

# West Adams Matters

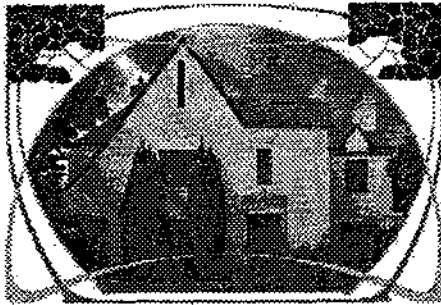
## **Wonderful Wilshire Park: A Brief History** *by Robbie O'Donnell*

### **Historic Homes Walking Tour**

**Saturday, June 2, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Last ticket sold at 2:30 p.m.)**

A century ago, when the neighborhood we now know as Wilshire Park was first laid out, Wilshire Boulevard was still a narrow, unpaved road, while the 23-acre site of the former Ambassador Hotel site was still a dairy farm and grazing fields. To the south and east lay the fashionable Westlake and West Adams Districts, which were already established as fine residential neighborhoods. But the City's population was growing, and developers saw an opportunity to lay out additional attractive residential enclaves.

Wilshire Park is a section of a larger tract called Boulevard Heights created by the firm McGarvin and Bronson in about 1905. Boulevard Heights extended from Pico north to Wilshire Boulevard and from Mountain View (now Crenshaw) to Wilton centering on Bronson and Norton Avenues. A 1905 ad in the LA Times boasted that the lots included cement sidewalks, 70-foot-wide streets which were "oiled and rolled," and that street cars were in the planning. The Boulevard Heights mesa rose above the flatlands and had cool breezes and a spectacular view of the mountains and downtown.



The marketing succeeded: One by one, to families or in batches of several at a time to speculators, the lots were sold and the homes began to appear by about 1908. The neighborhood was beautifully verdant. By and large, Wilshire Park consisted

*(continued on page 2)*

## **Los Angeles Comes of Age:**

### **City Attains "Certified Local Government" Status for Historic Preservation**

The State Office of Historic Preservation and the National Park Service have officially approved the City of Los Angeles' application to become a "Certified Local Government" (CLG) for historic preservation under the National Historic Preservation Act. This action provides official recognition to the City of Los Angeles for its new comprehensive historic preservation program and makes the City eligible, for the first time ever, to obtain state and federal historic preservation grants.

"For too long, Los Angeles has been derided as indifferent to its architectural and cultural heritage, so the attainment of Certified Local Government status represents a 'coming of age' for our city," said Ken Bernstein,

*(continued on page 11)*

## **A Happy Ending for the Vosburg House** *by Jim Grace*

After two meetings with Jim Grace and John Kelley of the Westmoreland Place Leo Politi Neighborhood Association, Laura Meyers, Roland Souza and Eric Bronson of WAHA, Guadalupe Duran-Medina from Council District 1 and King Woods, Rev. John Jong Chung Suh and T.C. Kim of Bethlehem Presbyterian Church, it was agreed that the John Selah Vosburg house at 1201 S. Hoover would not be torn down to make room for a 15-car parking lot.

An alternative parking solution was found at nearby Leo Politi Elementary School. Jim Grace met with Chris Stehr, Principal, and Brad Rumble, Assistant Principal, to propose the idea of allowing the church members access to the school parking lots on weekends. Principal Stehr enthusiastically agreed, seeing it as beneficial to all parties: the church would have extra parking in excess of 40 spaces for weekend services and the school would be looked after by the community on the weekends.

The neighborhood association also agreed to allow for a street vacation at the cul de sac between the church and the house on 12th Street, allowing for extra parking spaces, if the church provided much needed greenery by landscaping and maintaining the area.

The group also toured the adjacent circa 1905 John C. Austin-designed duplex, also owned by Bethlehem Presbyterian. They were delighted to discover that its upstairs, at least, is historically intact (we did not see the first floor.)

A hearing on the appeal was still scheduled for May 8 to present a written agreement to the Central Area Planning Commission detailing the agreement to keep 1201 S. Hoover standing and approve the street vacation. ●

# Table of Contents



## AROUND THE HOUSE

Resources ..... 4  
 The Avenues Annual Yard(s) Sale ..... 4

## WAHA MATTERS

WAHA Merchandise Online ..... 5

## STEPPING OUT

Cultural Safari ..... 6  
 Go Natural: Bugs and Butterflies ..... 7  
 Peaceful Sundays ..... 7  
 Noah's Ark at the Skirball ..... 8  
 Family History Conference ..... 8  
 An Inn-side Secret ..... 9

## PRESERVATION MATTERS

Mills Act Applications ..... 10

## COMMUNITY MATTERS

LANI Conference ..... 13

WAHA BOARD MEMBERS ..... 14

WAHA CLASSIFIEDS ..... 15

WAHAMEMBER DISCOUNTS ..... 15

## Newsletter Staff

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

Jean Frost, Director of Publications, ph: 213-748-1656

Hilary Lentini, Art Director, ph: 323-766-8090,  
 e-mail: hlentini@pobox.com

Suzie Henderson, Resources, ph: 323-731-3900,  
 e-mail westadamsgoddess@aol.com

Jean Cade, Advertising Director, ph: 323-737-5034

## Wilshire Park

continued from page 1

of a few homes surrounded by open, undeveloped green spaces and a magnificent orange grove.

The neighborhood could be classified as upper-middle-class. The homes were large, mostly two stories, and most had features that would be considered luxurious, such as maid's quarters, hardwood interior trim, large rooms, porte-cocheres, and automobile garages. In the early 1910s, Boulevard Heights was the westernmost part of the city, but the gap between it and the burgeoning Hollywood tract to the west was narrowing fast, and the area to the north, Hancock Park, was already well established as a home to the wealthiest Angelinos. Close to downtown and to USC by streetcar, and with its own country club, it was attractive and convenient.

