



# West Adams Matters

## "Herstory" at Angelus Rosedale Cemetery

Unsuitable for Women: WAHA's Living History Tour on September 25 Pays Tribute to Trailblazing Fems

by Laura Meyers



Caroline Severance

On the eve of the 100th anniversary of women getting the vote in California, WAHA's annual Living History Tour at Angelus Rosedale Cemetery focuses on pioneering and trailblazing women who, against conventional wisdom, dared to venture in new directions in their lives and in a variety of professions. This historic cemetery, established in 1884, is the final resting place for dozens of Los Angeles's most important female pioneers, including the city's first African American female dentist, USC's first female professor, one of California's first woman physicians, Los Angeles's first professionally-degreed black librarian, the first woman to climb Mt. Disappointment in the San Gabriels, the female co-founders of the L.A. chapter of the NAACP, and several literal trailblazers who made their way across the country on foot as the West was just opened.

Amid the elaborate headstones and monuments, costumed actresses will bring to life— and tell the often-riveting stories of — nine important female "residents" from Los Angeles' earlier times. During

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## VISIT THE ONE ARCHIVES

Thursday, September 16 7 p.m. RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

**ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, 909 West Adams Blvd. (University Park)**

This month, WAHA Steps Out to visit the ONE Archives, right here in Historic West Adams. Incorporated in 1952, ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives is the oldest ongoing lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) organization in the western hemisphere. ONE is dedicated to collecting, preserving, documenting, studying, and communicating LGBT history, challenges, and aspirations and with more than two million artifacts is believed to house the largest collection of LGBT memorabilia in the world. For nearly 60 years, ONE has worked with historians and activists like the pioneer Jim Kepner to collect materials. ONE's collection spans over a century, and attracts researchers internationally and throughout the United States.

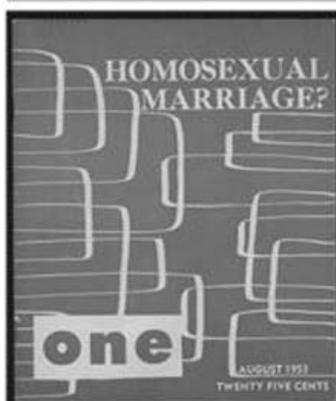
Please RSVP -- space is limited: [events@westadamsheritage.org](mailto:events@westadamsheritage.org). ●



## Gay Rights Pioneers in West Adams

by John Patterson

West Adams has many hidden gems. On Thursday, September 16, WAHA members will have a unique opportunity to visit one such sparkler: a Modernist brick building that we have all driven by perhaps a million times collectively, and, I would venture to guess, very few even know is there. A former fraternity house, it may have been a mid-century case study house when first constructed.



And while the building itself may offer sufficient motivation to warrant a visit, it is what the building contains, and the legacy that its collections preserve, that are the true value that await us. Inside these walls is the home of "ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives," an unparalleled collection of LGBT history that has been a part of the fabric of West Adams from the very beginning days of the gay rights movement dating back to the late 1940's!

One of the early pioneers of what became known as the "Mattachine Foundation" was Fredric Frisbee, a long-time resident of West Adams, who lived for many years in the Connell Carriage House on West 23rd Street. The term "Mattachine" has its roots in the Societe Mattachine, a French medieval masque group that traveled from village to village, using ballads and dramas to point out social injustice. Another group of Los Angeles-based homophiles, (the name of choice at the time) called themselves the "Knights of the Clocks."

Jim Childs, whose 2004 nomination of the Connell Carriage House resulted in its

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## Paint & Garden Contest Winners

Congratulations to WAHA's 2010 Paint and Garden Contest contestants, who all had beautiful homes and who all will receive tickets to WAHA's Living History Tour. We voted, and here are your Winners:

### PAINT

Susan and Wendell Foo (Contractor, Rob Carerre; Paint Color Consultant, Jim Childs), 2309 Scarff St.

### GARDENS: We had a tie!

Marina Moevs and Steve Peckman, 2221 West 31st St.  
Kurt and Anne Peterson, 2421 Seventh Avenue

## TRAILBLAZING WOMEN

### Living History Tour On September 25: Year of the Women

If you could meet the suffragettes responsible for women getting the vote, what would you ask them? What if you could interview the first "front page gal" who worked at a Chicago newspaper, in 1878? Or, what would you like to learn from the first African American to win an Oscar, or the first female African American police officer in the nation?

Meet these fascinating females, and more, at WAHA's annual Living History Tour, which takes place every autumn at Angelus Rosedale Cemetery. Amid the elaborate headstones and monuments, costumed actors bring to life—and tell the often-riveting stories of—a half dozen residents from Los Angeles' earlier times. This year's tour is slated for Saturday, September 25, and we invite your participation now as either volunteers or tour-goers.

