Web Resources for Historic Home Aficionados
by Michael S. Smith

Oh, what a tangled web we weave, when first we practice to access the Internet! The Internet can be positively infuriating — with its downloadable this and unzip that, its Java, spam, viruses, and worst of all, the waiting . . . and waiting . . . and waiting . . . It's enough to make you want to grab your computer by its motherboard and toss the whole thing out the window (LOL). For those unfamiliar with computerese, LOL means "laugh out loud," or "lots of laughs."

But, hey, where else can you visit eight different showrooms in six states, in about a half hour, without ever leaving the comfort of your own historic home in West Adams, while sipping coffee, and wearing those bunny slippers and Pooh Bear PJ’s? While the Internet is not the panacea that Bill Gates and Steven Jobs thought it would be, it is exactly the research tool that the good professors at Stanford and UCLA hoped it could be. There is an enormous amount of information out there on the super highway, and quite a lot of it pertains to the old home aficionado.

I've discovered more than a few useful sites related to preservation and restoration. Everything from how to repair fireplaces to finding just the right doorknob or drawer-pull, to contacting the National Trust for Historic Preservation, is all just a mouse click away. In this article I'll share with you a few of my favorite sites.

Personally, I use the Internet for research, e-mail, and to compare products and services, among other things. I prefer not to buy online, only because I'm still a little queasy at the thought of my credit card number flying, warp speed, across a couple of continents and a really big pond. The latest statistics show that using your credit card online is safer than giving out the number over the telephone, but that's like comparing the accident rates between airplanes and cars. Frankly, I'd rather be in a car. When shopping on the web the motto to remember is: caveat emptor.

Before I review some of the sites that I've found, I suppose I should discuss — bod-a-bing, bod-a-boom — connectivity. If you're still accessing the net via a modem speed less than 56k, then it just might be quicker for you to visit each showroom, rather than their virtual showrooms. Many of the new sites employ programs like Java Script which can use a lot of your computer's resources. Greg and I recently took advantage of Pacific Bell's offer for free installation of their high-speed DSL service. You can find information about this service at www.pacbell.com. While we're happy with DSL (it's really fast), there are other options available, including dial-up service, ISDN, and cable. You can find more information about cable at: www.mediaone.com. Naturally, the cost of the service correlates to the speed of the connection (the faster the speed, the more you'll pay). Check all

WAHA's Annual Ice Cream Social

Partake of three delicious flavors of Haagen Daz ice cream and other scrumptious sweets at the Ice Cream Social, to be held at the home of Ralph Robinson and Robert Pederson, this year's garden contest winners

Sunday, August 27
1 - 4 p.m.

Baked goods for sale and a raffle for great prizes

2015 S. Victoria Avenue
Wellington Square
(south of Washington Blvd., west of Crenshaw)

This event is kid-friendly and mother approved!

If you'd like to volunteer, call Greg Stegall (323/734-7725) or Alma Carlisle (323/737-2060)

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Urban Legends and West Adams

"Don’t stay in the neighbourhood...you’ll be trapped indoors after 5:00pm ....it’s not safe to be outdoors...you’re going alone?.....I know a woman whose friend...."

On receiving word that I had been awarded a Fellowship to pursue research on eighteenth-century libertinism at the Clark Library, I received some pretty discouraging advice about West Adams. After having been sent a list of available accommodations in the area by the charming and helpful Fran Anderson (Clark Fellow Coordinator), I posted a query seeking suggestions to C18-L, an [Internet] listserv for some 600 scholars around the world. I received five replies, four from previous Fellows, and one from a UCLA faculty member, all entirely dismayed that a woman might consider staying in a place, they said, that offered so little to do, so much inconvenience, and no little danger. And don’t even ask what my mother said!

Undeterred (and unwilling to spend $1,800 a month for a hotel and car!), I called Fran and then spoke to John Kurtz and others on the Clark’s list, all of whom reassured me that the horror stories were either fictional or a decade out of date. Listening to them introduced me to a neighbourhood that international media would suggest hasn’t existed in big American cities in fifty years.

Grateful in the knowledge that I struck gold in staying in the breathtaking home of John Kurtz, I now offer a few observations from the perspective of an outsider who quickly became a neighbour:

West Adams has struck me as beautiful, friendly, and tremendously sociable. So many of the homes are gloriously restored and perfectly maintained, I am struck by a new detail almost every day as I walk to the Clark amid the barking-dog chorus. This week I was delighted to see the return of the big cow opposite Gramercy Park, peeking demurely over the hedgerows and across the sparkling fountain. Having recently visited Savannah, famous for its restored homes, I can say that despite very different architectural styles, the experience of visiting homes here is often not only comparable, but better in many ways, because they are part of a vibrant, living community rather than a framed historic experience.

Despite my status as mere short-term visitor, I was included in a series of events from Audrey Arlington’s Memorial Weekend social, Sir Simon Rattle’s conducting at the Philharmonic, and the Clark’s Chamber Music Series, to Paramount previews, and those spur-of-the-moment dinners that seem to happen with a happy regularity that conveys a real sense of community. English degrees in hand, I felt secure throughout West Adams. People smile and greet me in passing, and though parts of Western made me walk more briskly than others (and the tunnel to cross underneath spooked me enough to hazard the traffic up top), I was never mistreated or made to feel uncomfortable by the people I encountered, all in complete contradiction of my listserv’s dire warnings.

My time at the library has been incredibly valuable to my research, and the staff has been warm and helpful. I enjoyed LACMA and the Pharahs and the tar pits and Santa Monica. But all of it has been made so much more memorable by virtue of the fact that I did not lock myself cowering into an anonymous hotel room,

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West Adams in the News...

When we wrote about our neighborhood in the news a few months back, we never thought we were starting a monthly column. But here we are, famous again:

In June, the Los Angeles Business Journal wrote about L.A.'s "Bungalow Bounty." According to reporter Laura Kaufman, "Craftsman homes are on fire. The vintage architectural style...is more popular today than it has been at any time since the Arts and Crafts movement swept the nation between 1900 and 1920."

