

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

# NEWSLETTER



Number 190

February 2002

## A Patriotic Afternoon

*Wear red, white and blue!* WAHA members will have a treat this month when they visit Patriotic Hall on Saturday, February 16th for our monthly meeting.

Through the years, the ten-story Patriotic Hall on Figueroa Street has been a familiar sight to those who have traveled the freeways near downtown Los Angeles. Designed by the Allied Architects as a manifestation of the City Beautiful Movement, Patriotic Hall stands today as a historical icon amidst an ever changing skyline.

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs began with the purchase of a three-story abandoned church building located on the side of the present staff's parking lot, prior to 1900. That building was remodeled and became known as Victory Hall. Following World War I, Victory Hall was soon outgrown and plans were laid to create a new multi-story building. Patriotic Hall, as we see it today, was opened to the public in September 1926.

Owned and operated by the County of Los Angeles, Patriotic Hall is a practical and living memorial to veterans. It was dedicated by the Board of Supervisors in 1926. Members of the Grand Army of the Republic, veterans of Indian Wars, Spanish American War veterans and World War I veterans were among the first to use the facilities. The building was designed by Allied Architects Association and has been awarded the Certificate of Honor by the Southern California chapter of the American Society of Architects because of its

exceptional merit. Its design is Romanesque with fine vaulted arch construction in the lobby.

Patriotic Hall is home to a treasure of military memorabilia, artifacts and documents from the American Revolution through the recent Middle East War.

For over 70 years the facility has supported the county veterans community and has also served the general public. Patriotic Hall currently provides facilities for more than 4,500 events each year. Many Federal, County, State and local groups utilize the building regularly.

## Workshop Slated for Proposed "West Adams Terrace" HPOZ

You are invited to attend a community meeting about the proposed "West Adams Terrace" Historic Preservation Overlay Zone (HPOZ) - an area encompassing Kinney Heights, West Adams Avenues and the adjacent areas from Western to Crenshaw, between Adams Boulevard and the Santa Monica Freeway.

The workshop is scheduled for Monday, February 25, from 5 - 8 p.m. at the Clark Library, 2520 Cimarron Street.

A survey conducted by Historic Resources Group in 2001 for the Department of City Planning found that 75% of the structures in the proposed "West Adams Terrace" HPOZ are historically significant, including several buildings which are 100 years old.

At the workshop you can talk with Planning Department staff about how an HPOZ works and how it will affect your property.

An HPOZ is a zoning designation which requires that alterations to the exterior of properties within the zone be subject to review by a five-member HPOZ Board. In a residential neighborhood, three members of the Board must be owners or renters who reside within the HPOZ. The purpose of an HPOZ is to maintain the historical character of the buildings and landscape within a historical area.

Docents from the William Andrews Clark Library will also be available to answer questions and conduct tours of the Library.

### **A Patriotic Afternoon**

### **WAHA General Meeting at Patriotic Hall**

**Saturday, February 16, 1-4 p.m.**

**1816 South Figueroa  
(just north of Washington)**

**Guided Tour of the Building  
Potluck meal: Bring a Patriotic Dish**

**Contact Greg (323/734-7725) or  
Alma (323/737-2060) for more information**

**WEST ADAMS  
HERITAGE ASSOCIATION**

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Historic West Adams  
Los Angeles, California 90018  
323/ 735-WAHA  
[www.neighborhoodlink.com/lla/westadams](http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/lla/westadams)

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**WAHA Committee Chairs and  
Standing Meetings**

**Community Outreach** Contact Jacqueline Sharps if you'd like to get involved with this activity 323/766-8842

**Historic Preservation/Zoning & Planning**

Chairs: Eric Bronson 323/737-1163 and Tom Florio 213/749-8469 - Meets third Mondays at City Living Realty, 2316 1/2 South Union, Suite 2

**Newsletter** Chair: John Deaven 323/737-7761 Meets December 11th and then on third Tuesdays in 2002

**Membership** Chair: John Kurtz 323/732-2990 - Meets the Wednesday before the WAHA Board Meeting

**Holiday Tour** Call Jacqueline Sharps 323/766-8842.

**Fundraising** Call Catherine Barrier 323/732-7233

**Web Site** Call Clayton de Leon 323/734-0660

**Neighborhood Council Liaisons** Contact Colleen Davis 323/733-0446 and Jean Frost 213/748-1656

**Programs and Events** Greg Stegall 323/734-7725 and Alma Carlisle 323/737-2060

The **WAHA Board** meets on the fourth Thursday of each month. Contact Jacqueline Sharps for location.