Through the early 1910s, houses were being constructed with great enthusiasm, but in 1916 there was a break in the rapid development due to World War I. After the war and in the boom of the 1920s, the development was completely filled, with the last lots being built in the late 20s.

Boulevard Heights is now known as Wilshire Park and Country Club Heights, with Wilshire Park referring to the area north of Olympic. Over the decades, Wilshire Park has been home to many well known people, such as Buster Keaton, who filmed here often in the 1920s and lived here for a time in the 1930s, police chief Roy E. Steckel, plagued by scandal, death threats and demotion, and Mildred Harris, the infamous ex-wife of Charlie Chaplin, whose ugly divorce was headline news for years.

Because the homes in Wilshire Park were high quality and well built from the beginning, many have survived relatively unaltered, and the area retains the feel of a neighborhood of the era in which it was built. The housing stock has been spared through almost a century of boom-and-bust cycles that demolished landmarks such as Bunker Hill, and is largely free from the "improvements" of the '50s and '60s.

With the new-found appreciation for vintage homes, Wilshire Park is again one of the most desirable and best kept secrets in Los Angeles. In an effort to protect and preserve this near-century-old neighborhood intact, the residents of Wilshire Park are engaging in a campaign to have the area declared an Historic Preservation Overlay Zone (HPOZ) to prevent the loss of its unique character.

In the last several years, the City of Los Angeles has landmarked three of Wilshire Park's best homes, and there are more applications in the works. With wise decision making and careful stewardship — and your help — Wilshire Park will be here long after the condos built just yesterday are gone. ●



Wilshire Park residents gather on their wide front lawns. Please join them on June 2 at WAHA's Spring Historic Homes Tour (see flyers elsewhere in this newsletter.)

# President's Message

by Jefferson Davis

On my election as president two years ago, a board member walking by my house commented on my bountiful dinnerplate dahlias and zinnias blooming in the yard. "Enjoy, them, because now that you are president, you want have time for them anymore." Was she ever right! Thw WAHA presidency could be a full time job.

I never made it a full time job, but I think we missed many opportunities because of time and manpower constraints. WAHA is a very different organization now than when it was started more than 20 years ago. Our neighborhood has changed, our city has changed, and our priorities have changed. I believe that WAHA could better serve our members and our community by adapting to this transitional phase of our little pocket of Los Angeles. Here are my thoughts.

First, WAHA should move to a more professional organizational structure. It might include an actual office, a paid administrator, or paid support staff. Yes, I know that costs money, and is a long way off, but we should be working toward those goals now.

Second, schools. We must be involved in our schools if our neighborhoods ever become first choice for families -- the children are our next generation of homeowners. Third, commercial development. We as a community must make it a priority to foster the opening of coffee shops, restaurants, galleries, and other business that drive community revitalization.

Fourth, WAHA should support attractive and historically-sensitive, multi-family units on our busy corridors along with responsible transportation plans including streetcars and other mass transit options. I know, it is controversial, but it's coming and we should be involved in the process -- with more people comes the commercial developments we so dearly lack.

Last, but not least, we should fight for a "forest on the freeway." With a new USC report detailing that children are believed to be especially vulnerable due to higher doses of air pollution, we must insist that the state fill the freeway medians and sides with a forest of trees to combat the smog. One tree removes about 1 ton of CO2 per year ... and they hide that ugly graffiti! that Caltrans can't seem to keep off the walls.

As I have said so many times before in this column, get involved. It's your community -- take pride in it.

And lastly, I'm not going anywhere. Except out to the garden to tend to my long neglected dahlias and zinnias.

*Jefferson Davis can be reached via e-mail, [jeffdavis@yahoo.com](mailto:jeffdavis@yahoo.com)*

## Angelus-Rosedale Living History Tour Wants You!

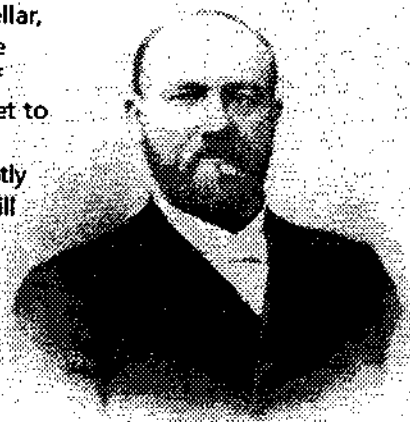
Here in West Adams we take a great interest in the history of our homes. We like to know when they were built, by whom, and for whom. Who occupied them in the intervening years? Our houses and neighborhoods are a product of people, and in many instances those very people have not left the neighborhood at all.

Many of West Adams' famous — and infamous — former residents "reside" at the Angelus-Rosedale Cemetery, which was founded in 1884 when Los Angeles was still a small city of only a few thousand people. Rosedale was the first cemetery in Los Angeles to be open to all races and creeds, and was the location of the first crematorium west of the Mississippi.

For 16 years, WAHA has presented an annual Living History Tour in which actors portray, at graveside, some of the individuals buried at the cemetery. The Living History Tour is held in the autumn, in late September or October.

Over the years, WAHA has presented more than 70 individuals, including actresses Hattie McDaniel and Anna Mae Wong, jazz musicians Eric Dolphy and Art Tatum, baseball star Frank Chance, USC founder Judge Robert Maclay Widney, magician Harry Kellar, architect Sumner Hunt, and film director Tod Browning ("Freaks"). The montage of photographs represents some of the literally thousands of historical personages buried at Angelus-Rosedale Cemetery who are yet to be portrayed. Maybe this year, or next?

