

# West Adams Matters

## Civil Wars, Civil Liberties:

### Living History at Angelus Rosedale Cemetery

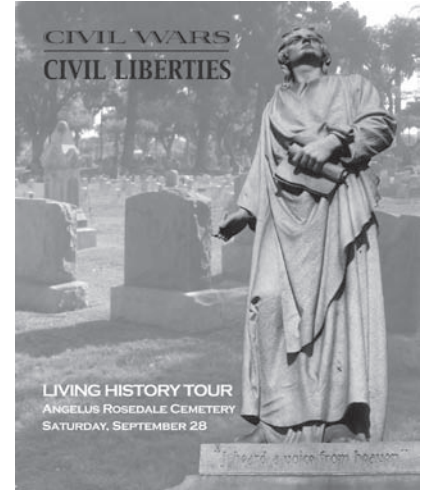
Saturday, September 28

At the Angelus Rosedale Cemetery, History Comes to Life on Saturday, September 28, as a Mack Sennett Bathing Beauty, USC's first female professor, a heroic -- or notorious -- Soldier of Fortune, and a jazz chanteuse who sang with Duke Ellington all perform on a unique outdoor "stage."

At this year's annual Living History Tour, visitors will "meet" some of Los Angeles's most interesting early pioneers, war veterans and entertainment industry personages as costumed actors, at graveside, also portray the lives of a Civil War Union bugler and labor union activist; a Silent Film era starlet and early airline flight hostess whose life ended tragically; an African American physician who risked his career for civil rights; and Los Angeles pioneer who helped author the city's first charter.

West Adams neighborhoods played a prominent role in some of this year's personages' lives. Dr. Oner Barker, African American physician who was required to testify before the House UnAmerican Activities Committee during the McCarthy Era, was deeply disturbed about the segregation of black troops in World War II, and later prejudice he encountered as a young doctor. He lived in Kinney Heights when he testified about his

*(continued on page 4)*



## Preservation Alert: Gutted Bishop Residence Appeal Moves to City Council

WAHA is in the midst of its final showdown at City Council over the future of the William T. Bishop Residence/Roger Williams Baptist Church complex located at 1342 West Adams Blvd. On August 20, the City Council's PLUM (Planning and Land Use Management) Committee denied WAHA's appeal, sending the case forward to the full City Council, to be heard in the next few days or weeks.

Back in January, we discovered that the Bishop Residence, an imposing 1896 mansion designed by Sumner Hunt and later, in 1933, remodeled to be compatible with the Gothic Revival Roger Williams sanctuary erected that same year, had been completely gutted without building permits. We soon learned that the new owner had also applied to convert it into multiple apartments (hence the unpermitted interior demolition), claiming that the many changes to the historic structure would be in keeping with both local and federal standards for historic rehabilitation. WAHA completely disagrees with that position, but unfortunately, the Planning Department has not agreed with us.

On July 19, WAHA filed an Appeal to the City Council, specifically objecting to the issuance of a "categorical exemption" as the environmental clearance for the project, and also appealing the entire determination of the South Los Angeles Area

*(continued on page 6)*

## A 4-Star Day for Preservation

by Jean Frost, Vice-President, Historic Preservation

The Cultural Heritage Commission (CHC) met on August 1 to review and approve or disapprove applications for historic Cultural Monument designation (HCM). The day was a "Four Star Day" for Preservation as the Commission recommended the following four sites as HCMs.

It took a convergence of efforts, a perfect storm in a positive way, to get the Herman Kerckhoff House nomination (at 1325 West Adams Boulevard) to the Commission by August 1. I applaud my colleagues on WAHA's Preservation Emergency Response Team (P.E.R.T.), Jim Childs, Laura Meyers and Mitzi Mogul, for performing remarkably in the nomination of the Herman H. Kerckhoff House. In addition to Jim Childs, Laura Meyers and Mitzi Mogul, Councilmember Bernard Parks moved from City Council on June 25 to "initiate consideration of the Herman Kerckhoff House ...(and) instruct the Planning Department to prepare Historic Cultural Monument application for review and consideration by the Cultural Heritage Commission." WAHA pledged to prepare the nomination post-haste and the P.E.R.T. team stepped in.

*(continued on page 7)*



**INSIDE:** WAHA celebrates its 30th Anniversary at the Doheny Mansion (see page 3); WAHA's first president, Carol Harris, once said, "I thought I was buying a great old house, but I really bought a great neighborhood." Now, 30 current WAHA members share their insights about living in West Adams (see page 10).

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**PLEASE BE SURE TO JOIN YOUR  
 WEST ADAMS FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS AT ALL  
 OUR UPCOMING EVENTS, INCLUDING THE  
 POTLUCK GATHERING ON SEPTEMBER 15!**

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## New WAHA Board Member: John Kurtz

So the question has been asked, "Why do you want to be on the WAHA Board?" Here is my short answer.

I have lived in the West Adams area for almost 25 years now, and I have been on the WAHA Board in the past for probably a total of 16 of those years.

I see serving on the WAHA Board as an excellent, and many times, fun way to have an ongoing impact in the West Adams community. As a member of an involved, concerned and dedicated team, long-term goals can be identified where collaborative opportunities for positive changes can be implemented. I have seen this happen in the past with the results being beneficial change in our community. I see investment in West Adams as a way I can make a contribution to the common good in some way.

I bring a lot of history with me in terms of the WAHA Board and West Adams. I have served on a number of non-profit boards in the past and have skills in terms of management, schedules, budgets and decision making which can be successfully applied in our WAHA Board setting. I believe I can make a contribution as a Board Member.

I submitted my name, was approved by the Board and accepted the Board position of Secretary. I look forward to working with the existing Board while also serving as part of the Membership Committee. ●

## Bob Bortfeld Award Nominations Sought

WAHA's highest award, the Bortfeld Award, named after WAHA co-founder Bob Bortfeld, is presented to a member who has given special service to the community in the prior year and over time.

Nearly three decades ago, when Bortfeld purchased his home in a long-ignored neighborhood, he had a vision for this community. Bortfeld felt that with strong community activism and a shared love for old houses, West Adams could be one of L.A.'s best neighborhoods. West Adams Heritage Association established the Bortfeld Award to honor his vision and inspiration after he passed away in the late 1980s.

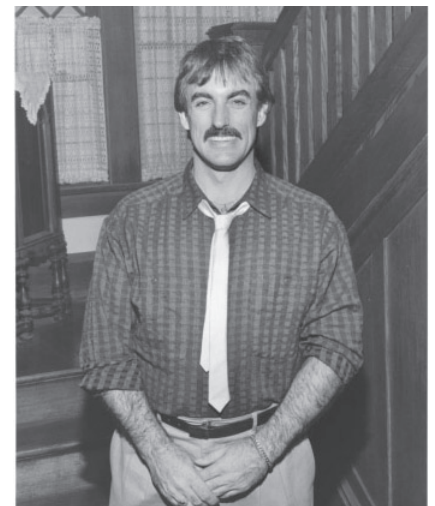
Nominations now are being sought for this annual award. The nominee must be a member in good standing who demonstrates the following qualities: 1) consistent and visible leadership in WAHA and the preservation community, 2) an obvious commitment to preservation, 3) leadership in deed, not just title, 4) notable accomplishments/contributions over a range of activities, not just in one particular activity, and 5) an ability to bring people together to address issues and resolve problems.

