



Number 192

April 2002

Roses Bloom in Exposition Park Festival

The Figueroa Corridor Partnership Business Improvement District (BID) has joined with the Exposition Park stakeholders to sponsor the 2002 *Blooming of the Roses Festival* to be held Thursday, April 18 to Sunday, April 21, 2002. The Festival is a celebration of the spring rose blooms at the historic Exposition Park Rose Garden, and of the cultural resources and significant historical treasures in the Exposition Park/Figueroa corridor area, as well as Earth Day.

In August 1987, the Exposition Park Rose Garden was designated a Los Angeles County Point of Historical Interest. The Exposition Park Rose Garden evolved from the redevelopment of what was originally known as Agricultural Park from 1872 to the early part of the 20th century.

Before being renamed Exposition Park in 1910, the area was known for agricultural expositions, a race track fea-

turing various types of races including that of horses and desert rabbits, and for bars and gambling establishments. Today, the Park is home to one of the oldest public gardens in the United States (and probably the largest municipally owned rose garden in the country), the Coliseum and Swim Stadium which hosted the Olympics in 1932 and 1984, and several major Los Angeles area cultural institutions.

As one of the three major public display rose gardens in Southern California, Exposition Park Rose Garden is said to be one of the most important in the state. It contains around 10,000 bushes, of more than 100 different varieties. A beautiful place to experience nature and a respite from urban activity, the seven and one half acre garden showcases roses that can be grown at home and ones to be ad-

Continued on page 8

A Decade of Rebuilding

Ten years ago this month, a special edition of the West Adams Heritage Association Newsletter carried this headline:

“West Adams’ Greatest Challenge.”

As many West Adams residents recall, violence erupted on the afternoon of April 29, 1992 and spread throughout Los Angeles in two days of civil unrest in the wake of the Rodney King verdict. When the smoke cleared, West Adams was just one of many, many communities hard hit by looting, vandalism and arson.

Along West Adams’ commercial corridors, scores of buildings were burned, many to the ground (although, luckily, all of the community’s historic landmarks were saved). Many small businesses did not survive. Two of West Adams’ beautiful period homes were destroyed. And beyond the damage to bricks and mortar, and the community’s economic base, there was the psychic damage: Many of us were afraid of what would happen to our dream of this wonderful West Adams community.

And yet, even in the days shortly following the riot, it was clear there was much to be thankful for. With power outages on some blocks but not others, neighbors throughout West Adams shared their refrigerators and food, often

Continued on page 10

WAHA Board Elections Are Just Around the Corner...

...And no one has turned in a candidate’s statement. Please consider running for a position on the WAHA Board of Directors. Requirements: a love of old houses, an enthusiasm for community activities, and membership in WAHA for at least six months. This election year we have five three-year positions plus one one-year position on the election roster.

Generally speaking, Board members must commit to attend all WAHA Board meetings and also will be given specific responsibilities for certain of WAHA’s events and social functions, on a rotating basis. In addition, most Board members hold office or committee chairmanships. What particular talents/interests are needed in 2002? Current Board members overseeing Publications and Programs/Events are taking on different responsibilities, so these positions will be available. Moreover, WAHA always needs expertise in fundraising, zoning issues, and preservation. If you want to run (and of course, if you plan to vote), please plan to attend the...

WAHA Elections Meeting

Saturday, April 20, 1-3:30 p.m.

At the home of Harold Smith

1731 Westmoreland Blvd., Harvard Heights

Contact Jacqueline (323/766-8842) for information

**WEST ADAMS
HERITAGE ASSOCIATION**

2263 S. Harvard Boulevard
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Los Angeles, California 90018
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**CANDIDATES NEEDED
FOR WAHA
BOARD OF DIRECTORS --
SEE STORY, PAGE 1**

Inside This Issue

Bolts and Nutz	4
Directory Updates	5
A Deco Night at the Movies	5
Pasadena Heritage Tour	6
Block Club/Neighborhood News	7
A Plea for Adaptive Re-Use	10
RSVP USC	11
Lafayette Square Sale	11
A Thought for Food	12
Clark Library Fundraiser	13
Member Discounts	14
WAHA Classifieds	15

**WAHA Committee Chairs and
Standing Meetings**

Community Outreach Contact Jacqueline Sharps if you'd like to get involved with this activity 323/766-8842

Historic Preservation/Zoning & Planning

Chairs: Eric Bronson 323/737-1163 and Tom Florio 213/749-8469 - Meets third Mondays at City Living Realty, 2316 1/2 South Union, Suite 2

Newsletter Chair: Laura Meyers 323/737-6146 Meets third Tuesdays

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

Fundraising Call Catherine Barrier 323/732-7233

Web Site Call Clayton de Leon 323/734-0660

Neighborhood Council Liaisons Contact Colleen Davis 323/733-0446 and Jean Frost 213/748-1656

Programs and Events Greg Stegall 323/734-7725 and Alma Carlisle 323/737-2060

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

All committee meetings begin at 7 p.m. All WAHA members are encouraged to join one of the committees!

WAHA NEWS

Comments on LAUSD's EIR

Editor's Note: This was West Adams Heritage Association's official response to the draft Environmental Impact Report related to the proposed new West Adams-area high school at Vermont and Washington:

Los Angeles Unified School District
Office of Environmental Health and Safety
355 South Grand Avenue, 6th Floor
Los Angeles, California 90071 Attention: Nicole Nugent

March 27, 2002

Dear Sir or Madam:

The West Adams Heritage Association (WAHA) would like to express its disappointment in the Revised Cultural Resources Section of the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Central Los Angeles Area New High School #2 and Los Angeles Area New Continuation High School #1 (DEIR). WAHA feels that this DEIR represents a significant lost opportunity for LAUSD to establish a constructive working relationship with the residents of our historic neighborhood.

West Adams is one of Los Angeles' premier historic areas, with a concentration of historic turn-of-the-century homes unrivalled west of the Mississippi. WAHA is an association of homeowners, residents, and other persons interested in preserving this Los Angeles treasure.