For 2010, on the eve of the 100th anniversary of women getting the vote in California, we are focusing on pioneering and trailblazing women who, against conventional wisdom, dared to venture in new directions in their lives and in a variety of professions. You'll meet suffragettes and social reformers, headliners and females who were first in their fields, including:

- HATTIE McDANIEL – The first African American to win an Oscar, for her role in *Gone with the Wind*, McDaniel was also a singer, songwriter, comedienne, and later TV star who was also the first black woman to sing on the radio in America.
- CAROLINE SEVERANCE, CLARA BURDETTE and DORA FELLOWS HAYNES (founder of the League of Women Voters) – Three important Suffragettes and social reformers who played a key role in women getting the vote in California.
- MINNIE ROSWELL LANGSTADTER – In 1878, at age 15-16, Minnie Roswell (aka Minerva Emerick) was the first female newspaper reporter (or "front page gal") in Chicago.
- ANNA MAY WONG – Pioneering Asian-American actress and Hollywood legend.
- GEORGIA ANN ROBINSON – In 1916, she became the first black female police officer in Los Angeles and possibly the nation.
- CLARA BALDWIN STOCKER – Namesake for a busy L.A. street, she was the heiress to "Lucky" Baldwin's fortune.
- NELLIE LUTCHER – Jazz pianist/vocalist whose bluesy swing riffs won her fame as the "Real Gone Gal" – later, she was a union leader.

Angelus Rosedale Cemetery, one of the city's oldest, most historically significant cemeteries, was founded in 1884, and is now home to many generations of Los Angeles's early citizens, representing every race, faith, and creed. The Living History Tour was first presented twenty years ago to bring their stories to life and thereby tell the story of Los Angeles itself. In the intervening years WAHA has showcased more than 100 historic personages (mostly men, and this year's 20th anniversary tour is departing from that tradition to present the distaff side of the cemetery.)

WAHA's Living History Tour Committee will have regular meetings in August and September to plan and implement all the myriad tasks associated with this tour event, from costuming and script-preparation to chair and tent rentals. Can you help? Please contact Laura Meyers at [lauramink@aol.com](mailto:lauramink@aol.com), or 323-737-6146, or write [tours@westadamsheritage.org](mailto:tours@westadamsheritage.org).

To attend the tour, visit [www.WestAdamsHeritage.org](http://www.WestAdamsHeritage.org) to download the order form. Tickets are by reservation (and advance payment) only, and cost \$25 until September 15, and \$30 after September 15. (Children under 10 attend free.) Mail your ticket request to: WAHA Living History Tour, 2280 West 21st St., Los Angeles, CA 90018. ●



## *President's Message* by John Patterson

After just four months as the president of one of the city's most active historic preservation advocacy organizations and West Adams' largest membership association, I am amazed at how busy I (and we) are, and at how much has been accomplished in this short time. It's not like I didn't know in advance the level of commitment this role would entail, but what I am finding so encouraging is the level of support that is forthcoming from so many members of WAHA.

Testament is readily apparent from the incredible turn out at our 4th of July celebration, and more recently at the Ice Cream Social just a couple of weeks back. The participation of volunteers at both of these events, as well as those joining the newly revitalized committees, especially the merged Membership/Outreach team, are an inspiration in and of themselves.

Membership is growing once again, and we're hearing from more and more of our friends and neighbors who had stepped back in recent years. Communications are increasing into a real dialogue with our members, and I am so grateful to hear the positive responses to the new email announcements and the quality of our WAHA newsletter. This dialogue is the foundation upon which we will continue to build our organization.

There are so many opportunities to get involved in the coming weeks. Please don't hesitate to contact your Board of Directors with your ideas and suggestions. And be sure to let us know when you can lend a hand – there's always room for more, and the burden is so much lighter when shared by so many!

Thank you for all that you have done to help!

*John Patterson may be reached by e-mail at [President@WestAdamsHeritage.org](mailto:President@WestAdamsHeritage.org)*

## **Pasadena Heritage's Craftsman Weekend Comes to West Adams!**

Pasadena Heritage, a nonprofit organization dedicated to historic preservation in and around Pasadena, will present its annual Craftsman Weekend on October 15-17. Celebrating its 19th year this fall, Craftsman Weekend is the largest and most comprehensive salute to the Arts & Crafts Movement in the Western United States.

The Craftsman Weekend's offerings will include a tour of significant Craftsman-era houses, a variety of bus and walking tours, and exclusive evening receptions at historic sites. New this year is the expanded Craftsman Exposition, a major exposition of furniture and decorative arts, which has moved to the Pasadena Convention Center.

This year's special excursion will visit the Historic West Adams District. Keith Pandolfi, associate editor of *This Old House*, called West Adams the kind of place where you can find a solid old house that looks and feels like an authentic, old-fashioned American neighborhood and features some of the most whimsical takes on Craftsman architecture he's ever seen.