*All committee meetings begin at 7 p.m. All WAHA members are encouraged to join one of the committees!*

## WAHA NEWS

### Neighborhood Prosecutor Program Passed by City Council

The City Council voted overwhelming approval for the new Neighborhood Prosecutor's Program in a 12 to 1 vote by the full City Council in a packed January 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo praised the leadership and vision of Councilmember Pacheco who helped pass the proposal in a 3-1 vote in the Budget and Finance Committee last month. Councilmembers Hahn, LaBonge, Garcetti, Ridley-Thomas, Reyes, Padilla, Pacheco, Bernson, Holden, Zine, Weiss, and Perry voted in favor of the program. The proposal will now go to the Mayor's Office for final approval.

"The passage of the Neighborhood Prosecutors program represents a wonderful victory for the neighborhoods of Los Angeles," said Delgadillo. "Through community based prosecution, we can better address the needs of our citizens and create stronger links between our City government and the communities it is designed to serve."

This new program proposed by the City Attorney's Office will bring needed City resources to communities and empower neighborhoods to improve public safety. The proposal provides for the funding of eighteen experienced Prosecutors to be assigned to each of the Los Angeles Police Divisions throughout the City. These prosecutors will work closely with community leaders and LAPD to identify smaller quality of life crimes such as vandalism, prostitution and graffiti that slowly erode neighborhoods and help residents come up with effective solutions to prevent urban decay in their communities.

The City Council authorized staff additions and expenditures to implement the new program, transferring \$2,020,241 from the City Attorney's fund for Extraordinary Liability Claims" to create six months' funding of the program. In addition, the Council authorized the City Attorney to launch a comprehensive and effectively coordinated community outreach campaign so that communities know that this program exists and how to access its resources to enhance public safety.

The new area Neighborhood Prosecutors are also expected to spend one day per month in the districts working with the Council District staff to enhance and coordinate this program, according to the City Council action.

#### Here's a fun WEB site:

The Los Angeles Public Library has assembled several pages worth of photos from the old Herald-Express morgue. You can click on the small pictures to get a large image.

<http://www.lapl.org/photo/extra/index.html>

### Get Your Street Lights Repaired - NOW

by John Kurtz

The December issue of the WAHA Newsletter quoted a recent L.A. Times article urging people to report faulty street lights for repair. The article said recent improvements were made to increase the efficiency of the improvement program with the goal of repairing faulty lighting in 72 hours.

Remembering how many calls/threats/reminders it has taken to keep the street lamp in front of my house working, I decided to test this new program with a blinking street lamp down the street. I accessed the site via the Internet reporting the problem on Monday. On Tuesday I received an email confirmation of the request for repair. Wednesday evening I noticed the lamp was repaired.

Have you ever known something in the City of LA to be done in such a short period of time and as promised? As it turns out, there really is a first time for everything!

Here is the contact information:

Bureau of Street Lighting, Report Faulty Street Lights  
- (800) 303-LAMP (5267)

Web site - [WWW.lacity.org/BSL](http://WWW.lacity.org/BSL)

email - [streetlighting@bsl.lacity.org](mailto:streetlighting@bsl.lacity.org)

### WAHA Financial Primer

In 1992, the Membership Committee sponsored a series of workshops for a limited group about PERSONAL FINANCIAL PLANNING. Topics included budgeting, taxes, retirement planning, refinancing, basic accounting practices, investments, and estate planning.

As part of the membership benefits the committee is exploring again sponsoring these classes in the late spring or early summer.

If you are interested in this type of activity, please call Membership Chair John Kurtz (323/732-2990) and let him know. (Leave your name and number if you get an answering machine.) If there is enough interest this opportunity will be scheduled for a small group of participants.

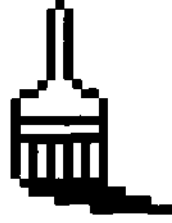
### Calling All Film Stars

For a future story in the WAHA newsletter, we'd like to know if your home has had a starring role in a feature film, television series, or music video (please, no aging heavy metallists). This is a basic Who-What-When request: tell us the name of the film or other project, who starred in it, and, if you can remember, the year of release. Please send the information to Newsletter Editor Laura Meyers ([lauramink@aol.com](mailto:lauramink@aol.com)).



