



West Adams Matters

Angelus Rosedale Cemetery: Home to Heroes

**WAHA Presents the 18th Annual Living History Tour at Angelus Rosedale Cemetery
Saturday, September 27**

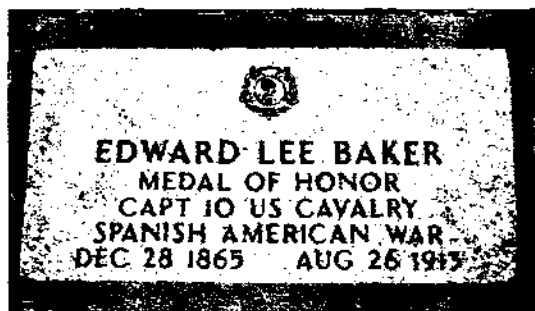
By Laura Meyers

The remains of Edward Lee Baker rested below a nondescript headstone next to that of his wife's for nearly 100 years at Angelus Rosedale Cemetery in West Adams. There was no trace or hint of his distinguished place in American history. He had been buried in obscurity.

But as of this year, the setting has changed. A new flat stone above Baker's grave is engraved with a simple message: "Edward Lee Baker, Medal of Honor, Capt 10 US Cavalry, Spanish American War, December 28, 1865 – August 26, 1913."

Thanks to the efforts of Don Morfe, a retired Blue Cross executive from Baltimore, Md., Baker now has a monument to his heroism. Morfe has traveled the country since 1999, researching in cemeteries for the gravesites of America's

3,460 Medal of Honor recipients. When possible, he has been placing new granite stones telling of these heroes' deeds. In 2008, Capt. Baker was so honored. And, on September 27, Capt. Baker will be recognized again during the annual Living History Tour at Angelus Rosedale Cemetery.



A Spanish-American War Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient, Baker served as a Sergeant Major, 10th United States Cavalry. He was awarded his medal for service at Santiago, Cuba, on July 1, 1898. His citation reads: "Left cover and, under fire, rescued a wounded comrade from drowning." Baker's commander was one of America's most famous Army officers, Col. Black Jack Pershing. Pershing was

(continued on page 6)

Back to School: WAHA Honors Young Writers

Last Spring, WAHA engaged in an unusual project (for us) and worked with a creative writing teacher at Johnny Cochran, Jr., Middle School (formerly known as Mt. Vernon Middle School) to have her group of young students write essays and poems about living in and appreciating the older homes and character neighborhoods that make up the Historic West Adams District. These young people poured their hearts into their words. A dozen of their stories, poems and essays were selected to run in this edition of *WAHA Matters*. The Special Section begins on page 7. ●

WAHA's Newcomer Tea

**Saturday, September 13 4-6 p.m.
2309 West 23rd Street (Kinney Heights)**

WAHA members and friends are all invited to a "Newcomers Tea" on Saturday, September 13, from 4 to 6 p.m., at Kwesi and Jennifer Akai's lovely home and garden at 2309 West 23rd Street, in Kinney Heights. Kwesi has quite a green thumb! He proudly was a winner of WAHA's Garden Contest last year, and invites everyone to stop by to see his handiwork, and partake of some sweets and savories.

Existing members are encouraged to bring a dessert to share. Newcomers, those who have been members of WAHA for less than two years, are invited as WAHA's guests. Beverages will be provided. This will also be a kid-friendly event.

So please come and meet your new neighbors, and let them meet you. We look forward to seeing you there. If you want to lend a helping hand with set-up or clean-up, please contact WAHA's Membership Director, Candy Wynne, candywynne@yahoo.com. ●

Table of Contents

STEPPING OUT

Reborn Victorians.....	4
Santa Monica Landmarks Tour.....	5

BACK TO SCHOOL.....	7-12
---------------------	------

WAHA BOARD MEMBERS.....	14
-------------------------	----

WAHA CLASSIFIEDS.....	15
-----------------------	----

WAHA CALENDAR

No Excuses Calendar for WAHA's 2008 Events!.....	15
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Bob Bortfeld Award Winner: Pat Karasick

The West Adams Heritage Association's highest honor, the annual Bob Bortfeld Award, was bestowed at our July 4 picnic on Pat Karasick, a longtime WAHA volunteer and former Western Heights resident now practicing her preservation skills from her home in Mar Vista. The award was a highlight of the annual event, held at the historic Tudor-Craftsman home of Roz Pina, on Victoria Park Drive. Ed Trosper, last year's winner, made the presentation.

"Volunteers such as Pat are the life blood of WAHA," said President Jim Robinson, following the presentation. "We are always in need of people to plan activities, research positions, write communications, and cook and schlep for our events. It takes a lot of hands-on work, and Pat has done it for 20 years. That is a tremendous contribution."

Pat's nomination came from her husband, Christopher McKinnon, who submitted the following description to judges Robinson, Trosper and Membership Director Candy Wynne:

"I would like to nominate Patricia Karasick for the 2008 annual WAHA Bob Bortfeld Award. She has been an active member of West Adams Heritage Association since 1988. She and her husband lived for 10 years in a Frank M. Tyler-designed, Craftsman house in Western Heights and were known for providing a film-friendly environment to film and commercial producers. In the early '90s, they together saved from neglect, probate and criminal activity a beautiful, dilapidated, 1906 house across from them on 20th Street. They lovingly restored it and resold it for little profit.

