

# NEWSLETTER



Number 170

March 2000

## New Washington Irving Library Opens in West Adams

by Tom Groener

The Washington Irving Library, one of the City's oldest and most historic public library branches, has been "reborn" as a virtual, state-of-the-art library, scheduled to be officially dedicated at 11a.m. on Monday, March 6. As part of the opening week festivities, the Washington Irving Library (WIL) Friends will host a Public Open House on Saturday, March 11, from 11a.m. - 3p.m. at the new Branch Library. There will be guided tours of the new library, along with appearances by book authors and illustrators, storytellers, dancers, musicians and local radio station remote live broadcast units. The event is also a fundraiser for the WIL Friends, who will be selling food items, including In-N-Out burgers, popcorn, churros, cookies and sodas. A highlight will be the book-signing by Kadir Nelson, illustrator of the new Debbie Allen book, *Brothers of the Knight*.

The new library, located at the corner of Washington Boulevard and South Bronson Avenue in historic West Adams, is just six blocks west of its original site at 1801 South Arlington Avenue. The original branch, which first opened its doors to the community in 1926, has been given His-

torical Landmark status by the City of Los Angeles.

At 12,269 square feet, the new Washington Irving Branch Library is more than four times larger than the original branch. It was designed by Fields Devereaux Architects & Engineers to be "a building rendered in modern materials which respects the traditional styles prevalent in the

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## WAHA Gives Back

West Adams Heritage Association makes a point of supporting many community organizations, events and special projects. In addition to providing financial support for the Washington Irving Library, and Jefferson Middle School's Close Up Foundation trip to Washington D.C. -- you'll read about both projects in this newsletter -- WAHA has donated more than \$15,000 in recent years to neighborhood institutions and projects. We asked WAHA Treasurer Jim Meister to summarize our donations of the past few years:

### Analysis of Annual Contributions

*Fiscal Year 1998 (May 1, 1997 thru April 30, 1998)*

32nd Street School	\$200
24th Street School	\$545
Adopt-A-School Council	\$100
Preservation Fund	\$130
LaFayette Square HPOZ	\$1,500
Van Buren Place HPOZ	\$2,300
Tree People	\$50
<i>Total Fiscal 1998</i>	<i>\$4,825</i>

*Fiscal Year 1999 (May 1, 1998 thru April 30, 1999)*

St. Vincent de Paul Church	\$100
Central Spanish 7th Day Adventist Church	\$100
2nd Church of Christ - Adventist	\$100

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### WAHA Tours Washington Irving Library

Join us for a private tour of the new library, followed by a cocktail hour appetizers potluck event at the home of Kathleen Salisbury and Bill Washington  
**Saturday, March 25 6 p.m.**  
(meet at the library, corner Washington & Bronson)

### WAHA Day at the Races

It's the Santa Anita \$150,000 Handicap! Come to the thoroughbred races -- see the \$20 million restoration and restaurant addition -- and hope Lady Luck smiles at you at WAHA's annual Day at the Races  
**Sunday, March 26 11 a.m.**

Cost: \$20

Reservations a must! (Betting is optional)

Call Linda Scribner 323/735-1385

## WEST ADAMS HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

2263 S. Harvard Boulevard  
Historic West Adams  
Los Angeles, California 90018  
323/ 735-WAHA  
E-Mail: wstadams@aol.com

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## President's Message by Linda Scribner

The first general meeting of the millennium on February 19th was truly magical in all respects. The Dr. Grandville MacGowan Residence, home of Janice Stevenor Dale and Scott Dale, is absolutely amazing. It's was a pleasure and an honor to be allowed to hold our meeting in one of West Adams' last remaining mansions. Thank you so much, Janice and Scott, for opening your home for us!

Speaking of magic, Mayseo the Magician delighted and dazzled about 25 children and taught them a couple tricks they could perform at home (which I have on good authority some of them continued to do way past the normal bedtime). He then turned his talents on the adults and continued to charm and surprise us. A great time was had by nearly 125 of us, according to quick count done by Scott. All in all, it was an extremely successful evening.

Thank you also to all the volunteers who helped set up and clean up.

Just another reminder that elections for the WAHA Board of Directors will be held in April. I would encourage all of you to seriously consider running for this prestigious board. Positions that I know will be available include Secretary, Publications Chair (lison between the newsletter committee and the Board), Fundraising Chair (exploring new and innovative ways to enhance our financial position), and last but certainly not least, Volunteer Coordinator. If you have interest in or talent for any of these positions please step forward and be counted, we need YOU.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

In March, the Membership Committee will be sending out individualized invoices with return envelopes to members to renew their memberships for the 2000 - 2001 year. Memberships in WAHA go from April to April every year. New WAHA Membership Cards will be mailed out enmasse in April, when the current membership cards expire. Typically if you don't renew the membership, you are taken off the Newsletter mailing list in June.

New WAHA Memberships taken out late in 1999 were extended through the 2000 - 2001 membership year, so if you recently took out a new WAHA Membership you will not have to renew now, though you'll get a new membership card in April. If you have any questions about the status of your WAHA membership you can contact John Kurtz, Membership Database Administrator, 323/ 732-2990.

