

West Adams Matters

A Holiday Gift to All of Us:

Landmark Golden State Mutual Murals Will Remain in West Adams

West Adams will remain the home of the historic Golden State Mutual Life Insurance murals, which along with the building itself were designated as Los Angeles Historic Cultural Monument 1000 after being threatened with removal two years ago. WAHA and other preservationists advocated to retain these murals, part of the original concept of the Paul Williams-designed iconic building, after the State Insurance Department became the financial receiver of Golden State Mutual's assets when the insurance company failed.

WAHA strongly supported the Los Angeles Conservancy's nomination of the property, and we provided additional information that helped lead to the murals themselves being specifically designated as part of that process. WAHA then showcased the murals during two tour events in 2011, to build community awareness of the threats to the murals. The murals, the GSM building, and Paul Williams' legacy were the inspiration for WAHA's publishing of our popular *West Adams' Landmarks of African American History*, to help in the advocacy effort to retain these important cultural assets in our community. The building and the murals are featured prominently on the cover and in its pages.



We give thanks this season as well for several other preservation success stories, including the designation as Historic Cultural Monuments of a dozen USC-owned buildings, all in one fell swoop, and the pending designation of a grand French Norman Eclectic apartment building in the West Adams Avenues neighborhood. But as always, we also continue to advocate for preservation when historic resources are threatened: Flower Drive, a designated California Register Historic District, is facing major development pressures. Read about these further preservation stories starting on page 7.

(continued on page 6)

Paving the Way: How West Adams' Streets Were Named

by Mitzi March Mogul and Laura Meyers

Historian Remi Nadeau, grandson and namesake of a famous Los Angeles pioneer, called them "City-Makers." They were the men, and occasionally the women, who vigorously launched a campaign to build a sleepy village into one of the world's great metropolises.

Those who arrived to El Pueblo de Los Angeles in the 1840s, 1850s and early 1860s found a near-unbroken cattle range throughout Southern California, Nadeau observed. In 1868, before its first real estate boom, "Los Angeles resembled early-day Santa Fe or Tucson – a Mexican village of mud walls and dirt streets in a surrounding patchwork of orange orchards and grape vineyards." The present-day West Adams District, extending from Flower/Figueroa to West Boulevard southwest of Downtown, was mostly uncultivated ranchlands dotted with wild mustard and tumbleweeds.

It was soon to change. Just after the Civil War, Southern California's cattle ranchos began to be snapped up and subdivided, marketed to the droves of both farmers – who would find ready markets for the food they would raise – and settlers seeking opportunities in new towns and new lives. From then until now, successive waves of L.A.'s movers and shakers have named streets after themselves, family members, their associates, and places of importance to them – OR places they thought sounded important. Streets

(continued on page 10)



The Spirit of Giving Is Alive in West Adams

The spirit of giving lives year-round in the Historic West Adams District. So many of us donate countless hours to our neighborhood associations and neighborhood councils, to West Adams's libraries, parks and schools, and, of course, to West Adams Heritage Association itself. In this Season of Giving, we decided to shine a light on a few of our neighbors whose generosity we admire, whether they are planting trees, painting out graffiti, rescuing animals (like Katie Larkin and Brian Jett, pictured right), establishing schools or gathering the community together (like Inri Aquilar, pictured left.) Their stories, and more, start on page 14. ●



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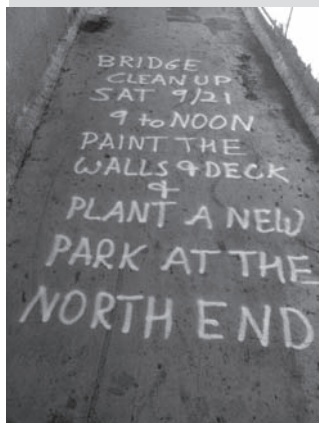
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The Spirit of Giving: the 4th Avenue Bridge Brigade painted, cleaned and planted to keep the pedestrian bridge across the freeway open. (See page 16)

Newsletter Staff

Laura Meyers, Editor and Layout,
ph: 323-737-6146, lauramink@aol.com

Elizabeth Fenner, Proofreader

Hilary Lentini, Art Director,
ph: 323-766-8090, hilary@lentinidesign.com

Georgia Toliver, WAHA Communications Chair

WAHA's "After Holiday" Celebration

Saturday, January 4

5 to 8 p.m.

**Georgia and Sterling Toliver's House
1915 Virginia Rd. (Wellington Square)**

Our "Jolly Holiday in Oxford Square" was a great success and we owe it all to our members, tour homeowners and volunteers! Thank you for your hard work and participation at the tour, and all year long. We would like to thank you for your generous "Spirit of Giving" with a festive dinner party-- a grand finale to this holiday season.



We welcome your RSVP so we can get some idea of the headcount; please send an e-mail to Events@WestAdamsHeritage.org. ●

President's Message by John Patterson

The Holidays are upon us, and what better time to recognize the Spirit of Giving that is alive in Historic West Adams. This particular aspect, so prevalent in our many neighborhoods, is one of the WAHA traits for which I feel great pride. There is no greater expression of "giving" than the myriad of volunteers who came together to help WAHA create what many are calling our best Holiday Tour ever!

The spirit of giving isn't limited to just WAHA's tour volunteers. Our neighborhoods are replete with examples of generosity. Last month's *WAHA Matters* newsletter initiated our focus with an article about the Wellington Square Farmer's Market, and the streetscaping project undertaken by its neighbors. This month's issue features stories about an even larger ongoing tree planting effort, plus animal rescuers, education reformers, a community builder, and the 4th Avenue Bridge Brigade. There are literally dozens and dozens of people, all giving within this vicinity we call home.

Let us neither forget, nor take for granted, the hours and hours that our resident preservationists have poured into protecting our historical heritage; or the parents and administrative folks who have worked so hard on local charter schools to improve the educational opportunities for the next generation; or those who simply pick up a bit of litter as they walk through their neighborhood and call 311 to request a bulky item pick up to clear a piece of abandoned detritus. These are all things that each of us do on an ongoing basis that cumulatively continue to improve our surroundings day by day.

It's great to live in a neighborhood that cares so deeply, and gives so magnanimously of time and talent. And it's heartwarming to know that this Spirit of Giving is not limited to the Holiday Season, but takes place in West Adams throughout the entire year! ●

John Patterson may be reached by e-mail at President@WestAdamsHeritage.org



A Jolly Holiday in Oxford Square

WOW! What an event! On December 7 and 8, our neighbors just north of Pico rolled out the red carpet for the largest number of guests ever to attend a WAHA Progressive Dinner tour. Not only did they graciously open their doors and pull out all the stops decorating their homes, but they were excited by the opportunity. As Chris Elwell, president of the Oxford Square Neighborhood Association, wrote to us after the tour: *"Many of us have enjoyed this event as it was held in other neighborhoods over the years, and it was all the more gratifying for us to be included for 2013. Your docents were knowledgeable, considerate and lots of fun, and we also had the benefit of meeting like-minded neighbors in the preservation community from all over the area.*

It really was a marvelous outreach exercise for us as we pursue our goal of becoming an HPOZ in 2014."

Last year's theme was the Roaring '20s and Prohibition. This year we took our cue from the streets we

visited (Windsor and Victoria) and, of course, the neighborhood's namesake British University, and offered a special culinary experience with our "Sun Never Sets Menu," featuring cuisine from many of Great Britain's colonies around the world. Our appetizer house served an afternoon "tea," although our cucumber sandwiches were served with champagne! Our soup and salads were infused with flavors from England's spice trade colonies in the Levant, and in our dinner tent we dished out a variety of specialties from England's most recognized colony. The Northern Indian menu featured chicken tikka, eggplant bharta, fresh samosas, basmati rice and even homemade, freshly baked naan. We ended the evening with a return to London, and a sumptuous traditional English sticky pudding for dessert.

