



West Adams Matters

The Annual Report Issue

Angelus Rosedale Cemetery Tour *by Don Lynch*

Saturday, September 24

Angelus Rosedale Cemetery was founded in 1884, and yet when you walk among the headstones you will find graves with dates going back much earlier than that. The obvious reason is that the bodies were moved here from somewhere else, but the full story behind many of them is actually a sad one, albeit with a peaceful, happy ending.

Long before Angelus Rosedale was formed, the city's principle Protestant cemetery was an area of land downtown at Hill Street and California known as the Fort Moore Hill Cemetery, or more often simply as the "City Cemetery." This naturally gave way to the "Old City Cemetery" as the years passed. Believed to have been the site of an Indian burial ground, the first official burial was in 1853 of a man who had lost a fight with a grizzly bear. As a formal cemetery it was finally dedicated on January 5, 1862, but it was seven more years before any sort of management was established. Until that time plots were chosen by virtue of squatter's rights. In less than two decades, with the city's population growing quickly, the cemetery was ordered closed to further burials for anyone not already owning a plot.

With no walls or fences surrounding the cemetery as protection, and with no formal staff, the Old City Cemetery suffered from neglect before it had even been dedicated. A quarter of the cemetery was sold to the Board of Education and gradually the Board took ownership of more and more of the land. One corner of the cemetery was soon used for the construction of the city's high school, with the Board of Education paying for the disinterment and removal of the bodies, primarily to Angelus Rosedale Cemetery.

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Evening Stroll in Lafayette Square

Wednesday, July 13 6-8 p.m.

Visit the Espresso Cart on the St. Charles Place Median

Open any map of the United States, and you will see the name "Lafayette" for parks, circles, squares and whole towns and cities. There's Lafayette, Indiana, and Lafayette, Georgia, to name a few. They were named in honor of the Frenchman Marie Joseph Paul Yves Roch Gilbert du Motier, the Marquis de LaFayette, who, at just 19 years old, served as General George Washington's aide-de-camp, helped defeat the British during the American Revolution, and encouraged trade between the independent United States and his homeland France. Many years later, Lafayette famously toured the

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WAHA's Annual Report and Year in Review

by Jean Frost

Each year, WAHA's July/August newsletter, following Board and officer elections, looks at the past year and each Board Committee Chair makes note of the highlights and goals that were achieved and how next year some new things may be attempted. In this Annual Report, which continues on page 8, we also look at how WAHA earns and spends its money.

The WAHA Board is in transition with a new President, Jefferson Davis, as Jacqueline Hill exits the post after four years of remarkable service in the position. As Ms. Hill describes: *And finally, after being President for four years and a board member for eight, I respectfully hand the reigns over to Jefferson Davis. He's the guy who came up with the brilliant idea of the Evening Strolls. Jefferson has many energy-propelled and innovative ideas that you will hear about soon. He needs your support as you have given me your support in the past. I will remain on the board one more year and then....who knows.* Hill will continue to be the Holiday Tour chief, a project that she relishes and has found very satisfying as each holiday season WAHA explores one of its historic neighborhoods.

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Lafayette Square Stroll

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United States, greeted by throngs of well-wishers wherever he traveled.

So it come as no surprise that when George L. Crenshaw had a vision for an exclusive residential community in the West Adams area of Los Angeles, that he would evoke a popular name for his new subdivision in 1912.

As you walk through tree-lined streets filled with stately Mediterranean homes, you'll discover homes of many prominent Los Angeles citizens, including theater impresario Alexander Pantages, who built a chain of 30 ornate theater and movie palaces; George Pepperdine, the founder of Pepperdine University; boxer Joe Louis (nicknamed "the Brown Bomber"); and Princess Conchita Pignatelli, society editor of the Herald Examiner.



And other former residents included Alan Hancock, Jr., who discovered oil and the La Brea tar pits on land holdings now called Hancock Park; department store pioneer David Hamburger; the brothers who owned the Boos Cafeterias; and, of course, George Crenshaw and his son Charles Crenshaw.

This now-gated enclave also boasts a show business history. Actors Fatty Arbuckle and W.C. Fields both owned property in Lafayette Square. And early resident financier Norton Simon, an art connoisseur whose collection now fills the Norton Simon Museum, married Jennifer Jones and brought his bride back to live in the Square.

In the years after World War II, many eminent black families moved to the community, including Claude Hudson, founder of the Broadway Federal Savings and Loan and president of the Los Angeles N.A.A.C.P.; the composer William Grant Still; and the prolific architect Paul Revere Williams. Williams designed three houses in this neighborhood, including his own, along with 100 other residences located from Malibu to Pasadena for celebrities such as Frank Sinatra, Tyrone Power, Danny Thomas, Desi Arnaz, Cary Grant, and Julie London.

And don't forget to visit the Espresso cart, which will be placed in the center of the Square, on the St. Charles Place median.

The Stroll is from 6-8 p.m. Coffee drinks are free to the first 50 "customers." Homes can only be viewed from the outside - no open houses. Say hello to neighbors, meet new friends, bring out your (leashed) dogs for a walk, and get a close-up look at this wonderful neighborhood. ●

President's Message: Couches

by Jefferson Davis

When I first moved into West Adams six years ago, I was so impressed how organized, how hard working, and how involved this community was. When the Holiday tour rolled around, I just could not believe a group of volunteers could pull off an event of this magnitude. Or how they managed to save a dilapidated structure like the South Seas House. My guess is few people could believe that an organization that started out in a living room on Bronson Avenue with two dozen people now has over 400 memberships, a healthy bank account, and the distinction of being the largest neighborhood preservation group in the city.

