

West Adams Matters

Our Favorite Characters from 25 Years of Living History Tours See the 2015 Portrayals at Angelus Rosedale Cemetery on September 26



Caroline Severance (left) with Susan B. Anthony and Rebecca Spring, is a Living History favorite

Each year for the past quarter century, history has been brought back to life at the Angelus Rosedale Cemetery, when WAHA's annual Living History Tour presents actors, at graveside, in costume and with set vignettes, portraying many of the historic personages who are interred here. 25 years, 125 personages. The portrayals have included California pioneers, state and city leaders, important Los Angeles businessmen, trailblazing women (the theme in 2010), all manner of Hollywood actors, directors and entertainers, sports champions, war heroes, colorful personalities, a Czarina, and, this year, a man who would be king.

But who are our favorites? The answer is, of course, totally subjective, but we asked some of our longtime Living History Tour volunteers to weigh in:

Joe Ryan: You asked me who my "favorite" resident is — **Jessie Benton Fremont (1824-1902)** by all means. She is of national significance. The wife of explorer and adventurer John Charles Fremont ("The Pathfinder"), and the daughter of United States Senator Thomas Hart Benton, Jessie Fremont and her husband begin writing best-selling stories of Western Explorations that make John C. Fremont and his scout, Kit Carson, famous. In 1856, Jessie became the first presidential candidate's wife to play an active part in a political campaign. When first-ever

(continued on page 6)

West Adams Avenues' Music Under the Stars Three Nights of Jazz, R&B, Gospel and More on Labor Day Weekend

Three nights of free music, great food, friendly neighbors, picnicking on lawns, and dancing in the streets! It's time for the annual West Adams Avenues Jazz & Music Festival on Labor Day Weekend. Our community's own "Ravinia" takes place on 7th Avenue, between Adams and 25th Street, on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights, September 4-6.

It's a ton of fun. And the music is great, too.

The line-up ranges from jazz to Zydeco, Gospel to R&B, including topnotch singers and musical acts like The Peterson Singers (TPS, a renown gospel group); Windy Barnes Farrell, whose repertoire spans from jazz to pop; Lavan Davis and the Majadi Project; Ce' Nous; the Zydeco Mudbugs; Clay Dub; and Johnny Gilmore.

(continued on page 2)



The Zydeco Mudbugs are scheduled to appear on Sunday night of the festival

WAHA and UCLA's Clark Library

by John G. Kurtz

WAHA has had a long and productive relationship over at least the past three decades with UCLA's Clark Library located in the Kinney Heights Tract and this relationship continues to date. So we were pleased to be able to support this neighborhood institution in its current restoration efforts by donating funds to restore one of the building's character elements.



As you may know, UCLA was originally located on Vermont near Melrose where the LA City College is now located. The new (!) location in Westwood dates to 1929 when the campus buildings there were built. The Clark Library, which was built in 1926, predates this set of buildings, and is the oldest building of the current UCLA campus. The library was donated to UCLA upon its completion by William Andrew Clark Jr. in honor of his father.

In the last year, funds were allocated by the UCLA regents for the earthquake retrofit of the library's main building, one of the last of

(continued on page 9)

Table of Contents

STEPPING OUT:

Schindler: The Prequel.....4
 Western Heights Soiree5

HISTORY MATTERS:

Living History Tour 2015: Offbeat and Audacious.....8

PRESERVATION MATTERS:

No Vacation from Preservation Issues..... 10

COMMUNITY MATTERS:

Trees Need Water..... 12

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS:

Member Discounts..... 13

WAHA BOARD MEMBERS 14

WAHA PATRONS 14

WAHA CLASSIFIEDS 15

WAHA CALENDAR..... 16

Murphy Drill Site Update:

Council President Herb Wesson Issues Statement Opposing the CEB

Council President Herb Wesson, who represents Council District 10, has promised to “stand with the community” with regard to Freeport McMoRan’s proposed installation of a CEB Clean Enclosed Burner at its Murphy oil and gas production site located at Adams and Gramercy. On August 21, Wesson sent the following letter to Associate Zoning Administrator Charlie Rausch, who is handing the case.

Dear Mr. Rausch:

This letter serves as an update to my previous letter dated July 28, 2015 on file stating my opposition to the installation of the CEB800 gas burning flare at the property located at 2126 West Adams Boulevard. While I continue to affirm my office’s position to Freeport-McMoRan’s proposal to expand its operations into the landscaped area, I am further clarifying that I stand with the community and oppose the installation of the CEB800 gas burning flare at any location on the property unless the community and Freeport-McMoRan are able to reach an agreement.