Not only does this annual tour provide an incredible neighborhood bonding experience, it is also important as WAHA's largest fundraising effort. And this year's event was huge. We hosted 491 guests, bringing in almost \$35,000 worth of ticket sales -- a whopping 21% increase over last year's program!

Every single WAHA volunteer who lent a hand to this success should be very proud of the role they played in helping WAHA produce such an incredible event. ●



Clockwise, starting from top left: Appetizer House visitors enjoy themselves. Adam Janeiro and Chris Hedburg play (and sing) a holiday song, at the Soup House. Dishing up Dinner. A beautiful holiday setting under the Dinner House tent. WAHA president John Patterson, Dinner House Captain Lindsay Wiggins, and Appetizer House Captain Jean Cade mug for the camera. Salad House volunteers (Elizabeth Fenner, right, and Jean Levitan, left.) The Dessert House set out plates of English Sticky Pudding. There's Jean Cade again, this time with chefs Molly Reiss and Jeff Valdez. These photos were taken by Angela Whiteway, Appetizer House volunteer, and Sterling Toliver, Dessert House volunteer.



Stepping Out

Last Call: Autry Museum's Jews in the Los Angeles Mosaic

Los Angeles history is often described in sweeping terms, from the city's pueblo beginnings through orange groves, oil wells, Hollywood—ultimately to the renowned California lifestyle. The Autry National Center Museum's *Jews in the Los Angeles Mosaic* exhibit enriches this narrative, demonstrating how Jews were key players in the transformation of frontier-era L.A. into today's dynamic, diverse metropolis, and creating what is now the second-largest Jewish community in North America.

The exhibition, **on view until January 5**, explores the mutually influential relationship—some 160 years in the making—of a people and a place, using historical artifacts, vintage photography, video, audio, and music to illuminate this fascinating story.

Jews in the Los Angeles Mosaic comes to life through remarkable tales of pioneers, entrepreneurs, artists, moguls, and more. Many famous names are here—Sandy Koufax, Max Factor, Herb Alpert, Billy Wilder—along with the stories behind iconic institutions: Grauman's Chinese Theatre, City of Hope, the Breed Street Shul. Family chronicles anchor the exhibition. Among others, visitors will “meet” the nineteenth-century family of Harris Newmark, one of the region's earliest Jewish merchants, whose family members were among West Adams' earliest residents.

About the Exhibit

The 1848 discovery of gold brought a surge of people to the region, including Jewish merchants who arrived to supply gold miners headed north. California was a new state, and frontier-town L.A. was a fluid society, with ample opportunities and intermingling among new arrivals, Indigenous peoples, and Spanish-speaking inhabitants. As Jewish shopkeepers found success, they brought their families to the area and invested in the region's growth: real estate, commercial orchards and vineyards, water companies, mining operations, oil exploration, and transit. Isaias W. Hellman established the region's first successful bank, and Jews regularly held elected office. The city even had a Jewish chief of police in the 1870s. In 1854 the Jewish community founded what is now Jewish Family Service, the oldest charitable organization in Los Angeles County, and what is today's Wilshire Boulevard Temple was built by L.A.'s first Jewish congregation, organized in 1862.

Jewish family life is seen in the exhibit in the personal effects and elegant dining accoutrements of the extended Newmark family. As an example of the arduous journeys that brought Jews to California, the 1853 journal of fourteen-year-old Myer Newmark records his family's 127-day voyage from New York City to San Francisco. An elaborate column capital and embroidery of the Ten Commandments spotlight the early years of Congregation B'nai B'rith, and photographs and foundational documents evidence the birth of other institutions and associations.

In 1885, rail lines connected Los Angeles to the rest of the U.S., bringing a large influx of newcomers, especially from the Midwest. By the first half of the twentieth century, white Protestants gained a numerical majority, and lines of class, race, and religion hardened. Nevertheless, this was a period of great Jewish creativity. Jewish businessmen made Hollywood the center of the film world, illustrated in the exhibition by the original movie camera used to shoot 1913's *The Squaw Man* and by a program for the 1923 premiere of *The Ten Commandments* at Grauman's Egyptian Theatre. Max Factor's cosmetic empire began as a service for the film industry.

Among early twentieth-century newcomers to Los Angeles were numerous Eastern European Jews, as well as a smaller group from the Mediterranean. A Russian menorah, a bilingual Yiddish and English synagogue sign, and the Comunidad Sephardi de Los Angeles *Book of Minutes* illustrate the diversifying population. L.A.'s artistic community was enriched in the 1930s by the talents of Jewish artists, musicians, writers, and performers fleeing Nazi fascism. Billy Wilder's Oscars are a highlight of the exhibition, and an employment recommendation letter from Otto Klemperer for fellow refugee Arnold Schoenberg is on display. The exhibition also affords the rare opportunity to view Hugo Ballin's sketches for the groundbreaking Warner murals at Wilshire Boulevard Temple.

In “hopelessly heterogeneous” Boyle Heights, Phillips Music Company was a community gathering spot where Mexican American, Japanese American, and Jewish American residents mixed freely from the 1930s to the 1980s. The exhibition features retro-style listening stations where visitors may sample the likes of Mickey Katz and other “Spanish Jazz Popular Classical” music popular in the melting pot neighborhood.

In post-World War II Los Angeles, social mobility once again expanded. Jewish developers built suburbs to accommodate the families of returning veterans, Jewish and non-Jewish alike. A series of aerial photos of Lakewood reveals the assembly-line construction process employed in these “instant” communities. Through the lens of Jewish photographer Julius Shulman, the Modernist designs of Jewish architects Richard Neutra, Raphael Soriano, and others broadcast the California lifestyle to the world. In this era, Jews campaigned on behalf of Soviet Jewry, founded the nation's first Holocaust Museum, and established the world's first gay and lesbian synagogue. In 1973, a Jewish teenager, Andy Lipkis, created TreePeople, an environmental organization still very active today.

Exhibition curator Karen S. Wilson notes, “whether seeking economic mobility, religious freedom, or simply a chance to survive, Jewish engagement with the possibilities of Los Angeles has epitomized the particularly Western ethos of unfettered reinvention.” ●

LOCATION: 4700 Western Heritage Way, Los Angeles 90027. **ADMISSION:** \$10, adults; \$3, children 3-12. **HOURS:** Tuesday–Friday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; closed Mondays. **INFO:** <http://theautry.org>



In Memoriam:

Nancy Tucker Deaven (1956-2013)

by Elizabeth Fenner

Long-time WAHA members will be saddened to learn that a member of our West Adams family has passed away. Nancy Tucker Deaven made her home West Adams for over twenty years, raising her children here in a hundred-year-old house on 4th Avenue.

The Deaven Family — John and Nancy along with their daughter Peggy Sue and son Joseph — was a West Adams institution. Born in Kentucky, Nancy met John here in



Southern California. Soon after they married they bought the house at 2410 4th Avenue (known even today as "The Deaven House") and with small children to raise, they established an active and community-involved life here. They joined WAHA early on and John was even on the WAHA board for a time.

Nancy and John were yin and yang: where he

was extroverted and gregarious, she was steady and warm; where he was the director and dreamer, she was the writer and producer. When he had big ideas for parties, events, activities, she did not miss a beat, making sure it all got done and that she had a welcoming, comfortable home for their family and their many visitors. They were known for frequent get-togethers and theme parties — Nancy was renowned for creating fabulous theme cakes in unusual shapes — and they were particularly famous for Halloween parties, featuring costume contests and "scary finger food" potlucks. John pursued acting, teaching and then entrepreneurship, and Nancy made her way in the business world, eventually becoming a real estate agent, working at City Living Realty.

