

West Adams Matters

Lights...Camera...Christmas: A Tinseltown Holiday in West Adams

"Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" in Tinseltown splendor at the 19th Annual WAHA Holiday Historic Homes Tour & Progressive Dinner, on Saturday, December 3 and Sunday, December 4.



The house showcased in *Six Feet Under*, the residence used in the CBS TV series *Numb3rs*, and the former Busby Berkeley estate are among the featured properties on this year's Hollywood-themed holiday tour. Tour goers will also see the homes - all decorated in holiday "attire" - where such popular movies and TV series as *Cheaper by the Dozen*, *Poetic Justice*, and the pilot for the ABC series *Alias* were filmed.

WAHA's traditional holiday tour features a sumptuous progressive dinner, with each course served in one of the featured properties. This year we are also scheduling a Sunday afternoon walking tour, in the same properties but without the food.

(continued on page 8)

Shaken and Stirred: WAHA Invites You to a Fall Martini Social

Saturday, October 15 4-6 p.m.

We really appreciate all the hard work of our WAHA volunteers. And we are about to really appreciate all of you even more in the weeks ahead.

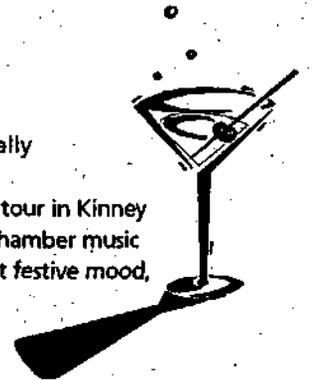
WAHA invites you a special Fall Martini Social on Saturday, October 15, from 4 to 6 p.m. (after the tour in Kinney Heights and Gramercy Park). We will mix up libations, light food, good company, and a very special chamber music presentation. Dress to the nines in festive cocktail party attire (we love bling), and arrive in your most festive mood, as we celebrate the coming of fall.

Enjoy a special piece of music composed Andrew Norman to honor Frank Lloyd Wright, performed by the musicians from The Definiens Project. The piece, "Light Screens," is for flute, violin, viola, and cello, and is inspired by various windows Wright created.

It's our way of thanking you for all your efforts to support preservation activities in West Adams. And, of course, for your help with our upcoming Holiday Tour and Progressive Dinner, "A Tinseltown Holiday in West Adams" (see story, this page).

Where: 2455 Gramercy Park, at the home of Jefferson Davis and Ledoux Kesling

Time: 4 to 6 p.m. Chamber Music Performance: 4:30 p.m.



Evening Stroll in Kenwood and Charles Victor Hall Tracts

Wednesday, October 26 5-7 p.m.

Espresso Cart will be at 2650 Kenwood (south of Adams, one block east of Normandie)

Please join WAHA on an Evening Stroll through the historic neighborhoods near Normandie Avenue, south of Adams Boulevard. You'll explore some of the tree-lined blocks of the West Adams-Normandie HPOZ, where there has been a lot of recent restoration activity, and the Charles Victor Hall Tract, one of West Adams' oldest neighborhoods.

As you stroll (with guidance from our handy-dandy brochure profiling the neighborhoods), you'll discover the Vons family's former residence, a house that was used regularly in the TV series *Thirty Something*, the very first Victorian homes in the area, a John C. Austin-designed church erected by the men behind the Pacific Mutual Life

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WAHA's Frightfully Festive Halloween

Get a head start on Halloween! Join WAHA on Sunday, October 30, from 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. for a West Adams Halloween Festival! This family-focused event will take place in West Adams' own Gramercy Park, and will include a variety of fun activities for your little ghost or goblin, including bouncy, a petting zoo, face painting,



and a magic show, to name a few! For the parents in the crowd, a visiting LAPD officer will provide advice for safe trick-or-treating. And, West Adams' famous WA-hot dogs will be served hot off the grill! Wear your costume, and get ready for a ghoulishly good time!

Karen Ide is coordinating the festival, but of course she is looking for volunteers to help out. Please e-mail her at kewbei@aol.com or call 323-731-2347. ●

Evening Stroll

continued from page 1

Insurance Company, a park named for the attorney who helped overturn racial covenants, and, of course, Old Engine House No. 18.

And don't forget to visit the Espresso cart, which will be placed at 2650 Kenwood, between Adams and 27th Street, in front of a historic home owned by WAHA Board member Suzanne Lloyd-Simmons.

The Stroll is from 5-7 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. ●

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President's Message

by Jefferson Davis

For the last few years, I have heard the mumblings from many members that WAHA needed a permanent home: an office, a storage facility, and a phone line with someone one answering on the other end. A group of our size and reach needs a place to call home.

There are barriers and opportunities in such a plan that WAHA must address: the rent, the staff, the insurance, and/or even the care and feeding of a postage machine. But as an organization matures and develops, it needs to examine how we grow and prosper as an organization.

Out of nowhere, the Community Redevelopment Agency eyes a magnificent 1906 structure smack dab in the middle of the WAHA boundaries and says *find me a use for it*. It's a real beauty — earthquake retrofitted, redone, and begging for a new life, begging to host board meetings and stage chamber music concerts, art classes, block clubs, office space, and after-school programs. And begging (my favorite) to host senior morning coffee socials (*Ya'll all know I have such a special place in my heart for coffee and neighbors.*)

In my view this is an opportunity of a lifetime for our organization. We are at a point in our history that we need to step up to the plate and grab the bull by the horns. Yes, it will be difficult. Yes, it will be expensive. Yes, it will be time consuming. But, I think we all can agree, nothing will make our organization stronger, bring our community closer, and or improve the place we call home than finally finding WAHA a home. It's time!

