Ease On Down, Ease On Down the Road
Victorian Cottages Saved from Wrecking Ball, Find Safe Harbor in University Park

It’s not every day you see a house heading down the street, but that happened twice in July just north of USC’s University Park Campus.

The rare double house move will help preserve a pair of turn-of-the-century homes in University Park.

In the wee hours starting at midnight on Wednesday, July 22, and Thursday, July 23, the university relocated two historic buildings from Royal Street to a vacant lot on Portland Street.

The project is a collaboration between USC, the University Park Historic Preservation Overlay Zone, WAHA, and Southland Development, a for-profit organization that works to provide quality community housing.

WAHA Perspective: Urgent Action Needed
Stopping the Murphy Oil Site Parkland Expansion; Community Meeting Slated for August 8

WAHA has major concerns with the proposed Freeport McMoRan Oil & Gas (FMOG) Murphy Drill Site expansion. FMOG is asking for approval to expand its operations into the parkland on the southern slope facing 27th St. They wish to install a CEB 800 gas burning flare unit. This unit will give FMOG the capability to burn off all of the natural gas produced at both the Murphy Oil Drill Site and a similar site located on Jefferson Blvd. Both of these requests, and the failure of the City to require an environmental impact report, are unacceptable to WAHA and the larger West Adams community.

Moreover, during this lengthy process FMOG has provided contradictory and misleading information to the community and, through its misrepresentations to the Department of City Planning, sought to evade the environmental review mandated by the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (CEQA). A categorical exemption, the lowest level of environmental review, is not legally sufficient to protect our environment nor does it meet the requirements of the law.

The Planning Department will be making a decision on FMOG’s proposal soon. Time is running out for the community to make its opposition known to the Zoning Administrator and build the record to alert our decision makers to the issues. The Planning Department’s Zoning Administrator held a public hearing on the case on May 12, 2015 and residents of the West Adams community made their views known to oppose the FMOG project. The comment period ends on August 14. WAHA members need to make their views known before that time.

The Origins of the Living History Tour at Angelus Rosedale Cemetery
by Joe Ryan, Tour Founder

This year will be the 25th anniversary of the Rosedale Cemetery Tour. Doesn’t time fly!

I got the idea for the tour from Elgin, Illinois, where my sister lived, in the late 1980s. At the time I was on the board of the Los Angeles City Historical Society (LACHS). As an outing for the LACHS I volunteered to set up a tour. I was also on the board of WAHA and I included them, although few West Adams residents came the first year. At the time I was working part time at the Archdiocese Archival Center. Msgr. Francis J. Weber, a “history” friend of mine was President of the Rosedale Cemetery Association. When I told him of my plans, he gave me full access to the archive. To learn who was in the cemetery of importance, I, on separate occasions took: Msgr. Weber; Gloria Northrop; Tom Owen; and David Cameron on walking tours asking them to point out who was there, and that is how I originally developed my list.

The first tour was on Saturday, October 27, 1990. It was a “lecture tour” with no actors,
Living History Tour Plans Are Underway —
Helping Hands Needed for September 26 Event!

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. Visitors also learn the history of this cemetery, and the role it has played in the lives of generations of Angelenos.

This year’s tour is its 25th anniversary, and it is slated for Saturday, September 26, and 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, of course, also organize the tour itself, with all the myriad accompanying tasks. There will be a regular schedule of meetings in August and September.

To join in this rewarding effort, please contact Laura Meyers at lauramink@aol.com, or write tours@westadamsheritage.org.

New WAHA Board Member:

Joining the WAHA Board of Directors will be a pleasure and an honor. I have been an active volunteer and WAHA member for decades even though I live in what I lovingly call WAHA adjacent (the Pico/Fairfax area). I was originally recruited to be a shepherd at the Living History tour by Corinne Pleger, my dearest friend. My involvement quickly escalated to shepherding the Holiday tour. This was over 20 years ago and I still cherish these activities. I now assist at many if not most of the events throughout the year with great joy and enthusiasm.

I bring a lot of energy and commitment to the tenets of what WAHA stands for and want to be a part of its growth and development. I have gained more than just knowledge about history and historic homes from WAHA. I have made close friends and feel a part of a community that truly cares about preservation and connection.

Recently my interest in neighborhood preservation came home to roost. Pico/Fairfax seems to be a flashpoint for developers and mansionization. In the block behind mine, five homes built in the 1920s have been razed and replaced by large, overbuilt houses. Small-lot subdivisions are happening in nearby blocks as well. It is heartbreaking to see this happening. I only wish HPOZ designation was easier.

Thank you, WAHA, for preserving the wonderful buildings in West Adams and engaging the residents (and semi-residents). I look forward to becoming even more involved and knowledgeable as a member of the Board.

Sincerely, Paula Brynen ●
President’s Message by Lore Hilburg

So What Have You Done For WAHA Lately?

If you are Mitzi Mogul, Laura Meyers and Roland Souza, you ran one of our most successful tours ever: The “Elegant Mansions of West Adams.” On June 6, 2015, we hoped for 250 tour goers; 600-plus tour goers showed up. Bravo to everyone who helped in that historic event.

If you are Suzie Henderson, you coordinate, manage and produce great events and potlucks such as the Fourth of July Party, the Ice Cream Social, the election meeting…well, you get the idea. Suzie does everything with efficiency, enthusiasm, and grace — thank you! (Now all the rest of you, help her out with a future event or two!)

If you are Lisa Raymond, you are the new Volunteer Coordinator, and we are ecstatic to have you. Lisa, we have the best volunteers in town, as you’ll see.

There are many more to thank, and I will use this space in the future to shower our fine volunteers with attention.