And, the Business Journal said, "that's good news for L.A.'s real estate industry." The article described several Craftsman neighborhoods, including West Adams, and quoted our own David Raposa, owner of City Living Realty, along with other realtors who all agreed that Craftsman bungalows are fetching the highest prices.

The Year In Review
by Jim Meister, Treasurer

As we begin a new fiscal year it is only appropriate to give you a recap of our last fiscal year which ended April 30, 2000. WAHA's fiscal year is from May 1 to April 30 of each year. This is why your membership dues are paid in the middle of the year.

Once again WAHA had a very successful year and as a result we were able to make several contributions to the West Adams community.

For the year ended April 30, 2000, we had total revenues in excess of $43,000. Of this, over $32,000 was realized from the two tours we produced. The remainder of the revenue was from membership dues, advertising revenue for the newsletter and interest income from short-term investments.

Total expenses for the year was just under $43,000. This consisted of $16,600 in costs associated with the tours, $3,300 for publications (newsletter, resource guide and member directory), $3,400 in administrative expenses (insurance, supplies and computer repairs), $6,900 for social expenses (general meetings and special events) and $12,600 for community projects. The community projects included over $5,400 to assist neighborhoods in their HPOZ efforts, our adopt-a-school programs and other preservation projects.

The year ended with just over $43,000 cash in the bank. Of this, $8,000 is allocated to the South Seas House.

As we begin the new year, the new Board will be formulating the budget for the coming year. There are several projects that will be considered. However, your continued support, both financial and through volunteering, will be a key part of the coming year's success.

One WAHA Perspective
Continued from page 2

but for a short time felt a part of a vibrant community with a sense of fun and a sense of itself that leaves to dust the fearful, outdated stereotypes of West Adams that still skitter about the ether like an urban legend.

(Ms. Potter was a visiting scholar from Vancouver, British Columbia, who stayed at John Kurtz's home while she spent time this spring doing research at the Clark Library.)
There once was a unique and marvelous mind reader who fascinated folks with his extrasensory perception. He entertained audiences, including Franklin Delano Roosevelt, in New York, Maryland, Washington D.C., and other East Coast locales. He was the late Albert Mogul, but professionally, he was simply known as “Mogul!”

Mogul’s crystal ball that he used in his theatrical act now sits in a house here in West Adams, and the house was recently featured on the La Fayette Square House Tour in April. For you see, the house owner is Mogul’s daughter, and she is definitely one of WAHA’s most interesting and most colorful members. She is Mitzi March Mogul.

I distinctly remember the first time I set eyes on Mitzi. It was in December of 1998. My wife, Nancy, and I, along with our children, Peggy Sue and Joe, were working the salad house of the WAHA Holiday Tour on Westchester Place in Country Club Park. Mitzi made a grand entrance into the kitchen dressed as a 1922 flapper with King Tut jewelry. Her tale that evening was equally dramatic, for she just came from the gala Hollywood re-opening of Grauman’s Egyptian Theatre on Hollywood Boulevard. It was a wonderfully strong first impression. For a moment she took me back in time. I have never forgotten it. I have always wanted to know more about this individual. Recently I satisfied my curiosity by interviewing her, and I would like to share what I learned.

Mitzi was born at the West Hollywood Hospital in 1957 in the month of her middle name. That was her mother’s idea! Mitzi has lived in California all of her life, so far. She attended Fairfax High School, and she studied music at the University of Southern California (USC). She can play the piano, the guitar and the harp.

Currently Mitzi works as a historian/consultant. How did she switch from music to history? Jokingly, Mitzi will answer, “When I found out that I couldn’t make a living on my musical talent.” However, the truth is Mitzi recalls when she was around 13 years old, her sister took her to listen to a lecture about archeological anthropology by Louis S. B. Leakey. She was enchanted by it, and she got to meet Mr. Leakey afterwards. The experience made a great impact on her heart and mind. Now, instead of digging up bones like Leakey, she digs up facts about old buildings by researching them extensively. In fact, she has gotten so good at it that she was honored at the Annual Los Angeles Conservancy Preservation Awards on May 3, 2000, at the fabulous Biltmore Hotel in downtown Los Angeles. The awards luncheon was attended by WAHA members Linda Scribner, John Kurtz, Jean Cade, and Tom Florio. Mitzi was recognized for her recent involvement with the restoration of the art deco Dominguez-Wilshire Building on Wilshire Boulevard.

Mitzi knew, while once employed by the Los Angeles Conservancy, she wanted to live in historic West Adams. So in 1987 she bought a bungalow on 29th Place, and she joined our association around the same time. She lived there for 10.5 years. The small house was on the 1991 WAHA Bungalow Tour, showcasing the one-story homes bordered by Adams (north), Jefferson (south), 4th Avenue (west) and Western Avenue (east). Since joining WAHA, she has always been an active member. She has worked on every single Holiday Tour since they started in 1987, often writing the text of the brochures for them and even photographing many of the tour houses for some of those brochures. She once served as WAHA’s “Official Administrator,” and she also edited the WAHA Newsletter for a period, which involved many late night hours of research, typing, and paste-up. Researching and writing about history are definitely two of her best talents. Anyone who took the time to read her 19 pages of research in the 2000 La Fayette Square House Tour brochure will agree.

As much as she enjoys WAHA activities, Mitzi confessed to me, she equally enjoys her duties as the President of the Art Deco Society (ADS) of Los Angeles. She has been the editor of their newsletter, as well. The International Coalition of Art Deco Societies has taken Mitzi to Australia, New Zealand, England and even Florida for several ADS World Conferences. In November of 2000, she will be a guest speaker regarding the Art Deco period (between WWI and WWII) in Havana, Cuba, and she is truly looking forward to this unique travel opportunity.