"Pat has volunteered many times for WAHA Holiday and Garden tours, serving as house or kitchen captain or docent. She is also known for promoting and caring for "her" LAPD Explorer cadets, who often served as tour safety and security. Pat has chaperoned the Post 714X Explorer Troop on many overnight trips to competitions, proudly returning to Wilshire Station with trophies. Pat has mentored one of their past cadets since early childhood.

"Pat has served the greater community as the co-chair of the Wilshire Division Community Police Advisory Board, outlasting four captains in that position. She now serves as the co-chair of the Pacific Division CPAB. In 2007, she received the Wilshire Division Volunteer of the Year Award and was commended by Mayor Villaraigosa and

(continued on next page)

President's Message by Jim Robinson

Another wonderful California summer has begun to set, and already we're looking forward to the fascinating fall season that lies ahead. An unusually exciting presidential race is rushing toward election day, sandwiched between two of the biggest events on WAHA's calendar – the Living History Tour on Saturday, September 27, and the always marvelous Holiday Tour and Progressive Dinner on Saturday and Sunday, December 6 and 7.

You'll find more about WAHA's events elsewhere in this newsletter, and if you haven't booked tickets for the Living History Tour, I urge you to do so. Our organizers have chosen a particularly interesting cast of characters this year. Remember, it all takes place outdoors, so don't forget to wear comfortable shoes and a hat.

WAHA's tours provide entertainment for hundreds, raise funds for our organization, and introduce strangers to the unsuspected delights of our West Adams neighborhoods. But there's another aspect of WAHA that perhaps goes less noticed, and yet is the core of why we exist and why we raise funds each year. It's historic preservation.

On July 25, WAHA quietly scored another preservation victory when the State Historical Resources Commission, meeting in Santa Barbara, approved our nomination of two blocks of Flower Drive for inclusion on the California Register of Historical Resources. The nomination was the work of our Historic Preservation Committee, chaired by Jean Frost, and our hired consultant, Peter Moruzzi, whose excellent report won the board's 5-1 approval.

Flower Drive is a hidden gem – an intact collection of two-story, Mediterranean Revival style apartment buildings, mostly four-plexes, built between 1920 and 1927 and now concealed by the high west wall of the Harbor Freeway, south of 38th Street. Finding them isn't easy, but as you round the corner off 38th Street, the experience is a 1920s version of the sensation you get when you first turn onto Carroll Avenue, in Angelino Heights, and encounter its collection of Victorian houses. It's like passing through a time warp.

Despite the freeway looming on the east side of Flower Drive, the buildings along the west side are so uniform in style and symmetry they could easily serve as a movie set. Think "L.A. Confidential." Yet winning their historic designation was never a slam dunk. Arrayed against WAHA at the commission hearing were spokespeople representing several of the property owners, and the University of Southern California, whose plans for the site have been little publicized. The opponents had hired their own historic consultant, whose counter-report challenged the street's worthiness.

Appearing for WAHA at the Santa Barbara hearing were myself, introducing our organization; Moruzzi, who argued for the street's designation; and Mitzi March Mogul, a member of WAHA's Preservation Committee, who dissected the opponents' counter-report. In the end we carried the day, and Flower Drive now has more protection against demolition, or inappropriate renovation, than it had when the day began.

The experience reminded me why I've been a WAHA member for more than a decade, and it's more than just the social events and the tours through neat old buildings. I've long considered WAHA, first and foremost, an insurance policy – a resource that stands ready to defend our historic resources when they need defending, and to put its money where its mouth is when money is needed to do the job.

So I hope you'll enjoy WAHA's Living History Tour, and the Holiday Tour that comes two months later. And as you do, I hope you'll enjoy knowing that the money you pay, and the efforts you make, will help preserve our neighborhoods for tours in years to come.

Jim Robinson can be reached via e-mail, jghrobinson@ca.rr.com

Bortfeld Award

continued from page 2

others. She sponsored a youth basketball team, assisted in suppression of neighborhood criminal activity and is a past president of the Western Heights Neighborhood Association.

"As an L.A. Unified elementary teacher and now a retired literacy coach, Pat also mentored several West Adams neighborhood children, instructing them in the sewing, cooking, gardening and graffiti paint-out arts. Her inspiration has steered them on a path to volunteerism, and three of them started college majoring in Psychology.

"Pat created several neighborhood murals and was known in the greater Wilshire area for painting vines as a method of graffiti abatement. She was involved in garden projects at Saturn Street School, 24th Street School and Western Heights, introducing drought-tolerant plantings at her own home. She is an avid recycler and a longtime L.A. Conservancy member. Pat currently lives and continues her community and restoration activities in Mar Vista, a western outpost of West Adams. She and her husband live in a restored 1920s-era California Bungalow." ●



Pat Karasick (center) pictured with WAHA members Harold Smith (left) and Bob Buchanan at the annual 4th of July picnic

Stepping Out

Reborn Victorians by Laura Meyers

Today, a generation of contemporary artists is returning to photography's historic roots, making tintypes, daguerrotypes and ambrotypes, salt prints and albumen prints, cyanotypes and bromoils - but with a modern twist that straddles the 19th and 21st centuries.

One of the historic personages we will meet at this year's Living History Tour in Angelus Rosedale Cemetery is Valentine Wolfenstein, a pioneer photographer of the 19th century who established one of Los Angeles's earliest successful photo (portrait) studios. Wolfenstein documented the Navajo in Captivity in New Mexico in 1868, and then, here in Southern California, captured forever the images of our earliest families, including the Sepulvedas, the Rimpaus and the Picos. His work is even more amazing when you consider how cumbersome was his equipment.

