

West Adams Matters

The Annual Report Issue

Preservation Year In Review

by Jean Frost, Vice-President, Historic Preservation

Each year in the summer, WAHA prepares an Annual Report for its members, reviewing the past year's activities and events, our revenues and expenditures, and, especially, our historic preservation and cultural heritage advocacy activities. This report (beginning on page 6) highlights certain activities but by no means is a complete comprehensive review.

WAHA's key advocacy committee is the Historic Preservation Committee. This committee often addresses planning and zoning matters as well since our local issues are often intertwined with planning and land use rather than isolated issues of preservation. Committee members actively engage in commenting on development applications, stay abreast of land use initiatives, respond to issues as they arise, keep track of historic buildings needing to be moved and possible sites to move them to, and keep up to date on changes to California's environmental laws as they relate to historic properties. Importantly, the Historic Preservation Committee also spearheads the designation of historic resources, working with WAHA members and, at times, professional outside consultants, preparing nominations.

The Committee members are Eric Bronson, Jim Childs, Rory Cunningham, Laura Meyers, Mitzi Mogul, David Raposa, Roland Souza and John Patterson. New members are also most welcome.



WAHA successfully designated the Brown-Gorsline Residence, now HCM No. 1021.

(continued on page 6)

West Adams Endangered Site: The Herman Kerckhoff Residence

by Jean Frost

Councilmember Bernard Parks and his staff came to the rescue of the endangered Herman Kerckhoff Residence at 1325 West Adams Boulevard. On June 25, Councilmember Parks by motion to City Council, moved that the House be considered for City Historic Cultural Monument (HCM) status and that the Planning Department prepare a Historic Cultural monument application for review by the Cultural Heritage Commission (CHC).

This motion by Councilmember Parks, seconded by Councilmember Richard Alarcon, with support from Council President Herb Wesson and (former) Planning and Land Use Management (PLUM) Chair Councilmember Ed Reyes, answered the community and WAHA's plea that steps be taken to preserve this architecturally and culturally significant resource. Please send Councilmember Parks and his legislative deputy Purvi Doshi a note or e-mail thanking them for this important and critical action. (Councilmember.Parks@lacity.org and Purvi.Doshi@lacity.org.)

(continued on page 12)



Scoop Up Some Fun: WAHA's Ice Cream Social

Sunday, August 18 2-5 p.m.

1626 Virginia Road (Lafayette Square)

What better way to spend a summer afternoon than eating ice cream and other sweets, socializing with neighbors, playing games, and other old-fashioned entertainment? Please put on your summer whites or Victorian-inspired attire, and join WAHA at its annual Ice Cream Social. The dulcet tones of a barbershop quartet will add to the old fashioned ambiance.

The Lentini family will be our hosts at 1626 Virginia Rd. in beautiful Lafayette Square.

Once again, we will have a raffle. We are looking for prizes, so, if you frequent a business, ask if they would be willing to donate a gift certificate or, perhaps, you have some tickets to an event, that you would like to donate. We already have some great Dodger's tickets.

We are looking for volunteers (of course). If you would like to donate baked goods (cookies to munch on and especially cakes for the Cake Walk game), please contact Suzanne Henderson at Events@WestAdamsHeritage.org.

All in all, this event will be a lovely way to while away a summer afternoon in Historic West Adams. ●



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In Memoriam:

Susan Greenberg

On June 16, 2013 we lost Susan Greenberg. There are no words to express our shock and sense of great loss. Harold Greenberg, the former Board Member, Treasurer, and Incorporator of WAHA, was married to Susan for almost 30 years. Not only was she his life partner, but also his confidential office manager.

We all knew and loved Susan. Not only was she fiercely loyal and devoted to Harold and their family, but she was also the person who opened up her home to so many political candidates and elected officials for political events. She would be at the front door and greeted friends and others, took them on unofficial tours of the home, pointing out some of the unusual memorabilia and extraordinary collection of toys, trinkets and antiques.

When Harold would travel to Monterey, California annually for the Death Penalty seminar conducted by the California Association for Criminal Justice on criminal procedure and death penalty issues, Susan would accompany him and they would go antiquing.

Susan was an outstanding and terrific champion and friend of lost animals. There is no true estimate as to the number of cats and dogs she rescued and maintained at their home, or placed with others.

At her memorial service, Harold offered an amusing anecdote. Approximately 40 years ago he was handling an amicable divorce for a couple, though he could represent only one party. That party was Susan's former husband, Tom Hooker, who worked across the hall from Harold in the Bradbury building. At the same time, Harold was losing his secretary, who had passed the Bar and Tom, as with any divorce, one household splitting

into two was going to require significantly more money. So Mr. Hooker suggested that as Susan had held extremely prestigious secretary jobs in her home state of Texas with Texaco, and Texas A&M, Harold might hire her to be his replacement secretary. Only several Legal secretarial crash courses, and ironically

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New WAHA Board Members

Harold Smith

I love WAHA and all it does for our community. For many years I have worked on every WAHA tour in one capacity or another. In the 1990s, I served on the WAHA Board and was the vice president. Also, I was an actor on one of the Living History Tours portraying the first black bank employee whose job involved transporting money from bank to bank in a wheel barrow. I am so glad to return to the board and serve again. I especially look forward to assisting Suzanne Henderson on event planning among other board duties.