Typically, the candidate would not currently be a WAHA Board member.

The award has been presented in the past to Kathleen Salisbury, Harry Anderson, David Raposa, Harold Greenberg, Lindsay Wiggins, Jodi Seigner, Jon Rake, Lana Soroko, Norma Reynolds, John Kurtz, Audrey Arlington, Jim Meister, Joe Ryan, Laura Meyers, Linda Scribner, Corinne Pleger, Peggy King, Leslie Evans and Jennifer Charnofsky, Suzanne Henderson, Ed Trosper, Pat Karasick, Mitzi Mogul, Rory Cunningham, and John Arnold. As you can see by this listing, all former Honorees have had leadership roles in WAHA and West Adams, and have undertaken a diverse range of activities in the organization and in the community at large.

Nominations should be submitted in writing to John Patterson via e-mail at [president@westadamsheritage.org](mailto:president@westadamsheritage.org) (preferred) or letter sent to WAHA's office, 2263 S. Harvard Blvd., Historic West Adams, Los Angeles, CA 90018. Please briefly describe the activities your candidate has undertaken for West Adams Heritage Association and in the West Adams community, and explain why you believe he or she should be chosen for the Bortfeld Award. The winner will be selected by WAHA's current President, Membership Chair, and last year's winner, John Arnold.

Deadline for submission is October 1. ●



## *President's Message* by John Patterson

As some of our long-time members may realize, this coming year marks a significant milestone for our organization. It was in October of 1983 that a group of concerned neighbors first came together and began laying the groundwork for an organization that would quickly evolve into the West Adams Heritage Association.

Over the next several months, the pages of your monthly newsletter will contain a series of "collections" that will have two common denominators - the number 30, and Historic West Adams. Future issues will focus on 30 preservation goals for the future; 30 cultural heritage resources in West Adams; 30 endangered landmarks; and a variety of other Historic West Adams-centric subjects. We begin this series with the results of an in-depth outreach effort by our Membership Committee who contacted several dozen current members. Some comments come from very long-term residents like Wally Matsuura, whose family has lived in West Adams since the 1930s. And while other observations come from more recent arrivals, there is one common thread: the motivations that lead us to make our homes in Historic West Adams.

I was particularly impressed with the number of people who shared that their first impressions of West Adams came through attending one of WAHA's tours – an impressive testament to the impact of sharing our common love and appreciation for old houses!

My partner Jeff and I stumbled into West Adams quite by accident. At the time, we had a store in the Sunset Junction area of Silver Lake, and thought that area would be a good place to settle. Unfortunately, the houses were tiny and way too expensive. As we broadened our search, we looked further and further south, vowing never to go beyond the 10 freeway.... until we found a listing on Kenwood. The row of early turn-of-the-century houses took our breath away! We found the major thoroughfares to be a little bit less than inviting visually, but a left or right turn onto any of the residential streets was like being transported to another era of elegance and refinement.

It may have taken over 18 months to make our "treasure" habitable, but it truly became a labor of love. Now, eight years later, it is still a work in progress – as we all know – but it most certainly is HOME!! Having always been active in whatever community I live, I was immediately drawn to our local block club, and soon thereafter learned about WAHA. About five years ago, I was invited to attend a Board meeting, and well..... the rest is history. I had no experience in preservation, but I was quickly drawn into the awareness and importance of the advocacy that our organization promotes.

Even more important to me is the sense of inclusiveness that seems to pervade West Adams. I have lived in Los Angeles since 1973, but it was not until moving here that I experienced that true sense of community that I found so lacking in the other neighborhoods in which I had lived. I am proud to call Historic West Adams my home, and at this point, really can't imagine living anywhere else!!!

It is a great honor to be filling the role of President at this moment in WAHA's history. I anticipate that this 30th year will bring with it many new challenges as well as successes, lots more memories, and the addition of several building blocks that will further support this organization for many more years into the future.

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

## **WAHA's 30th Anniversary Celebration, at the Doheny Mansion**

*by Suzanne Henderson, Vice-President, Events*

**Saturday, October 19 5-8 p.m. \$30/person**

The Doheny Mansion in Chester Place will open its doors to help WAHA celebrate its 30th Anniversary!

West Adams Heritage Association was founded 30 years ago, and to mark the occasion WAHA is preparing an elegant celebration at one of West Adams' most elegant mansions. Home to the Doheny family for nearly 60 years, the mansion was designed by Theodore Augustus Eisen and Sumner P. Hunt in 1898. Its eclectic Romantic Revival exterior unites elements of Gothic, Renaissance, Chateausque, Moorish and even Mission Revival styles. The opulent interior reflects the wealth and social status of oil baron Edward L. Doheny and his wife, Carrie Estelle Doheny, who frequently remodeled the mansion. The famed Pompeian Room features lavish ornamentation, imported Siena marble, and a Tiffany iridescent stained glass domed ceiling.

WAHA is planning a wonderful champagne reception, complete with music (including a pianist on the Mansion's historic Steinway), champagne and wine, and an extensive array of hors d'oeuvres. Attendees are invited to dress in formal or semi-formal attire. This event would be the perfect opportunity to go that extra step by dressing in vintage formal wear from the last 100 years!

Advance purchased reservations are required. Tickets are \$30 per person (I wonder how we came up with that number?!) and will be available for purchase after September 1st online, by visiting the WAHA website. Tickets may also be purchased by mail. Please address your envelope to:

**WAHA 30th Anniversary, 2263 South Harvard Blvd., Los Angeles CA 90018**

Due to the room's limited capacity, tickets will be sold on a first come, first served basis; space available.

Please do join WAHA for this rare opportunity to party like the Doheny's did – and to celebrate this very important WAHA milestone! ●



# History Matters

## Living History Tour

*continued from page 1*

participation in the Communist Party.

Merle Evans was a carefree 18-year-old youth enjoying a day at the beach with his sweetheart when they both became victims of a horrendous train crash – 100 years ago this summer – at Vineyard Station (now the site of the Lowes shopping center.) The crash involved hundreds of people injured and dead, and ultimately resulted in the construction of the West Boulevard Bridge, one of the community's newest designated landmarks.

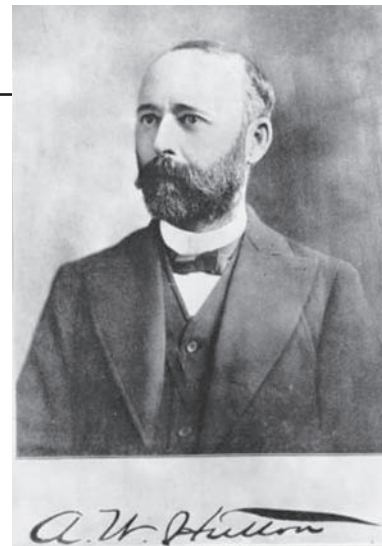
And, Daniel DeVilliers, an Afrikaner of Huguenot descent who fought in the 2nd Boer War in South Africa (a conflict more bloody than the U.S. Civil War) and later in the Mexican Revolution, was killed by his ex-wife's new husband in a house on 20th Street, in Western Heights, also 100 years ago this year.

