Spring, and It’s the Political Season

Sure, you’d rather be gardening. Or spring cleaning. Stripping more woodwork, or shopping for antiques. But those political dogs are nipping at your heels, and you’ve got to sit down now and decide how to cast your votes in April.

Candidates for Council District #1 Discuss Historic Preservation

by Jim Childs

The University Park Historic Preservation Overlay Zone is an area of West Adams that is part of City Council District #1. This turn-of-the Century Victorian and Craftsman enclave, located below the Santa Monica Freeway, between Figueroa and Vermont, has traditionally been a seat of high voter turn-out. The last minute dropout by State Senator Richard Polanco (D-Los Angeles) has left only three candidates vying for the Council office: Attorney F. Robert Nakahiro; Ed Reyes, urban planner and former Chief Deputy for Councilman Hernandez; and David Sanchez, a Community College history professor. Encouragingly, when questioned for the WAHA Newsletter, all three candidates had positive comments about the importance of historic preservation planning.

We asked them this question: Given the fact that Council District #1 contains the largest concentration of historic dwellings and neighborhoods and that these unique City assets must be managed with great care:

1. What programs, such as but not limited to, TNI, LANI, Main Street, Community Block Grants, etc., do you intend to implement in the Historic University Park District?
2. What could be the anticipated financial parameter of such programs in the University Park neighborhood?
3. When would the University Park neighborhood expect to have such programming implemented?

Candidate F. Robert Nakahiro’s written reply stated in part that: “Identifying and maintaining unique and other historic cores through preservation are ways which great cities distinguish themselves from the rest. By our own unique

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Let’s Sweeten the Deal....
WAHA’s Board Elections and Desserts Pot Luck

Saturday, April 28  4-7 p.m.
at the home of
Harold Smith
1731 Westmoreland Blvd. in Harvard Heights
Please bring cookies or other sweets
WAHA serves coffee and tea – and thee
(see page 2 for Candidate Statements)
Elections for WAHA's Board of Directors will be held Saturday, April 28. WAHA has a fifteen-person Board of Directors, and to keep the organization viable, all positions must be filled. Currently, there are seven positions to fill — the five three year terms, plus two vacancies to complete un-expired terms. Three current Board members have submitted Candidate Statements (below). If you wish to be on the Board, you may still stand for election on April 28. Any of the current members (listed on page 2 of this Newsletter) would be happy to talk to you about Board activities.

In alphabetical order:

**Eric Bronson:** For the past three years, I have been a member of the Board and a co-chair (with Tom Florio) of its Historic Preservation and Zoning & Planning subcommittees. As such, we have worked closely with neighborhood groups and the Council offices toward the establishment of HPOZs throughout the West Adams area. I am very proud of the fact that during my tenure on the Board, five HPOZs have completed that process in West Adams, including one for my own neighborhood, Harvard Heights. WAHA's participation in and contribution to that process has been a significant factor. With the upcoming creation of Neighborhood Councils, WAHA continues to have a major role to play in the direction our communities and neighborhoods will take. With your support, I would like to continue on the Board. Much has been done, but we are a long way from being finished.

**Tom Florio:** It's hard to believe that it's been three years since I was elected to the W.A.H.A. Board and I'm up for election already. So much has happened in these three years, but what I remember the most is meeting all of the members. In a city like L.A., that has so many neighborhoods where neighbors don't know each other, it is so nice to meet and work with neighbors who care about the place that they and their neighbors live. I've never met NIMBY's (Not in my back yard) type people in our community. What I do meet are people who are not afraid to ask, "how can we do more, and better, for our community." How can we improve the quality of life for all of our neighbors? As a member of W.A.H.A., I have been to many activities of our organization for years. However, serving on this board, which has worked to establish itself as a force to be recognized in L.A., has been an education. I am a preservationist at heart, at least since I was an engineering student at the University of Maine at Orono. On the W.A.H.A. Board, I Co-Chaired the combined Historic Preservation and Zoning and Planning committees.

**Jacqueline Wilcox Sharps:** The past four years on the WAHA Board have proven to be rewarding and challenging. The Board consists of volunteers who are dedicated to serving its members and helping improve the quality of life in our community.

**As Vice President, Community Relations Co-Chair, Volunteer Coordinator, and a part of the Membership Committee team, it would be an honor to be re-elected to this outstanding organization.**

**During my tenure on the Community Relations Committee I have instituted a standing monthly meeting of committee members, and we have been very active. We have supported 24th Street School as our Adopt-A-School. We have helped furnish its teachers' lounge. We continue to have the annual Architectural Tour for gifted 5th graders (spearheaded by Jennifer Charnofsky and Carla Fantozzi). And we have given 24th Street School $1,000.**

**We've also given numerous Good Neighbor Awards to local businesses.**

**During the holidays, I started a ‘food bank’ where we give donations to needy local families.**

**I hope to continue to serve WAHA and the community in the coming years.**
Community Calendar for April 2001
All committee meetings begin at 7 p.m.

4/11  Community Relations Committee meets at Jacqueline Sharp’s, 2229 S. Gramercy Pl. 323/766-8842

4/18  Zoning & Planning Committee meets at City Living Realty, 2316 1/2 South Union, Suite 2 Contact Tom Florio 212/749-8469

4/22  University Park/Expo Park Tour

4/24  Newsletter Committee meets at John Kurtz’, 2102 W. 24th Street call Laura Meyers for info: 323/737-6146

4/25  Membership Committee meets at John Kurtz’, 2102 W. 24th St., 323/732-2990

4/26  WAHA Board Meeting - contact Linda Scribner for location 323/735-1385

4/28  WAHA General Meeting
       Board Elections
       at Harold Smith’s, 1731 Westmoreland Blvd. 4 - 7 p.m.