If you have any questions or require any additional information, please contact my Assistant Chief Deputy Andrew Westall at (213) 473-7010.

Sincerely,

Herb J. Wesson, Jr.

Councilmember, 10th District ●

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Correction:

In the July-August issue of WAHA Matters, we incorrectly stated that Barry Milofsky was the recipient of the Martin Eli Weil Preservation Award. Milofsky was the featured speaker at the Preservation Brunch; the awardee was Christy Johnson McAvoy, founding principal of HRG.



Music Festival continued from page 1

Pulling it all together are a series of Masters of Ceremonies. During Friday night’s Talent Showcase, Rubyn Warren II will keep it all flowing. Reverend Calvin Carson, a 20-year broadcasting veteran, will MC on Saturday night, for the “Gospel Experience,” followed by comedian Danny Ledsinger. Sunday night is headlined by comedian London Brown, who co-stars on the HBO series “Ballers” with Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson.

An event like this can’t happen without the (financial) help of many entities, including local neighborhood councils (MINC and UNNC), and Council District 10. WAHA is also one of the community partner sponsors.

Everyone is invited to attend this free community event -- do bring blankets or portable beach chairs (or similar) to sit on. (Please note: also bring cash to partake in the many different foods available for sale!) Please do plan to come, and say hello to us at the WAHA table! ●

President's Message by Lore Hilburg

1. Oil Drilling in West Adams

Good News: City Council President Herb Wesson submitted a revised letter to the Los Angeles planning director stating his unequivocal objection to the placement of the CEB 800 burner anywhere on the Murphy Oil site. (Read it on page 2 of this newsletter).

More to do: We still need action by the city council. Please write or email your city councilman and demand an EIR for all active drilling sites in the city, beginning with the Murphy, Jefferson and University sites. Further no oil extraction should be commenced on any well that has been closed without an EIR.

2. **WAHA's WEBSITE and Facebook Page needs your participation.** Feel free to update your contact information on the database online. You can access your information with the password sent to you in your membership letter. If you do not have the letter or forgot your password, no worries. You can reset your password on the website. And "like" WAHA on its Facebook Page.

3. **There are still a few tickets left for WAHA's outing to *The Princes of Kings Road*.** Do not miss this amazing play by WAHA member and resident Tom Lazarus.

- When: Sunday October 4, 2015 at 5 p.m.
- Where: Neutra Museum Building located at 2379 Glendale Boulevard, Silverlake.
- Cost: \$35.00 per ticket of which \$15.00 is a tax deductible contribution to WAHA.
- How: Send or drop off a check payable to WAHA to Law Office of Lore Hilburg, 1943 Buckingham Road, Los Angeles, California 90016.
- No Reservations taken without a check.

4. **Get your tickets for the Living History Tour.** You will love this unique event and learn about Los Angeles history in the most entertaining way.

Lore Hilburg may be reached by e-mail at president@westadamsheritage.org

The Princes of Kings Road by Stevie Stern

I am producing a play, *The Princes of Kings Road*, that I hope you'll come out to see, either with WAHA or for another performance. The setting is inside an important landmark building designed by architect Richard Neutra.

ABOUT THE PLAY

Ensemble Studio Theatre/Los Angeles will be producing the world premiere of *The Princes of Kings Road* by Tom Lazarus as a site-specific production at the Neutra Institute Museum & Gallery at 2379 Glendale Blvd. in Silver Lake.

This enlightening, touching and funny three-character play takes place 23 years after world famous architects Richard Neutra and Rudolph Schindler's business partner relationship and friendship ended. They meet in the unlikelyst of places — as patients in a shared hospital room at Cedars of Lebanon, where stuck in close quarters, they are forced to hash out their differences, their legacies and their friendship.

Based on an actual incident, the play was developed in EST/LA's Playwrights' Unit and performed in this year's EST/LA's Winterfest reading series where Dion Neutra, Richard Neutra's son, saw the play and proposed that it be produced as a full production at the Neutra Institute Museum and Gallery.

The Princes of Kings Road will have a pre-opening performance on Friday, September 11. On September 12, there will be a gala opening with a wine & cheese reception with special guest Dion Neutra. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. through October 3. Sunday performances are at 5 p.m. on September 13 and 20. On Sunday, September 27, there will be two performances, 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Our closing performance, on Sunday, October 4, at 5 p.m., is WAHA's special fundraiser — there may be a few tickets left, and, if space is available, you will need to contact WAHA President Lore Hilburg directly at president@westadamsheritage.org to purchase them.