A Timely Proposal

A proposal is now in the works from a coalition of community organizations under the WAHA umbrella to acquire and operate the historic Old Engine House No. 18.

The firehouse has been owned since the early 1980s by the Community Redevelopment Agency of Los Angeles (CRA). City Councilmember Bernard Parks, who represents the 8th District where the firehouse is located, asked the Agency to explore selling the building — at market rate — to generate funds for contemplated nearby CRA projects. As a result, the CRA will soon be requesting proposals from both nonprofit organizations and for-profit developers for the future use of the building.

At a community meeting held in August, there was resident consensus that the firehouse building should remain in public use, and specifically that it should not be converted to housing. It was not clear at press time whether the CRA's Request for Proposal would or would not include a private housing option.

Nonetheless, it is, and has always been, WAHA's position that it is important to keep the building open as a public community facility that will provide services to cross section of the people who live in the neighborhood.

At the present time, WAHA is developing a proposal, with our partners, to provide the following services in the building (with the programs operated and supported by the individual organizations):

- An after-school tutoring program
- A chamber music group (performances and classes)
- An artist group featuring local artists teaching classes
- Meeting rooms for neighborhood block clubs and other organizations, for both small (board) meetings and community meetings

If a version of this proposal succeeds, WAHA also plans to use the building as an office and meeting room, as well as for a select number of events. We would like to see many community-based events take place here, to foster a strong coalition of our many diverse neighborhood groups.

Old Engine House No. 18 was designed by architect John Parkinson and was built between 1904-1906. It is one of the few remaining fire stations in the city constructed to accommodate horse-drawn fire engines. It is also the last remaining Mission Style firehouse left in the city. Old Engine House No. 18 is a designated Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument and is a National Register landmark as well.

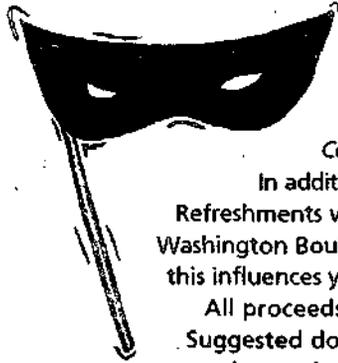
In the mid-1980s, it was transferred to the CRA to be utilized for art classes, as a graphic arts training center, gallery, and other "public" uses. It was once a lively venue for such activities, although in recent years the programs and events dwindled. Finally, for the last two years, Old Engine House No. 18 has been vacant and padlocked.

If you have idea, an organization, or just a thought on this proposal to bring the firehouse back to life, please e-mail Jefferson Davis at jeffdavisv@yahoo.com. ●



Stepping Out

A Swing Band, Costumes and a Good Cause



Casa De Rosas is holding its first annual masquerade ball at Patriotic Hall on Saturday, October 8 from 7 p.m. until midnight. Come enjoy a costume party knowing you are also helping to provide both short-term emergency and long term affordable housing for women.

Planned by Board member Jennifer Still, the ball will feature a lively swing band, *The Hollywood Combo*. Talent also includes DJ Joe Checkout and the band *Acoustica* with Janna and Michael Perricone.

In addition to prizes for the best costume, there will be a silent auction.

Refreshments will be hors d'oeuvres and cocktails. Patriotic Hall is located at 1816 South Figueroa, just north of Washington Boulevard. The event will be in the Navy Room, which features a marine and navy military décor, in case this influences your costume choice.

All proceeds will go towards the Casa de Rosas in continuing its shelter and SRO hotel operations.

Suggested donation: \$40.00 per person. Call the Casa de Rosas at 213-747-7419 during business hours or send your donation to: Casa de Rosas Inc., 2600 South Hoover Street, Los Angeles, CA. Att: Anna Marie Erro.

Casa de Rosas Inc. is a 501c3 corporation and donations are tax deductible as permitted by law. The Board of Directors, Jean Cade, Ed Dorr, Jean Frost, Jim Spitzig, Jennifer Still, and Executive Director Anna Marie Erro appreciate your support.

Casa de Rosas is both a Los Angeles Historic Cultural Monument and on the National Register of Historic Places. Architect Sumner Hunt designed Casa de Rosas, built in 1896, as the Los Angeles campus of the international Froebel Institute, which originated a program that became kindergarten education. Between 1908 and 1951, the campus accommodated a girls' collegiate school and a hotel-restaurant, and it later served as an Army barracks and showplace for USO shows during World War II. It became the Sunshine Mission women's shelter in 1951, when Sister Essie Binkley West, a radio evangelist and contemporary of Aimee Semple McPherson, purchased Casa de Rosas for \$4,000. West moved her entire operation to the site, where she broadcast sermons and provided services to the needy until her death in 1978. It is Los Angeles' longest continually operating shelter and transitional housing for women. ●

Little India Tour

EXPLORE THE SIGHTS & TASTES OF INDIA AND NEVER LEAVE L.A.

Have you always wanted to know more about the culture and food of India? Did you know that in Los Angeles County alone there are more than 60,000 residents from the Central Asian sub-continent mostly residing in the Cerritos area?

Well, members of the Los Angeles Mumbai (formerly Bombay) Sister City Affiliation — including WAHA member Mira Advani Honeycutt — will be conducting a tour of the exotic part of the County known as Little India.