As with all of WAHA's efforts, this event is volunteer-run. We are currently looking for volunteers to serve on the Tour Organizing Committee. You will liaison with the Angelus-Rosedale Cemetery, work with WAHA's historians to help pick "characters" from among the historical figures buried there, and organize the logistics of the tour itself, from timing to budget to, yes, a volunteer thank-you event. Many of the Living History Tour team members are already in place, to help with costuming, actors, historical research, the brochure, volunteer coordination, etc. But we need a dedicated team of organizers to pull the many facets of this event together. Can you help? Please contact WAHA Board member Judy Tedrick to volunteer (213-748-5627). Thank you very much! ●



Angelus Rosedale "residents" include (left) Marion McKinley Bovard, as well as (top to bottom) Thomas Bruen Brown, Ida Hurlbert, and jazz singer Ernestine Wade.

# Around the House

## Resources *by Suzie Henderson*

Does your brick need repointing? Jeff Miller has been highly recommended for his brick work.

Good work and good prices, just what we all like to hear.

If you are ready for some fun, i have a great resource for you, Goldstar Events. Their site offers half-price tickets to events near us, like theatre, comedy, sports, live music and spas. It's free to sign up. I find that nearly every event I am interested in attending eventually shows up on their list. I love keeping up-to-date with what is playing by receiving their weekly notices. Go to: <http://www.goldstarevents.com/join?p=F41605RC>.

If you join, please say that you were recommended by WestAdamsGoddess@aol.com. Whenever you refer someone, they give you \$1 credit towards future handling fees.

As always, you can use that same email to give me recommendations or stern warnings. If you have had a successful experience with a fence installation, I have had a recent request for a recommendation. I look forward to hearing from you. Thanks, Suzanne

**Jeff Miller, brick installation and repair**  
323-252-7709

## West Adams Avenues Annual Yard(s) sales

Saturday, June 2

8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

All residents on the "Avenues" between Arlington and Crenshaw are encouraged to participate in the annual yard sales. Everyone else: Shop 'til you drop! Remember to bring single dollars on the your power walk down 25th Street. (2nd Ave to Bronson is a magnificent mile.)

For More Information: Gavin Glynn 323-766-1690 OR Donna Jones 323-734-6473

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Saturday: 7:30 am - 2 pm  
Sunday: 10 am -12 Noon



## WAHA Merchandise Now Available Online

Want to flaunt your involvement with historic preservation in West Adams? You can now select from 34 varieties of T-shirts and sweatshirts, long and short sleeved (or no sleeves at all), with or without a hood, in several colors. There is even baby wear with the WAHA logo, and a special T-shirt for your dog. You can plunge deeper into your wardrobe with



WAHA tank tops, boxer shorts, thongs, or camisoles. Or maybe you would like some WAHA postage stamps. (These are Limited Edition stamps with images of West Adams Landmarks,

available only for a short time. Order now! Stamps are sold in sheets of 20 and are available in seven denominations. Cost: \$18.99.)

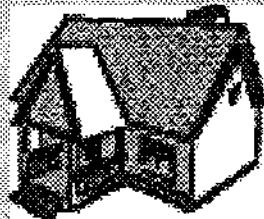
The new wide lineup of WAHA emblazoned items stems from a partnership with Cafe Press, an online marketplace specializing in unique personalized items. The West Adams store can be reached by clicking on "WAHA Merchandise" on the WAHA website: [www.westadamsheritage.com](http://www.westadamsheritage.com).

In addition to clothing, the WAHA store features hats, tote bags, refrigerator magnets, mugs, and even a clock, an apron, and a teddy bear. Find something there for yourself or for someone close to you.

When you purchase these products, you are supporting WAHA's historic preservation, beautification and community benefit efforts. Thank you. ●

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# Stepping Out

## L.A.'S CULTURAL SUMMER SAFARI

This summer embark on a safari — a cultural one, that is. The Getty Center, the Los Angeles Zoo, the Natural History Museum, and the Skirball Cultural Center all celebrate exhibitions and events related to animals and insects. Birds, beasts, and more await the whole family! Visit each of the participating institutions between May 29 and September 2, and collect a stamp in your family passport. Complete your safari by obtaining all four stamps, and you'll receive a special prize. Members of the Natural History Museum, the LA Zoo, and the Skirball will be mailed their cultural passports in the next few weeks before Memorial Day. It is an exclusive benefit of membership in these institutions.



### UDRY'S PAINTED PAINTED MENAGERIE

**Amazingly Life-Like Animals on view at the Getty Center through September 2, 2007**

This summer at the Getty Center, you'll have the rare opportunity to see works by the 18th-century's greatest animal painter, Jean-Baptiste Oudry. The exhibition includes life-size paintings of a lion, an antelope, a leopard, several exotic fowl, and a famous touring rhinoceros named Clara. Recently restored by conservators at the Getty Museum and on display for the first time in 150 years, Clara's portrait captures the spirit and majesty of the gentle giant that dazzled audiences 250 years ago on an extensive European tour. The Getty Center, 1200 Getty Center Drive, West Los Angeles. (310) 440-7300; [www.getty.edu](http://www.getty.edu)  
Admission to the Getty Center is always free. On-site parking is \$8; no reservations required. (Passport does not apply to the Getty Villa.)



### A SAFARI TO SPIDER CITY AT THE LOS ANGELES ZOO

Get face-to-fangs with venomous spiders and creepy crawlers from around the world at the Los Angeles Zoo's new Spider City exhibit, now open. Weave your way through chilling displays of over 25 species of spiders, including black widows, tarantulas, brown recluse, and more. Meet a quarter-pounder (spider, that is) along with the Goliath Bird-Eating Tarantula boasting a legspan of up to 11 inches. Learn what makes a spider a spider and why these misunderstood creatures are so important to our ecosystems. Explore giant spider webs and test your abilities to see how you measure up against a real spider!