## WAHA BOARD ELECTIONS ARE COMING

West Adams Heritage Association needs you! Please consider running for a position on the WAHA Board of Directors. Officers of the Boards are elected by the Board Members at their May retreat meeting after the election of the Board by the general membership. Any of the current members (listed on page 2 of this Newsletter) would be happy to talk to you about Board activities. All positions available **MUST BE FILLED** to keep the organization viable.

If you are interested, submit your candidate statement (a short paragraph, 100 words or so) to WAHA Board President, Linda Scribner by March 10, 2000, which is the April Newsletter deadline. Candidate Statements will be published in the April Newsletter.

The members Board of Directors are the heart and soul of this organization, and without a full and competent board WAHA could cease to function. So if you believe WAHA serves a valuable function in the West Adams community or if you have ideas on how the organization should be run, please step up, serve and contribute your expertise!

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**Community Calendar**

All committee meetings begin at 7 p.m.

**March**

- 3/8 Community Relations  
Jacqueline Sharps' home  
2229 S. Gramercy Place  
323/766-8842
- 3/9 Neighborhood Council Planning Meeting  
6:30 p.m.  
St. Sophia's Cathedral Church  
1324 S. Normandie Blvd.
- 3/11 Public Open House  
Washington Irving Library
- 3/21 Newsletter Committee  
Call Laura Meyers for location  
323/737-6146
- 3/23 WAHA Board Meeting  
Call Linda Scribner for location  
323/735-1385
- 3/25 WAHA General Meeting  
Tour the Washington Irving Library  
6 p.m.  
Appetizers potluck at  
the home of Kathleen Salisbury and  
Bill Washington  
1812 S. Bronson
- 3/26 WAHA Day at the Races  
Join us at Santa Anita!  
Call Linda to reserve  
323/735-1385
- 3/27 Zoning & Preservation Committee  
(LAUSD Issues!)  
Contact Tom Florio for location  
213/749-8469

**West Adams in the News...**

*"Bringing out the dead....Long before Evelyn Waugh's Whispering Glades became emblematic of the southern California way of death, distinguished Los Angeles residents could secure stylish resting places at Angelus-Rosedale Cemetery." So writes Preservation Magazine in its January/February 2000 issue in an article describing WAHA's annual living history tour. The magazine says, "The tour involves resurrecting its residents, Hollywood-style -- which is to say, having actors impersonate them." And our own Martin Eli Weil was pictured portraying the architect Summer Hunt.*

**A Progress Report on West Adams' Historic Preservation Overlay Zones**

by Tom Florio

Co-Chair, Zoning & Planning/Historic Preservation Joint Committee

(Editor's Note: Last month we inadvertently dropped the second half of this article, and so we rerun it now in its entirety.)

Members of WAHA have been busy in 1999. In an effort to find reasonable land use tools that would be friendlier to property owners and residents, W.A.H.A., the Los Angeles Conservancy, members of the community and their neighborhood organizations have been advocating that the city of Los Angeles establish Historic Preservation Overlay Zones (H.P.O.Z.) in West Adams neighborhoods. Previously, there was one official H.P.O.Z. in West Adams, the Van Buren Place H.P.O.Z., plus the North University Park Specific Plan, which emphasizes historic preservation. Now, however, there are five proposed H.P.O.Z.s in West Adams. They are: University Park, Harvard Heights, West Adams/Normandie (an expansion of Van Buren Place), Western Heights, and Lafayette Square.

There are many steps in the process. The Planning Department makes a recommendation to establish an H.P.O.Z. based on a request by the community. A survey is done that identifies the contributing and contributing-altered structures to the historic zone. The Planning Department then holds an initial hearing in the proposed zone for public comments. The Cultural Heritage Board of Commission reviews and certifies the survey. Notifications are sent to each property owner in the proposed zone. Meanwhile, a hearing examiner of the Planning Department holds a public hearing and takes testimony on the proposed zone. The examiner then make a recommendation to the Planning Commission which approves or disapproves the proposed H.P.O.Z. Then the Plan Use Management Committee (PLUM) of the City Council hears the case and finally, approval of the full City Council is needed.

So where are we now? All five surveys have been completed, four of which were done by Myra Frank and Associates (The Lafayette Square survey was completed by Dr. Portia Lee, Ph.d). The Cultural Heritage Board of Commission has recommended the establishment of each H.P.O.Z. and certified each survey.

Sponsored by North University Park Community Association (N.U.P.C.A.), the University Park H.P.O.Z. was approved by Planning Department Board of Commissioners and is awaiting scheduling at PLUM. There are 436 contributing and contributing-altered structures in the zone. The boundaries are somewhat complicated. They run along Santa Monica Freeway from Vermont Avenue to Figueroa Street, down to 23<sup>rd</sup> Street on Figueroa, over to Saint James Park, down to Adams Boulevard, over to Hoover, up to 24<sup>th</sup> Street, and over to Vermont.

Sponsored by Harvard Heights Association, there are 573 contributing and contributing-altered structures in the Harvard Heights H.P.O.Z. The boundaries are Pico Boulevard. to the Santa Monica Freeway between Western Avenue. and Normandie Avenue.