Meeting Notice

If you own a Los Angeles Cultural-Historic Monument, or your home is part of a Historic Preservation Overlay Zone (HPOZ), you may be considering applying for a Mills Act contract with the City. “What Is the Mills Act, and How Do You Qualify?” is the subject of a workshop on Sunday, April 8, from 1 to 3 p.m. Spon- 
sored by the University Park HPOZ and Council Dis-

Getty House Tour

The Getty House Foundation cordially invites you to the official residence of the Mayor of Los Angeles. Guided Tours of this historic English Tudor-style house, built in 1921 at 605 South Irving in Windsor Square, are being offered to the public through April 8, free of charge. Tour hours are Tuesday - Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free tickets are available at selected Ticketmaster locations; Call 323/692-9797 for more information.

WAHA Membership Renewal

Your Dues Are Due Now!

The Membership Committee sent out individualized invoices with return envelopes mid-March, to members who needed to renew their memberships for the 2001 - 2002 year.

Memberships in WAHA go from April to April every year. New WAHA Membership Cards will be mailed out in mass in May, when the current membership cards expire. Typically if you don’t renew the membership, you are taken off the Newsletter mailing list and the May or June Newsletter is the last one you receive.

New Memberships taken out late in 2000 were extended through the 2001 membership year, and these memberships will receive a new membership card in May good through 2002.

If you have any questions about the status of your WAHA membership you can contact John Kurtz, Membership Committee. Thanks in advance for your support, early renewal and check.

Florio Statement
Continued from Prior Page

tion/ Zoning and Planning Committee. It’s been a lot of work on that committee. We helped to establish five new H.P.O.Z.’s; helped stop the destruction of the beautiful historic homes, by L.A.U.S.D., in the Jefferson Park area; brought attention to the destruction of historic homes in Pico/Union; wrote comments on EIR’s; and testified at public meeting on behalf of W.A.H.A. In addition, I should mention all the time I spent on our Social Events to help promote the need and joy of historic preservation in West Adams. However, I know that it’s for a good cause, Our Neighborhoods.

I am a 15-year owner of a historic home in the St. James National Historic District and also the owner of the historic Clark House, both in University Park (one of many W.A.H.A neighborhoods). I have served on many boards in West Adams: the CRA A/N 4321 P.A.C; the United Neighbor-

As W.A.H.A grows, I hope to continue to help the cause of a better quality of life in West Adams.
Tour the Clark

UCLA's Clark Library, located in Los Angeles' historic West Adams District, is holding a series of free "Book Lover's Tours." The internationally renowned collection of 100,000 books and 21,000 letters and manuscripts usually is open to the public by appointment only.

The next tour is scheduled for Wednesday, April 11 at 2 p.m. A reception follows the tour. While admission is free, reservations are required and can be made by calling (310) 206-0694. The tours will be led by Bruce Whiteman, head librarian of the collection, which is housed in the 1926 library built by the late William Andrews Clark Jr., a philanthropist, bibliophile and music lover who founded the Los Angeles Philharmonic in 1919.

BOOK ARTS

7. L. Serisier. Photograph of Paul Landacre. 1948. The great American printmaker and book artist Paul Landacre spent most of his active career in Los Angeles. The Clark houses his papers, as well as an extensive collection of the books he illustrated. $425


9. Robert Brawning. Some Poems. Eragny Press. 1904. The Eragny Press was founded by Lucien Pissaro and produced a number of handsome turn-of-the-century letterpress printed titles. $750

10. Gloria Stuart. Remembering Casablanca. L.A.: 1994. The actress Gloria Stuart has been printing for some years. This is one of her earlier books. The Clark owns copies of almost all of her books. $225

11. Frederic Prokosch. Andromeda. Paris: 1935. The novelist Frederic Prokosch produced a number of printed forgeries now known collectively as the "butterfly books." This book is in the style of the forgeries, but is by him and is in that sense a genuine piece. $350


13. Susan Allix, printer. Daphnis and Chloe. London: 1982. 1 of 55 copies. For this edition of classic Greek novel, Susan Allix had her husband translated the book herself. She in turn illustrated it, printed it, and executed the unique binding on this copy. $5,000

17th- AND 18th-CENTURY BOOKS

LITERATURE

Sponsored by Susan Crow and Thomas Steiner

Continued on page 11
In the Garden: Expo Park Rose Festival

Everything’s coming up roses in Exposition Park. The 1st annual “BLOOMING OF THE ROSES FESTIVAL” will be held beginning on Thursday, April 19 through Sunday, April 22. The Festival is a new celebration of the historical significance of the Exposition Park Rose Garden as well as to the glorious rose blooms of this spring’s season.

The opening ceremony of the Festival, on Thursday the 19th at 1:00 pm, will include a history of the Rose Garden and will commemorate the blooming of the roses by highlighting three award-winning roses: the Marmalade Skies, the Glowing Peace and the Sun Sprinkles. During the subsequent days’ events the Rose Garden’s “flowering jewels” will be showcased in addition to other “rose and flower themed” program offerings for both children and adults. These events will be presented from the other stakeholders of Exposition Park and co-sponsors of the Festival: the Natural History Museum, the California African American Art Museum, the California Science Center, the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks and the Figueroa Corridor Partnership BID.