Here is how you can get your name in the newsletter: Be active! Keep your membership up to date. Sign up for one of our activities! Most of all, stay in touch and involved. We need you now more than ever. Specifics? Here are some: We need a chair for the Membership Committee, and our Committees need more members. How about nominating an exterior renovation for an award at the Ice Cream Social? Submit photographs of the “before” and “after” to Jean Frost at Preservation@WestAdamsHeritage.org by August 6, 2015. And if you don’t know how you can help, but you know you have a hand to lend, Lisa Raymond wants to hear from you at Volunteer@WestAdamsHeritage.org.

In addition, I am planning a special tour that showcases West Adams’ gardens that use native plants, edibles and sustainable practices. We are area leaders in this regard, and we want to show off a bit and spread the word! It will be held in the Spring 2016. Submit suggested gardens to President@WestAdamsHeritage.org. If you would like to be part of the planning committee on this event, please e-mail me!

Finally, I want to hear from you — your compliments and brags, your gripes and complaints. We have grown so much and made such great progress as an organization helping people and preserving heritage and history. Let’s let nothing get in the way of our mission, and find solutions together. I truly appreciate your continued support.

Lore Hilburg may be reached by e-mail at president@westadamsheritage.org

The Princes of Kings Road

Sunday, October 4 5 p.m.
Tickets: $35
Neutra Institute and Museum, 2379 Glendale Blvd. (Silverlake)

by Lore Hilburg

Once again WAHA members have an opportunity to participate in an event that is unique to WAHA. On Sunday, October 4, at 5 p.m., the Neutra Institute and Museum in Silverlake will be the venue for an exciting new play called “The Princes of Kings Road.” The play is set at the time architects and former friends Richard Neutra and Rudolph Schindler meet again after a 23-year estrangement. It was written by WAHA member and West Adams resident Tom Lazarus, who is also directing, and produced by Stevie Stern Lazarus. I have seen the play performed in a reading and it is amazing. You will learn about these two amazing and interesting architects who are portrayed by terrific actors in a surprising setting. The play is funny, poignant, insightful, and just plain entertaining.

Going to this play will serve three purposes: 1) you will have a good time; 2) you will be supporting WAHA; and 3) you will be supporting local theater. Now the bad news: there are only 50 seats and they will go fast. The cost is $35.00 per ticket and for those lucky enough to attend, after the performance you will also be privileged to join in a Q and A session with Dion Neutra, an architect in his own right and the son of Richard Neutra. In addition, of course, you will get to see an amazing Mid-Century building.

The play will end at a little after 6 so by 6:45 p.m. you will be able to go to one of the great local restaurants in Silverlake for dinner (not included in the ticket price).

The tickets can be purchased by contacting my office and writing a check to WAHA for $35.00. No reservation will be accepted without a check.

CONTACT:
Law Office of Lore Hilburg
1943 Buckingham Road
Los Angeles, CA 90016
lore@hilburglaw.com
richard@hilburglaw.com
Dear Lore,

We want to express the deepest gratitude from the members of the Van Buren association to WAHA for your kind donation of $538 to help with the watering of the drought-stressed young trees on Adams Boulevard between Vermont Avenue and Normandie. This was a project where WAHA came in from the beginning, back in 2010.

Despite the many historic homes in the Adams-Normandie HPOZ here, the stretch of our commercial corridor, Adams Blvd., from Vermont to Normandie, is particularly dilapidated and depressed. A major effort we made to counter that image was to have our Van Buren neighborhood association approach Mayor Villaraigosa’s Million Tree Initiative in 2009 and have them plant 33 Magnolia street trees, to match the few existing mature trees on that stretch.

We had to sign a contract to provide watering for three years. We found that this cost up to $3,000 a year. We contributed some funds from our small treasury. WAHA contributed $400 in 2010, and $500 in 2011-2012. The main part came from grants from the Empowerment Congress North Area Neighborhood Development Council.

We thought the standard three initial years would establish the trees. But the drought endangered them after the initial period and we had to go back to the Empowerment Congress for summer watering grants in 2013 and 2014. Now with the drought in its fourth year, ten of the initial trees are gone. Most from vandalism, but some have succumbed to the withering dryness.

The approved city agency that did the planting and which has done the watering each year is the Koreatown Youth and Community Center. We asked Jerry Velasquez, their Tree Planting Program Supervisor, to inventory the trees. He found 23 still living, but highly stressed and in need of watering to make it through the coming drought summer. Their cost is $6 per visit per tree, and in the summer they need to make two visits per month. So that set a cost of $828. Van Buren is just a block club with only a small membership, but we put up $300.

WAHA has very generously made up the difference and will save our trees for another year.

We were impressed when architect Barry Milofsky, in his acceptance speech in receiving WAHA’s Martin Weil award this month, pointed to the importance of street trees on historic streets, including the strong correlation between the loss of such trees and the breaking up of intact blocks. Certainly our thinking in planting these trees was that a canopy of leafy trees could go a long way toward making up for our otherwise desolate streetscape. We have struggled for six years now to keep these young plants going, with an image in our minds of what the street will look like when they are tall and spread their thick branches filled with leaves over the sidewalks.

Warmest regards,
Leslie Evans, President and Jennifer Charnofsky

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West Adams MusicFest ‘15
Labor Day Weekend –
Friday, Saturday & Sunday Nights, September 4, 5 & 6
2500 Block of 7th Avenue (just north of Adams)

Fourteen years ago, an event was created that changed the dynamics of one of the largest historic neighborhoods in Los Angeles: The West Adams Avenues Jazz Under the Stars music festival, sponsored by the West Adams Avenues Association (WAAA). As the first culturally diverse neighbors gathered with picnic baskets and lawn chairs, local musicians from the community began their music sets.

A lot has changed since then.

Last year came a new name — “West Adams MusicFest ‘14” — and a twist: it expanded to three days, with a Local Showcase Night on Friday, Blues, Jazz and Latin on Saturday, and Gospel and Zydeco on Sunday. Musicians include fan favorites: the Wellington Square Quartet, Michael King Trio and the V.I.P. Gospel Choir (Crenshaw Cathedral).

