



West Adams Matters

South Seas House Nears Completion *by Laura Meyers*



For nearly a decade, we have referred to the South Seas House — that uniquely bewitching Edwardian-era residence with the steeply-pitched roof that sits on the corner of Arlington and 24th Street — as “a jewel in need of polish.” Since the 1980s, the residence had been a dilapidated eyesore. But now, the polishing is nearly complete, marking the successful salvation of a much-admired local landmark that sat on the brink of demolition for many years.

Since the beginning of the year, the South Seas House, originally built circa 1902, has been buffed and painted, re-roofed and new front door installed. Wooden fencing, based on the original, has been erected, and landscaping was being installed in late February. But these visible improvements come only at the end of a very long road, and a nine-month construction project.

(continued on page 12)

Park Renaming Ceremony - Saturday, March 1

Mayor James K. Hahn, Councilmember Nate Holden, the Department of Recreation and Parks and the Benny H. Potter Memorial Park Committee invites the community to the 2nd Avenue Park renaming ceremony and celebration on March 1, from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. The park is just west of the South Seas House at Arlington and 24th Street.

The new and official name is Benny H. Potter West Adams Avenues Memorial Park. The late Bennie Potter, a decorated World War II hero, devoted countless hours to helping his local West Adams Avenues community.

The Master of Ceremony for the event will be actress CCH Pounder. The ceremony includes vocal performances by the Holman Choir Jubilant Voices, representatives from the Mayor's office and the Recreation and Parks Department. Following the renaming ceremony will be a community festival type celebration including a basketball clinic and tournament, volleyball games, a speed skater demonstration with safety tips, face painting for the children, community and health services and a host of artist and crafts persons.

A day of fun is planned for the whole family.

And (shhh...) there's just a chance you'll also get a sneak preview of the South Seas House. ●

Share Potluck and Preservation Tips —

WAHA's March Meeting

Ever wonder what other preservation organizations are doing while we go about our West Adams business? How does Hollywood Heritage handle threatened tear downs of historic buildings? How does the Highland Park Heritage Trust raise money? What's the history of similar groups in Long Beach? What successes have they had in Altadena? Do they even have graffiti in Orange? What challenges do they face in Monrovia?

Our WAHA forum on Saturday, March 22, at 7. p.m. will give you an opportunity to meet representatives from other preservation groups over a potluck supper. Meet preservation allies and share an evening of discussion and fellowship. So often we work in isolation and don't really exchange ideas and experiences. We'll be able to do so now.

The venue is the 1910 Craftsman home of Board member Jennifer Charnofsky and Leslie Evans., L.A. Historic Cultural Monument #678, located at the south entrance to the Van Buren Place National Register District. It's also a Mills Act property. Location: 2657 Van Buren Pl., on the northwest corner of Van Buren and 27th St., between Normandie and Vermont. Enter on 27 as Van Buren is blocked off at Adams.

Potluck dinner: Bring a favorite dish to share, beverages provided. ●

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MEMBER DISCOUNTS

WAHA CLASSIFIEDS

CALENDAR

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WAHA Board Elections Are Coming

West Adams Heritage Association needs you! Annual Board elections are slated for April, and we'd like each of you to please consider running for a position on the WAHA Board of Directors. Requirements: a love of old houses, an enthusiasm for community activities, and membership in WAHA for at least six months. Generally speaking, Board members must commit to attend all WAHA Board meetings (usually held the fourth Thursday of each month) and also will be given specific responsibilities for certain of WAHA's events and social functions, on a rotating basis.

In addition, most Board members hold office or committee chairmanships. WAHA always needs expertise in fundraising, zoning issues, and preservation. But if you have a program you'd like to initiate, please don't hesitate discuss your ideas with President Jacqueline Sharps, and of course don't hesitate to join the board. Along with Jacqueline, any of the current members (listed on page 2 of this Newsletter) would be happy to talk to you about Board activities.

If you are interested, submit your candidate statement (a short paragraph, 100 - 200 words or so) to Publications Committee Chair, Anna Marie Brooks, by Sunday, March 2. Candidate Statements received by then will be published in the April Newsletter.

The Board members are the heart and soul of this organization. Without a full and competent Board of Directors, WAHA cannot function effectively. ●



The landmark Doheny Mansion, home of oil baron Edward L. Doheny and his wife, Carrie Estelle Doheny, will be open for tours on **Saturday, April 5th**. For details, see story on page 7.

Open Days: Private West Adams Gardens on Display

Six outstanding private gardens in West Adams will open to the public during the community's first annual Garden Open Days event on **Sunday, April 27** from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. to raise funds for the West Adams Heritage Association and the Garden Conservancy. Admission is \$5 per person and children under 12 are admitted for free.

Jennifer Charnofsky's Garden at the Furlong House, 2657 Van Buren Place, West Adams, is an organic garden that uses drought tolerant Mediterranean and California native plants suited to the Los Angeles climate. The rear vegetable garden, interspersed with flowers, uses the French intensive method (raised beds, double digging, close planting). The house is a gateway to a National Register District street, one of several districts in historic West Adams.

The West Adams *Marais Garden*, 2534 Ninth Avenue, is wild looking, with the multiplicity of textures that comes when trees, flowers, succulents, spiky plants, tall and wispy grasses and ground covers are jumbled together. *The Trospen-Raposa Garden*, 2515 Fourth Avenue, West Adams, is an Arts & Crafts garden updated: A symphony of foliage textures forms the framework for the red-and-white perennial arc. Behind the 1909 Craftsmen are a koi pond, hybrid roses, and a pergola covered with the original wisteria.

