



West Adams Matters

USC Students Join in Sprucing Up Richardson Family Park

by Leslie Evans

USC's student volunteer program aims to make better neighbors. Saturday, August 23, was the date of the program's annual turnout of volunteers into the community to aid community groups in projects such as trash cleanups and graffiti paintouts. This year some 600 undergraduates, graduate students, and even a few alumni came out to work. Thirteen USC volunteers showed up at Van Buren Place at 9:30 am, armed with shovels, hedge clippers, gloves, and wheelbarrows to help weed, water, and mulch the landscaping at the nearby Richardson Family Park. The park was built by the community after a four year effort and opened to the public in June of 1999 at the corner of Budlong Avenue and 27th Street.

USC had a long association with the project, which began back in 1994. The park was designed by then-USC professor of landscape architecture Achva Benzinberg Stein. USC also funded an early stage of the park's preparation with a grant of \$33,000 from its Community Outreach department.

(continued on page 10)



Back to School—100 Years Ago

From the Los Angeles Daily Times, September 15, 1903:

SCHOOL BOOK STORES STAMPEDED; POLICE HAD TO BE CALLED UPON

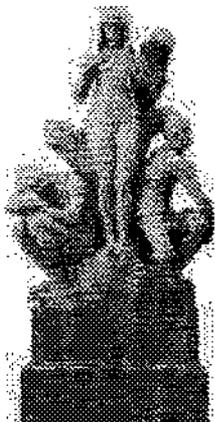
If the young people of this community prove half as eager to master the text-books prescribed by the pedagogues as they were yesterday to buy them, there will be brilliant work during the school semester just begun.

It is an actual and unprecedented fact that the police were called upon to keep the excited youngsters from trampling on one another — to calm the educational mob, you might say.

Early in the day the authorized list of text-books were placed in the hands of every pupil, and then began a stampede on the book stores that possessed some of the characteristics of the charge up San Juan Hill.

(continued on page 6)

Angelus Rosedale Cemetery Tour, Saturday, October 11



The West Adams Heritage Association helps remember the deceased at Angelus Rosedale Cemetery through its annual Living History Tour. This year's tour takes place on October 11, with a lineup of portrayals that includes:

- The founder of UNOCAL and the Union Mission
- A real estate mogul and Abel Stearns' right hand man in the 1860s
- A Civil War soldier, writer, humorist and founder of Temple Baptist Church
- A wagon train pioneer heroine stranded in Death Valley for two months
- An early African American Olympic athlete

This tour sells out quickly! If you plan to join us as a visitor, please use the flyer in last month's WAHA Matters and immediately send in your reservation. If you are interested in volunteering in any capacity, and we encourage you to do so, please telephone one of the following: Cat Slater (323-733-3964), Audrey Arlington (323-732-8515), Lyn Gillson (323-735-9371) or Corinne Pleger (323-733-3515).●

Table of Contents



COMMUNITY MATTERS	
Severance Residence Damaged	4
Neighborhood Councils Meet September 4	4
STEPPING OUT	
Stepping Out to the "Caribbean"	3
Pomona Historic Homes Tour	7
Eagle Rock Historic Homes Tour	7
IN THE GARDEN	
The Edible Garden	8
The Garden Guy	9
WAHA BOARD MEMBERS	9
MEMBER DISCOUNTS	5
WAHA CLASSIFIEDS	11
CALENDAR	12

WAHA Comments on the Ambassador Hotel

The West Adams Heritage Association, one the largest community based preservation organizations in Los Angeles, supports preservation alternative (alternative #1 in the EIR) that preserves than main hotel building and the character defining public spaces. Los Angeles is too often criticized as a city that embraces the new without respect for its history. The Ambassador hotel is one of the most important culturally, historically and architecturally significant sites in Los Angeles.

WAHA consists of over 350 households primarily in South Los Angeles dedicated to the preservation of the city's architecture and culture. The Ambassador site is of primary importance to WAHA's commitment to historic resources. Near its formal boundaries, many WAHA members live and work near the Ambassador site. It is committed to the preservation of significant historic resources with a special commitment to west Adams both within and close to WAHA's formal boundaries.