But while many years have passed since our inception, the issues remain the same. Every day we are faced with the destruction of our historic structures, the safety of our community, the promotion of commercial development, and couches.

Yes, couches! Why is it almost impossible to take a ride in West Adams without seeing a sofa sitting on the curb? To me, it represents what is wrong in a community. A resident who has so little pride feels compelled to put a lime green wonder on the sidewalk. A battle-worn neighbor who no longer seems to notice the grey-plaid Queen Anne. A city agency that promises to pick up the fake leather recliner as soon as the truck returns from Brentwood.

This is why our community needs WAHA. We are the ones who notice. We are the ones who care enough to speak to the neighbor. We are the ones who continually call the City. We are the ones to make sure that West Adams gets its fair share. But we can't do it alone.

We need you! Our organization depends on you. Our community depends on you. Our lifeblood depends on you caring about the direction we are going. There are at least 10 opportunities in this newsletter alone for you to volunteer. Help out on an event, write an article for the newsletter. Join the website group. Create a tree-planting program. Help out at a local school.

To the countless committed and caring members who came before us, we all say thank you. Thank you for giving us an organization that is taking care of the couches.

Jefferson Davis can be reached at jeffdavisv@yahoo.com

Scorched Earth Again?

by Jim Childs

Illegal demolition has struck again at the historic fabric of the University Park neighborhoods. In April the property owner of 1332 West 29th Street, Xavier Izquierdo (a Century 21 realtor from Montebello), without any approved permits, demolished the south rear facade of the historic 1904 Lucas Residence. Izquierdo also razed the three rear historic secondary structures and specimen landscaping. The Colonial Revival Victorian Lucas Residence is a "Contributing-Structure" to both the Menlo National Register Historic District (established in 1987) and the North University Park Specific Plan (established in 1983.)



PROPOSED EAST ELEVATION

The WAHA Board at its meeting on June 23 determined that the non-permitted demolitions of the historic structures was an "egregious act" which has resulted in the loss of irreplaceable historic resources. The Board voted to request that all appropriate decision makers require full compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act with respect to provisions regarding historic properties. This means that an Initial Study and Checklist should be prepared and that at a minimum a

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Stepping Out

ArchiFest in Los Angeles - October, 2005 by Robert Leary

The Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy is holding its 2005 conference, "Wright in Hollywood: Frank Lloyd Wright and his Los Angeles Progeny 1917-1941," at the historic Los Angeles Biltmore Hotel on October 19 to 23.

This annual conference is now part of a month-long celebration of the architecture of Los Angeles, "ArchiFest." Every building style in Southern California, from Victorian and Arts & Crafts to Art Deco and Modern, will be showcased in a series of tours, exhibitions, events, and performances to highlight the important role Los Angeles has played in the evolution of modern architectural design and Frank Lloyd Wright's legacy. In fact, the Los Angeles City Council has declared October "Los Angeles Architecture Month." Hundreds of visitors from around the world - as well as Angelenos themselves - will discover the city's rich architectural history.

West Adams has the honor of being one of the areas chosen to be highlighted during the festival. WAHA is sponsoring a walking tour of private homes and mansions in Kinney Heights on Saturday, October 15. Ticket price: \$30. The Kinney Heights neighborhood is part of the West Adams Terrace HPOZ, and includes several notable properties, including the Britt Mansion (now home to the Amateur Athletic Foundation) and the Durfee Mansion (now home to St. John of God).

Anyone interested in becoming part of ArchiFest and/or our West Adams tour is invited to attend an information gathering session at Barnsdall Park on Sunday, July 10, at a.m. Barnsdall Park, site of Wright's Hollyhock House and other cultural venues, is located at 4800 Hollywood Blvd. (There will be signage telling volunteers exactly where the meeting will be.)

If you can't make it to the July 10 meeting there will certainly be other opportunities for you to become involved with this event, at our Kinney Heights tour and at other venues. As with many such events, the most benefits and the best positions will go to the earliest volunteers. Many private homes and buildings designed by Wright and other famed architects - properties not usually open to the public - will be open for this conference, and we'd like to fill as many positions as possible with WAHA members.

Please contact Robert Leary at 323-732-7767 if you'd like to get involved. ●

Farmers Market Summer Jazz Series

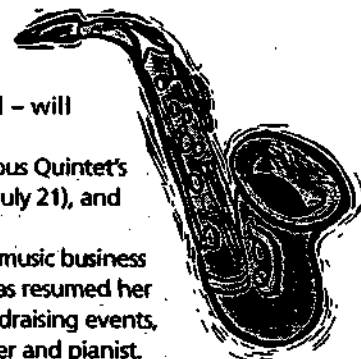
The Farmers Market's summer music series - Thursday Night Jazz and The Friday Night Special - will welcome a wide range of talented musicians, including West Adams' own Sydney Weisman.

The acts include the Delbert Taylor Quartet, featuring blues-driven jazz (Thursday, July 7), the Bill Watrous Quintet's traditional jazz (Thursday, July 14), the world beat sounds of David Zazloff & The Whole Band (Thursday, July 21), and Sydney Weisman with the Paul Chipello Trio, offering standards, pop and jazz vocals (Thursday, July 28).

Weisman's professional singing career started in college. After graduation, she walked away from the music business to become an award-winning journalist and then an award-winning publicist. In the last five years, she has resumed her professional singing career, as a cabaret and popular music performer for private parties, political and fundraising events, and at the original Farmers Market. Her musical director, Paul Chipello, is a well known conductor, arranger and pianist.