The Hutchinson Family Garden, 2176 West 24th Street, West Adams, was designed to be an extension of the owners' 1910 Craftsman house, both in design and plant choice. The series of garden rooms include: an open-air dining room with a citrus perimeter and a secret garden with trellised walls and perennial borders. *Le Parc Sans Soleil*, 2455 Gramercy Park Place, West Adams, is the former home of Los Angeles' park director in the 1920's. It features a collection of rare ferns complemented by many California specimen plants.

Fountains and marble lions stand guard at the *Peace Awareness Labyrinth & Gardens at the Guasti Villa*, 3500 West Adams Boulevard, West Adams. Visitors will walk through the entry court, grand ballroom, and out to the rotunda, where the two-level flagstone courtyard comes into view with reflecting pools, fountains, flowering plants, a rose-covered pergola, and a hand-cut stone labyrinth fashioned after the Chartres Cathedral Labyrinth.

The West Adams gardens will open under the auspices of the Open Days Program of the Garden Conservancy, the only national garden visiting program of its kind which has welcomed visitors to peek behind the gates of America's most captivating private gardens for the past eight years. In 2003, 378 gardens in 22 states will open on select weekends from March through October. All are listed in the Open Days Directory, a guide that includes maps, driving directions, photographs and detailed descriptions written by each owner. The 2003 edition costs \$15.95 (\$10.95) for Garden Conservancy members, plus \$4.50 for shipping. Discount coupons are available as well through advance mail order only. In 2003, the first regional edition of the Open Days Directory - The West Coast edition - will make its debut and will list over 100 private gardens in California Oregon and Washington. The cost for this edition is only \$5.00 (plus \$1.50 for shipping) and comes with one free garden admission offer. The West Coast gardens are listed in the national edition as well. Call the Garden Conservancy toll free at 1-888-842-2442, or order with a Visa or MasterCard, or send a check or money order to: The Garden Conservancy, PO. Box 219, Cold Spring, N.Y. 10516

The Garden Conservancy is the only national not-for-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of gardens. By inviting the public to visit private gardens through its Open Days Program, the Conservancy strives to strengthen the public's commitment to garden preservation and encourage the appreciation of gardens as living works of art. You can visit them online at www.gardenconservancy.org

We need volunteers! To help as a garden docent in our West Adams Gardens, contact Jennifer Charnofsky (323-734-7391) or Ed Trospen (323-734-2010). ●

“Le Parc Sans Soleil is the former home of Los Angeles' park director in the 1920s. It features a collection of rare ferns complemented by many California specimen plants.”

AT HOME WITH HISTORY

On **Sunday, April 6**, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., five diverse and distinctive Historic Preservation Overlay Zones will be showcased on the second annual "At Home with History" self-driving tour organized by the Los Angeles Conservancy, the HPOZ Alliance and the featured HPOZs, including two in West Adams - Harvard Heights and Lafayette Square. Reservations are a must! Tickets: \$30 (\$25 for Conservancy members). Call 213-430-4219.

Bolts and Nutz

Linda Joshua

Hello and welcome to "Bolts and Nutz" – a column dedicated to matters of home renovation, beautification 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 at Linda_Joshua@hotmail.com

No questions this month, so we will look at how you can use vinegar around the home. Vinegar, because of its mild acetic nature, is useful for many cleaning tasks, and it is inexpensive and safe. Make sure to use white vinegar, not expensive culinary vinegars.

Deodorant Stains: Lightly rub stains with vinegar then launder as usual.

Non-oily Stains such as wine, fruit juice, alcoholic drinks, coffee, tea, soft drinks: for washable clothing, either dab the area with a clean soft cloth dampened in vinegar or soak the garment in mixture of 3 parts vinegar to one part cool water. For upholstery and carpeting, mix 2 tsp. vinegar with 2 tsp. detergent in 2 cups lukewarm water. Apply with a brush. Rinse and blot dry.

Gum: Vinegar will remove chewing gum from a carpet, fabric, and upholstery.

Furniture: Use 3 TBS vinegar to 1 quart water as a polish. Wipe with a soft cloth moistened with the solution. Polish with a soft, dry cloth.

Hardwood Floors: Use the same formula as for furniture to wipe down your refinished hardwood floors.

Water Rings: Remove water rings from wooden furniture by applying a solution made of equal parts olive oil and vinegar.

Leather Furniture: Bring 2 cups linseed oil to a boil for 1 minute, cool. Stir in 1 cup vinegar. Shake well and apply with a soft, dry cloth.

Pots and Pans: For brass, bronze, and copper-mix vinegar with baking soda or salt to make a paste. Once the tarnish is removed, rinse with water. To keep copper pans shiny, wipe with a solution of vinegar and salt after each use.

Dishes: Add a capful of vinegar to cut grease.

Bottles, Jars, and Vases: Remove chalky mineral film by pouring in vinegar. Let stand a few minutes or longer. Shake and brush vigorously.

Aluminum: Remove dark stains inside aluminum utensils by adding vinegar to boiling water and simmering until clean.

Season New Skillet: Boil vinegar in the skillet to keep food from sticking.

Stickers, Decals, Glue: Apply vinegar directly to remove.

Odors: Perspiration odors can be removed by wiping the article with vinegar.

Room Odors: Place bowls of vinegar in the room to remove smoke, vomit, or other odors.