We would have hoped that an institution which has as its mission the education of the youth of Los Angeles would not have focused on the construction of a new physical plant for housing students at the cost of both a tangible lesson in Los Angeles history and in civic responsibility. As a result of this EIR and its narrow construction of LAUSD's responsibilities under CEQA, these students and the citizens of Los Angeles will be stripped of a valuable remnant of their past. If LAUSD had chosen or should choose to work with the residents of West Adams to achieve both the goals of siting a new school and preserving our cultural resources, these students would have the benefit of a new school sited among living examples of their history and an example of a successful collaboration between the community and a government body.

History Lost

WAHA respectfully disagrees with the conclusions of LAUSD's Master Reviewer that no cultural resources exist on the proposed project site. WAHA has conducted its own evaluation of the project site, and feels that there is at least one California Register eligible district, several structures that are individually eligible for the the California Register, and one structure which appears eligible for the National Register of Historic

Continued on page 9

Garden and Paint Contests Nominees Sought

Every June, West Adams Heritage hosts a special gardens general meeting where we learn more about our own garden plots and take a look at our neighbors' efforts to beautify their homes and gardens.

In the meantime, WAHA is looking for entries for the annual Garden Contest as well as for the Exterior Paint Contest. The nominations deadline is April 10. The May newsletter will publish all the nominees of outstanding gardens and/or new exterior paint jobs for the year so members can view each entry. We will announce an official weekend in May when WAHA will photograph the nominated gardens, and that will be the time for members to review the nominees, so Gardeners, Heads Up! Be sure your spring garden is in its best form in May.

Please feel free to nominate any paint job completed in the past 12 months (April 1, 2001 - March 31, 2002), or any outstanding garden in your neighborhood or in the greater Historic West Adams District (Jefferson to Pico; 110 Freeway to West Boulevard). This is a good opportunity for people outside your immediate neighborhood to not only know about major improvements throughout the West Adams community but also give them a chance to see them.

All nominations, with address and homeowner's name, should go to Ed Trospen (2515 4th Avenue, Historic West Adams, Los Angeles 90018; 323/734-2010 phone, 323/730-0432 fax, or e-mail: edtrospen@aol.com). Look for details about the June garden meeting and contest awards in an upcoming issue of the newsletter.

WAHA Membership Renewal

The Membership Committee sent out individualized invoices, with return envelopes at the end of March, to members who need to renew their WAHA memberships for the 2002 - 2003 year.

Please be sure to return your filled-out renewal form and dues in the return envelope as soon as possible. If you would like your e-mail address included in the Directory (published in early fall), please be sure to include the information on your form.

Memberships go from April to April every year. New WAHA Membership Cards are mailed out in May, when the current membership cards expire. Typically if you don't renew your membership, you are taken off the Newsletter mailing list and the May or June Newsletter is the last one you receive.

New Memberships taken out late in 2001 extend through the 2002 membership year. These members will receive a new membership card in May, good through 2002.

If you have any questions about the status of your WAHA membership contact John Kurtz, Chair of the Membership Committee.

Thanks in advance for your support, early renewal and check.

BOLTS AND NUTZ

by Linda Joshua

Hello and welcome to "Bolts and Nutz" – a column dedicated to matters of home renovation, beautification and the art of restoration within the WAHA community. If you have a question, or you have an area of expertise and would be interested in sharing your knowledge by answering some of the questions, please contact me at Linda.Joshua@hotmail.com

Q. My bathroom has a bumpy finish to the wall. Can wallpaper be installed easily and neatly over this?

Leesa, 6th Avenue

A. With a little bit of preparation, you can do anything! Wallpaper can be installed on wallboard that has a bump finish if you remove the bump finish by scraping and sanding, and prime coat the wall with an acceptable primer/sealer paint. This prevents the adhesive that holds the wallpaper in place from penetrating the paper or plaster finish that is on the wallboard surface. Keep in mind that wallpaper is thin and conforms to and mirrors what it is adhered to. The smoother the wall, the better the wallpaper job. Good luck!

Q. Do you have any tips for managing the renovation/remodeling process? How are surprises generally integrated into the contract?

Ernesto, Los Angeles

A. Welcome to the construction zone; an occasional series, length undetermined, that delves into the odd, the bizarre, the unexpected.... My best advice is keep on top of things, ask questions and don't be afraid to monitor the progress of the project. When choosing a remodeling contractor, experience should be a top priority. This

will help compensate for some of the unexpected surprises that undoubtedly will occur. The older the structure, the more likely you are to find the unforeseen due to the fact that the more owners a house has had, the more surprises these previous owners will have left behind from previous remodeling projects.

From a cost standpoint, concealed termite damage is the most difficult to detect and plan for. Some contracts call for dollar coverage of items that "were apparent to the naked eye on the day of the site visit." Others use a time and material plus a stated percentage markup to cover the unknown. Be sure to read the fine print carefully. The bottom line is, an experienced licensed contractor is the best insurance you can buy.

Q. I am planning to remove the plaster from my spare bedroom

walls, and I know how messy removing plaster can be. Is there a way to make this as clean a process as possible?

Marti, West Adams

You're right. This process sure can get messy! Every room renovation project that includes demolition involves a dirty, dusty mess and this is especially true if the walls and ceiling are made of plaster. First of all protect yourself by wearing a dust mask and eye protection. Then protect the rest of the house by keeping the dust contained within the room being remodeled. An easy way to do it is by taping plastic over all the heating registers, cold-air return grilles and air-conditioning vents in the room. This way, dust can't circulate into other rooms. Also periodically check the furnace or air-conditioning or heating filter if you have it, during construction to make sure it doesn't become clogged. Have fun!

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Los Angeles, CA 90036

Directory Updates

If your address has changed, please make sure to contact WAHA or John Kurtz (Membership Chair) and give us your new address so we can keep in touch with you and continue delivery of the newsletter.