We urge the LAUSD to utilize the site's remarkable historic features and distinguished social history as a centerpiece of its new school complex. The maximum reuse-preservation of the main hotel building- is preferable out of the EIR's explored alternatives. While preservation of the historic bungalows and ancillary buildings would be a first choice, alternative #1 represents a feasible compromise. We urge against so-called "partial preservation" options because such options have significant impacts on character defining features of this historic resource and would degrade the character of the site.

The LAUSD school programming is the appropriate fit for the conversion and adaptive reuse of the Ambassador Hotel using Alt. #1. The character defining public spaces become integral parts of the new school. Students will be able to study history in building that has shaped our local and national history.

Preservation of this resource is important to the West Adams Heritage Association. By preserving the Hotel and its character defining features using Alternative #1, LAUSD has an opportunity to set a high standard for excellence, and build for the future utilizing the past, building on a sense of history and preserving one of LA's most important sites. Preserving the Ambassador Hotel is a fitting tribute to Myron Hunt, Paul Williams, and Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. It is a living legacy that must be preserved. ©

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A Hearty Thanks

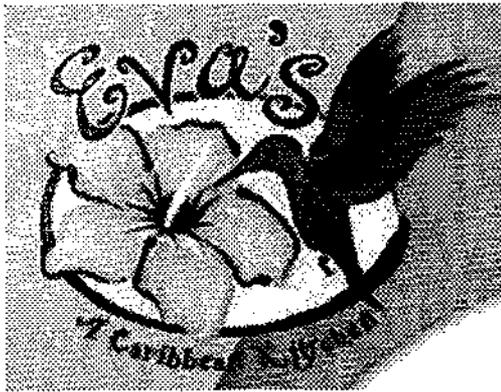
WAHA wishes to extend a BIG thank you to Bob Hausenbauer and the Ocean Park Omelet Parlor Restaurant for the generous donation of supplementary plant materials for the South Seas House garden.

These plantings helped beautify the historic residence in time for its public debut on June 28, at the South Seas House Centennial Celebration.

Hausenbauer, a four-year resident of West Adams, owns the Omelet Parlor, a mainstay in Santa Monica, since 1967. This restaurant evokes yesteryear in its furnishings, early 1900s photos, and homestyle cooking.

The Omelet Parlor serves breakfast and lunch daily. It is located at 2732 Main Street (near Ocean Park Boulevard); 310-399-7892.

Visit the Caribbean - Here in SoCal



WAHA steps out to the Caribbean West Indies, via Laguna Beach, on Saturday, September 27. That's when we'll carpool caravan to Eva's Caribbean Kitchen, to experience the flavorful cuisine of Barbados, Antigua, Trinidad and Martinique. House specialties include numerous rum-soaked fish and shrimp dishes, a sweet corn and crab cakes appetizer, and tropical drinks (not for you designated drivers, of course!). The event is NO-HOST (translation: pay as you go) but we absolutely need RESERVATIONS to guarantee you a seat at the restaurant. Appetizers cost \$9-\$10, main dishes range from \$13 - \$20, and being that this is WAHA, we can't begin to predict how much you'll spend on libations. Get in the mood - wear colorful attire. We'll meet at 1 p.m. on Gramercy Place and 23rd Street, and get to Laguna early enough for a little shopping and sightseeing. Please (PLEASE) call SeElcy Caldwell at 323-292-8566 to secure your reservation. ●

On The Soapbox

Thank You for the Painting Award

by Jane Harrington

I wanted to write and thank WAHA for the award you so graciously gave to our house at 3027 La Salle. I was out of town dealing with a family emergency, and missed the presentation. However, I wanted to take this opportunity to say a few words.

We have owned that house since 1984, when we moved in during the Olympics. (That was very good timing.)

Bob Bortfeld showed it to us, with the aside that, "we didn't want that house." He said that because it needed everything done to it. Everything from the roof, to the ghastly galvanized pipes with open seams, needed replacing. The kitchen was even relocated to the back porch and it had the waste pipe, unattached to the main drain, hanging out of the window. Yes, it needed everything.

But we liked the shape of the house, and we liked the wide street and the neighbors we met, many at the sumptuous parties given by Bob. So here we are 19 years on and two teenage kids later, and we still like the shape of the house and the neighbors. I joined Bob that year and I still work for City Living Realty; as Bob would put it, "Saving the old houses." But I quickly found that saving houses was more about saving neighborhoods.

A client asked me the other day, "Do you think this is a good neighborhood?"