After John's death she made sure her kids got a solid education and went to college. Nancy was successful: Peggy Sue Deaven graduated from the Rhode Island School of Design (and recently got married), and Joseph Deaven is attending UCLA. In 2008, eight years after John passed away, Nancy moved away from West Adams to be closer to family and to make a fresh start, pursuing a degree in family counseling. She was living in Colorado when she passed away from cancer, surrounded by those she loved.

She will be missed by all who knew her, and I, who now live in "The Deaven House," wish I had known her better. I admire her commitment to her family and her positive, faithful spirit. Something of Nancy must have come with the house, because I too feel the necessity of creating a warm and welcome home at 2410 4th Avenue, one that all feel welcome to and happy in. But I'll have to get back to you on the Halloween costume parties. ●



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Preservation Matters

Golden State Murals

continued from page 1

The long-standing legal dispute over the ownership of the two murals, which depict the contributions of African Americans to the history of California, was settled after extensive mediation talks between the California Insurance Commissioner and Community Impact Development II (“CID”), the owner of the landmark Golden State Mutual building. CID is a subsidiary of Friends of South Central Los Angeles Regional Center (SCLARC), which was established to raise funds to support the unmet needs of developmentally disabled persons receiving services from one of Los Angeles’ largest non-profit organizations, South Central Los Angeles Regional Center. CID purchased the historic Golden State Mutual Life Insurance building to serve as the future headquarters of SCLARC.



Photo by Reggie Jones

The murals were originally commissioned by GSM’s Board of Directors in 1949, and have been located in the lobby since the building’s opening. They were previously appraised at \$2.5 million dollars each. The dispute over the murals was initiated in 2009 after CID was informed that the two murals inside the building they owned would be removed and sold by the Commissioner to settle estate debts of the former GSM Life Insurance Company. Due to the pending approval of the settlement by the court, the exact terms of the settlement have not been disclosed. The settlement concludes the dispute and will allow CID to retain possession of the priceless works of art inside the building’s lobby.

SCLARC’s Board President Malcolm Bennett announced, “We are excited over the outcome of the settlement and know that we share our excitement with every other historian, preservationist and L.A. native [who] understands the value of these murals to our community and city’s history.”

During the renovation of the Golden State Mutual Building, CID hopes to exhibit the murals in museums, universities or other public spaces prior to reinstalling them into the building. CID is actively pursuing grants and donations from foundations to support the restoration and maintenance of these epic pieces. “We will now seek the community’s assistance to raise funds to preserve and share the iconic art works. The murals have not been through any sort of preservation process since they were installed on the walls over 60 years ago,” said Dexter A. Henderson, SCLARC’s Executive Director.

Funds generated from these exhibits would allow the owners to cover the construction cost that was used to settle the litigation case, to help preserve the murals and to continue with their vision to allow the community to view the murals in an open forum. As soon as the building renovation is completed, SCLARC plans to have organized tours of the lobby so these dynamic works of art are seen by community members and educational groups.

Councilmember Bernard C. Parks and his staff, the Los Angeles Conservancy, West Adams Heritage Association and several other community groups have supported this effort to maintain the murals in the GSM building, CID/SCLARC’s statement noted: “Their hard work and perseverance paid off because the historic murals are here to stay.”

Meanwhile, work has begun on SCLARC’s new headquarters building, the Legacy Plaza, rising on the lot adjacent to the GSM building. During the August groundbreaking ceremony, WAHA (along with several other community groups) received a Community Partner Award plaque from CID/SCLARC “in appreciation for your outstanding commitment and dedication to the Legacy Plaza Project.”

Visit www.friendsofsclarc.org/legacy-plaza/about-project.php for more information. ●



CONTINUING THE LEGACY



Fight On! USC's New Landmarks

by Laura Meyers

West Adams is now home to a dozen new Los Angeles Historic Cultural Monuments (HCM), all evidencing the Trojan Spirit. In early December, the Los Angeles City Council voted to designate 12 individual buildings owned by the University of Southern California, representing more than a century of USC's growth and progress from a small college to a world-class institution of higher learning.

Los Angeles was little more than a frontier town in 1880 when the University of Southern California first laid the cornerstone of the Widney Hall (previously designated, in 1970, as HCM No. 70) and then opened its doors to 53 students and 10 teachers in 1880, the city still lacked paved streets, electric lights, telephones and a reliable fire alarm system. As building namesake and USC founder R.M. Widney reflected some six years after: "The unfinished building in the midst of an unoccupied, uncultivated plain was a lonely looking object to those who only saw the present. For some the curtains rolled aside and the coming centuries were in view, with the possibilities of the great work standing out in strong outlines for the encouragement of the workers."

According to historic consultant Christie McAvooy of Historic Resources Group, "The nominated buildings represent the major periods of USC's development" with an "excellent" variety of architectural styles and buildings designed "by the most prominent architects in Los Angeles over the years" – some of whom also taught at the university.

USC implemented four campus master plans, in 1919, 1946, 1960, and 1988. Today, much of the campus is identified as historic, and USC and Historic Resources Group are submitting both a California Register District nomination and a national Register District nomination in January, McAvooy told the Commission.

The now-designated landmarks from the core of the campus include several brick-clad Italian Romanesque Revival style buildings: the Bovard Administration Building (pictured below), designed by the Parkinson & Parkinson firm and constructed in 1921; the Gwynn Wilson Student Union, also by Parkinson & Parkinson and built in 1928; the Doheny Memorial Library, designed by architects Ralph Adams Cram and Samuel Lunden and erected in 1932; the Mudd Memorial Hall of Philosophy, designed by Ralph Carlin Flewelling and constructed in 1929; and one more Parkinson & Parkinson edifice, the 1930 Physical Education Building, which houses a 1,000-seat gym, indoor swimming facilities, handball courts, and dance studios.



The Late-Moderne Allan Hancock Foundation building was constructed in 1940 and was designed by C. Raimond Johnson and Samuel Lunden. It features cast stone bas-relief of Pleistocene mammals discovered at La Brea Tar Pits. Inside, Allen Hancock moved and rebuilt the important rooms of his mother Ida's Wilshire District mansion.

USC is also home to an impressive array of mid-century (and later) classics – a handful of which have now been individually designated. They include the Late Modern Style Annenberg School of Communications, designed by A. Quincy Jones & Associates and completed in 1979; the Olin Hall of Engineering, designed by William Pereira & Associates in 1963, in the New Formalism style; the Von Kleinsmid Center, designed in 1966 by influential architect Edward Durell Stone

in the New Formalism style; and the 1965 University Religious Center, a flat-roofed post-and-beam building clad in brick and cement plaster and exhibiting character-defining features of the Mid-Century Modern style with International Style influences. The design firm Killingsworth, Brady & Associates was formed in 1953 and is recognized for its work in the influential Case Study Program, having designed Case Study Homes 23, 25, and 26.

One of the nominated campus buildings was not a part of the campus master plans. The Dosan Ahn Chang Ho Family Home, a single family American Foursquare home built circa 1920, was the primary residence for the family of Dosan Ahn Chang from 1937-1946. During Korea's struggle for independence, the home became a central meeting place for Korean activists in Los Angeles. Ahn Chang-Ho (pen name "Dosan") was born in Korea and emigrated to San Francisco with his wife Helen in 1902. He established the first Korean organization in the United States: the Friendship Society (1903), as well as the Mutual Assistance Society in San Francisco. He also founded the Young Korean Academy in 1913. He moved to Riverside, CA in 1904 and a decade later settled in Los Angeles, where he remained active organizing and working towards Korean independence, writing the seminal tract "A Korean's Appeal for Independence" (1919). Though he returned to Korea in 1926, his family settled in this house, where his wife raised their children. Dosan died in 1938 after being imprisoned by Japanese forces in Shanghai, China.