The Los Angeles Zoo, located in the heart of Griffith Park, features over 1,200 animals amid lush Botanical Gardens. Enjoy the popular koalas, tigers, giraffes and hippos; plus visit orangutans in the Red Ape Rain Forest; Chimpanzees of Mahale Mountains and Dragons of Komodo featuring the largest lizard in the world. Present the Passport booklet and receive \$2 OFF adult admission and \$1 OFF child admission to the L.A. Zoo. Spider City is free with admission.

Los Angeles Zoo, 5333 Zoo Drive, Griffith Park. (323) 644-4200; [www.lazoo.org](http://www.lazoo.org)  
Admission: \$10 adults and \$5 children ages 2 to 12.

### WATCH FOR WINGS, DIG FOR DINOSAURS, MINE FOR MINERALS

The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County offers one of the world's most extensive and valuable collections of natural and cultural history — more than 33 million objects, some as old as 4.5 billion years. Three floors of permanent exhibition halls feature grand dioramas of African and American mammals, sparkling gems and minerals, rare dinosaurs and fossils, marine animals, Pre-Columbian culture, "walk-through" habitats ranging from local desert landscapes to tropical rain forests, and historical artifacts from California and Southwest history, including early Hollywood memorabilia. The family-friendly, interactive Ralph M. Parsons Discovery Center is home to touchable artifacts, specimens and educational activities. Its live animal collection includes snakes, fish, turtles and lizards, and the adjacent Ralph M. Parsons Bug Spot presents insects from around the world. At both, visitors can interact with the animals and watch as trained staff feed and care for them. Family Passport holders may get their stamps at any Museum entrance or at the information booth in the foyer. Be sure to visit the gift shop to claim a free passport prize!

The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, 900 Exposition Blvd., Exposition Park. (213) 763-3538; [www.nhm.org](http://www.nhm.org)  
Admission: \$9 adults; \$6.50 seniors (62+), students 18+ with ID and children 13-17; and \$2 children 5-12. Children under 5 and Natural History Museum members are free.

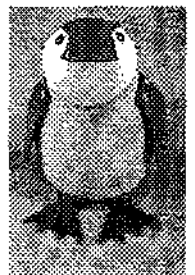
### ALL ABOARD NOAH'S ARK!

The Skirball is opening a new permanent exhibit -- and all the animals are there, two by two (see story, page 8). Tickets are available beginning June 1.

Skirball Cultural Center, 2701 N. Sepulveda Blvd., West Los Angeles. (310) 440-4500; [www.skirball.org](http://www.skirball.org)

Admission: \$10 general; \$7 seniors and full-time students; \$5 children 2 to 12; free to Skirball Members and children under 2.

SEND COMPLETED PASSPORTS TO: The Getty Center, Attn: Communications, 1200 Getty Center Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90049 Please allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery of special prize.



## Go Natural: May Events at the Natural History Museum

### 21st Annual Bug Fair

Saturday and Sunday, May 19 and 20, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Museum will once again be crawling with bugs! Be sure not to miss the 21st Annual Bug Fair – North America's largest. Explore the world of insects and their arthropod relatives. See live spiders and scorpions, start your own collection of butterflies and stay for some great cooking tips from two world-renowned insect chefs. Over 60 vendors will be on hand with books, entomological equipment and supplies, artwork, toys, clothing and more! A variety of private collections will be offered for sale, along with an assortment of live bugs. The Los Angeles Urban Spider Survey enters its fifth year and we once again urge patrons to bring in any spider that they collect\*. The Bug Fair is included FREE with Museum admission.

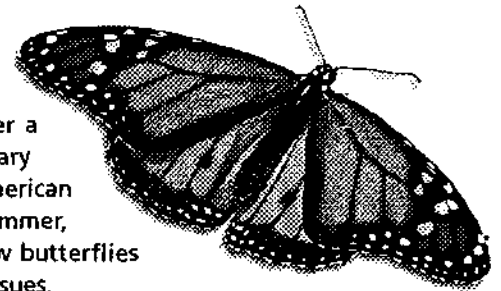
This largest Bug Fair in North America is the Museum's biggest weekend attraction. Over 60 unique vendors will display everything from rare specimens of butterflies to entomological equipment to insect tattoo art. Private collectors will show off their exotic collections, and "pet" insects, such as hissing cockroaches and rhino beetles, will be sold. Kids can handle insects and talk to Museum scientists. Also look for demonstrations by NHM's Insect Zoo Coordinator, Brent "The Bug Guy" Karner; tarantula and assassin bug feedings; and cooking seminars with visiting insect chefs.

### Butterflies Fly Free

Continuing until Monday, September 3

Back for its ninth summer, the Pavilion of Wings runs through Labor Day. Enter a world of free flying butterflies and stroll through a beautifully landscaped temporary exhibit housed at the Museum's South Lawn. See a giant swallowtail, monarch, American painted Lady or even a California dogface - California's state butterfly. Over the summer, thirty different butterfly and moth species will call the pavilion home. Discover how butterflies interact with the plants and gain a new understanding of various environmental issues.

Special ticketed admission applies: \$3 for adults, \$2 for seniors and students and \$1 for children ages 5 to 12. Tickets are sold in half-hour time slots through-out the day. Members receive free admission and the first available tickets.



### What Are All These Parrots Doing Here?

Sunday, May 27, 1 to 2 p.m. - Times Mirror Room

Los Angeles and other urban regions of Southern California are now home to at least a dozen species of parrots living freely in the wild. Learn how they got here and why they're thriving in an illustrated lecture by Ornithology Collections Manager Kimball L. Garrett.

The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, 900 Exposition Blvd., Exposition Park. (213) 763-3538; [www.nhm.org](http://www.nhm.org)



### Peaceful Sundays

Sundays, 2-4 p.m.