This brings us to her current home on Wellington Road in La Fayette Square. She has only lived in it for the past two years. It was built in 1913, and it has a most unusual design — the “Japanese pagoda” style, part of the Arts & Crafts Movement. The house has three stain glass windows, and one of them is built inside the dining room china cabinet. It is on the outside wall, and one has to look through the beveled leaded glass of the china cabinet to see the stained glass window (of a small Japanese pagoda). An old outside light illuminates the window at night for evening dinner guests. It truly is a most unique architectural feature. A harp and a baby grand piano are part of her living room, which also has beautiful light green moire fabric panels, created by WAHA artist Rory Cunningham. In fact, the cable TV show “Two Crafty Ladies,” a “how to” show, filmed Rory applying the fabric to Mitzi’s walls.

Near the end of our visit, Mitzi showed me her father’s photograph holding his crystal ball. Then she put the actual weighty sphere into the palm of my hand. Later, I pondered. Whether Mitzi dresses like it, writes about it, or places an object from it within your reach, Mitzi Mogul brings it to life. It being History!
In the summertime, you'll see their blazing colors and brilliant hues brightening gardens which have otherwise dulled in the heat of July and August. But did you know that the dahlia, a perennial grown from tuberous roots which comes in hundreds of colors, sizes and shapes, is not only a great summer garden focal point but also is the national flower of Mexico?

The mountains of Mexico and Guatemala are considered the home of origin for today's dahlia's ancestors. 16th century Spanish conquistadors, while busy conquering the vast Aztec Indian nation, also made some interesting explorations -- one of which was the collection of New World plant life. Botanists accompanying the soldiers discovered what is sometimes referred to as the tree dahlia (D. imperialis). The flowers of this species were open-centered, single blooms with pendant stems. The hollow stems of these plants, some growing to over 20 feet, were often used for hauling water or as an actual source of water to traveling hunters. In fact the Aztec name for "tree dahlia" was acocotli or water-cane.

About 200 years passed before dahlia seeds, roots, and plants found their way to Europe. From the Royal Botanical Gardens in Madrid, Spain, dahlia seeds and tubers were soon sent throughout western Europe. Initial breeders of dahlias were more interested in it as a food source since the blooms were not particularly noteworthy. Perhaps, fortunately for us today, these experiments met with little success. By the early 18th century the first fully double forms began to emerge. From 1810 to 1840 dahlias were very popular as nurserymen continued to expand the combinations of colors in dahlias that were global in shape. Soon however, as is with many other breeding projects, it was felt that all combinations had been reached and the interest in dahlias began to wane.

In 1872 a box of dahlia roots were sent from Mexico to Holland. The impact of this long journey was devastating in that all but one tuber failed to make the crossing. This singular root, however, proved quite astonishing in that it produced a brilliant red bloom with petals that were rolled back and pointed! Immediately dahlias regained their place on the benches of plant breeders who began to successfully combine this new variety (D. juarezii) with parents of early varieties and their progenies have served as the parents of today's hybrids.

Today there are numerous organizations throughout the world with the main goal of advancing the growing and advancement of dahlias. The American Dahlia Society (ADS), which has sister organizations in such places as Great Britain, New Zealand and Australia as well as several other European and Asian countries, categorizes today's dahlias into various groups based on size, form and color. Dahlias have seemingly endless classifications, including "singles," "pom-poms," "cactus-flowered," "orchid-flowered," "anemone-flowered," double "waterlily" and "peony-flowered." The flowers can be as small as an inch across and as large as a foot across, with heights ranging from one to seven feet.

The ADS recognizes 15 different colors or color combinations of dahlias. They are: white; yellow; orange; pink; dark pink; red; dark red; lavender; purple; light blend -- a blending of the lighter tints and tones of pink, yellow, lavender, and other pastels; bronze; flame; dark blend; varigated -- where two or more colors appear on the face of the bloom either in dots, splashes, stripes on narrow lines; and bicolor -- blooms with two distinctly clear, sharply separated colors.

How to Grow

You should grow dahlias in full sun or light afternoon shade in the hottest areas. They should be planted in a rich soil that's been amended with organic matter, composted bark or redwood sawdust, and nutrients — especially potassium and phosphorus — and sand in heavier clay soils. Make your holes one foot deep and three feet apart for most dahlia varieties, and space the largest dahlias as much as five feet apart. If you plant a tall variety, tie it to a five-foot stake. Throughout the growing season, keep soil moist to a depth of one foot. Deadhead spent flowers to encourage more blooms. You'll see a lot written about digging up and storing dahlias over the winter. Although Southern California gardeners need not worry about freezing weather, you should... Continued on page 10

Garden Calendar

Summer is here! The most important garden task this month is to make sure that the plants do not dry out -- less of a problem in your beds than in containers.

PLANT
* Marigolds, zinnia, verbena and salvias for late-summer color
* Bearded iris and autumn-flowering bulbs

CHORES AND MAINTENANCE
* Do not "scalp" your lawn - raise mowing height
* Harvest, harvest, harvest - if there is too much fruit (or tomatoes) for your own use, give away to neighbors - or freeze.
* Deadhead perennials' flowers

-- Courtesy The Garden Calendar
Fulcrum Publishing
www.fulcrum-gardening.com
A Word of Thanks
by Judie Schoening

All of us have made disparaging remarks about the Post Office especially after standing in line for what seems to be an inordinate amount of time. BUT. This month, I put together a mailing to all of those Resources for which we had addresses. We sent them a copy of the most recent Newsletter along with the new Resource Guide. It also included a letter soliciting advertising, discounts and membership. All in all there were 135 good-sized envelopes. Hoping to get these metered at the Post Office, I took one envelope and explored my options with a most cheerful Clerk at the La Brea and Washington station – West Adams Station – where we have a PO Box. Evelyn told me that she really didn't think metering was possible but she would find out from her Supervisor. Before I even got home, the Customer Service Supervisor, Sam Booth, called Alan and said that if we brought the envelopes in, although metering was too time-consuming, he did have the personnel to attach the necessary stamps (three per envelope) to the envelopes. Whew! What a relief. All of this was so cheerfully done and such a big help that I would publicly like to extend a BIG Thank you especially to Mr. Booth and Evelyn but also to the people who actually did the work for WAHA.