Pasadena Heritage teams up with the West Adams Heritage Association to present this tour of five outstanding Craftsman homes, including the Charles and Henry Greene Lucy Wheeler House, which is thought to be the only remaining house in the city

*(continued on page 4)*



### **Proposed HCM Heads to City Council**

*The Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Commission voted in July to designate the c. 1914 mansion at 3724 West 27th St. as a Historic Cultural Monument, renamed the "Hauerwaas-Kusayanagi Residence." The nomination was prepared by Anne Marie Brooks. The house was built for Lucy Hauerwaas, the wealthy widow of John A. Hauerwaas, a German immigrant who made his fortune by investing in local real estate and the Wieland Brewery. The second owner, Dr. Masako Kusayanagi, a second generation Japanese-American, purchased the property in 1937. She resided there until she and her family were forcibly relocated to the Manzanar Relocation camp during WWII. Her family retained ownership of the house until 1954. Logan Westbrook, a prominent African-American recording executive, purchased the property in 1983 and sold it in 1998 to Father Flanagan's Boys and Girls Home. If confirmed by the City Council, the Hauerwaas-Kusayanagi Residence would be the first Historic Cultural Monument associated with the Japanese-American heritage in Jefferson Park. A hearing at "PLUM" (the City Council's Planning and Land Use Committee) is scheduled for Tuesday, September 14, at 2:30 p.m. in Room 350, City Hall, 200 N. Spring Street, downtown Los Angeles.*



# Stepping Out

## Craftsman Weekend

*continued from page 3*

of Los Angeles designed by the Greene brothers. The former owner, Martin Eli Weil, a restoration architect and founding member of the Los Angeles Conservancy, did meticulous research and restoration and guests will be surprised to discover many of the Green's notable features in this modest, urban home. Also featured on the tour will be a Train & Williams home recently featured on the cover of *Style 1900* magazine, and listed on the National Register, as well as a Sumner Hunt home and two side-by-side Arthur and Alfred Heineman homes including the Craftsman that was featured in the CBS television drama, "NUMB3RS."



Guests can choose to take this tour by motor coach or drive-themselves. The motor coach tour will include lunch at the beautifully restored Guasti Villa, a 1912 Hudson & Munsell-designed Beaux Arts Mansion and home of the Peace Awareness Labyrinth and Gardens. Guests may walk the labyrinth or tour the meditation gardens in this beautiful retreat center.

A variety of other local bus tours will be offered throughout the weekend, providing in-depth exploration of Pasadena's historic neighborhoods and architectural treasures. The weekend will include a tour of the historic Lanterman House in neighboring LaCanada-Flintridge.

### Craftsman House Tour

On Sunday, guests will be able to attend the always-popular Craftsman House Tour, which will feature a selection of six privately-owned residences that exemplify why Pasadena is a destination for Arts and Crafts enthusiasts from across the country.

Among houses on tour this year will be some of Pasadena's Craftsman homes with English influence. The Arts & Crafts movement began in England as a celebration of traditional individual craftsmanship in the face of an increasingly machine-made environment.

American Craftsman architects were greatly attracted to this philosophy, reflecting it in their own English-influenced designs.

Sylvanus Marston's Henry Newby House is modeled after the English Tudor style. This home recently underwent a major restoration after a burst pipe flooded several rooms. The owners were meticulous about returning the house to its original state. The Anderson House (*pictured above*), also built by Sylvanus Marston, will also be on the tour. The exterior is virtually unchanged with its large overhanging eaves and perfectly placed windows which allow the interiors of the home to be filled with light, a noted Marston feature. This home includes original built-ins, wainscoting and woodwork in a typical English style. Also included on the tour is Frederick C. Gable's House, built in 1909. Built low to the ground with a dominant front chimney and entryway, this home shows a dramatic contrast to the intensely private entryway of the neighboring Greene & Greene.

Alfred and Arthur Heineman also found inspiration overlooking the Arroyo of Pasadena in designing the Hindry House. This magnificent and graceful home was the largest commission the Heineman's had received to date. Notable features include a fine display of stained and leaded glass, hammered copper fixtures, beautiful woodwork, and spectacular Arroyo-stone fireplace dominating the entryway.

The McFadden Estate in neighboring Altadena is said to have cost Mr. McFadden over \$70,000! Originally consisting of more than an acre of beautifully landscaped grounds with many rare ornamental trees and shrubs, this home was one of Altadena's

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# Stepping Out

grandest estates. At one time, this home was subdivided into 4 separate rental units and even went into ruins as vagrants squated on the property during a period when the house was vacant. After several years, this home has been returned to its intended glory.