Sponsored by Western Heights neighbors, Western Heights H.P.O.Z. has 127 contributing and contributing-altered structures. The zone boundaries are Washington Boulevard. to the Santa Monica Freeway, between Arlington and Western Avenue. The Harvard Heights and Western Heights H.P.O.Z.s await hearings by a Planning Department examiner.

Continued on page 6

Through My Eyes Only:

## Up Close with Kathleen Salisbury

By John B. Deaven

Did you, per chance, see a short article in the December, 1999 WAHA Newsletter written by Kathleen Salisbury regarding an upcoming April trip to Washington D.C. for her students at Jefferson New Middle School? It caught my eye, and her written appeal pulled at my heartstrings. Plus, Laura Meyers' closing by-line reminding readers that Kathleen Salisbury was one of WAHA's founders and former president made me ponder ever farther. Here was one of our founders hoping WAHA might respond to her dilemma. Would we? How much would we, as individuals, hold dear the special interests of another member, especially one who has been with WAHA from the start. Maybe the members, I felt, might enjoy reading a bit more about this person.

So at Mary Ann Hutchinson's Christmas party, I warned Kathleen I was going to target her. So hang on, Here we go!

Kathleen Salisbury was born in Los Angeles, and she has lived her entire life in Southern California. She admits to marrying young and having children young. She has a son and a daughter, both adults now, and two granddaughters. Once Kathleen's boy and girl got old enough for school, she went back to school herself, working on a bachelors degree, which she eventually acquired. She lived in Orange County, where she was a social worker, but she would come to Los Angeles to do her disco dancing in the late '70's at the Red Onion restaurant on Wilshire Boulevard. It was there that she met William Washington 22 years ago, and they have been together since. So Kathleen soon said good-bye to Orange County, and she moved to Los Angeles to be with Bill.

As they looked around town for affordable housing, they eventually realized the bigger houses in the West Adams area were the best buy. In 1981, against the advice of family, friends, and co-workers, Kathleen and Bill bought a house on 21<sup>st</sup> Street, where they lived for one year. Then they moved to 20<sup>th</sup> Street, where they opened a Bed & Breakfast inn. It was in this house on 20<sup>th</sup> Street, where some of the first WAHA meetings were held in the early 1980's. Up to that point, our neighborhood's "urban pioneers" were just a small group of friends gathering together to gab about old houses. According to Kathleen, there were no rules, no by-laws, and no dues back then. However, she claims they all loved to party and consumed a great deal of wine!

"One of the major movers and shakers in the beginning was Bob Bortfeld, who started and owned City Living Realty", Kathleen stated to me. Bortfeld also lived on 20th Street in what is now Peggy King's home. "We became good friends. Bob would bring potential house buyers by, and eventually they would come into the cluster. Nevertheless, what made us want to be a recognized group was the fact we wanted to have a house tour. We contacted the Los Angeles Conservancy about it, and they said we needed to be

an 'official' group. Thus, we decided to hold our first 'official' meeting at our 20<sup>th</sup> Street house." The year was 1983, and our organization's first name was "Arlington Heights Heritage Association," changed a year later to West Adams Heritage.

After five years Kathleen and Bill sold that place to Don Henderson's mother, Elizabeth. She, in turn, sold it to Jay and Sue German, who eventually sold it to Don Lynch, its current owner! Meanwhile, Kathleen and Bill moved to 1190 West Adams Boulevard, where they began a restaurant.

In time, Kathleen had also become president of WAHA, and a very active member of the organization. During the years she has taken on many responsibilities. In the late '90's Joe Ryan asked Kathleen to portray the late Mrs. Clark (the same family who built the Clark Library on Adams Boulevard), for the annual Angelus-Rosedale Cemetery Tour. Also, Kathleen is currently the menu creator for the annual WAHA Holiday Tours. For me, it was the Cranberry Glazed Grilled Chicken on the 1996 Fourth Avenue tour that made me realize how wonderful she is at this job. She starts months ahead, planning the menu and sourcing the whereabouts of the ingredients around town. Kathleen said that the challenge comes in trying to find items that are festive, colorful, tasty, different, and easy to prepare. She meets with all the kitchen captains to explain the preparations with two very loyal ones being Noel Salisbury (no relation - but also an excellent cook) and Jean Cade.

Now Kathleen and Bill reside in a lovely Craftsman house at 1812 S. Bronson Avenue (L.A. 90019), just east of Crenshaw and north of Washington. Kathleen's weakness for attractive animal figurines is visible everywhere, many being cookie jars and pitchers, and many given to her by dear WAHA friends over the years. Her grandparents' photograph, taken on their wedding day, hangs proudly in their living room, and on a table is a photo of Bill's great-great grandmother, born in 1830.

This brings us to Kathleen's current job situation. Kathleen wanted a new career, a new direction after years in the restaurant and hospitality business. So she took the C-BEST test for potential teachers. She passed, and she started doing daily substitute teaching. She was given a long-term "sub" assignment at the 74<sup>th</sup> Street School, teaching 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Meanwhile, she enrolled in Los Angeles Unified School District's Intern Program, a two-year study on evenings and weekends, to earn a clear credential. She was re-assigned to Hooper Avenue Elementary School; however, for the last two years she has taught 6<sup>th</sup> grade at her current job site, Jefferson New Middle School, which is by the way, a temporary name for the Avalon Boulevard school until a permanent name can be decided.

