cemetery Tour Oct. 7            |                  | See Community Calendar On page 3 for details on these meetings! |  |

The *WAHA 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 2000. All rights for graphic and written material appearing in the newsletter are reserved. Contact Director of Publications for permissions.

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