Also in neighboring Altadena is the beautiful two-story Craftsman bungalow designed for John S. and Elizabeth Paul by George Webster in 1909. The Paul House shows Webster at his best. The beautiful red cedar paneling and woodwork that envelop and unify the entry, living and dining rooms, create a continuous flow of design and color as the bands of casement windows flood the rooms with light and air. The present owners have stripped layers of paint and refinished every surface and replastered every wall in order to return this home back into the Craftsman jewel that George Webster created.

The Craftsman Exposition will take place at the Convention Center from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 16, and from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, October 17. The Craftsman Exposition is the newly expanded furnishings and decorative arts show and sale. Pasadena Heritage will host more than 80 exhibitors offering extraordinary antique and contemporary Arts & Crafts furnishings and decorative arts as well as restoration experts. Exhibitors are coming to Pasadena from across the U.S. to participate in the two-day show and sale, bringing a broad spectrum of Craftsman-era and period-inspired works: furniture, textiles, pottery and tiles, metal work, wallpapers and stencils, and books which will entice both the novice and collector. All exhibitors are juried to provide the Craftsman Weekend the highest quality sources for antique and contemporary work in the style of the period. Demonstrations highlighting our exhibitors' talent and craft will be on-going throughout the weekend.

Entrance to the Craftsman Exposition is included with all Craftsman Weekend ticket purchases. Registration for the Exposition and Silent Auction only is \$10.

For further information, schedules, ticket prices, and to purchase tickets, please contact: Pasadena Heritage, 651 South St. John Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91105, call 626.441.6333, or visit online at [pasadenaheritage.org](http://pasadenaheritage.org). ●

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## The Ice Cream Social Returns

by Suzanne Henderson

The Clark Library was a perfect setting for our first Ice Cream Social in many years. More than a hundred WAHA members and friends enjoyed ice cream with lots of toppings, yes, even sprinkles. We sipped sangria and strawberry lemonade and nibbled on delicious homemade cookies.

The Committee, a wonderful a capella quartet, lent a nostalgic air to the gathering. There was croquet, badminton, and bocci ball available for play. The cake walk was a popular event with 10 beautiful cakes awarded as prizes.

Our raffle was a big success. A huge thank you goes to Cat Woodward, who spent many hours contacting businesses to get donations, including the delicious ice cream from Dandy Don's. Thank you to all who donated items for the raffle, as well.

To quote from a note we received after the event: "A truly lovely "ice cream social... I had such a wonderful time! It was so nice to see so many people dressed in beautiful old time clothes. And what a nice treat to be able to tour the library! All the desserts and drinks were so yummy! You all did a great job for this event."

Suzanne Tatian, our gracious hostess at the Library, said it was the most beautiful event they had ever had there. She also commended our volunteers for such a speedy clean up. Thank you to all who helped with that. So many people pitched in, that some may be omitted from our list of volunteers, but they are all very much appreciated.

As they used to say, a good time was had by all who attended. ●



ABOVE, L-R: Frank Cooper, Rory Cunningham, Amy Ronnebeck Hall, Alan Hall, and David Pacheco;  
RIGHT: Corinne and Dave Pleger



ABOVE: WAHA Events co-chair Suzanne Henderson organized the Ice Cream Social; RIGHT: WAHA president John Patterson with Rory Cunningham

## How many volunteers does it take to put on an event?

Suzanne and Don Henderson  
Lisa Berns  
John Patterson  
Jeff Valdez  
Cat Woodward  
Sarah, Timothy and Alexander Northrip  
Lindsay Wiggins  
Andy  
Frank, Suzanne and Logan Cooper  
AJ Lentini  
Candy Wynne  
Louise Manfe  
Lisa Schoening  
Norma Latimer  
Peggy King  
Don Lynch  
Chris Eisenberg  
Pat Karasik  
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**Rare Greene & Greene Residence.** Now you can own Los Angeles's only Greene and Greene, the Lucy E. Wheeler Residence, c. 1905. Former home of noted restoration architect Martin Eli Weil, its historic character is well preserved. Protected by a conservancy easement, the Wheeler Residence is located in the Harvard Heights HPOZ historic district in West Adams. Original lighting and built-ins, 2,600 square feet, 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths. \$775,000. *David Raposa*

**Jefferson Park Bungalow** — Needs restoration. Original woodwork (painted), 2 BR, 1 BA, inglenook, built-ins and great windows. Probate, needs court approval. \$275,000. *David Raposa*

**Opportunity to Shape A Streetscape** — Four Craftsman/Victorian homes in a row in Harvard Heights HPOZ. Each property has an intact historic exterior but the interiors have been altered. All need TLC to restore to single family use and bring into compliance with city codes. Angel(s) needed! — perfect for a group of friends to purchase adjacent homes. Asking prices range from \$345,000 to \$395,000. *David Raposa*