Now Kathleen is a mentor teacher and loving every

Continued on next page

**WAHA Donations Summary****Continued from page 1**

St. Johns Episcopal Church	\$100
Ward A.M.E.	\$100
Angelica Lutheran	\$100
United University Church	\$100
24th Street School	\$585
32nd Street School	\$60
Sylvia Cuesta Memorial Fund	\$150
HAHA HPOZ	\$300
Vermont Avenue School	\$100
Fairburn Youth Association	\$100
Graffiti Abatement	\$67
Los Angeles Conservancy	\$500
Country Club Homeowners Association	\$2,202
<i>Total Fiscal 1999</i>	<i>\$4,664</i>

*Fiscal Year 2000 (May 1, 1999 thru April 30, 2000)*

24th Street School	\$825
Sunshine Mission	\$300
Richardson Family Park	\$1,500
Gramercy Park Homeowners	\$125
24th Street Block Club	\$225
JNMS DC Trip	\$500
Graffiti Abatement	\$65
Los Angeles Conservancy	\$500
Friends of the Library	\$500
American Kidney Foundation	\$100
Wellington Square Homeowners Association	\$1,497
<i>Total (year to date) Fiscal 2000</i>	<i>\$6,137</i>

Friday December 3, 1999

Kathleen Salisbury

Historic West Adams

Dear Kathleen,

The West Adams Heritage Association (WAHA) Board of Directors has voted to make a \$500 contribution (check enclosed), on behalf of WAHA to your proposed trip to Washington D.C. and Williamsburg with students from the Jefferson New Middle School. This trip with its exposure to the seat of the United States Government as well as the history of Williamsburg, is a project we find extremely worthy of support.

WAHA would also like to take this opportunity to commend your continued efforts in finding unique ways to involve your students in the community of Los Angeles and the world. Teachers who make this added extra effort are indeed rare and a valuable asset in our education system.

Have a safe, educational and fun excursion. Please bring back some stories to share about the student's experiences.

Sincerely,

Linda Scribner - President

Jacqueline Sharps - Community Relations Chair

**Garden Calendar****Things to do in March**

Danger of frost continues, and it is another rainy month. Plants are beginning to bloom.

**PLANT**

\* Spring-blooming perennials; dig and divide emerging summer- and fall-blooming ones

\* Summer bulbs, including calla, canna, dahlia, gladiolus, and tuberose, in fast-draining, well-amended soil

**CHORES AND MAINTENANCE**

\* If you haven't already, prune your rose bushes; use organic fungicide to control mildew and black spot on roses

\* In the vegetable garden, build arbors or other supports for vining vegetable (beans, cucumbers, peas)

\* After it rains, set out bait for snails and slugs

-- Courtesy The Garden Calendar

Fulcrum Publishing

www.fulcrum-gardening.com

**Through My Eyes: Kathleen Salisbury****Continued from page 4**

minute of her new profession. She teaches English and Ancient Civilization. Two other teachers, Marnie Hewson and Sharon Spencer, along with Kathleen, have taken on a very ambitious project. They plan to take 17 honor students to Washington D.C., in April. The program is operated by the Close-Up Foundation, and \$1,000 is needed for each student (\$17,000!!). Kathleen said two-thirds of that amount is already raised from fundraisers like candy sales, etc. (roughly \$11,300). Thus, about \$5,700 is still needed.

WAHA as an organization did give \$500 towards this adventure. I should make that known and clear. However, I did want to use this opportunity to appeal to the membership individually to help Kathleen's inner-city youngsters succeed. They depart on April 6, 2000, set for six inquisitive days, discovering our Capital, the White House, the monuments, the museums, and even fabulous Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia. All contributions, large or small, are completely tax deductible. Checks can be made out to "JNMS D.C. Trip" (Jefferson New Middle School) and mailed to Kathleen's address, as previously stated. Wouldn't it be nice to return the kindness to someone who has stuck it out with WAHA from the beginning???

I think so!

## BLOCK CLUB & NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS



### Adams-Normandie Neighborhood Association (ANNA)

A large group of members gathered for the February meeting. After brief comments from LAPD officers and Mr. Jimmy Porter, representative of Assemblyman Rod Wright, we began our heavy agenda.

Kudos to Patricia Valenzuela and Ruben Bolanos for a very successful opening event to our Beautification 2000. Twenty-three ANNA members and friends turned out to work along side the Clean and Green kids to clean, paint-out and plant 15 trees on the median. This was Phase I of our Neighborhood Grant.

Our shortened membership drive proved successful. We picked up six new ANNA families plus most of the regulars renewed in time to participate in the drawing for videos and Neutrogena products.

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

Several members had interesting stories to tell about famous and not so famous black Americans in honor of Black History month.