Garden Calendar

Things to do in April

Spring is here! Now that your soil is warm, and buds are sprouting, every spare moment should be spent in the garden.

PLANT

* Warm-season vegetables (eggplants, peppers, cucumbers and, of course, tomatoes) and herbs (basil, sage, parsley)
* Summer- and fall-blooming perennials
* Gladiolas

CHORES AND MAINTENANCE

* Tulips and daffodils may finish their blooming, but DON’T cut back their leaves until they turn yellow
* Divide clump-forming or spreading perennials so they won’t become woody and tired in the center - and to increase your stock of plants
* Watch out for pests like aphids and snails, and take relevant action!

For fans of old roses, join Clair Martin, rose expert and curator at the Huntington Library & Botanical Garden, on Saturday, April 21, from 2 - 4 p.m., for a discussion of “What Makes an Old Garden Rose Old.” Dr. Martin will survey 35 Old Garden Rose varieties tailor-made for Southern California landscapes, and discuss own-root plants versus grafted, the four elements of growing healthy roses, and how to get roses to flourish without succumbing to chemical dependency. Cost: Museum embers, $5, non-members, $7.

This first year’s event programming also includes a self-guided historic building tour on Sunday, April 22. The “North University Park / Figueroa Corridor Historic Sites and Homes Tour” (12 - 4 pm) will feature a half dozen or more-structures, one of which, The Salisbury House (LAHCM #240) has not been open to the community for many years. University Park HPOZ’s favorite Victorian, the “Pink Lady” (Durfee House LAHCM #273) will showcase its own splendid rose. Additional scheduled sites include the Automobile Club Headquarters (LAHCM #72), St. Vincent’s Cathedral (LAHCM #90), St. John’s Episcopal Church, (LAHCM #516), and USC’s Cockins House (LAHCM #519) and Widney Hall (LAHCM #70). Cost: Museum members, $12, non-members, $16.

For reservations or more information on the programs offered by the Natural History Museum please call (213) 763-3534.

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Garden Paint Contests Slated

Every June, West Adams Heritage hosts a special gardens general meeting where we learn more about our own garden plots and take a look at our neighbors’ efforts to beautify their homes and gardens. This year is no different.

WAHA is looking for entries for the annual Garden and for the Painting Contests. The deadline is April 10. The May newsletter will publish all the nominees of outstanding gardens and/or new paint jobs for the year (perhaps with a map) so members can view each entry. We will announce an official weekend in May when WAHA will photograph the nominated gardens, and that will be the time for members to review the nominees, so Gardeners, Heads Up! Be sure your spring garden is in its best form in May.

Please feel free to nominate any paint job done in the 12 months, or any outstanding garden in your neighborhood. This is a good opportunity for people outside your immediate neighborhood to not only know about major improvements throughout the West Adams community but also give them a chance to see them.

All nominations, with address and homeowner’s name, should go to Ed Trosper (2515 4th Avenue, Historic West Adams, Los Angeles 90018; 323/734-2010 phone, 323/730-0432 fax, or e-mail: edtrosper@aol.com). Look for details about the June garden meeting and contest awards in the next issue of the newsletter.

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— Courtesy The Garden Calendar
Fulcrum Publishing
www.fulcrum-gardening.com
Through My Eyes Only
All the News That's Fit to Print
By John B. Deaven

There was a time, believe it or not, when the WAHA Newsletter that you are holding was simply a one-page sheet. Can you imagine that? That was, of course, many moons ago. Now it is a lovely, detailed monthly of around 12 to 20 pages of information that is read by roughly 500 households. Its current editor, since May of 1997, is Laura Meyers. As Publications Chairman, I have the task of working with Laura at our monthly Newsletter Committee meetings, along with Michael Smith, Board member John Kurtz, and President Linda Scribner. Through all of our socializing, eating, gossiping, and side-tracked stories, we, surprisingly, manage to get a beautiful newsletter produced, along with the help of Brownie's Campus & Printing and Tom Gracyk, our circulation distributor. Anyone can join our Newsletter Committee meetings. We would love to have your "by-line," as Laura puts it.

I am unsure if Laura and I would have become friends without the publication connection. However, I now have a definite admiration for her never-ending efforts that she puts forth towards our association and towards preservation in general. Thus, at one of our meetings at Michael's beautiful house while staring at her animated profile, I decided it was Laura's turn to be interviewed for this column. So I rang her up and returned to 1818 S. Gramercy Place on my own for a little more information.

Laura’s parents were married in a mansion on West Adams Boulevard, and Laura was born and raised here in Los Angeles. She attended Carpenter Avenue Elementary School, Walter Reed Junior High School, and North Hollywood High School, all in the Studio City area. She did her undergraduate work at the University of Southern California (USC), and her major was "20th Century Culture, Literature and Visual Arts." She did her graduate work at Northwestern University, majoring in journalism, and then she stayed in Chicago to work as a reporter and freelance writer. Eventually, she found out that living in snow in Chicago is not like visiting the snow at L.A.'s near-by mountains. After five winters there, she moved back to the City of the Angels!