Georgia Toliver

Living in West Adams for the past 25 years has been an exceptionally wonderful experience. It has been a great pleasure to be the custodian of a wonderful house and to share it with so many appreciative people over the years. It has served as the appetizer house on the Holiday Tour, the Valentine's Tour, twice on the Spring Art tours, the summer evening stroll tour, Christmas party, board dinners when my late husband, Harold Toliver, served as a WAHA Board Member, and any excuse to party in between. It has been great fun volunteering for the numerous events in almost every capacity over the years, even as an actor in the Living Tour at Rosedale Cemetery. I believe in this association as an example of community service at its best from the people it attracts to the events that celebrate history and enlighten residents about preservation. WAHA is family for me. It is with this sentiment that I have accepted a larger role of participation as a new board member. ●

Annual Report Issue

Welcome to our annual review of West Adams Heritage Association's activities, preservation advocacy, volunteer and committee news, tours, and the annual financial report. WAHA is active in numerous community-based events and activities, ranging from tree-plantings, historical research, cultural heritage education, member-support activities (including parties and guest speakers), and, not least, fighting for historic preservation causes.

Los Angeles recently marked the 50th Anniversary of the city's Cultural Heritage Ordinance, and although that was certainly cause for celebration, in many ways historic preservation has never been as threatened as it is today (as you may note in reading this report). WAHA needs many more members to step up and get involved in all of its activities, and especially in our efforts to preserve the legacy that is Historic West Adams. Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support, encouragement and efforts to "Create Our Future By Preserving Our Past."

Annual Living History Tour: "Civil Wars, Civil Liberties" Saturday, September 28

WAHA's annual Living History Tour takes place every autumn at Angelus Rosedale Cemetery. Amid the elaborate headstones and monuments, costumed actors bring to life – and tell the stories of – a half dozen fascinating residents from Los Angeles' earlier times. Among the personages to be portrayed this year are Jennie Bovard (pictured right), USC's first female professor, along with a heroic – or notorious – Soldier of Fortune, a Mack Sennett Bathing Beauty, and a jazz chanteuse who sang with Duke Ellington all perform on a unique outdoor "stage."

At this year's Living History Tour, visitors will "meet" some of Los Angeles's most interesting early pioneers, war veterans and entertainment industry personages as the actors, at graveside, also portray the lives of a Civil War Union bugler and labor union activist; an African American physician who risked his career for civil rights; and a Confederate veteran and Los Angeles pioneer who helped author the city's first charter.



Visitors also learn the history of this cemetery, and the role it has played in the lives of generations of Angelenos. Angelus Rosedale Cemetery, L.A.'s first lawn cemetery, was founded in 1884, and is now home to many generations of Los Angeles's citizens, representing every race, faith, and creed.

Tickets will go on sale in late July. Tours will depart every 25 minutes, beginning at 9:00 a.m. (advance reservations are REQUIRED; each tour group's participants are pre-assigned.)

This year's tour commemorates not only Los Angeles's longtime role as the center of this country's entertainment industry, but also the role the city has played in the larger history of civil liberties in America. In addition, the 2013 Living History Tour memorializes the 100th anniversary of two of the personages' respective deaths, as well as the 150th anniversary of the Civil War (1861-1865).

This year's portrayals include:

- Jennie Allen Bovard, USC's "First Lady" – she was the university's first female professor and the wife of the institution's president
- Dr. Oner Barker, African American physician who was required to testify before the House UnAmerican Activities

Committee during the McCarthy Era

- Marjorie Zier Page, a Jazz Age starlet and Mack Sennett Bathing Beauty who then became an early inflight hostess for TWA
- Merle Evans, a victim of the horrendous train crash that ultimately resulted in the construction of the West Boulevard Bridge, one of West Adams' newest designated landmarks
- Orion Theodore Thomas, Union Army bugler who became a well-known printer and patriot in Los Angeles, helping establish the Los Angeles Veteran Drum Corps (a version of which still performs today)
- Daniel DeVilliers, an Afrikaner of Huguenot descent who fought in the 2nd Boer War in South Africa (a conflict more bloody than the U.S. Civil War) and later in the Mexican Revolution
- Aurelius Hutton (pictured right), Confederate cadet whose family lost everything; he moved to Los Angeles in 1869, becoming an early L.A. City Attorney before becoming a founder of Pasadena; and
- Ivie Anderson (pictured above, dancing with Cab Calloway), jazz singer best known for performing with Duke Ellington's Orchestra, originating the song, "It Don't Mean A Thing" (If It Ain't Got That Swing)

We invite your participation now to help organize the event.

The tour is one of our organization's signature events, and has become known as a compelling way to tell the diverse story of Los Angeles' history, from the 1850s to the present day. WAHA's Living History Tour Committee members research and write the scripts, cast the actors, costume them, create graveside vignettes, and also organize the tour itself, with all the myriad accompanying tasks. Would you like to help?