Our 8th District Empowerment Congress emphasized the importance of the census. To that end ANNA will provide bilingual assistance to any person living within our boundaries. A flyer to all 250 addresses will direct people to contact us by phone, ask us to visit them or invite them to drop by within a two hour Saturday morning session where we will have trained people there to assist them. We hope to have coffee and donuts and lots of giveaways. Everything will be coordinated with Mr. Lewis Wagner of the Census Bureau.

Michael Turner took on the task of finding qualified low income property owners to participate in the Christmas in April Program through USC. Dr. Sam Mark of USC Community Relations is seeking nominations.

Jim Jansen, our capable VP, con-

tinues the HPOZ effort which is humming along nicely. He also introduced a strategy to deal with loud noise. We begin the pilot program March 1.

ANNA President Marianne Muellerleile will be representing ANNA at the Los Angeles Neighborhood Convention February 7. One topic: how block clubs can get a free website. Call 213/847-4210 or contact the Mayor's office for more information.

### HPOZ Update

Continued from page 3

Sponsored by the Lafayette Homeowners Association, there are 214 contributing structures in the Lafayette Square H.P.O.Z. The zone's boundaries are Washington Boulevard, to Venice Boulevard between Crenshaw Boulevard, and Lafayette Road.

Sponsored by Adams Normandie Neighborhood Association and the Van Buren Place H.P.O.Z., there are 526 contributing and contributing-altered structures in the West Adams/Normandie H.P.O.Z.. The boundaries are the Santa Monica Freeway on the north, 29<sup>th</sup> Street on the south, between Vermont and Western Avenue. West Adams/ Normandie, and Lafayette Square H.P.O.Zs have been heard by an examiner in the Planning Department. We are awaiting a hearing date at the Planning Commission.

### Lafayette Square Tour

The organizing committee for the upcoming Lafayette Square house tours is seeking volunteer docents. Seven homes will be showcased and refreshments will be served to ticketholders. Docents, of course, will be able to see the homes at no charge. On the tour will be a Paul Williams designed home, a Japanese craftsman, and the rectory for the Episcopal Church of the Advent. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Ellen Farwell, 323/737-2528, email:Farwellenr@aol.com.

Sunday, April 30  
\$25 Advance, \$30 Day of event.  
Ticket Info: (323)692-7737

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YOU ARE INVITED TO A BENEFIT FOR THE  
SUNSHINE MISSION/CASA DE ROSAS INC.

For more information or to phone for reservations call 213-747-7419

## Third Annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration

DATE: SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 2000

6 TO 9:00 PM

Drs. Ann and Edward Dorr invite you to an event benefiting the *Sunshine Mission/Casa de Rosas*, LA's oldest continually operating shelter for women. Celebrate the feast of St. Patrick with music and traditional Irish supper and libations at the historic Durfee House, 1007 W. 24th Street, on March 18, 2000. (corner of Toberman and 24th Street, one block east of Hoover.) Parking is available. Entertainment by The Trio!

◇ Suggested donation \$45.00 per person.

Please respond by using the form below and mail with your donation to:

**Casa de Rosas Inc., 2600 So. Hoover, L.A., Ca. 90007, Att. Fred Hollister.**

Your donation provides support for the *Sunshine Mission/Casa de Rosas*, providing emergency shelter, affordable housing and supportive services for homeless and at risk women.

You Are Invited to a Benefit for the Sunshine Mission/Casa de Rosas Inc. by the Staff and Board: Carole Autori, Hugh Biele, Ed Dorr, Michael Devar, Marc Hamilton, Susan Peck, Michele McDonough, Jean Frost, L. Shanti Blanton, and June Dunbar

Contact Person: Fred Hollister 213-747-7419

Donations to the non-profit Casa de Rosas Inc. will be matched by the Alan Feinstein Foundation

\_\_\_\_\_ Please reserve for \_\_\_\_\_ persons on March  
18 at \$45 per person.

\_\_\_\_\_ I cannot attend but enclosed is my  
donation of \_\_\_\_\_.

Please provide your name, address and phone

Directions: from the 10 Frwy, south on Hoover to Adams, east on Adams one short block to Toberman, north on Toberman two blocks to 24th and Toberman. From the 110 Frwy, west on Adams to Toberman, north on Toberman two blocks to 24th and Toberman

## New Washington Irving Library Continued from page 1

neighborhoods which surround it."

The building's exterior is predominately brick and cast stone, with green-colored metal frame windows. Slate roof tiles top each of the library's three main corner rooms. Two of these rooms (the Young Adult and the Adult reading areas) are square in shape. The third room is a unique nine-sided multipurpose room, which is available for use by the local community. The exterior brick-and-cast stone component is also used on the building's interior support columns. French marble is used on the floor of the main lobby, as well as in hallways throughout the library.

The new Washington Irving Branch is designed as a "virtual electronic" Library, with multimedia workstations linking it to all the electronic resources of the Los Angeles Central Library, and to a vast array of databases.

The new facility also features a 26-car parking lot, an enclosed outdoor reading area, a "bookstore" run by the Friends of the Washington Irving Library, and permanent installation of art pieces created by local artist Elliott Pinkney. "Book of Discovery" is a 6' high sculpture of plastic and resin on a 3' high concrete base which greets library patrons as they enter the main lobby. Inside, near the Reference Desk,

is a series of six colorful lucite "theme" panels which have been carved and etched with flowers, faces and other figures. The panels range in height from 3' to 8'. And, hung above the entrance to the enclosed outdoor reading area is the "Circle of Knowledge" medallion — 3' in diameter, constructed of stainless steel and resin, embedded with keys, film strips, faces, fish and other symbols.