The Friday Night Special in July features The Lucky Stars on July 29. Before that, the Market presents a genuine American music legend: Jack Sheldon, who will appear at the Market on July 8, 15, and 22. Sheldon is known to a world wide audience for at least three reasons - his deliciously melodious trumpet introduced "The Shadow of Your Smile" to the world (on the soundtrack of *The Sandpipers*), his work on late night television (he was Merv Griffin's band leader), and his raspy, somewhat whimsical vocals are known to an entire generation of people who grew up watching ABC-TV's "School House Rock."

All of the Market's concerts - Thursday and Friday nights alike - are free. The concerts begin at 7 p.m. on the West Patio of Farmers Market. The Market's restaurants and bars are open during the concerts, serving drinks, dinner, and snacks. ●



Visit (and Support) Old Firehouse No. 23

Old Fire Station 23, located at 225 E. 5th St. in Downtown Los Angeles, is a Los Angeles and U.S. designated Historic Site. In an effort to build upon the civic efforts of the previous generation who worked to identify, preserve and restore this historically significant and beautiful building for public enjoyment and edification during the 1970s and 80s, the Corporation for History, Art and Culture (CHAC) was formed.

My name is Daniel Taylor and I would like to invite the community to learn more about the CHAC mission and the Firehouse Cultural Center Project.

In 2010, Old Fire Station #23 will be 100 years old. I am extending a special invitation to anyone interested in contributing to our building restoration endeavor to meet with me this summer, learn more about the Firehouse Cultural Center Project, and help us to immediately raise the necessary funds for the replacement of the roof, which has not been replaced in 60 years. It is leaking very badly and any additional water damage will only increase the restoration costs now estimated at over \$8 million.

I will be downstairs for three weeks of each month from now through September beginning on the second Wednesday of each Month, Wednesday through Saturday, 1 p.m.-4 p.m. The community's ArtWalk Day is the second Thursday of each month. On that day I will be here during ArtWalk Hours, which are 12 Noon till 9 p.m. I will not be in the firehouse Sunday through Tuesday of each week. I hope I will have the opportunity to meet many of my neighbors and other civic-minded people throughout the Los Angeles area during the summer. ●

Six Private Gardens Open To Public To Benefit Urban Parks

To draw attention to the desperate need for urban parks in Los Angeles, the owners of six beautifully landscaped estates will open their gardens for public tours on Saturday, July 9.

The second annual Windsor Square/Hancock Park Garden Tour will benefit Olive Branches, a non-profit organization that promotes the creation and preservation of open space in Los Angeles for its many health, recreational, environmental, social and aesthetic benefits. Los Angeles has the lowest per capita access to open space of any major American city. The dearth of urban parks, which is most acute in low-income neighborhoods, has been linked to increases in childhood obesity, pediatric asthma and many other problems that affect Los Angeles. Childhood obesity alone has doubled in Los Angeles County in the past decade.

Olive Branches, a project of Community Partners, was established in 2002 to promote communication among the many community and non-profit organizations that work with public agencies to build parks and gardens. Through its bilingual quarterly newsletter, bilingual website and One Green L.A. conferences, Olive Branches communicates the processes, funding sources and best practices for carving parks from abandoned lots. Olive Branches has also created watershed education gardens and a bilingual school curriculum to use with them.

The organization established this tour to exemplify the design principles that should be a part of great park-building in Los Angeles.

"You can grow almost anything in our climate, so many private gardens in Los Angeles are lush and abundant. Our public

spaces, however, suffer from over-use and neglectful maintenance because of limited funding," said Olive Branches founder Carolyn Ramsay. "While visiting these gardens, notice how cool the air is and how peaceful it feels. Then, imagine a Los Angeles with public spaces like these scattered throughout the city."



For information about tickets to the Second Annual Windsor Square/Hancock Park Garden Tour, visit www.olivebranches.org/getinvolved.htm. ●



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Around the House

Resources

by Suzie Henderson, Resources Columnist

Summer is here and these long days are a perfect time to finish up those projects around the house. I have some great suggestions to help you this month.

I am always on the alert for a good source for this column. While sitting in a doctor's waiting room last month, I heard a woman on her cell phone raving about the great job these reasonably priced painters had done on the interior of her old apartment building. Not wanting to miss this opportunity for one of my most requested categories, I asked her about them. Barbara Harter was pleased to recommend Express Painting. She said she was amazed at how quickly they did a wonderful job and at a good price.

This is the perfect time to take some furniture outside for restoration. According to Lisa Schoening, Culver Ready to Finish Furniture is a great source for stains, oils, waxes, varnishes and various other finishing products, such as, paints designed for wood and milk paint. They also have a nice line of mission and shaker style unfinished furniture.

As a finishing touch to your home, Marianne Muellerleile recommends Gasser/Olds for historic plaques, such as Cultural Heritage designations. Congratulations to Marianne and Tom on the hundredth birthday of their own Cultural Heritage Monument Number 780.

While they were sprucing up their house for the birthday celebration and creating a accessible bathroom for Tom, Marianne had a good experience with a tile layer, Jose Berrios. She also warmly recommends Tony Adria as a hardwood floor refinisher. Their newly redone downstairs bathroom beautifully blends a respect of the historic building and their special needs.

Laura highly recommends Harnisch Tree Care for tree trimming. She is looking for a landscaper to redo her backyard. So, fellow Wahonians, do you have any suggestions?