A second THANK YOU for doing their job, goes to West Bureau Narcotics. A couple of months ago, we called Det. Hull at this division because “Junior” was again plying his narcotics trade in the shade of the two trees in front of our house. He (and others) had been gone for several years and it was both annoying and discouraging to see him back. Recently, after some time of observing the activity (especially in front of the liquor store at 3rd and Washington), the police swept up a number of dealers and users. Although they did not succeed in getting Junior, they confiscated his car and nabbed several others. Again, we’d like to thank our local police divisions for being responsive and helping us to improve our neighborhood. Do remember that they can’t help us if we don’t keep our eyes open and report what we see.

MEASURE YOUR SUCCESS!

Are you losing money and don’t even know it?
Do you know what your business is worth?
Are you paying your fair share in taxes?

I am a CPA dedicated to the success of small businesses. I provide tax and consulting services designed to achieve success.
Call Corinne Pleger at 323/954-3100

Brakensiek Leavitt Pleger, LLP
5670 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1450
Los Angeles, CA 90036
And the Winners Are...

All of the entries in WAHA's Annual Garden and Paint Contest were terrific, but choose we must. Members voted on Saturday, June 17th during WAHA's Garden Meeting at the wonderful George Ira Cochran Residence/Allen House on Harvard Boulevard.

The winners in the Paint Contest were:
First Prize - Anita and David Gillette (plus daughters Deanne, Denise, Detra and Adrianne) for their new coat of paint on 2648 Raymond Avenue.
Second Prize - Roland Souza, for the freshly-restored Victorian at 1015 W. 23rd Street.

And the winners in the Best Gardens Contest were:
First Prize - Ralph Robinson and Bob Peterson, for the beautiful landscape at 2015 S. Victoria Avenue (see it in August at the Ice Cream Social!).
Second Prize - Harold Smith, for his freshly re-landscaped front and side gardens at 1731 Westmoreland Boulevard.

These top prize winners received gift certificates from OSH. All contestants received gifts (paint brushes to painters, bougainvilleas to gardeners).

Many thanks to Ed Trosper for collecting the names and addresses of all the nominees.

Are You Looking for A Roommate?

When was the last time you were scrounging around for either a tenant to rent your spare room/guest house/third floor apartment, or, were looking for such accommodations for someone? Wouldn’t it be great to have a directory of West Adams accommodations in the houses offices and on the desks of those at USC, the Clark Library, the Colburn School, etc., who get asked the question, “Are there any decent/affordable places to stay in the area?” The “West Adams Heritage Association’s Directory of Short- and Long-term Rental Housing” will be updated and distributed on an annual basis. If you are interested in having a description of your rental included in such a directory, send a description to Audrey Arlington at email (preferred): bi166lafn.org or call 323/732-8515.

Please provide information on location (at least the block number and street name), whether bathroom facilities are shared or private, whether there is a private kitchen or a shared kitchen or no kitchen privileges, and any other brief description of your charming rental or the house in which it’s located. If you have multiple rentals and simply want a generalized description, indicate the range of types of accommodation (houses, rooms in houses, guest houses, etc.) and send it in. It is strongly suggested that you do not include price information so that price remains negotiable on a tenant-by-tenant basis.

Washington Dog & Cat Hospital, Inc.
1692 West Washington Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90007
213/735-0291
Boarding & Grooming Pick up & Delivery
Low Cost Vaccinations Available
Hours 7:30 am-12 Noon; 2-5 pm
Saturday 7:30 am-2 pm
Sunday 10 am-12 Noon
your options and make the choice right for you.

Also, with all the hype about computer viruses, if you're browsing the web without protection, or your virus detection program is more than a year old, then you may be setting yourself up for serious trouble. Fortunately, there are several good software programs available on the web, or at any computer store. Two sites which offer virus detection programs are: www.mcafee.com and www.symantec.com.

WAHA recently unveiled its own web site at: www.neighborhoodlink.com/la/westadams. This new site is informative, has plenty of helpful links, and even has a place for WAHA members to create their own home pages. If you haven't been to WAHA's official web site, check it out and join the cyber community by creating your own home page.

Two other West Adams neighborhood organizations also have web sites — Adams-Normandie Neighborhood Association (ANNA) and Van Buren Place. These two sites are a lot of fun to visit and truly display the spirit of West Adams through their charm and originality. These sites take a little time to download, but be patient because it's worth the wait. Their web addresses are www.westadams.com/anna and www.westadams-normandie.com respectively, or jump to them from the WAHA web site.

One site I find myself going back to again and again is: www.restorationcentral.com, because it has just about everything a preservation-minded surfer could ask for in a site. Restoration Central's mission is "to become the leading provider of restoration and decoration information, products and services." Based on their web site they are well on their way. They have an extensive list of vendors, complete with updated links, and features like "Ask the Expert," where you can get professional advice about an array of restoration projects, and an e-mail newsletter, "Old Home Buzz," which periodically sends out updates about community events. Restoration Central provides free web sites to nonprofit preservation organizations, and several of WAHA's Southern California sister societies have links to their own web sites. Organizations like Altadena Heritage, Highland Park Heritage Trust, Monrovia Old House Preservation Group, Pasadena Heritage, Pomona Heritage, Redondo Beach Heritage, and the San Diego Historical Society have all taken advantage of Restoration Central's services.

Another excellent springboard from which to launch, is the Old House Journal site at: www.oldhousejournal.com. Given the "best of the web" award by Forbes, it's easy to see why OIJ continues to be the best friend of the old home admirer. Their web page is clean and easy to use, with excellent graphics. The best feature by far is the restoration directory, sortable by company or category. Their site also features a classified section and numerous bulletin boards.