Please contact Laura Meyers at lauramink@aol.com or 323-737-6146, or send an e-mail to: tours@westadamsheritage.org. ●



Around the House

Corbels, Reborn

by Michael Salman

In 2011, I purchased an eclectically styled house built in 1910 for Nathaniel F. Wilshire, half brother of Gaylord Wilshire of Wilshire Boulevard fame. The house is attributed to the architectural firm of Hudson and Munsell. In its original form, it combined elements of classical revival style on the exterior with craftsman and a few beaux arts touches on the interior. When I acquired it, the house had a large open hole in the roof where the chimney had been taken down after the 1994 Northridge earthquake. It had corroded out built-in gutters that had been leaking water into the walls and causing more damage than the hole in the roof. And, oh, yes, it also had a generous covering of pink stucco that helped to keep the original clapboard siding and wall framing nice and damp after water leaked from the built-in gutters.

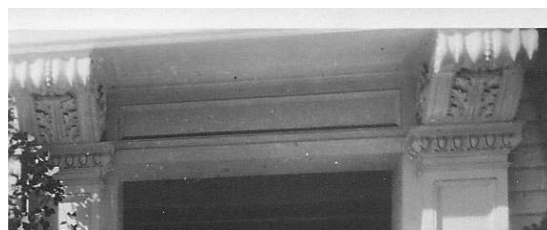
The house came with the remains of two unusually large acanthus leaf corbels made of plaster, located atypically on top of the two pilasters flanking the small portico roof over the front entry. Forensic evidence suggests that the entire portico was a deviation from the architects' original plans. The house foundation includes a massive footing surrounding a terrace that stretches across the entire wide front of the house. That footing is punctuated with a series of large pedestals that could only have been meant to be the bases for columns that would support a roof cover for the terrace, like the covered porch on the similarly styled Hudson and Munsell house built down the street in 1912 for Nathaniel's mother, Susan G. Wilshire. The corbels and portico were probably a last minute improvisation when someone decided not to build the covered porch. Furthermore, the corbels were too large for their application, which is probably what led the builder to seat them on top of the pilasters, where they could be recessed a few extra inches. Even then the corbels protruded out beyond the portico roof, exposing the front of the plaster to the elements and allowing water to trickle inside the corbels because the tops of the corbels were never flashed with metal. All of this was made far worse in the 1990s by the decay of the portico roof and built-in gutters, as well as the slathering of stucco.

When I acquired the house, one corbel was about 80% intact and the other about 60% intact. The condition of the corbels worsened when they were removed by my contractor in order to replace structural framing that was damaged from water intrusion. A latex mold of the corbels was not made first, as should have been done. When the corbels were removed they broke into pieces. I contacted more than half a dozen specialists in plaster architectural elements around the country to see if they had a similar sized and styled corbel mold in their libraries, but they had nothing close, and no one had any corbels with flat bottoms to sit on top of pilasters. These corbels were a unique architectural feature created in an act of improvisation in 1910.

This winter and spring a neighbor who is a potter, ceramicist, and doctor of education helped us out by taking a contract to rebuild a complete corbel to make a mold and produce replicas. Art Tobias reassembled the pieces of the better of the two corbels to produce a corbel that was about 70% complete and then sculpted replacement parts for the missing sections. He carefully scraped off layers of paint, coated the model with shellac and paint, and then made a latex mold. Art did the same thing with the surviving pieces of egg and dart moulding that wrapped the pilasters under the corbels. He made the new casts with Hydrocal gypsum plaster and reinforced the pour with sisal backing, so the materials and process would be very close to the originals. After the plaster cured, the corbels were soaked with several coats of boiled linseed oil to seal them, which was also the proper technique in 1910.

The corbels are now mounted, flashed, caulked, and painted with pure linseed oil paint, same as the house. Flashing, careful caulking, and the new roof on the portico should enable the replica corbels to last for generations. As you can see from the photographs, they are exact replicas of the originals. ●

The corbels intact in a later family's photos from the 1930s (left); the newly-restored corbels today (above top and above left)



Around the House

Bee-Gone

by Carmen Price Zigrang

Recently we were plagued by BEES. They had built a hive within one of the support posts on our front porch..... bees by the hundreds and we had no idea why. Like others, I looked online and found Bee Catchers, an environmentally friendly way to capture bees and move them. But we had a special problem because the bee's hive was so deep into the wood and bricks, we could not remove all of them safely and the expense of removing the bricks etc. may have undermined the safety of the front porch.

But after several hours of catching what they could, spraying, and sealing all the cracks, we are bee free!

I wanted to pass on their information to the readers of the WAHA Matters newsletter (And if anyone calls them please be sure to say Donald and I referred them.) ●

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Stepping Out

Civil War Remembered

150th Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg and Abraham Lincoln's Legacy on View at the Reagan Presidential Library

This summer marks the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg and, several months later, President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, regarded as one of the greatest speeches in American history. Considered by many as a turning point in the Civil War, the bloody three-day battle, in which the Union forces defeated the Confederate Army, marked the highest number of casualties in the four-year conflict.

Learn more at an exhibit on view at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley featuring a President Lincoln-signed copy of the Emancipation Proclamation and a President Lincoln-signed copy of the 13th Amendment, and an array of artifacts such as Lincoln's signature stovepipe hat and gold pocket watch inscribed with his initials.

Running through September 30, 2013, the exhibit, *A. Lincoln:*

From Railsplitter to Rushmore, explores the life of Abraham Lincoln, commemorates the Civil War and marks the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. Along with over 250 historic artifacts, it also includes sets and costumes from the Steven Spielberg-directed movie *Lincoln*.