Remember, that every member of WAHA is a member of our resources committee. There are no meetings to attend, just email me on WestAdamsGoddess@aol.com with your recommendations or warnings. Thank you. Suzanne

Tony Adria
Floor Refinisher
818-787-6509

Jose Berrios
Tile Installation
310-923-5955

Gasser/Olds Co. Inc.
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GASSEROLDS.COM

Culver Ready to Finish Furniture
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Culver City
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Harnisch Tree Care
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Preservation Begins At Home



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Angelus Rosedale Cemetery *continued from page 1*

Seeing the lack of care, and recognizing that the opposite was true at Angelus Rosedale, many families relocated the remains of their loved ones at their own expense. In 1895 the Chinese community undertook the project of removing the buried Chinese and returning them to their native land. An outcry arose that "American" graves were being opened and desecrated, but the City Health Officer, overseeing the project, assured the public that any which were opened by accident were closed up respectfully. The clothing and ornamentation of the Chinese made their remains identifiable beyond any doubt once a grave had been opened.

By the end of the nineteenth century the Old City Cemetery was subject to constant vandalism. The only positive attention it seemed to receive was each Memorial Day when Civil War Veteran Jerry Remsen would organize a memorial service for his fellow servicemen from the War Between the States. Still, headstones were being destroyed, monuments toppled, and vulgar phrases written on markers. Wagons used the cemetery as a shortcut, leaving deep ruts across the graves and damaging headstones as they tried to navigate among them. While the city's newspapers wrote of these tragic events, nothing was done. In 1904 children from the adjacent Sand Street School were tasked with planting a row of trees to separate their institution from the unsightly cemetery, only to find that each time they began to dig they encountered human remains on the school grounds. Apparently the Board of Education had not relocated all the bodies after all.

Eventually Jerry Remsen himself was installed as caretaker of the Old City Cemetery, an unpaid position created by the City. In 1907 he led Mayor Arthur C. Harper on a tour, showing him the desecration caused over the years. Harper, who had lived in Los Angeles for nearly forty years, recognized many of the names on the monuments. Remsen himself requested that the Mayor accompany him to the grave of Robert Carlisle, who had been killed in a gunfight on the steps of the Belle Union Hotel. Carlisle was famous for the diamonds he had set in his teeth, and Remsen suspiciously claimed he wondered if they were still there, but was afraid to look for himself. Stepping into the Carlisle vault, they found that the casket already had a large hole cut into the lid, and indeed much of the skull was missing, including the diamond-studded teeth. If nothing else, Remsen did not want to be accused of removing them.

Much of the vandalism was of course attributed to the high school students, and it was questioned whether it was even healthy for the city's youngsters to spend so much of their time near where noxious gases caused by decomposing bodies were surely erupting from the ground. The question arose as to whether to tear down the high school or remove the cemetery. In 1912 the City of Los Angeles passed a resolution authorizing the Board of Education to relocate the remaining bodies, and a large plot was purchased at Angelus Rosedale where perpetual care could finally be provided.

By 1913 the removal of bodies was well under way, with the new caretaker, Dan Allman, personally removing about three a day. By March of 1914 he had unearthed six hundred remains, with five hundred of them being unknown, either having never had markers or the crosses and tombstones having long since been lost or destroyed. Still, some of his finds were startling. In one coffin-less grave he found the well-preserved remains of a huge man dressed in buckskin jacket and pants, with a miner's hip boots, a white hat and a "remarkably thick belt." Bullet holes in his skull indicated how he had died, while bullet damage to the bones in his ankles and feet showed that someone had made him "dance" by firing at his feet. Los Angeles had once been, after all, a frontier town.

Under a row of grassy little mounds Allman found thirty tiny identical caskets, each containing the remains of an infant. Each casket had a glass cover, although some had been buried face down, and each had little handles in the shape of lamb's heads. One tombstone read only, "Here lies a mother and two babes." Allman found the parent only six inches below the surface, while all that remained of the two children was a handful of pink buttons six feet below.

Allman discovered a number of Indian graves, as evidenced by their long leg bones. Lacking processed sugar in their diet, all their teeth were intact when they died. Many, however, also had bullet holes in their ankles and feet.

Occasionally several bodies were found in one grave, one closer to the surface than the other. The explanation was offered that they were people who had been buried in a Catholic cemetery, but whose non-Catholic relations had surreptitiously removed them to the Protestant cemetery on Fort Moore Hill, burying them in someone else's grave. More than likely they were victims of foul play, buried in what was at the time a fresh grave so that no one would be suspicious of the freshly turned earth.

According to the Southern California Genealogical Society, it wasn't until May of 1947 that the last known bodies were removed from the hill. Today the cemetery site is the parking lot for the Board of Education. One can only guess what might still remain underneath the pavement. Hopefully very little.

Angelus Rosedale Cemetery opened its gates to most of those who had once lain in the Old City Cemetery, as it has opened its gates over the decades to all races and religions. The West Adams Heritage Association is grateful to Angelus Rosedale, and in particular Ms. Kim Hill, for once again sharing their cemetery with the public for a tour, despite the toll that this past season's heavy rains have taken on the grounds.

This year's Living History Tour will be held on Saturday, September 24, and will feature portrayals of Gold Miner Benjamin Kelsey, Thomas Stimson of Figueroa Boulevard's famous Stimson mansion, James Miller Guinn of the California Historical Society, Brewer George Zobelein, and Singer Ivie Anderson. To volunteer for this event, please contact Cat Slater Woodward at 323-733-3964. Registration information for members is enclosed within this newsletter so that you have a chance to buy tickets in advance of people on the WAHA mailing list. ●



Annual Report

Committee Reports *continued from page 1*

Each of the Committees described below can use YOUR helping hands during the coming year. Please contact the appropriate committee chairs, whose phone numbers appear on page 14.