## Bolts and Nutz

by Linda Joshua



*Hello and welcome to "Bolts and Nutz" – a column dedicated to matters of home renovation and the art of restoration within the WAHA community. If you have a question, or you have an area of expertise and would be interested in sharing your knowledge by answering the questions, please contact me via e-mail at [Linda\\_Joshua@hotmail.com](mailto:Linda_Joshua@hotmail.com)*

**Q. Although my granite countertop is new and I paid to have it sealed, it stained the first time I used it (a caterer left a pan with a greasy bottom on it for 6 hours). I want to know how to re-seal it/have it done and/or test to see if it is indeed sealed and if my situation was unusual.**

**Marianne Muellerleile, Los Angeles**

First of all, I'm jealous! A granite kitchen countertop is a fabulous choice – it looks gorgeous and it's tough. It is hardy enough to endure a lifetime of knife-chopping, dish-dropping, and hot pots without looking its age, and for the most part, it does not stain. There are a couple of exceptions to this, as you found out.

Water left on a granite countertop for a long period of time will show evidence of moisture. It will however evaporate quite quickly and the spot will disappear. Oil will also stain a granite surface if not caught in time, and you have a situation where the oil has actually been absorbed into the stone.

A poultice may be applied to draw the oil back out of the stone. Make a paste of flour or cornstarch and a 3-percent hydrogen peroxide solution. Spread it on the stain, cover it with plastic wrap, and let it sit for a few hours; then wash it off. Check with a professional source for special care instructions or commercial stain fighters. Even if you do nothing, the oil will naturally redistribute itself in the stone over time until it becomes virtually undetectable.

Onto your question about re-sealing! It is recommended that you re-seal your countertop once every six months. It is a simple wipe on, wipe off procedure that takes about the same amount of time as a general cleaning. For more information on the ins and outs of living with stone countertops, as well as cleaning products and services, start with the two websites listed below.

[http://stoneindustry.com/  
board/index.html](http://stoneindustry.com/board/index.html)  
<http://www.stonecare.com>

**Q. Please let me know what I am doing wrong! I have some prints I want to hang on my plaster walls, but whenever I try, the plaster surface cracks and crumbles, and I wind up with a big hole in the wall.**

**Lisa, 27<sup>th</sup> Street**

**A.** The chipped, cracked, plaster look not the kind you're going for, huh? Well then, I would suggest that when you use nail-in picture hangers, you nail through a patch of masking tape. The tape should reinforce the surrounding plaster enough to prevent chipping or cracking. This would also apply when you drill a hole for a toggle

bolt. When drilling, let the bit do the work, and don't press on it. Once you're through the plaster, apply even less pressure or you could damage the plaster keys that hold the plaster to the lathe.

Another option is to attach picture-rail molding, if your old home doesn't already have one. The top edge of the molding has a projecting lip that's designed to hold hook-type hangers. Position the picture-rail molding a few inches below the crown molding.

**Q. We have a great yard, but we want to remove a 4-ft.-high chain-link fence and replace it with a wood fence. The current fence has 2-in.-dia. steel posts that are set in concrete, and we don't want to dig these up. After removing the chain link, is it possible to attach a wood fence to the steel posts?**

**Pat, Bungalows**

You're in luck! There are companies that have products designed for attaching a wood fence to steel posts. This is done with metal ties that bolt directly to the existing steel fence post and these have flanges for attaching horizontal rails. After setting this up, one would then nail or screw vertical fence boards or pickets to the horizontal rails. The boards are typically secured to the side of the fence that faces the street or an adjoining property; the back of the fence should be visible from your yard. In fact, some building codes even require this best-face-forward design.

A good place to start is [www.strongtie.com](http://www.strongtie.com)

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## Protecting the South Seas House

by John Deaven

If you drive by the South Seas House at 24<sup>th</sup> Street and Arlington Avenue, you will notice something new there. The roof currently has a protective tarp on it. WAHA member and architect Michele McDonough, who in 2000 was hired by the Department of Recreation and Parks' Board of Commissioners to do the South Seas House, was worried about the house's worn roof and the upcoming rains. Michele asked the WAHA Board of Directors to consider providing a tarp for the roof. According to Michele, construction on the South Seas House may not start until 2002. Meanwhile, the rains could do a severe amount of damage because the roof has leaks.