As a repellent: To repel ants, spray area with a solution of equal parts water and vinegar. To repel cats in the garden, soak pieces of paper in vinegar and put around the garden. To deter fleas and ticks, add 1 tsp. of vinegar to a quart of your pet's drinking water.

Frost-free windshield: Sponge the windshield with a solution of 3 parts vinegar to 1 part water.

Mildew: Use vinegar full strength for clothing, furniture, bathroom fixtures, and shower curtains.

Whiten Clothes: Add 1_ cups vinegar to rinse water to brighten clothes. ●

All About Vinegar, the Miracle Cleaner

Resources *Dorrie Popovich*

West Adams is nothing if not serendipitous. Recently, I've been getting recommendations mostly for plumbers, and all have gotten rave reviews. So this column will be devoted entirely to that much-needed resource.

Laura Meyers and David Raposa recommend Brian A. Kaiser. They say he's reliable, his prices are reasonable, and, Laura adds, "He's really cute, too."

Anna Marie Brooks speaks highly of Jose Navidad at Davidson Plumbing. He's done a lot of work for WAHA residents and his specialty is total replumbing which he did for Don Lynch.

Leah Griffith was really pleased with Larry Jones of LJ Plumbing. She said he was easy to reach, prompt and didn't charge for the first visit when the leak couldn't be found because she had inadvertently turned off the water. Larry also teaches plumbing part time at Trade Tech.

And finally, Laura Meyers recommends Martin Plumbing Supply as a resource for rare Chicago Faucet parts. Many of us have Chicago Faucets in our old houses and parts are practically impossible to find on the West Coast. Martin works with a distributor for Chicago Faucet. Although this outlet is officially a wholesaler, you can walk right in and they'll sell to you retail.

We have always used Culver Plumbing ourselves. But sadly, I have just learned that the business is up for sale because of the exorbitant increases in small business fees and permits. So, I want to thank all of you for your recommendations because I'm sure that, sooner or later, I will be needing a plumber myself. And now I have a wealth of resources to choose from.

Keep those resources coming! I get lots of e-mail thanking me for your recommendations. Once again, you can e-mail me at Popovich22@AOL.com.

Plumbers

Brian A. Kaiser
2629 Glendale Blvd, Los Angeles 90039
213-706-1743

Jose Navidad
Davidson Plumbing
1116 W. 24th Street (at Hoover)
213-749-1046

Larry Jones
LJ Plumbing
P.O. Box 2906
Inglewood, California 90305
323-235-1496
213-307-2248 (pager)

Martin Plumbing Supply Co.
(resource for Chicago Faucet parts)
2528 James M. Wood Drive
213-385-1162

Around the Blocks

Budlong, Juliet and Catalina Block Club's Little Victory

Beginning on Sept. 5, 2002, the Budlong, Juliet and Catalina Block Club continuously sent letters to the City of Los Angeles with regard to the increased traffic on 24th Street between Normandie and Vermont where cars were traveling unsafe speeds on these streets with only one stop sign to stagger their speed. It became a major concern for all the residents, as we have seen many accidents and heard many cars skidding down the street trying to prevent from hitting pedestrians.

Our specific request was for the City to put "All Way" stop signs on Raymond, Juliet and Catalina crossing 24th Street. The City conducted the traffic study and only Catalina and 24th Street met the City criteria for the "All Way" stops signs to be installed. As of January 21, Catalina and 24th Street have "All Way" stops signs. There is a Speed Hump petition being circulated to continue combating the problem.

Also the BJC Block Club's New Neighborhood Watch Signs the (BIG BLUE EYE) were installed in January throughout various parts of West Adams and members are proudly displaying small placards with the (BIG BLUE EYE) in their front yards.

If you are interested in any of these activities, please contact Yvette Jones by e-mail at vetvet@aol.com or visit our website at <http://hometown.aol.com/bjblockclub/index.html> ●

ANNA-ADAMS NORMANDIE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSN.

Our February meeting was well attended and uneventful. After hearing standing committee reports, we decided to revisit the Paseo as our April Earth Day Project by cleaning, weeding, replanting and generally sprucing up the area.

We ended our successful membership drive with an exciting drawing where nearly half of those in attendance went home with a prize. Our new roster will come out in March listing the many area businesses that have sponsored ANNA activities. ●

Neighborhoods Congress

It's time for the Congress of Neighborhoods "TeamWork LA" 2003!

When: Saturday, April 5

Where: Los Angeles Convention Center

Time: 9:00 am-10:00 am Registration,
10:00 am-5:00 pm Workshops

Contact us toll-free at 1 866 LA HELPS.

Stepping Out

'Tis the Luck o' the Irish

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with music plus a hearty Irish supper and libations at the historic Durfee House, 1007 W. 24th Street, from 6 - 10 p.m. on March 15 (corner of Toberman and 24th Street, one block east of Hoover. Parking is available.) The event benefits the Sunshine Mission/ Casa de Rosas, LA's oldest continually operating shelter for women.

Back by popular demand is the group VoiceOver (Monte and Claire Montgomery, Tina Saddington) the trio who dazzled guests the last two years. Suggested donation: \$40.00 per person (tax deductible as allowed by law.)

Please RSVP by mailing your reservation and donation to: Casa de Rosas Inc., 2600 So. Hoover, L.A., Ca. 90007, Att. Steve Knight. Your donation helps provide housing and supportive services for homeless and at risk women in a safe and supportive environment.