A notable design credit of Fields Devereaux is the magnificent restoration of the El Capitan Theatre in Hollywood. FDAE has also worked on the Leavey Library at the University of Southern California, and the Cecil H. Green Library at Stanford University.

The multipurpose community room at the northwest corner of the new Washington Irving Branch Library has been named to honor the memory of long-time community activist and public library supporter, Jesse Mae Beavers. The new library's African-American history collection is named to honor Miriam Matthews, the first black librarian in the City of Los Angeles.

The new Washington Irving Branch Library was made possible by the passage of Proposition No. 1, the 1989 Library Bond Measure; a Housing and Community Block Grant; and a Library Services and Construction Act Grant.

Scheduled to speak at the March 6th Dedication Ceremonies are Mayor Richard Riordan; Councilman Nate Holden; Board of Library Commissioners president, Lucy

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### Preservation Begins At Home



## City Living Realty

16 years of service to West Adams

David Raposa Broker/Owner 323/734-2001

### GREAT HOMES FOR SALE:

**Harvard Heights Craftsman:** Tyler-designed 4-bedroom, 2 1/2 baths in area pending HPOZ. Restored but needs cosmetics. 2192 Cambridge. Asking \$235,000.

**Craftsman:** Original woodwork, beamed ceilings, china cabinet, original murals. Exterior undergoing restoration now. Property is in proposed HPOZ. Coming soon in mid-200s.

**Plus....** Preservationists are planning to acquire Victorian homes for restoration in the proposed University Park HPOZ area near Union and 23rd streets. Interested parties please call me!

*I'd like to offer a sincere "thank you"  
to all my West Adams friends*

*who in 1999 referred clients to me (and to our community)  
and/or opened your homes to prospective buyers  
interested in our neighborhoods.*

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

# PETS

**They  
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## West Adams Historic Plaques

WAHA has established a grant program to purchase markers for homeowners whose residences are:

- \* National Register Historic Monuments
- \* Los Angeles Historic Cultural Monuments
- \* Contributing Structures to a Historic District (local or national)

Please contact Tom Florio (213/749-8469) for further information.

## Membership Directory Updates

The following are changes to the 1999 WAHA Membership Directory. Please update your copy of the directory if you want to keep it current.

### *New Address and/or Phone Numbers*

Patricia Karasick & Christopher McKinnon, 11837 North Park Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90066, 310/ 572-7929

Maud Nadler, 9874 Portola Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210-1421

### *Add (and welcome) new WAHA members*

Faryaz & Heather Abji, 1733 W. 24<sup>th</sup> Street, Los Angeles, CA 90018, 323/ 737-2712

Iris D. Falk, 1129 Hi-Point Street, Los Angeles, CA 90035, (323) 965-2728

Virginia Freberg, 846 South Hudson Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90005-3819, 323/ 935-4041

Amy Forbes & Andrew Murr, 1968 Buckingham Road, Los Angeles, CA 90016, 213/229-7157

Dr. Anthony Gambucci, 420 Marine Street, #3, Santa Monica CA 90405, 310/396-9625

Donna Learned, 4121 Duquesne Avenue, Culver City, CA 90232-0021, 310/202-9161

Lynne Luciano, 16122 Anoka Drive, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272, 310/454-1985

Matt Mania & Michelle Renee Smith, 2301 W. 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Los Angeles, CA 90018, 323/373-9999

Pamela McCreight, 2318 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90018

Lisa Nakamura, 4808 Saturn Street, Los Angeles, CA 90019-5632, 323/939-2623

Herve Rawls, 2221 Buckingham Road, Los Angeles, CA 90016, 323/857-1288

Melba & Stan Saunders, 2015 Wellington Road, Los Angeles, CA 90016, 323/737-6334

Herman & Mary Schultz, 1914 Wellington Road, Los Angeles, CA 90016, 323/737-5540

Neil Uchitel, 2151 W. 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Los Angeles, CA 90018

Ramon Vasconcellos, 3752 S. Van Ness Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90018, 323/737-5369

Martha & Yeu-Wei Yee, 1413 Quintero Street, Los Angeles, CA 90026, 213/ 250-3018

### New Library

#### Continued from page 7

McCoy; Library Foundation representative Robert M. Cotten; Jan McCoy, representing virtual library donor The Bowen H. & Janice Arthur McCoy Foundation; Tom Groener, president of the Friends of the Washington Irving Library; and students Tatiana Alvarez and Jacky Gonzales. City Librarian Susan Kent will emcee the dedication, expected to be attended by 500 or more civic leaders, dignitaries and invited guests.

The Reverend Cecil Murray of First AME Church will deliver the non-denominational invocation; and the Drum & Fife Corps from Mount Vernon Middle School will march down Bronson Avenue from the school to the library, present the colors and play the National Anthem.