Angelus Rosedale Cemetery was founded in 1884, and is now home to many generations of Los Angeles's citizens, representing every race, faith, and creed. Each year, WAHA tells some of their life stories while touring the historic grounds and elaborately-carved monuments of L.A.'s first lawn cemetery.

This year's tour commemorates not only Los Angeles's longtime role as the center of this country's entertainment industry, but also the role the city has played in the larger history of civil liberties in America. In addition, the 2013 Living History Tour memorializes the 150th anniversary of the Civil War (1861-1865).

This year's additional portrayals include:

- Jennie Allen Bovard (left), USC's "First Lady" – she was the university's first female professor and the wife of the institution's president
- Marjorie Zier Page, a Jazz Age starlet and Mack Sennett Bathing Beauty who then became an early inflight hostess for TWA
- Orion Theodore Thomas, Union Army bugler who became a well-known printer and patriot in Los Angeles, helping establish the Los Angeles Veteran Drum Corps (a version of which still performs today)
- Aurelius Hutton (above, right), a Confederate cadet whose family lost everything. Hutton moved to Los Angeles in 1869, becoming an early L.A. City Attorney before becoming a founder of Pasadena; and
- Ivie Anderson (below, with Cab Calloway), jazz singer best known for performing with Duke Ellington's Orchestra, originating the song, "It Don't Mean A Thing" (*If It Ain't Got That Swing*)



### TICKET SALES/TOUR TIMES

Advance Ticket Sales Only -- No Walk-ins!

Tours depart approximately every 25 minutes, beginning at 9 a.m., with the last tour starting at noon. Tickets are by advance reservation only; each tour has a limited number of spaces. The Living History Tour is a 2-3 hour docent-led outdoor walk through the cemetery, over uneven terrain; visitors are advised to wear appropriate clothing and walking shoes.

Tickets are by reservation only: \$30 in advance, paid by September 10; \$35 after that or on day of tour, if space is available. (Children under 10 attend free.) **WAHA members enjoy a \$5 discount on tour tickets (limit 2 discounted tickets, please).**

Angelus Rosedale Cemetery is located at 1831 West Washington Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90007.

Order tickets at [www.WestAdamsHeritage.org](http://www.WestAdamsHeritage.org) or send a check made payable to "WAHA" to:

**WAHA Living History Tour**  
2410 Fourth Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90018

An e-mail address or phone number is required for confirmation. Initial reservations will be for starting times within a one-hour segment: 9-10 a.m.; 10-11 a.m.; 11 a.m. to noon. Tours will last approximately 2-3 hours after the start time; please plan accordingly. WAHA will confirm a specific starting time/reservation with all tour visitors after September 15.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, or to volunteer, please call the WAHA Reservations Hotline at 323-735-WAHA (735-9242), write [tours@westadamsheritage.org](mailto:tours@westadamsheritage.org), or visit [www.WestAdamsHeritage.org](http://www.WestAdamsHeritage.org). ●





## Jazz Under the Stars in West Adams Avenues Saturday, August 31 and Sunday, September 1 5 -11 p.m. It's a block party: 7th Avenue, between Adams and 25th Street

Listen to music -- or get up and dance! -- it's time for the annual Jazz Under the Stars, presented by West Adams Avenues neighborhood association. FREE, as always. Invite your friends, and bring your chairs, blankets and picnic baskets, and/or dine from several local food vendors (bring cash).

West Adams has long been home to Jazz greats -- think Eric Dolphy, and Hampton Hawes. Some years ago, The Avenues association began celebrating this history in our community by having a Jazz Under the Stars event on the Sunday before Labor day. Now, the association is expanding its annual West Adams Avenues Jazz Festival Under the Stars to two evenings over Labor Day Weekend. This popular event features multiple musical acts, ranging from pure jazz to blues, gospel, folk and R&B -- including West Adams' own Wellington Square Quintet, and Mitzi Mogul -- performing outdoors on 7th Avenue.

WAHA is one of the sponsors this year. Other sponsors include Council President Herb Wesson and Council District 10, Mid-City Neighborhood Council, Starbucks, Lowe's, McDonald's, Wing-

Stop, and Taqueria Los Anayas. Other participating vendors include Barba \$1 tacos, Les Affaires Catering, and Lupe's Ice Cream Truck. This year there will be a "bier garten" sponsored by Samuel Adams.

Parking is along 25th Street; 7th Avenue is closed to traffic for this event between Adams and 25th. ●


## Diwali Dinner: India's Festival of Lights

Sunday, October 13 6 p.m.

Gaylord Restaurant, 50 North La Cienega Blvd. (Beverly Hills)

Diwali, the Festival of Lights and the Indian New Year, is celebrated with an elaborate feast, candles and entertainment. The annual L.A. Diwali gala dinner is presented by the Los Angeles Mumbai Sister City, chaired since 1996 by WAHA member and West Adams resident Mira Honeycutt. This festive evening will have Bollywood and traditional dance performance, henna art, tarot reading, a sumptuous feast prepared by Gaylord chef Jayant Paul, and fine wines from Napa Valley -- all included in the price of \$75 per person (special rate of \$600 for a group of 10). Guests take home fabulous swag bags filled with Indian spices, teas, scarves and jewelry.

The Mumbai Sister City supports medical care in slums of Mumbai. Funds raised at this event are donated to the Connecticut-based AMERICARES, which applies the donation to its Mobile Medical Vans, a program that dispenses medicines and health services in Mumbai's slums. For information and tickets, contact Mira at honeycuttmira34@gmail.com. ●



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## OPA! Annual Greek Fest Friday-Sunday, September 6, 7 & 8 St. Sophia's Cathedral campus, Pico and Normandie

The LA Greek Fest is the largest and most iconic Greek food and wine festival in Los Angeles, bringing over 15,000 attendees together for three days of Greek food, wine, traditional Greek dancing and cultural experiences. Located at Pico and Normandie on the same grounds of one of L.A.'s most beautiful churches, Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral, the festival is



hosted by honorary chairs and co-hosts Tom Hanks and Rita Wilson.

Hourly tours of Saint Sophia Cathedral, a religious gem and world-renowned architectural and national landmark, are held throughout the LA Greek Fest weekend.

And then there's the food (so much food!): rack of lamb, chicken and pork Souvlaki skewers, sizzling shrimp with feta, Greek Loukaniko sausage, moussaka, flaming saganaki cheese, and so much more.

