

# West Adams Matters

## Another Endangered House *by Laura Meyers*

Spring is in the air, and so, apparently, are a spate of new historic preservation issues.

WAHA members John Kelley and Jim Grace are trying to save a period character house at 1201 Hoover in the Westmoreland Place neighborhood from the wrecking ball.

The congregation that owns the adjacent circa 1930 historic church at 1183 Hoover, Bethlehem Presbyterian, as well as the next-door John C. Austin-designed duplex at 1207-1209 Hoover (built in 1905), wants to tear down this house, built in 1906 by John Selah Vosburg, in order to build a parking lot. Yes, this does remind us of Joni Mitchell's song lyrics:

*Don't it always seem to go  
That you don't know what you've got  
'Til it's gone  
They paved Paradise and put up a parking lot.*

Deputy Zoning Administrator Eric Ritter issued a determination letter earlier this year that would allow Bethlehem Presbyterian do to just that. Kelley and Grace filed an appeal, arguing among other points that the house is historic, its architecture contributes to the character of the neighborhood, and that it really doesn't make much

*(continued on page 10)*



*John Selah Vosburg built the house at 1201 South Hoover in 1906*

## WAHA's Annual Board Elections

Thursday, April 26 7:30 p.m.

2650 South Kenwood (Adams Normandie)

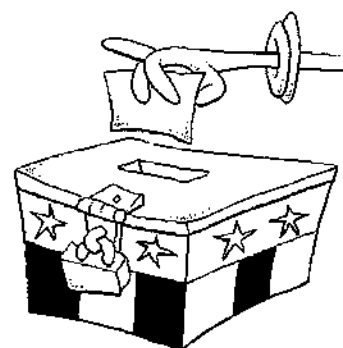
West Adams Heritage Association's annual Board elections will be held on Thursday evening, April 26, (the April Board meeting will follow the election). For the election, we will welcome all members to a dessert and coffee meet-and-greet at Suzanne Lloyd-Simmons beautiful historic home (south of Adams, east of Normandie.)

WAHA has a 15-member Board, and one-third of these positions are up for election each three years, on a rotating basis. This year, there may be another vacancy or two.

As always, we need Board members with fresh, upbeat, enthusiastic ideas. Five WAHA members have thrown their hats in the ring (see their Candidate's Statements inside.) But in case you are still pondering running for the Board, you may in fact come to the election meeting and declare yourself.

Potential Board members should be committed to WAHA's goals of providing both member and community service. Generally speaking, Board members are required to attend all WAHA Board meetings (usually held the

*(continued on page 9)*



## Wonderful Wilshire Park: Historic Homes Tour

Saturday, June 2

11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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

WAHA presents its annual Spring Tour in Wilshire Park, one of Los Angeles' older neighborhoods and one of the City's newest nominees for Historic Preservation Overlay Zone (HPOZ) historic district status.

Wilshire Park's residences date back to 1907, the year the first known home was built in the enclave, at 715 Norton Avenue. Early aerial photographs that survive in magazines depict a Wilshire Park that consisted of a few homes surrounded by open, undeveloped green spaces and a magnificent orange grove. A large section of this

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## Saving LAUSD Houses

The West Adams Heritage Association along with United Neighborhoods Neighborhood Council (UNNC) have been working diligently with LAUSD to move or salvage the homes slated for demolition at the new Washington Boulevard School located on Washington just west of Arlington. While initially rebuffed, the community rallied with the help of school board member Marguerite Poindexter LaMotte to force LAUSD to work with us to help save the houses.

The goals are two-fold — salvaging our historical heritage and keeping these items out of landfills.

While the plans are still being worked out, we have toured the homes and made a list of houses to move and items to salvage, including windows, doors, hardware, built-ins and cabinets, siding, flooring, etc., from structures that will not be moved. We will e-mail you again with details, but there will probably be a specified day when workers will remove house parts for salvage, and a list of material available.

Importantly, WAHA and UNNC are working with community members to move at least two of the houses. There are still some wonderful little bungalows that are available for moving if you have room in the back of your house. (756 square footages - 36 feet by 24 feet)

If you are interested, you must act now. Please be aware there are many governmental hoops to go through and probably no more than 3 or 4 months to do so.

1. Contact Eric Bronson (eb@birdmarella.com) and tell him you are interested. He will notify you of important dates and time frames.

2. You can view the bungalows at 3rd and Washington- they are the fenced in bungalow court just south of Washington. We will attempt to arrange an opening of the houses with the LAUSD in the near future.

3. Please be aware that it will cost around \$13,000 to move the house to your lot - more if you are far from the location. Electrical and utility lines are around \$600 dollars to move if needed. These bungalows are likely small enough not to require movement of the lines. In addition, a foundation meeting current codes would be required, which itself will likely cost in excess of \$12,000, as well as upgrades to the electrical, plumbing and HVAC systems.

4. There are more expenses in moving the houses, including city and permit fees. Those fees can be very expensive, especially if you have zoning issues on your lot. Zone changes take time and money. (It is very important for you to visit the Dept. of Building and Safety to find out the limits of what you can do on your lot. Get the facts first.)