But, as it turns out, even as the art of photography has marched relentlessly down the digital path, a surprising opposite trend emerged: Contemporary artists are turning to the handmade, using early photographic processes and antique tools dating from the 19th century to make images which are decidedly au current.

Artists throughout the U.S. are experimenting with antique photographic processes these days, pioneering a resurrection of photographic techniques that had faded from use more than a century ago, including gum bichromate, cyanotype, platinum palladium, and salt printing. Although this new work is anchored in the technology of the past, these born-again Victorians are infused with contemporary aesthetic ideas and reinvention.

One of those photographers is Los Angeles artist Stephen Berkman. He often works in the wet plate collodion process, and also made a series of commissioned tintype portraits of actors Nicole Kidman and Jude Law made by Berkman for the Civil War movie, "Cold Mountain."

In 2001, the Fisher Gallery at the University of Southern California showcased "Lost and Found: Rediscovering Early Photographic Processes," an exhibition of 19th century American daguerreotype, tintype and ambrotype portraits contrasted with works by contemporary artists who have revived these techniques (the exhibition is still online at Fisher Gallery's virtual exhibit, <http://imsc.usc.edu/haptics/LostandFound/welcome.html>).

Arts writer Lyle Rexer, author of *Photography's Antiquarian Avant-Garde: The New Wave in Old Processes* (Harry N. Abrams, 2002), recounted a conversation with photographer Sally Mann in his book. "If you follow the progression of nineteenth century photography," he said, "using collodion today is a bit like drinking a glass of water with your hands tied behind your back. A hundred and forty years ago, all they wanted was to get a consistent image quality. The effects and accidents that entrance us today - the swirl of the background from the pour, the white skies, the flaws and comets - were a nuisance, a limitation, a commercial disaster. What they once endured of necessity, we now employ as art."

And it is true, especially today, that the act of making images with digital equipment and digital materials is becoming ever easier, point-and-click simple in a manner unimaginable to the first photographers.

Today as in the 19th century, the processes required to create calotypes, ambrotypes, daguerreotypes, cyanotypes and tintypes are time-consuming, messy, awkward, erratic at best, and sometimes downright dangerous in their use of such toxic chemicals as ammonium chloride, arsenic and cyanide.

In Berkman's case, he fabricates tableaux and character portraits in ambrotypes and tintypes. "I use history," he says, "as a co-conspirator to create an illusion, a constructed reality that appears to be authentic. I reinsert my vision of the past and possibly change the future."

Berkman lives in the here and now, yet at first glance his Pasadena, California



Stephen Berkman: Chamber Pieces

Photographs & Installations by

Artist Stephen Berkman

September 13 - November 23

Wednesday through Sunday, noon to 4 p.m.

Laband Art Gallery, Loyola Marymount

University, 1 LMU Drive (Westchester)

Chamber Pieces features a number of artist Stephen Berkman's photographs made using the 19th-century wet-collodion photographic process of exposing images onto glass plates, exploring the ephemeral qualities of images formed by the natural convergence of light and optics. The experience of viewing one of his photographs is akin to the discovery of a lost world from a bygone era. The exhibition also presents a selection of Berkman's camera obscura pieces. Using a few, simple tools, such as lenses, spotlights, and scrims, Berkman conjures up unexpected, fleeting "objects." His photographs and camera obscuras amuse and mystify viewers of the 21st century just as optical displays delighted audiences in the 19th century.



Santa Monica Landmarks Bus Tour

Sunday, October 5 2 to 5 p.m.

Check in at the DMV, 2235 Colorado Blvd. (at Cloverfield)

When the Santa Monica Conservancy offers its 4th Annual Landmarks Bus Tour, you'll be able to tour all of Santa Monica in an event that covers all portions of the city, detailing Santa Monica's history and development and showcasing many of the city's designated landmarks.

Ride a modern Big Blue Bus with tour leader Marcello Vavala, architectural historian and Santa Monica Conservancy board member, and discover the history and architectural significance of the city's well known and lesser-known landmarks. Vavala is Preservation Associate at the Los Angeles Conservancy and has researched and led special tours for that organization and at El Pueblo State Historic Park.

The tour covers all parts of the city and includes architectural gems, cultural landmarks, trees and signs. Highlights of the tour include Oscar Neimeyer's modernist Strick House; the iconic Santa Monica Pier, the Art Deco Bay Cities Guaranty Building; Merle Norman's former residence and cosmetics headquarters; the ornate Spanish Colonial Revival Parkhurst Building; several John Byers-designed homes; the WPA-era City Hall and modernist Civic Auditorium; the Zephyr Surf Shop, birthplace of extreme skateboarding; and more.

The tour will include two stops with minimal walking where participants will depart the bus for closer inspection of a landmark. There will be no interior site visits. Reservations may be made on the website: www.smconservancy.org. Tickets are \$30 for members, \$35 for nonmembers, and \$45 for newly joining members (bring your friends to join).

Checks should be mailed to Santa Monica Conservancy, P.O. Box 653, Santa Monica CA 90406-0653. If you choose to mail your check, please do so before September 27. Be sure to provide your contact information for reservation confirmation. Reservations will be held at check-in at the DMV, 2235 Colorado Boulevard at Cloverfield. ●



John Byers'-designed house on La Mesa Drive is a Santa Monica landmark

Reborn Victorians *continued from page 4*

studio represents a step back in time. There are the two Victorian gowns, mother and daughter-sized. Look close, though. The dresses on mannequins are really camera obscuras, mechanisms that capture images. The "antique" camera mounted on the wall is another camera obscura, this time functioning as a surveillance device. In the photographs Berkman creates, his characters are dressed in period garb, surrounded by period accessories and furnishings he collects at flea markets and Hollywood prop houses.