The four-hour tour will begin at **11 a.m. on Saturday, November 5** with a savory **South Indian Vegetarian Brunch** and conclude at **3 p.m.** with a traditional **Chai Mumbai**. Between feasts the tour will stroll through Little India visiting a variety of shops in order to learn about such topics as traditional Indian jewelry; special occasion saris; ceremonial henna tattoos; and delicious Indian spices. Take this wonderful opportunity to shop the ancient silk route and pick up an assortment of exotic gifts for the holidays.

Tickets: \$30/person. Space limited. Checks must be received by Oct. 25. Payable to: LA Mumbai Sister City Affiliation, 2283 West 21st Street, Los Angeles, CA 90018.

Please enclose names of all parties and a contact telephone number, email and street address. Once your check has been received you will be contacted as to the exact meeting location for the beginning of the tour.

For further information contact: m.advani@att.net ●

A Walking Tour of Kinney Heights and Gramercy Park

Saturday, October 15

Noon to 4 p.m. (Last ticket sold at 3 p.m.)

\$30 per person

Explore Kinney Heights and Gramercy Park, and tour the interiors of architecturally-significant properties and Cultural-Historic Monuments representing a diversity of styles. The Kinney Heights neighborhood was developed in the first years of the 20th century by Abbot Kinney, and is now a part of the West Adams Terrace HPOZ. The Gramercy Park section was laid out by the famed landscape architecture firm of Olmsted & Olmsted, founded by Frederick Law Olmsted.

This self-guided walking tour is part of ArchiFest, a monthlong citywide celebration of Los Angeles architecture honoring the Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy's annual conference, "Wright in Hollywood: Frank Lloyd Wright and his Los Angeles Progeny 1917-1941," being held at the historic Los Angeles Biltmore Hotel from October 19 to 23.

Check-in on tour day at 2170 West 24th St. As always, no heels, please. For more information, or to volunteer to help with the tour, call 323-732-7767.

To purchase advance tickets, please make a check payable to "WAHA" and send it, along with your name, address, phone (required) and e-mail to:

WAHA Kinney Heights Tour

2171 West 24th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90018

Stepping Out

Pasadena Heritage Presents Annual Craftsman House Tour Sunday, October 23

Pasadena Heritage presents its 14th annual Craftsman Weekend on October 21-23, 2005. The event is the largest and most comprehensive celebration of the Arts and Crafts Movement in the Western United States.

The signature event of the Weekend is the Craftsman House Tour. This in-depth, drive-yourself tour allows guests the opportunity to experience the rich variety of Craftsman architecture that makes Pasadena a destination for Arts and Crafts enthusiasts from across the country.

Though Pasadena is most closely associated with the work of Greene and Greene and their ultimate bungalows, there were also dozens of local adherents promoting the Arts and Crafts ideals, not only in grand residences like the Gamble House, but also in the more modest bungalows that line the streets of Pasadena. In 1904 the *Los Angeles*

Examiner reported that "every street in Pasadena had a bungalow."

This year the tour highlights six period homes that showcase the unique and individual styles of Pasadena's architects and builders. Featured homes include the E.J. Cheesewright House with its unusual steeply-pitched, rolled roof that exemplifies



The Myron Hunt Residence

the medieval English aspects of the Arts and Crafts style, and a distinctly Prairie-influenced home designed by Frederick Grable and Clarence Austin, real estate brokers who quickly expanded their business and became one of the first local firms to build houses on commission.

The tour will also celebrate the 100th birthday of Myron Hunt's family home. Myron Hunt is best known for his large-scale commissions such as the Rose Bowl, the Huntington Library, and Occidental College, but he also designed many residences, including one for his own family along Pasadena's Arroyo Seco. The Myron Hunt home is unique in its combination of traditional Craftsman elements with the classicism that Hunt studied in Europe. Hunt was also an avid gardener, and felt that the landscape design was an equal component to the architecture. The formal gardens and beautiful pergola perfectly complement California indoor-outdoor living.

The Craftsman House Tour will take place from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Tickets for this event are \$40 and include entrance to the Furnishings and Decorative Arts Show & Sale at the Masonic Temple on Saturday, October 22 from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., and Sunday, October 23 from 10:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. For tickets and information call Pasadena Heritage at 626-441-6333 or visit www.pasadenaheritage.org. ●

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Around the House

Resources

by Suzie Henderson, Resources Columnist

Fall is just around the corner and the holidays are not far behind. If your holiday gifts include anything large that needs to be shipped, Audrey Arlington has the answer.

She recently had to have a heavy duty wood crate built to ship a piece of art. She recommends Banner Packing & Crating, when you need to have something large and oddly shaped packed, crated and sent. They carefully cover the piece, then wrap it so it won't move inside the

box, and the receiver can open the whole thing with a screwdriver by unscrewing two screws. They ship anywhere in the world. She says they gave her a quote over the phone and were literally half the price of the other places she checked. They were friendly, efficient, and there's parking in the back. In addition to all of that, they also called her back later to tell her the crate did not turn out to be as big as they thought, so they gave her a refund. Amazing!

Jacquelyn Sage recommends Screen Masters Plus for custom screens for your home. She says they are reasonably priced and friendly and did a great job. When I got this recommendation, I immediately tried them out and found them to be great, as well. They also do window repair and auto glass. This husband and wife team come right to your house and go out of their way to be helpful. They even crawled under my house to repair damaged screen.