The following changes have taken place in the information within the WAHA Directory for 2001. Update your directory to keep it current.

Changes

Joe Bergin & Charlene Lumalang, 213 Adams Street, Decatur, Georgia 30030 (404) 377-9428
Michael Smith & Greg Stegall, P. O. Box 44, West Hollywood, CA 90046-5112 (323) 654-6941

Add (and welcome) New/Renewed WAHA Members

Adria Graham Scott & Anthony Scott, 1835 S. Gramercy Place, Los Angeles, CA 90019 (323) 731-3838
Judy Cajiuat, 2367 W. 21st Street, Los Angeles, CA 90018-1330 (323) 734-0664 jacajiuat@aol.com
Jim Lancaster, 2153 W. 30th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90018 (323) 373-1844 jlancaster@foxcable.com
Roberta & Victor Quiroz, 1657 W. 25th Street, Los Angeles CA 90007 (323) 737-2297 vrquiroz@aol.com

Add to the list of Discounts

Magic Care Termite Service, Contact: Rattana, Jennifer or Nancy, 1840 W. 220th Street, #320, Torrance, CA 90501
(310) 320-6700, fax: (310) 320-6794

Preservation Begins At Home



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We have buyers looking for properties in Historic West Adams! If you're thinking of selling your historic home or residential rental property in the West Adams District, please contact us.

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

A Deco Night at the Movies:

Go Back to the Future in the 1930s

Fantasy, "Just Imagine"

The Art Deco Society of Los Angeles presents a gala night at the movies, screening the rarely seen 1930 film, "Just Imagine." The event will be held Saturday, April 13 at the Warner Grand Theater, 478 Gaffey Street, San Pedro. Tickets are \$8 per person. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the program begins at 8 p.m. The gala evening will include a silent auction, special guests, and a full night of fun. Vintage attire is encouraged!

This rarely seen film from 1930 starred El Brendel in a delightful romp into the "future" of the 1990s. It is a fantasy fulfilled...well, just imagine.

Designed by noted theater designer B. Marcus Priteca, the Warner Grand is now owned by the City of Los Angeles and is operated by the Grand Vision Foundation. It is undergoing a complete restoration.

Tickets may be purchased by check, Visa or MasterCard. Mail checks to: Art Deco Society, P.O. Box 972, Hollywood, CA 90078. To pay with Visa/MC, call or fax: 310/659-3326. Tickets will also be sold at the door on the night of performance.

The Art Deco Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to preservation and awareness of Art Deco as a major influence on the 20th Century.

Pasadena Heritage Presents

"Tracing Pasadena's Architectural Heritage"

Sunday, April 27
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

In honor of Pasadena Heritage's 25th Anniversary year, the 2002 Spring Home Tour will take a look at the various architectural styles represented in Pasadena.

Five elegant homes will be featured representing different eras, from the late 1800's to the late 20th Century. A classic Queen Anne Victorian-era home is featured, with details such as a domed turret, fish scale shingles, dormer windows and wraparound porch. This home has been thoroughly renovated by the current owner, who has also added a garage, studio and whimsical driveway treatment. Representing the other end of the spectrum is a magnificent contemporary home designed by Buff, Smith & Hensman with a breathtaking view of Pasadena's Civic Center and the mountains to the east.

For the fourth year in a row, Glabman's Furniture and Interior Design will sponsor the Spring Home tour and will host light refreshments and lectures as part of the tour's schedule of events. Located in the historic Star-News building, Glabman's provides a delightful complement to the tour, with their knowledgeable staff and extensive collection of furnishings and accessories.

Guests drive themselves to each home, where Pasadena Heritage docents will lead them on informative tours highlighting both interior and exterior features and the history of the home. Tour maps will be provided with tickets, and all homes will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., rain or shine. Guests should allow 3-1/2 hours to complete the tour. Tickets purchased after March 29 will be held at Will Call, located at 651 South Saint John Avenue, the offices of Pasadena Heritage. Tour guests are required to wear flat shoes, and interior photography is prohibited.

Advanced ticket prices are \$30 for general public and \$25 for members. For tickets and more information call Pasadena Heritage at (626) 441-6333 or visit www.pasadenaheritage.org

Pasadena Heritage, one of the oldest and largest preservation organizations in the state, works to preserve the city's architectural and cultural legacy. The organization has played a major role in such preservation efforts as Old Pasadena, the Colorado Street Bridge, the 710 Freeway and the Blacker House. It has nominated over 200 buildings to the National Register of Historic Places and holds more than 50 preservation easements. Known for its outstanding architectural tours which it has presented for 25 years, it has completed several award-winning restoration projects and also operates the Pasadena Heritage Oral History Project.

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Sunday 10 am-12 Noon

BLOCK CLUB & NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS



Gramercy Park

Last year the Gramercy Park Homeowners Association filed a grant application with the city of Los Angeles for additional improvements to the public green space known as Gramercy Park. The city awarded the grant and work started and was completed before Christmas. A brick pathway was installed through the park completing the landscaping scheme and replacing a stone path. The brick pathway complements the old brick street surrounding the park.

Thank you, City of Los Angeles, for these Neighborhood improvement grants.

Adams-Normandie Neighborhood Assn. (ANNA)

Twenty-five members sat comfortably in Lisa Berns apartment for our March meeting. Off. Sanchez, our new Senior Lead, introduced himself, gave a report and immediately went out to address the illegally parked school bus on Normandie.

We covered standing reports on our TNI and HPOZ as well as disaster preparedness offered through the city.

Our El Paseo Project is progressing nicely. You are invited to attend our rededication ceremony on Sunday, April 14 at 2 PM, 1658 W 23rd Street. Refreshments will be served.

Block Club and Neighborhood News is an important and integral part of the WAHA Newsletter -- a place for us to share ideas, information, and upcoming events. To publicize future events, you must provide the information to the newsletter well in advance, no later than the first of the prior month (eg: August 1 for the September issue). To submit "News from Around the Blocks," please contact Michael S. Smith via e-mail information to mikegreg@pacbell.net, or fax to 213/894-5335 (please address to Mike Smith).