"The Ahn Chang Ho House was a part of the neighborhood USC has grown into," McAvooy observed. "It was nominated because of its [cultural] associations." The Dosan Ahn Chang Ho Family Home was acquired by USC in 1966 and moved to its present location in 2004. It now houses the Korean Studies Institute.

There's also one off-campus building in the new roster of Historic Cultural Monuments. The Art Deco warehouse at 3440 Hope Street was designed by Morgan, Walls & Clements in 1927, and later served as a home for the National Guard. ●

Preservation Matters

Flower Drive at Risk: The Importance of Historic Designation in Preventing Immediate Demolition

by Jean Frost

WAHA can't ever rest long on its laurels -- even when we have a historic preservation victory.

In 2009, at the California Preservation Conference, WAHA celebrated the designation of the Flower Drive Historic District with photos, song and humor with a three-minute success story. After two State Historic Commission hearings, one in Santa Barbara on July 25, 2008, and a second in Sacramento, with well-connected opposition, the State Historic Resources Commission did "the right thing" and designated the Flower Drive Historic District.

WAHA was happy. We used our limited resources to achieve success with research from Pete Moruzzi augmented by Mitzi Mogul and supported by WAHA volunteers. The opposition hired a lobbyist and former state assemblyman to represent them who at the second hearing (which they insisted upon) in September had contacted the commissioners personally urging them to vote against the designation. It appeared to be an uphill battle. Mitzi Mogul represented WAHA at the Sacramento hearing and WAHA prevailed.

The Flower Drive Historic District is composed of a grouping of 19 multi-family residences constructed primarily between 1920 and 1927 on the west side of Flower Drive. The district includes 17 contributing and two non-contributing properties. Properties are two-story, multi-family residences, rectangular in plan, and located on 50-foot by 140-foot parcels with uniform setbacks. Contributing properties are united by property type, common lot size, setbacks, height, spatial arrangement, form, and architectural style. The Flower Drive district is a highly representative and exceptionally intact example of multi-family residential development in the University District east of Exposition Park during the period 1920-1927.

The property was nominated to the California Register of Historical Resources (California Register) under Criterion 1 for associations with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of Los Angeles' history and under Criterion 3 for embodying the distinctive characteristics of a type and period of construction, the Mediterranean Revival style.

Cut to November 2013. A developer goes to the L.A. City Planning public counter to apply for a demolition permit for 3931 Flower Drive. The developer states:

A historic resource evaluation was recently completed for the property, which concludes that the buildings are not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, the California Register of Historical Resources, or as a Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument. As such, it appears that the proposed demolition is exempt from CEQA review, and the permit can issue pursuant to a Categorical Exemption. If you concur, please advise on how the applicant should proceed to secure the permit.



The developer, CAST Real Estate Holdings, hired a consultant, Architectural Resource Group (ARG) in the hopes that the property would be found not historic and its demolition to have no impact.

Fortunately, because it is a designated California register property, the matter was referred to Lambert Giessinger (L.A. Cultural Heritage Commission architect) who looked more specifically into the property's status. Absent designation, the building could be lost.

This is particularly important in the absence of the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) and the staff who implemented historic preservation policies in the project areas, based on CRA's many surveys. While the applicability of the surveys remains (a deemed eligible property still has the protections of a listed property), the safety net once provided by the CRA staff planners who routinely utilized the historic surveys, is gone.

While CRA survey designation affords protections, the actual listing has greater clarity with the City and with planners that may be unfamiliar with many of the CRA neighborhood studies. Fortunately, WAHA was able to quickly provide the background on the State's Flower Drive Historic District California Register Designation.

In this instance, the developer claimed that the desire was to demolish a quadplex and leave the land vacant. There was no replacement "project" indication or intended. The report the developer paid for stated "The demolition of 3931 Flower Drive



would not impact the eligibility of the Flower Drive Historic District. Currently, the number of contributing properties is 17 out of 19, or nearly 90%." While the district would remain eligible, the statement omits the understanding of how parcels within a zone support each other. When even one parcel is lost, there is an impact on the resource itself which is the historic district. As architectural historian Leslie Heumann expressed, "a district is like a necklace." Each parcel supports the others so that even one loss is significant. While loss of one property would not cause the state to delist the district, it would erode the sense of place and the character defining unity of architectural style and the streetscape. The report went on to say: "The demolition of the single contributing building does not alter the California Register eligibility of the district. Further stages of the project, however, may have an impact on the district, but ARG does not have the necessary information to assess those potential impacts."

Had the City taken the ARG report on its face value and not looked further, a historic building could have been lost. Designation does not guarantee the property will not be demolished, but affords protections under CEQA that the impacts of such an action are evaluated. WAHA in its preservation advocacy is committed to research and designation of historic properties to see that our architectural and cultural history is not lost. ●

The Flower Drive District (facing page); 3931 Flower Drive, the threatened resource (above). Photos by Jim Childs.

Another Pending Landmark: The Roberta Apartments

WAHA's most recent historic designation is the Roberta Apartments, 2424-2430 4th Avenue. On November 21, the Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Commission (CHC) found that the Roberta Apartments successfully met two of the specific criteria for designation as an HCM: 1). that it "embodies the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type specimen, inherently valuable for a study of a period style or method of construction" and 2). reflects "the broad cultural, economic, or social history of the nation, state or community." As a well-preserved representative of the French Eclectic Revival style, which influenced the development of the West Adams district, an early commuter suburb of downtown Los Angeles, the property qualifies for designation as a Historic Cultural Monument based on these criteria.

This 1921 4-plex, designed by Architect Edward Butler Rust (also the architect of the Los Altos Apartments on Wilshire, a local and National Register landmark), is intact for its original details, but has been vacant for some time. Ed Troser and Michael Salman assisted Laura Meyers on this WAHA submission to the CHC. The CHC finding is then transmitted to City Council for approval. ●



WAHA's 30th Anniversary

THE LIST

West Adams Street Names *continued from page 1*

were often named for ancestral homelands, inspirational ideas, California Indian words, and important personages and places.

These are the people who developed the city, creating residential tracts, commercial districts, major boulevards, and obscure passages. When U.S. authorities, in 1851, began their herculean task of refereeing the Mexican land grants in California, the city of Los Angeles laid claim to sixteen square leagues of land. The 1853 Hancock Survey mapped the city limits into 35-acre tracts known as "city donation lots," designed to be sold so that the fledgling town could use the money for infrastructure improvements. The Survey also mapped and named some roadways. For example, the streets south of Pico were named after the presidents. And, along with Don Pio Pico, the last of the Mexican governors of California, other major boulevards were named after former governors, including Figueroa and Alvarado in West Adams.

As the central city became crowded, and as long as there was land for expansion, people created new neighborhoods. The West Adams District was one of the first streetcar suburbs of Los Angeles. It was a fashionable place to live (some parts were quite exclusive) and the area attracted some of Los Angeles' most important citizens. In typical fashion, many streets in the early tracts were named for their developers or leading residents.

Some of West Adams' most famous residents have streets named for them, but elsewhere: Rindge, Cochran, Dockweiler, Kerckhoff, Slauson. And one West Adams resident could boast, perhaps, one of the world's most famous streets being named for his family – George W. Haight, who moved his home from Adams Boulevard into Wellington Square in the 1920s, was descended from the Hights of San Francisco's Haight Street, of Haight-Ashbury fame.