In the autumn of 1982 Laura was writing an article for Los Angeles Magazine regarding historical houses. One person she contacted was Realtor Bob Bortfeld. Setting a proper scene, Bob invited Laura to his 20th Street house for the interview with a beautiful fire going in his fireplace on a November evening. She says she remembers it well. His efforts left a definite impression (he was a very clever Realtor). Bob later introduced Laura to others with historical homes to be interviewed for the same article, and this included Kathleen Salisbury, Bill Washington, Jerry Mendelsohn, and Joyce Albers. Laura decided that she, too, wanted a historical house, and she eventually bought her current residence on Gramercy Place through Bob. The Los Angeles Magazine article came out in February of 1983, the same month Laura closed escrow on her home. (Suzanne and Don Henderson read Laura's 1983 article, which pointed them in the right direction, and they ended up, therefore, buying their wonderful home on 25th Street.)

Laura’s place is a Craftsman structure, built in 1914, and Frank M. Tyler designed it. The original owner was Julius Bierlich, founding concertmeister (the 1st Violinist) of the Los Angeles Symphony. Mr. Bierlich lived in the house until his death in 1935. His famous nephew, fellow musician Ferde Grofe, arranger of "Rhapsody in Blue" and composer of "The Grand Canyon Suite," also lived in the house from time to time.

According to Laura, Bob Bortfeld threw a lot of parties, always inviting neighbors and people that he sold houses to. He threw an annual 4th of July party in his yard (which now belongs to WAHA's Peggy King), and eventually this was the precursor to the Annual WAHA 4th of July party. However, at first there was no WAHA. Yet, Bob wanted the Los Angeles Conservancy to do a tour of the historic houses in his area. The houses chosen for the October 1983 tour belonged to Kathleen Salisbury and Bill Washington, Jerry Mendelsohn and Joyce Albers, and Laura Meyers, among others. All were Arts & Crafts architecture, and the tour was titled "The Craftsman." It was a one-day, self-guided tour, and 600 people attended.

A year later, the group wanted to do another tour on their own, without the L. A. Conservancy. However, they were told that to do that, they would have to form their own organization with a definite Board of Directors and a definite bank account. Therefore, using Bob's contact list, they -Continued on page 7
Through My Eyes Only
Continued from page 6

ted people to Joyce and Jerry's home to discuss their new
organization. At first, they named themselves Arlington
Heights Heritage Association, later changed to the West
Adams Heritage Association. By the way, according to Laura,
the first WAHA Board of Directors was six people, and they
were Bob Bortfeld, Kathleen Salisbury, Jerry Mendelsohn,
Carol Harris, Sharyn Moret, and Mark Kaufman. Eventually
they expanded the Board, and Laura was on the WAHA
Board for a period of time. Laura also helped run the WAHA
tours in 1984 and 1985, and later, along with Joyce Albers
and Kevin Evans, she mainly focused on the “street festi­
vals” with food vendors, antique vendors, and musical acts
WAHA hosted during its tours of the 1980s.

As time went on, Laura was part of a leadership
team, along with Harry Anderson and Mary Wormley, that
helped push through the re-zoning of West Adams. This
was a major undertaking that involved at least 25 people,
Laura recalls. They went door-to-door counting mailboxes,
counting electrical meters, asking people if they owned or
leased, and checking building permits. All this effort was
put forth for the purpose of creating maps. The maps were
very detailed, house by house by house. The maps were
used to convince L.A. City officials that the area needed lower
zones. The group, according to Laura, went to hearing after
hearing after hearing. Nevertheless, Laura was very proud
to say that they succeeded! It was a 2-year project, part of
a large citywide project called “AB283.” As Laura puts it,
“The higher the zone and the more units that can be built on
one lot, the easier and more economic it is for developers to
tear down old houses. I feel zoning is one of the most im­
portant tools in preservation. Another equally important tool
in preservation is nominating landmarks as Historic Cultural
Monuments.”

Yes, Laura has done that, too, which includes a great
deal of paperwork regarding the nominated landmark and
testimony at public hearings. The first landmark that she
nominated as a Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument
was in 1988. Laura worked with Ed Trosper and other WAHA
members to nominate the former Barker Mansion, now the
7th Day Adventist Church, at 3300 W. Adams Blvd, when
church officials were considering the residence’s demolition.

The 2nd location that Laura nominated was the
Halliday Residence on Adams Boulevard and Gramercy, now
the Carl Bean AIDS Foundation (#458). Like the Barker
Mansion, the Halliday Residence was nominated on an
“emergency basis” to the Cultural Heritage Commission to
get a “stop order” to prevent demolition. After that Laura
nominated the Lysurgus Lindsay Mansion that now belongs
to the Polish Parish of the Catholic Archdiocese at 3424 W.
Adams Blvd. (#496), and the Busby Berkeley Mansion next
to it (#478).

After the 1994 earthquake, Laura nominated even
more historical houses in West Adams, including her own
house (#599), David Roposa and Ed Trosper’s 4th Avenue
house (#600), along with David Roposa’s Arlington Avenue
house (#598), the Filipino Federation of America (#602), and
the South Seas House at 25th Street and Arlington Avenue.
In the late 1980’s, she also nominated the Rives Mansion
and the Rosenheim Mansion, both in Country Club Park and both
threatened with demolition.

During 1988-89, Laura was a part of a team of people
who created the compromise deal that saved three historical
houses on Menlo Avenue because of a new Ralph’s super
market that moved into that area at Vermont Avenue and
Adams Blvd. All 3 houses were re-located onto empty lots
on the same Menlo Avenue. Since then, Laura has become a
member of the Hoover Project Area Committee, represent­
ing the North University Park Community Association
(N.U.P.C.A.), to represent historic preservation concerns.