Interest in old processes and the artists who use them has been growing since the 1970s. At first, many of the new-old photographers were more interested in historic reenactment than in an art form. They began to take their gear to Civil War battle reenactments, and offer up their portrait services to the history buffs who were dressed in 19th century fashion. Some of these new "vintage" portraits have begun to show up at antique shops and even at auction as if they were authentic Civil War era images. But then, said fellow artist Mark Osterman, established fine art photographers took interest. "We started seeing people making platinum, palladium, gum and cyanotype prints, and that movement came to be called 'alternative processes.' In the 1980s, the idea of not the print, but rather what is being made in the camera began to take hold."

Osterman uses the wet-plate collodion process, which dates from 1851, to make self-portraits. The technique, which Valentine Wolfenstein also used during his Los Angeles period, is complex. "Plates are coated with liquid nitrocellulose containing iodides and bromides and dipped into silver nitrate to make them sensitive to light. The plate must be exposed and developed before the coating dries. I remove the lens cap and walk into the scene. After the proper time (usually three minutes or so), I walk back to the camera and cap the lens. Then I process the plate in the darkroom."

Famed photographer Sally Mann, who also uses wet plate collodion process, told Lyle Wexler: "For me, nineteenth-century photography is simply unsurpassed. There is an elegance to it, a purity, that has nothing to do with naivete....Its artists conducted a comprehensive investigation of what the camera could elicit. They wanted to know what the camera had to do with reality. It is not that they wanted to see what the world looked like. They wanted to see what it looked like photographed. And that is still the point.

"And who knows?" she added. "In the not-to-distant future, as the world moves toward filmless image-making, anybody who picks up an ordinary camera and spends time in a darkroom will be classified as an old-process photographer. We will all be antiquarians."

For more information and images of Berkman's work, visit www.stephenberkman.com. ●

A Hero Recognized

continued from page 1

born in Missouri on September 13, 1860. He graduated from West Point in 1886 and served in the Indian campaigns and Spanish-American War with Baker, and later the Philippines Insurrection, the Mexican Expedition, before becoming the overall American Commander in Europe during World War I.

And Baker is not the only hero buried at Angelus Rosedale Cemetery. Other Congressional Medal of Honor recipients include Trustrim Connell, who served in the Civil War as a Corporal in Company I, 138th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. He was awarded the Medal for his bravery in the Battle of Sailors Creek, Virginia on April 6, 1865. His citation reads simply "Capture of flag." Fellow Civil War soldiers William B. Mayes and Emmer Bowen also were awarded respective Medals of Honor and were later buried at Rosedale Cemetery.

Another Rosedale Medal of Honor recipient is Clay Beauford (AKA Welford Chapman Bridwell), who earned the honor for "gallant conduct during the campaigns and engagements with Apaches" during the 1872 - 1873 Indian campaigns in Arizona.

For Morfe, who served in the Army in the 1950s, finding and honoring Medal of Honor winners has become an all-consuming passion. He told a newspaper reporter, "It's a simple matter of respect for the medal. I put in 45,000 miles a year. I love history and I don't golf." According to Morfe, the graves of many veterans of America's 19th century wars – the Civil War, the Indian campaigns and the Spanish American War – did not originally note the honor, particularly those of veterans who lie in private cemeteries. Currently, he has only found two World War II Medal of Honor recipients whose graves did not note the honor.

Capt. Baker was one of only 118 Medal of Honor recipients who fought in the Spanish American War, and one of only six men of color in that war (and 159 ever, including 87 African Americans) to receive this highest honor. To put this in perspective, the number of U.S. military to see service during wartime exceeds 43 million individual soldiers.

The Medal of Honor is the highest military decoration awarded by the United States government, similar to the British Victoria Cross or the French Legion of Honor. It is bestowed on a member of the United States armed forces who distinguishes himself "...conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States..." Because of its nature, the medal is commonly awarded posthumously.

Born in Wyoming to a mixed race couple, Baker mustered into service in 1882 as a member of the legendary Buffalo Soldiers of the 10th Cavalry in the Indian campaigns of the West. Baker served as a Sergeant Major in the Spanish American War. Toward the end of his life, in 1910, he lived at 1026 Fedora, just north of Rosedale Cemetery.

We learned more about Capt. Baker at the Hall Of Heroes website, www.HomeofHeroes.com, which was launched in July, 1998 by Doug Sterner. Sterner, a two-tour Vietnam Veteran, returned to college to learn about computers after a successful real estate career. In the first two years of the site's presence on the web Sterner amassed some 12,000 individual screens (when printed it would take more than 50,000 sheets of paper). HomeofHeroes.com now attracts more than six million visits a month.

Through Sterner's website WAHA has also contacted Capt. Baker's great-great grandchildren, and have invited them to join us at the Living History Tour. We hope to tell you more about them in a future *WAHA Matters*.

Everyone has a story to tell. You are invited to attend this year's Living History Tour, where you will hear a half-dozen compelling accounts of American history, as experienced by the men and women who lived in Los Angeles from the 1850s to the 1950s. Meet a pioneer photographer who established one of Los Angeles's first successful photo studios, a trailblazing Methodist minister who helped found the University of Southern California, the Queen of the 1897 *Fiesta de Los Angeles*, a star of the 1950s TV show *Amos 'N' Andy*, and a film star and leading man of silent film era "North Woods" dramas.