Please visit [www.WestAdamsHeritage.com](http://www.WestAdamsHeritage.com) for updates and additional information, including photos. ●



*One of the houses available to move*

# President's Message

by Jefferson Davis

As our fiscal year is coming to an end, I must say that WAHA has had a really productive year. Our organization is stronger than ever with a concerned membership that is really making a difference in our community. Our list of historical monuments has been expanded with several new outstanding architectural structures. Our Holiday tour was one of the most successful ever. Our neighborhoods are looking better and better with new plantings and streetscapes. Our website had been updated and expanded. Developers and builders are now asking for our input before starting projects. Our lines of communication with councilman and city officials are open and productive. Our coffee strolls continue to bring neighbors out into the streets. Our board is committed to making West Adams the best place to live in Los Angeles.

My tenure as president is coming to an end. Sort of. While I was president in name, the WAHA board deserves most of the credit for our accomplishments. They were the ones who really deserve the recognition for our many accomplishments. They are one that are the nuts and bolts of our organization. They are the ones that will still be around when I leave the presidency in May.

As I step aside for a new president, I leave you with one final thought — find a reason to get involved. It's your community, you can make a difference... and board seats are now open.

*Jefferson Davis can be reached via e-mail,  
jeffdavis@yahoo.com*

## Membership Levels for 2007-2008

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

Membership levels for 2007-2008:

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

## Big Sunday

*Saturday, April 28, and Sunday, April 29*

*All Over Town - All Weekend Long*

*In West Adams, Sunday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the historic Firehouse 26, 2475 West Washington*

More than 32,000 volunteers of all ages came together last May to help at nearly 250 different non-profit sites as part of Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa's Big Sunday 06: L.A.'s Annual Day of Service.

As a result of the success of last year's partnership between the Office of the Mayor and Big Sunday, Big Sunday is expanding to two days as Mayor Villaraigosa presents Big Sunday 07: All Over Town, All Weekend Long on April 28 and 29. The goal is to involve 50,000 people and grow their level of volunteerism throughout the year. Big Sunday 07 is not just about community service; it is about community building too.

Volunteer registration began on March 28th. Go to [www.bigsunday.org](http://www.bigsunday.org) to view the list of projects and find out how you, your family and/or your organization can participate in Big Sunday '07.

In West Adams, the folks at the Helen and George Thomas Senior center, located in the historic Firehouse 26 at 2475 West Washington (just east of Washington), need volunteers to help "clean, garden, paint, spiff up and spruce" the building, inside and out. You can sign up at [www.BigSunday.org](http://www.BigSunday.org), or just call the center's director, Marva Maxey, at 323-734-9091.

Let's show those other guys that West Adams residents can work a paintbrush alongside the best of 'em. ●

# Around the House

## Resources *by Suzie Henderson*

Happy Spring! It is time to clean out and freshen things around the house. I recently spoke on a panel about organization and heard a great tip for dealing with the paper that seems to invade all of our spaces.

Go to the post office and buy postcards and on the back write: **Please remove my name from mailing lists databases. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.** Include your signature and your printed name and address. A return address label is great for this.

Mail these off to the addresses below and you should see a dramatic decrease in junk mail.

I also regret that I must issue a stern warning about Antique Turtle Upholstery, which was recommended previously by Roberta Quiroz. Their subsequent work for her has been totally unacceptable and they are no longer recommended.

Due to a recent computer problem, I may have lost a couple of recommendations. If you have sent something to me and it has not appeared in my column or if you have been thinking of recommending a resource, please contact me at WestAdamsGoddess@aol.com. I will thank you and your neighbors will thank you, as well.

To remove your name from junk mail, write:

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# WAHA Matters

## WAHA Merchandise Now Available Online

by Leslie Evans

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



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

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

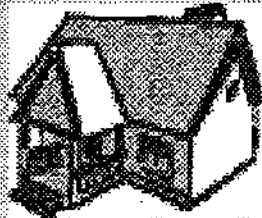
The new wide lineup of WAHA emblazoned items stems from a partnership with Cafe Press, an online marketplace specializing in unique personalized items. The West Adams store can be reached by clicking on "WAHA Merchandise" on the WAHA website: [www.westadamsheritage.com](http://www.westadamsheritage.com).

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

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

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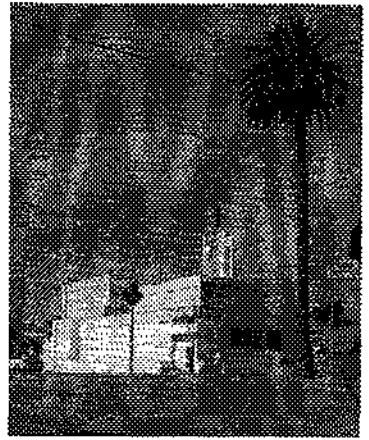
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# Stepping Out



## A Modernist Intersection in South Central: Schindler's Church

Saturday, April 21 1-3 p.m.