The play will be staged at the Neutra Institute Museum, the building designed by Richard Neutra and used as his offices. The space seats only 50. Tickets for the gala opening are \$35. Other performances are \$25, with purchases of six or more tickets offered at \$20 each. WAHA's event also has special pricing, \$35, and includes a Q/A session with Dion Neutra.

There is beginning to be a lot of buzz generated by this play within the architectural community, architecture buffs and preservation groups. So please book your tickets before the limited seating is gone.

For more information about the play and ticket sales, visit www.theprincesofkingsroad.com. And find us on Facebook at [theprincesofkingsroad](https://www.facebook.com/theprincesofkingsroad). I'm really proud to be a part of this production and I look forward to seeing you there. ●



Stepping Out

R.M. SCHINDLER: THE PREQUEL

Otto Wagner, Adolf Loos, Josef Hoffman and the Modernist Debates of Early 20th Century Vienna

Opening Reception: September 10, 7-9 p.m.

Curator walk-through at 6:30 p.m.

Exhibition on view September 11 - December 7

If *The Princes of Kings Road* whets your appetite for architecture designed by Schindler (and Neutra), then you may want to visit Schindler's own home, now known as the MAK Center, this Fall to see an exhibit focused on his earliest work.

Curated by Christian Witt-Döring of MAK Vienna, the MAK Center presents this exhibition exploring the intellectual climate in Vienna at the time of R.M. Schindler's architectural training, and highlighting the trajectory connecting 19th century Europe with 20th century West Hollywood. Rudolph Michael Schindler was an Austrian-born American architect who practiced in Southern California during the years 1920-53.

The Prequel contextualizes the landmark 1922 Kings Road House as a direct result of the debates playing out in Vienna Modernist circles from 1890-1914, when Schindler was a student and young practitioner. Through photographs, drawings, and furniture designs, the exhibition reviews the foundations laid by Otto Wagner, as well as the next generation responses to his work as personified by Adolf Loos and Josef Hoffman.

A special feature in this section is a selection of drawings from Schindler's early professional years.

R.M. Schindler: The Prequel is supported by the National Endowment for the Arts and the City of West Hollywood.

For further information about the MAK Center for Art and Architecture at the Schindler House, visit www.MAKCenter.org or call 323-651-1510. ●



NEW LISTING: 1680 Virginia Rd— Mid Century, 3+3, La Fayette Sq. — Offered at \$1,100,000

COMING SOON: Country Club Bungalow, 3+2 — Offered at \$829,000

COMING SOON: Wellington Square, w/ pool — Offered at \$949,000

COMING SOON: West Hollywood, 3+2, w/ pool — Offered at \$1,400,000

COMING SOON: 4,000 Sq. Ft. home, huge lot, La Fayette Sq. — To Be Offered at \$1,749,000

COMING SOON: Victoria Park Duplex — To Be Offered at \$1,200,000

ACTIVE: 2112 Victoria Avenue in Wellington Square — Offered at \$949,000

IN ESCROW: 1815 Virginia Road in La Fayette Sq. — Offered at \$1,329,000

Just SOLD: 4Plex 2608 7th Avenue — Sold at \$800,000

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Stepping Out

Western Heights Fundraiser

Saturday, November 14

8-11 p.m.

2151 West 20th Street (Western Heights)

Western Heights invites you to the first party of the 2015 holiday season -- an event to benefit the preservation of a historic neighborhood. Plans include wine and hors d'oeuvres, musical entertainment, and a silent auction, benefitting the Western Heights Homeowners Association.

This soiree will be held at the elegant Newberry/Petitfils House, built by E.L. Petitfils and sold by him in 1910 to J.R. Newberry for \$21,500. The three-story chalet-style Craftsman is a Contributor to the Western Heights HPOZ.

You may recognize Petitfils' name — he was a serial house builder in the Kinney Heights and Western Heights neighborhoods. This neighborhood was already popular when E.L. Petitfils arrived. He came



to Los Angeles in 1903 after working in the Oklahoma Oil Boom at the turn of the 20th Century and decided to design and build a distinctive bungalow at 2190 West 24th Street (if you took WAHA'S 2014 Holiday Tour and Progressive Dinner, it was the Soup House) before moving on and building several other nearby homes, including this one at 2151 West 20th Street. Petitfils ultimately became President of Richfield Oil (predecessor to Arco) and the home he finally settled in in Los Feliz is a Los Angeles Historic Cultural Monument.

Tickets are \$45 each (\$80 per couple). Make checks payable to Western Heights Homeowner's Association.