Tickets are by advance reservation only, and tour guests are assigned to specific, timed tours with guides. This is an outdoor 3-hour walking tour over uneven terrain, so tour guests are advised to wear appropriate clothing, and walking shoes.

Tickets: \$25 general admission, \$20 WAHA members, PAID BY SEPTEMBER 15. Space available, after September 15, all tickets are \$30. (Children under 10 attend free.) To order tickets in advance, please send a check made payable to "WAHA" to:

WAHA Cemetery Tour • 2209 Virginia Road • Los Angeles, CA 90016

Please include an e-mail address or phone number for confirmation.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, or to confirm reservations, please call the WAHA Reservations Hotline at 323-732-4223, e-mail tours@westadamsheritage.org, or visit www.WestAdamsHeritage.org. ●



Back to School

Other Voices, Other Views: Johnny Cochran, Jr., Middle School Creative Writing Project

My Neighborhood

In my neighborhood I guess you could say that it's really a good neighborhood, and once in a while we'll get a bad egg. But most of the time it's a really good seed. Like right across the street there's a 7-Eleven and two gas stations. Last week we had a bad egg, three gun shots were fired. I live right down the street from my school, so it takes me about two minutes to get to home.

I don't really know anybody in my neighborhood. I usually just get home and watch TV. If there's cops driving by I used to look out the window, but now I just ignore them. If there's a fight outside I might look out, or I look and then I just go back to watching T.V. I don't think my neighborhood means anything to me, I just live in it. I see people wearing Vans, Nike, Chucks, and other types of shoes and clothes.

But I do love going to Jack in the Box and KFC. I go to Jack in the Box mostly two days a week. And I like going to the donut shop. There's a Panda Express past the KFC, and my aunt lives west of Jack in the Box and down a hill. Yeah, that's my neighborhood.

Well, I really don't know anything about old houses. My parents don't talk about it and brother doesn't say anything about it. I never even knew that there was old houses. The old house I looked at had colors orange and a grayish color. The door was big and the windows were really pretty. There was no shutters on the windows. and there was a big porch. A family probably lived there and used it as a summer house because there's palm trees in the front yard and beautiful plants everywhere.

I would be happy to live there, to live in this beautiful place. The difference is that my home is a apartment, and that's a house. That's the main thing. I've never noticed any old houses before because I thought they were all new.

Karryn Hudson

The Old and the New Things

Everything is so new and has no color or creativity. There are very few homes on our block that are old and were built a long time ago. There is this one house that is very pretty to me. It's a very old house that looks creepy at night but in day looks like your own ordinary home. But this house is not just an ordinary home. It has this bounce to it that makes you want to stop and look. It's full-size and gorgeous. Gazing at it you can tell it was built many years ago.

It is a yellowish-goldish gray house. It has plenty of bushes and tall palm trees, where as soon as you walk its way the first thing you notice is the way the trees sway. The door is huge and wooden. You would think a giant lived there many years ago. Today it looks like a family house. It is a two-story home with windows as enormous as a human being. The front porch was big enough to have a picnic on it or even sleep. I'm guessing that people used it to sleep on sometimes in the olden days. There also is walk way to get to the house.

There is not that many old homes in our neighborhood, but sometimes (you) have to look at all the goods things in your neighborhood and not the bad. Most of the old homes are more unique and creative, and the new homes are just plain and ordinary. You just have to walk around one day and smell the houses.

Danielle Anderson

In My Neighborhood

The street where I live is Plymouth Blvd. In my neighborhood there used to be a lot of gangsters, but now there isn't really any.

In my neighborhood, the street is really bumpy and has a lot of big cracks, and the curbs are all mostly messed up. The street is really dirty because of the people who just throw their trash on the ground because they are too lazy to go and throw it in the trashcan.

I have a lot of fun in my neighborhood. At the corner, there are a lot of stores like a video store, a donut shop, a mini-market, a 99-cent store, a laundry mat, a bar, and a restaurant. There is also an ice-cream truck and a "lonchera" that passes everyday.

When there were gangsters in my neighborhood, they would cause a lot of trouble. They did a lot of drive-bys, had lots of fights, many people have died because of the gang violence.

My neighborhood is really special to me because I have a lot of friends there and a lot of my cousins live there. Those are some of the things about the neighborhood I live in.

In some neighborhoods there are really nice houses like in the neighborhood next to my school. Next to my school there is a big two-floor house with a balcony and a big porch. It probably has an attic because it has a tiny window in the top of the house. The house has a beautiful garden with lots of colorful flowers. The color of the house is brownish with a little of red and a big brown door.

It would be awesome if I lived there because it's right next to my school so I could never be late, and plus it's a big two-floor house. I could imagine a wealthy white family living there a long time ago because some of my teachers told me that the community used to be an all-white community before. That's the house I would like to live in when I grow up.

Jose Balderas

Back to School

Old things can be changed to new...

Some things have changed since I lived one house away from where I live now. Same people living here. People I have known haven't moved. They have stayed with me for as long as I can remember. The same trees sway to and fro, never having changed direction from where they first swayed. Houses destroyed down and new ones pop up from under ground. The bushes that I remember that were once squared are now round or not there any more. Same people stay there, but now new people come in. For me those people I didn't know, that I once called strangers, are now my well known friends.