And, WAHA is one of the community partner sponsors.

Everyone is invited to attend this free community event — do bring blankets or portable beach chairs (or similar) to sit on. (Please note: also bring cash to partake in the many different foods available for sale!) Please do plan to come: it is West Adams’ own “Ravinia.”

WAAA welcomes help if you would like to be involved in a larger way. If you would like to be a vendor or help in other ways, please contact Donna Jones, WAAA Chair, 323-734-6473, westadamsdonna@gmail.com.

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Mid-Century Modern Condo on Kings Road, WEHO — Jane Harrington, seller’s agent

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Sunkist Park, Culver City — 1950s, 3 bed, 2 bath — Adam Janeiro, buyers agent
Arts & Crafts Mansion in the Nevins Tract — Grand 6,000-sq-ft residence — David Raposa, buyer’s agent.
Welcome, Marsha Harris and Robert McDuff!

Our agents live and work in Historic West Adams
David Raposa
Adam Janeiro, Carlton Joseph, Jane Harrington, Ed Moore
Our Offices are in the Victorian Village,
2316 1/2 S. Union Ave., Suite 2, 213-747-1337

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with 24 gravesites visited. LACHS was delighted. The attendees knew their history and were happy to see so many important citizens at Rosedale. In fact, I picked up more personalities from the LACHS historians as we went along. The WAHA board wanted to be more involved. The tour was changed to an hourly schedule and a fee would be charged.

The Sunday, October 29, 1991 tour featured Rory Cunningham’s now iconic drawing on the brochure cover. We visited 27 gravesites on the tour. I wrote a 13-page script for the WAHA volunteers to use for their lectures. It met with a mixed response. WAHA’s tour guides were unprepared to answer the many questions that came from the fairly knowledgeable attendees. I had mailed press releases and invitations to over twenty local historical societies, and their members filled the tour groups, especially the first two groups.

The tour on Saturday, September 26, 1992 was a joint effort between LACHS and WAHA. It included a tour of the Durfee Estate — WAHA’s contribution. The tours were lead by LACHS volunteers who knew local history. Press releases were sent to the historic organizations and to six local newspapers. Thanks to Cecilia Rasmussen, whom I had helped with a couple of her “Then and Now” articles, the story appeared in the Los Angeles Times — and the crowd changed. More attendees knew less about LA history and became bored with the scholarly presentations.

So the Saturday, September 18, 1993 tour was reinvented again, into two separate cemetery tours: I. Scandals and Famous Women; II. Pioneers and Entrepreneurs. Again a house tour — of the “Powers Mansion” — was included as part of the event. The WAHA board voted to charge $15 to attend; we went from $371 in donations the prior year to $2,193 in ticket sales.

The Archdiocese sold the cemetery in 1994 to Angelus Funeral Home. With the support of company owners John and Kim Hill, Angelus printed our program and supplied the food on site for the attendees. I renamed the tour “Living History,” as the original Elgin tour was named and included costumed “actors.” The City Times published an article with the WAHA phone number and the crowds came.

I continued to head the tour for the next five years, for a total of nine years, until Chuck and I departed from West Adams in 2000 (we had purchased the land in San Luis Obisbo and had to exercise the building permits that came with the land).

It was a fun nine years. I learned a lot about Los Angeles and West Adams history because of the tour. It brought me into contact with some very knowledgeable contemporaries that have remained friends over the years. I regret, and did at the time, the limiting of the number of people who are allowed to attend and the lack of outreach to other historical groups.

Looking forward to the decades ahead, the Hill family members are not going to be around forever and I worry that the cemetery may eventually be abandoned. WAHA should think about giving back and lay aside a fund for its future preservation. This is happening all over the country, where groups are restoring headstones and maintaining the grounds. ●
Angelus Rosedale Cemetery (former Rosedale) was founded in 1884, when Los Angeles was a small town and its location at what is now the corner of Washington Boulevard and Normandie Avenue was in the countryside, outside the city limits. It was the first cemetery in Los Angeles open to all races and creeds, and it was the first to use a new approach in design called “lawn cemeteries...where nature and art conspire to surround the burial places of the dead with beautiful trees and flowers, natural scenery and works of monumental art.”

For the past quarter century visitors have enjoyed a “Living History” tour of the cemetery, an event in which actors, in costume and at graveside with set vignettes, give first-person portrayals of some of the personages who are buried here.

This year visitors will “meet” a former jazz saxophonist with the legendary Count Basie Orchestra and a murder victim whose story was portrayed in a well-known film, among a veritable rogues’ gallery of colorful and quirky people who are buried at Angelus Rosedale Cemetery. Other personages this year include:

- **Josephine Callaghan**, armless daredevil heiress and aviatrix;
- Welterweight boxer **Cecil Lewis “Young Jack” Thompson**;
- Silent film actress **Alice Browning**, and her husband, **Todd Browning**, director of the film *Freaks*;
- **Constance Crowley**, famous English stage actress with leading roles in Shakespearean tragedies, and
- **Walter R. Kreps**, first LAPD motorcycle officer killed in a traffic crash on duty.

Tickets will go on sale in early August and cost $35 apiece (until September 10; after that date or at the door, $40, space available). WAHA members enjoy a $10 discount on the “Early Bird” price only; all tickets are $40 beginning Friday, September 11.

Purchase tickets online or download a mail-in form at www.WestAdamsHeritage.org.

Tours will depart approximately every 25 minutes, beginning at 9:00 a.m. (Advance reservations are REQUIRED; each tour group’s participants are pre-assigned.) Visitors are asked to register for “Early Morning,” “Mid-Morning” or “Mid-Day” tours; WAHA will assign specific tour times after September 10, to be sure everyone’s choice can be accommodated.

