Shhh...I’ve Got A Secret
(Garden, That Is)

Good Gardens Make Good Neighbors. That’s why West Adams Heritage dedicates each June to a celebration of local gardens and gardeners. We recognize that each of your frontyard beautification efforts go a long way toward building community pride throughout West Adams. But this year we take a look at seldom-seen backyard sanctuaries. Inside these pages you’ll visit a forest, a dog’s life, a surprising rescue of an abandoned space, a resurrection, and one man’s haven. Plus, you’ll learn about some city-sponsored gardening programs. We hope you’ll be inspired.

June Garden Meeting

And What About Those Cows?

Discover a garden secret, learn about the National Garden Conservancy, share gardening tips, and vote for your favorite gardens and exterior paint jobs at WAHA’s annual Garden Meeting.
Saturday, June 8
3-5 p.m.
at the home of
Jefferson Davis and Ledoux Kesling
2455 Gramercy Park
Potluck: Food from the Garden

July 4th -
A Star-Spangled Party

Don your summer whites or patriotic attire, bring the kids and celebrate our country’s birthday at WAHA’s annual 4th of July picnic, to be held at the home of Ed Troeper and David Raposa, 2515 4th Avenue, from 1-5 p.m.

Hot dogs, hamburgers and cold drinks are on the house, and the potluck theme is summertime picnic -- salads, main dishes, fruits and desserts.

Entertainment by the phenomenal trio, “Voice-Over,” featuring Tina Saddlington, and Monte & Claire Montgomery: 1-4 p.m.

House tours of 2515 and 2523 4th Avenue (both designed by the Heineman architecture firm) and 2501 4th Avenue (the Mrs. Susan Wilshire home, designed by Hudson & Munsell): 4-5 p.m.

A Picket Fence Fable
by Linda Joshua

Ever since Devin and I moved into our 1912 Craftsman Bungalow about a year ago, we talked about the need for a fence. Aesthetics aside, there were a number of practical reasons for us to enclose our yard. First of all, the previous owner had installed a great automatic sprinkler system that we wanted to protect. We also wanted to do more gardening in the front of the house. And yes, the neighborhood kids were a little rambunctious not only in our garden bed, but also on our front porch. Quite frankly, we were tired of being the neighborhood ogres telling them to stop ruining our flora, and trying to prevent them from cracking their little heads open as they skated willy-nilly down our steps.

After much procrastination, we got in contact with a friend’s brother, Phillip, who initially offered to help us find a good contractor, but ended up personally committing to the project. What we did to deserve Phillip, we do not know, but he really drove this project forward because quite frankly, we didn’t know what the heck we were doing!

The day started at 5 a.m. when Devin and I got up to get ready for the task ahead.

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WAHA Committee Chairs and Standing Meetings

Community Relations Contact Jennifer Charnofsky if you'd like to get involved with this activity 323/734-7391

Historic Preservation Chairs: Eric Bronson 323/737-1163, Jean Frost 213/748-1656 and Colleen Davis 323/733-0446

Zoning & Planning Chair: Jim Dugan 323/732-7233 - Meets third Mondays at City Living Realty, 2316 1/2 South Union, Suite 2

Newsletter Publications Director Anna Marie Brooks 323/735-3960. Newsletter Committee Chair: Laura Meyers 323/737-6146 Meets second Mondays

Holiday Tour Chair: Jacqueline Sharps 323/766-8842

Membership Chair: John Kurtz 323/732-2990 - Meets the Wednesday before the WAHA Board Meeting

Fundraising Call Catherine Barrier 323/732-7233

Web Site Call Clayton de Leon 323/734-0660

By-Laws Call Tom Florio 213/749-8469

Neighborhood Council Liaisons Contact Colleen Davis 323/733-0446 and Jean Frost 213/748-1656

Programs and Events Seelye Caldwell 323/291-7484 and Clayton de Leon 323/734-0660

The WAHA Board meets on the fourth Thursday of each month. Contact Jacqueline Sharps for location.

All committee meetings begin at 7 p.m. All WAHA members are encouraged to join one of the committees!
Bortfeld Candidates Sought

WAHA’s highest award, the Bortfeld Award, named after WAHA co-founder Bob Bortfeld, is presented to a member who has given special service to the community in the prior year.

Two decades ago, when Bortfeld purchased his home in a long-ignored neighborhood, he had a vision for this community. He felt that with strong community activism and a shared love for old houses, West Adams could be one of L.A.’s best neighborhoods. West Adams Heritage Association established the Bortfeld Award to honor his vision and inspiration after he passed away in the late 1980s.

Nominations now are being sought for this annual award. The nominee must be a member in good standing who demonstrates the following qualities: 1) consistent and visible leadership in WAHA and the preservation community, 2) an obvious commitment to preservation, 3) leadership in deed, not just title, 4) notable accomplishments/contributions over a range of activities, not just in one particular activity, and 5) an ability to bring people together to address issues and resolve problems.