I have recommended Gene Reeves of Tip Top Construction several times and he is an excellent roofer and general contractor, but he tells me that he does not generally do gutters. Any gutter work he has done has been part of a job as a courtesy to the homeowner (me)! So for any of you that have been disappointed, I am sorry. Perhaps one of my readers has another recommendation for gutters.

As always, I await your glowing recommendations and stern warnings. Please send them to WestAdamsGoddess@aol.com. I remind you that you should keep the resources columns for reference as we do not have a searchable database at this time. Any volunteers? Thanks, Suzie

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Harvard Heights HPOZ Transitional Craftsman/Victorian - 2,100 square feet, partly restored. \$675,000. Darby Boyliss, 323-737-1163

IN ESCROW:

Craftsman Bungalow with very nice historical detail in the Chas. Victor Hall Tract. 2 BD, 1 BA, den. 3112 Brighton. \$450,000 - Jane Harrington (Buyer's & Seller's agent)
Avenues Craftsman Fixer - 2508 9th Avenue. David Raposa (Buyer's agent)
Boyle Heights Craftsman - Adam Janeiro (Buyer's agent)
Adams Normandie Bungalow - 1618 West 23rd St. -- Jane Harrington (Buyer's agent)
Highland Park Artist's Retreat - 1212 El Paso Drive. \$495,000 - Adam Janeiro (Buyer's agent)

SOLD:

Chesterfield Square Craftsman - Two-story beauty! 5200 South Wilton Place. David Raposa (Buyer's agent). Welcome, Charlotte Geraghty
Avenues 1920s Revival style - Contributing structure to West Adams Terrace HPOZ, 2539 7th Avenue - \$650,000. David Raposa (Buyer's & Seller's agent). Welcome, Mary Ann Lagana

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West Adams Preservation, Yesterday and Today

by Jean Frost

West Adams Heritage Association began its life in the early 1980s when both new and existing residents embraced the idea that the West Adams areas were special and deserving of recognition.

Previous decades had not been kind to the WAHA neighborhoods. There was demolition of historic resources, particularly the grand mansions; apparent red-lining where owners in the inner city zip codes could not find financing nor insurance other than Fair Plan (a state plan which is the insurance of last resort in many areas); and the city planning department and other city entities viewed preservation as an inconvenience rather than a building block for a better quality of life.

Land speculators and absentee owners at times were not careful keepers of their properties; one contractor at a public meeting called historic homes "chicken coops." Inappropriate "infill" housing effected streetscapes as cheap, motel style buildings were either constructed or moved on to vacant lots.

In the past two decades many of these conditions changed. Preservation became no longer a quaint idea but a recognized basis of neighborhood revitalization.

In 1986 there was only one Historic Preservation Overlay Zone in all of Los Angeles: Angelino Heights. And there were none in West Adams. Today there are eight HPOZ's or specific plans in West Adams: Harvard Heights, Lafayette Square, Pico Union, University Park, West Adams Terrace, West Adams Normandie, and Western Heights as well as a North University Park specific plan area. Possible future new HPOZ's include Arlington Heights, Jefferson Park, and Fraternity Row, as well as potential new National Register Districts and individual Los Angeles Historic Cultural Monuments. West Adams currently has the largest concentration of Los Angeles Historic Cultural Monuments in the City of Los Angeles.

Many people helped effect the changes. Some early leaders have moved on: Bill and Kathleen Washington, Kristin Belko, Harry Anderson, Linda Scribner, Joe Ryan, and John Rake, to name just a few. Many owners have fixed up their properties and other people have become multiple parcel fixer-uppers. New neighbors have come aboard joining with the older neighbors, attending hearings, making written comments, and networking with neighbors and public officials.

Historic preservation eventually garnered political support as well. Former Los Angeles City Councilmembers Mike Hernandez, Mark Ridley-Thomas, Bob Farrell, Gloria Molina, and Nate Holden supported the early efforts, and are now succeeded by Ed Reyes, and Bernard Parks. In April, then 10th District Councilman Martin Ludlow spoke at the WAHA house "barn raising" (where, under the direction of Eric Bronson and Todd Moyer, WAHA painted the home of an elderly resident), saying that "HPOZ's are a movement" important to the future of this community and the City.

As in any movement, the question arises where do we go from here? But the task is never done: we are at a time when the very effect of our helping make our neighborhoods livable may attract development that is contrary to the character and charm of our neighborhoods. WAHA has the need to reach out to others, find new energies, encourage members to run for the Board, and form positive coalitions to build upon the past to preserve the future livability of West Adams. ●



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A Tinseltown Holiday in West Adams

continued from page 1

The famous *Six Feet Under* House – which we in West Adams have long known as the landmark August Marquis/Filipino Federation Mansion – is the centerpiece of this year's Holiday Tour. One of TV's most acclaimed drama series, the Emmy- and Golden Globe-winning *Six Feet Under* concluded its final season of filming in West Adams this Spring. The series was created and executive produced by the Oscar-winning writer of *American Beauty*, Alan Ball (also an Emmy-winner for this show). *Six Feet Under* focused on the cathartic journey of the extended Fisher family, whose personal trials and tribulations were played out against the solemn backdrop of an independent funeral home in Los Angeles.