Many of West Adams' earliest street names have fallen off the map. Hough Street, named for USC's first president; Hellman and Downey, for USC's early benefactors who donated the land; and Wesley, for the famous Methodist (USC was founded by the Methodist Church), all disappeared into the expanding university campus. Pioneer Street was renamed LaSalle when the latter avenue was extended south. West Adams' Vernon Avenue is now Valencia, running through Pico Union. And the streets that honored electricity and communication – Telegraph, Telephone, Cablegram, and Lightning – enjoyed only a short life; they are now, respectively, a section of Catalina, Dewey, Kenmore, and Fedora in the Byzantine-Latino Quarter, south of Pico.

Today, we are the beneficiaries of the contributions of the pioneers, developers, and entrepreneurs of yester-year. Their legacy has, quite literally, "paved the way." Let's take a look at their accomplishments — and some fun history of our local by-ways — in this month's edition of WAHA's Lists of 30, honoring our 30th anniversary:

1). **What's in a Name (Change)?** Hermosa, the "Beautiful Vista," is now Gramercy Place. Never heard of Key West Street? Now it's University Avenue, running from the USC campus to Fraternity Row. Bonita, another pretty little lane, is now Mariposa, just south of Washington. Pearl Street was one of the earliest avenues in the Pueblo. By 1872, it was renamed "Figaro" in its West Adams portion. Today, you know it as "Figueroa."

2). **Where Art Thou, Romeo?** And Grover? Romeo Street was paired with Juliet, but the lovers were lost to each other forever, and Grover disappeared, when Los Angeles politicians decided that the name "Catalina" should consistently rise over a long stretch of linked north-south streets running just west of Vermont.

3). **Smell the roses – and the lilies.** Calle de las Flores appears on old maps of the Pueblo, predating the Americans. The street was extended south into West Adams, and helped define J.M. Stewart's "Stewart's Nursery Tract." You know it as Flower Street and Flower Drive.

4). **Chester Place** (now Mount St. Mary's campus) was developed in the late 1890s as an exclusive, gated residential park by former Arizona Supreme Court Judge Charles Silent. Adams Street was by now a wide avenue, with a landscaped parkway in the center, shaded by rows of eucalyptus and pepper trees, and had become, along with Figueroa, a very desirable address. Judge Silent and his wife

Mary purchased the site, at the time an orchard, in 1895. An early advocate of city beautification (he eventually was president of the Los Angeles Parks Commission), Judge Silent soon transformed his land into an exclusive residential tract built flanking a private road. Chester Place – the street and the enclave -- was named for Silent's son, Chester, who was killed in a 1907 duck hunting accident (although some say he was found in the marsh near Stanford University, dead from a self-inflicted gunshot; other reports claim he was found floating in a lake). Judge Silent eventually sold his mansion to neighbors Edward and Estelle Doheny, who demolished it to expand their north lawn.





5). Appointed as Los Angeles's Revenue Assessor by President Lincoln, **James Robert Toberman** (left) came to Los Angeles in 1864, and quickly became involved in city affairs. In 1868, Toberman was one of the founders of the Hellman, Temple & Company Bank. He served as a Wells Fargo agent, helped map out the city's first streetcar grid and its water and sewer system. In 1872 he defeated the incumbent mayor,

Cristobal Aguilar, and became Mayor of Los Angeles, serving for seven years. He was popular with property owners for reducing the city's debt from \$30,000 to \$25,000 and lowering taxes. On the evening of December 31, 1882, he presided over the dramatic ceremony that, with the touch of a button, brought the first electric lights to downtown streets. He lived first on Figueroa Street, then Pico Boulevard, and finally on the street which now bears his name. In 1903 he organized the Toberman Settlement House, a social service organization which continues to operate in San Pedro. James was the uncle of Charles E. Toberman, who became noted himself for his role in developing Hollywood.

6). **Bonsallo**: Please don't say "*bon-sai-yo*" – this street is named for William Bonsall, a developer and acting president of the City Council in 1892 who was heavily involved in civic affairs.

7). What is now the West Adams Heights tract (north of Adams to Western) was homesteaded in 1868 by Mary Hall. Her brother, **Charles Victor Hall** (right), joined her here. He helped survey the area, then became a claim layer, snapping up the 160 acres directly to the south of his sister's homestead, which he first used as a dairy farm, and then developed as the Chas. Victor Hall Tract (Normandie to Western, Adams to Jefferson). The street **Halldale** is his namesake. However, he was not a farmer for long: he published a land journal, and several books, including "*California, the Ideal Italy of the World*," in 1875. Hall married Josephine Dalton, daughter of George Dalton, and became business partners with his father-in-law. In 1899 he obtained the lease on oil rights for Olinda Ranch (present-day Rowland Heights). The previous investors had no luck there and were no doubt glad to be rid of it. However, Lady Luck was on the side of Charles Victor Hall: he hit a gusher.



8). **Dalton Street** was named by Hall in honor of his wife's family. George Dalton's brother, Henry, called himself "*Enrique*" and was often referred to as "*The British Ranchero*." He too was heavily involved in real estate speculation, specifically the development of Azusa.

9). **West Adams is a college town**, and we don't mean just USC and Mount St. Mary's. The developers of tracts in Harvard Heights named their streets after illustrious institutions of higher learning: Cambridge, Oxford and Harvard.

10). **State of the Union**: Some early settlers fondly remembered their home states. Consider the streets Vermont, New England, and New Hampshire. But Kansas and Iowa are gone, at least in West Adams.

11). **The Presidents**: The 1853 Hancock Survey not only mapped the young city's boundaries, it also named some roadways. For example, the streets south of Pico were named after the presidents. Beginning with Washington, in succession followed Adams, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, John Quincy Adams and Jackson streets. Cleveland and Grant were later added in Arlington Heights. (Hoover was named NOT for the President but rather after an early winemaker; see Item 12.)

12). When Harris Newmark arrived in Los Angeles in 1853, he found more than one hundred vineyards in the area, seventy-five or eighty within the precincts of the town itself; and, evidence of the degree to which wine had established itself, he found that Angelenos generally patronized the local product, which was so cheap that it sold for fifteen cents a gallon and was usually served free with meals. One of the pioneering vintners was Dr. Leonce Huber, a native of Switzerland who served as a military surgeon under Napoleon Bonaparte. After arriving in Los Angeles in 1849 with his wife and three children, he changed his surname from Huber to Hoover, adopted "*Don Juan*" Leon as his first, and along with his son, Vincent, became one of the first wine manufacturers for the general market in the city, growing high-quality wine grapes near what is now the town of Cudahy. Leon Hoover patronized his product to a remarkable degree: a committee of the State Agricultural Society, visiting Los Angeles in 1858, reported that Hoover drank nothing but wine the whole day through, "*excepting one cup of coffee on rising*." A short stretch of road between Adams and Washington adjacent to another of Hoover's plots was named for him early on, and thirty years after his death in 1862, the whole of **Hoover Street** was named in his honor.

13). **Rochester Circle** commemorates Eddie Anderson, an African American actor best known for his comic portrayal of the character "*Rochester*," a Pullman porter on the Jack Benny radio show. Anderson's longtime home is the street's central attraction. Anderson was born in 1905 in Oakland, CA, where his parents performed in vaudeville; he began acting at age eight. Later, Anderson appeared in a Negro revue, and toured with his brother Cornelius as a two-man music and dance team. In 1936, Anderson was cast in the role of Rochester. Benny and Anderson's 20-year collaboration was marked by humor, energy, wit and camaraderie.