Membership Committee (John Kurtz/Candy Wynne)

The heart of an organization is its Membership, and Chair John Kurtz explains: *the Membership Committee has several functions. The primary function is to maintain a database of the existing members including collecting membership dues and sending out notices for dues payment. An additional function involves keeping the WAHA Mailing List updated throughout the year; incorporating changes received after tours, phone calls, mail requests, or special events. Last year ... WAHA membership reached an all time high of about 410 memberships. Roughly half of these are household memberships with multiple members in each household. The dues collected exceed \$12,000 and covered membership general meetings as well as the cost of the newsletter publishing and mailing. During the first part of the year the Membership Chair and the responsibility for the data was shifted to WAHA Board Member Candy Wynne.*

Holiday Tour/Cemetery Tour/June Historic Homes & Architecture Tour

Jacqueline Hill reports: *The 18th Annual Holiday Tour held in North University Park was another successful tour. Our loyal tourgoers were entertained by carolers at the Stearns-Dockweiler residence while they munched on sumptuous appetizers. With thanks to USC, they were motorcoached through one of the City's first residential suburbs. The beautifully restored Victorian landmarks included some of the finest in town. Included were the Miller & Herriott Residence, the William Wylie Cockins Residence, the Kerckhoff Residence, and Second Church of Christ, Scientist. Our editor's sorority house, Alpha Delta Pi AKA the Brockman Residence opened its doors to our very own Chef Eric Bronson's excellent culinary skills.*

But as you all know, nothing happens without the support, care and loyalty of our volunteers... YOU. I thank you all. Personal appreciation is given to Lindsay Wiggins and Emily "the kid," SeEly Caldwell, Lisa Schoening, and my all time favorite person Laura Meyers, for their tireless support for making this yet another successful event. This year we had much needed additional help on the Tour committee from Peggy King and Don Lynch. And we should not overlook the invaluable contributions of our other House Captains, Kitchen Captains and chefs: David Saffer, Audrey Arlington, Jean Cade, Linda Lee, David Kidd, Pat Karasick, Paul Neilson, and Paul King.

WAHA and Angelus Rosedale Cemetery enjoyed another successful year. The Tour attracted approximately 210 people paying \$12 each. Our actors included David Saffer, Danny Miller, Cat Slater Woodward, Jean-Jacques Russo, and Kelly Weston. Each tour was sold out to an enthusiastic audience. Their tour guides are some of WAHA's most experienced and dependable members. On that note, the behind the scenes crew that orchestrates the tour every year is Corinne Pleger, Lyn Gillson, Don Lynch, Cat Slater, and Laurie McGee. And how could any tour succeed without our loyal volunteers. They, too, are among WAHA's most precious members.

In addition, tours took place in "The Heights" (Angelus Vista, and Arlington Heights) and, this June, in Jefferson Park. Proceeds from these tours will fund historic surveys for these neighborhoods with a view to supporting the HPOZ designation process for those neighborhoods.

Each tour needs dozens of volunteers! Please do consider getting involved.

Marketing Committee (Jefferson Davis/Todd Moyer)

With new Board Members in 2004, some new energy was brought into the picture. Jefferson Davis and Todd Moyer became the co-chairs of the newly created Marketing Committee. Jefferson explains: *2004 was the first year that WAHA started a marketing committee. One of our most successful series of events was our "Evening Strolls." Our goal was to get neighbors out to meet one another, to make our neighborhoods come alive with activity, and to showcase the history of an area. We hosted four strolls in 2004 and two so far this year. We look forward to continuing this tradition.*

Technically the "house painting" was a marketing committee event headed up by Todd Moyer and Eric Bronson, but with an event that large it required and received substantial support from Board members and some 75 WAHA members and friends. WAHA did more than paint a house for a neighbor in need, we redid windows, fixed masonry columns, and replaced wood. This is an event that we will do in the future with one major change...a one-story house only need apply.

Lastly, we have started work on a coffee table size photograph book of West Adams. This book, which we hope to be published in conjunction with Angel City Press, will highlight the history of West Adams as well as showcase our many architectural treasures.

All of these events were used to market the name "Historic West Adams" as the premier neighborhood and the place to live in Los Angeles.

The Committee certainly has volunteer opportunities: We need help planning (researching) future Evening Strolls (contact Jefferson), and in planning our next House Painting project (contact Eric Bronson).

Website

Among other new developments is the proposal to finally after many years of discussion the WAHA website is finally getting a make over. The board has allotted funds to completely revamp the entire site and use it as a way to connect the community at large. In the coming months, the redesigned site will feature many new additions, including board meeting minutes, endangered historic structures, maps, photos, and shopping opportunities. We are looking for input from the membership. Do you have an idea that would make the site better? Would you like to help with the editing or writing? Would you like to be a photographer? Would you like to have your own monthly column? Would you like to be part of the website committee? Sean O'Brien will chair the committee. He can be reached at seao3@aol.com. He is waiting for your e-mail.