In 1993, Director John Singleton (*Boyz n the Hood*, *Rosewood*) chose a West Adams Craftsman designed by architect Frank M. Tyler as a location for *Poetic Justice*. Singleton made an earnest effort in this, his second, film to comment on living and loving in a violent, difficult time in American history. In the film, Janet Jackson plays a beautician and poet who withdraws into herself after her boyfriend is murdered by gangsters. The late Tupac Shakur plays a postman who tries to get through to her, and the two travel on a course through urban America, connecting with family and community.

Two years ago, in *Cheaper by the Dozen*, Steve Martin and Bonnie Hunt – playing Tom and Kate Baker – and their “Bakers’ Dozen” (including actors Tom Welling, Piper Perabo, Hilary Duff, Ashton Kutcher, Missy Misdemeanor Elliott, and Vanessa Bell Calloway) lived in a beautiful but overcrowded Colonial Revival house. In the film, our West Adams residence stood in for the Illinois boondocks. The Bakers move from there to big city Chicago when Tom gets a killer new job coaching football at his old university. Then Kate gets a book deal with her manuscript about raising 12 kids and has to go on a book tour, leaving Tom in charge as the kids rebel against their new circumstances.

Inspired by actual cases and real mathematics, the CBS series *Numb3rs* is a drama about Don Eppes (Rob Morrow), an FBI agent who recruits his math-genius brother, Charlie (David Krumholtz), to help the Bureau solve a wide range of challenging crimes in Los Angeles. The two brothers take on the most confounding criminal cases from a very distinctive perspective. As a seasoned investigator, Don deals in hard facts and evidence whereas Charlie, a math professor at a California university, functions in a world of mathematical probability and equations. Their father, Alan (Judd Hirsh), is happy to see his sons working together even though he doesn't understand what Charlie does for a living. Alan and Charlie live together in the Eppes family home, a Craftsman bungalow which supposedly is in Pasadena but really is in West Adams.

In the pilot of the ABC series *Alias* we were introduced to Sydney Bristow, a vivacious, athletic grad student, discovers that her not-so-typical after-school job as an agent for SD-6, a top-secret division of the CIA, holds some deadly secrets that not only put her life in danger but also threaten the security of the free world. She was engaged to Danny and they lived in an Arts & Crafts style home which is located in West Adams.

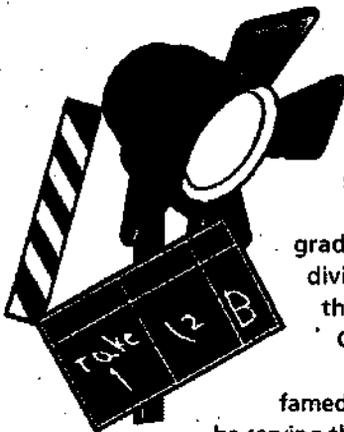
During the Golden Age of Hollywood Musicals, the director and choreographer Busby Berkeley, famed for his on-screen extravaganzas, also lived large at the Guasti Villa on Adams Boulevard. We will be serving the main course of the progressive dinner in the Guasti Villa's beautiful new dining facility.

Ticket prices this year have stayed at last year's level – \$75 for non-members, \$65 for WAHA members. The special walking tour will be priced at \$40 per person. We will be mailing out postcards with sign-up details in early October, first to WAHA members for “first dibs” on this often sold-out event, and then, a week later, to the general mailing list. (Each year, some of you wish to purchase large groups of tickets, and we love that you do so – but please contact us directly no later than November 1 to reserve your block of seats). Please be sure to return the forms and your checks as early as possible, so that you and your guests will not be disappointed.

If you don't want to wait for the postcard to reserve your space, you may visit the WAHA website, www.WestAdamsHeritage.com to download the return form. **PLEASE NOTE: ADVANCE TICKET SALES ONLY — NO WALK-INS!**

As always, this year's Holiday Tour is WAHA's biggest volunteer event. By the time the weekend is over, we will have thanked, literally, hundreds of volunteers who have served as docents, tour guides, greeters, reservations and check-in team, logistics managers, house captains, kitchen captains and assistants (and, yes, dishwashers), food servers, researchers, costumers, decorators, babysitters, schleppers, and clean-up crew. We hope one of those volunteers will be YOU. If you would like to volunteer please call this year's volunteer coordinator, SeElcy Caldwell at 323-292-8566. Please don't hesitate to call – we will need all the helping hands we can muster, and especially for newcomers this is a great way to meet neighbors and fellow preservationists.

Please be assured, we try to pay great attention to the care and comfort of our volunteers. There will be plenty of food, plus work breaks (well, we hope!), and time set aside for all volunteers to tour a selection of this year's houses. WAHA will also, as always, schedule a lovely holiday fete later in December for all WAHA members and all Tour volunteers (details to follow in the next newsletter). Over the years, WAHA members have often invited their out-of-area friends and work colleagues to join them as volunteers (that is, if they aren't participating as paying guests), and we encourage you to do this as well.



Please contact SeElcy if you'd like to volunteer as a docent, in kitchen and/or food prep capacities, check-in or logistics. If you are available to help decorate, or for other advance art and creative tasks, please contact Laura Meyers (323-737-6146). Jacqueline Hill (323-766-8842) would be able to use your help if you are available during the day in the week before the tour to do pick-ups and deliveries to the various tour houses.

If you'd like to be a shepherd or a house captain, contact Lindsay Wiggins, 323-733-1246 or, BETTER, via e-mail wigginsLA@comcast.net. Please note that, as we have done in recent years, shepherds will be required to attend a mandatory training AND we will be calling on you to help out with additional tasks.

