

# West Adams Matters

## 20 Years of West Adams Holiday Memories

by Suzanne Henderson

Whispered secrets, list making, shopping, wrapping, preparations are already underway for our twentieth Christmas in West Adams.

Friends of many years always introduce us as "the Hendersons, they have one of those fabulous old houses in West Adams."

For many of those friends, the holiday would not be complete without a visit to Christmas Past at Henderson's Folly. We celebrate the holiday with abandon, staircase, mantel and pictures festooned with greenery, a decorated tree on each floor, gatherings large and small, carols around the piano, and too much fabulous food. "Nothing succeeds like excess," I always say.

We moved into our 1905 home, designed by architect, H.M. Patterson, on Thanksgiving weekend, 1983. Three months of renovation were completed just in time to plan the first of many holiday parties. We were eager to show off what we had accomplished. Many of our guests had kicked off the project at a Tom Sawyer Day Party, just after escrow closed. They were amazed. A few weeks later, it was Christmas dinner for our large extended family. We didn't have living room furniture yet, so we

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## Jingle Bells, and All That Jazz - You're Invited to a Party!

WAHA invites you to our annual Holiday Soiree/Volunteer Thank You Party and Brunch, to be held, like the Holiday Tour itself, in Western Heights. The event will be at the home of Don Lynch, 2273 West 20th Street (between Western and Arlington), on Sunday, December 14th, from noon until 4 p.m. An abundant repast will be served at 1 p.m.

Don's home was designed by well-known architect Frank M. Tyler, and was built in 1909/10 for Dr. John E. Minney, a Topeka, Kansas doctor who with his family had spent a number of summers in Los Angeles. Having had only three owners during its first seventy years, the house remains one of the least altered structures in Western Heights. For several years a very popular Bed and Breakfast was operated out of the house.

So, on December 14th, please - bring yourself, dress up, party! (Not a potluck). ●



The Miller & Herriott Tract House, 1887  
1163 West 27th Street  
Eastlake-Victorian style  
Joseph Carter Newsom, Architect  
LA Historic Cultural Monument No. 242

## New West Adams Historic District

by Jim Childs

West Adams is now home to yet another National Register Historic District, thanks in part to the efforts our active community of volunteers.

On Friday, November 7, the State Historical Resources Commission unanimously approved creation of the North University Park National Register Historic District. The Commission action will be sent to the Keeper for the National Parks Service whose ministerial certification of the Historic District should be completed in the next ninety days. The new District consists of 66 properties in a five-block area irregularly defined by Adams / Hoover / 28th Street / Magnolia / 27th Street and Monmouth, all of which coincidentally falls within the administrative jurisdiction of North University Park Specific Plan. The new Historic District includes 58 structures which are deemed to be Contributing Structures, of which 14 buildings are existing City of Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monuments.

The initial filing for the Historic District was larger and more inclusive totaling 98

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## A Community Mural Project by Yvette Jones

The Budlong, Juliet and Catalina (BJC) Block Club began production of the community mural project "Evolution of a Community" on October 20. This project is sponsored by the Los Angeles Department of Public Works, through the Neighborhood Matching Grant Program, and BJC Block Club. The "Evolution Of A Community" mural, an original design by artist Tomashi Jackson, is located at 1750 Cordova St. (south of Angelus Rosedale Cemetery), on the west side of the building facing Budlong, and directly across the street from Salvin Elementary School, 1925 Budlong Ave.

The purpose of this community mural is to create a sense of pride and ownership to the community, serving as a catalyst to evoke social change, breaking the cycle of negative behavior, and to beautify the environment surrounding the elementary school, while bridging the gap between cultural barriers regardless of education, ethnicity or language.



There are two components of this project, a visual and literary. We are asking the community to submit original inspirational thoughts, poetry, or literary writings (by all ages, in all languages) to fully express the ethnic diversity of the community and their ideals in line with the theme "Evolution of a Community." The writings are due by January 31, 2004. The community's literary expressions will be incorporated into the actual visual design.

The community is also invited to participate in the painting of this mural. The on-site production schedule is Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday from noon to 4 p.m. each week. The mural is scheduled to be completed by April. The wall is 20 feet high and 80 feet wide — so there is plenty of room for everyone to join in!