For more information and to use PayPal, go to www.westernheightsonline.com. Or e-mail Alice Singleton at a-singleton@att.net. ●



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Mid-Century Modern Condo on Kings Road, WEHO — Jane Harrington, seller's agent

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History Matters

Favorites from 25 Years of Living History Tours

continued from page 1

Republican Party candidate Fremont's name came up in rallies for votes, the slogan was "Fremont and Jessie too." But J.C. Fremont's career faltered for many reasons, and when the couple went bankrupt in the early 1870s, Jessie Fremont took charge, writing books and articles to support the family. Jessie Fremont had, within the framework of her era, demonstrated that



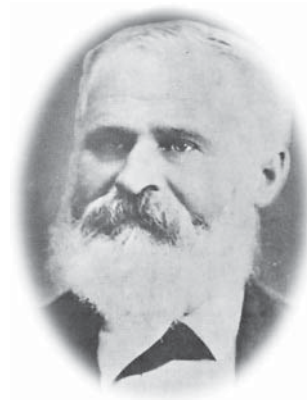
women were capable of equal rights of citizenship and full participation with their male counterparts in family life, business and politics. One year, the local representatives of the D.A.R. came to the cemetery for a meeting with me regarding her "pauper" grave. [Her ashes are interred in a small plot near the Chapel]. I don't think they believed it, never heard from them again, but the story is not over on that issue.

In my opinion, Phineas Banning and Remi Nadeau are the next two most important, and perhaps Lyman Stewart should be included in the list of most significant personages at Rosedale.



Audrey Arlington: My favorite person portrayed in the West Adams Heritage Association's Angelus-Rosedale Cemetery tours is probably **Remi Nadeau (1818-1887)**, both because he has an impressive monument on "Palm Drive," and because he played such a pivotal role in Los Angeles history.

Long before the Southern Pacific Railroad could be built, Los Angeles, a tiny community of little more than 5,000 in 1870, was almost entirely supported by the freight from the Cerro-Gordo silver mines near Owen's Lake. Discovered by Mexican prospectors in 1865, the Cerro-Gordo was the biggest silver-lead producer in the State and was to Los Angeles as the Comstock Lode was to San Francisco. Nadeau's famous "20-mule" teams each hauled the silver-lead in giant, three-wagon convoys to Los Angeles, thereby providing a market which supported almost every local industry. Other California towns competed fiercely for this trade but Nadeau remained steadfast in his support of Los Angeles as the terminus for shipping the silver-lead ingots via ocean-going steamers to the markets in San Francisco. His barns, corrals, blacksmith and wagon repair shops were located in the block bounded by Broadway, Hill, Fourth and Fifth Streets just north of what is now Pershing Square. At the height of his operation Nadeau had 80 teams on the road. By 1874, 18 tons of smelted silver-lead bars a day, every day, were making the journey south, sustaining El Pueblo's land boom until the rail connection could be achieved. Instead of connecting in Los Angeles where the freight was, the Southern Pacific and Union Railroads could just have easily turned Ventura or other cities into the economic powerhouse that Los Angeles became.



Leslie Evans: My favorite Living History Tour character is **Daniel Jefferson Harris (1833-1890)**, known by everyone as Dirty Dan, the founder of Bellingham, Washington. I had the honor of playing him in the Living History Tour 2000 at the Angelus Rosedale Cemetery. Dan left his home in Long Island, New York, at 15 to become a harpooner on an Arctic whaling ship. He moved to Bellingham Bay in Washington territory in 1854. He would row 50 miles a day to Victoria Island to buy whiskey and women's hats to trade with the



Indians. At different times he was a trader, smuggler, colonel in the Indian wars, packer on the Cariboo Trail, and then hotel owner and founder of the town of Fairhaven, the beginnings of the city of Bellingham. A man of incredible physical strength, he once built a three-mile long road single-handed. He was said to never bathe, but wore a suit coat and top hat over his red long-johns. Late in life he married a much younger woman on whom he doted, who died young. Briefly rich, Harris was ultimately poisoned by his wife's Los Angeles doctor, which is how I came to be standing next to his grave channeling his unhappy spirit. A video of my impersonation of Dirty Dan can be found on a Bellingham website devoted to Fairhaven history:

www.fairhavenhistory.com/content/characters/dans_final_resting_place.asp



Don Lynch: It is nearly impossible to select a favorite character from the dozens portrayed over the years at WAHA's Living History tours. But if I had to choose, it would be serial killer **Louise Peete (1883-1947)**. It wasn't just that Peete was an unusual portrayal, not one of our usual persons of great accomplishments, but also because she was portrayed so well. I believe I was the one who suggested L. B. Nye be asked to transform herself into Mrs. Peete for the day, but I never expected she would do it so wonderfully. L. B. was subtle. She didn't play so much a killer, but a woman who had a good excuse or alibi for every piece of evidence against her. She presented her story calmly, although not entirely innocently, and took a horrible person and made her, in a way, fun. She was also a good sport when it came to the set. Believing that Louise Peete had died in the electric chair, I had insisted that she have beside her on a side table an electric toaster.