WAHA Vice-President Eric Bronson spearheaded this project, and on Sunday, Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>, a group of WAHA members put the tarps in place. They

used two 20' X 30' gray tarps and a couple of smaller blue ones. The roof crew consisted of Eric, along with James Dugan and Adam Janeiro. The ground crew consisted of Robert Totten (and his 40' ladder), Edward Saunders, and Francisco George, along with Michele. New WAHA Board member Catherine Barrier got lunch for the crew. It was an all-day project, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Two days later, Los Angeles had its first good rain!

The South Seas House has been nominated as a L.A. Historic Cultural Monument. Laura Meyers once did the paperwork for it, but, to date, the house has been neither approved nor turned down. For those in our neighborhood who love the uniqueness of this 1902 house, we remain hopeful, despite the slow progress by its current owner, the Department of Recreation and Parks.

## Tour 7 HPOZs (Or, Volunteer to Help)

The L. A. Conservancy is looking for volunteer docents to help out on its April 7th tour of seven HPOZs, three of which are in West Adams. Docents in the houses will work split shifts, between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Contact: Jane McNamara, 213/430-4210 or e-mail, [jmcmamara@laconservancy.org](mailto:jmcmamara@laconservancy.org).

## New Member Discount

Magic Care Termite Service is now offering a 15% discount on any of their services. Magic Care has provided prompt and professional fumigation and treatment services since 1993 and has done much work in the West Adams area, including at least two houses on my street alone.

Besides offering fumigation and local treatments, Magic Care performs construction repairs due to termite damage, installs bathroom floors and shower stalls, and offers no cost/no obligation inspections for termite activity. Magic Care did a great job replacing flooring as well as structural members in our house before we closed escrow and went above and beyond the call of duty to make sure we were completely happy, absorbing the incremental cost of providing a higher-grade material for the job. They also stopped by our house on short notice to investigate possible swarming at the rear of the house (false alarm, thank goodness). Finally, they treated dry rot damage to one window and to our eaves.

Although Magic Care provides service to realtors, this discount can only be taken by homeowners. To schedule a termite inspection, call Rattana, his wife Jennifer, or assistant Nancy, and identify yourself as a WAHA member. They can be reached at 310/320-6700 (fax 310/320-6794) and are located at 1840 W. 220<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 320, Torrance, CA 90501. As always, please be sure to mention your WAHA discount and be prepared to show your membership card to their technician to receive the discount.

### Preservation Begins At Home



## City Living Realty

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#### For Sale:

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#### Sold and Welcome to the Neighborhood:

- \* Leland Saito, 1201 W. 37th Drive
- \* Joellen Williamson, 1229 3rd Avenue
- \* Jane McNamara and John Oddy, 2420 5th Avenue
- \* Karen Howell, 3106 S. Brighton

Thank you to all our clients in 2001. It is through the efforts of each of you that West Adams is a great place to live! Best wishes for a prosperous and healthy 2002.

*Our New Offices are in the Victorian Village  
2316 1/2 Union Avenue Suite 2 \* 213/747-1337*

## Through My Eyes Only

### The 2001 Holiday Tour

By John B. Deaven

For the past five years my family has kicked off our Christmas season by volunteering in Jean Cade's kitchen at Fran Carraway's "Salad House." Since '97, we have created and served salads at Gramercy Park, Westchester Place, Wellington Road, and Harvard Boulevard. For the 2001 tour, the Salad House was at the beautiful Denker Estate at 3820 W. Adams Boulevard, an excellent example of The Beaux Artes Style of architecture. It is Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument #591.

My 14-year-old daughter Peggy Sue likes to help create the salads. My wife Nancy is a good sport about washing endless dirty dishes, and my 12-year-old son Joe and I tend to enjoy busing dirty plates back to the kitchen, thus allowing me to see who's passing through the main rooms during the tour. Our salad house volunteers consisted of Steve and Phoebe Heywood, Hazel Gooden-Jones, Pam McCreight, Norma Reyes, and WAHA board member Anna Marie Brooks. Plus, board member SeElcy Caldwell, who dropped by to say hello, got us two additional recruits: her first cousin, Dorothy Huffman, and her good friend,

Marsha Trotter. Thanks, SeElcy. Lovely music was supplied by actor Joe Symon playing the living room piano.