And I had to think how to answer that. I know what they were asking, and I knew my answer, but that answer is subjective, and doesn't mean much coming from a sales person anyway.

But I thought about it and replied:

"You can't buy a neighborhood. You have to create the neighborhood that you want to live in."

A neighborhood includes people who think like you and some who don't. They have a right to live there and tolerate you, and you them. Sometimes you have to negotiate differences, but most importantly, you have to participate. A neighborhood is like an organic thing. You have to nurture it and watch it evolve. You have to be mindful of other people's feelings and know when a member is sick, or when the fruit is ripe on a certain tree.

If a kid misbehaves, a neighborly person calls the parents before the kid gets home.

Sometimes when a neighborhood is successful, it goes through a transition, and homes go up in price. The new residents are so busy working and dealing with careers, that they are too tired for 'neighborhood membership', (I've been bringing up kids, so I know of which I speak).

But in my way I like to think that I have contributed to the neighborhood. I've been to council area committees, helped form block clubs, neuter stray cats, and yelled at the guys playing their music too loud, and most recently I decided to replace our neighborhood graffiti with a pastoral type mural. It is still there after some negotiating with the local graffiti "artists."

In any case, we all contribute to neighborhood in the best way we can, and WAHA's competitions and focus on quality of life issues in the neighborhood is also worthy of a prize. Thanks to the members' relentless efforts, we have a neighborhood that is enviable to many, and there aren't too many neighborhoods in L.A. where you can join such a wonderful, active bunch of enjoyable folk.

Next year I hope to at least get to the Ice Cream Social! Thank you again. ●



Trouble at Historic Severance Residence

In July, WAHA and a number of preservation-minded West Adams residents intervened when it appeared that one of the community's important landmarks was being improperly renovated. Constructed in 1890, the classical Victorian Colonial Revival home at 2713 Severance Street (which has been determined to be individually eligible for the National Register) was in escrow for purchase by USC Chabad when the contractor began several construction projects which did not comport to historic preservation standards. In particular, the contractor removed and changed exterior windows without permits, and altered aspects of the interior without permit as well. According to the Community Redevelopment Agency's status report for recent activities in the Hoover Project Area (where this residence is sited), "the Department of Building & Safety inspected the property and determined the building to be substandard. Construction was stopped immediately and the property owner was ordered to provide an approved plan to meet site conditions." In August, Rabbi Dov Wagner of USC Chabad engaged Historic Resources Group to prepare a rehabilitation work plan, which includes the re-replacement of the new metal frame windows with wood sash "to match the shapes, sections, and finishes of extant wood sash." The work plan also discusses painting the exterior appropriately, repairing and replacing wood and copper screens with like-kind, and repairs to the historic doors throughout the house. At press time, much of this work had not yet commenced; the matter is slated for discussion at the September Hoover PAC meeting on Thursday, September 18. Contact Laura Meyers, 323-737-6146, for more information. ●

Neighborhood Councils Meet On Thursday, September 4

The two neighborhood councils which represent most of Historic West Adams (United Neighborhoods N.C. and North Area Neighborhood Development Council N.C.) will both meet in their respective meetings on Thursday, September 4. Generally speaking, if you live west of Normandie (north of the freeway) and west of Western (south of the freeway) to Crenshaw, United Neighborhoods is your council; NANDC is to the east; however, all WAHA members are stakeholders to BOTH neighborhood councils.

NANDC will deal with two important issues at its meeting: preparing a proposed budget for the Mayor (see below) and seeing a brief presentation by the University of Southern California on its proposed 10,260-seat, 245,000-square-foot Events Center, which, if approved, will be constructed at Jefferson and Figueroa. (The Community Redevelopment Center has also issued its Notice of Preparation and Initial Study on this project, which will require an EIR; comments are due this month. Contact Pauline Lewicki at CRA for more information, 213-977-1600).

United Neighborhoods will meet from 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. at the Washington Irving Library, 4117 Washington Boulevard at Bronson, for its regular Governing Board meeting. Again, all WAHA stakeholders are invited to attend this public meeting. ●

NANDC Participates in Mayor's Budget Process

The NANDC Neighborhood Council has decided to participate in a new process that will involve neighborhood councils advising the Mayor on next year's budget (United Neighborhoods N.C., Mid-City N.C. and the other 10th Council District neighborhood councils have decided NOT to participate). NANDC has slated two meetings in September to accommodate the schedule. These meetings (and a written questionnaire) will help NANDC determine the answers to these (and other) questions:

- Does the city spend enough money on affordable housing?
- Do you think the city should install more street lights on your block or trim more trees in your neighborhood?
- How much money should be set aside for job training, youth programs, public safety and the repair of sidewalks?