For the avid gardener, Sunset Magazine's web site, www.sunset.com, is a must. However, their site is not without drawbacks. The Sunset site is overburdened with graphics, it's confusing, and the site constantly pushes subscriptions to their magazine. If you don't mind wading through the muck, then you'll find tips for garden planting, products, a handy climate zone finder, a list of gardening books, and lots of resources.

When I lived up north in Sacramento, Mac the Antique Plumber was a staple of the restoration crowd. They now have a web site at: www.mactheantiqueplumber.com. Many hard to find items like reproduction pilbox and high-tank toilets can be found at this helpful site. Mac also stocks hardware and lighting accessories.

A little closer to home is www.crowncityhardware.com, Pasadena's own Crown City Hardware. Because their site is still under construction, it's little more than a vehicle for ordering their catalogue. However, once they are set up to take online orders, using the web site just might be easier than driving up the 110 Freeway, or cheaper than a trip to Liz's. Crown City Hardware will definitely be a site to watch.

Bradbury and Bradbury have an excellent site at: www.bradbury.com. If you're familiar with the catalogue then you'll feel right at home visiting this web site — it's set up exactly the same. The site is clean and informative, and the studio tour is especially interesting. Unfortunately they are not set up yet to sell their products online, nor do they provide a price list. However, this site won my heart when I spotted a quote from Oscar Wilde, "Nothing succeeds like excess!"

Rejuvenation Lamp and Fixture Company, www.rejuvenation.com, also features a Quote of the Moment (Collect All 106). On the day I logged in, "In the right light, at the right time, everything looks extraordinary," was the quote by Aaron Rose. Opened in 1977, by founder Jim Kelley, Rejuvenation is dedicated to providing quality reproduction lights, fixtures, and art glass. Their web site is easy to use, and products can be searched for by age, which makes finding just the right product for your house a piece of cake. Rejuvenation even sells those nifty push-button switches in a variety of finishes and styles.

Without a doubt, the granddaddy of all web sites is www.ebay.com. Nearly anyone who has ever braved the web frontier has visited eBay. Of all the auction houses this is the biggest and the best. Even with the recent negative publicity about illegal sales through online auction houses, I still recommend eBay. Be sure, though, to review the seller's history before making a bid. Nearly any kind of antique or collectable can be found within these pages. If used for nothing else, eBay is a great price guide. Check eBay before you hit the antique malls or swap meets.

Finally, the Internet is a great resource to check civic matters, and to do historic research. Most government agencies and preservation organizations have some sort of web site. Here are just a few which may prove useful: the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation www.achp.gov; California Historical Society, www.calhist.org; the City of Los Angeles, www.ci.la.ca.us; the Los Angeles Conservancy.
You are invited to Sunday Brunch at the Sunshine Mission\Casa de Rosas

Join us for our Fifth Annual Brunch and see the retro-fitted porte cochere, the community garden, and the new computer room. Enjoy Brunch in our Dining Room, knowing you are also contributing to providing both short term emergency and long term affordable housing for women.

Date: Sunday, July 16, 2000
Time: 11 AM to 2 PM
Suggested Donation: $20 per person
(Payable to the Casa de Rosas, Inc.)
The Casa de Rosas is a 501©(3) tax-exempt corporation and donations are tax deductible as permitted by law.

The Board of Directors (Carole Autori, L. Shanti Blanton, Hugh Biele, Michael Dever, Ed Derr, June Dunbar, Jean Frost, Michele McDonough, Marc Hamilton, and Susan Peck) appreciate your support.

Presented by the Casa de Rosas Board of Directors and Staff

Location: 2600 South Hoover, corner of Hoover and Adams.
Please reserve for ___ persons.
I cannot attend but enclosed is my donation of ____

For reservations, call the Casa de Rosas at 213-747-7419 during business hours or send your donation to the Casa de Rosas Inc. 2600 South Hoover St., Los Angeles, Ca., Attn: Fred Hollister...or you may pay at the door.
Web Resources
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So, the next time you’re in the mood, brew a pot of coffee, don your slippers and robe, and head for the media center to spend some quality time on the ol’ computer. I’m sure you’ll find plenty to keep you busy!

Get Into the Act!

Magic: The Science of Illusion Opens in Exposition Park

Mind reading, floating in thin air, a head without a body— is it magic or science? Or, perhaps a little of both? Visitors can find out and get into the act at “Magic: The Science of Illusion,” a new exhibit opening July 22 at the California Science Center in Exposition Park. Through engaging performances, artifacts, films and interactive experiences, the exhibit will reveal the art and science of entertainment magic.

Magic luminaries including Penn & Teller, Jade, and Max Maven helped create the exhibit, which explores the basic science concepts which make magic possible. Visitors will learn how magicians use psychology, physics, math, and engineering to create complex effects. Magicians act as inventors and scientists to come up with ingenious illusions, and this exhibit is no exception: it features the new Amazing Living Head Illusion, the Light and Heavy Chest Illusion and the Magic of Mind Illusion, among others.

Though science is the key to understanding illusions, the art of performance is key to creating them. At the Magician’s Training Academy, visitors will learn new card tricks and mind-reading illusions that they can perform at home.

The California Science Center is open daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; admission is free. “Magic” continues through February 28, 2001. More Info: 323-SCIENCE.

Resources
by Judie Schoening

This month, I have only one newish Resource to report to you but possibly it includes information you may not have. Darby Bayliss faxed a note the end of last month. She says that when you buy a house these days, you are given 1 year to install a gas shut off valve. I had written about shut off valves about a year ago with Pat Cross’s information. She had given me local resource for these, which she had the Gas Company install for her. It is listed under Plumbing Supply in the new Resource Guide.

Darby bought a Safe-T Earthquake Valve from Hirsch Pipe and Supply (also in the Guide). She paid $92.99 each (it seems to me that Pat paid around the same price from her source who shipped it to her). For a residence, buy S-T Q 34. She also had the Gas company install it. Cost: $81.00. She says that because the Gas Company did the installation, she did not have to pay the Building & Safety permit fee of $41.00. All good advice. What surprises me is that neither of the people sent here from the Gas Company on two occasions mentioned this requirement nor were we given any written materials about this issue. (Then again, maybe I am not so surprised given the caliber of the people who came here.) Since the Resources are already listed in the Guide, they are not repeated below.