In one of the 1<sup>st</sup> groups, I spotted my good WAHA friends Allen and Zhenya King. They are expecting their 1<sup>st</sup> child in March, and I am so happy for them. Showing up as shepherds were Bob Bortfeld Award recipient Joe Ryan, the Rosedale Cemetery Tour originator, and Chuck Roche. It was a thrill to see them again since they sold their historic house on Manhattan Place, here in L.A., and they are currently living in Monrovia, while waiting for their future house to be built in Central California. I love listening to Joe Ryan. He's a walking encyclopedia about the early history of L.A.

Meanwhile, my son Joe was glad to see his WAHA peer Ian Davis taking the tour with his parents, Mary Ann Hutchison and Ben Davis, and I was encouraged to see two LAPD officers from the Southwest Division taking the tour, Officer Osvaldo Castillo and Officer Julius Wells. WAHA's favorite photographer, Harry Demas, appeared on the scene to record the entire evening, asking us to pose here and

there, and we gladly obliged. WAHA President and Holiday Tour Co-Chair Jacqueline Sharps greeted us in the kitchen with well wishes for the season, along with Pass President Linda Scribner. Jacqueline's co-chair was Lindsay Wiggins, and it was definitely a pleasure to see her again. Plus, I enjoyed greeting WAHA member Lionel LaBeaud, who was taking the tour. Did you enjoy it, Lionel?

In between groups, I ran across the boulevard to the Dryden Residence, the "Hors d'oeuvres House", to take a quick peek. I was greeted by Lynda Reiss on the front porch. The interior was stunningly decorated, both permanently and for the season. The credit goes to the current owners, Eric and Greg Wolfson-Sagot, and to the house captain, Newsletter Editor and recent Bob Bortfeld Award recipient Laura Meyers. A familiar face, Joyce Albers, was docenting in the living room, and hospitable Ron Jarman was serving drinks. Ron, of course, was all smiles and making small talk to each guest that he served. It wouldn't be a WAHA function without Ron. Jim Dugan was perfectly dressed as a butler serving the hors d'oeuvres and his wife, board member Catherine Barrier, was working in the kitchen, along with kitchen captain and fellow board member Eric Bronson. I ran back to the salad house before I was missed, and I ran right into Judy Schoening on the sidewalk who planned this year's tour menu, along with husband Alan.

Then came a great many familiar WAHA faces through our salad house. This included Rory Cunningham, David Pacheco, Suzanne and Frank Cooper, Robert Leary (in a handsome tux), Peggy King, Past President Corinne Pleger and Dave Pleger (in historical costumes with matching plaid), Don and Suzanne Henderson (in a grand full-length fur coat), Robert Totten, and my 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue neighbors: board member Clay de Leon and Cat Slater.

By now the last tour came through our salad house, which in-

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## BLOCK CLUB & NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS



### Adams-Normandie Neighborhood Association (ANNA)

We had a large turnout at the first meeting of the new year hosted by the Dix family. After all standing reports were given we got into a heated debate on the final design for the pilasters for the El Paseo Project. Committee work yielded three designs, all meritorious. After one vote and then a run off vote we settled on a 5'x 18"x18" combination cement and metal column. We intend to have the eight pillars in place by the end of March.

January 19 will be spent directing 40 children in the final painting of the Paseo mural under the

guidance of muralist Willie de Jesus. El Pollo Loco has underwritten the lunch for the volunteers.

Two new standing committees were formed with Alisha Keyes-Dix heading Meeting Coordination and Roberta Quiroz heading the Welcome Wagon.

January is our membership drive which will end after our February drawing for all new and renewed members. The new roster will be delivered at the March meeting.

February is Black History Month which will be celebrated by members sharing quotes and /or stories by famous or noteworthy Blacks.

In December, we discussed Phase II of the Paseo Project which in-

cludes putting up a mural and doing some cement restoration work.

Ruben Bolanos was the Project Manager on our annual baking for the LAPD, Fire Station and our Postman. About ten members brought an assortment of goodies delivered on December 15.