Arlington and Washington, the only place I've known. I've never been anywhere far away from home. Twelve years of my life and still live in my same home. I've been to a lot of places, and even though these places are cool I still want to live between Arlington and Washington. The houses I've seen that are for sale are so cool. But, hey, I still don't want to move. I still want to live between Arlington and Washington. I stay here because even though other houses are cool, they are not put in a very safe place, but my house is. I feel safe where I live; I feel as if nothing will ever threaten me where I live.

As I passed by, I saw this house and said, wow, this house is huge. I saw a little bit of red. I guess it was some kind of support the roof. The other colors were amazing – dark brown, brown, and black. I would say this is my first time I ever saw a house with a door that huge and wide. I say what really amazed me from that house were the doors. I think around three people can go through this door, but not one by one – I mean all at the same time. The balcony roof was what really got my attention. The door seemed like it could be in kind of scary movie because of all the scratches it had. I would like to live in this house, but I think old houses look scary because I remember seeing movies where old people die and haunt the next people who move in.

Compared to my house, this house is like a mansion. My house is not so old and has a bad paint job. This house I chose is old and has amazing colors, unlike mine. One floor can never be compared to a two-story house. How can I explain the windows on this house? I can explain the windows in one word: "FANCY," that's the word. I say old houses are amazing.

Javier Gonzalez

Looking At My Neighborhood With A New View!!!

Have you seen a really beautiful home, and then wondered how old it was? Some may have come from the 1800's. Well, every day when I walk to and from school, I think to myself, "Hmm... I wonder how old this house is?" It's hard for me to actually tell if a house is really old or newly built.

When my friends see my house they say it's really big and it looks haunted or something. Now I'll admit my house is really scary looking, but that is just because it is so old. People don't understand that keeping those old houses alive is really important. I myself don't always appreciate the good things in life, but I do appreciate beautiful homes. Sometimes it's really hard to figure out if a house is really old. One way you can tell is that you may see, like, crown molding on the inside, or on the outside you might see more creativity in the way that it is built.

In L.A there are a lot of old houses that are being preserved by getting it redone. You know... like how some old people get jobs done on themselves in Hollywood. Just kidding. Anyways, today when I was walking I saw this beautiful home. Later I found out that it was one of the old houses that I was learning to appreciate. That house was really beautiful, though. The porch and door was really GIGANTIC! It had, like, this kind of molding on top of the porch that looked like it was hand done. The architecture reminded me of something Asian. Well, I hope this has helped you appreciate those old yet still beautiful on the in and outside houses.

Melodie Gonzales

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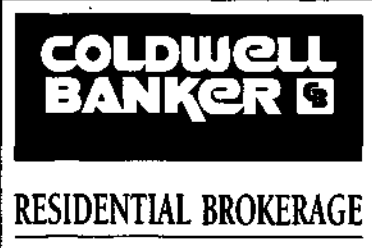
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My Neighborhood

My neighborhood, where the birds sing in the morning and the moon shines at night. In my neighborhood, where there are lots of old but beautiful houses. Houses that look like if wealthy people lived in them long time ago because of how big they are, and of how big the lawns are, in which people use to sleep on outside. These old houses have big wooden doors and beautiful flowers in the front lawn.

Every morning when the birds sing, everyone is already busy. Either they are watering their plants or getting ready to go to work or school. During the day when every one goes off to do there business, it's quiet and the only thing you could hear are the lovely birds sing. And the only thing you could see is the empty street of Norton Ave. and Pico, with only a few little kids playing on their parking lots, and the old buildings with there unique beauty.

Every mother is busy preparing lunch or going to "Jay's Market" to buy food for their hungry kids that comes home from school or their husbands that come tired from work. When everyone gets home, the food is ready and on the dinner table, and the family talks about their day. When everyone is done, they go outside, where the old buildings are, to play or to sit down on their lawns to see the sunset.

Children play and adults sit down to rest from the hard day. Then the neighborhood is full of happy people who are trying to relax, while looking at the sunset. Waiting for the moon and stars to shine, that will let them know a new day will begin soon and the birds will sing again in the morning and the moon will set again in the night.

Kathy Garcia

Back to School

My Neighborhood

My neighborhood is dirty, but there is always something going on. You can find people on the streets, or kids skateboarding. Sometimes you can find some weird things, like a lady standing outside her house looking at whoever passes by. She kind of sings, or talks, but she mumbles so I can never tell. It kind of makes me uncomfortable to pass by her. I always check if she's there. If she is there, I cross the street.

Also, there is always a guy in the street jumping up and down hitting himself and making funny noises. I really feel uncomfortable when I pass by him. Sometimes I just pretend he's not there or I don't look at him. Sometimes there are hobos asking for money. I really feel bad for them, so sometimes when I have money I give it to them, but sometimes some of them scare me.

Sometimes I get kind of scared because of all the stuff that happens. Like the car races, they usually race at night. It is also kind of dangerous because one time my sister came crying from school because there was a guy following her, but you get used to it after a while. I don't feel that scared anymore; there is a lot of good stuff too. Like the big hill you can ride down on. Also my neighbor has a lot of flowers and plants, so that's good, and a lot of animals come there.

There are a lot of other things, too. Like the old houses. There are big importances to the community's history. Also, they also look beautiful. I would want my kids to look at these houses, and their kids and kids would look at these houses and think about the past. Those are things that make the community good.