Thank you for being a part of this historical event by submitting your writings, pledging equipment, supplies or sponsorship. Please fax literary writing to 323-732-2484. For those who would like to make a donation, please make checks payable to BJC Block Club and mail to P.O. Box 19875, Los Angeles, CA 90019. Your contribution is tax deductible, as our organization is a 501 (c) 3 non profit organization. Our tax identification number is 36-4507540 for your records. Thank you in advance for your consideration of our purpose and being a part of a team-building and family-affirming activity worth supporting. For more information, please contact Yvette Jones at 213-351-8225 or 323-732-7859. ●

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## Top 10 Holiday China Patterns

For those of us who collect vintage china, Replacements Ltd. is a key resource. Recently, the company published a list of the "Top 10" holiday patterns, from antique to contemporary, which we share with you today:

This list contains an interesting diversity of patterns, from whimsical folk art to understated formal bone china, all with a holiday theme.

Did you know, for instance, that International China Co. produced a pattern, "Christmas Story," that features on each piece a line from the classic poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas," written in 1823 by Clement Clarke Moore? With this pattern, you could literally set your table to display the entire poem, beginning with "Twas the night before Christmas" and ending with "Merry Christmas To All and To All A Good Night!" International China employed the talents of the world-renowned folk artist Susan Winget to illustrate this unique pattern. Since the pattern's introduction in 1996, "Christmas Story" has become one of International China's most popular patterns.

Another very interesting holiday pattern in our "Top 10" list is "Poinsettia" by Block China. Block employed the talents of artist Mary Lou Goertzen to create unique watercolor images of poinsettias.

These designs lend a very creative, distinct holiday look to the "Poinsettia" pattern.

Hopefully you'll find it great fun to browse this list (below), and if you don't already have a "holiday" pattern, this is a great place to start looking for one! You can call Replacements, Ltd. at 1-800-REPLACE (1-800-737-5223) seven days a week.

**Fitz and Floyd's St. Nicholas pattern** is an elegant and festive design is both festive featuring the smiling face of "Jolly St. Nick." Each piece in this distinctive pattern is accented with images of candy canes, red bows, bells, candles, and toys. The design and the beautifully sculpted pieces in this pattern reflect (and enhance!) the merriment and cheer of the holiday season.

**Christmas Tree by Spode** is one of the world's most recognizable and sought after holiday patterns. Featuring distinctive green trim and a classic decorated Christmas tree center, this pattern is sure to add joy and merriment to any holiday celebration. There have been many re-creations of Spode's joy-inspiring design, but there is only one Christmas Tree. The Christmas Tree pattern is made in England of strong, sturdy, premium quality earthenware called "Imperialware". It is exceptionally durable and beautifully decorative. The "easy care" characteristics of Imperialware (along with fun design!) make Spode's Christmas Tree ideal for entertaining during the busy holiday season.

The Christmas Tree pattern was designed in 1938 by Harold Holdway for Spode's North American counterpart Copeland and Thompson, Inc. Having never seen an actual Christmas tree, Mr. Holdway had to rely on his creative abilities. His original sketch called for the presents to hang on the tree's limbs like ornaments. Naturally, he was told the presents are placed under the tree, and he revised his sketch to reflect the change. He did manage to leave a unique touch however. Mr. Holdway did not realize that most Americans used either angels or stars as a tree topper. He placed atop his tree design a figure of Santa Claus. The unique pattern created reservation amongst Harold's North American colleagues, but the pattern was commissioned anyway. To date, it has been one of the most successful Christmas patterns in dinnerware history.

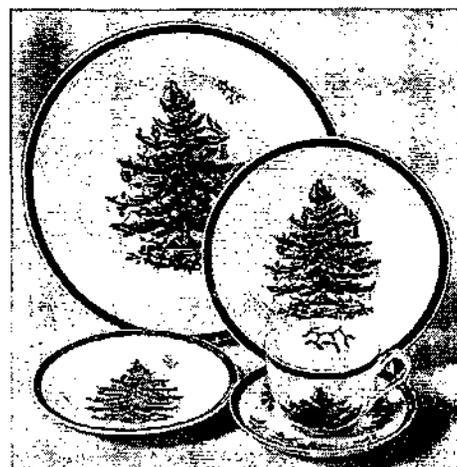
Are you looking for a contemporary Christmas china pattern to accent your holiday table? Consider **Happy Holidays by Nikko**. This cheerful Christmas design features the image of a Christmas tree that is decorated with a variety of colorful ornaments. Located beneath the tree are a teddy bear and Christmas gifts, ready to be opened. Happy Holidays is adorned with green trim and features a contemporary earthenware shape. The dinner plates and many of the serving pieces showcase Nikko's distinctive embossed swirl design. For years, Nikko has been committed to creating contemporary designs that are of heirloom quality.

"Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house, not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse." These famous words compose the first line of the poem, "A Visit from St. Nicholas" and were published in 1823 by Clement Clarke Moore. The poem was written for his two daughters and was later submitted to the Troy Sentinel for publication. Because of the poem's worldwide popularity, International China decided to commit the famous words of the poem to china! After soliciting the famous folk artist Susan Winget to illustrate the story, International released this popular pattern. Each piece from **International's Christmas Story** features a different line from Moore's famous poem and an accompanying illustration. Replacements, Ltd. carries a wide variety of pieces from this popular pattern. Be sure to browse our extensive inventory.

The classic **Holiday pattern by Lenox China** features the stately elegance and quality craftsmanship for which Lenox has come to be known. This beautiful design is sure to bring a stylish holiday accent to any table. The body of each piece is sculpted from fine ivory china and is highlighted with green holly leaves and red enamel berries. For the Holiday pattern, Lenox used their popular "Dimension" shape. This bold shape has become one of Lenox's many modern classics. Replacements carries an extensive array of pieces from this distinctive design, including the pierced accent plate and the "Cookies for Santa" mug.

The **Christmastime pattern** is a new twist on an old idea. After the immediate sales success of their Happy Holidays pattern, Nikko decided to use the same Christmas tree design template on a unique octagonal shape. Introduced in 1991,

*(continued on page 4)*



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**Prudential California Realty**

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## Top Holiday China Patterns

*continued from page 3*



Christmastime features the traditional Christmas tree which is accented with a variety of festive ornaments and decoratively wrapped gifts. Each earthenware body from the Christmastime pattern is banded in green. Nikko China made the Christmastime pattern to be especially durable. Because of this unique quality, you can use the pattern as a substitute for your everyday china.

**The Poinsettia pattern by Block China** is a modern

holiday classic that features a durable body and a distinctive poinsettia design. For this unique holiday pattern, Block China employed the talents of the artist Mary Lou Goertzen. Goertzen's poinsettia line drawing is prominently featured on the center of each place setting piece. Each piece from this pattern features an earthenware body that is accented with green trim. Muted green watercolors contrast against the warmth of each red bloom in Goertzen's design.

**Merry Christmas by Johnson Brothers** is a traditional earthenware design that is sure to bring a festive spirit to any holiday table. The scalloped rim of each plate is decorated with a festive holly design. In the center of each piece is an image of a traditional Christmas tree, decorated with a variety of colorful ornaments. The tree is placed next to the warmth of a roaring fire. Over the fireplace mantle hangs a Christmas wreath, accented with a large red bow. On the floor, are carefully wrapped gifts that feature large colorful bows. Johnson Brothers chose a muted palette for their Merry Christmas design. As a result, this pattern is easily coordinated with most crystal, sterling, stainless, and silverplate dinnerware patterns.

The Christmas Rose design was first released in 1890. Since that time, it has steadily grown in popularity to become one of Spode's most popular holiday patterns. The **Christmas Rose pattern by Spode** features a traditional design that is stylish, elegant, and sophisticated. Each piece from this pattern is trimmed in glistening gold and deep red. Each plate and serving piece features the delicate bloom of the Christmas rose surrounded by green leaves. Spode introduced the Christmas Rose design in 1890. The distinctive floral pattern was featured on a pudding dish and was sold as a promotional item. The Victorian elegance and deeply hued palette of the Christmas Rose inspired the company to translate the design into a complete dinnerware service. The beauty and elegance of this pattern is unparalleled and is representative of Spode's commitment to creating the very best in luxury china.

**Eternal Christmas by Lenox** is one of the most popular holiday patterns produced by Lenox. This elegant design features a festive holly border with red enamel berries. The ivory colored bone china is adorned with gold leaves and features a gold band that encircles the rim of each piece. Eternal Christmas is an elegant pattern that adds metropolitan sophistication to any holiday setting. ●

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.



2268 S. Harvard Boulevard  
 Historic West Adams  
 Los Angeles California 90018  
 323-735-WAHA (323-735-9242)  
 www.neighborhoodlink.com/lz/westadams  
 www.WestAdamsHeritage.com

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**WAHA COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND STANDING MEETINGS**

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

**Community Relations**

Meets the second Tuesday of each month -  
 Contact Jennifer Charnofsky if you'd like to get  
 involved with this activity 323-734-7391

**Historic Preservation**

Chair: Jean Frost 213-748-1656

**Zoning & Planning**

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

**Newsletter**

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

**Publications**

Director: Jean Frost 213-748-1656

**Holiday Tour**

Chair: Jacqueline Sharps 323-766-8842

**Membership**

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

**By-Laws**

Thomas Florio 213-749-8464

**Web Site**

Thomas Florio 213-749-8464

**Programs and Events**

SeElcy Caldwell 323-291-7484 and  
 Jean Cade 323-737-5034

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

# Community Matters

## West Adams Avenue Holiday Posada: Neighbors Welcoming Neighbors to West Adams Avenues

December 26 - January 6, 2004 7 p.m. - 8 p.m. each evening  
 Visit a different house each night for eight nights — skipping  
 Mondays (rest days) and Wednesdays (New Year's Eve).