The Holiday Tour is WAHA's major annual fundraising event (which pays for this newsletter as well as our many preservation support and advocacy activities). We encourage all of our members to take the tour - and bring their friends - on the day they are not volunteering.



THE FINE PRINT:

Holiday Tour & Progressive Dinner: \$75 (WAHA members: \$65 per person) -- Saturday, December 3: Docent-led tours on the half-hour from 3 p.m. through 6 p.m. Sunday, December 4: Docent-led tours on the half-hour from 4 p.m. through 6 p.m.

Holiday Walking Tour (Sunday afternoon only): \$40 -- Timed-tours depart every twenty minutes from Noon through 3 p.m.

To order tickets in advance, please send a check made payable to "WAHA" to:

WAHA Holiday Tour, 2209 Virginia Road, Los Angeles, CA 90016

Please include an e-mail address or phone number for confirmation.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, or to confirm reservations, please call the WAHA Reservations Hotline at 323-732-4223, e-mail wahaholiday@aol.com, or visit www.WestAdamsHeritage.com. ●

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In the Garden

Trees for Westmoreland Place by Jim Grace

Would you like to learn how to plant a tree, organize a neighborhood tree planting or witness a community in action? Come join us on **Saturday, November 12**, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the corner of 11th Street and Elden Avenue, in historic Westmoreland Place as 20 trees are planted throughout the neighborhood.

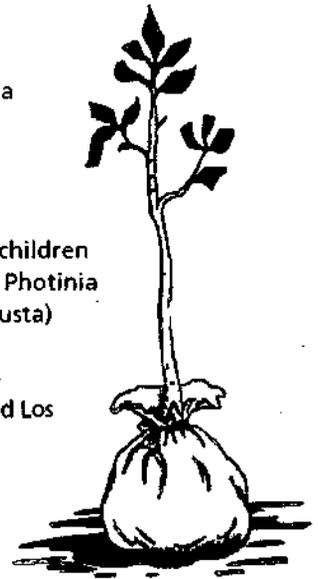
With funds from a Los Angeles Neighborhood Matching Fund (NMF) grant, and working in collaboration with TreePeople, volunteers from Leo Politi Neighborhood Association, parents and children representing Leo Politi Elementary School and several other neighborhood groups, will help plant Photinia fraseri trees, Camphor (*Cinnamomum camphoras*) trees and Mexican fan palms (*Washingtonia robusta*) along the 11th Street, Elden Avenue, Magnolia Avenue and Arapahoe Street parkways.

Originally named Westmoreland Place in 1903, this historic neighborhood is bound by Hoover Street, Pico Boulevard, Vermont Avenue and Olympic Boulevard. The neighborhood is home to residences built by noted Los Angeles architects John C. Austin, the firm Morgan & Walls, and Robert Hall Orr, and many of its Craftsman-influenced homes and Art Deco apartment buildings are still standing. And the neighborhood has been home to relatives of Phineas Banning and Hollywood stars such as Buster Keaton and Mack Sennett. After WAHA expanded its borders to include Westmoreland Place and the Leo Politi Neighborhood Association, the neighborhood was featured in one of this year's Evening Stroll series in April.

Planting trees provides multiple benefits, such as cleaning our air, cutting down on noise, cooling our streets and homes, combating the Greenhouse effect and increasing property values by beautifying streets and neighborhoods. Community tree plantings help unite neighborhoods and foster resident involvement in the community.

Both the Photinia and Camphor trees were selected because they are drought tolerant, approved by the City of Los Angeles and do not lose their leaves in the fall. Photinias are especially well-suited for narrow parkways, grow to about 15 feet high, produce large clusters of white flowers in the spring and tolerate heat and smog. Camphors grow well in wide parkways, grow up to 50 feet high and produce small, fragrant flows in the spring. These shade trees will be planted in between the Mexican fan palms, keeping the historic look of the neighborhood while providing much needed shade.

The neighborhood was originally planted with Mexican fan palms in the early 1900s and Jacaranda trees were planted on Westmoreland Avenue in the mid-1900s. This first tree planting in more than 50 years will help fill in the gaps where trees



have died or been removed.

Formed in 2002 to empower its neighbors to take personal responsibility for the care of their neighborhood, as well as foster pride and respect for their neighborhood, the Leo Politi Neighborhood Association, named after Leo Politi Elementary School, which lies within its borders, will be leading the community tree planting starting at 1049 Elden Avenue, which is one of Los Angeles' newest Historic-Cultural Monuments.

There will be refreshments. TreePeople will bring all the tools necessary for the tree planting as well as some work gloves. Please wear closed-toe, sturdy shoes and bring a hat and sunscreen. For more information, contact Jim Grace at jimprace@sbcglobal.net or 213-385-4320. ●

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Caffeinated Gardens

Hello gardeners! My name is Tyler Claxton and I am with The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf. We are based out of Los Angeles, and have 170+ stores throughout California, mainly in Los Angeles, but also in San Diego, Orange County, Santa Barbara, and Northern California. Each store goes through between 20-50 lbs. of coffee grounds and tea leaves each day in the creation of our multitude of products!

I am looking for a way to get this great material put to some good use in any of the surrounding communities. Daily or weekly pickup from the stores would work, whatever is better for you. If you are interested in this free material, please contact me with the store name or number that you are interested in working with, and I will be happy to arrange pick up dates/times with the respective store.