Clockwise from top right:
**Alice Browning**, **Walter R. Kreps**, **Constance Crowley**, and **Cecil Lewis “Young Jack” Thompson**
YOUTH PROTEST OIL DRILLING EXPANSIONS IN WEST ADAMS

Young people from two summer programs in South Los Angeles took to the streets on July 20 dressed as bright yellow birds to demonstrate that they, their families, and their neighbors should not be treated like canaries in a coal mine because of the two oil drilling operations less than 35 feet away from homes in the community.

The two drill sites, Jefferson and Murphy, are operated by Freeport McMoRan Oil and Gas (FMOG), whose regular operations include tanker trucks full of toxic acid parked next to homes and plaguing residents with noxious fumes, loud noises, heavy truck traffic, and the persistent risk of catastrophic accidents. An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) has never been conducted at these sites, and as FMOG tries to expand capacity by adding new equipment to the Murphy drill site, these children and other community members are calling on L.A. City Council President Herb Wesson (CD10) to stand with them in opposing it. Newly elected CD8 Council member Marqueece Harris-Dawson recently announced he is opposed to expansion and in favor of an EIR.

The Murphy and Jefferson drill sites are within a mile of one another and connected by a network of underground pipes. According to the Stand Together Against Neighborhood Drilling Los Angeles (STAND-LA) coalition, which organized the demonstration, by installing additional equipment to burn off the methane gas generated by oil drilling, FMOG will be able to increase the amount of drilling at both sites, endangering the health and safety of the surrounding community, which includes three elementary schools within four blocks.

“We know oil drilling has negative impacts on community health,” said Richard Parks, President of Redeemer Community Partnership, and a WAHA member. “The last thing we should be doing is allowing Freeport to expand capacity at these drill sites. We need our city leadership to listen to the community and protect our kids from neighborhood drilling.”

The students, who attend the summer programs Adventures Ahead, run by Redeemer Community Partnership (RCP), and the Freedom School, run by Holman United Methodist Church (UMC), have spent their summer learning about social movements, the important role children have played in advancing these causes, and the value of advocating for your community.

“We are teaching our kids that their voices matter and that they can make a difference in their community,” said Pastor Kelvin Sauls, Head Pastor of Holman United Methodist Church. “Neighborhood drilling is unequivocally an issue of environmental justice. This drill site is just steps from our church and our members live right across the street. Our children deserve to grow up in a community where they aren’t poisoned by toxic emissions.”

Children chanting “Hey hey, ho ho, oil drilling has to go!” walked from the Adventures Ahead center to the nearby Jefferson drill site, where they sang songs inside an eight-foot-tall birdcage and took photos in front of the gates with signs displaying how close they live to the site. The children then met at Holman UMC to march to the Murphy drill site carrying signs and singing songs. On the lawn in front of the gate, situated in between convalescent homes, schools and residential housing, the children cheered, “EIR! EIR! EIR!”

Both RCP and Holman UMC are part of the STAND-LA coalition, which is dedicated to safeguarding the well-being, health and safety of Angelenos living and working in close proximity to oil drilling sites.
WAHA Perspective: Urgent Action Needed  continued from page 1

There will be an open West Adams community meeting at Holman United Methodist Church (3320 West Adams Blvd) on Saturday, August 8 at 9:30 a.m.

Please make plans to attend this community meeting and, in the meantime, make sure the Zoning Administrator receives your comments on the project before the case file comment period is closed on August 14, 2015.

To contact the Zoning Administrator, please use the following information:

Associate Zoning Administrator Charles Rausch  
c/o Mr. Michael Sin  
Re: Case No. ZA 15227(O)(PA5)  
Los Angeles City Planning Department  
Office of Zoning Administration  
200 N. Spring Street, Room 763  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Please copy your City Council Representative which, for West Adams District residents, includes the following Council Districts:

CD 10, Herb Wesson:  Councilmember.Wesson@lacity.org  
CD 8, Marqueece Harris-Dawson:  Councilmember.Harris-Dawson@lacity.org  
CD 1, Gil Cedillo:  Councilmember.Cedillo@lacity.org  
CD 9, Curren Price:  Councilmember.Price@lacity.org

We believe the time to act is now and action is urgently needed for two reasons:

First, FMOG should not be allowed to expand into the parkland. Since the Murphy Drill Site opened in 1961, all oil operations have been confined to the walled work compound on the top of the hill fronting Adams Blvd. Freeport is asking permission to expand this work compound for the first time ever in the 54-year-old existence of the drill site. And they want to use this added space for an unacceptable purpose – to install a CEB 800 (one model is pictured below) gas burning flare.

Worse still, FMOG has willfully ignored the Zoning Administrator's rulings from 2006 and 2007 ordering that the oil company, the land owner (the Archdiocese of Los Angeles), and Council District 10 should work together to open the parkland on the Southern slope to public access. Our City lacks sufficient parks to meet the needs of the community and to achieve the Mayor's Sustainability Plan goal of having parkland accessible within ½ mile of all residents. Our community and all of South Los Angeles is especially in need of accessible parkland. To now request to use the parkland to install a CEB 800 gas burning flare unit is not acceptable.

Second, FMOG should not be allowed to install the capability to burn all the gas it produces by using a CEB 800 gas burning flare that adds to global warming while producing only pollution and no usable product.

Oil wells produce a combination of raw petroleum and natural gas. The natural gas produced at the interconnected Murphy, Jefferson, and 4th Ave Drill Sites has always been piped to the Murphy Site, and from Murphy sold to SoCalGas. At the public hearing held by the Zoning Administrator on May 12, 2015, FMOG revealed for the first time that it is losing the historical exemption from gas composition standards under which it has sold gas to SoCalGas. FMOG said this creates a new “urgency” to install the CEB 800 to burn off the gas it will no longer be able to sell.