If you have thoughts on these matters, please do attend the meetings on Thursday, September 4 and Thursday, September 18, at 6:30 pm (both meetings). The meetings will be held at the L.A. Child Guidance Clinic - 3787 S. Vermont Ave. This is your opportunity to tell City Hall what you think. Please attend the September 4 and September 18 meetings of the Empowerment Congress North Area Neighborhood Development Council. For more information, contact Sharon Stewart at 213-743-0251 or Carol Castellion at 323-266-3830. ●



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Sunday: 10 am - 12 Noon

MEMBER DISCOUNTS

The following companies and organizations offer discounts to WAHA members. Remember to 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

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., Los Angeles, CA 90016, 323-954-8080
No cover charge at door

Lady Effie's Tea Parlor
453 East Adams Boulevard, Los Angeles, 213-749-2204
10% discount on all food purchases

Lucky Chimney Sweep Contact: Susan and Alfredo Johnson
4008 College Crest Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90065, 323-258-0828

Magic Care Termite Service
1840 W. 220th St., Suite 320, Torrance CA 90501, 310-548-6700
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Sherwin-Williams
1367 Venice Blvd. L.A. 90006, 213-365-2471
20% discount off regular product price
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Vintage Plumbing Bathroom Antiques
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10% discount on purchases at Chatsworth facility

Boulevard Vacuum & Sewing Machine Company
5086 W. Pico Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA90019, 323-938-2661
10% discount on sale of new vacuums, and vacuum service & repair

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

A CALL TO MEMBERS

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

Back to School - 1903

continued from page 1

The uninformed might suppose the city to be supplied with an abundance of book stores, however, dealers were unable to meet the rush.

At Jones book store, on Second street, the crush was so great that the doors had to be closed and the crowds let in by policemen in bunches. Even then, the place was crowded to suffocation, some eager to buy — others bent on exchange.

Nor was this condition peculiar to a few large stores advertising a cut in prices.

"There's no use trying here" was the oft-repeated expression of people who, after forcing their way through the crowds, could not get nearer a counter than "four removes," so densely were customers lined up, all grabbing for anything in sight that happened to be on their lists.

Floor walkers threw up their hands in dismay and left the mob to shift for itself.

The more venturesome occasionally got their supplies together, but there was no attempt at wrapping goods. People stuffed the articles into their pockets or under their arms and, tossing the price to cashiers who were stationed at every entrance, made their escape to the open.

Not since the [Los Angeles] Fiesta has Hamburger's been called upon to handle the crowds they did yesterday.

In addition to the insistent little miss or bright youth importuning some clerk: "Please wait on me next," there were mothers who had neglected the household duties for the day and father who had "laid off" in order to join in the effort to get the necessary book for their little ones, so there would be no delay in their entering upon their studies. [Note: The Germanic-sounding name of *Hamburger's Department Store* was changed during the World War to *the May Company*.]

At the Broadway Department Store 102 salesmen were engaged in selling books, departments having been established in three different parts of the building. So dense was the crowd and so suffocating the atmosphere one lady fainted and hundreds turned from the place unable to endure the long wait that seemed unavoidable, and the jostling of purchasers making their way in and out.

"I want a 'ritmetic without a pencil."

"Gi' me Wentworth and Hill's *First Steps*."

"Le' me get my hands on *Evangeline*."

"Chase up *Rip Van Winkle* for me, please."

"Gi' me a Natural Verticle No. 7, a *Snow Bound*, *California Plants*, *Training for Citizenship*, a ruler, a triangle and Prang's *Art*, and hurry up about it, too."

These were a few of the expressions flying in every direction at all the stores, but uttered despairingly, as in nearly every instance the filing of an order was the work of several minutes, so difficult was it to find the desired articles, owing to the disarrangement of stock and the inability of the different managements to keep goods on shelves or tables. . . .

In commenting on the experiences of the day, the dealers said they had prepared for a great rush, such as had been true in previous years, but, this season had so far exceeded the expectation, the day had not far advanced before demoralization resulted from the down-sweep of customers.