Peace Labyrinth and Gardens at the Guasti Villa, 3500 West Adams Blvd.

Are you looking for a good cup of organic coffee or tea? How about some homemade sweets and snacks? Maybe some classical guitar or harp music? The Peace Awareness Labyrinth and Gardens at the Guasti Villa is now open to the public Sundays.

Enjoy Urth Caffé organic coffee and tea, and some delicious homemade desserts and savory selections. Walk the hand-cut travertine marble Chartres-style labyrinth. Visit the lush Asian-style meditation garden. Get in touch with the beauty, the peace, and tranquility of this oasis in the middle of the city.

Tour the historic mansion (once owned by Busby Berkeley, built for Secundo Guasti). The visit is free -- the refreshments are for

sale. Reservations, please: 323-737-4055 or e-mail [programs@peacelabyrinth.org](mailto:programs@peacelabyrinth.org).

For more information about the Sunday open days and tours, weekday tours and dinners, and other programs, please visit [www.peacelabyrinth.org](http://www.peacelabyrinth.org). ●

# Stepping Out

## Noah's Ark at the Skirball

Opening June 26

Kids have a brand new attraction this summer in L.A. -- and it's both fun and educational.

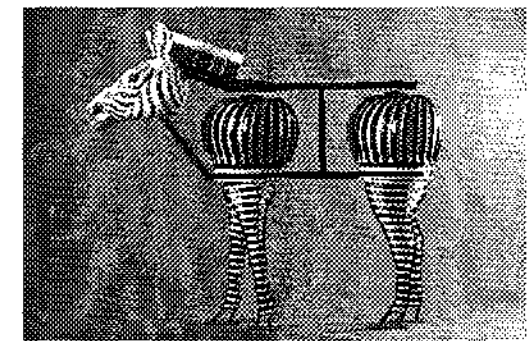
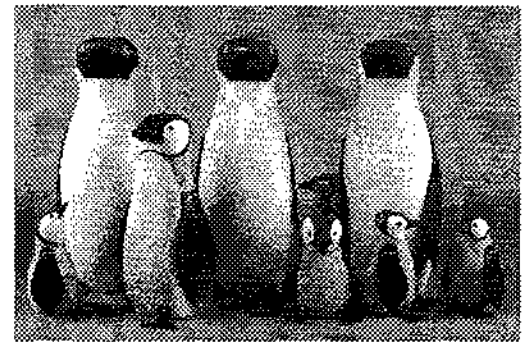
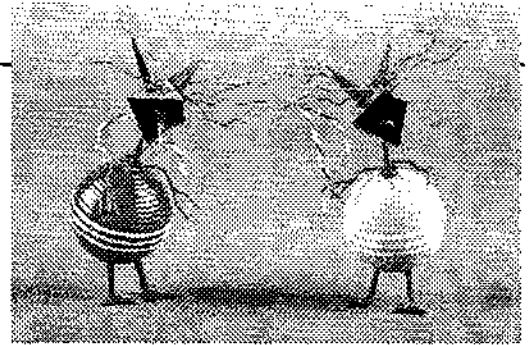
After five years of planning, Noah's Ark at the Skirball Cultural Center opens in late June. One of the principal designers was one of WAHA's own, longtime member Tony Palermo, a radio sound effects artist. Palermo worked with the "Ark-itects" (Seattle-based Olson Sundberg Kundig Allen Architects) and artist-puppeteer Chris M. Green to create a colorful and creative experience. "We wanted a fun environment that would work well with ages beyond the target of four- to eight-year-olds," says Palermo. "The most imaginative and weird juxtapositions are Chris's."

Inspired by the ancient flood story of Noah's Ark, which has parallels in hundreds of cultures around the world, this indoor and outdoor attraction offers a multi-sensory, interactive experience. It invites visitors to board a gigantic wooden ark and to play, climb, build, discover, nurture, problem-solve and collaborate alongside handcrafted, one-of-a-kind animals. These range from life-sized elephants and giraffes to snow leopards, flamingos and iguanas — 186 species in all.

Noah's Ark at the Skirball is conceived as a journey, taking visitors on an ark voyage from a stormy world to dry land. Visitors are welcomed into a pre-flood zone, offering hands-on opportunities to make thunder, rain and wind using low-tech, mechanical sound devices and invented instruments. Upon entering the galleries, visitors mingle with pairs of life-size animal puppets from the five continents, all crafted from recycled materials — or, in many cases, everyday objects such as bottle caps, bicycle parts, baseball mitts, croquet balls, mop heads, and rear-view mirrors.

Climb aboard the Ark this summer. Call 310-440-4500 for visitor information. ●

The Skirball Cultural Center is located at 2701 N. Sepulveda (Skirball Ctr Dr exit from the 405 freeway.) Tickets available starting June 1. \$10 general, \$7 seniors and full-time students, \$5 children 2-12; free to members and children under 2. Includes admission to all other exhibitions. Visit [www.skirball.org](http://www.skirball.org) for more information.



## Family History Writers Conference

Sunday, June 10 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Burbank Airport Marriott Hotel and Convention Center

The Southern California Genealogical Society will devote an entire day of its annual three-day Jamboree to family-history writing. The Family History Writers Conference, a special event offered in conjunction with Jamboree, will be held on Sunday, June 10. An exceptional group of authors, memoirists, journalists, and publishers will come together to provide a full day of lectures, workshops, and seminars devoted to various facets of writing family histories.

There will be something offered for every level of writer, and for every genre of family history projects, from memoirs, to journaling, to historical research, to technical tips for managing large writing projects.