Save the Date/Neighborhood Pride Day

June 8, 2002
Jefferson Park, Crenshaw

LA NHS, Volunteers, Jefferson Park residents, Local Businesses, Sponsors, Council District 10, Operation Clean Sweep, Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation and many more will join together. Call (213) 749-7797 x28 and sign up, or email us at ninak@lanhs.usa.com We are looking forward to hearing from you!

— Nina Kihlman, Neighborhood Resource Coordinator www.lanhs.org

For up to the minute information call our hotline at (323) 957-4657.

Victor Quiroz is spearheading our effort to establish a Police Drop-In Center. The committee of five now begins the task of finding a suitable location.

It is expected that all current ANNA officers will be reelected at the April meeting.

Western Heights

Western Heights Neighborhood Association (WHNA) is alive and well. The HPOZ concept seems to be working. The Building Department refuses to issue permits without the HPOZ board signing off. The board is dealing with matters in a very timely matter so as not to hold anyone up.

A Valentine's Day love-themed poetry contest, coordinated by the Western Heights Kids Committee, was held for the neighborhood kids at Amos Church on Washington and was a resounding success, with prizes going to all participants.

A signage proposal was approved by the association which includes neighborhood signs provided by the City and a project to paint our logo and house numbers on the curbs in front of each property. Another goal is to slow down the traffic passing through out neighborhood.

Natalie Neith & Ken Catbagan

Now

Prudential-John Aaroe Presidents Circle

JUST LISTED:

4664 Rosewood—\$310,000
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2243 W. 20th St.—\$300,000
20's Cottage-Western Hts. HPOZ, LR
w/ FP, FDR 2+1 + Fin. attic rms
1625 W. 23rd St.— \$342,500,
ANNA HPOZ—4+1.5, FP, FDR,
Lib., Slp. Prch, River rock!

JUST SOLD

915 So. Oxford-S
2507-9 5th Avenue—B-
10 offers!!! Over Asking!
1615 So. Wilton Pl.—S

IN ESCROW:

4664 Rosewood-S-
Mult. Offers-Over Asking!
2421 7th Ave.-B
2243 W. 20th St.—S—
9 Offers!!!-Over Asking!
1625 W. 23rd St.-S-
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Rose Festival

Continued from page 1

mired for their aesthetics that could be included in flower show/exhibition competitions.

This will be the third year the Figueroa Corridor Partnership BID and the institutions of Exposition Park have sponsored the Rose Garden spring blooms celebration, and each year the festivities have gotten bigger and better. "The Festival is a way for the BID to encourage more people here in Southern California and around the world to visit the notable cultural and historic sites of the Figueroa/Flower corridor," says Darryl Holter, Chairman of the BID and Chief Administrative Officer of The Shammus Group.

Holter adds, "Sponsorship of the Blooming of the Roses celebration is becoming one of the BID's ongoing efforts to promote positive awareness of the area, and to enhance community and economic development. In the Exposition Park/Figueroa area, support of programs that promote cultural tourism is one of the natural ways to boost these development efforts."

The April Festival will include a variety of programming, taking place in and around the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks maintained—Exposition Park Rose Garden. The Rose Garden "flowering jewels" will be showcased, along with flower and nature themed program offerings for families from the other sponsors of the Festival and stakeholders of Exposition Park—the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, the Natural Commission.

Thursday's Festival opening ceremony will commemorate the Natural History Museum of the County of Los Angeles, the California African American Museum, the California Science Center and the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum recent planting in the garden of two award winning roses—Love & Peace and Starry Night from All American Rose Selections, Inc. (AARS).

Exposition Park Rose Garden is one of the public gardens throughout the United State that AARS donates its new, award winning rose cultivars to each year so garden enthusiasts can

view them. Rose Garden Director Belinda Jackson says, "Our team of expert gardeners are working very hard to prepare the garden to show off the new blooms for this season."

In addition to the *Blooming of the Roses Festival*, Figueroa area stakeholders are working on other joint-sponsored, cultural promotional projects for 2002. Eloise Helwig, Marketing Committee Chairperson of the BID and President of the L.A. Orthopaedic Hospital Foundation notes, "The BID and other groups in our area helped Angels Walk LA to secure funding for the extension of the 'Angels Walk' program south from central city—Los Angeles to Exposition Park. The Figueroa corridor extension of the 'Angels Walk' project should begin implementation in a few months." The "Angels Walk" program develops urban walking trails that highlight the architecture, art and history of Los Angeles while connecting the pedestrian to the regional transit systems.

The Figueroa Corridor Partnership BID is a non-profit organization that was formed by local property owners in 1998. Representatives from many large and small businesses, and cultural, educational and medical institutions—including Felix Chevrolet, California Tools, John Tracy Clinic, the University of Southern California (USC), the Automobile Club of Southern California and L.A. Orthopaedic Hospital, along with the Natural History Museum of L.A. County, the California Science Center, the California African American Museum and the L.A. Sports Arena and Memorial Coliseum—make up the membership of the BID.

The Figueroa Corridor Partnership is responsible for the daily management and promotion of the Figueroa/Flower corridor, linking downtown Los Angeles to Exposition Park. The Partnership is committed to the development of a safe, clean, economically vibrant and aesthetically pleasing environment in which to conduct business, continue an education, visit a museum, attend a sporting event, worship or reside.

Schedule of Events

Thursday, April 18

Opening Ceremony, Exposition Park Rose Garden - hosted by the *Figueroa Corridor Partnership BID and the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks*

Saturday, April 20 and Sunday, April 21

11:00 - 4:00 PM

FREE Family Programs, Exposition Park Rose Garden - hosted by *Exposition Park Intergenerational Community Center (EPICC), City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks*

Activities will include arts and crafts, rose pruning demonstrations, storytelling and more! For more information on Los Angeles Rec & Parks Festival programs, call 213/765.5397.