The final night Jan. 6 hosted by United Neighborhoods Neighborhood  
 Council Chair Guy Leemhuis of 8th Avenue.

Posada Schedule to be released December 12. Contact Gavin Giynn for  
 more information, 323-766-1690 or ekeout@aol.com. ●

## Grants Available: Youth Engagement

The Captain Planet Foundation is accepting proposals for grants, which  
 support projects that organize children and youths to solve environmental  
 problems in their communities. Grants range from \$250 to \$2,500. Schools  
 and nonprofit organizations that organize local environmental programs  
 involving children and youths ages 6 to 18 are encouraged to apply. The  
 deadline to submit proposals is December 31, 2003.

For additional information, contact Sona Chambers at  
 captain.planet.foundation@turner.com or visit <http://www.captainplanetfdn.org>. ●



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 (Seller) - \$715,000

Spanish Fixer - 1323 Victoria Avenue. Jerry Mendelsohn (Buyer & Seller) Asking  
 \$575,000

Vintage 1920's Condo in Fab Mid-City Bldg - 3 BR, 2.5 BA, 1,700 sq ft - views,  
 hardwood flrs, WOW! David Raposa (Seller) - Asking \$475,000

University Park Craftsman - 2706 Menlo - David Raposa (Seller)

Jefferson Park Bungalow - 2056 W. 29th Place - David Raposa (Buyer)

Hollywood Boulevard Condo - Nick Mercado (Seller)

**SOLD:**

Avenues Craftsman - 2523 4th Avenue - David Raposa (Seller & Buyer) -  
 Welcome, Teri Klass and Melissa Garson!

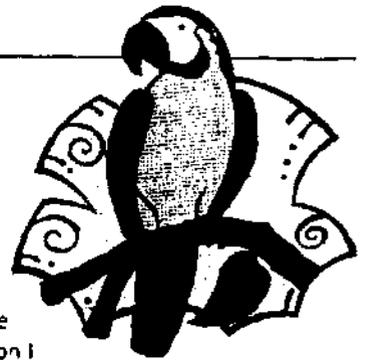
University Park Landmark Victorian - 1163 West 27th Street - David Raposa -  
 (Seller & Buyer) - Welcome to your dream home, Clay DeLeon!

Avenues Airplane Bungalow - 2420 5th Avenue - David Raposa (Seller). Nick  
 Mercado (Buyer) - Welcome, Michael Evans!

Our Offices are in the Victorian Village,  
 at 2316 1/2 S. Union Avenue, Suite 2, 213-747-1337.

# In the Garden

## The Garden Guy by Steve Rowe



### "A FLOCK OF FORTY CHERRY FACED CONURES IN A PALM TREE" -- A WEST ADAMS CHRISTMAS TALE

Holiday Greetings Gardeners! An amazing thing happened to me the other day. As I was glancing out my back window one morning, I happened to notice a rather large feathered bird perched upon an Adirondack chair in the middle of the lawn. As I studied the bird more closely it appeared to be some sort of raptor (hawk). Slowly as the bird turned in my direction I recognized it to be a Cooper's hawk. A rarity in these parts. Immediately I looked around to see if my resident flycatcher was anywhere to be found. I started to get worried. The Cooper's hawk happens to feed upon small birds, the garden variety, and as much as I was delighted to see the magnificent raptor perched in my very own yard, I was more than a little disconcerted to not see the familiar figure of my garden flycatcher around. Needless to say I called out the troops to frighten away the beautiful intruder. We have a pack, four Jack Russell terriers, and a chihuahua mix. They do the job quite effectively. I send them out regularly to keep the pigeons from drinking and bathing in my koi pond.

The sighting of the rare raptor produced mixed feelings in me. As a child, bird watching was a big hobby and love for me. There was a time in my youth when I could by sight name all the birds that I came in contact with. I knew every bird that was in my very large bird watcher's handbook, what they looked like and all their vital statistics. But as an adult the sight of my beautiful songbirds becoming dinner for a hungry raptor has lost all its intrigue. From now on it's "Russells to the rescue."