The Reagan Presidential Library, 40 Presidential Drive, Simi Valley. Open 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. seven days a week.

Visit www.reaganfoundation.org for more information. ●



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Annual Report Issue

Preservation Year in Review

continued from page 1

This year, WAHA's Historic Preservation Committee succeeded in the designation of the West Boulevard Bridge, working closely with the neighborhood council of the area. Mitzi Mogul prepared and moved this nomination through the designation process.

The Historic Preservation Committee traditionally hosts a May preservation meeting for all WAHA members, with a program highlighting current historic preservation topics. This year's Preservation Month celebration, held at the Brown-Gorsline Residence, recognized the preservation advocacy of Laura Meyers with the Martin Eli Weil Award. Former Cultural Heritage Commissioner Helen Madrid-Worthen was the delightful guest speaker. WAHA member Laura Meyers, with additional support from Mitzi Mogul and Jim Childs, shepherded the Brown-Gorsline nomination through the designation process.

The City Council approved the WAHA proposed designation of the Stewart Farmhouse, 511 West 31st Street, as an HCM and we continue to work on its relocation.

A trend we are observing is the unfortunate conversion of large single family historic homes into student housing by gutting interiors that are character defining features of the historic property. One such instance is occurring at 1342 West Adams Boulevard. WAHA is in the process of appealing a City Certificate of Appropriateness and an environmental categorical exemption for the project at that address that transforms the Roger Williams Baptist Church and bishop Residence into student apartments.

WAHA has been actively involved, with leadership from John Patterson and Laura Meyers, in the West Adams Baldwin Hills Leimert Park Community Plan update and its SurveyLA component. WAHA will continue to participate in the South Community Plan update process as well.

WAHA continues to work on the inclusion of the "orphan six blocks," that is the six blocks of 24th Street and Adams Boulevard that were not included in the University Park HPOZ, when it came into existence because they were in a different Council District.

The past year has been one of ongoing efforts with some mixed results. WAHA routinely comments on any circulated environmental document affecting West Adams and adjacent neighborhoods. A committee member does the initial drafting, the committee reviews the position(s) points, and after review by two other Board Members in addition to the Chair, comment is submitted to the "lead agency," be it the City of Los Angeles, or other jurisdictional entity. The Committee reports regularly to the WAHA Board at its monthly meetings. The source of the environmental documents is often the City of Los Angeles Planning Department web site, notices in newspapers, a neighborhood council member, or a WAHA member. (Please note: You are our eyes and ears in your neighborhood. In many cases, only residents within a 100-foot to 500-foot radius of a property, depending on the type of case, will receive a hearing notice. If YOU receive such a notice, please do contact WAHA right away and let us know.)

2012-2013 continues to be a year of transition, building on initial progress, and coping with the development frenzy witnessed along certain key corridors, particularly Adams Boulevard, Washington Boulevard and Figueroa. For example, we continue to work toward a solution to move several residences (including the John Marcellus Stewart Cottage) that will give way eventually to transit-oriented housing planned for the Figueroa Corridor.

The HPOZs in West Adams continue to be a key structural element in keeping preservation a priority and insuring that infill properties are developed and properties are rehabilitated pursuant to the Secretary of the Interiors Standards. WAHA continues to identify and support the preservation and relocation when absolutely necessary of historic properties. When a property cannot be maintained and restored on its original site, it can be moved and rehabilitated to an area of similar period,

In this past year, WAHA prepared successful historic monument nominations for the J.M. Stewart Cottage, HCM No. 1028 (left) and the West Boulevard Bridge, HCM No. 1023 (above).



architectural design, and significance. It is the opinion of the City's consultant, Myra Frank, that such relocated properties can contribute to the historic zones when:

"Structure has been moved from its original site outside the HPOZ and does not contribute to the historic or architectural significance of the HPOZ. [This criterion is self-explanatory, but the resource is not automatically a non-contributor. A moved example that is compatible with its new neighbors could still contribute under a) if it was moved a long time ago or c) if it is better than what a modern replacement at full build-out would be in this location.]"

The WAHA Historic Preservation Committee believes that it is always helpful to designate historic sites and districts before development issues arise.

WAHA's historic preservation budget funds nomination and research, appeals, and an annual event. These costs can include consultant costs, Xeroxing, filing fees, travel, and parking. The Committee meets, as needed, at a time and place to be determined. There will be at some point be an issue where WAHA will need to determine, after all administrative remedies are exhausted, whether it is an issue that requires legal action. Such a determination would be made by the WAHA Board with a Committee recommendation. Where and when such an issue may arise remains to be seen. Concerns such as the fate of the Roger Williams Baptist Church and Bishop Residence, the Herman Kerckhoff Residence (1321-1325 West Adams Boulevard), or many of the other unresolved preservation questions may trigger the need for WAHA to evaluate its options in the coming year. ●


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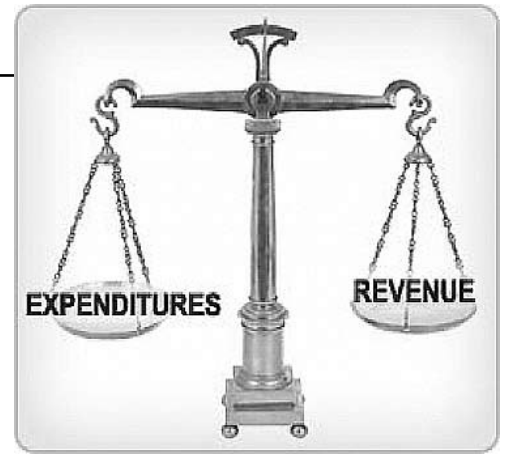
Annual Report Issue