Events (Michael LaChance/SeElcy Caldwell)

Michael La Chance reports that "the Events Committee is transitioning towards a change for the following year. We're working to ascertain the needs of our members to define our role in planning events and what type. It's true, the committee didn't hold many events this past year... Our 4th of July celebration coupled with the WAHA Paint & Garden Contest is a hit and usually well attended. This year's 4th of July celebration will no doubt be a success as well. The Paint contest will go through a transformation in 2006 – watch this space for an announcement very soon! Also of note was the Garden Event held at The Carl Bean Hospice. While it wasn't heavily attended WAHA made a charitable donation for plant materials. A landscape architect and a novice donated their time to plan and plant materials near the main entrance of the Hospice.

Every program and event requires the help of volunteers to host, set up, clean up, and help plan the programming. Please contact Michael if you'd be willing to serve on his events-planning committee. If you are interested in programs (speakers and potlucks), please contact Clay de Leon.

Zoning and Planning (Eric Bronson)

Eric Bronson explains the breadth of activities of this committee. *The Zoning and Planning Subcommittee formally submitted input to the appropriate agencies and review boards on a number of proposed projects involving requests for zone variances, conditional use permits, environmental impact reports (EIRs), draft EIRs, subdivision requests, and implementation of the City's "scorched earth" ordinance for illegal demolitions.* These projects included: the 1895 Stoddard House (1458 W. 23rd Street), the USC Galen Center and the University Gateway Project, both directly across the street from the USC campus, and 1407 South Saint Andrews Place. In addition, we actively interacted in connection with many proposed and actual moves of historic houses, including several involving LAUSD and Pico Union Housing Corporation.

We also provided requested monetary assistance (up to \$500) to HPOZ Boards in the West Adams area to promote their missions. The Committee will continue fund such requests this year. If any HPOZ Board is interested, please submit a written request to Eric Bronson. This request should include a description of items needed (that will not be available through other sources, such as the City), the purpose of the requested items, and the anticipated cost.

Historic Preservation (Jean Frost)

The Historic Preservation Committee works closely with the Zoning and Planning Committee in developing comment on environmental reviews of impacts to historic resources posed by various projects. It reviewed the proposed Coliseum changes, effects to the Olympic Swim Stadium, and the Gateway project on Figueroa and Jefferson. The Committee supports cultural monument nominations and was active in providing matching funds to support several National Register nominations. It receives requests from community groups and non-profits for matching funds for historic nominations.

For Black History month, in conjunction with the office of Congresswoman Diane Watson and Newsletter editor Laura Meyers, it created a tour booklet of famous African American entertainers and celebrities who lived in West Adams in the '20s, '30s, and '40s. This committee sponsors WAHA's annual May Historic Preservation meeting. In 2004 we were pleased to bring City Architect Jay Oren to West Adams to talk about the City's Cultural-Historic Monument process. And recently we hosted the May 2005 Preservation meeting celebration at the home of longtime WAHA member Don Ferguson, with architectural historian Teresa Grimes as our special guest. During a lively meeting, Grimes explained National Register, local landmarks, and historic preservation overlay zones and their criteria, and the critical importance of context statements in making nominations.

WAHA's Historic Preservation Committee is very involved with advocacy on behalf of preservation issues. It supports use of the city's "scorched earth" ordinance when appropriate, when properties are demolished without permits. Also, it recently drafted objections to the City Planning Department's proposal to charge substantial fees for the cultural monument designation process, building permits for HCMs, and Mills Act processing. Historic Preservation activities, such as researching, nominating and designating, are at the heart of WAHA's mission of preserving our architectural and cultural resources.

(continued on page 10)

Annual Report

Committee Reports *continued from page 9*

Community Relations (Jennifer Charnofsky/Jean Cade)

This year a scholarship of \$2,000 was awarded to Peggy Sue Deaven. A brick was underwritten at the John Tracy Clinic. A donation was made to enhance the 24th Street School landscape and garden. The committee underwrote portions of a Winter Holiday event at the South Seas House, a health fair at Norwood School, and a brunch for dignitaries during an Easter Carnival at Benny H. Potter West Adams Avenues Park. WAHA also offered to match donations to the Carl Bean AIDS hospice.

Publications (Jean Frost)

Editor Laura Meyers and Creative Director Hilary Lentini executed a varied and professional amount of newsletters, stroll brochures, tour booklets, and other brochures. We all see the results of Hilary's incredible design sense! We produced ten newsletters, averaging 16 pages each, all with interesting articles, with Susie Henderson gathering resources for her regular column, and Jean Cade collecting advertisers - an amazing amount of output for a volunteer organization. My personal favorite: the special May edition about moving historic houses into the neighborhood. Wanted: A volunteer graphic arts professional to assist with the workload. (Contact Jean Frost at 323-634-8181 during business hours.)

Closing Notes

WAHA in addition to the many committee activities mentioned above, purchased software and computers to undertake historic surveys using volunteer surveyors with professional oversight. This is not unlike the survey project done in University Park in the early 1980s under the direction of Ralph Iredale. Jefferson Park is currently in process and Arlington Heights is also a targeted area to embark upon surveying its resources. This past year, WAHA has again been involved in cultural, architectural, and social activities. These activities are very driven by volunteerism and if you would like to contribute and help guide WAHA's future, get active.

One of most stunning events was the house painting organized by Eric Bronson and Todd Moyer at which (then) Councilman Martin Ludlow stated "HPOZ's are a movement." As the volunteers scraped, sanded, painted, and cleaned, a wonderful spirit of activism was generated. Be part of the movement — get active. This article was written with the assistance of the Committee Chairs (their words in italics) and highlights (but is not all encompassing of) the year's activities. Also appreciation and thanks is due outgoing Board members Jennifer Charnofsky and Alma Carlisle. ●

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MONEY MATTERS:

How Does WAHA Make Its Money? How Does WAHA Spend Its Money?