The majority of the meeting was dedicated to strategic planning for 2002. In addition to our many annual events we've added a few things: a return trip to Descanso Gardens, a walking tour of architectural downtown L.A., an ANNA picnic and tour of the Clark Library, tickets for the Last Remaining Seats series, the Ahmanson and the Hollywood Bowl. We also hope to take a tour of the Fashion District at one of the regularly scheduled Saturday morning trolley runs.

The December meeting adjourned to the annual Mexican Christmas Dinner given by our hosts, Rosie Villagran and Marco Flores. That just may be the main reason we get such a good turnout!

*Block Club and Neighborhood News is an important and integral part of the WAHA Newsletter -- a place for us to share ideas, information, and upcoming events. To publicize future events, you must provide the information to the newsletter well in advance, no later than the first of the prior month (eg: August 1 for the September issue). To submit "News from Around the Blocks," please contact Michael S. Smith at 323/734-7725. You may also e-mail information to mikegreg@pacbell.net, or fax to 213/894-5335 (please address to Mike Smith).*

### Through My Eyes Only Continued from page 6

cluded Kevin and Janet Keane, the homeowners of this year's check-in house. The Deavens were all tired and wanting to go home! However, on my own, I went to see the "Main Course House" and the "Dessert House." The main course house was the Dr. Grandville MacGowan Residence at 3726 W. Adams Blvd., L.A. Historic-Cultural Monument #479. This 14,500-sq. ft., 26-room mansion, on a 1/2 acre, is, according to our WAHA Newsletter, for sale, for a mere \$1,300,000.00. Meanwhile, five round tables with 10 place settings each were ready for four guests to enjoy Lamb and Chicken Skewers served with a Yogurt-Cucumber Sauce. The house captains were Past President Lauren Schlau and her

partner, Lana Soroko. No sooner did I walk in, Lana said to me, "John, would you like to help serve?" I did. A familiar face at this house was Ann Dorr, owner of University Park HPOZ's favorite Victorian, the "Pink Lady" (Durfee House/LA H-C Mon. #273). Entertainment at the MacGowan mansion was supplied by Pris & Chris Haffenden, the "Still Yet More Chamber Players." If you have never heard them play, you haven't been attending your WAHA functions regularly.

Once everyone was served, I quietly sneaked off for the final location, The Guasti Villa/Busby Berkeley Estate at 3500 W. Adams Blvd., L.A. H-C Monument #478. On the way, on the sidewalk, I ran into board member Tom Florio, busily going from house to house. Inside the Guasti Villa were Ralph Robinson and Bob Pedersen in matching tuxedos, along with WAHA members Laurette Lavin

and Wilbert Hawkins. The mansion is currently owned by the Movement of Spiritual Inner Awareness (MSIA). Carol Jones, who lives and works at the Guasti Villa for MSIA coordinated us being there. Along with Carol, I met three other ladies all living at the Villa, and they were Marie Leighton, Esther Jantzen, and Kelly Forrister. All four ladies were dressed like 1920 flappers. I complimented Carol on the plentiful and beautiful white holiday lights covering the front arches, roof line, pillars, and back lawn trees. Carol told me to credit their craftsman Juan Roberto Shultz and his crew for painstakingly putting them up. It made the Villa look like a fairy palace, perfect for a grand finale location.

By now I was ready to go home, and I just had a few short blocks to walk to 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue. As I walked passed Fran Carraway's home, I heard her call my name. There, in the silence of the evening, we exchanged notes and gossip about the 2001 Holiday Tour. Isn't that what WAHA people do best?

## Resources Judie Schoening

This will be a quick column this month as I don't really have much to report to you. I would like to recommend Scott Lamb Catering. Scott is who delivered the volunteer dinners to all of the houses on the Tour this year. He also catered the Volunteer party at Fais Do Do and I attended a lovely private dinner which he did. All of the foods were quite different and quite differently presented. The next time you cater something do think of him as well as Jim Benton of Papa Cristo's. As you know, Jim did much of the food served to our Tour guests. They also offer a discount on catering to WAHA members. Don't forget their Greek family-style dinners on Thursdays. Reservations are necessary.