The sales of the day indicated an increase in many districts of from 20 to 50 per cent. ●

Editor's Note: We found this story on a web site that deals with Los Angeles circa 1900-1910.

Check it out: <http://www.ulwaf.com/LA-1900s>



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Pomona Heritage Historic Home Tour

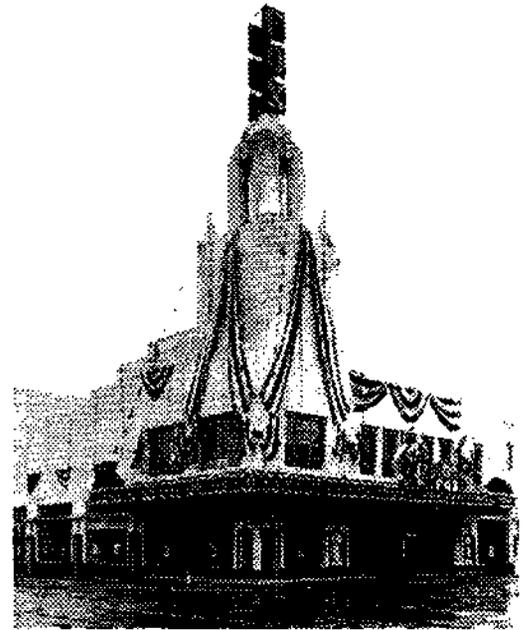
Pomona Heritage's 19th Annual Home Tour is Sunday, October 19, and celebrates the creation of Pomona's 3rd Historic District, "Hacienda Park." The day's events include Docent Guided Home Tours, Art Exhibitions, Craft Sales, Food Booths, and a Vintage Car Show.

The homes selected for this year's tour represent the wide variety of architectural styles found in our Historic Neighborhoods. Included in this year's tour is a 1920's Spanish Bungalow featuring the owners Award Winning Gardens. And a rare, 1920's Streamline Modern Home whose owners have one of the finest collections of Streamline and Art Deco furnishings in LA.

Also featured on this year's tour is the red brick gothic Pilgrim Congregational Church built in 1912. And, open to the public for the first time since being purchased by the city, our own Fox Theater. The Fox has been cleaned up and given an intensive structural analysis and is now ready to move forward into the restoration phase. Much of the original rose and silver interior is still intact.

Advanced tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for Seniors (60), Students (ID required), and children. Day of tour prices \$18 and \$14. Events in Lincoln Park, including ticket sales, begin at 10 a.m. Tour Homes open at 11 a.m.

New this year is a Preview Night Gala on Saturday, October 18. This event includes a pre-tour of the homes on tour, as well as dinner at the newly refurbished, Kellogg Mansion on the grounds of Cal Poly Pomona. Preview night tickets are \$50/person, and are also good for those who wish to return for Sunday's events. Reservations are required for the Preview Night events. For information call 909-865-8879, or to purchase tickets visit our website at www.osb.net/heritage. ●



Eclectic Eagle Rock Home Tour to Feature the Women's Twentieth Century Club's 100-Year Anniversary

Drawing on the town's history and its growing reputation as a cultural center, The Eagle Rock Association (TERA) presents its fourth annual "Eclectic Eagle Rock Home Tour," 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, October 19.

This year the tour features the Women's 20th Century Club Craftsman building constructed in 1913. The club, now celebrating its 100-year anniversary, was formed by the progressive women of Eagle Rock, which at that time was a small agricultural village. Their purpose was "self-improvement along social and intellectual lines." The club's goals were achieved through successfully supporting the women's suffrage movement, giving assistance to the Red Cross, winning the silver cup for their Rose Parade Float, "Saving the Redwoods," sponsoring a Mothers' Educational Center, and opening a Well Baby Clinic. An exhibit of photographs from the time of the club's origin through the present day will be on show.

In addition, the tour includes some of the most interesting homes and gardens in this historic community. These homes, built over the course of the last century, are in a variety of styles which make Eagle Rock, "L.A.'s Hometown," so unique. The homes are all within walking distance of the Women's 20th Century Club.

In conjunction with the home tour, there also will be a juried plein air art exhibition featuring scenic Eagle Rock vistas. The plein air movement is an outgrowth of Impressionism that focuses on landscape and natural scenery. On the day of the home tour, plein air artists have been invited to work along the route.