Mordigan’s Nursery has moved and is no longer at the Farmer’s Market. Their new address is 7933 West Third Street. Their phone number is also 323/655-6027. With so many “proofers” and re-readings, you’d think we’d be perfect!! PLEASE—correct your Guide. Thank you, Laura, for making me take another look at this listing.

Remember, this column depends on YOU. With no Newsletter until September, you have lots of time to get me your new Resources and to comment on any ‘old’ ones you have used. FAX 323/733-3541 or emaillt schoening@earthlink.net. If you have questions, please call my business number 323/734-8123, as that is where the computer lives.

GARDEN SUPPLY

Mordigan’s Nursery
7933 West Third Street
Los Angeles CA 90048
323/655-6027

Luis Gutierrez
CARPENTER
ANTIQUE MOLDINGS • CABINETS
 Drywall Repair, Remodeling
 Interior, Exterior, Painting & Staining

(213) 329-0756 323-735-5618
be prepared to dig and divide the tubers, using a sharp knife to slice through the stem vertically and down through the root clump. Make sure each piece of root has both a part of the crown and an "eye," which is the bud from which next season's growth will come.

Care of these tubers starts with proper treatment during the growing season. While most dahlias start producing tubers in the spring, the roots do not mature until late in the growing season. The longer the tubers are in the ground curing, the more fully developed the tubers and the better the likelihood of their keeping over the winter.

Dig and handle the clumps with care. A dahlia tuber's neck is fragile, especially right after digging. To remove the clumps, dig on all four sides of the plant, about a foot away from the main stalk. When all four sides are loose from longer feeder roots, push the shovel or tined fork under the clump and lift carefully. Carefully remove any large clumps of dirt and turn the clump upside down to drain out any water in the stem.

If one digs in the morning and leaves the clumps out for a couple of hours, the tubers will be much less fragile. After a couple of hours, one can remove the dirt with less opportunity of breaking fragile tubers.

When ready to clean the clump, use a garden hose to wash away as much dirt as possible. (Dirt contains microorganisms, so one wants to remove the dirt before storing the divisions.) Now the clump is ready for cutting.

Cutting clumps presents another tradeoff. It is much easier to divide roots in the fall (some varieties become so hard over the winter that one would need a power saw to separate them in the spring), but it is correspondingly harder to find the eyes before they start to sprout. Gardeners uncertain about finding the eyes can cut off the tops several days before planning to dig so the eyes will have time to become more visible. Alternatively, just cut — some divisions will have eyes.

**Dividing the Clumps**

In dividing clumps, each division must have a piece of the crown with an eye. Remove all of the stem, because any remaining tends to promote crown rot and ruin the tuber. **ALWAYS STERILIZE CUTTING TOOLS AFTER DIVIDING EACH CLUMP.** Remove all feeder roots and any stalk (both promote rot). If the inside of the crown has any brown or rusty colored areas, cut them away. The discoloration probably indicates crown rot, and the tuber is unlikely to keep. After cutting divisions, use a hose or indoor laundry tub to wash the tubers again and remove any dirt missed the first time.

After rewashing, cut the end of the tuber. Any brown or rusty colored area in the middle or part of the way out indicates rot. Throw it away. After cutting the divisions, treat the cut ends with a fungicide, such as Cleary's 3336 (systemic and low in human toxicity), Captan, or sulphur. When using a liquid dip, place the tubers from one clump in the solution for about 15 minutes. Remove the tubers and transfer them to an empty shoe box or other open container (one per clump) to start drying. Never dry tubers on concrete, because it tends to draw the moisture from tubers and make them shrivel. Expect to let the tubers dry for about 24 hours for small roots and 24 to 36 hours for medium to large roots.

**Storing Tubers over Winter**

There are numerous methods to store tubers over the winter. Various methods seem to work about equally well, as long as the procedure keeps the tubers cool (above freezing but ideally below 50 degrees) and allows an exchange of moisture between the tubers and the storage medium. The containers must retain the moisture in the storage medium. If the moisture escapes, the tubers tend to shrivel.

Many gardeners prefer vermiculite in plastic bags to store tubers that have dried for one to two days. Coarse vermiculite works better than the fine horticultural vermiculite. Another option: slightly moistened sand in five gallon containers. The tubers keep very well but develop sprouts and feeder roots earlier than those in coarse vermiculite. Also, sand is much, much heavier. Perlite is not a good medium, because it does not absorb excess moisture, and its dust is unhealthy to breathe. Experienced growers warn against peat moss. Dry peat moss tends to make tubers shrivel while moist peat moss tends to promote rot. Wood chips can be used to store tubers, but they may leach moisture from roots. An inexpensive source of wood chips is pet bedding (available from pet supply outlets).

You can store tubers in inexpensive vegetable bags, stacking them in doubled brown grocery bags and keeping them in the coldest part of the basement or in another cool area that should constantly stay around 40 to 45 degrees.

In early spring, move the tubers to a warm location (dark but room temperature) to encourage eyes to develop. You can add a teaspoon of water per quart of bag space 15 days before removing the tubers. After adding the water, retie the bag and put it into a warm location. Soon you'll be ready to replant your dahlias.

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**The honor of your presence is requested at the annual summer reception at the Deaven residence to salute Peggy Sue's 13th birthday.**

**Saturday, August 26**

4 - 9 p.m.