For more information, contact: Steve Knight 213-747-7419. ●

Women's History Month

Celebrate Woman's History Month with the two-part program, "Sojourners for Truth: The Legacy of Beah Richards and Charlotta Bass." Performance artist S. Pearl Sharp will present a dramatic reading of excerpts from "There's a Brown Girl in the Ring," personal essays by actress/activist Beah Richards authored with S. Pearl Sharp. Professor Regina Freer will share her research and insights on Charlotta Bass (publisher of *The California Eagle* from 1912 to 1951) as a community activist at the intersection of race, gender and politics. Southern California Library for Social Studies and Research, 6120 Vermont Avenue (between Slauson and Gage). Saturday, March 15, 2 p.m. Refreshments served. Suggested donation: \$5 but no one will be turned away for lack of funds. Children free. 323-759-6063. ●

Opera in the Neighborhood

The Los Angeles Opera's special program in West Adams continues at the Washington Irving Library, 4117 West Washington Blvd. (323-734-6303). The series will culminate in a Friday evening concert performed by Los Angeles Opera artists.

March 18 - *The Flying Dutchman*

April 15 - *Behind the Scenes*

May 20 - *Don Giovanni*

June 20 (FRIDAY!) - *Community Concert*

All programs begin at 6:30 p.m. ●

Pasadena Historic Homes Tour

Pasadena Heritage, one of the oldest non-profit historic preservation organizations in Southern California, will host its annual Spring Home and Garden Tour on Sunday, March 30. *Masterpieces of the Mediterranean Style* will feature five exceptional homes and gardens from the height of the revival era. Docents will provide guided tours of these architecturally significant homes designed by some of Southern California's most prominent architects.

Advanced ticket prices are \$30 for general public and \$25 for members. For tickets and more information call Pasadena Heritage at (626) 441-6333 or visit www.pasadenaheritage.org. ●

Natalie Neith Ken Catbagan The Catbagan-Neith Team

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



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Historic West Adams
Los Angeles California 90018
323-735-WAHA (323-735-9242)
www.neighborhoodlink.com/la/westadams

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jacqueline Sharps, <i>President</i>	323-766-8842
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John Kurtz	323-732-2990

ADVISORS

Harold Greenberg, <i>Legal Advisor</i>	323-732-9536
Lyn Gillso, <i>Historian</i>	323-735-9371

WAHA COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND STANDING MEETINGS

All WAHA members are encouraged to join a committee.
(All committee meetings begin at 7 pm on the days noted below.)

Community Relations

Contact Jennifer Charnofsky if you'd like to get involved with this activity 323-734-7391

Historic Preservation

Chairs: Eric Bronson 323-737-1163, Jean Frost 323-748-1656, Colleen Davls 323-733-0446

Zoning & Planning

Chair: Jim Dugan 323-732-7233. Meets third Mondays at City Living Realty 2316 1/2 South Union

Newsletter

Newsletter Committee Chair: Laura Meyers
323-737-6146. Publications Director: Anna Marie Brooks 323-735-3960. Meets second Mondays

Holiday Tour

Chair: Jacqueline Sharps 323-766-8842

Membership

Chair: John Kurtz 323-732-2990. Meets Wednesday before the WAHA Board Meeting.

Fundraising

Catherine Barrier 323-732-7233

Web Site

Clayton de Leon 323-734-0660

By-Laws

Tom Florio 213-749-8464

Programs and Events

SeElcy Caldwell 323-291-7484 and Clayton de Leon 323-734-0660

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

Stepping Out

Doheny Mansion Tours

Step back in time as you learn the history of the fascinating Doheny family, and the lifestyle of rich and famous Angelenos of 100 years ago.

For the first time since 1965, Mount St. Mary's College invites the public to explore the Doheny Mansion, #8 Chester Place, on its downtown Los Angeles campus. Four tours will be given on Saturday, April 5 starting at 9:00, 9:45, 10:30 and 11:15 a.m.

The home of oil baron Edward L. and Carrie Estelle Doheny for almost 60 years, the Gothic Renaissance style Victorian mansion was designed by architects Theodore Augustus Elsen and Sumner P. Hunt in 1898. This well-maintained home boasts a marble-pillared great hall, the Pompeian Room with imported Siena marble and a Tiffany iridescent glass dome, furniture copied by permission of the Italian government from Pompeian furniture in a Rome museum, and much of the original furnishings in its other opulent rooms.

Docent-led groups limited to 15 people will visit the first floor of the Mansion and outside surroundings. Reservations are a must! No children under 12, please.

Cost: \$25 per person. Call Debra Miller at (213) 477-2768 to book reservations by March 24, or for further information. Proceeds will benefit the preservation of this historic residence. ●

A Sweet Taste of Chocolate

A unique tree in a lush tropical environment. A seed so precious it was used as money. A spicy drink and a sweet snack. Chocolate is all this... and much more. Chocolate, The Exhibition makes its West Coast debut at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, at 900 Exposition Blvd. in Exposition Park, continuing through May 11.

Explore the relationship between human culture and this rainforest treasure. Chocolate will immerse you in a sweet experience, engage all of your senses, and reveal facets of chocolate you've never thought about before. You'll explore the plant, the products, the history, and the culture of chocolate through the lenses of botany and ecology, anthropology and economics, conservation and popular culture.

The exhibit includes sections on the cacao tree and its rainforest environment; chocolate in the Maya and Aztec cultures; how chocolate came to Europe, its history there, and how technology changed it from a European luxury item to a mass-produced snack food; how chocolate is grown, processed, advertised, consumed, and traded on the world market today. On display are Pre-Columbian ceramics and ritual objects; European silver and porcelain chocolate services; nineteenth- and twentieth-century cocoa tins, advertising and packaging; antique and contemporary candy molds; botanical specimens and agricultural tools.