All proceeds benefit Saint Sophia Cathedral and its newly built community center -- The Huffington Center -- and to help support the surrounding Byzantine-Latino Quarter community. Visit [www.lagreekfest.com](http://www.lagreekfest.com) for schedule and more information. ●



# Preservation Matters

## Bishop Residence at City Council

*continued from page 1*

Planning Commission, which approved a modified project. The City has taken the unusual step of fast-tracking the Appeal to City Council, a venue where WAHA's likelihood of prevailing (or not) rested more on politics than technical correctness.

Although it is true that the owner/applicant has somewhat adjusted the project – for example, more of the original leaded glass windows are now slated to remain in place – the project as a whole, with its drastic alterations to the historic residence, basically takes away forever the chance to restore the Bishop Mansion.

But even worse, from WAHA's perspective, is the Planning Department's skewed decision to allow this project to go forward with a categorical exemption, which as the name implies, means that staff and decision-makers believe that the entire project is literally exempt from any true environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This has extremely negative implications for anyone working to save historical resources in the City of Los Angeles. In April, WAHA's membership voted to pursue all legal means to assure a proper CEQA clearance and future protections for the historic Bishop Residence and, by implication, all of West Adams' historic resources.

Staff has based its decisions on an assumption that the project meets federal Secretary of Interior Standards for Rehabilitation. It does not. WAHA has asked several Qualified Historians to review the project, and each has stated, in writing, to the City, that this project does not meet the Standards.

In WAHA's lengthy Appeal, which is quite technical in nature, we submitted the following bullet points (the entire Appeal is posted at [www.WestAdamsHeritage.org](http://www.WestAdamsHeritage.org), along with other documents):

"The Categorical Exemption cannot be properly utilized for this project, for the following reasons:

- This project does not meet Secretary of Interior Standards
  - The project has been split.
  - Staff's jurisdiction over the exterior only does not excuse Staff from a proper CEQA evaluation; if Staff is using Class 31 of CEQA Exemptions as its basis, conformance with the Standards requires evaluation of interior changes as well as exterior changes.
  - The project creates cumulatively considerable impacts; a Categorical Exemption is not permitted in cases of cumulative impacts.
  - The change of use to multiple units is not exempt under CEQA (e.g., this action does not appear on the list of categorically exempt activities).
  - The SAPC abused its discretion when it chose to not have any substantive discussion of facts raised by Appellant, its consultant or members of the public. Indeed, there was literally no discussion at all.
  - Planning Staff abused its discretion by reviewing and continuing to review the Bishop Residence solely as a contributor to the North University Park Specific Plan and ignoring completely its individual eligibility for National Register Listing.
  - Staff has indicated that it uses informal, in-house private checklists to determine whether or not to utilize a C.E. versus utilizing the publicly-transparent Initial Study process to determine the level of environmental clearance, a further abuse of discretion.
- Moreover, Staff now also indicates that the Department has an internal guideline that a project is exempt if it only has a single entitlement but not exempt if it needs two or more entitlements. That threshold does not appear in either the California Environmental Quality Act's Article 19 (Categorical Exemptions) nor in the State's Public Resources Code. CEQA establishes a low threshold for the preparation of an EIR, and in particular sets a bar that when experts (Qualified Historians) disagree, then the fullest possible evaluation shall take place. Several Qualified Historians stated that the project does not meet Secretary of Interior Guidelines. The proposed Categorical Exemption (CE) for the project at 1342 West Adams Boulevard is not legally sufficient to meet the requirements of CEQA in protection of our environment." ●



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# Preservation Matters

## Four-Star Day *continued from page 1*

With admirable assistance from CD8 staffer Purvi Doshi and CHC architect Lambert Geissenger, the required notice went out to the owner and the Commissioners were scheduled to review the site on July 19. This was a massive “takes a village” effort: from taking photographs, getting Purvi Doshi Parks’ legislative deputy samples of other Council motions putting HCMs forward, researching, writing the significance statement, the context statement, the architectural description and being ready to appear before the CHC on August 1.

The urgency was underscored by information received in early June that the interior fixtures and built-ins, which are key elements of the character defining features of the House, were going to be sold off. With two historic buildings interiors being gutted recently without permits, (the Bishop Residence at 1342 West Adams and the HCM at 1978 Estrella) WAHA was concerned that the interiors of the House had no historic preservation protections. Once the motion was made and the House was taken under consideration, the House had some form of protection.

The second preservation star, also in West Adams, was the Laura Meyers’ prepared Haight-Dandridge Residence nomination for the Wesley and Patricia Moore Living Trust. The Haight-Dandridge Residence (2012 Victoria in Wellington Square) is associated with the “Haight” family (Haight-Ashbury) as well as Ruby Dandridge (African American actress and comic).

In addition, as preservation star number three, WAHA member Mitzi March Mogul had a monument to be reviewed in her professional capacity as consultant to the owners for the Alexandria Hotel for expansion of the HCM#80 to include the Alexandria Additions, including the 55 room hotel addition which closed in 1934 during the Great Depression.

The fourth preservation star, which is also not within WAHA’s boundaries, is instructive on how even within HPOZ’s there can be specifics that apply to the integrity of a “non-contributor”. And this nomination was put forward by the CD1 Councilmember (at that time) Ed Reyes. While the Shoppers’ Market was outside of the period of significance of the Highland Park HPOZ, it nevertheless had architectural integrity and significance in its own context as an example of “Google” post modern architecture. The Commission agreed with preparer Charlie Fisher that this non-contributor under the HPOZ survey was indeed an historic building worth of protection. So the Shoppers’ Market is the “fourth star” for the preservation victories on August 1.

Once the CHC approves a nomination, it is forwarded to the Los Angeles City Council for approval. This is often done as a consent item (Council vote without a hearing unless a speaker card is submitted requesting to be heard on the matter.)

August 1 was a great day for preservation. Since there were three Commissioners present constituting a quorum, three votes were necessary to approve the HCMs. In each case, the commissioners agreed unanimously. Preservation advocacy, one of WAHA’s key missions, particularly when there are critical time constraints, is not an easy task. Over time, there are losses (the Welles House on Scarff, the Childs Mansion on Adams, the Clark House on Hoover) that make the victories all the more gratifying in pursuit of WAHA’s mission to preserve our architectural and cultural heritage. ●



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### IN ESCROW

**Vineyard Spanish Revival.** Classic 3 + 1 home near Expo line — *Adam Janeiro, seller’s agent, 323-401-3952*

**Lakewood Shores Condo/Townhome** — *Adam Janeiro, seller’s agent*

**Kinney Heights Adobe Revival** — *Adam Janeiro, seller’s agent*

### SOLD

**Jefferson Park Duplex** — *Adam Janeiro, buyer’s agent. Welcome, Matt Rossell and Leslie Hemstreet!*

**Chas. Victor Hall Tract 4-Plex** — *Adam Janeiro, buyer’s agent*

**Kinney Heights Gardener’s Delight.** — *David Raposa, Sellers’ and Buyers’ agent. Welcome back, Laura Harris and Fred Moten!*

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# Preservation Matters

## Thank You Letter to Councilmember Bernard Parks

Councilmember Bernard Parks  
City Hall, Rm. 460, 200 North Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Councilmember Parks,

On behalf of the West Adams Heritage Association and its approximately three hundred fifty households, I would like to express our sincere appreciation for the action taken by you and by your staff for the preservation of the Herman Kerckhoff House at 1325 West Adams Boulevard. Your efficient and timely action on June 25 at City Council will insure that an important historic asset of West Adams will receive the treatment that should be afforded a monument and an architectural treasure.