10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

FREE WITH MUSEUM ADMISSION

Family Programs, NHM Discovery Center - hosted at the *Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County*

See live animal presentations, make a bookmark using flower petals and learn about gardens and worms during this great Discovery Center celebration. For more information NHM programs, call 213.763.3534.

Sunday, April 21

11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Collage-Quilt Workshop -

Hosted by the California African American Museum

Children will use fabric like paper to create a Dresden block quilt. The Dresden block looks like a flower and symbolizes a wheel. The design was displayed on quilts to send secret messages to run-away slaves during the time of the Underground Railroad.

Fun With Flowers -

Hosted by the

California Science Center

We all love the beautiful colors, shapes and scents of flowers. In this hands-on activity, children will dissect a flower and learn the ins and outs of pollination.

WAHA Comments on LAUSD
Continued from page 3

ic Places within the project boundaries.

The proposed residential district as outlined by Paul Secord (on 20th Street and Menlo Avenue) appears to be an exceptionally well preserved enclave of residential structures, including one exceptional example of Transitional Queen Anne/Shingle style architecture (1548 20th Street) which appears to be individually eligible for the California Register. These structures, most of which are in a high state of repair and at least one of which appears to have been recently restored, are valuable contributors to the overall West Adams historic area. These structures are not barred from California Register Eligibility either as an individual district or as individual contributors to a larger district because many other fine examples of this style exist in the neighborhood. To the contrary, stating that many other examples exist in the neighborhood would indicate that an historic district probably exists.

The structure at 1930-32 Ellendale Place, which has lost some historic integrity, has nonetheless retained sufficient integrity to convey its historic significance as a late Victorian multiple family dwelling, a building type important in the development of Los Angeles of which there are few remaining examples. As such, it may be California Register eligible, and merits at least a thorough historic review.

The Film Exchange Building, at 1584 West Washington, was correctly identified by LAUSD consultant Paul Secord as eligible for the California Register. As Mr. Secord states, this building was once "an integral part of the Southern California movie industry; an industry, which to this day, cannot be overstated in its importance to the region." The structure is remarkably intact, and one of the only remaining examples of this type of structure, many other examples of which have already been destroyed. As a rare surviving example of this part of the early motion picture industry, the resource appears to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. While LAUSD's Master Reviewer states that the building has

lost significant integrity, it does not appear from Mr. Secord's evaluation photographs that this statement is correct. Frankly, we are baffled at the determination of the Master Reviewer. Such an important, rare, and intact example of this little-known aspect of the history of the film industry obviously satisfies criteria a and c for National Register eligibility.

Community Collaboration

WAHA sees the preparation of this DEIR as a lost opportunity for LAUSD to enter into a constructive collaboration with the West Adams neighborhood to design a school that both provides space for the education of our children and respects the historic character of the area. It is customary in the CEQA review process to contact interested parties in the area at an early stage of planning to solicit comment about potential site restraints. Had LAUSD contacted WAHA at this point in the planning process, we would have been happy to work with LAUSD to make this a win-win project. For instance, especially considering that the recent resurrection of the Belmont Learning Center will provide additional classroom space, it might be possible to change the scale of this project and integrate it into the neighborhood, while retaining most of the historic resources on this site. Collaboration such as this would have demonstrated LAUSD's sensitivity to neighborhood and community issues. Unfortunately, the current DEIR does not demonstrate any such sensitivity. We find it inconceivable that an institution whose mission is education could so blithely destroy these remarkable living history lessons.

WAHA stands ready to enter into a discussion with LAUSD regarding how this project could be modified to achieve both the goal of educating our children in a state-of-the-art facility and integrating that facility into the neighborhood context.

Yours truly,

Jacqueline Sharps, President
West Adams Heritage Association



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A Plea for Adaptive Re-Use

by Ed Reyes

For the past several years I have been working on creating tools by which communities will be given greater control on how they could define their own space. In this process our main objective has been to respect individual communities for their uniqueness with an understanding that what works in one area of Los Angeles will not necessarily work in other parts of the city. As such, we have been able to create such things as specific plans, Historic Preservation Overlay Zones, Community Design Overlays and Transit Oriented Districts.

Today, as we have a newly invigorated debate on the need to create additional and affordable housing, I believe that it is time to move forward with another tool that, once approved by the City Council, will not only provide new and exciting opportunities to create housing in Los Angeles, but will also promote a friendlier environment for potential investors into our neighborhoods. I am talking about the adaptive reuse ordinance now making its way through our city's legislative process.

Simply put, the adaptive reuse ordinance provides the opportunity to revisit our current use of buildings on commercial and industrially zoned space. As it stands, our city's zoning laws dramatically restrict an investor's ability to create housing and other economically beneficial developments on unused or underused land. Without this ordinance, creating mixed-use developments in neighborhoods would be severely restricted. These restrictions, in turn, discourage any potential

investment in some of the city's most impoverished communities.

With the recent investment in the Downtown area over the past several years, great strides have been made to make our city's core a 24-hour city. But we have done so without realizing the natural link to its surrounding and historic communities. Moreover, few have taken notice of the current momentum of investment in these historic neighborhoods and its changing landscape. It is time that this 24-hour city, the core of the city, build upon this momentum.

Together, my colleagues and I are working to expand the boundaries of the current adaptive reuse ordinance which currently includes the Downtown area only. This ordinance, once fully implemented, will build upon the momentum already in place where the adaptive reuse is being used by investors to create housing in "non-traditional" settings.

As chair of the Planning Land Use and Management Committee and in coordination with my colleagues, we can breathe new life into the historic structures that can be retrofitted to stimulate housing while preserving our heritage and our historic structures. Moreover, and just as importantly, we can create the kinds of opportunities for investment into neighborhoods that all too often remain overlooked.

Councilman Ed P. Reyes oversees the city's First District. This commentary first ran in the Downtown News.