(continued on page 12)

WAHA's 30th Anniversary

West Adams Street Names *continued from page 11*

14). **The Women:** Many streets were named for wives, sisters, and daughters. Georgia Bell was the wife of Horace Bell, an adventurer and a daredevil, as well as author, lawyer, journalist, and investor who fought municipal corruption and defended the poor. He was



a founding member of the Los Angeles Rangers, a militia that pursued violent outlaws; and fought in Nicaragua, with Juarez in Mexico, and on the Union side in the Civil War. **Georgia Street** dates from 1874. It was originally called Nevada, then Georgia Bell, then finally, Georgia Street. Perhaps naming the street for his wife was by way of apology for his wild life! **Virginia Road**, located in La Fayette Square, is named for developer George Crenshaw's wife Virginia (left). **Ellendale**,

named in 1887 for Mrs. Ellen Bowker, was part of the Bowker Tract. In 1904 officials converted Childs and Thornton to extend Ellendale Place, and made it an "Avenue." **Cherry Street** also dates from 1887/8, for Mrs. Maude Cherry, whose husband, Alexander V. Cherry, called himself a "Capitalist," real estate investor, expert watchmaker, miner, and occasional rancher.

15). Theodoric C. (T.C.) Severance and his wife, Madame Caroline Maria Seymour Severance, "The Mother of Clubs," came to Los Angeles in 1875, when there were no paved streets and only a few board sidewalks. The couple were pioneering activists for social justice. Mme. Severance was active in the women's rights movement even before the Civil War. She and T. C. were famed Abolitionists when they moved to Boston in 1855 for a better intellectual life for themselves and their children. There, Caroline was the founder of the first woman's club in America. When they came West, the Severances established the first Unitarian Church in Los Angeles. Caroline established kindergartens in the West, advocated for the rights of women, and in 1911 she became the first woman to register to vote in California. **Severance Street** once ran through the family's ten-acre plot.



16). **Arlington was a popular moniker:** there was an Arlington Heights tract in Crown Hill, just west of Downtown, in the early 1880s, and the Arlington Heights Township – which ran from Pico to Adams just outside the city limits – was incorporated in 1887. First Avenue was renamed Arlington Avenue in 1897. Depending on the persuasions of who was asked, the name Arlington either honors George Washington's family OR Robert E. Lee – but in both cases the honoree is actually the same Virginia homestead, Arlington House, owned by Martha Custis Washington's grandson, whose daughter married Lee. The name itself comes from England's Earl of Arlington, who never lived in Virginia but early on laid claim to the lands.

17). **B. F. Hobart** was Vice President of the Los Angeles Pasadena, and Glendale Railroad. His "other" profession was real estate entrepreneur. In 1887 Hobart Avenue was dedicated. It was re-titled Hobart "Boulevard" in 1902.

18). **Ahoy, Maties.** Richard Henry Dana, Jr. left his studies at Harvard in 1834 in the hope that a sea voyage would aid his failing eyesight.



He shipped out of Boston as a common seaman on board the brig Pilgrim on a voyage around Cape Horn, bound for the Pacific, and returned to Massachusetts two years later. Dana kept a diary throughout the voyage, and, after returning, he wrote a recognized American classic, *Two Years Before the Mast*, published in 1840. Indeed, Dana did not set out to write a sea adventure, but to highlight how poorly common sailors were treated on ships. Dana arrived in Alta California when it was a remote province of independent

Mexico, and no longer a Spanish colony. His first impression of Los Angeles was not impressive: he wrote, "San Pedro (Port of Los Angeles) is universally called the hell of California." Dana's writing evidences his sympathy with the lower classes; completing his education, Dana became a leader of the American bar, an expert on maritime law, and a life-long advocate of the rights of the merchant seamen he had come to know on the Pilgrim and other vessels, and later became a prominent anti-slavery activist, helping found the Free Soil Party. Dana returned to California in 1869. He not only revised *Two Years before the Mast* to include *Twenty-Four Years After*, a work detailing the drastic changes in California in the 24 years between his visits, but Dana also purchased land near what would later become USC. Two streets have borne his name: the first Dana Street paralleled Adams at Figueroa, while today's **Dana Street** is west of Vermont.

19). **Andrew Denker** was partners with his brother-in-law, Henry Hammel. Together they owned and managed the Bella Union Hotel, one of the earliest hotels in the city. Denker was a charter member of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce. Their interests were varied: business, farming, and real estate development. Their principal legacies are their dedication of a right of way across their ranch to the Pacific Electric Railway to create a throughway to Santa Monica and their property, which formed the basis for Beverly Hills.

20). **Where did that city go?** The Rosedale Township was a farming community located roughly between Adams and Pico, Vermont and Western. It was home to the Academy of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the Rosedale School, and Rosedale Cemetery, established in 1884 outside of the then-Los Angeles city limits, in a nod to the political opposition of placing new cemeteries within the city proper. **Rosedale Avenue** was a wide boulevard that extended from Pico to several blocks south of Jefferson. Rosedale Township disappeared in 1896 when it was annexed by Los Angeles; the street name was changed by 1899 to Normandie, after the French Province.

21). The "Clark and Bryan Lone Star Tract," also known historically as "Westmoreland Place," was developed by Wesley Clark and Elden P. Bryan, who bought the land that now lies between Pico and Olympic, Hoover and Vermont in 1903 from a barley farmer. **Elden Avenue** is named after Bryan, who had a sprawling Mission Revival home on **Westmoreland Place** between 10th and 11th. Today, all that remains is the concrete retaining wall along Olympic at Westmoreland Avenue. (Around the same time, developer Henry C. Jensen laid out his own "**Westmoreland Boulevard**" in today's Harvard Heights, leaving generations of travelers scratching their heads trying to figure out which one is which.)

22). **West Hollywood has its bird streets; West Adams has its trees.** Magnolia and Oak are flourishing, as is Orchard, but we Pine for the missing street of that name along with Fan Palm, also disappeared. (Cherry, by the way, was named for a lady; see item 14.)

23). **Union Avenue** honors the nation's Centennial. It was named in 1876, 100 years after the birth of the United States.

24). **The Californios:** Our Spanish language heritage comes alive in street names that memorialize California's founding families and former governors – surnames like Pico, Sepulveda, Alvarado, and Figueroa. Still, many of Los Angeles's earliest settlers are not recognized with streets. More than a century ago, historian J.M. Guinn noted, "The [Spanish] founders left no lasting impression on the town. Not a street in the city bears the name of any one of them. Five of the Mexican governors have had streets named after them, but not one of the Spanish governors of California has been so honored. No street or landmark bears the name of good old Felipe de Neve, the real founder of Los Angeles. Nor have Portola, Fages, or Borica, men of honor and high standing, been remembered in the nomenclature of its highways."

25). **The British Are Coming**, the British Are Here: West Adams is home to Victoria, Windsor, Buckingham, Wellington, Dorchester (now 15th Street), Plymouth, and even Arlington. So popular were names from Merry Old England that several streets in Oxford Square transformed: Delaware became Windsor Blvd; Alta actually changed names twice, first to Algoma in 1913, and then circa 1922, to Victoria Avenue.

26). **Remi Nadeau** is one of the great developers of Los Angeles in every sense of the word. Upon his arrival in 1861, he borrowed \$600 from new friend Prudent Beaudry, using that money to buy six mules and a wagon. Nadeau started a freighting business, hauling silver ingots from Cerro Gordo to Los Angeles and then back, filled with wine, fruits, potatoes, corn, and other necessities. He parlayed the business into a premier freight company, eventually selling it for a substantial profit. He planted sugar beets in 1880, but the refinery failed to work and along with it, his business. However, his next venture, vineyards, was a big success. He also built the Nadeau Hotel at First and Spring, the first to have a passenger elevator. His namesake street in West Adams' Victoria Park neighborhood is located near one of his vineyards. It is small and no match for his great accomplishments and contributions.