The drill sites have never before used flares to burn off any natural gas produced at the wells. The CEB 800 can burn almost 1,000,000 cubic feet of gas per day which is the total amount of gas produced per day at Murphy and Jefferson combined. That is equal to the amount used each day by 10,000 average houses.

Councilmember Wesson, in whose district the drilling site is located, has been meeting with neighborhood representatives and has pledged to stand with the community on this extremely negative proposal. We look forward to his comments. In the meantime, concerned West Adams residents need to act now. What good is it to beautifully preserve and restore your homes if the environment around them becomes toxic? The health and welfare of our community is at stake. We look forward to seeing you at Holman United Methodist Church on August 8.
Preservation Matters

Ease On Down the Road
continued from page 1

The house moves insured that these homes would have some level of protection within an HPOZ. Many community residents (including stalwart WAHA members) showing up at midnight to watch the spectacle. John Patterson and Jeff Valdez were there. So was Roland Souza. Suzanne Henderson brought her young grandson, Andrew. Mitzi Mogul brought along her mother, Inez Mogul, age 94. Natalie Neith, Sergio Gutman, Lana Soroko, Rudolfo Acosta, Tom Florio, and Gary and Karen Kousnetz were among the spectators. Laura Meyers brought donuts both nights. Jim Childs served champagne. It was quite the party!

“The move was a true collaboration between the community (West Adams Heritage Association), the developer (Southland Development), the HPOZ (University Park HPOZ) and USC (University of Southern California),” said Childs, a member of WAHA’s Preservation Committee.

In 2013, the university contemplated a project that would endanger the homes on their current site. The Preservation Committee members met with USC officials and were soon engaged in a discussion of moving the historic houses to another site, always with the hope that these houses could either be preserved in place or moved nearby for new productive lives.

In 2014, Southland Development Group purchased 2350 Portland Street, which had been a vacant lot for over 40 years. They had originally planned to do new construction, but were soon swept away with the preservationists’ enthusiasm.

Childs credits Southland Development for having the courage to consider something “outside their box.” He also credits USC for underwriting the cost of relocating the homes and CD9 Councilmember Curren Price for encouraging the parties to work together.

KUDOS too to American Heavy House Movers, whose amazing teamwork avoided trees, stop signs and even a BMW whose owner illegally parked in the path of the first night’s house move.

“I don’t consider myself a developer,” added John Guell, President and CEO of Southland Development. “I am a problem solver and this was a classic example of solving a problem for everyone. It was such a win-win situation.”

Childs agreed. “We are thrilled. There’s a lot of good will and we are moving forward.”

Houses up on blocks awaiting the moving truck.

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Childs agreed. “We are thrilled. There’s a lot of good will and we are moving forward.”

Photos by Mike Baker/USC, Laura Meyers and Mitzi March Mogul

LEFT: Beginning the journey -- the cottage is pulled off of the Royal Street lot; ABOVE: Dozens of neighbors joined in the revelry along the route.
Home at last, snuggled in on Portland Street

ABOVE: A congratulatory banner travels with the moving houses; RIGHT: USC’s campus provides a backdrop as the house journeys along Hoover Boulevard.

LEFT: Traveling on Adams Boulevard, passing by the historic Second Church of Christ, Scientist/Art of Living Foundation; ABOVE: putting the first house to move at the back of the Portland lot
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 (for members only). 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. In many ways historic preservation has never been as threatened as it is today. WAHA thanks you for stepping up and getting involved in all of our 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.”

2014-2015 The Preservation Committee: The Year in Review

by Jean Frost, Vice President - Historic Preservation

It seems just yesterday we reported on highlights of last year’s activities. Many of the same issues and questions remain from the previous year and many more have arisen.

First, kudos to the Preservation Committee team which can step up quickly and intervene in preservation crises. As much as we try to plan ahead and be proactive, issues arise that need to be addressed urgently: for example, last year’s designation of the Herman Kerckhoff Residence at 1345 West Adams Boulevard; this year’s HCM designation of 2067 Hobart Boulevard. The community became aware that the Hobart site was mistakenly listed as a non-contributor to the Harvard Heights HPOZ. WAHA advocated its listing as a contributor and successfully moved it forward to the Cultural Heritage Commission for designation as an HCM. Both these designations insured that the properties would have historic standards review of the way they are rehabilitated.

Jim Childs, Rory Cunningham, Laura Meyers, Mitzi Mogul, David Raposa, Roland Souza, and myself form the Committee leadership and we welcome other interested persons to step up to volunteer. Volunteerism is at the core of the Committee’s efforts and effectiveness. To expand our volunteer base, the Committee intends to sponsor a hands-on monument designation workshop.

Committee members closely monitored SurveyLA, the citywide survey of historic resources undertaken by the City of Los Angeles Planning Department and the Getty Institute. It uncovered some new historic resources in West Adams and, conversely, members commented when resources were omitted. Unfortunately identification as a historic resource in SurveyLA does not trigger any protection unless it involves discretionary action (or has some other protection as an HCM or is within an HPOZ.) Recently we have seen a mansion in Victoria Circle and a Spanish Colonial on Adams Boulevard — both surveyed as historic in SurveyLA — negatively redeveloped with no adherence to historic standards. This makes it ever more urgent to advocate for the University Park and Harvard Heights HPOZs be expanded to include the “six orphan blocks” (the south side of 24th Street to Adams between Hoover and Vermont), and, for Harvard Heights, an expansion to include both West Adams Heights and Manhattan Place.

In addition, the Lafayette Square HPOZ could easily be expanded (from an historical context perspective) to include adjacent areas (Victoria Park, and Wellington Square) identified by SurveyLA. Our neighbors in Oxford Square are hoping to be annexed into the “Triplets” – Country Club Park, Wilshire Park and Windsor Village – which would effectively create the “Quadruplets.”