### IN ESCROW

**Jefferson Park Bungalow** — *Adam Janeiro, Buyer's agent*

**Valley Classic** — *Adam Janeiro, Buyer's agent*

### SOLD

**Highland Park Spanish** — *Suzanne Henderson, Buyer's agent*

*David Raposa,*

*Suzanne Henderson, Adam Janeiro,*

*Darby Bayliss, Conrado Alberto,*

*Carlton Joseph, Jane Harrington*

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# WAHA Matters

## ONE Archive Showcases Gay Rights

*continued from page 1*

designation as Los Angeles Historic Cultural Monument No. 779, had numerous conversations with Frisbee, his neighbor, about his home and the many early meetings of gay rights activists that were held there. In fact, it was at Frisbee's home that the leaders made a unanimous decision to meld all of the various groups into "ONE, Incorporated." A line from a poem by Thomas Carlyle inspired the name: "A mystic bond of brotherhood makes all men one."

In April, 1951 the group produced a single-page document that summarized not only their goals, but more importantly their understanding of themselves as an oppressed minority. Often victims of police entrapment, the nascent group was soon presented with their first legal challenge: a founding member, Dale Jennings was arrested. With the case being ignored by the media, the group took it upon themselves to produce leaflets under the auspices of the "Citizens Committee to Outlaw Entrapment," and distributed them in neighborhoods with a high density of gay residents. At trial, Jennings acknowledged being homosexual, but denied the charges against him. The jury ultimately deadlocked, and the attorney general chose to drop the case. Warren Johansson summarizes, "The contrast with the usual timidity and hypocrisy in such cases was such that the Citizens Committee justifiably call the outcome a 'great victory.'"

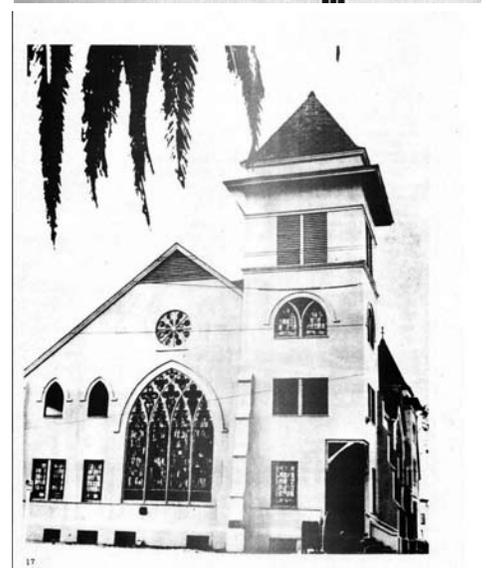
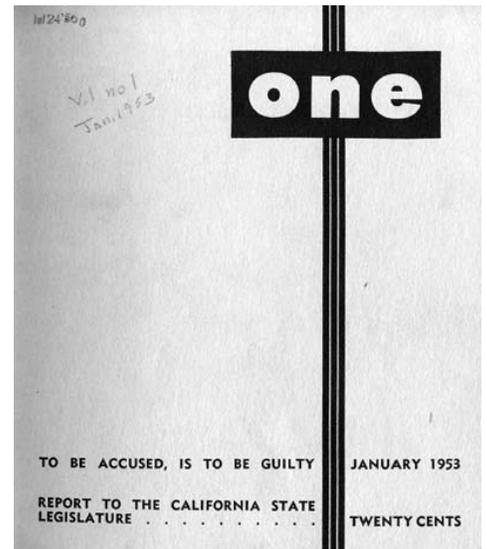
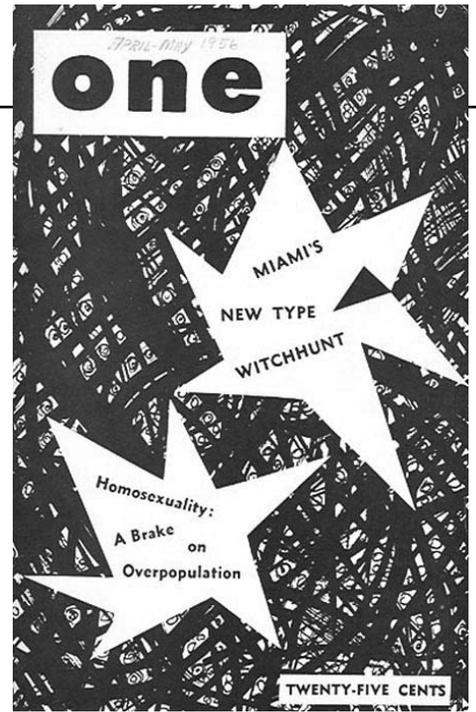
With this victory and a growing sense of empowerment, ONE Magazine was launched, with Jennings serving as its first editor. It is from this first "gay magazine" that the ONE Archives takes its name. During a recent visit, we saw a photo, in an early issue of ONE, of a modest home on the corner of 27th Street and Dalton that served as the headquarters of the new magazine -- right in our own backyard!