Decade of Rebuilding Continued from page 1

with former strangers, now friends. West Adams Heritage Association and individual WAHA members collected canned goods and other necessities and donated to those in need throughout the city. Similarly, many West Adams residents grabbed brooms and paintbrushes to help clean up the community.

In the decade since those few terrible days, West Adams – along with much of Los Angeles – has been traveling a long road back to recovery. Here in West Adams, there are few visible scars left to remind us of the civil unrest. And, conversely, new monuments to a more prosperous future have been constructed.

For example, FAME Renaissance, established as an affiliate of the First AME Church in 1992, now operates several major social and business development programs, designed to help create jobs and business opportunities.

"We came together directly as a result of the civil unrest, forming a small group within the faith community," recounts Rev. Mark Whitlock, executive director of FAME Renaissance. The City of Los Angeles at the time was putting together Rebuild L.A.'s five-year plan for recovery. "That was a challenge to us," says Rev. Whitlock, "because we knew it took more than five years to cause the problem and it would take a lifetime to fix it. Our mission was to economically empower impoverished communities by forming public-private partnerships."

FAME Renaissance recently raised \$6.5 million to convert an abandoned telephone switching station into a 54,000-square-foot state-of-the-art office building and business incubator on Adams Boulevard near Western Avenue. Both State

Farm Insurance and Wells Fargo Mortgage Services have also located in the FAME Renaissance Center; according to Rev. Whitlock, Wells Fargo has also committed to building a branch bank on adjacent property along Western. "We're seeing renewed energy," says Rev. Whitlock. "We truly believe a large part of this success is due to God's intervention."

Almost across the street once stood A.N. Abell Auction Co., the city's oldest art and antiques auction house. The auction building, constructed in 1930, was one of the first structures damaged in the civil unrest and was literally consumed by flames. The company moved its operations to a family-owned warehouse in Commerce and, eventually, Robert Abell (whose grandfather started the firm in 1916) sold the original Adams Boulevard property to a charitable organization, the Jewish Federation. In turn, though, he donated much of the proceeds back to help the group build affordable housing on the land. Abell, now deceased, once called this housing complex an important part of his legacy.

Equally important, the social process of rebuilding West Adams was itself very healing. As people helped in their and the community's recovery efforts, it made us all stronger neighbors and friends. The WAHA Newsletter, distributed just days after those traumatic events, rallied us to remember "The Power of Place."

"Adversity and challenge will help us grow stronger as a community," WAHA reminded us. "The power of preservation and the pull of our historic roots have not changed with these fires and looting. Our reasons for being in West Adams always have had to do with the sense of community and the closeness to our neighbors that most of us feel."

— by Laura Meyers

RSVP USC

The University of Southern California's campus on the edge of West Adams is filled with cultural events in April, with not only the fifth annual USC Arts Festival but also a modern opera, a jazz festival and several important lectures. And many (*not all*) events are free!

Check these out:

* Architectural historian Thomas Hines, who has written extensively on Rudolph Schindler and Richard Neutra, talks about "Irving Gill and the Issue of Authenticity in Early 20th Century Architecture" at 6 p.m. April 10 at the Gin D. Wong Conference Center of the Watt/Harris Complex. Call 213/740-2097.

* The USC Jazz Festival helps conquer the lingering winter blues with the sounds of saxophone legend Sonny Rollins, the fusion-oriented Wayne Shorter Quartet, USC's own Thornton Jazz Orchestra, and bass player Ray Brown, one of the most recorded musicians in history. All concerts begin at 7 p.m. in Bovard Auditorium April 15-20; call 213/740-2584 for complete schedule.

* Robert Ward's Pulitzer Prize-winning opera "The Crucible," based on Arthur Miller's play, is this spring's opera at USC. Friday, April 19 at 8 p.m., April 20 at 2 and 8 p.m., April 21 at 2 p.m. \$12 general admission; reservations required. 213/740-4672.

* "Portraits and Legends" is an exhibition of candid images of dozens of the 20th Century's most important musicians and artists, culled from the works of San Diego-based concert manager Jacques Leiser, who photographed many of the world-class musicians he worked with over a 50-year career. At Doheny Library through April 15. Call 213/740-2070 for hours.

Be Empowered! The North Area Neighborhood Development Council of the 8th District Empowerment Congress meets Saturday, April 13, at Crystal Stairs, 650 West Adams Blvd., 10 a.m. - noon. Topic: the new citywide neighborhood councils. Call Adrianna Mendez at 213/485-7616 to confirm your attendance.

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A Thought for Food by Alan Schoening

BEWARE OF IN-LAWS BEARING GIFTS!!!

My brother-in-law and his wife Ann are generous to a fault. Take for instance last Christmas. One Japanese cookbook would have been great. One can of powdered mustard, divine. BUT NOOO! I received three Japanese cookbooks and six 4 oz. Cans of various spices, along with sauces for noodles, a rolling mat for sushi, a jar of green tea etc., all in a gift carton from Takashimaya in New York. I could have bought a tie with the postage. The gift was wondrous and expansive and enough to make me lose face, even while gaining five pounds. The books "Japanese Cooking - A Simple Art" 517 pages. "Practical Japanese Cooking - Easy and Elegant." This one only had 151 pages- evidently the emphasis was on easy as opposed to simple. "Sushi - The Essential Kitchen" a slimming 110 pages.

My daughter Carina had bought "Practical Japanese Cooking" on her own last fall. Naturally, we put our heads together and decided on a joint banquet using recipes from that book. It sounded easy and very elegant. The Far East Feast transpired a week ago. Carina bought, I bought, we bought. It must have been over \$200 and enough food to feed the Imperial Army. We assumed that we would cook course by course, interspersing them with a little wine, a little sake and/or a little Sapporo.

The menu was all made from scratch. In other words, the Kombu kelp was hacked into pieces and boiled in water before the bonito flakes were added in order to make dashi, the essential-for-everything cooking stock.

Carina's doing: Sashimi with tuna, yellowtail, salmon and shrimp. Each piece beautifully sliced and served with homemade wasabi

Miso soup with the afore mentioned dashi.