Open weekdays from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and weekends from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Museum admission is \$8 for adults, \$5.50 for students and senior citizens, and \$5 for children ages 5-12. Children under 5 and Museum Members are free. For additional information, the public may call 213-763-DINO or visit www.nhm.org. ●

In the Garden

The Edible Garden: Pansies *by Anna Marie Brooks*

Take a Johnny-Jump-Up, cross it with a sweet violet and voila: you've got a pansy. Perhaps it wasn't quite that instantaneous, but that is the genesis of the cheerful yet elegant pansy. During the Victorian era the flower created a craze and pansy exhibitions—the equivalent of our orchid shows—were de rigueur among the high garden set.

Think of pansies as delicate ladies and avoid planting them in full sun where they will rapidly go to seed and wilt to total demise. Plant instead in light or dappled shade in light, enriched soil and watch them thrive. Like delicate ladies, they require attention. Deadhead them regularly to maintain a gorgeous display of blooms. At the height of summer's heat cut back the plant, leaving base. Water generously until more temperate days appear. The ladies will again flourish.

Their county cousin Johnny Jump-Up will flourish and freely self propagate. He, too, benefits from regular dead heading but even if you're zealous in this sport he will manage to multiply. Technically—he's a wild flower.

Pansies and Johnny Jump-Ups are ideal colorful additions to patio pots where other plants may partially shade them. They will even grow indoors with enough light and soil enhancement and bring cheer to a rainy day.

The entire family—pansies, Johnny Jump-Ups and sweet violets—make elegant garnishes for salads, canapés, and sandwiches. All can be candied as dessert décor or eaten as delicate little treats.

This month's decadent pansy-studded and -adorned chocolate cheesecake features the flowers as an ingredient and—candied—as embellishment. Make it a few days ahead but do not decorate. Refrigerate. Add decorations a few hours before serving and return to refrigerator. One-half hour before serving set out in cool room.



Viola tricolor - Johnny Jump-Ups - are a prized, decorative edible with mild wintergreen-mint flavor from Victorian days.

Chocolate Glazed Cheesecake with Pansies

- 1 Tablespoon butter, softened
- 2 Tablespoons Graham cracker crumbs
- 8 ounce package cream cheese at room temperature
- 1 1/4 cups sugar
- 5 large eggs
- 1/4 cup pesticide-free pansy petals
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- Boiling water
- Cardboard cake round
- Chocolate glaze (recipe follows)
- Candied pansies (recipe follows)

Butter the inside bottom and sides, up to 2 inches from bottom, of 10-cup spring form pan or 10 inch Bundt pan. Sprinkle with Graham-cracker crumbs, shaking mold to coat evenly. Gently tap mold while upside down to remove excess crumbs. Heat oven to 325 degrees Fahrenheit. In large bowl beat cream cheese utilizing electric mixer on medium speed until cheese is fluffy. Beat in sugar until well mixed. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. With rubber spatula fold in vanilla and pansy blossoms, blending well. Pour mixture into prepared mold. Set filled mold in 9 by 13-inch baking pan and place on lower rack of preheated oven. Pour boiling water into 9 by 13-inch pan to a depth of about 1-inch. Bake cheesecake one and one-half hours or until almost set in center. Note: If using Bundt pan bake one and one-quarter hours. Turn off oven and allow cake to stand in oven one-half hour longer. Remove cheesecake and its pan from water bath and set on wire rack and cool to room temperature. Cut a piece of cardboard to exactly fit base of cake. Loosen cake from sides of mold. Unmold cake unto cardboard round, set on wire rack on wax paper covered cookie sheet.

Chocolate Glaze

- 3 Tablespoons unsalted butter
- 4 ounce bars bittersweet chocolate or 8 ounces semi-sweet chocolate chips

Gently melt together butter and chocolate in double boiler over hot water bath. Stir to blend. Cool. Pour half of cooled glaze over cheesecake. Using small metal spatula spread evenly over top and sides of cake. Refrigerate cake just until glaze hardens. Meanwhile gently reheat remainder of glaze just to spoonable state. Pour and evenly spread remainder of glaze over cake. Refrigerate cake at least two hours or overnight. Transfer cake to serving plate. Decorate with candied pansies and surround base with fresh pansy leaves or scented geranium leaves.

Candy Flowers

- 2 dozen whole pansy blossoms with about 2 inches of stem attached for handling
- 2 to 4 Tablespoons super fine, castor or bakers sugar (NOT confectioner's/powdered sugar)
- 2 tablespoons egg white or, if that concept makes you nervous, use 2 Tablespoons meringue powder mixed with 4 teaspoons water

Gently rinse pansies in cool water and pat dry with facial tissue containing no chemicals. Place egg white in a custard cup and sugar in another custard cup. Hold a blossom by the stem and use a clean, small artist's paintbrush to paint each side of the blossom with egg white. Hold blossom over sugar and gently sprinkle sugar over each side of blossom. When blossom is lightly coated place on a wire rack set on wax paper in a warmish room that is not humid, until sugar dries and hardens.

Repeat process with all flowers. When all are dry store in an airtight container separated by layers of wax paper. To serve decorated cake, cut with knife dipped in warm water and dried. Repeat for each cut. Violets or Johnny Jump-Ups may be substituted in this recipe.