Laura Meyers: I have been coordinating (with many, many, MANY talented helping hands) the LHT since 2008, and during this time there have been many memorable personages and actors' performances. So it is hard to pick one favorite. But rising to the top of the list is Caroline Severance, who was portrayed by actress and longtime Living History Tour volunteer Marianne Muellerleile in 2010, when we focused on "Trailblazing Women" and the women's voting rights Suffrage Movement.

Madame Caroline Maria Seymour Severance (1820-1914), "The Mother of Clubs," lived a life of "firsts." She came to Los Angeles in 1875, when there were no paved streets and only a few board sidewalks. Mme. Severance was active in the women's rights movement even before the Civil War. She and her husband, Theodoric C. Severance, were famed Abolitionists when they moved to Boston in 1855, for a better intellectual life for themselves and their children. Caroline Severance was the founder of the first woman's club in America. When they came West, Caroline and T.C. Severance established the first Unitarian Church in Los Angeles. Mme. Severance established kindergartens in the West. Caroline Severance advocated for the rights of women for 60 years, and in 1911 she became the first woman to register to vote in California.



Elizabeth Fenner: Most Living History Tour characters make me sit up and take notice, so to speak. It seems improbable, on a warm sunny day in an urban cemetery, amid traffic noise and even the occasional helicopter, to be transported back to an earlier time, through an individual's portrayal, to imagine vividly the character and the way he or she lived—and died. But it happens every time—I am rapt, taken away, in the palm of the character's hand.

But if today's assignment is to identify one character I remember especially distinctly, it is Fisk Jubilee singer and civil rights activist **Sadie Chandler Cole (1865-1941)**, depicted by Marisha Corinne Morris. Marisha, although not a professional actor, portrayed Sadie Cole with such sincerity and conviction that the many very interesting accomplishments of this woman, over the span of many long years, felt vividly brought back to life. After a career on the road as a singer, Cole and her family settled in Los Angeles, where she became one of the leaders of the Los Angeles chapter of the NAACP in the 1920s. Hearing of past injustices make you ache, and this story brought back a life of long, largely silent struggle against obstacles that must have seemed permanently insurmountable. It made you feel quite good when you heard that one day she started throwing plates in a diner that wouldn't serve her. There were other spirited protests of clearly unjust and insupportable laws and rules, and having heard about her whole life of good education and great talent but hardship and hard-won accomplishment, and such character, that you're glad for her great fearlessness. It was gratifying to hear, as this script presented, that at the time some white folks supported and defended her in her acts of civil disobedience. One even got arrested for it. As Sadie herself said, "It was quite a day."



The Living History Tour is always full of moments where I say to myself, "I didn't know that!" This character made me know something important, and made me feel it as well. I look forward to another year of discovery! ●

Editor's Note: Joe Ryan is the founder of the Living History Tour, and coordinated it for nine years. Several WAHA members followed, including Audrey Arlington, who was one of the tour coordinators and a longtime volunteer. Don Lynch was a shepherd (tour guide) for the earliest tours and has spent many years in leadership positions with the Living History Tour, co-coordinating many. He continues to volunteer with the Organizing Committee, researching many of the personages and the history of Angelus Rosedale Cemetery and training our Shepherds each year by conducting an informative pre-tour walk-through of the cemetery. Leslie Evans is also a longtime volunteer who often writes scripts for the portrayals. Elizabeth Fenner has served on the Organizing Committee for several years, handling reservations and helping to coordinate sets at graveside. Laura Meyers has been coordinating the tour since 2008 and works with the team members to coordinate character selection, costuming, scripts and many of the myriad tasks required to bring these historic personages to life.

The 25th Annual Living History Tour at Angelus Rosedale Cemetery: "Offbeat and Audacious" Saturday, September 26 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

History Comes Alive on Saturday, September 26, as an armless female pilot of the 1920s, a former jazz saxophonist with the legendary Count Basie Orchestra; the director of one of the 1930s' most scandalous films, a self-claimed heir to the British throne, and a murder victim whose story was portrayed in a well-known movie all perform on a unique outdoor "stage" — the grounds of the landmark Angelus Rosedale Cemetery in Historic West Adams.