The efforts to preserve the Kerckhoff House constituted "a perfect storm" of positive concern and effort which came into place when members of the community learned that the interior built-ins and fixtures might be sold and character defining features of this historic house would be lost forever to future generations. From the efforts of Legislative deputy Purvi Doshi, CHC architect Lambert Geissinger, and WAHA Preservation Committee members Jim Childs, Laura Meyers and Mitzi Mogul, the 100 page nomination application was swiftly prepared, the CHC site visit was scheduled, and the CHC unanimously approved the CHC nomination on August 1.

This would not have been possible without your support and leadership. WAHA's mission to preserve the architectural and cultural assets of West Adams cannot flourish without support from the community and its elected representatives. Your actions speak "louder than words" when you moved "that the Council initiate consideration of the Herman Kerckhoff House...as a City Historic-Cultural Monument. and instruct the Planning Department to prepare the Historic-Cultural Monument application for review and consideration by the Cultural Heritage Commission." WAHA was pleased to prepare the HCM application to support the recognition of this historic property.

We are very grateful for your leadership and support in this matter. We look forward to continuing to work together on behalf of WAHA and the West Adams community. As the character Willy Loman said in the play, "Death of a Salesman", attention must be paid. Many of us were surprised that the Herman Kerckhoff House was obscured by foliage and missed in the CRA windshield survey in 1986 and was in the orphan "six blocks" outside of the University Park HPOZ. In this instance attention has been paid and positive action taken in furtherance of the enhancement of our community.

Sincerely,  
Jean Frost

Vice-President, Preservation Committee Chair, West Adams Heritage Association

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## Cheaper by the Dozen: USC Nominates 12 Buildings as Landmarks *by Laura Meyers*

The iconic Tommy Trojan statue is not yet a nominee, but USC's Trojan Spirit is much in evidence in its new initiative to designate a dozen of its historic buildings as Los Angeles Historic Cultural Monuments (HCM). In August, USC presented 12 nominations to the Cultural Heritage Commission, noting that its oldest building, Alumni House/Widney Hall, is already designated as HCM No. 70.

Los Angeles was still a frontier town in 1880 when the University of Southern California laid the cornerstone of Widney Hall and then opened its doors to 53 students and 10 teachers. The city still lacked paved streets, street lights, and a reliable fire

alarm system. As building namesake and USC founder R.M. Widney reflected later: "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."

Over the years, USC implemented four campus master plans, in 1919, 1946, 1960, and 1988. Today, much of the campus is identified as historic, and USC is also preparing a California Register District nomination, according to Christine Lazzaretto of Historic Resources Group, who presented the nominations. The Cultural Heritage Commission unanimously took all the buildings (listed below) under consideration, and will be touring the USC campus in early September.

**Bovard Administration Building.** Designed by the Parkinson & Parkinson firm in the Italian Romanesque Revival Style and constructed in 1921, its significant architectural details include eight stone figures atop brick pilasters of historic figures. The historic figures depicted represent the "Progress of Civilization" and were designed by artist Casper Gruenfeld.

**Doheny Memorial Library.** Designed by architects Ralph Adams Cram and Samuel Lunden, and erected in 1932, the brick-and-limestone Italian Romanesque Revival Style library sits prominently in the center of campus.

**Gwynn Wilson Student Union.** Designed by Parkinson & Parkinson and built in 1928, this Italian Romanesque Revival Style building features alternating brick and stone covering the north and east façade with occasional pictorial glazed terra cotta tiles.

**Mudd Memorial Hall of Philosophy.** Designed by Ralph Carlin Flewelling and constructed in 1929, this two-story Italian Romanesque Revival Style building is composed of three wings surrounding an interior courtyard, and features an arched colonnade. Decorative stone gargoyles and classical figures are located above the entrance of the colonnade, and a rotunda features prominent stained glass windows.

**Physical Education Building.** This Italian Romanesque Revival Style building, designed by Parkinson & Parkinson in 1930, houses a 1,000-seat gym, indoor swimming facilities, handball courts and dance studios.

**3440 Hope Street Building.** Designed by Morgan, Walls & Clements, this Art Deco warehouse was built in 1927.

**Allan Hancock Foundation.** Constructed in 1940, this five-story Late Moderne style building is an I-shaped plan, flat-roofed, reinforced concrete structure that 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's Wilshire District mansion.

**Olin Hall of Engineering.** Designed by William Pereira & Associates in 1963, this four building complex exhibits character-defining features of the New Formalism style.

**University Religious Center.** Completed in 1965, this flat-roofed post-and-beam building is clad in brick and cement plaster and exhibits 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.

**Von Kleinsmid Center.** Designed by influential architect Edward Durell Stone and constructed in 1966, this three-story institutional building with prominent tower exhibits character-defining features of the New Formalism style, including a main elevation that exhibits symmetrical arcaded openings consisting of ten arches.

**Annenberg School of Communications.** Designed by A. Quincy Jones & Associates and completed in 1979, this three-story institutional building exhibits character-defining features of the Late Modern style. Irregular in plan, the concrete building is characterized by various projections at the second and third levels and reinforced concrete "waffle" slabs.

**Dosan Ahn Chang Ho Family Home.** Built c. 1920, this single family American Foursquare home 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 after being imprisoned by Japanese forces in Shanghai, China. 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. ●



## WAHA Memories

by the WAHA Membership Committee

As WAHA celebrates the 30th anniversary of our organization's founding, we thought, "What better way to focus on our neighborhood than with the words of our own WAHA members." We are proud and excited to share a compendium of memories from 30 of your friends and neighbors. We asked each of them: "How long have you lived in West Adams, and what first brought you to this neighborhood." The variety of answers tells a wonderful story, and weaves the incredible tapestry that is Historic West Adams!

**SUZIE AND DON HENDERSON** -- In 1983 we came with friends and stayed overnight at the Salisbury House B&B (now Don Lynch's home) and fell in love with the historic neighborhood. Better yet it was a place where we could actually afford to buy a large house for the same amount we could get for selling our home in Panorama City. We found a great house, however it did require about three months of work (stripping wood, remodeling the kitchen and the bathrooms), before we could move in mostly because at that time our daughter (Sarah) was 4 years. We moved in Thanksgiving weekend and hosted our first party in December. Bob Bortfeld, Kathleen Salisbury, Laura Meyers, Mimi Stuart and we were involved with the founding meeting for WAHA, which was held at Jerry Mendelsohn and Joyce Alber's house on Bronson. WAHA was formed to help develop a sense of community based on our love of old houses, which was the motivating factor for all of us who had moved into West Adams.