The Year in Review: Financial Report

by John Patterson

The West Adams Heritage Association has completed another fiscal year, successfully maintaining our financial health. We are happy to report increased donor support from our members (see page 14), and we were especially pleased to have received a contribution from COMERICA Bank. WAHA is very grateful for their generous support of our community organization. Reaching out to donors will result in substantial increased levels of new financial support for the preservation efforts of WAHA, and even more importantly, securing the financial health of our organization well into the future!

The full annual financial report is available to WAHA members (only). Please e-mail president@westadamsheritage.org to request a copy. ●



The Year in Review: Membership Report

This year, the membership committee was revitalized and re-named the Membership/Outreach Committee. The new committee has six regular members – Chair Jerry Kvasnicka, Regina Berry, Jean Cade, SeElcy Caldwell, John Kurtz, and Candy Wynne – and two ad hoc members, John Patterson and Lisa Schoening.

Our committee's primary goals are two-fold. First we want to make sure that our current members get the most out of their memberships. Second, we are working to recruit new and lapsed members.

Our membership dipped several years ago during the economic downturn and we are making a coordinated effort to invite lapsed members to re-join. We are also committed to attracting new members to WAHA. Recently, Committee members staffed the WAHA table at Ciclavia to introduce ourselves to residents of West Adams, and to disseminate information about preservation and maintenance of historic houses. This outreach was so successful that the Committee will expand our presence at upcoming community events.

Another part of our outreach is to offer discounted 6-month memberships to new homeowners in West Adams through their real estate agency, with personal follow-up to encourage full membership. Our Committee is working to expand our on-line presence by offering more membership information on our newly-designed website. Membership/Outreach, taking a cue from the popularity of our WAHA's annual New Members Dessert event, is planning to host smaller informal events during the year for new members to allow them to make personal connections with WAHA members.

Our committee is always open to new ideas – and new members! Our committee meets at 7:00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month. Please contact Jerry (jkvas@earthlink.net) or Candy (candywynne@yahoo.com) to find out the location. ●

The Year in Review: WAHA Tours

WAHA presents tours throughout the year, to showcase many aspects of the Historic West Adams District, and to raise funds for our important historic preservation advocacy efforts.

During the 2012 calendar year, WAHA successfully presented four distinct tours. March brought the third edition of our Art in Historic Places Tour; June celebrated *"Pathways to Yesteryear: Strolling the Street of Dreams"* a visit to historic University Park. In late September we conducted one of our most successful Living History Tours to date at Angelus Rosedale Cemetery; and December began WAHA's celebration of the season with our biggest event, the Annual Holiday Historic Homes & Progressive Dinner Tour with *"A Warm Welcome to Wellington Square – Holidays in the Heart of the City."*

Over the last couple of years, the Living History Tour's committee has matured and grown into a strong and viable group of dedicated volunteers who are building on more than two decades of work by previous (and some still current) team members. Each year, WAHA "tells history" with actor portrayals, in costume and at graveside, of the many historic personages buried at Angelus Rosedale, the second-oldest still active cemetery in Los Angeles (it opened in 1884). Visitors also learn about the beautiful architecture (and symbolism in the monuments) seen in this and other historic cemeteries.

Our Holiday Tour depends upon and draws the largest contingent of WAHA members – dozens upon dozens – whose efforts enable us to successfully feed hundreds of guests a savory series of courses as they stroll house to house in a selected neighborhood. (We literally dish up about 1,500 appetizers, 500 cups of soup, salads, and main courses, and, last year, about 1,500 desserts.) Our friends in Wellington Square played a very significant role this past year, beginning early in the summer to reach out to their neighbors and help coordinate the participating homeowners who were willing to graciously open their homes for our event. That same outreach work has already begun in preparation for this coming year's event which will be a first-ever WAHA visit to Oxford Square – just north of Pico Boulevard.

Unfortunately, the same success report cannot be made with regard to our 2013 West Adams' Art in Historic Places tour (March), or our Spring Historic Homes & Architecture tour (June). Both of these events had to be "scratched" in recent months due to a lack of member participation. While our events have successfully occurred year after year, the truth is, that the burden has just become too great for the same few organizing volunteers to spearhead each one of these efforts. If our organization wants to continue to offer the entire series of four tours each year, it will be imperative for new people to step forward to assist in coordinating these efforts.

We have a very strong artist community here in West Adams, and we are hopeful that a core group of individuals will be willing to take on the responsibility of promoting that unique and growing aspect of life in Historic West Adams. This particular tour provides an opportunity to share with those outside of our community, just how vital our neighborhoods really are. Yes, our streets are lined with wonderful, historic houses, but it is the lives that are lived within those historic walls that give our West Adams community the vitality that makes it one of the most desirable places to live in all of Los Angeles.