In all of these instances, SurveyLA essentially has done most of the work in identifying Contributors to these Districts; we just need volunteers to do the work of implementing the recommendations.

WAHA continues to see the proposal of out-of-scale additions and accessory structures in historic neighborhoods, recently at 2833 Merlo in the Merlo National Register District, at 1032 West 22nd Street in University Park and at 1208 West 25th Street in the NSO (Neighborhood Stabilization District.) Through monitoring the West Adams-Baldwin Hills-Leimert Park Community Plan, Arlington Heights is now proposed as a special planning district — stopping short of an HPOZ — but creating (when implemented) a degree of protection from out-of-scale development. At this time,

West Adams’ Newest Landmark

The City Council voted on May 13 to designate the Charles Irwin Douglas (“C.I.D.”) Moore Residence, 2242 S. Hobart Blvd. in West Adams Heights. The nomination was prepared by Laura Meyers on behalf of owners Robin and Ian Sinnott. Moore was an executive with Pacific Mutual Life Insurance, had already erected two somewhat smaller homes in the exclusive West Adams Heights Tract by 1907 when he hired the architectural firm of Hudson and Munsell to design this striking, three-story Shingle/Arts & Crafts style residence atop the hill and adjacent to his business partner and brother-in-law, George Ira Cochran. His wife, Emily Maude, was George Cochran’s sister. Their other sister, and the Cochran siblings’ mother, lived next door, at 2248 South Hobart, creating what was then a street-to-street compound. The Charles I.D. Moore Residence has also been formally determined eligible for the National Register; and is listed on the California Register.
the former “Normandie 5” Community Redevelopment Agency Project Area — historically, the Charles Victor Hall Tract – is also being proposed for a character residential overlay zone within the South Los Angeles Community Plan, again stopping short of HPOZ status. Until recently, this neighborhood, located between Normandie and Western, Adams and Jefferson, was protected by historical permit review, but that requirement recently lapsed.

WAHA continues to monitor issues in the City of Los Angeles where categorical exemptions (CEs) are routinely issued in cases that should require greater environmental scrutiny: for example, in Jefferson Park, the 120-foot-long and 30-foot-high wall approved by the Planning department without a community hearing for the parkland portion of the Murphy oil and gas production facility (on the 27th Street side); a proposed out-of-scale addition at 1208 25th Street; and the Bishop Residence/Roger Williams Baptists Church at 1342 West Adams Boulevard.

In the Bishop case, Superior Court Judge Luis A. Lavin did not permit the City to use a CE in the proposed redevelopment/rehabilitation of the Bishop Mansion and Carriage House into twelve units of student housing. In this instance WAHA stepped in, urged the OHR (Office of Historic Resources) not to issue a COA (Certificate of Appropriateness) based on a CE, appealed the decision to City Council, and filed a lawsuit challenging the use of a CE. WAHA won this challenge and received reimbursement of its legal fees. We have also shared the decision to demonstrate in other cases when a CE should not be the level of review.

WAHA continues to retain the law firm (Chatten Brown & Carstens’ Amy Minteer) to monitor the future development process at the Bishop site. Most recently we met with the developer and insisted that the site be better maintained and the Bishop Residence properly secured. We are actively engaged in discussions to clean up the site and will continue dialogue on its future plans as they unfold.

This year the Committee, led by Mitzi Mogul, Laura Meyers and Roland Souza, and ably joined by Flo Selfman, sponsored the first ever Preservation Committee June tour exploring West Adams Heights. Expecting 300 people, over 600 people showed up to tour this historic neighborhood. The monies raised by this tour are specifically targeted for preservation activities and advocacy.

Identification and designation of historic properties remain one of the bulwarks in preserving historic neighborhoods. Flower Drive, which WAHA successfully nominated as a National Register District several years ago, after not one but two State Historic Resources Commission hearings, is fighting off a developer proposal this year to demolish one contributing property. Their logic? If you lost one out of 18, you would still have a district of 17. If you lose one pearl in your necklace you still have the other pearls. WAHA awaits a Draft Environmental Impact Report for this proposal.

Scorched earth is a valuable City tool, which may be applied when a developer does harm to a historic property. Building and Safety (after numerous hearings) can prohibit development for five years on the subject site. WAHA has supported application of this action in the past and currently supports its imposition at 2516 13th Avenue (demolition of a Contributor to the West Adams Terrace HPOZ) and 3390 San Marino/944 S. Serrano (demolition of a City Historic Cultural Monument.)

WAHA has teamed with St. John’s Episcopal Church to achieve some level of transparency for the proposed construction of a 50-foot high-elevated flyover ramp adjacent to the historic St. John’s Episcopal Cathedral at Adams and Flower. WAHA requested and received status as a consulting party to the Section 106 process (Section 106 is part of the environmental review process when federal funds are involved.)

A similar proposal was rejected in 1990 and it continues to threaten irreparable harm to our historic community. This year, WAHA was successful in enlarging the Area of Potential Effects (originally Caltrans limited the study area to only the east side of Figueroa.) Because of WAHA and St. John’s activism, one public information meeting was held at St. John’s in December 22, 2014. We continue to work with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the California Preservation Foundation and the Los Angeles Conservancy, Councilmember Curren Price, and CA Assemblyman Reggie Jones-Sawyer to raise awareness of the severe negative impacts of this proposal and to encourage greater public participation and review as this project proceeds.

The use of $40 million to move traffic two blocks in our view is not a positive action or proper use of federal funds.

We have encouraged and nurtured “move-on” projects in various stages. USC moved two historic Victorians from Royal Street to Portland Street in the University Park HPOZ and will retain and restore 3014 Royal Street on site, incorporating it in its proposed development.