Note: Most any edible flower can be candied utilizing this method. These flowers can be used as food decoration or served as candies. Clip off stems before serving. ●

The Garden Guy

by Steve Rowe

Greetings, gardeners. Get out those garden tools. March is the official start of the spring planting season. This month I would like to discuss what to plant in that new garden bed you created last month. Before we get started we need to discuss design. What do you want your garden to look like? What kinds of plants and flowers do you want in that new garden bed? I'd like to offer some advise.

When designing a circular garden surrounding a tree, start with taller flowers and plants to the rear of the garden closest to the tree. For example, plant calla lilies around the tree all in a row. Next come out 10 inches and plant impatiens and or coleus in the next circle. Come out 10 more inches and plant a circular row of ferns and or bergenia. For the next circle plant begonias. Remember that with each circle surrounding the tree, make sure that whatever is planted, it has to be shorter than that planted behind.

Do the same in an edging garden bed, whether it is formal or informal. A well-designed garden bed will show off your garden to its best advantage.

One of my spring favorites in the flowering department is wisteria, that twining woody vine of great size, long life and unbelievable beauty in bloom. Wisteria first was brought to American shores in 1816 from China, and has been growing in American gardens ever since. It was a particular favorite in Arts and Crafts gardens. So adaptable, wisteria can be grown as trees, shrubs or vines. Wisteria are not fussy about soil, however they do need good drainage. Why not train a wisteria along the side of your house, over an arbor or pergola, over the front of the porch or along a fence? You will be guaranteed a spectacular show of lavender and fragrant blossoms at the height of spring. Just imagine 12-inch pendulous lavender blossoms to honey the air you breathe.

Wisteria do best in full sun but will tolerate some shade. There are several varieties that can be found in your local garden center. *W. floribunda* (Japanese), *W. sinensis* (Chinese), and *W. venusta* (Silky, a white variety) also called *W. Alba*.

Spring is here, gardeners. Let me see those dirty fingernails. ●



In the Garden

2003 Blooming of the Roses Festival

The Figueroa Corridor Partnership Business Improvement District (the Partnership) joins with the Exposition Park stakeholders, the West Adams Heritage Association (WAHA) and the Garden Conservancy to sponsor the *Blooming of the Roses Festival* to be held Thursday, April 24 to Sunday, April 27. The *Blooming of the Roses Festival* is a celebration of the spring rose blooms at the historic Exposition Park Rose Garden and of the cultural resources and significant, historical treasures in the Exposition Park/Figueroa Corridor area.

The Festival showcases the Rose Garden's "flowering jewels," along with floral and nature themed program offerings. This year programming for adults will include private (residential) garden tours, rose care demonstrations and a talk on rose garden design from Charles Follette of The Rose Garden Nursery in Santa Monica, and a slide presentation talk on the history of flower and agriculture festivals in Los Angeles by historian Victoria Dailey. For families, the 2003 Festival activities will include crafts, flower dissections, a children's rose themed art contest and more.

A very special addition to this year's *Blooming of the Roses Festival* programming will be private garden tours in the historic West Adams neighborhood. The garden tours are being coordinated by WAHA and the 2003 Greater Los Angeles Open Days program sponsored by the Garden Conservancy. The Garden Conservancy is a national, non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of gardens. The Open Days program invites the public to visit America's very best private gardens.

Located in the southern part of the historic, central core of the City of Los Angeles, Exposition Park is home to a variety of great museums, attractions and recreational facilities, including the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum and Swim Stadium which hosted the Olympics in 1932 and 1984, the Rose Garden, the California Science Center, the California African American Museum, the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, the Exposition Park Intergenerational Community Center (EPICC) and the Los Angeles Sports Arena. It's also a neighbor to the University of Southern California and the community gathering place Mercado La Paloma.

The Exposition Park Rose Garden was created during 1926 to 1928. Under the direction of rosarians George C. Robinson and Fred H. Howard, a consultant for the American Rose Society, the city's then Parks Department embarked on a project to create the "largest and most magnificent public rose garden in the United States." Designated as a Los Angeles County Point of Historical Interest in 1987, this seven acre garden today contains around 10,000 rose bushes, of more than 100 different varieties.

The Rose Garden has always been very popular for picnics, weddings and in more recent history—film shoots. Considered to be the first municipally operated public rose garden in the country, it is still one of the largest and most beautiful in the USA. A lovely place to experience nature and a respite from urban activity, the garden showcases roses which can be grown at home and ones to be admired for their aesthetics that could be included in flower show/exhibition competitions. Exposition Park Rose Garden is one of the public gardens throughout the United States that All American Rose Selections, Inc. donates its new, award winning rose cultivars to each year so garden enthusiasts can view them and decide whether or not to grow them in their own gardens.

This will be the fourth year the Figueroa Corridor Partnership and area stakeholders have sponsored the Rose Garden spring blooms celebration, and each year the festivities gets bigger and better. "In the Exposition Park/Figueroa Corridor, support of programs that encourage people to visit area establishments and promote cultural tourism are natural ways to boost development efforts in this section of the city," said Darryl Holter, Chairman of the Partnership and Chief Administrative Officer of The Shammus Group. Support of the *Blooming of the Roses* celebration has become one of the Partnership's ongoing efforts to promote positive awareness of the area, and to enhance community and economic development.

The Figueroa Corridor Partnership is responsible for the daily management and promotion of the Figueroa/Flower/Vermont Corridor, linking downtown Los Angeles to Exposition Park. The Partnership is committed to the development of a safe, clean, economically vibrant and aesthetically pleasing environment in which to conduct business, continue an education, visit a museum, attend a sporting event, worship or reside.