Laura continues to be really active with zoning is­
issues, and has helped neighborhood associations (including
my own) at public hearings. But she’s been pretty busy lately.
The new Warner Bros. film, “Collateral Damage,” starring
Arnold Schwarzenegger, was filmed at Laura’s homestead
during November 2000. She had to move out while they
were there, along with her cats and dogs. At a recent publi­
cations meeting at Laura’s home, while everyone was in­
specting some of the changes the movie people made, John
Kurtz asked Laura just how many cats and dogs does she
have. Honestly, I loved her answer. Laura replied, “Less than
some people in WAHA, but more than you want to know!”
Development versus historic preservation. A “pro-business” stance may not always be good for preservation; however, preservation can be good for business. As an example, cultural tourism has been proven to be a source for economic revitalization in cities across the country. How are you going to support and help improve the cultural and historic resources in West Adams, which are some of the very things that bring people to this city? How would you support business and housing development in West Adams and yet balance that development with the preservation of the cultural and historic fabric that also plays a lively and important role in the social and economic life of West Adams and the city as a whole?

James Hahn

I support efforts to improve and preserve the unique identity of neighborhoods and applaud the efforts of the West Adams Heritage Association.

Development should be balanced with the preservation of the cultural and historic fabric of a neighborhood. Communities are accomplishing that balance all over the United States through adaptive reuse that preserves the facade of buildings and the cultural nature of the neighborhood, but allows for a multitude of internal uses such as housing, retail, restaurants, and entertainment.

We can strengthen our efforts to preserve this the West Adams District through the application of the Mills Act that provides tax incentives for owners who preserve the historic character of their home or commercial building. As Mayor, I will provide more coordination of efforts to redevelop historic districts through my Office of Economic Development. Los Angeles can do a better job of applying redevelopment grants specifically designated for historic preservation, and I will appoint a central grant supervisor to help coordinate these efforts. I will also appoint members of the Cultural Heritage Commission with an interest or expertise in historic preservation to provide a better balance between development and preservation. In addition, I will work to enforce protection for Historic Preservation Overlay Zones and create new HPOZs where they are needed.

Antonio Villaraigosa

The City's largest Historic Preservation Overlay Zone, Highland Park, is in my former Assembly District so, in addition to what happened to my own home, I have some experience with the clash of cultures and goals that can take place between owners of historic properties and preservationists. I believe that historic preservation is far more often good for business than it is harmful.

As with the demolition ordinance discussed above, rather than lay out a list of specific measures I would see imposed on the owners of historic properties, or any properties in a historic zone or area, I would start with the premise that I support historic preservation and its value to the economy. Then I would want to bring together the various stakeholders, including West Adams Heritage, the Los Angeles Conservancy, community organizations, Neighborhood Councils, local Chambers of Commerce, and other business interests to discuss how best to preserve and build upon the cultural and historical fabric while encouraging economic development that will benefit all residents of the community.

Of course, pursuing initiatives of this sort will require the involvement of the City Councilmember(s) representing the area as well as the cooperation of the rest of the City Council.

Joel Wachs

Great cities of the world have always been centers of culture as well as commerce. Preservation of the past stimulates the economy, creates a sense of place and identity to build strong neighborhoods and promote cultural tourism. WAHA is the visionary leader in having this happen in the West Adams.

There are any number of communities where historic sites in neighborhoods can be a strong force. And City Hall should help. It's about priorities. Instead of using taxpayer money to finance sports arenas and political conventions, City Hall should focus more on its neighborhoods and efforts to preserve our historical roots by making the city a CLG and through programs like Main Streets.

I have long favored doing a city-wide survey of our historic buildings and neighborhoods, and incorporating those into our general plans and community plans. Future development would be based on preserving those buildings, and having new development support that character. That's the kind of thing of thing that gives a neighborhood a sense of uniqueness and character. There is a lot left in Los Angeles, particularly in the areas that need economic revitalization the most.
Would you support a comprehensive citywide ordinance on demolition? Such an ordinance should require, among other components:

* public notice and review of all proposed demolitions
* project permits in place before demolition is allowed (to avoid more empty lots)
* no categorical exemptions allowed for the demolition of any house at any time (minimum CEQA review should be negative declaration)

Please tell us why you would, or would not, support such an ordinance.

Joel Wachs

Absolutely. As a matter of fact, I've proposed these changes in the past and they haven't been approved. There needs to be a bigger political constituency, like the Los Angeles Conservancy and WAHA, to generate support. Unfortunately, there are so many people beholden to developers, it creates a powerful opposition to such laws. Yes, the mentioned solutions should be codified in historical zones, but we need to go a step further. I have proposed and will propose again as mayor that we change our whole law so that the burden of proof changes from the city to the property owner, as New York has done, so one cannot destroy a historical building unless they can prove that there are no feasible alternatives.

I have a 30 year track record of being a proponent of preserving our single family neighborhoods to begin with, because if they are destroyed, they will not be replaced with anything that's near the same quality or character. We have some of the most amazing housing stock in Los Angeles that you can imagine: vast areas. Many of these houses are not for rich people - that's the beauty of it. We need to take efforts to maintain them as housing stock, to rehabilitate, restore and preserve them.