Steamed leek rounds with shrimp in a miso-mustard sauce.

My doing: Chawan Mushi

Chicken yakitori with asparagus and chicken meatballs.

Simmered beef with vegetables plus rice

No one had pre-warned us that 1. The shrimp had to be skewered flat and cooked before peeling. 2. Six little bowls of egg custard filled with more shrimp, spinach and shitake mushrooms would take over an hour. 3. Yakitori started with skinning and boning a chicken before cutting it into 1 inch squares and threading onto skewers. Have you ever tried skewering pieces of raw asparagus? 4. That chicken balls, like chicken nuggets are not native to real chickens and are instead made from chicken ground to a paste and boiled in ever more dashi with extra kombu. All of these skewers are then broiled using a sauce of dashi, mirin, sake and two kinds of soy sauce. Of course the sauce had to simmer for an hour before brushing it on the meat. Altogether 1 1/2 hours.. 5. That simmered beef is a simple one pot recipe.

Naturally one starts. With homemade dashi, adding sake, mirin and dark soy - another hour or so.

As it was, Carina and I slaved for 3 more solid hours (this followed several prep work done independently) while our guests enjoyed a delightful afternoon and half of the evening awaiting the feast.

Let me tell you, by the time the food hit the table, we were exhausted and ready to hit the hay.

The Sashimi - fabulous

Miso - to die for

Leeks and Shrimp - elegant

Chawan Mushi - down the hatch

Yakitori - don't eat the skewers

Simmered beef - Dinty Moore is envious

CONCLUSION - You want Japanese banquet??? Go to Japanese restaurant.

Recipe for Chawan Mushi

3 oz. Spinach

4 oz. Boned chicken thigh

1 tsp. Sake

1 tsp. Light soy

4 raw shrimp, shelled and deveined

4 fresh shitake mushrooms, washed and stems removed

4 tsp. Fresh ginger juice, gotten by shredding fresh ginger and squeezing the pulp

The custard

2 1/2 cups dashi (by now my house smelled like a fish market)

1 Tbsp light soy

1 tsp. Mirin

1/2 tsp salt

3 eggs

Parboil the spinach in salted water, drain and refresh in cold water for 10 minutes. Drain again and wring out any excess water. Cut spinach into 1 inch lengths. Cut the chicken into 1/2 inch squares and sprinkle with the sake and soy. Drop the shrimp into boiling water for a few seconds. Refresh in cold water, pat dry and quarter crosswise. Quarter the mushroom caps.

Make the custard:

Heat the bonito stock, then season with the soy, sake and salt. Bring to a boil over high heat, remove from heat and let cool to room temperature. Beat the eggs lightly, add the seasoned stock and strain the mixture through gauze.

Prepare a steamer over high heat.

Divide the chicken, shrimp, mushrooms and spinach among 4 custard cups with lids (or use squares of foil to keep condensed moisture from dripping into custard. Place the covered cups in the pre-heated steamer over high heat. When the surface turns white, about 3 to 5 minutes, reduce heat to medium and steam for 15 minutes., or until just set. Spoon 1 tsp of ginger juice into each cup, place on a saucer, and serve hot

I can't wait for the in-laws to visit. I've got the names of 4 great Japanese and 3 Korean restaurants.

Bon appetit!

UCLA William Andrews Clark Memorial Library

Fifth Annual Afternoon of Acquisitions 2002

WAHA members are invited to attend a fundraising event, The Fifth Annual Afternoon of Acquisitions, on Sunday, May 19, at UCLA's William Andrews Clark Memorial Library. The event features a viewing of selected old and rare books purchased in the past year by UCLA's followed by a celebrity reading of excerpts from these texts. Previous readers have included Sydney Pollack, Marjorie Lord, Robert Osborne, Gloria Stuart and Michael Lerner.

Designed to raise support for the William Andrews Clark Memorial Library through the sponsorship of rare books and manuscripts that will be on display, this event showcases some unique literary material, including the only example in an American collection of a rare 1710 English cookbook; a "tutor" for the harpsicord or spinnet that was published in 1740; a rare 1692 French book (with engravings) about the Aesop fables that inspired various fountains at Versailles; and an acerbic letter to a classics professor by the 1890s by English scholar and poet A.E. Housman.

When: Sunday, May 19, 2002, 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Where: The Clark Library at 2520 Cimarron St. in the Historic West Adams District.

Admission: \$40; *reservations are required.*

Contact: Yolanda Adra, Acting Director of Development, Humanities (310) 206-0694

The William Andrews Clark Library is a rare book library of international renown. Founded in 1926, the library houses 100,000 books and 21,000 letters and manuscripts. Its treasures include four Shakespeare folios, important editions of Chaucer, Ben Jonson, and Milton, a Dryden collection rivaled only by the British Library, first editions of the major works of Restoration drama, and the world's largest public collection of materials by and about Oscar Wilde.

Although English literature from the 1640s to 1800 remains the focus of the Clark Library, its collection also contains important works relating to the history of science, music, philosophy, and theology. Among its graphic arts and western American ephemera are holdings of significance for the history of the western United States.

Administered by the UCLA Center for Seventeenth- and Eighteenth-Century Studies since 1985, the Clark Library offers residential fellowships to scholars and hosts conferences, seminars, lectures, and workshops. Because Clark's love of literature was matched only by his passion for music-he founded the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra in 1919-the library continues to celebrate his devotion to music by presenting an acclaimed series of chamber concerts.

Attendees and other donors may sponsor this year's acquisitions, by "adopting" individual rare and old books and manuscripts. Here is a selection of some of the available material priced under \$1,000:

* John Martin. *Queries and Remarks on Human Liberty*. London: 1783. Martin was the son of a publican, and though trained as a watchmaker, he became a Baptist preacher. A number of pamphlets by him - some 15 or more - were issued in the late years of the 18th century.