The Friends of the Washington Irving Library consists of a group of dedicated community residents who offer their support to the library on a voluntary basis. Money raised by the non-profit Friends group is used to purchase books and other materials needed by the library, as well as to provide storytellers and other performance artists

for library special programs and events.

Recently, the Friends of the Washington Irving Library has received several generous monetary donations. A gift of \$2,500 was received from Stocker Resources, Inc. of Los Angeles to purchase books and other needed materials for the new library. A gift totaling \$1,250 was given to the WIL Friends by the "Dale Davis Clan" to honor family matriarch, Agnes Moses Davis. The money will be used to purchase children's books for the library.

And, a gift of \$1,000 has been pledged by the West Adams Heritage Association. One-half of the WAHA gift will be used to purchase books relating to historic preservation and renovation of historical structures.

These gifts (as well as any others received in excess of \$100) will be acknowledged with a "Special Friends" wall plaque permanently displayed in the new library.


The Friends of the Washington Irving Library meets on the second Monday of each month. Starting in April, the Friends meetings will be held in the Jesse Mae Beavers Community Room of the new Washington Irving

Library, located at 4117 W. Washington Blvd., West Adams.

The Current slate of officers for the WIL Friends are: Tom Groener, president; Judith Morrison, vice-president; Neil Barry, treasurer; and Dorrie Popovich, secretary. Other active Friends members include: Linda Lee, Alvan Burton, Johann Hassan, Muriel Crowe, Bryan Cunningham, Sylvia Boyd, Rob Johnson and Robert Squires.

Lisa Coleman, Field Deputy to Councilman Nate Holden, has been an indispensable help to the WIL Friends, as is Senior Librarian Eloise Logan and her hardworking staff. For more information about the Friends of the Washington Irving Library, call Tom Groener at (323) 732-7907. Or e-mail us at: WILFriends@aol.com

Scheduled to appear at the March 11 public open house are: "All That Dance" Company, the Delta Choroliers (of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority), dancers Maryann Mendoza and Bryan Cunningham, storytellers Christine Nelson and Sybil Destra, St. Paul's Catholic Church gospel choir, and the Norman Johnson Jazz Band. Also for kids, there will be face painters.


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2104 West Bl.( buyer & seller)  
2237 W. 20th( buyer & seller)

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## Merriment and Mirth Moments for March

by John Rentsch

The Oscars — honoring the world of film (reality to some of us) on Sunday, March 26 — are not the only reason to party this month.

Eight WAHA members, that we know about, also have great reasons for a little wildness in their lives. Celebrating birthdays are Georgia Toliver on the 5th, Rory Cunningham on the 7th (but he'll probably start with a beverage or two, at least, on Sunday at a certain den of delight), Lyn Gillson on the 10th, Lynn Rossiter on the 19th, Nixon Borah on the 21st, Shelley Cooper on the 24th and Harold Smith closing out the month with his special day on the 31st.

John Kurtz will also be marking a milestone in his quest for the best in life. On the 20th he celebrates the anniversary of the beginning of his role as Master of Gramercy Homestead — and one of the best social hosts of West Adams. Many of you, I know, have had your lives brightened considerably by John's addition to the neighborhood.

There are probably a few other birthdays, move-in commemorations and even some anniversaries happening around the traps this month, but if we don't know about them we can't spread the good word. So, AGAIN, I appeal to you to leave a message for me on 323/735 -3500 giving me dates and details.

Sharing good times multiplies their worth endlessly! That was certainly the case last month with Alan Schoening's birthday. I had such a good time that even my vision multiplied!

Last month was double birthday time for the Schoenings. Their daughter Lisa celebrated her birthday on the 23rd with lots of good wishes from other WAHA members — arranged and delivered through the efforts of mom Judie and husband Teddy Freese. Unfortunately I couldn't make it to Lisa's bash but I hear it was great and I'm truly envious of her. I think we should all celebrate at least one of our birthdays while living in Italy! Bella! Bella!

Last month was also a bitter-sweet occasion for Carl and I. Our neighbors and very good friends, Andrew Van Dinter and Ivan Polson, sold their house and moved back to Australia. Ivan may be back though. We'll keep you up-dated as he considers taking on another house restoration project here in the U.S. Andrew has returned to Australia a year or so ahead of his original plans to accept a new job. It's a good promotion and career move. The sale of the house was a good economic indicator for the whole neighborhood and proves, without a doubt, what most of us already know: restoration of the fabulous building stock here in Harvard Heights and all of West Adams is the best way to revive the economy of this area. Our new neighbors, Scott Garner and Herb Rowe, are from the East Coast (Atlanta and New York) and are committed to preservation. Welcome guys and may you have a lot of fun and good times as you continue the work begun by Ivan and Andrew. We hope to see lots of you at WAHA's many events. I've already made note that the first anniversary of your move-in day will be February 16, 2001!

Until next month, enjoy all the above opportunities to party!



*Luis Gutierrez*

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### Member Discounts

Reminder: The following companies and organizations offer discounts to WAHA members. Show your WAHA membership card when you make your purchase.