There needs to be a change in the culture at city hall. To do that, one of my first steps as mayor would be to include historical preservation experts and other people from the creative community to be on key commissions, such as Cultural Affairs, Housing, Planning, and Building and Safety. Not only would this change the culture, it would enable L.A. to qualify as a Certified Local Government (CLG) for historic preservation and be eligible for State and Federal preservation grants. Currently, Los Angeles is the only major city in California that is not a CLG.

Antonio R. Villaraigosa

As the owner of an historic home that was altered for the worse by previous owners who did not acknowledge the historic significance of the structure, I would support development of an ordinance dealing with these issues. However, as a candidate who has made a public commitment to a more open, democratic process of governance in Los Angeles, I do not think it is appropriate to commit to specific elements of the ordinance before bringing interested stakeholders to the table to work out the details.

Jim Hahn

I support increased public review of proposed demolitions and would work with neighborhood councils to provide Commissions, the City Council and others the necessary input from local residents on effectively preserving neighborhoods.

April Elections
Continued from page 1

Register landmarks) and designated historic districts (five National Register districts and six HPOZ/ specific plan local historic districts) in Los Angeles. We also have the usual array of issues and conflicts one would expect in an urban area perceived by some as the inner city. Local activists strive to maintain a balance between encouraging stable neighborhoods, home ownership and historic preservation versus the need for affordable housing, job creation and stronger commercial districts so residents can shop locally.

Demolition of historic buildings has been a very significant problem in West Adams over the past two decades, with no real resolution in sight, other than a degree of protection afforded by HPOZs in parts of our community. We have had important historic structures demolished for development reasons and, worse, for "land banking," where the property owner leaves the lot vacant - an eyesore for residents and a reduction in the tax base for city government.

We presented this information as well as two specific questions to all six leading Mayoral candidates, and asked them to respond for the WAHA Newsletter. (Candidates for the 1st District City Council office were also asked to respond to a preservation query - see separate story on page 1). Each of the six Mayoral candidates also sat down with the Los Angeles Conservancy for a detailed interview focusing on historic preservation. If you are a member of the Conservancy, you have received the resulting document in your mail. If not, you can read it on the Internet at www.laconservancy.org.

The specific questions WAHA asked the Mayoral candidates appear at the top of these pages. Three (James Hahn, Antonio Villaraigosa, and Joel Wachs) responded.

To be fair, representatives of Steven Soboroff and Xavier Becerra pointed to their candidates' track records on historic preservation. Soboroff is a longtime member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Becerra is a co-sponsor of the proposed federal Historic Homeownership Tax Act.

Please do read more about all the candidates' views on historic preservation on the L.A. Conservancy web site.
The following are changes to the WAHAMembership Directory for 2000-01. Please update your copy of the directory if you want to keep it current.

If you have a new mailing address, please contact WAHA by mail, or call John Kurtz (Membership Chair) 323/732-2990, so your newsletter and other mailings can get to you in a timely manner.

Add (and welcome) new WAHA members
Duncan & Jeanne Baird, 2453 Stoneyvale Road, Tujunga, CA 91042-1023, (818) 353-0272
Ruth Bloomfield & Mario Chavarria, 4564 W. 130th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250, (310) 675-9636 (323) 581-4550
Marie & Wardell Gaynor, 2315 11th Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90018-1020, (323) 737-0960
Glen Howell, 12607 Rose Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90066-1519, (310) 398-7973

Council District #1 Candidates
Continued from page 1

and diverse character and nature, Los Angeles should be at the forefront of such efforts. I will empower diversity of our neighborhoods by finding available resources and using them to preserve, maintain and enhance historic dwellings and other structures and architecturally significant assets. I will work with neighborhood councils and other organizations to accomplish this. I will do this from the beginning of my term as councilperson and it will be a priority during my term.”

Candidate Ed Reyes responded: “A timely and sensitive ‘historic resources’ agenda will be a top priority in my neighborhood agenda. Within two months of my inauguration, I will host a meeting of all stakeholders from historic neighborhoods to begin the process of identifying a plan of action for our historic resources. I will invite all pertinent city officials to be full partners in this movement. I support the efforts to introduce additional HPOZ designations throughout the 1st District. In addition, I will dedicate my time to ensure that HPOZ boards are given the financial resources to design and implement education programs that will reach both property owners and tenants. A strong partnership between all stakeholders will protect our neighborhoods.”

Candidate David Sanchez did not reply in writing in time for the Newsletter’s publishing deadline to the specific question, but had responded earlier by phone and stated: “We must save our historic homes. They should not be demolished for new apartments and greater density.”

All three candidates are long term neighborhood residents, with records of community activism. All three candidates have pledged to support the preservation of our historic resources. It is not certain whether or not any of these three candidates can gather the necessary 50% plus 1 votes in the April 10th primary to clinch a victory. Should no candidate achieve a clear majority then the two candidates with the greatest number of votes cast will face each other in the June 5th, election.
Continued from page 4

19. Samuel Richardson. Meditations Collected from the Sacred Books; and Adapted to the Different Stages of a Deep Distress; Gloriously Surmounted by Patience, Piety, and resignation. London: 1750. Inscribed by the author to Mrs. Crane. 6th known copy, one of only two inscribed by Richardson, the author of Clarissa. Recipient may be the wife of the doctor who attended him at his death. $18,000.
20. Christopher Smart, ed. The Student’s Companion: Being a Collection of Historical Quotations from the Best Ancient and Modern Authors’ For the Instruction and Entertainment of Youth. London: 1748. $1,250.