They are among a veritable rogues gallery of quirky and offbeat people who are interred in these historic grounds. For the past quarter century, visitors have enjoyed a "Living History" tour of the cemetery, an event in which actors, in costume and at graveside with set vignettes, give first-person portrayals of some of the people who are buried here. This year's Living History Tour also features a boxing champ, a silent film era actress, one of L.A.'s earliest motorcycle cops, and a stage actress who brought her pet monkey on her travels across America.

You'll meet these colorful individuals:

- Josephine Callaghan, armless daredevil heiress, horsewoman and aviatrix
- Welterweight boxing champ Cecil Lewis "Young Jack" Thompson
- "Prince" John Rex de Guelph Windsor, con man who claimed he was the first-born son of King Edward, the Prince of Wales
- Constance Crawley, famous English stage actress with leading roles in Shakespearean tragedies
- Mable Monohan, murder victim, former vaudeville roller skater, and mother-in-law to a notorious Vegas gambler
- Walter R. Kreps, first LAPD motorcycle officer killed in a traffic crash on duty
- Jazz saxophonist Jackie Kelso, who played with all the greats: Benny Goodman, Lionel Hampton, Johnny Otis, Duke Ellington and, later, the Count Basie Orchestra
- Silent film actress Alice Browning, and her husband, Tod Browning, director of the film *Freaks*



TICKET SALES/TOUR TIMES

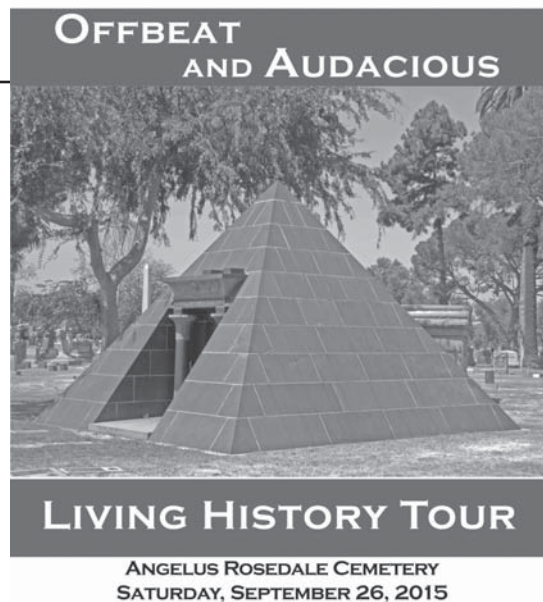
Tours will depart approximately every 25 minutes, beginning at 9 a.m. (Advance paid reservations are required; each tour group's participants are pre-assigned. A limited number of tickets may be available on the day of the tour, space available basis.)

Tickets cost \$35 apiece (by September 10; after that date or at the door, \$40, space available). WAHA members enjoy a \$10 discount on the "Early Bird" price only; all tickets are \$40 beginning Friday, September 11.

Purchase online at www.WestAdamsHeritage.org or download the mail-in form from the website.

The tours each last 2-3 hours. This is an outdoor walking tour over uneven grounds, and the cemetery is also slightly hilly; please wear comfortable walking shoes.

When you purchase your ticket, please indicate which general time slot you prefer. We will have several guided tours departing within each slot and will assign one to you. (Be sure to let us know if you have friends who you would like to be in the same tour with you — e-mail tours@westadamsheritage.org with their names.) We will confirm your time via e-mail after September 15. ●





Clark Library *continued from page 1*

the UCLA buildings to be earthquake reinforced. The work on the library started in April 2015. The library is closed through April 2016 until the retrofit is completed.

The staff at the Clark in their Spring Newsletter began soliciting donations for restoration projects not related to seismic retrofitting but identified as major restoration projects. These projects would be accomplished more economically and efficiently if done in conjunction with the retrofitting, since the architects and workmen would be available on site and the area would be closed off.

The WAHA Board voted to financially support one of the restoration projects — the Outdoor Reading Room (see photos), at a cost of \$2,400. This opportunity enhances WAHA's reputation since being identified in a plaque and/or in the Clark Library's promotional materials as a supporter will advertise WAHA locally, nationally and internationally. The re-opening of the Clark in 2016 will focus a lot of attention on the Historic West Adams District, and we wanted to ensure WAHA shares the

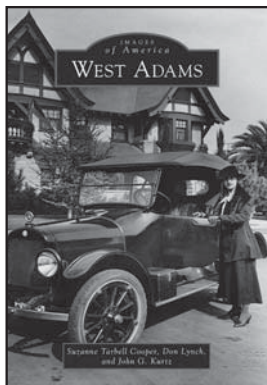
spotlight, especially since the staff at the Clark wants to advertise the support of WAHA vigorously, demonstrating the support from the local community.