Eagle Rock is located in northeast Los Angeles between Glendale and Pasadena, off the 134 Freeway, near the 2 (Glendale) Freeway. The tour will begin at the Women's 20th Century Club, 5105 Hermosa Ave., on the corner of Colorado Blvd. and Hermosa Ave. Tickets are \$12 in advance (\$10 for TERA members) and \$15 the day of the tour. For information, please call (626) 844-2256 or visit www.tera90041.org (tickets are available online).

Located ten minutes from downtown Los Angeles, Eagle Rock is touted for its architectural charm and close-knit, supportive community ambiance. Eagle Rock is named for a distinctive sandstone rock formation at the town's northeast edge, near the 134 Freeway at the genesis of Figueroa Blvd. Once a series of ranchos where strawberries, lemons and other crops thrived in the temperate climate, a land boom in the early 20th century brought an influx of residents to the area, drawn to the pastoral setting just six miles and a short trolley ride from downtown. Eagle Rock became home to successful entrepreneurs, immigrants, bohemians, and artists, eventually transforming an agricultural community that once claimed to have the world's largest dahlia ranch. Eagle Rock was an incorporated city from 1911 to 1923, when it joined the City of Los Angeles. ●

The Edible Garden *by Anna Marie Brooks*

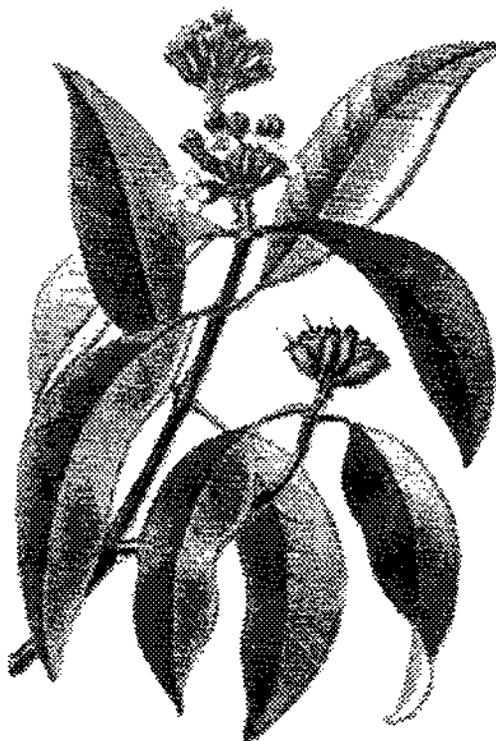
Angelenos like their trees neat. Heaven forbid a tree should drop leaves or berries on the pristine ground cover or paving...Eeeeeek!

Trees are meant to bear fruit. That's how most trees regenerate the follow season and propagate to ensure the continuity of their species. That's right: other parts of the world trees don't generally come from nurseries—to then be disposed of when one is bored with their kind or deems that they are "too messy."

There are several varieties of Eugenia that bear edible fruit. If your property doesn't already enjoy an Eugenia sporting its elliptical green leaves with bursts of bronzy new growth then you've missed out on a fine crop of free fruit. The fruits, similar to cherries in appearance—a gorgeous burgundy when fully ripened—are preceded by white blooms.

If you don't already share your property with an Eugenia—or a smart and utilitarian property border of them—you will need to procure them at a nursery. Eugenias are not overly particular about soil quality or sunlight and are quite disease and pest resistant. Their greatest demand is that once they show blooms they need consistent watering in order to bear succulent fruits. Birds love the fruits so you need to be quick to harvest the fruits or willing to serve up, "four and twenty blackbirds baked in a pie," in lieu of your planned treat.

Eugenia fruits make a luscious pie filling and can also be transformed into jams and jellies. The month's recipe is from a Seder recipe collection. With several containers of Eugenia fruits in the freezer I bravely made the substitution and several testers pronounced the results tasty. A note: should you not have a rhubarb or "pie plant" patch in your yard—you could, you know—you may purchase rhubarb fresh nearly any week of the year at the Pavilions on Santa Monica Blvd. in West Hollywood.