33. Erasmus, [In French] The Woman Unhappy With her Husband; or, Dialogue of Two Ladies On the Obligations and Pains of Marriage. Troyes: 1728. $125.

MISCELLANEOUS

West Adams Heritage Association

Pasadena Heritage Hosts
Bus Tour of “Pasadena in the Movies”

Pasadena Heritage, one of California’s oldest non-profit historic preservation organizations, will host a bus tour highlighting historic Pasadena buildings, homes and neighborhoods featured in popular Hollywood films. Tour goers will see where such classics as “Gone With the Wind,” “Chinatown” and “Back to the Future” were filmed while relaxing in a luxury coach.

The tour will last three hours and includes stops at several famous locations, as well as light refreshments. Morning and afternoon tours will be offered, beginning at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Seating is limited. Ticket prices are $40 for the general public. For tickets and information call Pasadena Heritage at 626-441-6333 or visit www.pasadenaheritage.org
ADAMS-NORMANDIE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

ANNA seems to have taken on a new vigor. The March meeting was attended by about 40 members and newcomers.

We ran through standing reports, heard from our police officers and then settled into a lively discussion about our planned Earth Day activities. So many exciting ideas were thrown out it was difficult paring them down to a doable event.

On April 28 we start with coffee and donuts, then spread out into three teams tackling three areas of interest: (1) large trash pick-up and cleaning of sidewalks and surrounding areas, (2) tree planting on Normandie, (3) addresses painted on curbs. We're wrapping up the effort with a meal provided by McDonalds.

ANNA Eats had a fabulous feast at El Calmao, the premiere Cuban restaurant in L.A. and in our area. Next up: Bungo.

We passed out senior services and neighborhood services directories provided by Councilman Wachs. Call his office if you'd like some for your group.

ANNA received two requests for funding. We voted to send $200 each to the Foshay Learning Center for their Robotics Team and Vermont Avenue School for their Tract A 5th grade graduating class for a trip to IMAX. We hope to help more kids have fun by taking area families on a trip to Descanso Gardens on April 1.

Our ANNA area is included in the new West Adams Targeted Neighborhood Initiative. This is the city's effort to designate certain areas in which to spend money for improvements gleaned by community stakeholders. We had a high energy discussion of ways to improve the area thru TNI funds. We developed a 10-point wish list and brought it to the first area TNI meeting.

Eleven ANNA members attended.

Women's History Month was celebrated with readings and poems by Maya Angelou and Nellie Bly. We barely adjourned before the horde moved into Raul Gomez's dining room for his now traditional March offering of to-die-for tamales.

HUGE YARD SALE IN LAFAYETTE SQUARE

25+ FAMILIES PARTICIPATING

SATURDAY, May 19

(please note date change)

8:00 A.M. UNTIL 5:00 P.M.

THERE WILL BE:

- Antique Furniture
- Modern Furniture
- Appliances Television
- Stereo Equipment
- Doors
- Hardware
- Lamps
- Baby clothing
- and Furniture

ENTER FROM CRENSHAW

TURN ON ST. CHARLES

BETWEEN WASHINGTON & VENICE

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 Pledger at 323/954-3100

Brakensiek Leavitt Pledger, LLP

5670 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1450
Los Angeles, CA 90036
WAHA Board Report

The WAHA Board February meeting was held at Shin Peking restaurant (3103 W. Olympic Boulevard), on Thursday, February 22. The Board members paid for their own meals. Besides the standard reports on status of upcoming events, treasurer’s reports, membership status, etc., the WAHA Board also:

* Discussed the upcoming Adopt-a-School 24th Street School tour of an area historic home
* Reiterated the WAHA Newsletter deadline, which is the beginning of the month for the following month’s newsletter
* Approved a motion to support the “Neighbor for Better Transportation” (anti-710 Freeway group) by adding our name to their petition and with a monetary contribution of $50
* To donate $50 to an animal charity (as requested in lieu of flowers) to honor Dr. Dorothy Miller, a WAHA member who recently passed away.

Resources

There’s a new Gold’s Gym opening in Downtown, and WAHA members are being offered a chance to join at a discounted rate.

Right now, the new Gold’s Gym, located in the 7th-Fig Market Place at 735 S. Figueroa St., is in its preview phase, with the workout area open and free for the next several months for charter members. When the complex is completed it will have a full roster of amenities, including a day spa, pool and aqua aerobics, steam/sauna/jacuzzi, boxing classes, business center, sports lounge, preferred women’s workout area and child care.

Membership will be $199 initiation fee and dues of $59 per month. However, right now WAHA members can take advantage of a special offer of no ($0) initiation fee and dues of $24 per month. This offer expires April 15th. Talk to Mike (213/688-1441) and say you are from West Adams Heritage.

The gym is located at the mall on Figueroa Street between 7th Street and 8th Street. Parking facilities are entered from with 7th or 8th Street adjacent to the mall, and are validated for three hours. Hours currently are: Weekdays 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Weekends 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. (The hours will expand once the facility is completed.)

Our thanks to Suzie Henderson and Lisa Berns for arranging this for us.