In the outdoor reading room, six stone caryatids mounted to the center of four pillars which hold up the overhanging roof, were in overall good condition but did have degraded caulking between the figures and the pillars, allowing moisture to seep into the structure. (The caryatids are the realistic female figures with Greek-like robes.) Across from the pillars there are



two stone balustrades with wide banisters separating the middle and lower levels of the reading room. Each banister had large cracks running through the top railing, which made them structurally unstable. The restoration WAHA funded included cleaning and removal of any of the old caulking and filling all the gaps in the figures and the railing with new waterproofing and/or stabilizing filler.

This project was accomplished in June, and was completed in advance of scaffolding being installed around the main library building for the larger seismic retrofit project. The Clark library staff as well as UCLA has thanked WAHA for their generous support. The completed project will be unveiled to WAHA when the Clark is available again open to the public. ●



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Preservation Matters

No Summer Vacation for Preservation Advocates

by Laura Meyers

Piles of dirt, missing windows and open doors at a mansion on Adams Boulevard. The rubble of an illegal demolition in Harvard Heights. A scorched earth hearing pending on another demolition, this one in West Adams Avenues. A victory at the Area Planning Commission, which turned down a would-be developer's request to change the zoning on his one lot in the Nevins Tract so he could build a 16-unit apartment building – but the victory was short-lived when he turned around and placed the same property on the market as a “development opportunity.”



Summer has not been a vacation from preservation challenges.

WAHA and community members, along with the United Neighborhoods Neighborhood Council (UNNC), trekked to the South Los Angeles Area Planning Commission (APC) in July to testify against the proposal to change the zoning at 1540 S. St. Andrews Place to R-3, which the owner wanted so he could build a four-story, 16-unit apartment building that we all felt would be completely incompatible with the neighborhood. The parcel (with its current 1906 home/duplex) is adjacent to the Manhattan Place Historic District (identified by Survey LA but not yet designated) as well as several individual historic properties on St. Andrews Place. “Spot zoning” (in other words, changing the zoning on one lot) is considered bad urban planning policy, yet the staff member who was ushering the case through had recommended in favor of the change. The APC commissioners disagreed, and turned the request down.

But that's not the end of the story. By the end of that week, the owner had listed the property for sale, as a

development opportunity, and it was quickly pending. The real estate agent did not disclose in his marketing materials that the zoning change request had been turned down. So we may face another application shortly down the road.

Meanwhile, in mid-August, Harvard Heights neighbors were startled by a smoky dust cloud that rose on Harvard Boulevard. They discovered that the owner of 1740 Harvard Blvd. had just bulldozed a two-story barn/carriage house, without permits. The main house has been the subject of several not-effective code enforcement actions in recent years. In 2013, Building & Safety had filed a Substandard Order (more serious than an Order to Comply) listing a dozen problems and violations. Then in 2014, the property graduated to “Vacant and Abandoned.” The current owner purchased the place this year, has put it on the market and then withdrawn it several times, and then simply knocked the barn over. At press time, it wasn't clear what action(s) the City would be taking; the matter was scheduled for a discussion at the Harvard Heights HPOZ.

We previously reported on the demolition of a historic house at 2516 13th Avenue in the West Adams Terrace HPOZ. That situation is headed for a scorched earth hearing in October. If you are interested in providing testimony, please contact preservation@westadamsheritage.org to let us know, and so we can tell you the time and place.



Preservation Matters



Last but not least, the Bishop Mansion matter is back with a vengeance. University Park resident Azri'el Yosef contacted the City's Office of Historic Resources, the North University Park Design Review Board members, and WAHA to complain that the Bishop property has become an "eyesore" and, worse, an "unlawful" and "unofficial dumping zone."

Take a look at the photos on these pages to see what he's talking about.

Yosef wrote:

"Dear Mr. [Timothy] Rosenstein:

"The historic Roger Williams Baptist Church, 1342 W. Adams, Los Angeles, CA. 90007, has become an illegal dump site. The proponents of the property have allowed concrete rubble, and tons of soil from other construction sites to accumulate at the property. Secondly, the property is overgrown with parched vegetation and presents a major fire hazard, not to mention a visual eyesore. Does the Los Angeles Department of City Planning, Office of Historic Resources, HPOZ Unit, have jurisdiction?"

[Rosenstein is on the HPOZ staff.]

After WAHA met with the developer owner and his representatives on May 27 of this year, Jean Frost, WAHA's Vice President for Historic Preservation, e-mailed the attorney for the developer on May 29: "My immediate concern is that the Bishop Residence be secured and stabilized. The intent of the court order was to allow that which was needed to stabilize (particularly the foundation) the conditions for the safeguarding of the Bishop residence...To have large deep ditches around the base of the building, broken windows, and a hole in the roof are not conditions that should be allowed."