Most people don't notice it because of all the bad things. Like there is one I saw today. It was painted dirty brown, it also had slanted roofs. Also the windows were shiny, the door was gigantic, much bigger than our new homes (apartments). The porch looked great; it had a lot of flowers and had a statue of a lion in the front of the fence.

I could imagine who lived there, long ago and now. There could have been people from 1800 who lived there. Right now an old man could live there. I think it could have been an old man because the house is old, too. Maybe he could have been a grandfather. Maybe the house could have been past down from family to family or even generation to generation.

I could never live in those old houses. Some look really creepy; it looks creepy because it is old. Also, I get scared very easily in the night. If I hear something at night, I get really scared, sometimes I can think it is anything. I can never live in those houses because I am too scared of ghosts. Those are the good things and bad things about the community.

Andrew Rincon

The House

The burgundy, tan, dark green, and black colored house that looks new, but could be seen as a house with lots of history in it. The house with a big front door and an even bigger porch. A two-story house that is beautiful. A house that once a rich man, his wife, and their son or daughter maybe lived in. A house with white roses in the front yard and a lawn so elegant.

I would love to grow up in such a beautiful home. Where I live now is so different compared to this beauty. And the craziest thing about that house is that I never noticed it until now. I didn't noticed any of the old houses by my school until I took a walk to go see and point out all of the old houses.

I was so amazed at how beautiful they were, and how much history just one house alone could be capable of holding. That is what I saw in an old house by my school. The house of beauty.

Shawla Soremekun

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Back to School

Flaka's 'Hood

*My neighborhood is always so noisy at night.
It's full of chaos and disorder.
From the little Chinese boy screaming all night long,
To the guys on the corner, fussing and fighting
It never gets better.
It's calm during the daytime, but at night it gets wild.*

*I like the daytime better because I can sometimes sleep.
There is a little Chinese boy that is so loud and rowdy,
He always sleeps at daytime and runs around like crazy at night.
Might be the time zone ... but then I don't know.*

*I live at West and Pico by Tommy's Burgers
So you might expect my neighborhood full of ghetto girls getting down
At the corner of the park, but hasn't happened so far.
Them guys walking by you and sayin', "Ay, yeah, you lookin' kind of cute..."
You walk away and then they follow you,
As if you were their t-bone.*

*When you enter my street, you see a messed-up house on your left,
They call it "El Palomar."
After that comes a house where a Korean family lives.
Then you see where my so-called auntie Cynthia lives.
Whenever I look into her house it brings back memories of my sweet uncle Skete who passed away.
When you pass that house there are some peach apartments,
And when you finally pass those apartments comes some other peach little house-like apartments.*

*As you look to your right there is a peach-colored house,
And next to that house there is mine ... it's blue and white.
There is always a white BMW parked in front of the apartments next to where I live.
After that there is a lonely, scary house with ripped-up walls and lots of plastic bottles and cans in the front.
Finally, there is the Queen Anne Park.
The park is always full of skaters and gangsters.
If you look at the back, where the benches are, or at the grass in the back, there is always people making out.*

*On the other hand, by Bronson Ave. there is a big brown house
With no glass windows in the second floor!
There are only glass windows in the bottom floor.
The house had shutters all over the place!
I wouldn't live there because it looks scary.
Maybe an old man would live there, but not me!
It looks like my uncle's house in Mexico.
Or as if someone was trying to make it look Mexican or Guatemalan, even though it's in L.A.
If I lived there I would probably remodel everything!
I would feel like Jeepers Creepers as soon as I walked in through the gate.
The gate makes a weird noise when you open it.
But it's nothing like my house ... my house is white as if this house is brown.*

MY HOOD IS SPECIAL!!!

Stefany Garcia

I live in L.A.

I live near Jefferson and 10th Street. It's almost never safe. But I have friends and family members that live near me. I also live near Sixth Avenue Elementary School, and I like to go there so I can hang out with my friends after school and chillax. Then, after, we head to The BBK (BURGER KING). When we go back to our homes we always see tagging on walls and the ground. Later, you'll see gang bangers coming and you start running because you never know if they will just try to kick your ass, or if they are going to just ask you, "Where you from?" or just pocket check you for money or anything else you have on you.

Once we get back, you can see people playing soccer, skateboarding, playing basketball and any other sports on the street or on their grass. Finally, around 8-9 p.m. people might start making carne asada for their family and friends. Around 12 a.m. you could hear gun shots and people tagging with spray cans and other things.

That's how the day ends.

But have you ever noticed the old houses in your neighborhood, or any neighborhood? Well you should, because you could see that old houses have more interesting things and character than new houses. For example old houses have shutters and new houses mostly never do. People used shutters mostly in places where there was a lot of storms because the shutters would protect the window from breaking or anything else. You could also see that old houses have more character than the new houses.

Esteban Ruiz

Back to School

My Neighborhood

My neighborhood is a place that I feel safe in. It's a place where I have fun knowing that I am safe. It's a place where I experience life. That is the place where I learn from the good and the bad. I think that my neighborhood is a place of curiosity which you learn from every day. You learn from the people, the history, what your neighborhood has been through. That's my place, where I was raised, where I sleep at night where my home is, and where my best friend lives.

My neighborhood is quiet, calm and nice. That's the place where I take my dog for a walk, and so do my brothers. That's the place where I have parties and invite all my old friends to enjoy the wonderful place I live in. That is the place where all my family gets together and has *carne asada*, *mole*, and watches the soccer game. That's the place where all the excitement happens.