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

Washington Dog & Cat Hospital  
1692 W. Washington Boulevard Los Angeles, CA 90007 323/735-0291  
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Meyers Roofing  
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The 24th Street Theater contact: Jon White-Spunner  
1117 24th Street Los Angeles, CA 90007 213/667-0417  
\$2.00 off ticket price

Cafe Club Fais Do Do  
5257 West Adams Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90016  
323/954-8080  
No cover charge at door

Sherwin-Williams  
1367 Venice Blvd. L.A. 90006 213/365-2471  
20% discount off regular product price (you must have a special discount card)

Washington Tire & Wheel  
1951 W. Washington Blvd. Los Angeles 323/731-0781  
Dealer's pricing on all tires and full line of custom wheels (*See Bill Fuqua, Jr. for this discount*)

Papa Cristo's Taverna  
2771 West Pico Blvd. Los Angeles CA 90006 323/737-2970  
10% discount on catered food orders

Vintage Plumbing Bathroom Antiques  
9939 Canoga Avenue Chatsworth, CA 818/772-1721 (hours: by appointment only)  
10% discount on purchases at Chatsworth facility

### A Call to Members

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

-- Steve Wallis

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**ADVERTISE HERE!** WAHA classifieds are free to paid members. To place a display or classified, call Janice Lipeles (323/737-2370). Classifieds will be for one month only. If you wish to repeat your ad, please call Janice Lipeles by the deadline. After 3 issues for the same ad, there will be a charge of \$ .25 per word.

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

**WAHA CLASSIFIEDS**

Antique oak crank telephone. \$250 OBO. Call carmen after 6 p.m. at 323/735-6216

For sale - Thirty 2' by 2' cobblestones. Look beautiful. \$50. Call Jim at 310/209-4614.

**Yard Sale: Household items and rep samples.** All new - stationery goods, books, frames, organizers, address books, plush toys, etc. etc. Saturday, March 18 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Donuts and coffee for your shopping pleasure. 1041 S. Gramercy Drive. Shop till you drop.

Need front door for Craftsman home. 48" by 79." Call Anna at 323/939-6459.

**For Sale (Best Offers):** Beautiful custom-made, pedestal-style entry hall table (not antique), solid wood (walnut?), nicely carved, some inlay, 50" x 40" x 33" high ó \$500; Nice Queen Ann cherry and glass sofa table, with matching end table ó both for \$80; Old craftsman andirons, excellent condition, 18" tall ó \$75; French style brass andirons and fender ó \$50; Call Greg or Michael, (323) 734-7725.

**Antiques For Sale.** Two kitchen hoosiers (\$350 ea OBO), one decorative metal grate/floor heater vent and a solid oak old schoolteacher's desk. Call Lucy 323/735-2636.

**Edwardian Parlor Set.** Immaculate, warm and cozy love seat and two chairs, walnut frame, tailored red tartan plaid upholstery with extra fabric, \$1,300 obo. Two deep green Italian leather sofas, \$300 each obo. Call 323/461-6679.

**Old doors and windows** for sale, going cheap. Call John Deaven at 323/737-7761.

**Handmade wool rugs (kelims) for sale.** Traditional Macedonian designs which resemble Navajo rugs. Two colorful runners, never used: one is 26 1/2" X 110" (\$160) the other is 20" X 74" (\$90). You can see them on my web page at [www.geocities.com/RodeoDrive/Boutique/1605](http://www.geocities.com/RodeoDrive/Boutique/1605). Call Zoya at 323/731-5222.

**Wouldn't you love to own Mugsy?** He's a big (BIG - 77 pounds) baby boy white bulldog/pit/mutt mix who's looking for someone to receive his slurpy love. About two years old, has had one round of shots. Laura 323/737-6146.

*Roommate Wanted? Vintage Stove for Sale? Garden Plants in Search of New Home? Place your classified ad here to reach preservation-minded readers. Contact Advertising Director Janice Lipeles (323/737-2370) NO LATER THAN the first of the prior month.*

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**Time: 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.**

**Where: St. Sophia's Cathedral Church**  
**1324 S. Normandie Blvd**

For more information, call 213/485-1360

# WAHA March 2000 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
See Community Calendar On page 3 for details on these meetings!			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 Membership Community Relations Committee	9 Neighbor- hood Councils at St. Sophia's	10	11 Library Public Open House
12	13	14	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day Event for Sunshine Mission	18
19	20	21 Newsletter Committee	22	23 WAHA Board Meeting	24	25 WAHA General Meeting: Tour Washington Irving Library
26 WAHA Day at the Races	27 Zoning & Planning/ Preserva- tion Committee	28	29	30	31	

The *WAHA Newsletter* is a publication of the West Adams Heritage Association. Members and supporters of WAHA are invited to submit articles to the *Newsletter*. Letters will be published subject to space constraints and will be cut for length if necessary. Articles will be published subject to acceptance by the editors of the WAHA Board. Advertising is subject to the approval of the publishers. Although the Association appreciates its many fine advertisers, the Association does not accept responsibility for claims made by advertisers. Services and products are not tested and appearance of advertising does not imply, nor does it constitute, endorsement by the West Adams Heritage Association. Copyright 1999. All rights for graphic and written material appearing in the newsletter are reserved. Contact Director of Publications for permissions.

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