2410 Fourth Avenue

RSVP 323/737-7761

The theme will be the 1950s.
The theme color will be pink.
West Adams Historic Plaques

WAHA has established a grant program to help defray the cost of purchasing markers for homeowners whose residences are:

- National Register Historic Monuments
- Los Angeles Historic Cultural Monuments
- Contributing Structures to a National Register Historic District

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

WAHA HISTORIC PLAQUE PROGRAM

Application

Name: ____________________________
Address: __________________________

Is your house a:
(check all that apply)

☐ National Historic Landmark
   (If yes, please list the Monument No. __________________________)

☐ Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument
   (If yes, please list the Monument No. __________________________)

☐ Contributing Structure to a National Register Historic District
   (If yes, please list the historic district __________________________)

Amount requested: __________________________
(Please submit receipt(s) and/or proof of cost)*

I agree to use all of the funds received from WAHA to help defray the cost of purchasing, or of having already purchased, an appropriate plaque to identify my house as an historic structure as listed above.

_____________________________________
Signature of Applicant

*WAHA's goal is to encourage and assist the purchase of as many plaques as possible, while still providing meaningful assistance. The program will provide up to a maximum total of $1,000 each year for all applicants. The actual amount received by any applicant will be determined by the number of applicants and the category in which the applicant's house falls. Depending on the number of applications received, some applications may be deferred for future consideration.
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 or PHONE NUMBER

Candace Anderson, 675 Warner Avenue, LA, Ca 90024-2570  310/234-8294

ADD (and Welcome) NEW WAHA MEMBERS

Jane Harrington, 3107 Brighton Avenue, LA, Ca 90018  323/735-8216
Gillian Harwood, 745 North Gardner, LA, CA 90046 323/782-1404
Sally Pearlstein, 3142 Dona Conchita Place, Studio City, Ca 91604 323/654-1413

Deadline is Just Around the Corner for Neighborhood Matching Grants

The LA Board of Public Works, Operation Clean Sweep, has announced that it will again offer the Neighborhood Matching Fund (NMF) this year. For those who may be unfamiliar with this program, it is a $250 to $5,000 matching grant, that any neighborhood organization can apply for. Projects that "bring the community together," such as murals, community gardens, and streetscape projects will be considered. Applications scoring is based on the project’s community benefit and involvement, and feasibility. Letters of Intent are due within a few weeks, and the full application by summer’s end.

If you would like more information you can call Operation Clean Sweep at 800/611-CITY, or visit their website at www.cityofla.org/bpw/ocs/nmf. You may also call me (Michael Smith) at 213/894-3616.

Meet the Author at Washington Irving Branch Library Saturday, August 19 3 p.m.

Award-winning mystery writer Gar Anthony Haywood reads from his latest novel, All the Lucky Ones Are Dead (Penguin, Putnam - January 2000). The former president of the Mystery Writers of America, Southern California chapter and author of seven mystery novels, Haywood’s mysteries feature local themes and backgrounds, often with a good dose of humor. Six of his books, including this new novel, and several short stories feature an African-American lead character, private investigator Aaron Gunner. Haywood has also written for television, the Los Angeles Times and the New York Times.

New Member Discount

by Stephen Wallis

Lucky Chimney Sweep is now offering a 10% discount on their services to WAHA members. Lucky has 10 years experience in relining and refurbishing damaged chimneys and has developed high temperature cement mixtures and repair techniques for damaged flues (where the smoke goes up and out of the chimney) and smoke chambers (the area above the fire box). They also install new fire boxes and stainless steel liners.

If you have problems with your fireplace, i.e., smoke backing up into your house, Lucky is expert at diagnosing draft performance problems, has internal chimney cameras and other diagnostic equipment to ascertain the exact source of the problem. It’s well versed with building and fire codes pertaining to fireplace and solid fuel burning appliances.

Lucky offers a 19-point full visual check and safety inspection for $39 which can be applied to any of their other services. Cleanings typically range from $59-89 and includes the safety inspection.

Lucky Chimney Sweep
4000 College Crest Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90065
888/62 Lucky (888/625-8259)
Susan and Alfredo Johnson

Plea to Members: Bring Us Our Dishes

WAHA is missing serving spoons, trays, t-shirts, paper goods, and, well -- a whole bunch of stuff.

If you have any WAHA property, please, please bring them to Michael Smith and Greg Stegall's home, 1915 S. Oxford. They’ve agreed to "house" WAHA’s items.

On Saturday, September 16, WAHA members will be going to Greg and Michael’s to sort, organize and inventory the items, and to put up shelves in their garage. If you’d like to help, just show up at 2 p.m. (We promise ice cream as your incentive pay - hey, Greg, are you reading this?!)

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**Fred Sands ESTATES**

20 TRANSACTIONS TO DATE THIS YEAR
We Don’t Just Promise--We Produce!!!

The Catbagan/Neith Team
offering Internet Marketing
24 hours a Day/7 Days a Week
for Historic, Distinctive Homes

JUST SOLD:
1155 No. La Cienega, #504-S
6300 Grape Place, Vine Hills-B

JUST LEASED:
150 No. Gower-Lessee

JUST LISTED:
2702 S. Normandie—$310,000
6+3 Victorian Transitional
Restored with charm

2291 W. 23rd St.—$335,000
Large Craftsman Fixer 5 + 2.5
Cul de Sac st., "Good Bones!"

IN ESCROW:
2702 S. Normandie-S-
multiple offers
2159 W. 20th St. B,S-sold
immediately!
2380 W.31st St. -S-sold in just
over a week!

Natalie Neith
Ken Catbagan
Catbagan/Neith Team
We know Los Angeles--& are
committed to the community

Executives Circle
Top 15% of Fred Sands agents
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Direct Line-(323) 762-3178, 3177
For info on listings & services:
www.natalieneith.com

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**July’s Blockbusters**
by John Rentsch

For those of us involved (somewhat) with the movie business, July is the height of our summer blockbuster season. So, a quick plug for the boss and for a few friends: worth catching, if you have not already done so are “Gladiator,” “Mission: Impossible 2” and “Shaft.” Great popcorn movies to fill a summer weekend or night.

But the movies are only an option if you’re not involved in this month’s birthday whirl in the neighborhood. As always, we’re not sure that we know of all the members marking birthdays — and I know we definitely don’t know about all of you celebrating anniversaries, so this list will probably remain a little incomplete unless you’ll pick up the phone (323/735 3500) and let me know about the omissions.