I love my neighborhood, and I love that people there know me and that I know them. Harcourt and 23rd, that is my place, my "kicking spot" and everything else in between. Where my family and friends live, and also where I live. That is the place where other people have lived in.

The houses in my neighborhood looks pretty old. Of all of them, one of them is my favorite, even though it looks pretty old. This could be my dream house. This house is pretty big, it is made out of woods and shingles. It has a pretty big porch, a balcony and an attic window. The wood is chocolate and the windows are pretty big. This is my dream house because it has two stories and it looks pretty big. On the front yard, the garden is nice evenly cut and with two lions on each side of the porch. It has white roses on the front and a big parking lot.

That is my dream house, and also because I live kind of close to my school. The porch is pretty big, where you could put a desk and a chair and have your own quiet time. The windows are big squared glass with white curtain. On the back it has a small garage, or it looks like a little room. This is the perfect house in a perfect neighborhood where you can have fun and always laugh.

Ana Elizabeth Zapet

Beauty In Old Homes

I lived in my neighborhood for 12 years of my life. Twelve special years that I will never forget, but what made it even more special was the homes in it. The homes that I walked past for 12 years of my life and did not notice. The homes that were right in front of my eyes but I never paid any attention to. Those homes weren't paid attention to by many.

Was it because they were old? Or because they weren't as modern as the usual? I don't know exactly why they weren't noticed, but I do know that I did not notice them until today, when I went out and observed each home closely. I saw many things that blew my mind. Things on a home that I have never noticed before. The awkward colors but still beautiful, the chipped paint on the home that helped it stand out, the huge size of the home, the huge wooden door, the huge beautiful wooden windows with no glass to harm the style, and last the look of it all - the shape, the size, the color, the windows, the huge family porch, and more that I just can't describe.

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WAHA Matters

Save the Stewart Cottage and Its Next-Door Neighbor

Two More Historic Structures Need New Homes

WAHA has been quietly working to save an 1871 cottage and an adjacent Craftsman triplex from the wrecking ball. A developer is planning to erect a housing complex at the site (505-511 West 31st Street, between Flower and Figueroa Streets), and from the start Community Redevelopment Agency staff indicated that these houses should be moved.

The Victorian cottage was built by early Los Angeles nurseryman John Marcellus Stewart, who was a member of the Los Angeles Pioneer Society. Stewart had a colorful life. He walked across the country, through Indian territory, to California, to become a gold miner in 1850. In 1871, Stewart, his wife Melissa, and younger daughter, Grace, moved to Los Angeles. He bought a 17-acre vineyard, dug up the vines, and planted instead "exotic" nursery plants like Pampas grasses, pepper trees and sweet oranges as landscaping materials for the growing metropolis. And he built the still-extant cottage, which is one of the oldest wood frame houses still standing in Los Angeles.

Later, Stewart became a real estate developer, and erected a mansion on 30th Street, where he and Melissa lived until their deaths in 1913, just weeks apart; his daughter lived in the mansion and owned the cottage well into the 1920s.

The mansion is long since demolished. That the cottage has survived 135 years is miracle in itself. Can you be a part of this century's miracle, and identify an appropriate place to move the Stewart Cottage to? If you would be interested in moving the cottage or the triplex, contact architect Kym Vitar at kymikelias.vitar@gmail.com or the development's land use consultant, Elizabeth Peterson-Gower, at 213-674-2686 or elizabeth@epgla.com. ●



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Kinney Heights Beauty, Coming Soon — Gardener's delight on oversized lot. \$789,000. Adam Janeiro, 323-401-3952

Grand Jefferson Park Bungalow — 2,240 sq ft, 3 BD, 2 BA, liv, dining, library, etc. Biggest bungalow on the block! 2078 West 29th Place. \$619,000. David Raposa

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Adams-Normandie Craftsman — Great period details, 4 BD, HPOZ. 2317 S. Budlong. \$599,000. (Suzanne Henderson, 323-731-3900, seller's and buyer's agent)

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Harvard Heights Craftsman, designed by Frank Tyler - 2892 West 15th Street (Adam Janeiro, buyer's and seller's agent) -- Welcome, Gabriel & Mia Marano!

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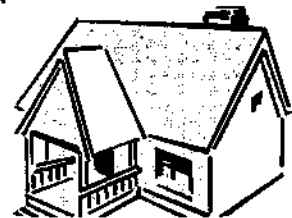


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Kathleen Cooper is an experienced designer and project manager, who specializes in historic homes of West Adams. Free consult, 323-731-6360.

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WAHA's Annual No Excuses Calendar

September:

Saturday, September 13 — WAHA new member event

Saturday, September 27: Living History Tour at Angelus Rosedale Cemetery

October:

Sunday, October 26 — Frightful Halloween Festival

December:

Saturday & Sunday, December 6 and 7 — Holiday Tour

Sunday, December 14 — WAHA Holiday Party

WAHA's Board of Directors usually meets on the 4th Thursday of the month, at 7 p.m. WAHA members may attend. Check with the WAHA president for specific details of location and date, and/or if you wish to have an item placed on an agenda.

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

Calendar ✓

WAHA's Upcoming Events

WAHA events and other programs of interest:

Saturday, September 13:

WAHA New Member Dessert
(see story, page 1)

Saturday, September 27:

Living History Tour at Angelus Rosedale Cemetery
(see story, page 1)

Saturday afternoon, October 18:

WAHA Stroll in Arlington Heights



**LIVING HISTORY TOUR
ANGELUS ROSEDALE CEMETERY
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27**

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