California African-American Museum, 600 State Park Drive (Exposition Park)

The MAK Center is co-sponsoring a talk at the California African American Museum: *Continuity & Revolution: A South Los Angeles Neighborhood and the Architecture of R.M. Schindler*. As part of the ongoing exhibition, *Intersections of South Central: People and Places in Historic and Contemporary Photographs*, the MAK Center for Art & Architecture L.A. joins the California African-American Museum (CAAM) in sponsoring a talk exploring the role of modernist architect R.M. Schindler in a South Central Los Angeles neighborhood.

Historian and exhibition co-curator (and WAHA member) Alison Rose Jefferson will lecture on "Continuity and Revolution: A South Los Angeles Neighborhood and the Architecture of R.M. Schindler." Focusing on Schindler's Bethlehem Baptist Church (1944) at South Compton Avenue and 49th Street, Jefferson will discuss the history of the neighborhood, its demographic changes, architecture, and historic preservation. The only Schindler-designed church ever built, it is also the architect's last public project still standing.

"Intersections of South Central: People and Places in Historic and Contemporary Photographs" interprets the changing landscapes of South Central since the 1920s and features historic photographs from the archives of the Automobile Club of Los Angeles, the Los Angeles Sentinel and California Eagle newspapers, the Los Angeles Unified School District archives, the Harry Adams collection at Cal State Northridge, and the Huntington Library.

In addition, the exhibition features contemporary photographs of the same sites by prominent African-American photographers, including: Haywood Galbreath, Frank Jackson, Kimberly Johnson, Akili Ramsess, Lester Sloan, D. Stevens and Bruce W. Talamon. The exhibition is on view at the California African American Museum through April 28.

Jefferson is a consultant with the Historic Resources Group, an historic preservation planning and development services firm. She is a Master's candidate at USC's Historic Preservation program and is finishing a thesis on an African American vacation community that existed in Riverside County at Lake Elsinore during the segregation era. Through her research, Phillips Chapel, a small, 100-year-old African American church in Santa Monica's Ocean Park neighborhood, received landmark designation in 2005.

CAAM is located at 600 State Park Drive in Exposition Park, Los Angeles. Public hours are Wednesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sundays 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission is free and parking is \$6; the parking entrance is at 39th and Figueroa Streets. For further information, visit [www.caamuseum.org](http://www.caamuseum.org) or call 213-744-7432. ●



## Peaceful Sundays

Sundays, 2-4 p.m.

Tours on the half-hour

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

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

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

Tour the historic mansion (once owned by Busby Berkeley, built for Secundo Guasti). The visit is free -- the refreshments are for sale. Reservations, please: 323-737-4055 or e-mail [programs@peacelabyrinth.org](mailto:programs@peacelabyrinth.org).

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

## Stars in Their Eyes The 2007 California Preservation Conference: Preservation Goes Hollywood Thursday to Sunday, May 3 to May 6

Your seat at the best preservation conference of the year is waiting — don't miss it!

You are on the "A" List for the biggest event of 2007 - the 32nd Annual California Preservation Conference. Come experience Hollywood — the place, the state of mind, and the site of some of the most cutting-edge historic preservation in California.

Every year, historic preservation and architectural professionals, advocates and enthusiasts come together for educational seminars, networking activities, tours, and a trade show. This year, there's an added bonus for Angelenos: we have an opportunity to attend the conference without leaving home, and we can enjoy Hollywood in all its architectural and historical glory. With more than 50 educational sessions, dozens of engaging tours and special events, a bookstore, and an exhibitor center with the latest products, services and resources, you'll have access to the information and inspiration you need to further historic preservation in your work and in your community.

**In addition, the California Preservation Foundation (CPF) is seeking volunteers to help out at the conference.**

You'll not only have self-satisfaction gained from dedicating time to a worthy cause, you'll also receive great benefits in exchange for your volunteer time at the Conference! Volunteers may attend the Conference Educational sessions and Plenary Session free of charge, based on the number of hours volunteered. Volunteers can also purchase tickets to tours or events, without having to pay the full conference registration fee. Moreover, volunteers will be invited to a not-to-be-missed Thank You Event which will take place after the Conference.

Please plan to attend one of the following Volunteer Training Sessions (location tba):

Saturday, April 14 at 10:00 a.m. or Thursday, April 19 at 7:00 p.m.

**Register for the Conference now before the April 20th deadline!** Online registration and conference information is available at: [www.californiapreservation.org/calendar.html](http://www.californiapreservation.org/calendar.html) or call 415-495-0349. Register for the entire conference or a single day's activities. AIA and MCLE Continuing Education Units are available!

The 32nd Annual California Preservation Conference features pre-conference workshops, study tours, educational sessions and special events at historic sites in Hollywood.