(continued on page 14)
Preservation Year In Review  continued from page 13

Let me conclude with something more celebratory. The Martin Eli Weil Award was presented this year on June 21 at the ONE Institute. The award recognizes lifetime accomplishments; it is not an award for a single restoration of a house or series of houses no matter how superbly done. The recipient represents the best in preservation action. By their commitment they honor the legacy of preservation architect Martin Weil. The recipient of the 2015 award was Christy Johnson McAvoy, founding partner of Historic Resources Group and one of the trailblazers in preservation planning. She surveyed both the USC National Register District and historic resources in the Hoover Redevelopment Area, among many other projects. Hats off to Jim Childs, Roland Souza, Sergio Gutman, Karen and Gary Kousnetz, and Peggy King for their volunteer aid and Joseph Hawkins and Bud Thomas of the USC ONE Archives for being such gracious hosts.

The Committee continues to organize and energize neighbors in its efforts to recognize and designate historic resources. “It takes a village” and this is by no means a complete list of the many efforts of the Committee members and volunteers. Please join us in this effort (e-mail: preservation@westadamsheritage.org).

Take advantage of your paid WAHA membership! These vendors offer discounts to WAHA members. Please be sure to thank them for their support when you use their services.

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**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 newsletter. Or, call me at 323-733-6869 and I’ll contact them. Please note: WAHA does not consistently verify active contractor license status. You are urged to complete your own due diligence for any work you plan to have done on your property.

— Steve Wallis
Events Committee
by Suzanne Henderson, Vice President - Events

Thank you, first of all, to the many volunteers who help to make our events so successful, especially the homeowners who welcome us into their homes for events. We could not do it without you.

We are always looking for new places to have events. Please don’t wait to be asked. If you could host a small gathering, we have those. If you have a lovely yard, but a smaller house, we could do a warm weather event at your house. I have been thrilled several times lately to have people approach me to volunteer their home. It makes it so much easier.

I am eager to expand the group that has been planning events. I would love to hear from you. We do not have regularly scheduled meetings, so you don’t even have to fit that into your schedule. Just send an e-mail with an idea or an event that you would like to help with. I can be reached at Events@WestAdamsHeritage.org for your suggestions or offers.

One important note, it is not appropriate to bring animals, other than those medically necessary, to WAHA events. We have members with allergies and it can be a liability issue, as well.
Thank you!

Communications Committee
by John Patterson

The basic role of WAHA’s Communications Committee is to keep our membership informed about all things WAHA. Our primary vehicle for this has traditionally been our monthly newsletter, WAHA Matters. Recent years have seen the addition of a new WAHA Facebook page (rapidly approaching 500 “likes”) and a significantly revamped website, both of which provide a window to West Adams to those beyond our immediate membership.

For at least the past seven years, the role of Communications Chair has been filled simultaneously by WAHA’s President. Having invested so much effort over the past five years into developing the WAHA “brand” (our publications, e-mail communications with members, etc.), I volunteered to continue this vital work, now that my plate in no longer filled with the day-to-day management of the overall organization.

I will be working with a couple of people who have generously offered their assistance in these efforts, based on their desire to support a continuation of the improvements seen over the past few years. While still in its nascent stages, the Communications Committee welcomes any volunteers with a background or interest in publications, graphic design, website management, and most importantly, social media (always best left to the purview of our younger generation!)

Still the most visible element of WAHA Communications, the WAHA Matters newsletter, will continue to operate as a mostly autonomous sub-committee, under the able leadership and direction of Publisher Reggie Jones. Committee members are Laura Meyers, Editor; Elizabeth Fenner, Jean Frost and Don Lynch. The success of our Facebook presence has been primarily the result of the non-stop efforts of Lisa Schoening, who keeps those postings updated and relevant. The Lentini Design team also deserves kudos for keeping our Facebook graphics fresh and new.

Future projects for the coming year include the long-awaited, and soon-to-be-released WAHA Restaurant Guide, which will be available for download (free to WAHA members) on the WAHA website for easy reference. And the project I’m most excited about is we’re gearing up to publish a second edition of the hugely successful West Adams’ Landmarks of African American History.

For those interested in working on any of these projects, please do not hesitate to send me an e-mail to: Communications@WestAdamsHeritage.org.

Volunteerism and Tours

WAHA always is actively recruiting members to roll up their sleeves and get involved by volunteering time/effort to support the legacy and success of WAHA. It is members like you who volunteer their time who 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 and you can learn valuable information from neighborhood experts — a wonderful resource for learning about happenings in the community.
- Share your talents with the organization.
- You’ll have the satisfaction of providing a real community service.

WAHA needs more of our members to help us as “hospitality” volunteers at the many events we participate in during the year — both our own, such as the upcoming Living History Tour, and when we set up information tables at community events, such as the Wellington Square Farmers Market, the Avenues Music Fest and a variety of other activities.

Our tours, especially, always need many helping hands — both in advance, when we are organizing them, and on the days the tours are presented. WAHA presents tours to showcase many aspects of the Historic West Adams District, and to raise funds for our important historic preservation advocacy efforts.

During the 2014-2015 fiscal year, WAHA offered two distinct tours. In December, we presented WAHA’s celebration of the season with our biggest event, the Annual Holiday Historic Homes & Progressive Dinner Tour in Kinney Heights. And in September, 2014, WAHA presented a unique outing of the Living History Tour, focused completely on the Civil War and stories of a diverse group of Union and Confederate sympathizers, men and women alike, who had witnessed the War Between the States.

The Living History Tour’s organizing committee has grown into a strong and viable group of dedicated volunteers who are building on a quarter century 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 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. Read more about this year’s Living History Tour, and its 25th anniversary, beginning on page 1 of this newsletter. And, if you’d like to help, please do contact Tours@WestAdamsHeritage.org.

Also reach out to Tours@WestAdamsHeritage.org if you would like to help plan and/or participate in the 2015 Holiday Historic Homes Tour (we’ll tell you more about it in early autumn.)