Aisha Abdur-Rahman wrote to say that she was sorry to have recommended Mary Whitehead (See last

### 24th Street Theatre's Explorer Series for Kids

24th Street Theatre has been one of the leaders in Arts Education since its beginning five years ago. In February and March, the 24th Street Theatre offers a Saturday Explorer series, programs which may be of interest to WAHA members, their families and their teachers, including:

**MEMORIES** February 16th, 1pm

*Bulgarian superstar, Krassimir, internationally famous as a mime and pop opera singer, performs this poignant tale of a lonely old mime who lives now only through his memories. Best for ages 5-9yrs*

**CINDY SINGS THE BLUES** February 23rd, 1pm

*Piano, tip jar, torch song singer, spot light, everything but the alcohol. Come sing along in this cabaret for all ages, because Life is Cabaret, at least when Cindy White is in the room. Best for ages 5-9yrs*

**THE CAMPERS** March 2nd, 1pm

*Two neophyte backpackers set off on the Camping Trip from Hell in this wordless theatrical comedy by performers Robert Christophe and Kim Waldauer. Best for ages 5-12yrs*

**THE NIGHT THE MOON LANDED ON 39TH STREET**

March 9th, 1pm

*Blast off for the outer reaches of imagination and the deepest regions of the heart as performance artist Dan Kwong presents this hilarious and poignant celebration of human wonder. Ages 12 and up.*

**BEAKMAN IN PERSON** March 16th, 1pm

*Based on the Emmy winning childrens science educational TV show Beakmans World, this series of simple yet fun science demonstrations has plenty of audience participation and the trademark goofy Beakman humor. Best for ages 6 and up.*

**JUGGLING AND SOME /ANTICS** March 23rd, 1pm

*A funny, beautiful, thoughtful show featuring master storyteller and social satirist Sara Felder, whose gentle but incisive humor recalls Lily Tomlin or Jerry Seinfeld ... if they could juggle. Best for ages 8 and up.*

**BILL'S NEW FROCK** March 30th, 1pm

*Mark Taper Forum's P.L.A.Y. presents this light hearted and imaginative satire of gender stereotyping, adapted from the novel by Anne Fine by the acclaimed Scottish theatre company, Visible Fictions.*

Admission is FREE Call to make reservations (213) 745-6516 or www.24street.org. 1117 West 24th (Corner of Hoover and 24th, right by USC).

month) as things ended up turning out badly. I have her description of the whole job if anyone would like a copy. What the bottom line is is that one should always hold back 10% of the cost of the job until it is completed to your satisfaction. I know we all think we are a marvelous judges of "character" but this advice turns up continually in all the publications we read about new or redo construction and it is good advice! Also remember that 10% or \$1000 (which ever is less) is the maximum prepayment you are required to put down and then you should have in writing a payment schedule. AND do hold back the last payment until the job is actually finished.

Finally there was an article in California Homeowner titled "Horror Story" about mechanic's lien which can result from unpaid sub-contractors or vendors. It re-emphasized the necessity of getting signatures from all sub-contractors and/or receipts marked paid before you tender that last payment to a contractor for any job, particularly the larger ones entailing larger amounts of money. You can be held liable for payments not completed by your Contractor even if you have paid in full.

Don't forget to email (schoening@mediaone.net) or Fax (323-733-3541) any ideas/new craftspersons or even questions. I will reply to any of the latter sooner than the next column.

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## A Thought for Food by Alan Schoening

**NO! NO! NO! A THOUSAND TIMES NO!!!!**

It began innocently enough in Mid-November. I crafted a minor pork, veal and beef liver terrine to give as a gift to our youngest daughter who lives in San Diego as a Thank You for inviting us to her home for Thanksgiving Dinner. Little did I know that we would be surrounded by 14 friends and family members who in turn surrounded the appetizer and drinks table, and in no time the terrine was gone along with several hunks of wonderful Brie, Gorgonzola and dry Salami, not to mention a large bottle of vodka and a tub full of Coronas. The day was warm, the nap in the sun delightful. And then, DINNER! A 20 lb. Turkey, a 10 lb. Leg of Wild Boar basted in Petit Syrah, prunes and fresh Shitake mushrooms, and all of the attendant veggies, savories, starches and much Chianti Classico, to be stuffed down our gullets with huge servings of pumpkin and cherry pies, whipped cream etc. The next day included a wonderful lunch at a Chinese restaurant where we gorged ourselves on Dim Sum and that wonderful sauce, Tsing Tau!