### Special Events and Pre-Conference Workshops include:

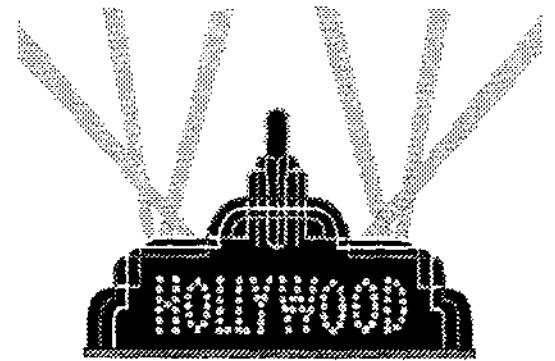
- Celebrate preservation successes at the "Three-Minute Success Stories," to be held at the Linwood Dunn Theater at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences Mary Pickford Center.
- Opening reception at the Egyptian Theater
- The International Preservation Lunch at the historic Yamashiro's Restaurant
- Back by popular demand: "The Doctor is In!" A team of specialists are focusing on CEQA and will assist you with those hard-to-answer questions.
- Celebrate the closing of the Conference at the Final Gala at "Social Hollywood," one of the hottest night spots in Hollywood and the home of the former Hollywood Athletic Club. Live Auction and more!

### Study Tours and Mobile Workshops feature:

- Frank Lloyd Wright's Hollywood, Griffith Observatory, Warner Brothers Studios, 20th Century Fox Studios, Wattles Mansion, Hollywood Boulevard Theaters, Downtown LA Adaptive Reuse, Will Rogers Ranch, Rancho Los Alamitos, and more.

For more information, call the California Preservation Foundation at 415-495-0349 or e-mail at [cpf@californiapreservation.org](mailto:cpf@californiapreservation.org).

Founded in 1976, California Preservation Foundation ([www.californiapreservation.org](http://www.californiapreservation.org)) is the only statewide non-profit education, advocacy and membership organization dedicated to ensuring that California's rich and diverse historic resources are identified, protected, and celebrated for their history and their valuable role in California's economy, environment, and quality of life. CPF's activities include workshops on a range of topics held all over the State, the Preservation Design Award, President's Awards, publications addressing critical preservation issues, a newsletter, preservation advocacy, and the Annual California Preservation Conference. ●



# Stepping Out

## Family History Writers Conference

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

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

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

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

In addition, "A Conversation With Megan Smolenyak" will offer an informal, one-hour gab session on Megan's adventures on Good Morning America, the PBS series *Ancestors*, and her efforts to spearhead the search for the Real Annie Moore, the first immigrant through Ellis Island.

There will also be two discussion panels: "Setting the Scene: Researching Local History," and "Publishing Your Family History." Among the various panel participants are George G. Morgan, past president of ISFHWE, Cecilia Rasmussen, local history columnist for the Los Angeles Times, and Loretto D. Szucs, vice-president of publishing for The Generations Network (the parent company of Ancestry.com). Szucs is also the co-editor of *The Source: A Guidebook to American Genealogy*. Another session, "Where Do We Go From Here," will be led by SCGS Writers Group leader Jean Chapman Snow.

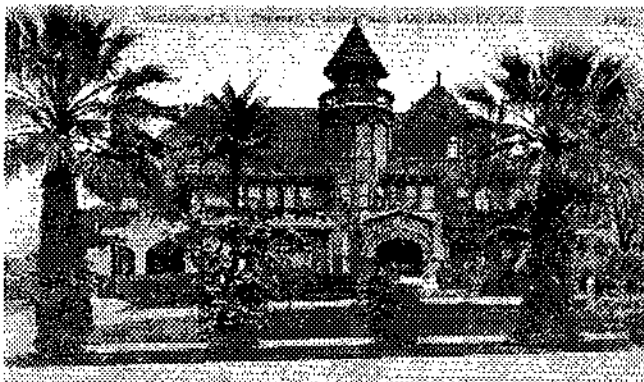
Early Bird Discounts (\$130 for the day's events) are available for early registration (before April 15) and for SCGS members. Walk-in registrations (\$150) will be available at the door if space permits, but the conference is filling fast, so early registration is recommended.

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

## Lafayette Square Annual Used Stuff Sale

Saturday, May 5 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

It's time for Lafayette Square's annual spring cleaning! Homeowners throughout the Square will be offering their tossed-off treasures for sale. The sale will include the usual assortment of clothing, kids' toys, furniture, and vintage/periodesque furnishings and accessories galore. In past years, members have reported acquiring all kinds of great antique "finds." Come early for the best selection. Questions? Contact co-chair Ellen Farwell, 323-737-2528. ●



## Doheny Mansion Tours

Saturday, April 28, 9:45 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Tour the interior of the Gothic Renaissance-style Victorian mansion was designed by Theodore Augustus Eisen and Sumner P. Hunt in 1898 and was home to the Doheny family for almost 60 years. Frequently remodeled by oil baron Edward L. and Carrie Estelle Doheny, the mansion boasts the famous Pompeian Room with iridescent Tiffany glass dome and imported Sienna marble. Public tours, which cost \$25 a person, include the first floor of the mansion and surrounding grounds. Call 213-477-2962 to book your reservation (required.) ●



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## WAHA Board Elections

*continued from page 1*

fourth Thursday of each month) and also will be given specific responsibilities for certain of WAHA's events, committees, and social functions, on a rotating basis.