During WAHA's visit we will learn more about ONE Magazine's confrontation with the U.S. Postal Service, a battle that went all the way to the Supreme Court, which ultimately ruled unanimously that the "mere discussion of homosexuality could not be branded obscene." We will learn about the 1973 fire that consumed the Metropolitan Community Church, just two years after it was established at Hoover and West 22nd Street. Who knows how many other tidbits from our West

Adams neighborhood history reside in the millions of pieces of memorabilia stored in this archive?

To find out, please join us for the tour and reception, starting promptly at 7 p.m. Space is limited, and reservations are required. Please RSVP to events@WestAdamsHeritage.org. The tour will be followed by a wine and cheese reception in the garden patio, to celebrate the diversity and acceptance that has long been a hallmark of our West Adams community. ●

*The MCC Church (right) was located at Hoover and 22nd; it burned to the ground in 1973.*



# WAHA Matters

## Harvest Hoedown Potluck



It is time to party!  
You are cordially invited to a WAHA potluck  
Saturday, October 9 from 4-7PM  
At Henderson's Folly  
The home of Don and Suzie Henderson  
1660 W 25<sup>th</sup> St.  
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Please bring a "Fall harvest" dish to serve 10  
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# Preservation Matters

## Trailblazing Women at Angelus Rosedale *continued from page 1*

this year's tour you'll meet suffragettes and social reformers, headliners and females who were first in their fields, people like Georgia Robinson, the first African American female LAPD police officer, Minnie Roswell Langstadter, the first female newspaper reporter in Chicago who Walter Winchell called a "Dandy Distaffer," and renown suffragette Caroline Severance, the "Mother of Clubs" and the first woman to register to vote in California.



You'll also hear from Hattie McDaniel, who won an Oscar for *Gone With the Wind*, the first African American to do so; Dora Haynes, a progressive activist who founded the League of Women Voters in Los Angeles; Clara Baldwin Stocker, who inherited a fortune and named Stocker Street after herself; jazz pianist/vocalist Nellie Lutcher, who became the first African American woman on the Musicians Union board; Clara Burdette, another important suffragette who also established a pioneering national woman's sorority; and pioneering Asian-American actress Anna May Wong, Marlene Dietrich's companion in *Shanghai Express*, who was not just America's first star actress of Chinese blood but for at least four decades the nation's only one.

Collectively, their stories help create a human narrative of women's rights in California, the feminist movement in Los Angeles, and the history (or, "herstory") of the West. But these nine Trailblazing Women represent just a few of the important female personages buried at Angelus Rosedale Cemetery. In years past, the Living History Tour had focused far more attention on the men buried at the cemetery, in no small measure because they were better known and their stories were better documented.

Indeed, in a 1975 Los Angeles Times profile of California historian Gloria Ricci Lothrop, retired Whitsett professor of history at Cal State Northridge, Lothrop commented, "We write what we are familiar with, so naturally men wrote about themselves, the highly visible decision makers."

The "women of the West have been lost to history, their stories unexamined in dusty attic diaries or obscured by more popular images of Calamity Janes or Miss Kittys," the article noted. "They swam wild rivers and climbed the Rockies. They bore children in drafty prairie cabins and taught them to read in rude mining towns. They hauled freight and homesteaded and lobbied for equal pay and suffrage. They were missionaries, madams, [and] mavericks..." but seldom recognized for their accomplishments.

Among the Trailblazing Women who are buried at Angelus Rosedale Cemetery (but who we are not portraying this year) are:

Eliza Poor Donner Houghton (1843-1922), the youngest daughter of George and Tamsen Donner, was three years old when her family left their home in Illinois to head out west to California. This group of travelers, who became trapped in the Sierra Nevada Mountains in 1846, ultimately became known as the ill-fated Donner Party. In March 1847, after several months of entrapment, Eliza and her sisters were rescued. In 1861, Eliza married Sherman Otis Houghton, an attorney, U.S. Congressman and the widower of Mary Donner, Eliza's cousin and fellow Donner Party survivor. Eliza Donner's experience with the Donner Party was the defining event of her life; she kept in contact with fellow survivors and documented their stories. She wanted to tell the true account of the Donner Party (when other survivors were keeping silent), and while doing her research for her book, she became very interested in the history of California and the pioneers who came to this new land. In 1911 she published *The Expedition of the Donner Party and Its Tragic Fate*.



*Jennie Bovard (top); Katharine Putnam Hooker*

Vada Watson Somerville, DDS, (1885-1972), a native Californian, was the first African American woman graduate of the University of Southern California College of Dentistry in 1918. She retired after 12 years of practicing dentistry with her husband John in order to devote her time and energy to social welfare and civic work. Dr.