The WAHA Board of Directors anxiously looks forward to hearing from several of our members who would be willing to step forward to assist in the planning and execution of the coming year's (2014) tours. Georgia Toliver, local West Adams artist and newest WAHA board member, has agreed to spearhead preparations for the next edition of our Artists of West Adams Tour. And we're hopeful that some other WAHA members will step forward to assist in these and other tour efforts. Please share your willingness to help out by emailing us at: Volunteer@WestAdamsHeritage.org.

We have earned a very strong reputation for the quality and variety of our tours, and we need help to keep that reputation going strong! ●



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Annual Report Issue

The Year in Review: Events

by Suzanne Henderson

WAHA does love to party. That is why I love being the Vice President of Events. Social events provide opportunities for networking and support community building., which is vital to our organization.

We have had some fun times together over the past year.

From annual events, like the Festive 4th of July picnic and the Ice Cream Social, to new events like the Children's Cookie Decorating Party in December. We try to have at least one purely social event each month.

Kudos go to Chris Eisenberg for coming up with the fun idea for the cookie party and making it happen. The kids had a great time decorating lots of delicious cookies that she had baked.

We have stepped out to hear neighbors sing and visited Fashion Institute (FIDM) to tour the display of Oscar costumes. We had a great time celebrating the wearing of the green at a St Patrick's Day potluck.

These are just a few of the events that we hope you remember fondly.

It was particularly gratifying this year to hear from members that they had decided to renew or increase their level of financial support or volunteering, because of how much they enjoy our events.

All of these events would not be possible without our great volunteers. I am especially grateful for several members, who have volunteered to be on the Events Committee. We could use a few more, so please consider joining us.

We are also very grateful to the members who allow us to have events at their homes. Another exciting development this year is that members have been contacting me to volunteer to host an event. This is a huge help, since finding the right venue is often a big part of the job.

Please consider hosting. We do our best to make it easy. As one recent host said, "I loved having a party at my house, without having to do all the work."

We always welcome your comments and suggestions. Please contact events@westadamsheritage.org. With your help, we can have even more fun.

Thank you, Suzie Henderson. ●

The Year in Review: Volunteer/ Recruitment Committee

by Regina Berry

The Volunteer Committee is actively recruiting members to roll up their sleeves and get involved by volunteering time/effort to support the legacy and success of WAHA.

WAHA is 100 percent volunteer organization. It is members like you who volunteer their time to ensure the organization's success -- whether it's rescuing architectural landmarks, hosting social events, or producing our signature tours throughout the year. We need more hands and heads to meet the organization's goals.

Some of the benefits of volunteering with WAHA:

- Meet other volunteers/neighbors – you share a vested interested in the community.
- Learn valuable information from neighborhood experts – a wonderful resource for learning about happenings in the community.
- Share your talent(s) with the organization.
- You'll have the satisfaction of providing a real community service.

Let's work together to achieve a shared purpose...Get on our list! We invite you to sign up to volunteer – please e-mail volunteer@westadamsheritage.org. ●

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Annual Report Issue

WAHA Facebook Page

WAHA's Facebook page is up and open for business at www.facebook.com/WestAdamsHeritageAssociation. We're encouraging everyone - WAHA members and friends - to come "Like" us there and share our posts! And you don't need to be part of Facebook to see the page: just click on the link and you'll be able to see the pictures and read the posts.

The page is a place to see what WAHA is up to, read about what's going on in the neighborhood and even find recommendations for local restaurants and other businesses. But to make all this happen we need your help: if you've taken pictures at a WAHA event, documented your own efforts to renovate your house or replant your garden, if you've got a local business whose work you'd like to share or a community event you'd like to promote, send it to us! We're particularly interested in sharing historic photos, especially if you have "now and then" views of your house or your block.

We'd also like to hear from the block clubs and preservation groups: if there's a meeting you'd like to publicize or a preservation alert you need to share, send

us a brief message with the key details and we'll help get the word out. And if your group or business has its own Facebook page,

please send us the link so we can like you back.

To send us material for posting, you can contact the page administrators directly via Facebook message or e-mail us with photos/links/event details at facebook@westadamsheritage.org. With photos, please include any relevant details (including the name of the photographer) and whether or not you'd like to be tagged in the picture when it's posted.

We hope to see you all there! ●

In Memoriam: Susan Greenburg

continued from page 2

the advice of Harold's first wife saved Susan's new job. Not until ten years later, during Harold's decidedly non-amicable divorce, did he and Susan actually notice each other as something more than employer and employee.

We will all miss Susan. How many times have we traveled to meetings and seen Harold and Susan together?

So, in the end, we embrace the redundant and repetitive statement that there are really "no words" to acknowledge and recognize the achievements offered by Susan Greenburg. We do, indeed, celebrate her extraordinary life. She was a keeper. ●

— Submitted by Harold Greenburg



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Preservation Matters

Endangered Kerckhoff Residence

continued from page 1

Time was running out for the Kerckhoff Residence. To act expeditiously, the Council waived sending this to the PLUM Committee. There were plans to sell not only free-standing furniture and items but the interior built-ins and fixtures as well. A similar issue arose in Pasadena in the 1980's with the Greene and Greene Blacker House and in Los Angeles with fixtures from John and Donald Parkinson's Bullock's Wilshire. The Blacker House failed to preserve its interior elements but Macy's, being a good corporate citizen, returned fixtures to the Bullock's Wilshire building (now Southwestern Law School.) The Kerckhoff Residence had, to our surprise, no protection noted on ZIMAS, no listing in the CRA windshield survey, but was noted by SurveyLA.