We don't have many requirements: a love of old houses, an enthusiasm for community activities, and membership in WAHA for at least six months. WAHA always needs expertise in fundraising, zoning issues, and historic preservation. But if you have a program you'd like to initiate, those ideas are welcome, too.

All Board candidates will be asked to present themselves at the election meeting in a very short (one-two minutes) speech.

If you'd like to learn more about the requirements (and fun benefits!) of serving on the WAHA Board, please contact WAHA President Jefferson Davis via e-mail, [jeffdavisv@yahoo.com](mailto:jeffdavisv@yahoo.com). ●

### CANDIDATE STATEMENTS:

#### Gena and Norma Davis

Although this mother and daughter duo has lived in West Adams for a short time, they are no strangers to neighborhood involvement. As a previous owner of a duplex near Miracle Mile, Norma was vice-president of her block club. Both Norma and Gena were very involved in their condo association in Ladera Heights. Their passion for community, neighborhood and historical preservation is high reaching. Gena has volunteered for many local organizations and was a supporter of her neighborhood council in Baldwin Hills.

Norma is a professional administrative assistant and has worked for many large and small companies for the past 30 years. Gena has been in marketing and public relations for 16 years and is a marketing communications consultant. She also owns a self-care and wellness company where she shares the healing benefits of taking care of self first.

Both women are interested in bringing their talent and passion for historic preservation and beautification to the neighborhood and look forward to being part of the WAHA leadership.

#### Jim Robinson

I've lived since 1990 in a monument home on St. James Park, where my wife, Janice, and I have hosted several WAHA and L.A. Conservancy events over the years. I spent 15 years as a reporter and editor at the Toronto Star, where I was president of the Toronto Newspaper Guild, and 22 years at the Long Beach Press-Telegram, before retiring as managing editor in 2004 to expand our student housing business in historic buildings near USC. My first project was the three-year restoration/renovation of Griffith House, a 100-year-old apartment house on 21st Street. During the 1980s, I was president of the condo board that seismically rehabbed and restored Long Beach's 16-story Villa Riviera, a federally registered landmark built in 1929. I recently edited Don Sloper's book on Chester Place, which includes many old photos and postcards from my collection. We're now researching a book about the historic homes and people of University Park.

#### Candy Wynne

I have been a legal professional since 1982, working in several firms in the downtown Los Angeles area. I have lived in West Adams since 1985, when my late husband and I were searching for a friendly neighborhood where we could raise our three children. We were fortunate enough to find a beautiful 1908 Craftsman on 23rd Street in the heart of West Adams. The neighborhood offered me the opportunity to live in a vibrant community within the city I love and I found that my neighbors became some of my dearest friends. Three years ago, when I was searching for a way to give back to the community that had given so much to me, I was approached to join the Board and fill a vacancy. That appointment has allowed me to work with dedicated community members to expand WAHA's borders, protect endangered homes and areas, and assist in helping our community grow stronger. It has been a pleasure to serve as the membership chair for the past two years and I would like to continue in that capacity.

#### Brenda Zamzow

My new husband and I purchased a beautiful 1914 Craftsman in Arlington Heights in October 2005. One of the first things I did was join WAHA because I deeply care about preserving the history of our fine city. I grew up in a household in the Midwest that cherished the past and embraced history, and I am committed to doing that in our new neighborhood as well. I am a CPA and an entrepreneur — I own an accounting consulting firm that provides CFOs and Controllers to companies. Prior to owning my own business, I was a finance executive for several large corporations in Los Angeles, including Ernst & Young, Twentieth Century Fox and Sony Pictures. By joining the Board of WAHA, I look forward to playing an active role in our local community. My goal is to raise the awareness of WAHA so that more people throughout Los Angeles will be educated and will learn to appreciate what we already know are treasures in our city. ●

# Preservation Matters

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## Historic House or Parking Lot?

*continued from page 1*

sense to change the residential character to achieve a few extra parking spaces — especially since the neighbors had not complained about a lack of parking to begin with.

Kelley and Grace, along with WAHA, are attempting to negotiate a “win-win” solution. The church has also applied for a street vacation at the cul de sac between the church building and this house, and it would seem that placing parking in that location, combined with the currently existing half-dozen parking spaces at the rear of the house, would be sufficient parking for this location, especially in combination with occasional or regular rented parking at the nearby elementary school on Sundays.

The residence itself is associated with an individual who is significant in local and U.S. history.

John Selah Vosburgh (Vosburg) was born in 1841, and was the son of Selah Vosburgh of Alabama, Genessee, New York. The elder Selah was a landowner/farmer and gunsmith, and also had real estate interests. John S. Vosburgh was still living at home in 1860, but after the Civil War began he joined the military, and appears to have risen to the rank of corporai.

After the war, Vosburg (having now deleted the “h” in his name) eventually made his way to the true frontier town of Tucson, in the Arizona Territory, where he shows up as a gunsmith in the 1870 Census (listed next to the saloon owner). Vosburg has a “personal estate” worth \$5,000 – while most of his fellow townsmen were worth \$200-300. In 1871 he becomes a councilman in Tucson’s first elected City Council. From 1874 to 1876, he was the Adjutant General for the Arizona Territory.