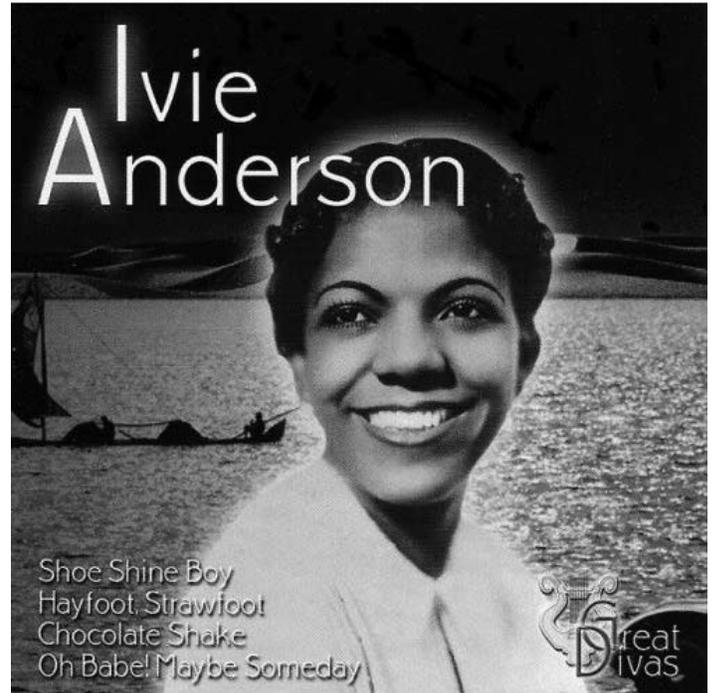
# Preservation Matters

Vada Somerville helped found the Los Angeles Chapter of the National Council of Negro Women and became a vice president of the national organization. She served on the executive board of the Los Angeles League of Women Voters and became the first president of the Los Angeles Chapter of Links, Inc. Vada and John Somerville also built an apartment building and hotel, now known as the Dunbar Hotel, so persons of color could more easily secure lodgings in those days of segregation.

Jessie Ann Benton Frémont (1824-1902) was an American writer and political activist. Notably remembered for being the daughter of Missouri Senator Thomas Hart Benton and the wife of military officer, explorer and politician, John C. Frémont ("The Pathfinder"), Jessie Fremont wrote many stories that were printed in popular magazines of the time, and was the author of several books. Her writings, which helped support her family during times of financial difficulty, were memoirs of her husband's, and her own, time in America's Western frontier. Her memoirs include *A Year of American Travel: Narrative of Personal Experience* (1878), a story about her journey to California in 1849, and *Souvenirs of My Time* (1887). A great supporter of her husband, who was one of the first two Senators of the new U.S. state of California and a Governor of the Territory of Arizona, she was outspoken on political issues and a determined opponent of slavery, which was excluded from the formation of California. She maintained a high level of political involvement during a period that was extremely unfavorable for women.

Miriam Matthews (1905-2003) was the first credentialed black librarian for the city of Los Angeles, and believed to be the first in California. She became an expert on preserving and describing black history. Matthews worked in the Los Angeles Public Library system from 1927 to 1960, both as a branch librarian and as a supervisor of 12 branch libraries. Matthews rose to be a head librarian, and in the 1940s, was appointed regional librarian in the South Central area. She assembled an extensive collection of materials on Blacks in California history and, in 1929, helped organize an observance of Negro History Week. In addition to organizing book clubs and lectures for library visitors, she became well known for encouraging local Black artists. In 1950, she co-founded the Associated Artists Gallery. Throughout her career she strove to educate the public about Los Angeles's diversity from its beginnings, and as a result of her efforts, the plaza monument in El Pueblo de Los Angeles State Historic Park lists the correct race, sex and age of each founder – 26 blacks, 16 Native Americans and two whites. A book of photographs from her collection, "Angelinos of Ebony Hue: Glimpses of African American Participation in the Founding and Development of Los Angeles and Beyond," traces the influence of Black pioneers in Los Angeles from the 18th and early 19th centuries.

Etta Jane Allen Bovard "Jennie" one of USC's first faculty members, and was the university's first female professor, teaching English language and history. She is known as the "first lady among first ladies" at USC, because her husband, Marion Bovard, was the university's first president.



(continued on page 12)

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# Preservation Matters

## Trailblazing Women at Angelus Rosedale *continued from page 1*

Considered one of the finest singers of the golden age of jazz, Ivie Anderson (1905-1949) was a fluent vocalist who impressed many with her blues and scat phrasings. Most impressed was Duke Ellington, who kept her on as vocalist for eleven years and is thought to be the best singer he ever had. She was also influential in the Central Avenue music scene.