The keynote speaker is well-known writer Carolyn See, discussing how to handle family secrets with discretion, honesty and sometimes humor. Other featured writers include Judith Barrington, with two presentations on memoirs; Linda Lawrence Hunt, author of *Bold Spirit*, talking about pulling historical research together into book-shape; D.G. Fulford, one of the founders of [www.there remembering site.org](http://www.there remembering site.org) and the author of several journaling workbooks, explaining how to start the memories flowing; and Thomas Curwen, editor-at-large at the Los Angeles Times, explaining how professional writers manage the challenges of taking notes, interviewing, story structure, dialogue, description, and characterization.

Walk-in registrations (\$150) will be available at the door if space permits, but the conference is filling fast, so early registration is recommended.

The Southern California Genealogy Jamboree and Resource Expo is a three-day gathering of genealogists, family historians, experts, novices, exhibitors, vendors, genealogical society leaders, speakers, and others who are interested in tracing their roots. Produced for 38 years by the Southern California Genealogical Society, it is one of the longest-running genealogical conferences on the West Coast and is expected to draw nearly 1,000 participants during the three-day event. For complete information, visit [www.scgsgenealogy.com](http://www.scgsgenealogy.com) or call 818-843-7247. ●



## A Inn-side Secret

One of West Adams' best-kept secrets is the fact that we have a quaint Bed-and-Breakfast Inn within our historic enclave. Located in University Park just south of Downtown, "The Inn at 657" (which, by the way, is now really at 663 West 23rd Street) is a Los Angeles home-away-from-home for business travelers, visiting scholars, parents of students at nearby USC and Mount St. Mary College, and leisure travelers who want to experience a stay in a historic setting.

The inn is the passion and brainchild of WAHA member Patsy Carter, a retired trial lawyer-turned neighborhood activist-turned hotelier. She arrived in West Adams in 1980 with a bang: Carter literally brought her first building with her. "It came from Pico and Beverly Glen, in three pieces," Carter recounts. "When I moved here, my friends were agahst. But I always loved the neighborhood."

In 1989, Carter opened a Bed and Breakfast at 657 West 23rd, in the former apartment building she had moved. When the residence next door at 663 came on the market, in 1999, Carter snapped it up. The residence was designed by architect Frank M. Tyler in 1905 for Mary Lewis. It had certainly seen better days at the point when Carter purchased the place. Carter renovated with an eye to guests' comfort, adding air conditioning, wireless Internet and a bathroom for every guest room. Says Carter: "I designed it for business travelers like myself – and I have no intention of sharing a bathroom."

The Inn is filled with an eclectic array of vintage textiles and antiques – many of them handcrafted heirlooms like needlework and hooked rugs from Carter's mother and grandmother (along with abundant treasures Carter, an inveterate collector, has acquired at auction and from salvage shops.) Each bedroom suite boasts unique furnishings, and a comfortable, queen-sized bed with down comforter.

Of course, this is a Bed and Breakfast Inn, so abundant food and good conversation is the way each day starts for guests. A bountiful affair, breakfast includes fresh fruit and juice with a typical menu of baked French toast, ham, a homemade pastry (such as "Morning Glory Muffins") or pudding, or perhaps a cheese omelet, steak, home fried or scalloped potatoes, and biscuits. On some lucky days, guests are treated to Huevos Chilaquiles (eggs baked with tortillas, sautéed onions and cheese, with cornbread served on the side.



"Breakfast is always very generous, and varied every day," Carter explained. "The one thing a good Bed and Breakfast needs to do is serve a good breakfast. But it is also a real animated occasion. I have such distinguished and interesting people who stay here, a fascinating lot.

Before she opened the Inn, Carter recalls, "I just love to cook and kept imagining myself cooking breakfast and talking to my guests. Now it's happened."

Prices range from \$125 for a single (\$140 double) to the most expensive suite (\$250). Reservations are, of course, required. Some times of the year – notably, graduation and student orientation, and during certain Convention Center/Downtown trade shows – the Inn is fully booked far in advance. But if you are hosting out of town guests – or your own historic West Adams home is booked for filming and you need a night away – consider supporting this neighborhood business. ●



The Inn at 657, 663 West 23rd Street, 213-741-2200 or [info@patsysinn657.com](mailto:info@patsysinn657.com).

# Preservation Matters

## 2007 Mills Act Contracts

It's that time of year again! The 2007 Mills Act Historical Property Contract applications are now available.

The Mills Act is California's leading financial incentive program for historic preservation projects, and the City of Los Angeles has one of the fastest growing programs in the State.

The Mills Act program allows owners of qualifying historic properties to enter into a contract with the City of Los Angeles for a revolving ten-year term, agreeing to restore, maintain and protect their property in accordance with historic preservation standards in exchange for a potentially significant reduction in property taxes. Qualifying properties include locally-designated Historic-Cultural Monuments and Contributing Properties in Historic Preservation Overlay Zones (HPOZs).

Last year, the Office of Historic Resources processed 51 contracts, which was the program's biggest year ever. Applications are ranked by priority consideration criteria to ensure that the program is benefiting targeted properties.

For more information, link to the application at [www.lacity.org/PLN](http://www.lacity.org/PLN) and look under "New Features." The Office of Historic Resources will be accepting Mills Act applications through June 29. ●

## Night Visitor



WAHA members Jennifer Charnofsky and Leslie Evans find that feeding a stray cat on the porch draws an unexpected dinner guest. The local raccoon chows down while calmly watching unperturbed while an indoor dog, two cats, and two humans stare back through the front window. Dog barks and camera flashes were just part of the floorshow. The animal equivalent of red eye (white eye) from the camera makes him look a bit with the diminutive humanoid Jawas of Star Wars. The cat for whom the dinner was intended was standing at the edge of the porch watching all this but keeping his distance.

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- Mark & Eliza Tamaris, University Park

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## L.A. Becomes Certified Local Government

*continued from page 1*

Manager of the Department of City Planning's new Office of Historic Resources. "This is a significant milestone for historic preservation in Los Angeles."