By the way, the flycatcher must have seen him coming for he was there the very next day.

For me, the love of birdwatching is synonymous with gardening, and again I have to thank my paternal grandmother, for her magnificent rock gardens in Southeastern Connecticut attracted a plethora of feathered beings to revel in its bounty and beauty. The very act of gardening creates not only a wondrous oasis for ourselves but for a myriad number of feathered fauna as well. Birds and other creatures are attracted to the lush gardens we create. They use them for food, to raise their young and to hide from predators. A point of fact, in one season I counted three mockingbird nests, four morning dove nests, one red tailed hawk's nest, one hummingbird's nest several red fox squirrel nests and one raven's nest, all in my very own yard. It's like Grand Central Station for Birds and Animals. They are attracted to the gardens we create. They feed on the berries and fruits as well as the insects they attract. They eat flies, mosquitoes, spiders, whiteflies, aphids. Thank you, Oh thank you, my feathered friends. So, gardeners, if you want to attract our feathered friends to your yard, get out those garden tools and get to work. Always remember to have some type of bird bath where they can drink and bathe, oh and please change the water as often as needed.

There are so many surprises for the garden and bird lover here in our wonderful neighborhoods. A myriad number of bird species can be found here in the Historic West Adams District. When I first moved into our home here in Arlington Heights, I was out in the backyard one day several years ago trying to turn a barren dry wasteland into the paradise I aspired for it to one day to become. I became distracted by a very annoying, very loud cacophony of squawking. As I turned my head in the direction of the noise, what I witnessed was a wonder to behold. There, in my very own backyard, up in the Australian Brush Cherry Tree, landed a flock of perhaps 40 Cherry Faced Conures, a tropical species of the parrot family. Well I can't tell you the joy I experienced. It was a revelation. I stood there for perhaps thirty minutes enraptured by their gregarious nature before they noisily departed for the next heavily laden tree up the block. Here right in my neighborhood a family flock of tropical green and red parrots. Unbelievable!

My next door neighbor later informed me that they have been in the neighborhood for perhaps 10 or more years slowly increasing their numbers. The birds happen to find all they need to prosper and reproduce right here locally. They feed not only on brush cherries trees but date palms as well. I have noticed smaller vibrant Green Amazon Parrot families as well. These two tropical species are not native to Southern California. The only reasons I can think as to why they are here is perhaps they escaped from local pet stores, owners had let them go, or perhaps some might have migrated from tropical Central America following a food source. Anyway, I for one delight every time I see or here them coming.

Our gardens are indeed a paradise for our feathered friends. For they attract a wondrous array of various bird species. Here in West Adams can be found many species of songbirds: sparrows, finches, mockingbirds. We also have flycatchers, morning and ringneck doves, warblers, hummingbirds aplenty, European starlings, grackles, American robins, kestrels and peregrine falcons. For those of you with koi and fish ponds be wary, herons and egrets have been sighted. There are also transient as well as resident very large raptors located in our area. I have not seen them in some time, but for a while we had a nesting pair of red-tailed hawks located in our Deodor Cedar. Everytime I mowed the front yard, I had to remove the feathered and bony remains of some poor unlucky pigeon, their presumed preferred prey.

Yes, you too can have all this excitement in your very own yard. So, gardeners, get out there and get to work. Let us create a garden paradise for all to enjoy. You will not be sorry you did. Enjoy. Happy Holidays! ●

# New Historic District

*continued from page 1*

structures but on-site review inspections by State Historians Cynthia Howse and Marylin Lortie found many of the structures lacked sufficient remaining architectural integrity to meet the high criteria for the National Register of Historic Places listing. Although the reduction in scope is a disappointment it should be noted that many of those omitted are in fact Contributing Structures at the local level and still protected under provisions of the NUP Specific Plan. The North University Park District is the third National Register Historic District successfully advocated by the Adams Dockweiler Heritage Organizing Committee (ADHOC). Prior sister Historic Districts, St. James Park and Twentieth Street, along with Menlo, Van Buren Place and the recognized-eligible Chester Place mark the University Park area neighborhoods as the backbone of West Adams' federal historic designations.

As the Chair of ADHOC it has been my privilege over the years to work with the leadership and membership of the West Adams Heritage Association in moving these designations forward. Without the cooperative support and financial assistance of WAHA, these Historic Districts may never have been created. I would like to thank ADHOC and WAHA member Don Ferguson for his personal commitment in this long-term quest to finalize the NUP Historic District. My charge as ADHOC Chair was also made easier by WAHA's matching-grant funding which allowed for the hiring of consultant Teresa Grimes as our architectural historian. The high caliber of Ms. Grimes' work product not only insured the professional submission of the forms for the State Office of Historic Preservation but her cooperative personality made the process most pleasant.