When the Roger Hathaway survey was done for the CRA Hoover Redevelopment project in 1986, the Kerckhoff Residence was hidden by foliage when the drive-through windshield survey commenced and was unfortunately missed. Two nearby houses, the Bonsall House at 1315 West Adams, and the Franklin House at 1347 West Adams, were determined individually eligible in that survey.

While WAHA was prepared to do an HCM nomination, learning that the next CHC meeting was not until July 18, WAHA's concern was that by the time an HCM nomination was taken under consideration and made its way through the usual channels, the house likely would be significantly altered.

This year, two ZIMAS listed and officially protected residences, the Bishop Residence of the Roger Williams Baptist Church enclave (determined federally individually eligible for the National Register by SHPO), and the Historic Cultural Monument at 1978 Estrella, were gutted by developers without permits.

WAHA feared that the Herman Kerckhoff Residence would meet the same fate. While the freestanding contents of the house can be sold without objection, the fixtures and built-ins that are intrinsic to the historic character of the house, if stripped and sold, would cause serious and irreparable damage. An estate sale does not require a permit and the house had no protection, without the steps taken by Councilmember Parks and his colleagues to afford the Kerckhoff Residence consideration as an HCM.

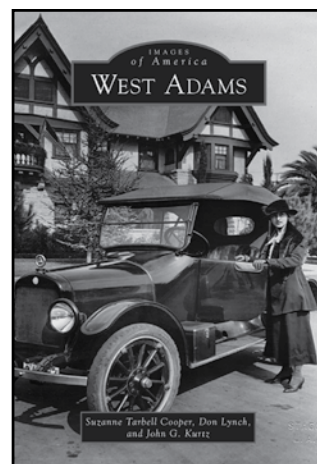
A motion from Council to consider a site for monument status is not frequently done in our experience. WAHA found several previous successful examples: the Statton Residence at 1415 South Gramercy Place; the Cline Residence and Museum, 1409 South Gramercy Place (these first two both in West Adams); the first "Der Wienerschnitzel" on Pacific Coast Highway in Wilmington; Rudolph Schindler's Bethlehem Baptist Church at East 49th Street and Compton Avenue; and the recent designation of an acre commemorating the 1942 Japanese-Americans' relocation to the Tuna Canyon Detention Station at 6433 West La Tuna Canyon Road.

For the Kerckhoff Residence, there appeared to be a "perfect storm" surrounding the support for its eventual protection. Planning and Cultural Heritage staff, Councilmembers, and work by WAHA Preservation Committee members Laura Meyers, Jim Childs, Roland Souza, and Mitzi Mogul, all moved this forward.

WAHA looks forward to engaging in the nomination process and working towards insuring that the Herman Kerckhoff Residence retains its significant character defining elements. As Committee member Mitzi Mogul expressed in her research evaluation: "The Herman H. Kerckhoff Residence is a much beloved landmark and has widespread community affection and support. Herman H. Kerckhoff and his family lived at the residence on Adams Boulevard for an extended length of time—over 35 years—which offers a unique window into the social, economic, cultural, political, and geographical development of the early life of the City and population of Los Angeles."

West Adams Boulevard is a scenic highway that links many of WAHA's historic neighborhoods. In the last three decades, preservation has experienced many losses and numerous successes. The Holterhoff Mansion was lost to make way for a supermarket, but as a mitigation three houses on Menlo were restored. The Childs Mansion and the Pepperdine Mansion are gone. The Elegant Manor remains endangered. The Roger Williams Baptist Church and Bishop Residence site is targeted for a student housing project which, if developed as proposed, will do irreparable harm to the historic setting (as the *WAHA Matters* newsletter has featured in previous articles.)

WAHA will make every effort to see that the Herman Kerckhoff Residence, an architectural treasure and cultural landmark, will not be lost to future generations. ●



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Historic Preservation Updates

by Laura Meyers

Once again, there's much to report -- some positive, some negative -- this month about WAHA's historic preservation advocacy efforts.

Eagle-eyed readers will note we are once again showing you the gutted interior of the **Bishop Residence at 1342 West Adams Blvd.** That's because, although WAHA did win some design concessions from the developers of the proposed student housing project, the developers also hired a historic consultant who claimed the Victorian-era mansion wasn't even historic! (Noting that it is already listed as National Register Eligible and is designated as a Contributor to a district.) WAHA also engaged a historic consultant, whose opinion was that the project -- with its multiple apartments and changes to windows, doors, etc., did NOT meet Secretary of Interior Standards for the rehabilitation of historic properties. Despite this written evaluation, WAHA's appeal was denied at the South L.A. Area Planning Commission on June 18. WAHA believes that the use of a "categorical exemption" and failure of the



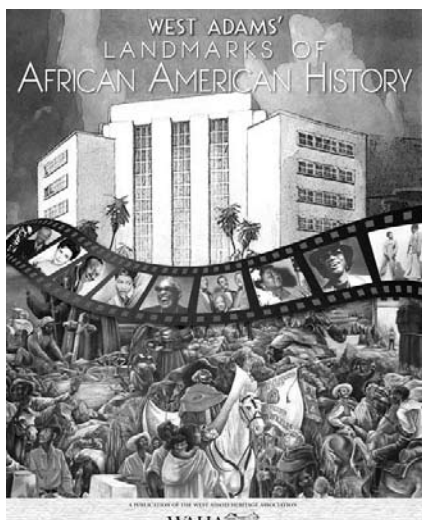
Planning staff to properly evaluate this entire project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), along with the fact that the project doesn't meet the Secretary's Guidelines, is simply bad policy, and so WAHA is now appealing the entire environmental clearance ("CEQA") to the City Council.