For more information or updates on the 2003 *Blooming of the Roses Festival* programming, contact Figueroa Corridor Partnership Marketing Consultant Alison R. Jefferson at 323.931.6745 or jalisonj@aol.com or visit www.figueroacorridor.org. ●

2003 Blooming of the Roses Festival Sponsors

Figueroa Corridor Partnership Business Improvement District: www.figueroacorridor.org

Department of Recreation and Parks, City of Los Angeles: www.laparks.org

Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County: www.nhm.org/calendar/home.html

California African American Museum: www.caam.org

California Science Center: www.casciencectr.org

Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum Commission: www.lacoliseum.com

West Adams Heritage Association: www.neighborhoodlink.com/la/westadams or www.westadamsheritage.com

The Garden Conservancy: www.gardenconservancy.org

Attention Antique Hounds: WAHA Has A New Discount

by Steve Wallis

Mike Lapidus, owner of the new Port Royal antique store, is offering a discount of ten percent and up on all store merchandise. Port Royal is new to the neighborhood and is located at 1858 West Jefferson Boulevard just west of Western Avenue. Mike has been collecting antiques and paintings for many years and decided to turn his hobby into a business. He bought the building on Jefferson and will renovate the exterior now that he has moved his collection to this new location.

Port Royal offers an eclectic mix of merchandise. Besides turn-of-the-century to mid-century furniture, you will find paintings (favoring landscape scenes and florals), antique stoves, decorative items, plants and garden items. Toward the end of the year, holiday decorations will be offered, as well. Port Royal will sell items on consignment and is open weekdays from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. They are open some weekends, but please call ahead just to be sure.

Port Royal, 1858 W. Jefferson (A phone number has not been issued as of this printing). ●

Neighborhoods Grants

The Board of Public Works, Operation Clean Sweep (OCS) has begun a new cycle of funding for the Neighborhood Matching Fund program. Neighborhood-based organizations can apply for funds between \$250 and \$5000. Most capital-improvement projects funded by the NMF grants are related to Mural/Arts, Gardening/Landscaping, Streetscape and Hardscape projects. This program is competitive and for every dollar requested through the NMF, the community group must provide a comparable match. OCS will be holding workshops and informational meetings for interested applicants. The submission deadline is April 17. For information call 800-611-2489 or go to its website, www.lacity.org/bpw/ocs/nmf. ●

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South Seas House Nears Completion

continued from page 1

"We're in our final stages," reports Michele McDonough, project architect, WAHA member and West Adams Avenues resident. McDonough helped spearhead the South Seas House renovation. Since beginning work in June, the contractor and trades people have removed all the lead paint, milled front porch columns to replicate the original, restored the original wood front porch after removing a concrete porch that was pulling down the structure, constructed a new back porch and handicapped ramp, removed a small rear addition, put the kitchen back into its original location, and reinstalled the fireplaces. The former butler's pantry is now serving as the rear entrance, with handicapped restroom located in a former service area.

Now the interior woodwork is in the final stripping and staining stages, and the wood floors are being repaired and refinished.

For the kitchen, says McDonough, "the original flooring was a printed linoleum of yellow and black squares, with a thin brown stripe" of such a unique design it was not able to be exactly duplicated with modern materials. However, she said, an expert artisan has been hired to create a new version inspired by the original.

Additional special features are expected to include a new stain glass window in the dining room, and appropriate period and period-style light fixtures and hardware. Furnishings haven't yet been specified, but it is expected that at least part of the residence will be furnished period-style. And for those of you who recall that the community raised thousands of dollars in the mid-1990s for the South Seas House, it is those funds that are being tapped for some of these special touches that are characteristic of the period.

Overall, the project will cost circa a million dollars, funds acquired from a patchwork of public sources by 10th District Councilman Nate Holden and his staff. The South Seas House will serve as a community center, computer lab facility and in other youth-oriented capacities under the program arm of the City's Recreation and Parks Department, the residence's owner.

Background

Music director and choralist Joseph Dupuy, the founder of the Orpheus Club, was the original owner of the South Seas House. He was born in 1865 in France, where he attended private schools until his family emigrated to Chicago. Dupuy received his college education in Illinois and New York.

In 1887, Dupuy headed west to Los Angeles, becoming a soloist and musical director at many churches in many faiths. He worked in Southern California for five years, and then he traveled for two years as a singer. Dupuy accepted a university teaching position in New Mexico, but returned to Los Angeles in 1897.

"In 1915 Joseph Dupuy helped organize the Ninth Biennial Convention and Festival of the National Federation of Musical Clubs, the largest musical event in America at the time."

Over the next two decades, Dupuy established himself as an important part of Los Angeles' young but burgeoning music cultural scene. He was a soloist singer, a conductor, and a teacher, working with a variety of schools, musical clubs and organizations.

Under Dupuy's leadership, the Orpheus Club won first prize in a musical competition at the 1915 World's Fair in San Francisco. Dupuy served as a board member of the American Opera Association's Los Angeles chapter. He was vice president of the National Federation of Musical Clubs and in 1915 helped organize the Ninth Biennial Convention and Festival of the National Federation of Musical Clubs, the largest musical event in America at the time.

Joseph Dupuy and his wife, Ruth, had two sons, Leon - who became a singer - and Reginald, a pianist. The family built the South Seas House (a name modern architectural historians have given to it) about 100 years ago. Although a family photograph at the residence is dated 1901, county records place the construction in 1903. It's hard to pinpoint exactly based on the architecture, which is a unique blend of unusual characteristics unlike anything else in West Adams.