(\$450)

* Elizabeth Raffald. *The Experienced English Housekeeper, For the Use and Ease of Ladies, Housekeepers, Cooks, etc.* 2nd ed. London: 1771. Elizabeth Raffald is one of the most famous cookery writers of the 18th century, and this particular book went into some 23 editions. Raffald also found time to found a newspaper and to have 15 children, all girls. (\$950)

* Daniel Defoe. *Robinson Crusoe* [in French]. Paris: 1776. This later French translation of Defoe's famous novel has some striking illustrations that had not appeared previously. Defoe's novel was so popular in France that it became practically a French classic by adoption. (\$750)

* Charles Vyse. *The Tutor's Guide, Being a Complete System of Arithmetic*. 14th ed. London: 1810. [Together with:] Lindley Murray. *English Grammar, Adapted to the Different Classes of Learners*. 19th ed. York: 1809. Two volumes in matching tree-calf bindings, of which the arithmetic book belonged to Benjamin Coleman and the grammar to his sister, Miss Coleman. (\$350)

* Carl Gustaf Tessin. *Letters from an Old Man to a Young Prince, With the Answers*. London: 1756. Tessin was tutor to Gustaf III when he was crown prince of Sweden. This translation, by John Berckenhout, is dedicated to the Prince of Wales and was meant to encourage knowledge of Sweden in Great Britain. (\$525)

* Giovanni Rucellai. *Della Rosmunda*. London: 1737. This work is an early Renaissance tragedy, but republished here in London in 1737 by Carlo Bennet, who also issued an Italian translation of Milton's *Paradise Lost*. (\$350)

* John Bowle. *A Letter to the Reverend Dr. Percy Concerning A New and Classical Edition of Don Quixote de la Mancha*. London: 1777. This pamphlet defending an edition of Cervantes's novel as a classic text contains a frontispiece map of Don Quixote's Spain. (\$300)

* Mrs. Margaret Car. Rudd's Case Considered, Respecting Robert Perreau. London: 1776. This is one of many pamphlets published around a famous case of bond forgery. Daniel and Robert Perreau, twin brothers, were accused of the crime (a capital one at that time), and they in turn accused Daniel's mistress, Margaret Caroline Rudd. The Perreaus were tried, found guilty, and hung. Mrs. Rudd was acquitted, and the case filled the papers for many months. (\$950)

* Oscar Wilde. *Der Gramatapfelhaus*. Leipzig: 1904. The first German translation of *The House of Pomegranates*. \$275.

* John Davidson. *A Ballad of a Nun*. [n.p.: 1900?]. A poem by one of Oscar Wilde's contemporaries and friends. (\$100)

* Gloria Stuart. *A Slight Diversion*. Los Angeles: 2001. Actress Gloria Stuart's most recent book, with an essay by her entitled "On Being a Single (Quasi-Attached) Female Printer," and issued in only 18 copies. (\$225)

* Ezra Pound. *Thirt-Three Sonnets of Guido Cavalcanti*. San Francisco: Arion Press, 1991. One of 150 copies, with an etching by Joseph Goldyne. Pound's translations of early Italian poetry were highly successful, and Cavalcanti (who appears in Dante's *Divine Comedy*) was one of the most important of these poets. (\$650)

* Sybil Pye. *Catalogue of an Exhibition of Book-Bindings*. London: 1930. Sybil Pye was an art deco bookbinder (the Clark owns one of her splendid bindings), and this exhibition took place at the First Editions Club, to the director of which, A.J.A. Symonds, this copy belonged. The Clark also owns the archives for the First Editions Club. (\$250)

* John Mackay (western miner who struck it rich), autograph letter to Senator William Andrews Clark. Undated. Mackay writes to Clark to apologize for not keeping an appointment to see the Senator's art collection. (\$500)

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A Call to Members

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

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

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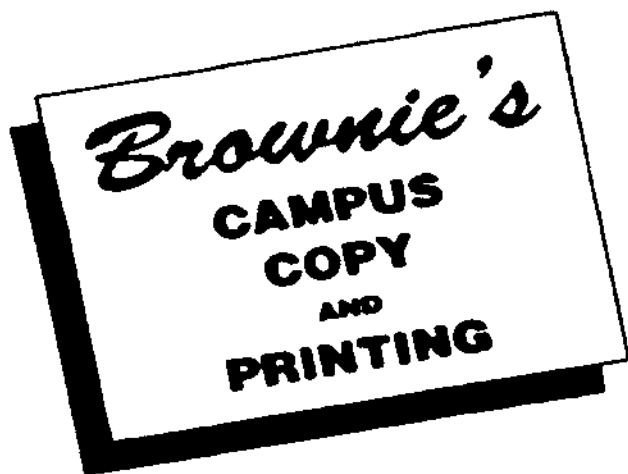
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FOR SALE - 500 antique doors, windows, & house fragments. Call Roland at 310/392-1056.

Roommate Wanted? Vintage Stove for Sale? Garden Plants in Search of New Home? Place your classified ad here to reach preservation-minded readers. Contact Advertising Director Lisa Schoening (tel 323/732-5108; wahaclassifieds@yahoo.com)
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MEDIA REQUEST: Greetings. I've completed a story for the LA Times about the pros and cons of using day laborers. Unfortunately, one of my lead interviews got cold feet about using his full name and pulled out of the story. (The LA Times policy is to use the real first and last name.)

Do any of you know of anyone who has used day laborers within the last year for a major home renovation? Of course, they would have to be willing to have their full name disclosed in the story.

Thanks for any leads you can pass my way.

Susan Carrier (regular volunteer / docent at WAHA's annual holiday tour) - 626/797-1897.

WAHA April Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 Preservation Zoning/ Planning Committee	16 Newsletter Committee	17	18	19	20 WAHA General Meeting - ELECTIONS
21	22	23	24 Membership Committee	25 Board Meeting	26	27
28	29	30				

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 2002. All rights for graphic and written material appearing in the newsletter are reserved. Contact Director of Publications for permissions.

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