The North University Park Historic District was submitted for consideration under criteria C (ARCHITECTURE: Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possess high artistic value). The Historic District's period-of-significance is from 1887 through 1929 and encompasses such late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Century architectural styles as: Queen Anne, Eastlake, American Foursquare, Craftsman, Mediterranean, Tudor, English, Colonial Revival, and Spanish Colonial Revival structures. These buildings represent work by many of the leading Southern California architects of the period including: John Austin, Bradbeer & Ferris, Hunt & Eisen, Joseph Carter Newsom, Thomas Preston, Frederick Roehrig and L.A. Smith among others.

Successful historic designations are the cornerstone of all of our historic preservation efforts. Through the act of individual or district certification of historic properties the decision makers are compelled to analyze impacts and mitigate them. This means that many old buildings perceived as eyesores are not easily dismissed as blighted neighborhood encumbrances and only suited for demolition. By identifying and designating historic properties communities can not only preserve their past but also affect their future. My neighbors and I in University Park have been fortunate to have inherited an abundance of architectural treasures for stewardship. We have also been lucky in being part of a time and place when historic preservation is an accepted philosophical and political concept. Our West Adams communities are full of other significant architectural and cultural treasures and I urge all to take the opportunity provided by WAHA through their generous matching grant programming to empower their neighborhoods by identifying, researching and designating their historic resources. ●



Hoffman Apartments, 1929 (above)  
2627 Monmouth Avenue  
Spanish Colonial Revival style

W. W. Cockins House, 1894 (below)  
2653 South Hoover  
Queen Anne-Victorian style  
Bradbeer & Ferris, Architects  
*LA Historic Cultural Monument No. 519*



Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner, Sunday Brunch

## THE TWO NINE

*the 29th street cafe*

A West Adams neighborhood eatery,  
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[www.pueblonuevo.org](http://www.pueblonuevo.org)

# 20 Years of West Adams Holidays

*continued from page 1*

extended the table through the dining room doors nearly to the foot of the Christmas tree in the living room to seat everyone.

The next year, 1984, brought several new neighbors to our street. That was the year that Stephan Von Zweifler and Wes Fisher moved in next door. I was selling real estate by then. Bob Bortfeld had said, "You love this place as much as I do. Why don't you help me? You can do it part-time." Famous last words. For a while, I managed to maintain my interior design business as well, but West Adams took over my life, as well as my heart. I filled our street with fun people and the parties began.

Oh, those holiday parties, sometimes three in one evening. Moving to West Adams certainly meant getting evening clothes, if you didn't have them before you moved here. There were caroling parties, so filled with holiday exuberance, that neighbors joined in and swelled our ranks.

Not only did we usually have a big Christmas party, but our dear friends next door, Stephan and Wes usually had one the following weekend and we all helped each other. One memorable year at their house, I was making a croquembouche, Stephan was covering the walls with red velvet for the party and my stepfather and uncle were decorating their tree; all just hours before the guests arrived. We have laughed so, that two old straight guys decorated the decorator's tree. (Stephan was the Visual Merchandising Director at I. Magnin.) All proclaimed it a masterpiece and a good time was had by all who attended.

The very first Christmas tour included our house and our neighbors' next door as well as Kristin Belko's Victorian, and Salisbury Manor, a greatly missed local restaurant. Yes, it was called a Christmas Tour — we were not nearly so politically correct in those days. As the brochure said, "We've thrown a log on the fire and brought out our Christmas finery to show you the warmth and elegance of a turn-of-the-century holiday extravaganza... So forget the woes of 1987. Tonight it's 1900 and we're all wide-eyed

children awaiting Saint Nick, hopelessly bewildered by the colors, the lights, the music and the wonder."

The house was decorated from top to bottom, the upstairs tree with heirloom family ornaments and the downstairs tree beribboned in rose Victorian splendor. Celestial harp music wafted through the house and the dining room table was laden with a dessert buffet. At those early tours, the homeowner did all the food and their friends were the docents. People were enchanted. Their excitement boosted the spirits of the weary homeowners. I met a woman a few years ago who still remembered that tour and how much she enjoyed talking to my little girl. She sent me pictures that she had taken years before.

We had moved to West Adams with a four-year-old, as I have heard that many of the most recent Wahonians have, as well.