The steeply-pitched roof, which takes up much of the exterior, has dormers that flare out at the base. A rectangular bay on the first floor faces the street corner. The original paint colors on the house - a mustard/khaki and an almost-black olive green - and the Arroyo stone on the porch reflected the Craftsman influences of the era, while the classical wood porch columns were inspired by Victorian and Colonial Revival trends, as were the diamond-paned upper sashes of the windows. But "the ridge line and extreme slope of the roof is distinctively Polynesian," says architect McDonough. "My theory is that Dupuy, a Frenchman by birth, was well aware of the exploits of his countryman, Paul Gauguin, in Polynesia." It is the Polynesian element that gives this property its unofficial name.

After Dupuy's death in 1922, the house changed hands several times, and eventually was acquired by the City's Public Works Department for a street widening that never happened. By the 1980s it had fallen into major disrepair; by decade's end, it was abandoned to squatters and vagrants who nearly destroyed it with fires. The rooms were filled with garbage.

An effort was made by concerned local residents to acquire the house privately for restoration in the early 1990s, and in 1992 Councilman Holden introduced a motion in City Council to auction off this property for this purpose. However, the Recreation and Parks Department stepped in, and had the property transferred to their ownership, with an eye to expanding the nearby 2nd Avenue Park, to be accomplished by demolishing the South Seas House. Many (many) community meetings ensued, and at the same time neighbors decided to clean up the property, eventually hauling away 110 large bags of trash, painting parts of the exterior, re-installing an exterior water source and planting a new flower garden in the long-neglected front yard.

In 1995, the University of Southern California's School of Architecture chose the South Seas House as its first project for its "Historic Preservation Topic Studio" class. Students had complete access to the structure, dissecting with best guesses the original walls, floors, the foundation, plumbing, electrical and even the landscaping while assessing the structural integrity of the house. The resulting report — nearly two inches thick — confirmed that the house was restorable, despite obvious flaws like leaning foundation piers, a collapsing roof and fire-damaged floors.

Nonetheless, the South Seas House remained on the edge of a demolition cliff. In May, 1995, *L.A. Architect* declared the South Seas one of the city's "10 Most Endangered Buildings." It took several more years of determined advocacy by neighbors and historic preservationists in West Adams and throughout Southern California — and the hard work of 10th District Council staff members, particularly Stacey Anthony (who now works in the City Attorney's Office), Sylvia Lacy and Mike Hernandez, to identify and secure the funds necessary to restore the house.

During the 1990s the South Seas House was also determined to be eligible, by consultants hired by the City's Planning Department, to become a historic landmark. In 1994, this writer submitted a nomination to have the property designated a Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument. The City's Cultural Heritage Commission took the nomination under consideration in June of 1994, but decided not to make a final decision until the residence was saved (or not) and restored. When the restoration is complete in early Spring, the nomination will be updated.

Editor's note: Thank you to Don Lynch, who researched and wrote an excellent article on Joseph Dupuy and the South Seas house that previously appeared in the West Adams Heritage Association newsletter, and upon which much of this story is based. ●

"The ridge line and extreme slope of the roof is distinctly Polynesian. My theory is that Dupuy, a Frenchman by birth, was well aware of the exploits of his countryman, Paul Gauguin, in Polynesia."

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— Steve Wallis

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WAHA CLASSIFIEDS

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

Lost Dog: We lost our dog in mid-February and it has been confirmed that it appears a man in the neighborhood may have had our dog at the park at 25th and Arlington trying to find the owner. It's a pure breed German Shepherd, male, 8 yrs of age. We've had him since he was 8 weeks old. Here's the problem. Two people on separate occasions saw this man with our dog (hopefully), but no one knows exactly where he lives. The man is Caucasian, approximately 50 to 60 years of age with gray and black hair.

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THEATRE FOR KIDS

The 24th Street Theatre, located at 1117 West 24th Street (at Hoover) is back with a spring family series, the Saturday Explorer Series. It continues on Saturdays through MARCH 29. This eclectic series – sometimes whimsical, sometimes provocative – is designed to bring cutting-edge performance artists to kids ages 8 – 18, in addition to more traditional fare for younger audiences.

March 1
"Club 24 Presents Brenda Varda"

March 8
"Watch," an afternoon of vaudeville and physical theater

March 15
"Big Head" starring Denise Uychara

March 22
Watts Prophets star in "Talk Up Not Down"

March 29
"The Legend of Alex," presented by Mark Taper Forum's P.L.A.Y.

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WAHA March Calendar

Week 1:

Saturday, March 1 - Celebration in the Park
Sunday, March 2 - WAHA Board of Directors Candidates Statements Due
Thursday, March 6 - Neighborhood Council Meetings

Week 2:

Monday, March 10 - Newsletter Committee Meeting
Saturday, March 15 - St. Patrick's Fete and Fundraiser

Week 3:

Monday, March 17 - Zoning & Planning Committee Meeting
Tuesday, March 18 - Opera Talk at Washington Irving Library
Saturday, March 22 - WAHA Preservation Forum

Week 4:

Wednesday, March 26 - Membership Committee Meeting
Thursday, March 27 - Board Meeting

Upcoming

***At Home with History:
Exploring Los Angeles Historic
Preservation Overlay Zones***

**Sunday, April 6
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
(See page 3)**

***Open Days:
Private West Adams Gardens
on Display***

**Sunday, April 27
2 - 6 p.m.
(See page 3)**

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 2003. All rights for graphic and written material appearing in the newsletter are reserved. Contact Director of Publications for permission.



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