Kicking off July’s festivities are Tom Groener and Martin Weil on the 2nd, with Christ Carlson slipping in on the 3rd before all those fireworks start exploding all around for Tim Mozer on the 4th — oh, AND Uncle Sam that day too! The weekend around the 4th has always been a great time to party for WAHA!

And if you have any energy after the 4th, birthday fun chances seem to pop-up almost daily for most of the rest of the month.

Darby Bayliss celebrates on the 5th, Michael Totten follows on the 6th, and Anna Marie Brooks, Alma Carlisle and Donald Paul Pemrick all rock the following weekend with all their birthdays on Sunday the 9th. If you’re friends of all three, Sunday will really test your partying stamina!

Ken Catbagan, Isabella Taylor Hutchinson and Greg Stegall start off the next week with their natal days on Tuesday the 11th and are followed in rapid succession by Gerry Doan and David Pleger on the 12th, Esther Lofton and Tom Norris on the 13th, Darling Herod on the 14th, Jennifer Cunningham the 16th, Eric Bronson the 17th and Debra Losnick and Miguel Vargas on the 19th.

And the marathon of parties does not end there. Bob Grant follows on Saturday the 22nd and then we have Alice McHugh and Jim Meister on the 23rd. David Raposa rounds out the birthday month with the 27th.

Congratulations to you all. Now all we need are a few more names to fill those few dates I’ve not mentioned. We could probably make July a party-a-night month!

Finally, one other special occasion to mention. The 19th of July also marks the third anniversary of Donald Pemrick’s move to the neighborhood. Donald, you’ve not only done wonders with your home, you’ve also made a wonderful difference to the quality of life of those that have had the chance to get to know you. So, Kiddo, hang-in during the current time that seems like a neighborhood setback. We will sort out this zoning violation and get things back to their normal fun swing. The same thoughts apply to neighbor Herb who discovered there are some bigger vermin here than any he ever saw in the New York subway! It will all get better — particularly when we all have so many good reasons to celebrate.

Finally, finally, I hope that when we get to record the July celebrations of 2001, it will include the first anniversaries for Historic Preservation Overlay Zones for Harvard Heights, Western Heights, ANNA, Lafeyette Square, etc.

Enjoy everyone.
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
  50% off office exams

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

- **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

- **Lucky Chimney Sweep**
  4000 College Crest Drive Los Angeles, CA 90065
  888/62lucky --888/625-8259
  Susan and Alfredo Johnson

- **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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**Become a member (or renew)! You can do it today!**

Membership through April 2001

Name(s)__________________________
Address:__________________________
Phone:____________________________

____ New Membership
____ Renewal

Membership classification (check one)

____ Individual $25.00
____ Household $35.00
____ Business $50.00
____ Patron $100.00
____ Benefactor $250.00
____ Senior/Student $17.00
____ Newsletter only $17.00

____ DO NOT include my name, address and telephone number in the WAHA membership directory.

Please make check payable to WAHA.

Return to:
WAHA
2263 S. Harvard Blvd
Historic West Adams
Los Angeles, CA 90018
Please Note:
WAHA does not endorse or claim responsibility for any of the services, products or “for sale” items advertisers have listed in these pages.

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.

ADVERTISING RATES FOR COMMERCIAL ADS
Quarter Page ...(5 3/4 x 4 5/8) ....... $25 monthly, $250 - 12 issues
Business Card ...(3 1/2 x 2) ........... $10 monthly, $100 - 12 issues

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

WAHA CLASSIFIEDS
Solid maple dining room set with 6 chairs, $250.00 Early American style. Very flexible style and quality, for formal or informal dining. Good quality woodgrain laminate top (no water or heat worries), perfect for families, goes formal with a tablecloth. Drop leaf style with extensions for small or large rooms. Will seat 8 when fully extended. Call 323/732-8515

WILL DONATE TO YOUR FAVORITE CHARITY:
Antique safe, painted black; ceramic kiln approx. 30" x 30" x 30"; two potter's wheels; boxed (24 or 36") coral trees; medical supplies (boxes upon boxes); scaffolding parts. Charity must pick up. FOR SALE: (2)5-panel cabinet doors, ptd.; tractor wheels with new rubber tires (40-50); blond wood plastic laminate table tops & white legs approx. 24" x108" (6-7). Call Janice at 323/730-9110, Call Janice at work 323/730-9110

Home in or near West Adams wanted for December (12/15-1/10). Low short-term rent or swap for apt. in Vicenza, Italy. For particulars, call Judie at 323/734-8123.


Wanted: Nanny for two West Adams infants, starting late August, full time. Interested in leads and referrals. Call Mary at 323/731-9204.

For Rent: Large room in turn-of-the-century mansion with full bath & walk-in closet. Western windows overlook Baldwin Hills sunsets. $600/mo., incl. utilities. Call Janice at 323/737-9110.

Gardeners: Free shredded tree prunings. Great for pathways or making compost. Free plants: (1) sea lavender; (2) myrtle; (3) verbena bonariensis; and (4) succulents. Call Jennifer at 323/734-7391.

Experienced housekeeper looking for work. Recommended by Lynda Reiss. Call Myra at 323/585-4345.

For Rent - Large single carriage house apartment inside gated backyard. Fireplace, bay window, kitchenette, 3/4 bath, carpeted. $525/mo inc. utilities. 323/733-6325.

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.


NOTICES

WAHA's combined Zoning & Planning/Preservation Committee has a new standing meeting night: the Third Wednesday of each month, at the offices of City Living Realty, 2316 1/2 South Union Avenue, Suite 2 (intersection of Union, Hoover and 23rd Street). Mark your calendars to join and attend this committee -- it's one of our organization's most important activities. Contact Tom Florio or Eric Bronson for more information.

WAHA has a new Web Site.
Check it out at:
www.neighborhoodink.com/la/westadams
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<td>Mark Your Calendar for WAHA's August 27th Ice Cream Social</td>
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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.