**WALLY MATSUURA** -- I moved into the West Adams area with my parents in the late 1930s and transferred to 24th Street School since it was very close to our house. I have seen the neighborhood change a number of times. I remember the house next door being stucco'ed over and painted white in 1956. In 1960 the freeway went through and it was a shame that so many houses in and around Berkeley Square were gone. In the late 80's there was controversy over a tour WAHA was holding and as a result a meeting was held, which I attended, at Widney Jr. High to address the issues. That is when I joined WAHA and have been a member ever since. I have seen David Raposa and his crew restore houses which I thought needed to be torn down. Because of those restorations I will never again say a house cannot be saved!

**JEAN CADE** -- I moved into West Adams in 1974. I had been looking for a house for over a year in places like Culver City and Torrance. When I saw the houses in Lafayette Square I loved the character the 2 story house possessed which reminded me of the houses in the area where my grandmother had a home in Mississippi. I was overwhelmed because the house we were shown was so perfect, so it's the one we bought. In 1994 I had the opportunity to buy a Paul Williams designed house on the same street. After we bought this, our second house on the same street, WAHA asked to have it on their holiday tour. At that time I was not a member so this was my introduction to WAHA. The house had no furniture in it yet, so WAHA set up the house as the boutique house. The WAHA President at the time, Linda Scribner, asked me to consider being on the Board. I accepted that offer and became a member of the board at that time.

**BERNARD & BRENDA STEPPES** -- We loved the architecture of the homes in West Adams and bought a house to restore in 1980. We didn't intend to live here, but the neighborhood changed our minds. We raised our children here. It is multicultural

and we all work together. In the early days, we would all get together and paint out graffiti and [succeeded in] getting rid of a liquor store on Adams. We were the first to get a street closure. Bob Bortfeld was a friend and we introduced him to this area. In 1983, we participated in forming WAHA with people like Kathleen Salisbury and Bill Washington who had a bed and breakfast on 20th street. We love the warmth of the neighborhood and worked to get 14 houses landmark status on Van Buren Place.

**DAVE PLEGER** -- Since both Corinne and I liked old houses, when we saw a WAHA tour announced in the LA Times in 1988, we decided to attend. While I was distracted and enjoying the architecture, behind my back Corinne was collecting realtor business cards; she had already decided it was time to move from our condo in West L.A. When we were looking at places our criteria were simple, the house must have a staircase visible from the front door and also have space for a sewing room. When we saw the house on 4th Avenue we thought it was wonderful from the start and made a full price offer the same day. Our realtor (Jon Rake) bought us a WAHA Membership as a closing gift. We moved in, making West Adams home, and have been involved with WAHA ever since.

**AUDREY ARLINGTON** -- West Adams had been invisible to me before I moved here in 1990 because I only drove past it on the freeway, or at most, on the major, less-than-beautiful commercial streets. I never imagined the beautiful old houses standing on the residential streets, all of them unique, unlike the cookie-cutter housing tracts where I was raised. I bought a house here because it's a 20-30 minute drive to most any place I need or care to go in Los Angeles. You got a lot of house for the money then, and people still do. I felt quite alone when I first moved here; my friends in the Westside and the Valley were pretty much aghast at my decision. While I was working on the house, my realtor told me about the West Adams Heritage Association, and to my surprise, a whole world of like-minded people opened up, offering valuable advice and fellowship. I wound up spending 10-15 years working in the organization at every level and still volunteer. Here in the Jefferson Park area where I live, we are so proud of having a Historic Preservation Overlay Zone in place.

**DON LYNCH** -- Thirty years ago I was living in Redondo Beach and working on Wilshire Boulevard. One of my co-workers, knowing how much I loved older homes, told me that if I ever heard of a tour in West Adams I should take it. Six years later I heard of just such a tour happening on Van Buren Place. I immediately fell in love with every house on the tour. I joined WAHA and began participating in activities and events. It was only then that my aunt told me she had lived in West Adams in the 1940s, and my great-aunt told

# WAHA Matters

me how she and her brothers and sisters all lived on 23rd Street for years. In 1996 I was at a party in the neighborhood when Mitzi Mogul turned to me and said, "Don, why don't you just move to West Adams?" So I did.

**NORMA REYNOLDS** -- I moved into West Adams in 1996. I had been living in what I describe as a "Ticky Tacky" little house in Culver City when I met up with a realtor (Jane Harrington) who showed me houses in West Adams. I kept coming back to the tree lined Van Buren Place lined with only single family homes. The Victorian nature of the 1908 house reminded me of my origins in England. What convinced me on the house was when I met neighbors walking their dog (Bernard Steppes) who showed me around his home. After I moved I was asked (by Don Ferguson) to join WAHA's Preservation Committee where I helped write up the application for the National Trust designation for Van Buren Place as well as working on getting the street closed off and the gates put up. I continued my work with WAHA and was the board President for two years. After my term was over, I organized getting the "Historic West Adams" signage installed on the Santa Monica Freeway, where WAHA paid for the actual signs and city and the MTA paid all the other costs.

**BILL LADD** -- I started coming to LA from Atlanta to visit a friend who owned a house in West Adams. I thought his house was in a quiet and peaceful neighborhood where neighbors sat on their porches and talked with each other, with a real neighborhood feel. I moved to LA and this was the only place I looked for a house because of the neighborhood "vibe". I joined WAHA as I moved into my house in 2006.

**LOUISE MANFE** -- I was a guest at an Ice Cream Social before I bought a house in West Adams. What sold me on the West Adams area was when I went on a bungalow tour in the early 2000s and saw all the houses. Eventually I bought a house in West Adams, became a member of WAHA and attended a New Members Dessert (at Robert Leary's) where I met many WAHA members and made friends with other new homeowners in the neighborhood.

**LISA SCHOENING** -- I was drawn into WAHA through my folks (Alan & Judie Schoening) who had a house in West Adams. I made several friends with West Adams people through them. If I have one skill it is a good ability to make things happen and I definitely like being useful, especially with people I enjoy. So when I was asked to volunteer at a tour, I said yes. I became a WAHA member and now live in West Adams. And yes, I still volunteer for almost every event.

**KARIN MCGAUGHEY** -- I started looking in the West Adams area after attending a home tour in 1992. I was always interested in architecture and the tour got me dreaming of living in West Adams. I have been a member since that tour. I bought a house and moved into West Adams in 2009.

**CANDY WYNNNE** -- I was desperate to find a house and move out of our Park La Brea apartment before our first child was born. A friend knew a realtor (Suzie Henderson) and recommended we talk with her. She showed us this large 3 bedroom bungalow which was affordable and not like a tiny box house we had been seeing all over L.A. She also told us about this wonderful group named WAHA and we joined. We moved in September 1985, our baby was born in November. Later on, my neighbor and WAHA Board President, Jacqueline Sharp, asked me to be on the Board. I did that, making many friends and having some good times amid Board busy-ness.