As WAHA researched Vosburg’s personal history, we learned about this period in the frontier, and it was a truly terrible time. The Apaches were killing settlers right and left.

A report of the time described the situation: “In 1867, Tucson became the territorial capital for the 10-year period, which accelerated civic progress.

“Through the greater part of the year 1870, and the first part of 1871, these Indians had held a carnival of murder and plunder in all our settlements until our people had been appalled and almost paralyzed. In the vicinity of Tucson, mail drivers and riders, and almost all others whom temerity or necessity caused to leave the protection of our adobe walls, were pitilessly slaughtered — makes the array truly appalling. Add to this the fact that the remaining settlers in the San Pedro, not knowing who the next victim would be, had at last resolved to abandon their crops in the field, and fly with their wives and children to Tucson for safety, and the picture is complete...”

On the morning of April 30, 1871, town vigilantes and a competing native American tribe took matters into their own hand, and meted out “swift punishment,” slaughtering an entire Apache settlement at Camp Grant, leading then-president Ulysses S. Grant to threaten to place the entire Arizona Territory under martial law if the participating townspeople were not brought to trial. They were, but all were acquitted.

Vosburg appears to have become a man of more money. He invested in real estate (he developed the city block later owned by Pepe Ronstadt, Linda Ronstadt’s forebear — but we do digress) and arranged for the financing of the development of the famous Tombstone silver mine.

Tucson continued its rapid growth, with lessening threats. “In 1880, great excitement greeted the first train. Jubilant townspeople sent out announcements that Tucson was now connected to the rest of the world.” Soon thereafter, Vosburg sold his interest in the Tombstone Mine for \$147,000. Vosburg and his brother, James, arrived in Southern California, purchasing the 193-acre Davis Ranch in Pasadena in 1881. The Vosburgs farmed their acres for awhile, and then developed a residential tract in what is now the Pasadena Glen neighborhood (where a street is named for them.)

John Vosburg married Kate Slauson, the daughter of Los Angeles pioneer John Sayre Slauson, in circa 1885. As a wedding present, Kate Vosburg was given 250 acres of her father’s Azusa-area citrus ranch holdings. Vosburg still called himself a “farmer” in 1888, when he is living on the west side of Figueroa, between Adams and Ellis. In quick succession, Kate gave birth to three sons, Royden, Keith and Murray.

Alas, the Vosburgs’ happiness is short-lived. Kate and John engaged in a headline-grabbing nasty divorce and child custody battle in 1899-1900, with newspapers across the country reporting updates as the battling couple snatch the children back and forth by train. Their first-born son, Royden, manages to make it to both coasts for the Census of that year, where he is counted twice – once in upstate New York, and a second time at his grandfather’s house on Figueroa (or else, granddad lied, to help make the court case.)

In the aftermath of the divorce, John Vosburg built this rather substantial house on Hoover in 1906, and resided there with his son, Royden, and a second wife, Anna, until his death in 1931.

Today, John Selah Vosburg is considered an important historical personage, especially as his own story reflects the development of the nation and, in particular, Arizona. He was one of the early members of the Arizona Pioneer Society, and

one of its staunchest supporters, donating a large sum of money toward the construction of the Society's headquarters in the 1920s. His role in the development of Tucson, the Arizona Territory, and the Tombstone Mines earns Vosburg national significance, says archivist Jill McCleary of the Arizona Historical Society. "His association with the Tombstone silver mines is very important," she says. "Tombstone is in everybody's hearts."

The Bethlehem Presbyterian Church will host a meeting on Thursday, April 12 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss issues relating to the proposed vacation of 12th Street adjacent to the church and its desire to place off street parking on 1201 South Hoover. The church will also arrange for those attending to tour the house where the parking lot is currently proposed. If you have any questions, please contact King Woods at 909-396-9193 or by e-mail at kingwoods@worldnet.att.net.

The hearing on the appeal is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, May 8. You can check City Planning's website, [www.planning.lacity.org](http://www.planning.lacity.org), in a few weeks for the actual hearing notice and subsequently the meeting agenda. Go to "meetings/hearings/workshops" link on the department's home page, and then click on "Central Los Angeles." WAHA will also send out an E-News alert when we know the date and time. ●

## Update on Henry Obee Cottage: It's In Even More Danger

by Laura Meyers

Last month we told you that the boarded-up circa 1890 Victorian Henry Obee Cottage, located on Washington Boulevard just east of New England Street, had been taken under consideration by the City's Cultural Heritage Commission as a potential Historic-Cultural Monument.

Unfortunately, despite that action, the developer who owns the place has failed to secure it, and in fact may have allowed a salvage company to begin to "harvest" parts of its interior. WAHA members discovered four men with a truck, a generator and a crowbar inside the property in March, taking out materials wrapped in plastic (thus rendering their exact contents undecipherable.) The police were called, but upon arrival refused to arrest the men, because the "victim" (defined as the owner, not the property) was not present.