Waddling back to Los Angeles we vowed Never Again, and went to lie down before tackling dinner made from huge helpings of aforesaid leftover Thanksgiving dinner.

Being in charge of the Holiday Tour Menu, it necessitated several trips to Papa Christo's in order to purvey the comestibles we were considering to order for the catered dinner. The Dolmas slid right down the gullet, the spanakopitas melted in our mouths as we pulled the broiled lamb off the wooden skewers. The Baklava was so-so, as in to really die for and the Roditas was very refreshing. "No More! I cannot continue to eat like this!" he said, carrying his stomach home in his arms.

Faix Do Do! That's French for Volunteer party. Dough is English for the increasing ring lying atop my love-handles. No more afternoon parties for me.

Then there were the series of champagne parties, soup parties, progressive dinners as well as the occasional Burrito from Chabalita eaten take-out style along with a small beverage in our garden. This was when our San Diego daughter, Carina, made and sent up about 100 Xmas cookies after our other daughter, Lisa, made and delivered a wonderful liver and cognac and butter pate to Carina, leaving what seemed to be a 2 quart casserole of it for us. It was fabulous on stone-ground crackers at cocktail hour. I can't go on this way.

And as usual, my brother and I exchange food gifts. I send California pistachios, Monterey Jack cheese, California smoked salmon, and a nice Napa Cabernet. In exchange, we get 5 lbs. of summer sausage, cheddar, Swiss and brick cheeses and a jug of Wisconsin maple syrup. This obsession with food has to cease! Of course, Judie's brother then sent us a Care package from Takashimaya in New York. Rice vinegar, Japanese spices, kelp and konbu, and cookbooks. Just what we desperately need, more encouragement to cook more and newer foods.

At about this time Lisa has two visitors from Italy. Naturally they bring olive oil, Panatone and Parmagiana Reggiana. What, no Mortadella? By now my cholesterol and my belt are vying for the higher number. This is becoming unhealthy! Seriously!!! Naturally, while they made Rissoti de asparaggi, I countered with herbed baby back ribs on the Weber, along with a little pinot grigio. I can't do this!!!

After the debauchery of New Years Eve, I made a solemn vow to give it all up. My diet cocktail now consists of 3/4 cup of Sparkletts, add a dash of Evian, pour over ice and stir, do not shake, add one anchovy olive. **BON APPEDRINK!!!**

Oh, by the way, there is a dinner party tomorrow night. YUM! YUM!

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No cover charge at door

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9939 Canoga Avenue Chatsworth, CA 818/772-1721 (hours: by appointment only)  
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Boulevard Vacuum & Sewing Machine Company, 5086 W. Pico Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90019, (323) 938-2661  
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Discount of between 5-10%, on the purchase of 150 square yards or more of carpet, ceramic tile, wood flooring, and/or vinyl floor covering.

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*If you frequent a local business -- retail store, restaurant, service provider, etc. -- ask them if they would like to offer a discount to WAHA members. Explain that they would benefit from the increased exposure to many local consumers, and would be listed monthly in the WAHA newsletter. Or, call me at 323/733-6869 and I would be happy to contact them. -- Steve Wallis*

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Remember, the deadline is the 1st of the prior month!

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WAHA has a new e-mail address for all your classifieds! If you can, please send your classified ads to: [wahaclassifieds@yahoo.com](mailto:wahaclassifieds@yahoo.com)

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**OPEN YOUR DOORS TO THE WORLD!** Students attending a private English Language school on Wilshire near Mariposa are in need of room & board. These students are from Asia, Europe, & South America, mostly in their early to mid-twenties, & typically stay from two to six months. They pay \$750 per month for room, light breakfast, & supper. If you have an extra room in your house & would be interested in boarding one of these students, contact Peter Lownds at 213/386-1634.

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# WAHA February Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 WAHA General Meeting - Patriotic Hall
17	18 Preservation Zoning/ Planning Committee	19 Newsletter Committee	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 Membership Committee	28 Board Meeting		

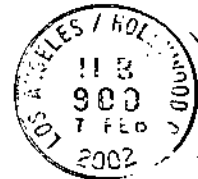
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