A continuous program in which most or all of our "compostable waste" is being re-used is my ultimate vision. Again, thank you for your participation, and I am looking forward to working with all of you.

Tyler Claxton, Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf
 AGM District 127
 tclaxton@usc.edu
 213-999-2400 (cell) — Best to use first
 310-815-1255 (store)

Editor's Note: Claxton will provide you a list of all Southern California stores upon request (maybe one near your work) but here are the Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf outlets nearest to West Adams:



015 Larchmont Village
 135 North Larchmont
 Los Angeles, CA 90004
 Bus: (323) 469-4984
 Bus Fax: (323) 469-2205

065 7th & Flower
 801 W. 7th Street
 Los Angeles, CA 90017
 Bus: (213) 622-9748
 Bus Fax: (213) 622-9745



060 Farmers Market
 6333 West 3rd Street, E-11
 Los Angeles, CA 90036
 Bus: (323) 857-0461
 Bus Fax: (323) 857-0468

066 Olympic & Los Angeles
 210 E. Olympic Blvd. #102
 Los Angeles, CA 90015
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 326 E. 90th St. \$359,000
 140 W. 111th St. \$369,000
 2033 Stockwell \$345,000
 1592 W. Cameron St. \$400,000
 Long Beach

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Lafayette Square 4+3 Tudor \$1,100,000
 North University Park 4+2 3,000+ Sq. Ft. \$725,000
 Bungalow District 3+1 1,600 Sq. Ft \$569,000
 Adams Hill 2+2 Done/Views \$675,000
 View Park 3+2 \$739,000

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 office: 323.300.1055
 toddmoyer@kw.com



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 office: 323.300.1000
 nick.mercado@comcast.net

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Community Matters

Washington Boulevard Specific Plan

The United Neighborhoods Neighborhood Council (UNNC) and community "stakeholders" (residents, business owners and property owners) are currently working together to create and implement a proposed Specific Plan for the Washington Boulevard Corridor between Normandie and Crenshaw.

Specific Plans are land use tools utilized throughout Los Angeles to help create development that is compatible with existing uses



and the character of distinct neighborhoods, to enhance economic vitality, and to protect communities from nuisance uses and visual blight.

In June, 2004, the UNNC Governing Board passed a related "Vision Statement" for our community's commercial corridors, which envisions in part a "pedestrian-friendly, transit-friendly, green, sustainable, livable urban village that is sensitive to historic preservation" for Washington Boulevard and other streets, such as Jefferson, Western, and Pico. Then in September of 2004, UNNC voted to support the concept of a Specific Plan for Washington Boulevard.

Now a Task Force is meeting regularly to prepare a proposal. If you are interested in the future of Washington Boulevard and would like to get involved, please e-mail Task Force chair Stevie Stern at unitedneighborhoods@yahoo.com.

The Task Force also plans to visit neighborhood groups and block clubs in October to present the initial ideas and proposal. If you have a meeting planned and would like to have a presentation so your neighbors can learn more about this, please do contact Stevie. ☺

MEMBER DISCOUNTS

The following companies 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, 323-735-0291
50% off office exams

Meyers Roofing
5048 W. Jefferson Blvd., 323-733-0188
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Lighthouse Stained Glass
5155 Melrose, 323-465-4475
20% discount off regular class prices with WAHA membership card

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

Lady Effie's Tea Parlor
453 East Adams Boulevard, 213-749-2204
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Los Angeles Stripping & Finishing Center
1120 N. San Fernando Road, Los Angeles, 323-225-1073
5% discount on any single service order over \$1000.00.
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Lucky Chimney Sweep Contact: Susan and Alfredo Johnson
11433 Ruggiero Ave., Sylmar, CA, 91342, 323-258-0828
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Port Royal Antiques
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Vintage Plumbing Bathroom Antiques
9939 Canoga Avenue, Chatsworth, 818-772-1721
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Boulevard Vacuum & Sewing Machine Company
5086 W. Pico Boulevard, 323-938-2661
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Wholesale Carpet Liquidators
1225 E. Washington Boulevard, Los Angeles 90021, 213-747-7474
Ask for Ali, or e-mail: wholesalecarpetla@yahoo.com.
Discount of 5% on purchase 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 offer a discount to WAHA members. Explain that they'd benefit from the increased exposure to local consumers, and be listed in the WAHA monthly newsletter. Or, call me at 323-733-6869 and I'll contact them. — Steve Wallis

Middle School Numb3rs

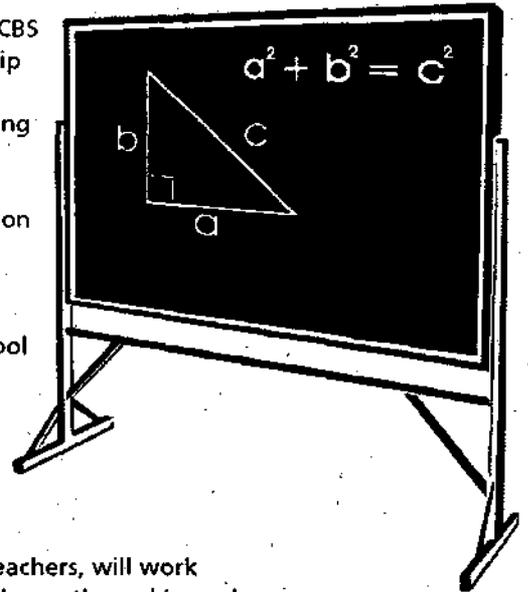
Texas Instruments (TI) will lead a math education initiative based on the hit CBS TV series *Numb3rs*, which films regularly at West Adams locations. In partnership with CBS and working in association with the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM), TI has created an educational outreach program promoting the many uses of mathematics and supporting math teaching.