WAHA is also seeking volunteers to possibly organize occasional Coffee Strolls in West Adams’ many diverse neighborhoods. Please do let us know if you can help.

Let’s work together to achieve a shared purpose...Get on our list! We invite you to sign up to volunteer — please do e-mail Volunteer@WestAdamsHeritage.org.
Welcome New Members!

Patricia & Jeffrey Baum  
Amy Bender  
Pastor Greg Bundy, Greater Page Temple  
Rick Burke  
Maralyn Facey & Dennis Leski  
Heather Ferguson & David Chiu  
Julien Hernandez & Willie Ray Lewis  
Raphael Lieberman & Merris Weber  
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Dawn Olsen & Steve Hughes  
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Lanna Pian  
Maria Romano  
Donna Ann Ward  
Jeffrey Weiss & David Bailey  
Nurit Whitney  
Kirstin Wilder & David Wilder  
Marva Williams & Stephanie de la Torre

Architect and Cultural Heritage Commissioner Barry Milofsky (M2A Architects) joined us at the celebratory WAHA Annual Preservation Brunch on June 21, 2015. He shared some of his perspectives about historic preservation and how important context is (in addition to buildings) in preserving the character-defining features of a historic community.

“Individual buildings get the attention, for example the Norm’s coffee shop, or the Parker Center. Individual buildings tell unique stories of events, styles and, architects,” said Milofsky. But, he added, “Districts tell the story of the city, how it grew, who lived there. Districts focus on the buildings, their style and details and who lived there.

“Other characteristics are important in making, identifying and preserving the feel of a district: Landscape and street trees, commercial strips, and community activism...landscape reinforces the quality of life and visual character of a community, especially important now when there is a focus on drought tolerant materials.”

He noted Mia Lehrer’s recent op ed piece in the LA Times where she wrote about retaining landscapes in the face of the drought. “As we prepare to rely on local water we need to refill our aquifer. The best way to do it is with planted landscape...Gravel is permeable and OK in small doses but it doesn’t absorb and hold water as trees or plants do. And just tearing up grass and laying on gravel does nothing to keep water on a site: reshaping and planting to hold and infiltrate water can increase our water supply. Your landscape can also borrow from L.A.’s past...Los Angeles can build a framework of deep roots and deep understanding of the multiple benefits of ecological design. [Lehrer] underscored the importance of landscape for our ecology that parallels the importance of landscape as a character defining element of a historic neighborhood.”

Milofsky explained that “street trees tie a neighborhood together.” When he chaired the Preservation Commission for Huntington Park he observed a correlation between mature foliage and the historic integrity of buildings. Districts could be observed where the landscape also was preserved. In the San Fernando Valley, “recent designations of districts such as Cantura Street and Laurel Terrace by the Cultural Heritage Commission were the result of how the landscape defines the district even though the style of architecture has changed and become inconsistent in style.”

Also, “commercial Districts often border HPOZs or bisect districts. These areas are visually seen by more people than the districts themselves: all they know of the district is the sign on the side street. Neighborhood-serving commercial character is as important as residential in communicating the history, architectural character, and life of a community.”

Again, not just individual buildings, but the blocks of storefronts are significant in defining historic neighborhoods. “Before freeways, storefronts emerged together and [now] help tell the complete story of commerce in the city before strip malls.....At the HPOZ conference last year the City awarded a commercial building not because it was the best applicant, but because it was unique in calling attention to the commercial building type.”

Another component to historic preservation is activism. “Activism is not the job of one or two people in the community, but of all the residents who care about the visual character of their neighborhood,” Milofsky said.

One recent improvement to preventing demolition of historic buildings is the City’s 30-day notice of demolition. “It is a step, but may not afford enough time to get the endangered property before the Cultural Heritage Commission. Protection doesn’t start at submission, but when taken under consideration.”

He further urged those present, when you are involved in preservation advocacy on a particular issue, to: “WRITE your councilman, not petition, or e-mail...WRITE. The political process recognizes the difference in commitment it takes to write a letter versus checking a box on a form e-mail.”

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

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Historic West Adams
Los Angeles California 90018
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Calendar

Upcoming Events

AUGUST
Community Meeting About Oil Drilling in West Adams
Saturday, August 8
9:30 a.m.
Holman United Methodist Church, 3320 West Adams Blvd.

WAHA’s Ice Cream Social
Saturday, August 15 (see story, right)

SEPTEMBER
WAHA Potluck:
Learn About Greywater Systems
Sunday, September 20
2-5 p.m.
1729 S. 3rd Avenue (Arlington Heights)
WAHA is presenting a speaker from Second Generation Water Solutions speaking about grey water systems. Potluck. Mark your calendars; more information in the September issue

WAHA’s Annual Living History Tour at
Angelus Rosedale Cemetery
Saturday, September 26
(see story, page 1)

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

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 2015. All rights for graphic and written material appearing in the newsletter are reserved. Contact Director of Publications for permission.

Ice Cream Social
Saturday, August 15
2 - 5 p.m.
1733 West 24th St. (Adams-Normandie)

We All Scream for Ice Cream. It is once again time for the perennial crowd pleaser, the WAHA Ice Cream Social, at the home of Louise Manfe.

Don your summer whites and while away the afternoon enjoying old-fashioned fun, ice cream, sweets, music, and good friends. We will also play the cake walk game (like musical chairs, but the winner gets a cake.)

Singer Dianne Lawrence will entertain with vintage tunes from the 1920s, ’30s and ’40s.

We are looking for volunteers to donate baked goods, cookies, brownies, etc. to be served, as well as some lovely cakes as prizes. We also need help setting up and cleaning up and ice cream servers. Please contact Suzie Henderson at events@westadamsheritage.org to volunteer.

WAHA | West Adams Heritage Association
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