The West Adams Heritage Association (WAHA) is a charitable 501c3 nonprofit organization that is supported by the donations and hard work of its members and many volunteers.

You may be wondering where that effort goes.

In the last fiscal year, WAHA received income of \$53,138 (before expenses) from a variety of sources. WAHA has two principle categories of revenue: Membership dues, and Fundraising (Tours). Last year, membership reached new highs, reported Membership Chair John Kurtz, and WAHA received more than \$10,500 in dues payments. We also earned incidental revenue from product sales (\$165), advertising in the newsletter and brochures (about \$1,400), and interest income (\$275).

Tours, of course, are WAHA's main bread-and-butter. Last year's Angelus-Rosedale Cemetery Tour garnered about \$2,200 net income (after expenses). WAHA's share of the Garden Conservancy's Open Days Garden Tour, which included a half dozen Historic West Adams gardens, was \$600. The June 2004 Spring Tour, "Exploring the Heights: Historic Homes and Architecture in Arlington Heights, Angelus Vista and West End Heights," netted \$4,800, which has been designated for a survey of historic resources in these neighborhoods.

The annual Holiday Historic Homes Tour and Progressive Dinner is WAHA's major fundraising event. It involves hundreds of volunteers (you!) and complicated logistics to bring it all together in a two-day extravaganza. This year's tour, held in North University Park, had gross revenues of \$34,260, netting around \$15,000.

Of course, WAHA spends about as much money as it earns.

Our administration rates are currently relatively low, since we rely so much on volunteers. We spent about \$2,500 on administration. In addition, WAHA invested \$5,800 in new technology to help us conduct historic resource surveys and other data collection, and to maintain and improve our existing computer systems.

Beyond that, our expenses, broadly speaking, fall into four categories: member services (newsletters, parties and programs), outreach (the WAHA brochure, the Evening Strolls), community service (donations, scholarship), and historic preservation (advocacy and education).

Last year, WAHA was very active in supporting community projects, plus we created one of our own. WAHA donated monies to the John Tracy Clinic (\$250), 24th Street School's Garden School project (\$500), the South Seas House for several activities (\$250) and additional furnishings (\$200). WAHA also awarded a \$2,000 scholarship to Peggy Sue Deaven. And, WAHA painted Ellsworth Walker's house. This effort cost about \$4,000.

Last year, WAHA expanded its programming and outreach efforts, establishing the Evening Strolls in our West Adams neighborhoods. For each Stroll, WAHA prints a neighborhood walking tour brochure, and we also pay for an Espresso Cart to provide free coffee drinks to many participants. The cost for this series of five events was about \$1,600.

In addition, our ongoing events, like the annual Holiday Party, the 4th of July picnic, and other events held at our members' homes throughout the year, cost about \$5,000.

WAHA augmented our publishing program last year by adding the aforementioned Evening Stroll brochures to our production schedule. In addition, we published a special brochure, "Hollywood in Black & White: Black Entertainers at Home in West Adams." Along with the newsletter, WAHA spent \$10-12,000 printing and mailing publications last year.

A more detailed report of WAHA's annual revenues and expenses is available to any member who requests it. ●

Committee Chairs 2005-2006

Publications - Jean Frost
Events - Michael LaChance
Program - Clay De Leon
Zoning & Planning - Eric Bronson
Preservation - Jean Frost
Community Relations - Clay de Leon
Membership - Candy Wynne
Marketing - Jefferson Davis
Bylaws - Jean Cade
Tours - Jacqueline Hill
Web - Sean O'Brien

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Scorched Earth Again? *continued from page 3*

Negative Declaration (should not a full Environmental Impact Report be required) be issued. The WAHA Board is also requesting that any and all appropriate sanctions and punishments available by the City through such vehicles as the "scorched-earth" ordinance be applied as appropriate.

The Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety will conduct a public hearing on the demolitions on Wednesday, July 20 at 1:00 pm in Room #900, 201 North Figueroa Street. B&S Inspector Tim O'Conner is currently handling the case and can be reached at 323-789-1487, or TOCONNE@ladbs.lacity.org, for those who wish to make comment. The Department will determine if the demolitions are in violation of the City's Municipal Code and, if so, should the City record an affidavit with the County Recorder to restrict the issuance of permits for any new development at the subject site for a five-year period. This action is commonly known as the "scorched-earth" ordinance because of the severity of the sanctions.

Although the scorched earth ordinance has been on the City's books for well over a decade it was seldom enforced. That practice changed recently when it was applied to downtown mega-developer Geoff Palmer's Orisni Apartments development when he illegally demolished the 1887 Giese House on Bunker Hill in 2003. The Department also enforced the sanctions in December 2004 against the Sung Kwang Presbyterian Church for their illegal demolition of the 1895 Stoddard House, a Victorian Cottage located at 1458 West 23rd Street, which was a contributing historic resource to the University Park Historic Preservation Overlay Zone.

Although any illegal demolition in L.A. is a misdemeanor, the punishment is usually only a \$1,000 fine and/or six months in jail. However, the significant sanctions imposed by the scorched earth ordinance are clearly a deterrent to developers who choose to circumvent official procedures. The inability to develop a site for five years can be an economic penalty to a developer's bottom-line.