The program includes TI and NCTM-developed math education activities for teachers and students based on the *Numb3rs* TV show. The activities will be based on the mathematics presented in each episode, and will be available at cbs.com/numb3rs.

According to CBS and TI press releases, math teachers began using *Numb3rs* content informally during the show's first season as a supplemental teaching tool with positive results as they nurtured their students' interest in mathematics. The effort is being made official with financial and operational support from TI, in association with NCTM, so that the nation's math teachers in grades 7-12 will receive high quality, engaging activities that have been developed by classroom teachers and leading mathematicians for students at grade-appropriate levels.

NCTM, the nation's largest and most respected association of mathematics teachers, will work with TI and *Numb3rs* to create special classroom activities corresponding with the math used in each episode of *Numb3rs*. Students will have the chance to more deeply explore the math derived directly from the concepts highlighted in each week's episode.

TI will also be conducting sweepstakes, commencing in 2006, that will incorporate math questions in an "Open Book Quiz." Two students and one teacher will each win a trip for four to Hollywood to meet cast members of the show. The two winning students will also receive scholarships. The winning teacher will also win a walk-on part on *Numb3rs*. Teachers can find program information and order a classroom start-up kit at cbs.com/numb3rs. ●



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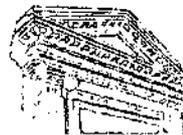
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- Newsletter only \$ 17.00

Please make check payable to WAHA.

Return to: WAHA
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Historic West Adams
Los Angeles, CA 90018

_____ Please DO NOT include my name, address, e-mail, or telephone in the WAHA membership directory.

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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To place a display ad, call Jean Cade 323-737-5034. WAHA classifieds are free to paid members. If you can, please e-mail your classified ad to lauramink@aol.com. Classifieds will be for one month only. If you wish to repeat your ad, please call Jean Cade by deadline. After 3 issues for the same ad, the charge is \$.25 per word.

ADVERTISING RATES FOR DISPLAY ADS

This Newsletter is published 11 times a year
Full Page: \$175 monthly; \$1,800 annually.
Half Page: \$90 monthly; \$950 annually
1/4 Page (4 1/2 x 4 1/2): \$48 monthly; \$500 annually
Business Card (3 3/4 x 2 1/4): \$25 monthly; \$260 annually
The deadline for ad content is the 1st of the prior month.

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

WAHA CLASSIFIEDS

Kittens, kittens, kittens - I'm up to my knees in a batch of rescued kittens! Four girls — two tortoise shells, one calico and one black — and one very butch orange boy. All cute as buttons. I'm holding out for indoor-only placements, if possible. They have their shots, but not yet spayed/neutered. Call Laura, 323-737-6146.

Hundreds of doors! And windows, architectural salvage, furnishings, and more! I am inundated with vintage materials for old houses. Call for a great deal! Roland, 310-392-1056 or 323-804-6070.

Brim, the cross-eyed Doberman, is still in need of a home. He is now at Doberman Rescue, and though the adoption of a 9-year-old Doberman has pretty bleak prospects we are all rooting for this effort to be different! Can you help? Please take a look at Brim online at <http://www.mcmanuscreative.com/brim/needsahome.htm>

Free firewood. Large quantity of split logs. Jim Robinson - 213-749-8151

O'Keefe & Merritt stove. Grill and 4 burners. Grillelevator. Fold down cover. Salt and pepper shaker. Everything works perfectly except the clock. \$1,000. Marita 323-737-9367.

Craftsman oak library table for sale. All original, good condition. \$1,200. Call Mitzi, 323-734-9980.

*Roommate Wanted? Vintage Stove for Sale? Garden Plants in Search of New Home? Place your classified ad here to reach preservation-minded readers. Contact wahaclassifieds@yahoo.com
NO LATER THAN the first of the prior month.*

Windsor Square-Hancock Park Historical Society Homes Tour of Fremont Place

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Calendar ✓

WAHA October Calendar

Saturday, October 15: A Walking Tour in Kinney Heights and Gramercy Park

Saturday, October 15: WAHA hosts a cocktail party, 4-6 p.m. (see page 1)

Wednesday, October 26: WAHA Evening Stroll on Kenwood and in the Chas. Victor Hall Tract, 5-7 p.m. (see page 1)

Thursday, October 27: WAHA Board Meeting

 **Sunday, October 30:** WAHA's Frightful Halloween Festival in Gramercy Park, 3-5 p.m. (see page 4)



**A Walking Tour in Kinney Heights
and Gramercy Park
Saturday, October 15
Noon to 4 p.m.
(Last ticket sold at 3 p.m.)
\$30 per person**

Explore Kinney Heights and Gramercy Park, and tour the interiors of architecturally-significant properties and Cultural-Historic Monuments representing a diversity of styles. This self-guided walking tour is part of ArchiFest, a monthlong citywide celebration of Los Angeles architecture.

Check-in on tour day at 2170 West 24th Street. For more information, or to volunteer to help with the tour, please call 323-732-7767.

To purchase advance tickets, please make a check payable to "WAHA" and send it, along with your name, address, phone (required) and e-mail to:

**WAHA Kinney Heights Tour
2171 West 24th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90018**

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