Katharine Putnam Hooker, and her daughter, Marian Osgood Hooker, were very wealthy women who spent their lives focused on creativity, social service, travel and adventure. In 1891, Katharine Hooker was the first woman to climb to Mount Disappointment's peak in the San Gabriels. By then, she had already survived two shipwrecks, and had hiked through the wilds of California and Arizona. She traveled extensively in Italy, learning fluent Italian, and wrote several books about it. Katharine

counted among her best friends the naturalist John Muir, the architect Myron Hunt, the psychologist William James, the astronomer George Ellery Hale, and the peace activist David Starr Jordan, who testified for the defense at the Scopes Trial.

Marian Hooker was among the first women physicians in California. She was also a talented photographer, and her images illustrate Katharine's books. The pair lived through both the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, during which the Putnam clan's home was consumed by fire, and a later temblor in Santa Barbara. Katharine's husband and Marian's father was John Daggett Hooker, who paid for the telescope atop Mount Wilson that still bears the Hooker name.

Civil Rights leader Betty Hill (c1890-1960) was a co-founder of the Los Angeles chapter of the NAACP, and helped initiate the Los Angeles chapter of the Urban League. In the late 1920s she founded the Women's Republican Political Studies Club, which later became the Women's Political Studies Club, which served as a forum for politically active women, especially African Americans. As a member of the Westside Property Owners Association, she almost single-handedly overturned the policy of having racially segregated swimming pools, and obtained jobs for young African Americans where there were none. In 1940 she served as a delegate to the Republican National Convention.



ANNA BLAKE MEZQUIDA

### THE TORCH BEARERS

*Dedicated to  
"Who's Who among the Women of California".*

They have borne flaming torches through the night  
Of Ignorance that shrouds the sore-oppress,  
And on the path of Progress set their light—  
The fair, courageous women of the West.

Like those pure vestal virgins of old Rome,  
They have kept burning bright their altar-fire,  
And lit upon the warm hearth of the home  
The torches of their faith and high desire.

They have scorned easy, futile, idle ways:  
Theirs is the spirit of the pioneers  
That sent them in the stern, harsh early days  
Across the plains on schooners drawn by steers.

They have set up their beacon on the walls  
Of Learning; by its steady, undimmed flame  
They have read justice in Law's solemn halls,  
And on fair Freedom's roster writ their name.

Their fires of love have glowed through battles' dark  
For dying men, and brought the sweet surcease  
Of pain and fear; and they have fed the spark  
That set alight the quenchless torch of Peace.

They have known gentler arts of brush and pen;  
Their vision burning through the written page  
As clear as any in the world of men,  
To send its gleams adown some future age.

They have been mothers and they have been wives,  
Whose own soul's radiance has shone  
Into the dark of hapless children's lives  
Or that of some poor girl who walks alone.

They bear their torches on—the living wood  
Grown deep in California's virgin breast,  
Touched into flame by their white womanhood—  
The fair, undaunted women of the West.

*Anna Blake Mezquida*

*The first Who's Who among the Women of California was published in 1922*

# Preservation Matters



Each of these women were trailblazers in their own fields, as were the women included in this year's Living History Tour. Of those, Historian Lothrop said that Caroline Severance "cameos the whole role of Western women."

Caroline Severance established the first Los Angeles Unitarian church, and the first free lending library here. She co-founded the Ruskin Art Club. She founded the Friday Morning Club in 1891, well known for its socially progressive campaigns to save the sequoias, set up separate jail facilities for children (Juvenile Hall), hold non-partisan school board elections and establish a public defender's office. Severance also founded the first kindergarten in Los Angeles and, of course, worked long and hard worked for women's suffrage.

Due to her prominent role and the respect she garnered from her fellow suffragettes, in 1911, after the California legislature granted women the vote, Caroline Severance was escorted to the county registrar in a coach with white horses to become the first woman to register to vote in the state. She died three years later, at the age of 94. ●



*Eliza Poor Donner Houghton (top left); Jessie Ann Benton Fremont (left, in 1876); Fremont in her West Adams District home, circa 1900 (above)*



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# Calendar ✓

## Upcoming Events

Look for more details on these events on WAHA's website, [www.WestAdamsHeritage.org](http://www.WestAdamsHeritage.org)

### SEPTEMBER

#### Thursday, September 16:

Step Out with WAHA to the One Archives  
(Reservations required — see page 1)



**Saturday, September 25:**  
Living History Tour  
at Angelus Rosedale  
Cemetery —

Early Bird Deadline  
is September 15,  
and some tours are  
now sold out!  
(see pages 1 and 3)



## Harvest Hoedown Potluck

*It is time to party!*

You are cordially invited to a WAHA potluck  
**Saturday, October 9**  
4-7 p.m.

At Henderson's Folly  
The home of Don and Suzie Henderson  
1660 W 25th St.  
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Please bring a "Fall harvest" dish to serve 10 —  
WAHA will provide drinks and ice cream.

In keeping with the theme,  
there will be an opportunity for  
square dancing.

If you wish, bring a canned  
good to donate for a local  
food bank. Their stores have  
been greatly depleted and  
there are many in need.



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