27). **Why is West west of Western?** The city limits and subsequent expansion can be traced by streets named "West." Western Avenue was originally Cahuenga Road #2; it was continued from Wilshire to Jefferson as Western Avenue on November 2, 1875. In August 1892, the *Los Angeles Times* noted that "The City Attorney reported an ordinance changing and consolidating the names of Boundary, Hoover, and Seymour streets to West Boundary Street, together with an ordinance for the opening and extension of said West Boundary." But in October of that year, H.M. Bowker, a member of the County Board of Supervisors, instead recommended that West Boundary Street (a northerly border street) be changed to Hoover Street, already a partial road to the south). West Boulevard was named in 1910, marking the then-edge of the city. Beyond it to the west were acres of vineyards, bean fields and other crops until Culver City and Palms. Before construction of the bridge, West Boulevard only went as far as 16th (Venice); the other side was Sherman Drive.

28). **George L. Crenshaw** was a Missouri banker who saw enormous potential in the burgeoning city. He brought his family west to Los Angeles where, along with his son, Charles R.L. Crenshaw, he founded the Crenshaw Security Company. He invested in large tracts of property in what was then called the "West End," between Pico and Washington, Arlington to West Boulevard. Crenshaw Heights, Lafayette Square, Wellington Square, parts of Arlington Heights and later, portions of Pacific Palisades were among their achievements. When George Crenshaw died in 1937, the *Los Angeles Times* wrote of him, "his monuments are the countless homes of thousands."



29). **The 1932 Olympics, remembered.** The Oxford Square neighborhood was cut in two when Tenth Street was widened to provide a grand boulevard from L.A.'s eastern city limits all the way to the ocean. The process of creating this 100-foot-wide street was drawn out and dramatic, involving property seizure of 33,000 lots, lawsuits naming 3,500 people, and a mayoral veto and council override in 1930. The California Supreme Court even got involved, upholding a city's right to widen streets. In July 1929, the Tenth Street District Improvement Association proposed the name Olympic Boulevard, and the *L.A. Times* took to referring to it as such. However, it was only on April 15, 1935, three years after the Olympic flame at the Los Angeles Coliseum had been doused, that the City Council formally adopted the name Olympic Boulevard for the entire stretch.

30). **George Robert Wilton** was English-Canadian, arriving in Los Angeles in 1878. Vice President of the Fairchild Wilton Co., like so many others Wilton dabbled in real estate, but his main profession was as a paving contractor, so it may be safe to say that all the others owe a debt of gratitude to his skills! ●

Community Matters

The Spirit of Giving in West Adams

ANGELS IN OUR MIDST

The blur you see below is Jelly Donut, not holding still for the camera. But that's probably par for the course at Angel City Pit Bulls (ACPB), a West Adams-based 501c3 non-profit rescue organization helmed by four of WAHA's own: (L-R) Brian Jett, Katie Larkin, Robin Purcell, and Ian Sinott -- holding the squirming pup. Founded in 2010 by Katie and her husband,



Brian, Angel City's mission is to address the problem of overpopulation and the high euthanasia rate of pit bull terrier type dogs in L.A.-area shelters, by instead putting the focus on pit bulls being loving companions.

"Their adorableness and gushy love of people make them fantastic family dogs," says Katie. (Just look at the sweet faces on this page for confirmation.) Angel City, which has been profiled in the pages of *Time Magazine*, is creating a better future for pit bulls through education, public advocacy, adoptions and responsible pet ownership, including targeted spay/neuter programs. Most shelters use the term pit bull to cover anything that looks like one, including the American Pit Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, the recently created American Bully, as well as mixed breed dogs of varying backgrounds. ACPB takes in dogs (mainly from local shelters) that fall

under the generic term pit bull and who demonstrate people-soft, responsive qualities and solid temperaments. Katie serves as the organization's director, Robin as its chief operating officer, and Ian as the chief financial officer.

They were all thrilled to have one of their ACPB alums, Elias (pictured below, left),



chosen as a player in 2013's Puppy Bowl IX on TV's Animal Planet – a super bowl of cute shelter and rescue pups. Robin noted, "People who know pit bulls love them. We hope the mass audience [for Puppy Bowl IX] sees Elias and sees pit bulls as just another dog. Elias is so lovely, so sweet, an amazing 'ambassador'."

Elias found a home, as have many others. And, ACPB needs not just volunteers, but more forever homes – like yours. ●



DREAMER WITH A CAUSE

"I've been told that Blue Elephants don't exist and that this cafe was impossible," Blu Elephant Café owner Inri Aguilar said just before opening her artsy coffeehouse in March 2013. Now, operating with the slogan Where Art and Coffee Meet, Aguilar's impossible dream is a reality, serving up coffees, sandwiches, salads, and pastries. But along with commerce, Inri is equally focused on giving back to the community, both financially and by creating a center where neighbors can meet. "I opened the café because I felt we were missing something in the community – I don't see why we should take our money elsewhere," Inri explained. Importantly, she also uses local vendors – "to recycle the money back within our community." The Blu Elephant Café lends its walls to local artists as exhibit space, houses a "book collective" where people can both bring books to donate and take any they wish, and lends out the venue – for free – for local causes. In recent months, for example, the café hosted the 24th Street Theatre fundraiser for its "After 'Cool" program, and a USC fraternity held a fundraiser for storm victims in the Philippines, along with a Guerrero Mexico "Rock with A Cause" event. Inri says, "It's just important to give back." ●



Community Matters

IMPROVING WASHINGTON BOULEVARD, ONE TREE AT A TIME *by Reggie Jones*

Andrea Dunlop and Jessica Bravo believe everyone has an obligation to contribute and work to improve the community they live in. So, in 2004 both Andrea and Jessica joined the United Neighborhoods Neighborhood Council (UNNC) with the goal to help make a difference to improve the living experiences of everyone in the community. Their vision is to make their West Adams neighborhood a vibrant, pleasant and sustainable community for everyone. A major objective of their goal is to realize the huge potential for Washington Boulevard to become another Larchmont Boulevard or Pickfair Village — where the local community has a communal space to spend time within the community itself and attract people from outside the community to spend their time (and perhaps their dollars). Receiving strong encouragement and mentoring from UNNC President Stevie Sterns, Andrea and Jessica work with many local businesses on Washington Boulevard to participate in community improvement projects for this important corridor.

Andrea and Jessica worked with KYCC to help facilitate KYCC's outreach and planting of over 800 trees in the West Adams area, which inspired them to coordinate a special project to get concrete removed to add almost 200 new street trees along Washington Boulevard between Crenshaw and Normandie. Andrea and Jessica also applied for, and received, a grant to beautify the LAUSD ECC Adult Education Center on Washington Boulevard between 7th and 8th Avenues. They coordinated with LACC, KYCC, L.A. Urban Forestry Dept, and C&S Nursery to remove concrete along the front of their chain link fence, and install new soil, irrigation and drought tolerant plants and vines with the funding from an L.A. Neighborhood Initiative (LANI) grant, and the aid of many wonderful local volunteers and students, pictured below with Andrea (L) and Jessica.