"This announcement is an important validation by the state and federal governments that the City of Los Angeles finally has in place all of the elements of an effective, balanced historic preservation program," said Gail Goldberg, the City's Director of Planning.

Because Los Angeles was not a CLG, it was not previously eligible to receive Historic Preservation Fund grants, allocated by the National Park Service and distributed on a competitive basis by the State Office of Historic Preservation. While these grants are relatively modest, they can provide significant support for local historic preservation activities, such as preservation plans, historic resources surveys, and preservation education and outreach programs. CLGs also receive valuable technical assistance from the State Office of Historic Preservation and are given formal authority to review and comment on nominations of sites to the National Register of Historic Places.

Los Angeles historic preservation organizations have urged the City of Los Angeles to seek CLG status for nearly two decades. The City of Los Angeles was the only large municipality in California that had not become a CLG. Despite Los Angeles' remarkable historic resources and vigorous grass-roots historic preservation activity, the City of Los Angeles had not previously been eligible for CLG status because it had never created a full-fledged historic preservation office, did not have specific professional qualifications for its Cultural Heritage Commissioners, and lacked a systematic program to survey and identify significant historic resources.

In 2006, the Department of City Planning created a new Office of Historic Resources (OHR) with a staff of six, which is a full-service historic preservation office within the Department.° The OHR is spearheading the five-year, multi-million dollar Los Angeles Historic Resources Survey Project, in partnership with the J. Paul Getty Trust and the Getty Conservation Institute. The Survey Project is the most ambitious local survey initiative in the nation – a comprehensive program to identify potential historic resources throughout Los Angeles' 466 square miles, which will provide valuable information to City officials, neighborhood associations and preservation groups, and much greater, up-front certainty for developers and property owners.

The OHR also staffs the City's five-member Cultural Heritage Commission, administers the Mills Act property tax incentive program for historic properties, reviews proposed changes to designated historic properties, and works with owners who want to rehabilitate their properties. The OHR oversees over 850 designated Historic-Cultural Monuments (local landmarks) and provides policy coordination for the city's 21 Historic Preservation Overlay Zones (HPOZs, or historic districts). The Office is providing more seamless coordination of historic preservation activities with other City departments and other sections of the City Planning Department and is developing training and educational programs on preservation for City staff and the public.

"We are proud to have the City of Los Angeles become the nation's largest Certified Local Government for historic preservation," said Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA, California's State Historic Preservation Officer, whose office administers the CLG program. "The Office of Historic Preservation is honored to be in partnership once again with the City of Angels to promote the integration of preservation interests and concerns into local decision-making processes as the city moves into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. L.A. is 'The Place' for historic preservation!"●



*The City's Cultural Heritage Commission poses with Felix the Cat on a recent tour. From left: Mary Klaus Martin, Abna Carlisle, Richard Barron and Carlos Singer*

## Membership Levels for 2007-2008

When you receive your dues notice in the mail, please note that we have slightly adjusted our membership categories to add a \$100 support level. We have also increased the price of a Business/Corporate Membership to \$200.

Membership levels for 2007-2008:

- \$45.00 – Household/Individual. Receive WAHA Matters newsletter, invitations to WAHA programs, advance notice of and discounts to WAHA's tours, the membership directory and other publications, membership card, and (with membership card) discounts on local services and products.
- \$25.00 - Senior/Student. The same as above.
- \$100.00 Preservation Circle. All of the benefits of the household membership, plus a copy of Don Sloper's *Los Angeles's Chester Place* free of charge.
- \$200.00 Business/Corporate. All of the benefits of the household membership, plus a free copy of "Los Angeles's Chester Place," plus business-card sized ad to run in two issues of the WAHA newsletter. Please call WAHA's Director of Publications for ad details.
- \$250.00 Heritage Circle. All of the benefits of the Household membership, plus a signed copy of *Los Angeles's Chester Place*, plus 1 pair of tickets to the Holiday Tour (value \$150), plus reservation priority for all WAHA tours, plus listing in WAHA Matters as Heritage Circle Members (summer annual report issue)
- \$500.00 Patron Circle. All of the benefits of the Heritage Circle level, plus two tickets to all WAHA Tours (four tickets total to Holiday Tour), special listing in the WAHA Holiday Tour brochure, invitation to a special acknowledgement party.
- \$1,000.00 Benefactor. All of the benefits of the Patron Circle level, plus monthly acknowledgment as a Benefactor in WAHA Matters.

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## LANI's 5th Annual Community Forum

Thursday, May 17 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the USC Davidson Conference Center, 3415 S. Figueroa

The Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative's Fifth Annual Community Forum is slated for Thursday, May 17. This year, the keynote speaker will be Huell Howser, producer and host of "California's Gold" on PBS. Those who have attended past year's sessions know this is a great event for community stakeholders to learn about involvement and advocacy opportunities, and to meet fellow activists from around the City.

Workshop topics include:

- Accounting for Nonprofits
- Billboards
- Farmer's Markets
- Business Development
- Community Murals
- Disaster Preparedness at a Neighborhood Level
- Transportation Linkages
- Water Quality and Your Community
- Fundraising for Community Organizations

### WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- Neighborhood Council members
  - CAC's, PAC's & Planning Committees
  - Business Improvement Districts and Merchant Associations
  - Community Based Organizations and Nonprofits
  - Community Members
  - Anyone interested in Neighborhood Revitalization
- Register at [www.lani.org](http://www.lani.org) or by calling 213-627-1822 x20. The event is free and includes parking. ●

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**Jefferson Park Craftsman** - Adam Janeiro (Seller's and Buyer's agent)

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**Craftsman Fixer** -- 1456 12th Avenue in Arlington Heights. Nancy Deaven (Seller's and Buyers' agent). Welcome, Dinah Trejo and family!