(continued on page 12)



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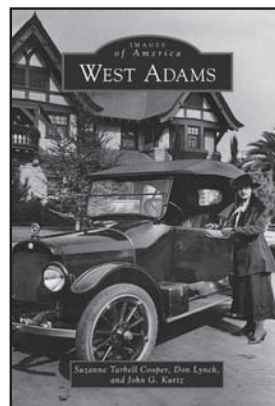
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## 30 Years of Members' Memories

*continued from page 10*

ALMA CARLISLE --We lived in Connecticut when my husband came to West Adams to take care of his ailing mother. I joined him, with our children, later in 1973. Being an architect by profession, I fell in love with this area. When my mother-in-law passed, we had established ourselves here and stayed. There was a grocery store, post office, bank and school in walking distance. There were lots of ethnic restaurants and the neighborhood had a community atmosphere. I worked downtown and it was really easy to hop on the freeway and reach my destination in minutes. Martin Weil took me to my first WAHA meeting and I have been actively participating for years. I love the uniqueness of the neighborhood and the easy access to downtown.

MITZI MOGUL --I was raised in Los Angeles and got around so I was familiar with lots of areas as well as the diversity of Los Angeles. What led me on the path of preservation was the Rochester House downtown that was demolished. I remember someone had hung a sign on it "save me." That resonated with me. I saw how the Santa Monica freeway demolished many beautiful houses. When I was ready to buy a house I picked West Adams bungalows because of its unique beauty and affordability. That was in 1986. Later I moved to my second West Adams home in Lafayette Square. As this city becomes more congested I love the space, the quiet and the centrality that makes venturing out so convenient. As a member of the L.A. Conservancy I was familiar with WAHA before I moved here. It was an association of like-minded people banding together to support each other's efforts to preserve the history of these neighborhoods. I have volunteered for WAHA events for years and love how this association embodies the historical spirit.

GEORGIA TOLIVER -- My husband grew up in West Adams and often drove me through to show me the stately homes. We lived in West L.A. and were perfectly content in our lovely home. But, driving down Washington Blvd in 1989, we saw open house flags in Wellington Square and fell in love. Our friends thought we had lost our minds when we told them we were moving to the inner city. But, magically, 30 days later we moved in. It is poetic justice when my friends from the posh environs of the Westside visit and are delighted with my home and neighborhood. But, the thing I like best of all is WAHA -- so many events, so much inclusivity, so much fun. And, enlightening! When my husband informed me that 600 people were going to tour our home for the 1996 Valentine tour, I naively removed every personal item to make it look like a model home opening. The docents informed me later that my tuxedoed 4-year-old was opening closets and showing the tourists where his mother had put all the important things.

RORY CUNNINGHAM -- I was a member of the L.A. Conservancy and was introduced to West Adams when I attended a party at Mitzi Mogul's house in her charming bungalow house dripping with detail. When the Conservancy asked for volunteers for the 1987 WAHA tour of mansions on Adams, I volunteered. That tour put West Adams on my radar and I knew when I was ready to buy a house it would be here. I bought a house that was going to be demolished, spent years restoring it and have enjoyed the association with like-minded people.

JENNIFER CHARNOFSKY -- I lived in a craftsman home as a child. I went on the 1987 WAHA tour and fell in love with the architecture. I traded a nondescript Mar Vista house for a fabulous West Adams house. Both WAHA and my block club offered a close-knit network and support that I never had anywhere else that I lived.

HUNTER OCHS -- I kept getting priced out of neighborhoods I was looking at to buy a home. I knew Adam Janeiro from CalArts who lived in West Adams and became familiar with the area. One day he showed me around and introduced me to David Raposa, who connected me to a family who wanted to sell their house, but which wasn't yet on the market. It was a 1906 house with a very unique floor plan, unlike the other homes in the bungalows. It was an effortless transaction with one condition -- it was slated to be on a WAHA tour. With hardly any furniture and in the mist of scragging paint and restoration, my house was on the tour. I am from Germany where the mindset is history and recycling. West Adams has that same kind consciousness. My decision to buy here was, "do I want a crappy house in another neighborhood or a really nice house in West Adams?"

RINA RUBENSTEIN -- I lived in a rent controlled Santa Monica apartment and wanted a garden. I had been looking for a fixer upper in the hills. Someone suggested West Adams. When I saw the house in the Avenues I immediately pulled out my check book. I thought it was the house I was moving into, but found that the neighborhood was the true benefit. I was pleased to find an area where gentrification wasn't displacing people and the diversity was very appealing. When the South Seas House was proposed for preservation, so many people wanted it bulldozed. WAHA was such a wonderful advocacy to save this house and give it to the community. They bring growth to the understanding that since you live in the house doesn't mean you can do what you like to it. I liked that state of mind. I like the topography of the area that makes my home cooler and the location geographically that allows me to get to many places easily.

FRANK AND SUZANNE COOPER --The summer of 1990 was a busy time for us: We bought a house, got married and had our house on a tour, all within the span of a few months. We were attracted to West Adams by the fabulous architecture, the prices and having a few friends here, although the loan officer didn't share our enthusiasm. She suggested a nice townhouse in Encino. We chose another bank. After we moved in, we discovered great neighbors who take care of each other. I can easily think of a dozen people off the top of my head who I could call at any time of the day or night and say, "I need help," and they'd be there for me. And we'd be there for them.

TENÉ HARRIS -- I worked in Hollywood and lived in Long Beach. Often on my lunch breaks I would explore all the intriguing little tucked away neighborhoods of L.A. I completely stumbled on a house for sale in Wellington Square. I loved the character of the house and we moved our family.

STAN SANDERS -- My in-laws lived in Wellington Square so I was familiar with this area. I love the PROXIMITY: 10 minutes to Hollywood and downtown and the places I go, 14 minutes to the airport and the beach. I bought the house I really liked architecturally and raised my kids here.

PAULA AND ED CARBONE -- I had always wanted to live in a historic home, but since I grew up in Boston, MA, I imagined it would be a farmhouse. Our Studio City home, built in 1938, seemed a good fit with the original tile, Roper range, and a few built-ins. However, the lengthy commute to a new job in the downtown area caused my husband and I to seriously pursue a historic home closer to downtown Los Angeles, something we had discussed on and off for a few years. [Even though we've been here less than a year,] we are thrilled to be part of the WAHA Community – and love our ongoing 1921 Italianate restoration project! As my husband notes, we went from pre-WWII, in our previous home, to post-WWI. They don't make them like this anymore, and we're doing our best to keep to the original footprint and details.

LORE HILBURG -- I left my very large, modern Woodland Hills home with panoramic views of the S.F. Valley, friends, restaurants and shops I liked, and my bicycle club, for two reasons: I hated the summer heat which I believe will get worse with climate change, and I hated the long drives for work and fun which I knew would not improve. I had always loved old homes, so I began looking in West Adams. Once I moved here, I found even better reasons. I found a true community.