We have other news to report. WAHA has submitted several additional Historic Cultural Monument (HCM) nominations to the Cultural Heritage Commission. In addition to the **Herman H. Kerckhoff Residence**, WAHA has also nominated the **Haight-Dandridge Residence**, 2012 Victoria Ave in Wellington Square, as an HCM. It is a architectural specimen: a near picture perfect example of an Arts & Crafts bungalow. The Haight-Dandridge Residence is associated with a family whose name you would recognize from the 1960s ("Haight-Ashbury"), and also with later owner Ruby Dandridge, an actress-comedienne-performer who was also the mother of actress Dorothy Dandridge.

In addition, WAHA nominated the **Roberta Apartments** at 2424-2430 as an HCM. This French Eclectic Revival building was designed by architect Edward Butler Rust and constructed in 1921. Rust was also the architect of the Los Altos Apartments on Wilshire Boulevard.

WAHA is also attending a public scoping meeting and preparing comments related to USC's proposal to demolish several c. 1904 residences on **Royal Street** in University Park (near the Shrine Auditorium) to make way for a new university-related childcare center. The several buildings are all identified as historic in the Community Redevelopment Agency Historic Resources Survey, which still governs this neighborhood. ●

WEST ADAMS' LANDMARKS OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY



WAHA presents *West Adams' Landmarks of African American History*, a compendium of photos and brief biographies of more than 70 prominent African Americans who lived in the West Adams area of Los Angeles and their homes. Also included are many buildings of historical importance to the African American community.

Inside the pages of *West Adams: Landmarks of African American History*, you'll learn about religious and civic institutions that play significant roles in West Adams' (and Los Angeles') black heritage, along with civil rights leaders, entertainers, sports figures, wartime heroes, and trailblazers in their fields and who all helped change the face of Los Angeles. *44 pages, 8-1/2 X 11, glossy, full color throughout. \$10.*

Purchase at www.WestAdamsHeritage.org (click on "WAHA store" — "WAHA books").

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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WAHA's 2013 Calendar for History Buffs and Preservation Advocates

AUGUST

WAHA's Ice Cream Social

Sunday, August 18

Don your summer whites or Victorian-inspired attire and join us for an afternoon (2-5 p.m.) of ice cream and other sweets, old-fashioned entertainments, and visiting with neighbors.



SEPTEMBER

Potluck in Historic Van Buren Place

Sunday, September 15, 4-7 p.m.

Join us at Norma Reynold's home, 2639 S. Van Buren Place

Living History Tour at Angelus Rosedale Cemetery

Saturday, September 28

Actors portray, in costume and at graveside, a half dozen of the historic personages buried at this landmark cemetery.

DECEMBER

Holiday Historic Homes Tour & Progressive Dinner

Saturday and Sunday, December 7-8

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

Calendar ✓

Upcoming Events

AUGUST

Wellington Square Farmers Market Festive Fundraiser — Friday evening, August 2

Everyone is invited to the market's first fundraising party! The volunteer farmers market has been bringing folks together for 3 years now and it's time to celebrate! Local Executive Chef, Dana Flores, of Bread and Wine Catering, is creating a farmers market produce inspired food and cocktail party, with lots of food, and fun. The amazing Jimmy Tamae and the Wellington Jazz Quintet will provide the musical entertainment. There will also be a "silent auction" with gift baskets and restaurant gift certificates. Bring your friends, and enjoy a lovely summer evening together under the stars in a private home just a few blocks away from the market, in Wellington Square. Cost: \$29. For more information visit: <http://wellingtonsquarefarmersmarket.com>.

SEPTEMBER

WAHA General Meeting & Potluck — Sunday, September 15 (see Calendar, page 15)

Living History Tour at Angelus Rosedale Cemetery — Saturday, September 28 (see story, page 3)

Scoop Up Some Fun: WAHA's Annual Ice Cream Social Sunday, August 18, 2 to 5 p.m. 1626 Virginia Road (Lafayette Square)

What better way to spend a summer afternoon than eating ice cream and other sweets, socializing with neighbors, playing games, and other old-fashioned entertainment? Please put on your summer whites or Victorian-inspired attire, and join WAHA at its annual Ice Cream Social. The dulcet tones of a barbershop quartet will add to the old fashioned ambiance.

The afternoon's festivities will include a raffle and the traditional Cake Walk game (winners will walk away with beautiful cakes). All in all, this event will be a lovely way to while away a summer afternoon in Historic West Adams. (See page 1 for more information.)



WAHA's 2013 Calendar of Events is on page 15.

The WAHA Matters 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 2013. All rights for graphic and written material appearing in the newsletter are reserved. Contact Director of Publications for permission.

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