**Expo Park Fourplex** – P1463 West 35th St. - Carlton Joseph (Seller's agent)

**Los Feliz Spanish** - Adam Janeiro (Buyer's agent)

**Culver City Mid-Century** – Nancy Deaven (Seller's agent)

**Probate Sale** – 4534 165th St. Nancy Deaven (Seller's agent)

**Halldale Transitional** - Adam Janeiro (Buyer's agent). Welcome, Parag Mallick!

**David Raposa, Darby Bayliss, Nancy Deaven, Jane Harrington, Adam Janeiro, Carlton Joseph**

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

# Membership Application

**Become a member (or renew)!**

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- Individual/Household ..... \$ 45.00
- Senior/Student ..... \$ 25.00
- Preservation Circle ..... \$ 100.00
- Business/Corporate ..... \$ 200.00
- Heritage Circle ..... \$ 250.00
- Patron Circle ..... \$ 500.00
- Benefactor ..... \$1,000.00

Please make check payable to WAHA.

Return to: WAHA  
2263 S. Harvard Blvd  
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Los Angeles, CA 90018

Please DO NOT include my name, address, e-mail, or telephone in the WAHA membership directory.



The A.W. Black Residence is one of many lovely period homes in Wilshire Park

## Wonderful Wilshire Park: Historic Homes Tour

Saturday, June 2

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

(Last ticket sold at 2:30 p.m.)

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.



West Adams Heritage Association

2263 S. Harvard Boulevard  
Historic West Adams

Los Angeles California 90018

323-735-WAHA (323-735-9242) www.WestAdamsHeritage.com

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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The WAHA Board meets on the fourth Thursday of each month.

Contact Jefferson Davis for location.

## WAHA Thanks Its Supporters

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## ADVERTISE HERE!

To place a display ad, call WAHA Treasurer Jean Cade at 323-737-5034. WAHA classifieds are free to paid members. If you can, please e-mail your classified ad to [lauramink@aol.com](mailto:lauramink@aol.com). Classifieds will be for one month only. If you wish to repeat your ad, please re-notify us by deadline.

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This Newsletter is published 11 times a year  
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*The deadline for ad content is the 1st of the prior month.*

*Please Note: WAHA does not endorse or claim responsibility for any of the services, products or items for sale that advertisers have listed in these pages.*

## WAHA CLASSIFIEDS

**It's Mills Act Season!** If your property is a contributor to a Historic Preservation Overlay Zone, or is a Historic-Cultural Monument, then it may be eligible for significant property tax savings. Call consultant/preparer Anna Marie Brooks for details. 310-650-2143.

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## MEMBER DISCOUNTS

*The following companies offer discounts to WAHA members. Remember to show your WAHA membership card when you make your purchase.*

**Best Lock and Safe Service** contact: David Kim  
2203 W. Venice Blvd., Los Angeles, 323-733-7716  
10% discount on lock and safe labor and materials

**Washington Dog & Cat Hospital**  
1692 W. Washington Boulevard, Los Angeles, 323-735-0291  
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**Meyers Roofing**  
5048 W. Jefferson Blvd., 323-733-0188  
10% discount

**Lighthouse Stained Glass**  
5155 Melrose, 323-465-4475  
20% discount off regular class prices with WAHA membership card

**Cafe Club Fais Do Do**  
5257 West Adams Blvd., 323-954-8080  
No cover charge at door, and 20% discount on all meals.

**Durousseau Electric**  
2526 W. Jefferson Blvd. 323-734-2424 or 323-734-6149 (cell)  
10-15% discount on electrical services

**Lady Effie's Tea Parlor**  
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**Los Angeles Stripping & Finishing Center**  
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**Boulevard Vacuum & Sewing Machine Company**  
5086 W. Pico Boulevard, 323-938-2661  
10% discount on sale of new vacuums, and vacuum service & repair

## A CALL TO MEMBERS

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 monthly newsletter. Or, call me at 323-733-6869 and I'll contact them. — Steve Wallis

# Calendar ✓

## WAHA May-June Calendar

**LANI Community Forum, Thursday, May 17, 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.:** An annual gathering of community leaders, at the USC Davidson Conference Center. Register at [www.lani.org](http://www.lani.org) or call 213-627-1822X20. Free. (See story, page 13)

**Community Unity Day, Saturday, June 9:** The annual health and community fair, including live performances (singing and comics) is tentatively slated to be held on Adams Boulevard this year. Mark your calendar to join the festivities.

**HOLD THE DATE!** Wednesday, July 4 - WAHA's Annual Celebration of America's birthday.

## Wonderful Wilshire Park WAHA's Spring Historic Homes Tour

Saturday, June 2 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
(Last ticket sold at 2:30 p.m.)

WAHA presents its annual Spring Tour in Wilshire Park, one of Los Angeles' older neighborhoods and one of the City's newest nominees for Historic Preservation Overlay Zone (HPOZ) historic district status. The tour will feature restored period homes and verdant gardens. This is a self-guided walking tour, and no reservations are required, but advance ticket purchases is recommended (of course, early birds get the best deal.)

- Reserve and pay in advance, WAHA and Wilshire Park residents, \$25.
- General advance admission, \$30.
- You may pay on the day of event, \$35 (members and non-members.) Check in at 4039 West 7th Street.

Send checks payable to WAHA to: 2209 Virginia Road, Los Angeles CA 90016.

"Wonderful Wilshire Park" is co-sponsored by West Adams Heritage Association and Wilshire Park Association. For more information, contact: 323-732-4223 or [tours@westadamsheritage.com](mailto:tours@westadamsheritage.com)

*The WAHA 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 2006. All rights for graphic and written material appearing in the newsletter are reserved. Contact Director of Publications for permission.*



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