Eugenia Rhubarb Crisp

Makes 8 servings

For the Filling:

- 2 cups rhubarb—stalks **only***—cut in one-half inch chunks
- 3 cups Eugenia fruits (or 1 cup frozen—do not defrost—raspberries plus 2 cups sliced strawberries)
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 3 Tablespoons (packed) potato starch

For the Crumb Topping:

- 3/4 cup matzo meal
- 20 soft almond or coconut macaroons crumbled—approximately one cup
- 4 Tablespoons butter or margarine, melted

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.

Grease a 9-inch square baking dish.

Mix together all Filling ingredients until evenly coated with sugar and starch. Spread in baking dish. Dot with butter, if desired.

Mix together topping ingredients. Distribute evenly over Filling.

Bake 40 to 45 minutes. Serve warm with ice cream on the side.

A warning—the stalks of rhubarb are deliciously edible but the graceful green rhubarb leaves are **highly toxic and should never be consumed.*

Natalie Neith & Ken Cathagan

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In the Garden

The Garden Guy by Steve Rowe

Gardeners, I am compelled by forces that are beyond my control. I am forever consumed with all thoughts of the garden, Nature and the glorious color GREEN.

It could be that I am half Irish. Who knows? Anyway, as I drive around our beloved West Adams, I am constantly bombarded by visions and ideas of how we can as a community along with our many neighborhood organizations create a garden oasis here in Los Angeles. Owing to the dearth of green and park space that we have here in West Adams, I am compelled to offer up whatever suggestions I have to remedy the situation. Parks and greenspace are a necessary element in any community.

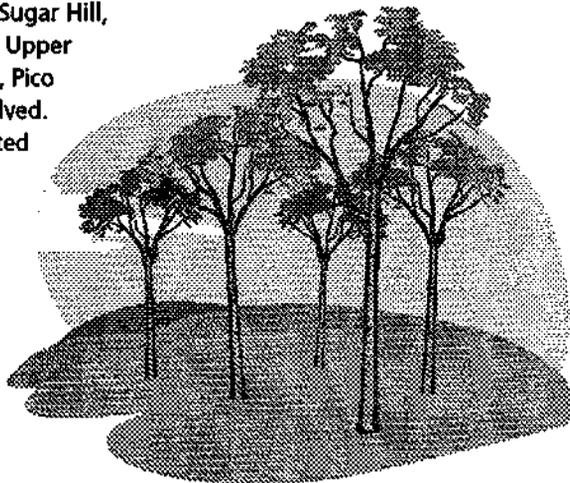
Parks and greenspace have a calming effect on the human psyche. We as humans seem to feel a need to connect with nature as much as we possibly can. There are many ways that we can go about bringing nature and greenspace to our community.

Just imagine tree lined streets everywhere, landscaped center medians along our commercial corridors, landscaped center medians along only those residential streets that are capable of supporting them, landscaped center triangles where there is now only asphalt or cement. How about more pocket parks on smaller empty lots? How about a neighborhood dog park along a commercial corridor away from residential areas, where we can take our beloved four-footed friends and connect with our wonderful neighbors? What better way can one get to know one's neighbor? How about landscaped on and offramps near the 10 Freeway large enough to support a park with trees, shrubs and a lawn. I don't know about you, but I see these things in my sleep. What do you see? What do you envision for your neighborhood? We can make these things happen. All it takes is a willingness to get involved. After all it is YOUR community!

Get involved in your local community organization, your neighborhood is sure to have one. Talk to your neighbors about having trees planted on your street. Contact your local district office. They will assist you and your organization in your endeavors.

This can become a reality and you can make it happen. Just look around. Some of our neighborhoods have already done this. It can happen in your area. Believe it or not all it takes is a little initiative. Work together.

So I call upon you, my West Adams friends located in the Neighborhoods of: Arlington Heights, Western Heights, Lafayette Square, Victoria Park, Wellington Square, Jefferson Park, West Adams Heights, Harvard Heights, The Bungalows, North University Park, Kinney Heights, Sugar Hill, West Adams Avenues, Upper Avenues, West Adams, Pico Union etc. to get involved. Forgive me if I neglected to mention your neighborhood. We are all part of the Historic West Adams District, so be proud and get out there and make your neighborhood GREEN! ●



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



2263 S. Harvard Boulevard
Historic West Adams
Los Angeles California 90018
323-735-WAHA (323-735-9242)
www.neighborhoodlink.com/la/westadams

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WAHA COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND STANDING MEETINGS

All WAHA members are encouraged to join a committee.
(All committee meetings begin at 7 pm on the days noted below.)