The North University Park Design Review Board is the initial City authority in determining compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards & Guidelines and the California Environmental Quality Act as required under City's Preservation Ordinances. Their decision, with the concurrence by the Director of Planning, is appealable to the South Area Planning Commission. The DRB is composed of Robin Snyder and WAHA members Art Curtis, Clayton de Leon, Suzanne Lloyd Simmons, and Michele McDonough. The DRB meets the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month beginning at 6:30 pm at the Mary McLeod Bethune Branch Library, 3665 South Vermont Avenue. Information can be obtained on line (www.lacity.org/pln/) or from the Planning Staff Helen Bibas at (213) 978-1176. The project proposal's design review is tentatively scheduled for the DRB's July 7 meeting.

A historic assessment study of the subject site was conducted after the demolition occurred on behalf of the property owner by Historic Preservation Partners (419 Concord Ave. Monrovia CA. 91016). The study noted that the three historic structures in the rear were not constructed within the Menlo Historic District's period of significance, 1896 through 1908. The report also noted that since the three structures had already been demolished it was not now possible to accurately assess the architectural integrity of the structure's historic fabric. Historic Partners therefore found that the demolition of the "Not-Documented" buildings had not "negatively affected the cohesiveness of the district." The study failed however to report that the three historic structures were built during the North University Park Specific Plan's period of significance, 1870 through 1941.

However questionable it may seem for a developer to hire a consultant to assess historic resources after he has already demolished them, the study itself has provided the public record with important information about the history of the site. This information when enfolded into the CEQA process can assist decision makers in the future in determining possible mitigations and resolutions to the unpermitted demolitions. When the eventual CEQA document is drafted and circulated it will also be possible for concerned community members to make comment and help effect possible positive resolutions to the demolitions such as a historic structure relocation in the rear of the property.

Whenever assaults on the historic infrastructure occur throughout West Adams there are inevitably and most fortunately WAHA members at the ready. Alerts need to be sounded, bureaucrats informed, officials activated, and the community informed. There has always been in University Park a tradition of involvement and action. In this case WAHA is indebted to members Anna Marie Brooks and Donald Ferguson for their dedication and service. ●



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Proposed Cultural Heritage Fees

The Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Commission is considering a proposal to impose hefty fees on individuals who nominate houses and other buildings as City Historic-Cultural Monuments as well as owners of existing Monuments and Mills Act properties.

The proposal, which was considered at the Commission's June 15 meeting and then sent back to staff for further research and outreach to Neighborhood Councils, HPOZs and the community, would impose a fee of \$500 on applications, \$500 on top of normal building permit fees for each building permit acquired on a Monument and/or a property with a Mills Act historical properties contract, and about \$460 on each application for a Mills Act contract and/or a change to a Mills Act contract.

WAHA is opposed to this proposal.

The organization submitted a letter to the Commission, excerpted here:

Hefty fees would have a chilling effect on the monument designation process and ruin grass roots designation efforts.

West Adams offers an example of why preservation is integral to sound planning and neighborhood revitalization. West Adams was described for years as a transitional or blighted neighborhood. Preservation is not a luxury but rather a key to instilling neighborhood pride, community solidarity, and respect....the recognition of our neighborhoods has been a grass roots, essentially working class movement to recognize our history, culture and architecture. This proposal would hinder preservation strategies and punish those who love and respect older neighborhoods and historic communities.

The renaissance that has happened in West Adams would not have occurred if these fees were in place. At times, the only avenue to bring recognition to individual buildings was the HCM process.... The record shows that lay people, rather than professional consultants, did most of the over 60 nominations in West Adams. Had \$500 been required to accompany each nomination, very few buildings would have been nominated and neighborhoods would not have achieved the recognition that they have....

The Los Angeles City Planning Department has an obligation to incentivize preservation for the common good of the City....The General Plan Framework includes an objective to preserve our architectural heritage and to develop incentives for doing so. The proposal before you does harm to that objective and should be rejected as not in the best interests of the City of Los Angeles and its people. ●

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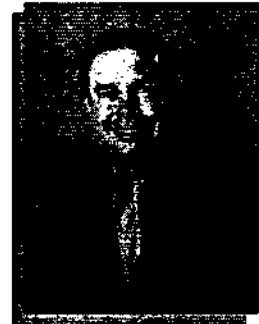
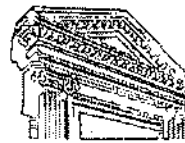
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We support preservation of the West Adams community's architectural heritage and beautification activities, and seek to educate Los Angeles' citizens and others about cultural heritage and restoration techniques.



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Calendar ✓

WAHA July-August Calendar

Wednesday, July 13 6-8 p.m. – Evening Stroll in Lafayette Square (see page 1)

Thursday, July 28: 7 p.m. – WAHA Board Meeting

Wednesday: August 17 6:30-8:30 p.m. – WAHA Newcomers Dessert -- all are welcome, new members and longtimers alike!

Thursday, July 28: 7 p.m. – WAHA Board Meeting

UPCOMING:

Saturday, September 24: Angelus Rosedale Cemetery Tour (see page 1)

WAHA Newcomers Dessert Wednesday, August 17 6:30-8:30

At the home of:
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*(This is a gated community;
enter on St. Charles from Crenshaw)*



Come meet new friends and neighbors! We are hosting a dessert party to welcome new WAHA members. As in the past this is a social event and all WAHA members (new and old) are invited to attend. Although it is not required, of course a dessert to share is always appreciated.

For more information contact Membership Chair Candy Wynne, 323-735-3749, or past Membership Chair John Kurtz, 323-732-2990.

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 2005. All rights for graphic and written material appearing in the newsletter are reserved. Contact Director of Publications for permission.



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