In Memoriam: Dorothy Manley Miller

by Jean Frost

Preservation and the University Park-West Adams community lost a long time friend and activist when Dorothy Miller passed away this February 13 after an illness. Dorothy was a vibrant, strong, and elegant friend. She was one of the original organizers of the North University Park Community Association (NUPCA) and supporter of WAHA and ADHOC. After caretaking the NUPCA records for decades, she called me to make sure they found a new and safe home. Dorothy would invite you over to tea and share her sage advice, but never dwelt upon her past accomplishments. She looked to the future. She was part of the Save Chester Place Coalition that sued and won to achieve an environmentally superior alternative in Chester Place Library design.

Dorothy and her husband Chet moved to North University Park in 1964 and started fixing up their houses. In addition to her efforts at preservation, Dorothy was a feminist, an educator and an animal lover. She was born in Crescent City, California and among her first friends were Yurok Indian children, since Crescent City was a former Yurok Indian territory. She was valedictorian of her high school, and went to college in Berkeley. During World War II she developed training manuals for the army education services. She entered graduate school at USC and taught at USC after the War. At USC in 1957, she met her future husband, Charles Miller, when each of them was earning a PhD.

Dorothy was a pioneer in education and preservation. In the words of her husband, “Nothing was impossible for Dorothy.” With many friends and relatives watching, she was laid to rest on Mt. Sinai near a peacefully bubbling fountain. There were many decades in Dorothy’s life and many things I just learned about her as we were laying her to rest. I had no idea of her extensive teaching accomplishments, nor her sponsorship of two Iranian Jewish immigrants. I will miss Dorothy. We would always talk about what hairstyle would serve to make each of us look our best with our very fine hair. After more than three decades in West Adams, Dorothy has passed on but will remain in our fond memory as have other wonderful neighborhood leaders: Sam Galloway, Conrad Seno, Giraldo Ares, Yolanda Billingsley, etc. to name just a few who have helped shape our quality of life.

Friends4Expo Transit General Meeting

Please come to the next meeting of Friends4Expo. Get an update on distribution of the environmental impact report/study (EIR/EIS) soon to be released by the MTA, hear about our campaign strategy: outreach to community groups and elected officials along Exposition, and give your input to honing our strategy from this point forward.

The meeting is slated for Tuesday, April 3 at 7:30 p.m. at Hamilton High School, 2nd floor library, 2955 South Robertson Blvd at Cattaraugus, just north of the 10 Frwy.
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
  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
  888/621-lucky – 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

- Boulevard Vacuum & Sewing Machine Company
  5086 W. Pico Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90019, (323) 938-2661
  10% discount on sale of new vacuums, and vacuum service & repair

- Wholesale Carpet Liquidators, 1225 E. Washington Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90021, (213) 747-7474, mailto:Wholesalecarpella@yahoo.com Contact = Linda Or Parisa
  Discount of between 5-10%, on the purchase of 150 square yards or more of carpet, ceramic tile, wood flooring, and/or vinyl floor covering.

A Call to Members

If you frequent a local business -- retail store, restaurant, service provider, etc. -- ask them if they would 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 Wallace
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

AUGUST IN ITALY - Former WAHA residents, Barbara Dorio and Luke Wynne now living in Italy would like to rent their apartment from Saturday August 11 through August 31. Two Bedroom, two terraces in the center of Palladio's hometown - Vicenza, Italy. Come visit the Villa's of Palladio, the Canals of Venice, sample the fantastic food and wine of the Veneto - half-hour from Verona and Padua, hour from Venice. Use our apartment as your base camp and tour the area. Apartment is fully furnished, kitchen is fully stocked. $550 a week

You can email us at lukewynne@goldnet.it, or call us in Italy 011 - 39 - 0444- 235 - 935,

PRUNING, TRANSPLANTING, REVITALIZING - roses, fruit trees, grapevines, & other plants that need special care. European gentleman with a lifetime of garden & orchard experience. Very reasonable fees. Recommended by Jim Barth (323/731-5222). Call George at 323/731-5222 or 310/838-3587.

MAY WE PLEASE PICK HYDRANGEAS from your West Adams garden for Sarah's wedding on June 23? We particularly want blue or lavender ones and would be happy to put the solution on any volunteered plants that turn them these colors. That should happen within the next 5-6 weeks. If you're willing to "lend" us your blossoms, please call me at 323/731-3900 — Susie Henderson

FOR SALE: Never used, recently purchased, tan color, 1.5 gallon toilet. Still in original boxes. Call Lionel at 323/735-5056.


OPEN YOUR DOORS TO THE WORLD! Students attending a private English Language school on Wilshire near Mariposa are in need of room & board. These students are from Asia, Europe, & South America, mostly in their early to mid-twenties, & typically stay from two to six months. They pay $750 per month for room, light breakfast, & supper. If you have an extra room in your house & would be interested in boarding one of these students, please contact Peter Lownds at 213/386-1634.

FOR SALE: Aluminum awnings for large window or set of windows: 12' 3" wide, 3' high, 3' deep. Standard classic style for most any house. Looks great when painted (all need paint). 4 each. $20 each. 323/733-6869.

FOR SALE: 1950's Mint Green Chambers Stove, Chrome top, good condition. "Retained Heat" cooking in the deep well and in the cast iron oven. Large griddle/broiler combination makes it easy to broil on top of the range. Storage compartment. Call John for info 323/737-7761.

## WAHA April 2001 Calendar

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See Community Calendar On page 3 for details on these meetings!

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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 2001. All rights for graphic and written material appearing in the newsletter are reserved. Contact Director of Publications for permissions.

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