Nothing is so magical for a little child, as a turn-of-the-century house decorated for Christmas. Their sense of

*(continued on next page)*



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## Suzie's Hot Sherried Fruit Casserole

*This is great with turkey, chicken or ham or for a winter brunch*

- 1 15 oz. can sliced pineapple
- 1 15 oz. can peaches, halves
- 1 15 oz. can pears, halves
- 1 15 oz. can apricots, halves

### SAUCE:

- 1 stick butter
- 2 tablespoons flour, (heaping)
- 1/2 cup light brown sugar
- 1 cup sherry

Drain fruit and arrange in layers in a 2-quart casserole. Cook sauce in a double boiler until thick and smooth. Pour over fruit. Cover and refrigerate overnight or several days. Bake uncovered at 350° for 30 minutes or until hot and bubbly. Serves 12, but this recipe is easily doubled.

## Zesty Pumpkin Soup

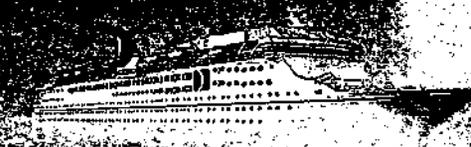
- 1/4 cup butter
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 1 garlic clove, crushed
- 1 teaspoon curry powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4-1/2 teaspoon ground coriander
- 1/8 teaspoon crushed red pepper
- 3 cups chicken broth (or vegetarian broth)
- 1 16 oz can pumpkin
- 1 cup half & half

In a large saucepan, melt butter; saute onion and garlic until soft. Add curry powder, salt, coriander and red pepper, cook one minute. Add broth; boil gently, uncovered for 15 to 20 minutes. Stir in pumpkin and half & half cook five minutes. Blend until creamy. Garnish with dollop of sour cream and chopped chives, if desired. Makes 6 servings

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wonder enhances everything. The absolute rule is that Sarah can't come down on Christmas morning until she is called. The lights are shining, the fire is lit, carols are playing and Santa has surely left something special. We have a picture of her coming down those stairs in her nightgown from every year. Then it is a scramble of stockings and presents and don't forget, goodies for the dog. All of this is followed by a lavish Christmas breakfast, which always includes Sherried Fruit.

Then it is time to begin preparing for Christmas dinner, often for as many as thirty five guests. They include not only family, but also West Adams friends who are far from other family. We usually begin with cups of pumpkin soup, my recipe that has been served at many Holiday Tours. (See sidebar) Then it is roast beef and turkey and a dozen side dishes, and, of course, Nana Rolls. These homemade rolls fill the house with their fragrance and remind me of my childhood, when my beloved grandmother would make them. This recipe, which was included in the ANNA cookbook a few years ago, has become popular throughout West Adams.

Speaking of cookbooks, several years ago, I realized that many of my guests had been eating the same things for holiday dinners at our house for years and would not be able to reproduce those meals if I wasn't around; so I made a family holiday cookbook. It was a big success and I recommend making one for your family. It is important to preserve memories, as well as houses.

When Sarah brought home her beau from college, she asked if we could spend Christmas at home that year, so Tim could experience a West Adams Christmas. Plans were made and relatives were notified. It turned out that Tim not only got to experience a West Adams Christmas, he had a major role in making it happen. Don and I were both ill for much of the pre-Christmas festivities and Don ended up with pneumonia. With our fevers raging, we went down to the railroad tracks to buy a tree at auction, because the kids were coming up to help decorate it. We all managed to get it half decorated that evening, but I wasn't sure that it was really big enough. They had to get back to school. The next morning we got up and looked at the tree and thought, what were we thinking. . . This scrawny tree is not grand enough for downstairs. We undecorated the tree and carried it upstairs for our second floor tree and went out to buy a bigger tree. When Tim heard about this he must have thought we were crazy, but he was undaunted. He continued to help make this a special Christmas, not only by helping with a myriad of holiday tasks, but on December 21, he proposed to our Sarah. That Christmas, the stars in their eyes rivaled the lights on the tree as Sarah showed off her new ring to friends and family.

Our "pledge class," as we call those who moved to West Adams with us in the early days, are now spread around the country, but still in touch. As it has for nearly a hundred years, this year our home will spread its Yuletide welcome. Cards fill the bookcases flanking the fireplace and we are flooded with memories. We remember all those special people, some have moved on and some have passed on, but all are part of our West Adams Christmas. Bob Bortfeld's irrepressible laugh filling our Christmas table, counting all of Doug Nigh's Santas at their holiday open house, tree decorating at Laura Meyers and her fabulous noodle kugel, Christmas Eve at Salisbury Manor. The celebrations continue, with new friends, as well as old.