Another major project the pair spearheaded to improve Washington Boulevard are the street banners specifically identifying the community neighborhoods. Andrea and Jessica worked to have these banners placed on street lights above the major boulevards and coordinate to see they are maintained. Both Andrea and Jessica continue their extraordinary work to help move us toward achieving their vision for the entire community fueled by their belief in giving back to the community in this way. The next time you see them, make sure you thank them for all they do. Even better, offer them any help you can give — they'll welcome the support and the community will be all the better for it! ●



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Community Matters

THE BRIDGE BRIGADE

There's one remaining unlocked pedestrian bridge over the Santa Monica/10 Freeway – at Fourth Avenue. It links Arlington Heights and Washington Boulevard (schools, transportation, businesses) with the West Adams Avenues (more schools, churches, transportation and the West Adams Avenues-Benny H. Potter Park/South Seas House). Earlier this year the community came together and decided that it



was important to keep the Bridge open for pedestrians and bicyclists, while maintaining safety and quality of life for adjacent residents. In the long run, this effort will involve installation of security cameras (better lighting was recently added), more law enforcement, and ongoing maintenance. But on September 21, the community came together to clean up the bridge and its surrounding. Some five dozen neighbors and West Adams residents picked up trash, painted the bridge and planted a pocket garden on the north side. And then the hard work began: maintenance. Enter the so-called "4th Avenue Bridge Brigade," a loosely-organized group of committed volunteers who on a daily basis are picking up trash and painting out graffiti. Let's thank Ed Trospier, Chris Barnes, Deborah Varnado, Art Tobias, Daniel Zarraga, Elizabeth Fenner, and all the other neighbors who are

now stepping out – some, literally on a basis – to keep the bridge clean. "I kept hearing about community concerns about the security of the one remaining pedestrian overpass. People wanted it closed. Many others wanted it open," explained Jeff Camp, who is one of the leaders of the ongoing clean-up effort. "I was concerned that we were looking at neighborhoods being further divided – the 10 freeway ripped through and destroyed many communities. I and others were not willing to just set by and see it happen again." Through the Bridge Brigade's ongoing effort, thus "taking back" the Bridge for the community, Camp hopes to keep it open for all to enjoy. ●



Neighbors all helped out (group photo top right) on Clean-Up Day; Daniel Zarraga (right column); Debra Varnado (above, top left) and Ed Trospier (above)



SYNERGISTIC REFORMERS

As teachers in inner city schools in Los Angeles where the majority of students were significantly below grade level, Meg and Randy Palisoc were determined to prove that all students are capable of academic success, regardless of their background. So a decade ago, Meg and Randy, who met as students at USC (and were WAHA's Soup House hosts for this month's Holiday Tour in Oxford Square), co-founded a charter school, Synergy Academies, to give K-12 students in South Los Angeles access to a better educational path. After years of hard work and countless hours, they succeeded: Synergy Academies now serves over 1,300 students in grades K-12 in three schools, all focused on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). The three Synergy schools have catapulted top the top of student achievement measures, winning prestigious awards (including, this year, the 2013 Gold Award as Best Urban Elementary School in America from the National Center for Urban School Transformation.) People often ask the Palisocs, "What is the secret to your success?" Meg's answer: "The simplest answer to that question is a single word, which also happens to be the name of our organization – Synergy. By working together synergistically and striving to live up to the name of our schools, we bring out the best in each other, and we help our students thrive both academically and socially." ●





...Earn Time Bank Dollars.

Time for Time Banks *by Georgia Toliver*

Forty percent of all work performed in our economy is not transacted with money — 40%. Much of that is required to raise healthy children and build communities, but a large portion is by choice. Volunteering is work that falls in this category. And, we Wahonians do a lot of volunteering. Every hour we set up tables, prepare food, attend meetings, clean a vacant lot, or docent at our Holiday Tour is time worth more than the sheer gratification of contributing to our community. Time has value and serves as currency through the Time Bank Network. We in West Adams have our own Time Bank — one of 13 in Arroyo SECO Network of Time Banks serving part of Los

Angeles. The process of participating in this network fits our West Adams lifestyle.

The genius who started Time Banking over 30 years ago is a Washington, D.C. law professor, Edgar Cahn. He is definitely worth googling. His panoply of accomplishments include initiating “The War on Poverty,” founding a law university, and writing speeches for Attorney General Robert Kennedy. Maybe it is our economic times that is accelerating Time Banks world wide. In Cahn’s words, Time Banking:

“...represented a determination to take a stand for a more equitable, inclusive economic order. We wanted to demonstrate that a different kind of money could exist alongside the dollar, generating a different set of exchange transactions. We believed it could generate positive community-building efforts that might remedy or prevent the negative externalities created by the relentless pursuit of monetary profit.”

We all want a better West Adams and we work hard in a variety of ways toward that end. Time Banking is a system that gives added value to the time we dedicate to our community. It is designed to capture the exchange value of that 40% of work that is not transacted by \$\$\$\$. As wonderful as that sounds it is not the only benefit. In fact, it has many benefits. Getting to know people in our community improves the health of our community by revitalizing neighborhoods, preserving the environment, advancing social justice and democracy.

The process is also ingenious. It provides ways to meet people in our community who have talents we can use or people whose needs we can fulfill. The first opportunity will be at the required orientation meeting to become a member. You will meet people ready to exchange--sharing their needs and talents. You might meet someone who gives Italian lessons, and needs a dog sitter. Another who is a handyman and teaches guitar and needs a tree dug out. Or, someone who makes homemade soup and non-gluten bread and needs her child picked up on Mondays.

Thereafter, announcements of events, activities, needs and opportunities are emailed to members. Potlucks, craft fairs, barn raisings, classes, fruit harvesting, fix-it cafes, requests, and donations are all listed. The possibilities are endless. For example, a typical announcement might read, “...barn raising to landscape my backyard, need three shovels, a rake, 2 wheel barrows, and many strong and willing hands to shift plants and rocks, build a path and fire pit. I will provide water, juice and sandwiches, feel free to add to my banquet, 3-4 hour job...” Or, “several trees along my street have avocado and citrus trees ready to harvest, fruit will be shared by all and extra will be given to shelter...”

Once a month you will also receive an electronic newsletter with stories, articles, announcements and a list of groups you can join — like a repair café or a tool library, a fruit picking project or gardening, fun and games committee or a dog cooperative. Of course, you can create your own group or just show up at potluck or fair. You may list the talents you want to share on your account page or simply offer help in answer to a post. There is every kind and assortment of ways to find people you can help or someone to help you.

We love West Adams and welcome any and all efforts for improvement and this is the most affordable way to do just that. It is a system to mix and mingle with neighbors you didn’t even know you have and acquaint you with their talents and needs. Once you’ve fulfilled someone’s need you make a time deposit to your account. Then it is converted into a currency you can spend on a service you need or want.

If you would like to join the West Adams Time Bank and get started depositing your time, go to asntb.com and click “join” at top of page. It’s a two-step process--once you’ve filled out the application you will be invited to an orientation. Attending will earn you your first deposit.

To learn more about our time banking network go to: www.asntb.com

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President: president@westadamsheritage.org

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Historic Preservation: preservation@westadamsheritage.org

Suzanne Henderson

Events Chair: events@westadamsheritage.org

Regina Berry

Volunteers Coordinator: volunteer@westadamsheritage.org

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Tours Committee: tours@westadamsheritage.org

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Spotlight ✓

Inside this issue:

THE SPIRIT OF GIVING

Read about how your West Neighbors help out with good causes all year long. (see page 14)

PAVING THE WAY: HOW WEST ADAMS STREETS WERE NAMED

The names of our streets reflect the community's heritage. (see page 1)

WAHA's "After Holiday" Celebration

Saturday, January 4

5 to 8 p.m.

Georgia and Sterling Toliver's House

1915 Virginia Rd. (Wellington Square)

Our "Jolly Holiday in Oxford Square" was a great success and we owe it all to our members, tour homeowners and volunteers! Thank you for your hard work and participation at the tour, and all year long. We would like to thank you for your generous "Spirit of Giving" with a festive dinner party — a grand finale to this holiday season.



We welcome your RSVP so we can get some idea of the headcount. Please send an e-mail to: Events@WestAdamsHeritage.org.

WAHA....Creating Our Future by Preserving Our Past

The WAHA Matters 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 2013. All rights for graphic and written material appearing in the newsletter are reserved. Contact Director of Publications for permission.

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West Adams Heritage Association
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