JEAN FROST -- I moved to University Park in 1979 after living in Laurel Canyon and West Hollywood. From the moment I entered the parlor of a forlorn unkempt 1888 house I felt at home. This was in spite of a caretaker who was on a macrobiotic diet and could have run the Bates motel. There is something about the power of place that affects a very inner core of our being. The Eucalyptus trees that lined the street, the wonderful diversity of residents, the eclectic beauty of the architecture all said welcome and evoked a feeling of home. There is something about University Park that provides a rootedness. This sense comes from many elements. The sense of history of the families, the Stearns, the Dockweilers, the Seaman-Roberts, the Dohenys. Mrs. Roberts was an art teacher who lived in my home until the sixties. The people of University Park contribute significantly to this sense of place. They included Pauline Brasher who lived across the alley who complained about the LA Conservation Bureau department making her remove her bay window from the driveway side of her house. People who were part of this community who no longer are here: Kristin Belko, Ritchie Spencer, Rafael Garcia, Dorothy and Chet Miller, Susan Peck, Gloria Alcaraz Riggs, Conrad Seno, Sam Galloway -all created a kind of convergence of community preservation. They are sorely missed. People made this neighborhood great. And with neighbors we try to keep the faith and have an enduring legacy.

HELEN CHAUDHURI – I visited a friend who lived in West Adams and was wowed by the gorgeous houses and not seeing them anywhere else. So when I was ready to buy I came here where the houses were affordable. I found the neighbors superior to those in Santa Monica and it is a lot cooler than I thought and a lot less congested than the Westside.

JOE MCMANUS AND LARA ELIN SODERSTROM – In 2001 we saw an online classified and were intrigued by the specs (many of which turned out to be rather hilariously embellished!) We have always loved historic homes, and were more than ready to leave the soulless West L.A. apartment to which we had accidentally found ourselves attached.

We also love having house guests. . . . A lot of them.

The combination of price versus size in West Adams made possible our visions of filling a home with friends. These neighborhoods were full of artful old estates where tons of guests could sleep but everyone would still feel like they had their own private space to which they could easily retreat.

When we initially drove into the neighborhood, to see the listing, we immediately noticed the kids outside... playing football, riding their bikes. We had a brief encounter with a couple of them as they moved aside for us to drive between them, and we were touched by how sweet they were, and how happy they all seemed. While neither of us have ever wanted kids ourselves, this moment registered as a really important detail of the overall health of a neighborhood.

Our initial impressions were correct - as well as the combination of price versus size in West Adams - which made possible our visions of filling a home with friends. Our Grand Old Lady now brims with love & laughter. There is an eternal possibility of invigorating conversations and impromptu evenings by the fire. Neighbors have slipped easily into the friendship category, and they in turn have become friends with the friends we bring in from beyond West Adams. We have watched as the vivacious smiling kids turn into confident adults and head off to college, knocking on our door to say hello on holiday breaks. We have had an amazing run of overnight guests too- the generous linen closet has faithfully done the job it was hired for, providing pillows and blankets- often to loved ones, sometimes to friends of friends, and occasionally to almost-strangers. When we are away, our friend-neighbors step into the hosting duties we can't do remotely and insure that our guests want to return. They always do, and our friend-neighbors know their names.

ANSLEY BELL AND CHRIS TAYLOR – Chris: I can't remember how or when I first heard of West Adams, but I was renting an apartment in Glendale and decided it was time to buy. I was attracted to West Adams' Victorian, Craftsman, and early 20th century Spanish style homes and wound up buying a 1920's Spanish bungalow in Jefferson Park in 2001 (closing on 9/11/2001, of all dates). It was a HUD repo that has seen many improvements over the years. What I like about West Adams is it makes me feel connected to the history of Los Angeles. Ansley: I was pretty much unaware of West Adams until I met my future husband who lived there. Before that, I had been to an event at Cafe Fais Do Do, and visited a friend of a friend's house nearby, but without really having a good idea of geographically where I was in the city. Later on I moved in with my husband at his 1920's Spanish-style bungalow in Jefferson Park and we've made great strides in fixing it up (it was in pretty bad shape when he bought it). What I like about West Adams, besides the history and architecture, is that it seems like it has a pretty diverse mix of racial/ethnic and economic groups, which I think is always a good thing.

JEFFREY BARRETT AND RICHARD LUCIAN – We are making a midlife change. We are from a beautiful Florida suburb-lovely lake community, but no one speaks to each other. We came to the Hollywood Bowl and stumbled on West Adams through an internet listing of a house in Jefferson Park. We loved the architecture, bought a house, and moved here three weeks ago. Today we are at the WAHA Ice Cream Social. We love how nice the people are here!! ●

*We support preservation of the West Adams community's architectural heritage and beautification activities, and seek to educate Los Angeles' citizens and others about cultural heritage and restoration techniques.*



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This Newsletter is published 10 times a year

**Half Page:** \$100 monthly; \$900 annually

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### Become a member (or renew)!

#### Annual Membership

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## WAHA's 2013 Calendar for History Buffs and Preservation Advocates

### SEPTEMBER

**Potluck in Historic Van Buren Place**

**Sunday, September 15, 4-7 p.m.**

Join us at Norma Reynold's home, 2639 S. Van Buren Place

**Living History Tour at Angelus Rosedale Cemetery**

**Saturday, September 28**

Actors portray, in costume and at graveside, a half dozen of the historic personages buried at this landmark cemetery.

### OCTOBER

**WAHA's 30th Anniversary Celebration**

**Saturday, October 19, 5-8 p.m.**

The Doheny Mansion hosts WAHA's party. Advance paid reservations required. See page 3.

### DECEMBER

**Holiday Historic Homes Tour & Progressive Dinner**

**Saturday and Sunday, December 7-8**

WAHA's annual tour takes place in Oxford Square.

# Calendar ✓

## Upcoming Events

### SEPTEMBER

**Jazz Under the Stars — West Adams Avenues, 7th Avenue @ 25th Street Saturday and Sunday, August 31-September 1**  
Free Jazz, Blues, R&B, Gospel and Folk music, two nights of fun! (see Stepping Out, page 5)

**WAHA General Meeting & Potluck — Sunday, September 15, 4-7 p.m.**  
**Norma Reynold's, 2639 Van Buren Place**  
Please join your West Adams friends & neighbors (bring a dish to share) at WAHA's September gathering.

**Living History Tour at Angelus Rosedale Cemetery — Saturday, September 28**  
History Comes Alive in this great annual event. (see page 1)

### OCTOBER

**WAHA's 30th Anniversary Champagne Celebration — Saturday, October 19**  
(see page 3)

**WAHA's 2013 CALENDAR OF EVENTS IS ON PAGE 15**

## Living History Tour at Angelus Rosedale Cemetery

**Saturday, September 28**

At the Angelus Rosedale Cemetery, **History Comes to Life** on Saturday, September 28, as a Mack Sennett Bathing Beauty, USC's first female professor, two Civil War veterans, a heroic -- or notorious -- Soldier of Fortune, and a jazz chanteuse who sang with Duke Ellington all perform on a unique outdoor stage. Visitors will also "meet" a young man who lost his life in the train crash that led to the construction of the West Boulevard Bridge, and an African-American doctor who was required to testify in the early 1950s McCarthy Era before the House Un-American Activities Committee, in this 23rd outing of WAHA's Annual Living History Tour. Information about the tour, tickets and volunteer opportunities can be found on page 1.



## 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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