So, when we received Yosef's memo in August, Frost responded:

"WAHA has met with the owner in person, expressed dismay at the condition of the site, and urged the owner to secure the site and the property. Our attorney has asked that the owner secure and maintain the property. There is nothing to prevent legal action [by the City]. This is unacceptable." ●

Photos by Azri'el Yosef

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Community Matters

Trees Need Water: An Urgent Message from TreePeople Founder/President Andy Lipkis



As I drive through LA this beautiful spring my heart is breaking. In every street, in every block, I see trees in decline.

This is a quiet crisis, and it's accelerating.

Earlier this month I sat in a presentation by the Urban Forester of Santa Monica. He said that after four years of drought, many of our trees' ability to take up water has atrophied, especially in trees not native to our region. Whereas in past years many trees have been struggling but surviving, it has now reached the point where they're dying. We're in a critical time for saving LA's trees.

What many of LA's declining trees need is emergency watering. Taxpayer dollars have paid for millions of trees to be planted in our region over the decades, trees that have been repaying us many times over by providing precious tree canopy. Many of these trees may be lost.

This not only means a loss of this investment. It also means a loss of beauty, wildlife habitat, oxygen, air-cleaning, water-cleaning, carbon-absorbing, health-providing services to Angelenos.

In LA's drought emergency, what does this mean for us?

It means that while we reduce water for non-essential uses, we must use a portion of what we conserve to keep our city's trees alive.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

As elsewhere in Los Angeles, many of West Adams' street trees are dying. Most WAHA members probably do not realize that our own dedicated volunteer, Elizabeth Fenner, has been watering many street trees in her neighborhood, and along Washington Boulevard. She has a borrowed (from UNNC neighborhood council) watering tank, and free refills at Council District 10. Eileen Ehmann has taken on this same task in Harvard Heights. Although not everyone can take on large swaths of geography, you can probably "adopt" just one suffering tree and give it a drink of water each week. ●

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If you frequent a local business — retail store, restaurant, service provider, etc. — ask them if they would offer a discount to WAHA members. Explain that they'd benefit from the increased exposure to local consumers, and be listed in the WAHA newsletter. Or, call me at 323-733-6869 and I'll contact them. Please note: WAHA does not consistently verify active contractor license status. You are urged to complete your own due diligence for any work you plan to have done on your property.

— Steve Wallis

Welcome New Members!

Fred Herrman
Adrienne and Blake Kuhre
Marius Stelly
Regine Wood

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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 Los Angeles California 90018
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Upcoming Events

SEPTEMBER

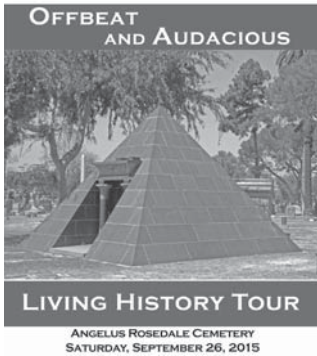
**West Adams Avenues Jazz & Music Festival
Labor Day Weekend (Friday, Saturday and Sunday),
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7th Avenue, between Adams & 25th Street
(West Adams Avenues)**

WAHA Potluck:

Learn About Gray Water Systems

Sunday, September 20, 2-5 p.m.

(see story, right)



**WAHA's Annual
Living History Tour
at Angelus Rosedale
Cemetery**
Saturday, September 26
Celebrating the 25th
anniversary of the tour with a
cast of colorful characters. See
story on page 1, and learn how
to purchase tickets on page 8.

Gray Water Systems

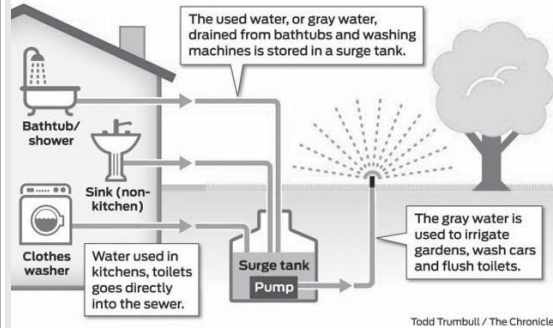
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WAHA is presenting a speaker from Second Generation Water Solutions speaking about gray water systems. Learn about the basics of these great water-saving systems. Potluck.

How gray water systems work



Todd Trumbull / The Chronicle

WAHA...Creating Our Future by Preserving Our Past

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