Later, the owner (eg: the project manager for the development company) told us the firm had NOT authorized anyone to go in the house. However, the company also refused to file a police report. And in the meantime, the front of the house has been covered with a quite large graffiti "mural." Council District 1 staff, contacted immediately after the break-in incident, have as of press time not told WAHA what action, if any, CD1 will be requesting the City to take in the wake of this damage.

The problem stemmed, in part, from the City Planning Department's Commission Office's failure to send a notice out to the owner in a timely fashion. The property was taken under consideration on January 18, but the notification did not occur until after the incident, on March 23.

(WAHA Matters has previously reported on this cottage's availability for moving, since the developer has plans to erect condominiums on the site.)



*The Henry Obee Cottage at 1110 West Washington is now further endangered*

Obee was active in the organization of masons in the Los Angeles area and was the Supervisor of the Los Angeles Pressed Brick Company, which was founded in 1887. It was a predecessor company to the Gladding, McBean & Co. By 1893 the Los Angeles Pressed Brick Company's color coordinated bricks and terra cotta products had been specified by architects creating, among other projects, the Stimson Block, "the first story of which...entirely of terra cotta and the upper stories of mottled, buff and brown 'Roman' brick, with brown terra cotta trimmings." Among other Los Angeles Pressed Brick and Terra Cotta Company projects were City Hall, the two Abstract buildings, the Burdick Block, Bryson-Bonebrake, the Y.M.C.A., Bicknell, McDonald, Crystal Palace, and many others. The company also supplied "beautiful mantels for nearly all the fine residences in the country," according to the *Los Angeles Times* of May 14, 1893. ●

## Wilshire Park Tour

*continued from page 1*

historic Wilshire District quarter was originally and officially known as Boulevard Heights, but after World War I, when a number of homes in the neighborhood were built by Hancock Park residents as wedding presents for their children, Wilshire Park became known by the informal nickname, "Little Hancock Park."

Today, Wilshire Park boasts an active and vital organization that coordinates a number of neighborhood activities through various committees. The Wilshire Park Association (WPA) has been a prime example of grass-roots activism since the 1990s, when it was formed from a coalition of local block clubs and from loose associations of interested residents. It is a neighborhood graced by mature deodar cedars, magnolia and jacaranda trees, gently winding streets, and an old-time ambience offered by the many vintage homes dating from 1907 in such architectural styles as Craftsman, California bungalow, Prairie, Spanish, Mediterranean, Colonial, and Normandy.



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

The tour will feature 6 to 8 restored period homes and verdant gardens. This is a self-guided walking tour, and no reservations are required, but advance ticket purchases is recommended (of course, early birds get the best deal.)

Cost:

- Reserve and pay in advance, WAHA and Wilshire Park Association members, \$25.
- General advance admission, \$30.
- You may pay on the day of event, \$35 (members and non-members.)

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

"Wonderful Wilshire Park" is co-sponsored by West Adams Heritage Association and Wilshire Park Association.

For more information, contact: [tours@westadamsheritage.com](mailto:tours@westadamsheritage.com) or call 323-732-4223. ●

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## LANI's 5th Annual Community Forum

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

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

Workshop topics include:

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

### WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- Neighborhood Council members
- CAC's, PAC's & Planning Committees
- Business Improvement Districts and Merchant Associations
- Community Based Organizations and Nonprofits
- Community Members
- Anyone interested in Neighborhood Revitalization

Register at [www.lani.org](http://www.lani.org) or by calling 213-627-1822 x20. The event is free and includes parking. ●

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### Preservation Begins At Home



## CITY LIVING REALTY

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### AVAILABLE:

**Harvard Heights Mission Revival** – Great house in HPOZ, 1522 South Hobart. \$799,000. Adam Janeiro, 323-401-3952

**Coming Soon - Kinney Heights Cottage** – Adam Janeiro

**Eastlake Victorian Masterpiece** – Circa 1890 landmark. Great woodwork, period lighting, wine cellar, loft-like attic. Plus detached 4-plex (\$6,000/mo income.) 1163 West 27th St. \$1,695,000. David Raposa

**Conservatorship Sale** – 4534 165th St. Needs Probate Court approval. 2 BD, 2 BA. \$450,000. Nancy Deaven, 323-737-7761

**Mid-Century** – Probate overbid sale, 1,230-sq-ft, 1951 house in great neighborhood (needs TLC). 4368 Moore St. \$725,000. Nancy Deaven

### IN ESCROW:

**Craftsman Fixer** – 1456 12th Avenue in Arlington Heights. Heavy fixer. Conservatorship. \$699,000. Nancy Deaven (Seller's agent)

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

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

**Halldale Transitional** - Adam Janeiro (Buyer's agent)

### SOLD:

**University Park Victorian Cottage** - Historic home in HPOZ, 2115 Bonsallo, \$649,000 - David Raposa (Seller's agent) - Welcome, David Kaufman!

**Kinney Heights Craftsman** - 2171 West 24th St. - Adam Janeiro (Seller's agent). Welcome, Dirk Voetberg & Michelle Beaudry!