We are grateful that we made that leap of faith twenty years ago and left the familiar San Fernando Valley for the home of our hearts, in Historic West Adams. Every nook and cranny is filled with Christmas cheer, with love, of family, of history. This year, I'll take a moment to dream, of a Christmas yet to be, when Sarah's children will come running down the stairs and a new generation learns to love this special place. What is preservation for, if not the future? ●

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## Nana Rolls

*Ella Weddle's roll recipe (Sarah Henderson's Great Grandmother)*

- 1 package yeast
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1/2 cup salad oil
- 1 2/3 cups lukewarm water
- 1 egg
- 4 1/2 cups to 5 cups flour

Dissolve yeast in 2/3 cups water and set aside. Beat egg, salt, and sugar together. Add oil. Add dissolved yeast. Alternately add flour and the rest of the water. Sift flour in as you use it. Beat until smooth. Usually 4 1/2 cups of flour is enough, but in very warm weather, it takes more. Let rise until double in size and work down. Put in refrigerator until ready to use. Form in rolls, put into a baking pan and bake at 375° for 20 minutes or until golden brown. Makes 12 servings.

# Around the House

Holiday Greetings, A gift from me to you this holiday season. An old fashioned Christmas pudding my grandmother made every Christmas Eve In Connecticut. Enjoy A Christmas in Connecticut Tradition, without the Snow. Merry Merry — Steve Rowe

## Bryde O'Conner Rowe's Christmas Pudding

- 1/4 lb dried pears
- 1/4 lb dried cherries
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 3 large eggs
- 1 tbs. grated lemon zest
- 1 cup golden raisins
- 1/2 fresh cranberries ( diced )
- 1 cup dried plumbs ( diced )
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 cup fresh cubed brioche bread ( cut small)
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup candied ginger
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 tsp allspice
- 1/4 tsp cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp nutmeg
- 1 to 2 tsp salt
- 1 tsp vanilla

Lightly oil a deep 2-quart pudding mold with lid. Place dried pears and cherries in a small pan and cover with water, bring to a simmer, cover pan and remove from heat. Let stand until softened, about 25 minutes. Transfer cherries and pears to a food processor with strainer spoon. Add 1/2 cup soaking liquid and puree until smooth. Take a large bowl, and whisk together fruit puree, buttermilk, eggs, lemon zest and vanilla until smooth. In a small bowl, combine diced cranberries, plums, raisins, flour, bread cubes, sugar, ginger, baking soda, allspice, cinnamon, nutmeg, salt. Add dry ingredients to the liquid and stir until just combined. Gently spoon batter into pudding mold. Cover tightly with lid. Set on rack in pot deep enough to hold mold comfortably. Add hot water to halfway up sides of mold. Bring to simmer, reduce heat to low and cover pot. Steam for 1 1/2 hours, adding water to maintain level if needed. Unmold, Serve with brandy custard sauce. Serves 8

## Brandy Custard Sauce

- 1 large egg
- 1 tsp cornstarch
- 2/3 cup evaporated milk
- 1/3 cup sugar
- pinch salt
- 2 tbs. brandy

Add all ingredients, whip until smooth, pour over finished pudding, serve.

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## WAHA December Calendar: It's Party Time

Saturday, December 13

24th Street Theatre Holiday Party - meet and mingle with old, new and future members of the 24th Street Theatre family. 5 - 9 p.m., at 1117 West 24th Street (just west of Hoover, in North University Park).

Sunday, December 14

WAHA Holiday/Volunteer Thank You Party and Brunch, to be held at the Western Heights home of Don Lynch, 2273 West 20th Street, from noon until the last bell jingles at 4 p.m. (see page 1 for details).

Wednesday, December 17

Community Holiday Party at the South Seas House (see story on this page).

Friday, December 26

West Adams Avenues' 8-night Posada begins (see story page 5).

## SOUTH SEAS HOUSE HOSTS ITS FIRST CHRISTMAS PARTY... OF THIS CENTURY

You're invited to a community holiday party at the South Seas House.

**Wednesday, December 17**

6-9 p.m.

2301 West 24<sup>th</sup> Street (at Arlington)

The South Seas House/L.A. City Recreation & Parks Department is partnering with the West Adams Avenues Neighborhood Association to host a holiday party for the young and the young at heart alike. There will have a Santa, a toy giveaway (*please bring unwrapped toy donations by Monday, Dec. 15 to the South Seas House, if you can assist with that*) and various other forms of entertainment.

We are all welcome. This will be a potluck event - so please, join the festivities and bring a dish to share. ●

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