Community Relations

Contact Jennifer Charnofsky if you'd like to get involved with this activity 323-734-7391

Historic Preservation

Chair: Jean Frost 323-748-1656

Zoning & Planning

Chairs: Eric Bronson 323-737-1163 and Thomas Florio 213-749-8464. Meets third Mondays at City Living Realty 2316 1/2 South Union

Newsletter

Chair: Laura Meyers 323-737-6146. Meets second Mondays

Publications

Chair: Anna Marie Brooks 323-735-3960

Holiday Tour

Chair: Jacqueline Sharps 323-766-8842

Membership

Chair: John Kurtz 323-732-2990. Meets Wednesday before the WAHA Board Meeting

Web Site

Anna Marie Brooks, 323-735-3960 and Thomas Florio, 213-749-8464

By-Laws

Thomas Florio 213-749-8464

Programs and Events

Jean cade 323-737-5034

The WAHA Board meets on the fourth Thursday of each month. Contact Jacqueline Sharps for location.

Richardson Family Park Spruced Up

continued from page 1

By the time it was finished the park project had raised some \$500,000 in cash and donated land. It was spearheaded by local block clubs and the Esperanza Community Housing Project, as well as several other Los Angeles nonprofits. After the park was built the founders donated it to the City of Los Angeles and it is now part of the Department of Recreation and Parks. Jennifer Charnofsky of the Van Buren Place Community Restoration Association was the coordinator of the park formation committee. She is also a skilled gardener and has taken a special interest in the plantings at the park in the years since. She was the one to welcome the USC volunteers on Saturday morning and take them to the park to work.

The first job of the day was to split the volunteers into two groups. Half went with Jennifer to the park and began weeding. The beds had become a bit overgrown in the four years since the park opened, as the Department of Recreation and Parks is short of staff and many Los Angeles parks, especially in the inner city, are falling into disrepair. Weeds were growing up among the trees along the east wall, and among the big rocks used in two spots in the small park to create natural looking areas. The students were quickly on their hands and knees as Jennifer showed them what were flowers and what were weeds. As areas were finished weeding they were watered with hoses brought to the park by the volunteers.

Back on Van Buren Place, Jennifer had arranged with the city to dump a large truckload of wood shavings in our backyard, to be used as mulch and ground cover around the Richardson Park trees and plants, and on the parts of the grounds that are not concrete. The mound stood five feet high. Undaunted, the students (actually including an alumnus, Almon Deomampo, whose wife Rhonda, a graduate student, had volunteered) picked up their shovels and dug in.

One neighbor, Van Buren Association Vice President Tom McCurnin, brought his pickup truck and three volunteers shoveled shavings into the truck bed while others filled those big plastic city recycling and trash cans that another neighbor had kept empty and loaned to the cleanup. As plastic trash bins were filled they were wheeled to the park and dumped at the base of trees. There the students in the park used shovels to spread the wood mulch evenly around the ground.

When Tom arrived with the truck he and his wife, Jodi Siegner, filled plastic wheeled cans and wheelbarrows from the truck bed, as the USC volunteers then pushed them over to the places to dump them. Neighbor Leonard Delpit in his bright purple and yellow jump suit and shades cut a sharp figure as he dragged plastic bins and wheelbarrows from one end of the park to another wherever mulch was needed. As the day wore on, and a second truckload came and went, all the dirt areas of the park got a new cover of clean wood shavings.

Meanwhile some of the volunteers had long-handled clippers and were trimming foliage under Jennifer's direction and tending the trees planted along the sidewalks outside the park fence.

It was a job well done and the neighborhood extends its thanks to USC and to the student volunteers for their help in improving the place we live. The USC volunteers were: Rex Farrand, Kenya Cox, Mike Naple, Linda Hou, Blaise Nutter, Jessica Kohagen, Mark Hernandez, Lara Pulz, Katie Rheder, Erica Thompson, Rhonda Wolfe Deomampo (graduate student), Almon Deomampo (alumnus), and Michelle Mierz. ●

Editor's Note: the garden at the South Seas House (which is also under the stewardship of the City's Recreation and Parks Department) may also need volunteer help. If you're interested, please contact Corinne Pleger, 323-735-3515.

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