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

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

# Membership Application

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

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**Membership classification (check one)**

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

Please make check payable to WAHA.

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

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

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



West Adams Heritage Association

2263 S. Harvard Boulevard  
Historic West Adams

Los Angeles California 90018

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

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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| Candy Wynne     | 323-735-3749 |

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The WAHA Board meets on the fourth Thursday of each month.  
Contact Jefferson Davis for location.

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~ Mark Goble & Elisa Tamaron, *University Park*

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## ADVERTISE HERE!

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

## ADVERTISING RATES

### FOR DISPLAY ADS

This Newsletter is published 11 times a year

**Full Page:** \$175 monthly; \$1,800 annually

**Half Page:** \$90 monthly; \$950 annually

**1/4 Page (4 1/2 x 4 1/2):** \$48 monthly; \$500 annually

**Business Card (3 3/4 x 2 1/4):** \$25 monthly, \$260 annually

*The deadline for ad content is the 1st of the prior month.*

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

## WAHA CLASSIFIEDS

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

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## MEMBER DISCOUNTS

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

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

**Washington Dog & Cat Hospital**  
1692 W. Washington Boulevard, Los Angeles, 323-735-0291  
50% off office exams

**Meyers Roofing**  
5048 W. Jefferson Blvd., 323-733-0188  
10% discount

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

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

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

**Lady Effie's Tea Parlor**  
453 East Adams Boulevard, 213-749-2204  
10% discount on all food purchases

**Los Angeles Stripping & Finishing Center**  
1120 N. San Fernando Road, Los Angeles, 323-225-1073  
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**Lucky Chimney Sweep** Contact: Susan and Alfredo Johnson  
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**Magic Care Termite Service**  
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### **Pasadena Architectural Salvage**

305 S. San Gabriel Blvd, Pasadena (Tues-Sun), 626-535-9655  
www.pasadenaarchitecturalsalvage.com  
10% discount on all purchases

### **Sherwin-Williams**

1367 Venice Blvd. 213-365-2471  
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### **Papa Cristo's Taverna**

2771 West Pico Blvd. 323-737-2970  
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### **Port Royal Antiques**

1858 West Jefferson Blvd. 323-734-8704  
10% discount

### **Real Door**

3125 La Cienega 310-836-2687 www.realdoor.com  
10% on products and services

### **Vintage Plumbing Bathroom Antiques**

9939 Canoga Avenue, Chatsworth, 818-772-1721  
(hours: by appointment only)  
10% discount on purchases at Chatsworth facility

### **Boulevard Vacuum & Sewing Machine Company**

5086 W. Pico Boulevard, 323-938-2661  
10% discount on sale of new vacuums, and vacuum service & repair

### **Wholesale Carpet Liquidators**

1225 E. Washington Boulevard, Los Angeles 90021, 213-747-7474  
Ask for Ali, or e-mail: wholesalecarpetla@yahoo.com.  
Discount of 5% on purchase of carpet, ceramic tile, wood flooring and/or vinyl floor covering

### **A CALL TO MEMBERS**

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

# Calendar ✓

## WAHA April Calendar

**WAHA Board Elections, Thursday, April 26, 7:30 p.m.:** Please come to a dessert meet-and-greet, and election for WAHA's Board of Directors. (See story, page 1)

**Big Sunday, Saturday and Sunday, April 28 and 29:** Help out on projects around town, or here in West Adams (See story, page 3)

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

**HOLD THE DATE! Saturday, June 2:** WAHA presents its annual Spring tour of historic homes and architecture in Wilshire Park. (See story, page 1).

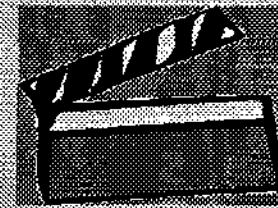
## Stars in Their Eyes 2007 California Preservation Conference: Preservation Goes Hollywood

Thursday to Sunday, May 3 to May 6

You are on the "A" List for the biggest event of 2007 — the 32nd Annual California Preservation Conference. Come experience Hollywood — the place, the state of mind, and the site of some of the most cutting-edge historic preservation in California. The Conference brings experts and enthusiasts together for education seminars, networking activities, tours, and a trade show.

**Register for the Conference now before the April 20th deadline!**

Online registration and conference information is available at: [www.californiapreservation.org/calendar.html](http://www.californiapreservation.org/calendar.html) or call 415-495-0349. Register for the entire conference or a single activity.



Volunteers are also needed (to receive some conference activities free in return.) See story, page 13.

*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. Let will be published subject to space constraints and will be cut for length if necessary. Articles will be published subject to acceptance by the editors of the WAHA Board. Advertising is subject to the approval of the publishers. Although the Association appreciates its many fine advertisers, the Association does not accept responsibility for claims made by advertisers. Services and products are not tested and appearance of advertising does not imply, nor does it constitute, endorsement by the West Adams Heritage Association. Copyright 2006. All rights for graphic and written material appearing in the newsletter are reserved. Contact Director of Publications for permission.*



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