The award has been presented in the past to Kathleen Salisbury (Year 1988 Bortfeld Award), Harry Anderson and David Raposa (1989), Harold Greenberg (1990), Lindsay Wiggins (1991), Jodi Seigner (1992), Jon Rake (1993), Lana Soroko (1994), Norma Latimer (1995), John Kurtz (1996), Audrey Arlington (1997), Jim Meister (1998), Joe Ryan (1999), and Laura Meyers (2000). As you can see by this listing, all former Honorees have had leadership roles in WAHA and have undertaken a diverse range of activities in the organization and in the community at large.

Nominations should be submitted in writing to WAHA President Jacqueline Sharps, 2229 South Gramercy Pl., Historic West Adams, Los Angeles, CA 90018; e-mail JakShak@aol.com. Please briefly describe activities your candidate has undertaken for West Adams Heritage Association and in the West Adams community, and explain why you believe he or she should be chosen for the Bortfeld Award. The winner will be selected by WAHA’s Sharps, Membership Chair John Kurtz, and last year’s winner, Laura Meyers.

Is Your Membership Current?

April is the month all WAHA Memberships come due for renewal. If membership dues are not paid, the June Newsletter . . . this Newsletter . . . is the last one you will receive.

Reminder letters to those of you who have not renewed for the coming membership year have been put in the mail. If you have a question about your membership status feel free to contact John Kurtz (323/732.2990) for clarification.

West Adams Heritage is riding on the Information Superhighway. Visit us on the internet at:
http://westadamsheritage.com

And, keep up to date on community and preservation events - please give us your e-mail address to receive our occasional “E-News” updates about WAHA programs, public hearings and other events of interest.

Time to Vote on Garden and Paint Contests Nominees

On Saturday, June 8, as we do 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.

For this event, WAHA solicited entries for the annual Garden Contest as well as for the Exterior Paint Contest. Every WAHA member is encouraged to view these outstanding gardens and/or new exterior paint jobs before we vote on our favorites at the June meeting.

Here is the list of nominees:

Paint:
Jean Frost & Jim Childs
The Seaman House
2341 Scarff Street
Roberta Quiroz
1657 W. 25th Street
Timothy & Sada Mozer
1402 South Victoria
Jim Hunter & Rob Buscher
2255 W. 29th Place
Stanley Harris
1644 Virginia Road
Bruce and Chris Metro
4403 Victoria Park Place
Kevin & Janet Keane
2532 5th Avenue

Garden:
2414 4th Avenue
* Interior Courtyard
Kent Washington
2166 W. 30th Street
John Arnold
1933 South Oxford
2534 9th Avenue
1833 South Bronson
2170 20th Street
2129 W. 21st Street
1656 W. 25th Street
* Rear Yard Garden
Tom Norris and Marianne Muellerleite
A Bungalow in the Forest

Your first impression as you drive past David and Jennifer Cunningham’s 1906 Craftsman bungalow is of the quintessential Southern California garden: tall purple sage, ornamental grasses, sculptured evergreens held in check by an open wooden fence, their soft colors echoing the deep tones on the house. The parking strip is planted too, with the kinds of things that can survive trash, dogs, street cleaning day and long L.A. summers.

But walking up to the house, you notice that something is just a little...off. Perhaps it’s the sheer height of the plantings: nearly to the shoulder in some places. Perhaps it’s the evergreens: are they junipers? Bonsai gone mad? They seem to twist and reach out from their corners like — well, like the Monterey cypress that gardener David grew up with in his native Carmel.

It’s when you get into the garden behind the house that you realize that David has, in fact, recreated the forest he loves in his own backyard — but from that forest, crafted spaces for living out of doors in a way that fog-bound Carmel can only dream of. Mature trees — two Monterey pines, three black pines, a pair of avocado trees, an enormous ancient gingko as well as several fruit trees — provide shade and a quiet nook for a table and wooden bench at the back of the garden. By the garage, closer to the house, a large table surrounded by comfortable chairs and framed by flowering vines gives the Cunninghams a space for entertaining their friends and the friends of daughters Abigail and Gwendolyn.

Like the forest, David’s garden is ever-changing. As he says, “whatever lives gets to stay,” but recent changes have seen the roses transplanted into pots and moved to a sunny area near the garage, where they also screen the trailer family uses for camping. An active new puppy means that some of the flower beds are moving as well. But some of David’s plants have lived well and stayed for a very long time indeed: the princess flower in its place under the lemon tree, the cup of gold vine with its enormous yellow flowers, and best of all, the 90-year-old wisteria with its heavy twisted trunk and delicate hanging flowers that frames the back patio, shading it on hot summer days. Of course, it also keeps the sun porch in darkness. Perhaps the original planter was from Carmel as well...

-- Lisa Schoening

A Garden that Enables

Growing up in the Virginia countryside, Tom Norris roamed his family’s 1,200 acres, bringing flowers to his mother from the gardens of the ruined houses that dotted the property. So important were flowers to him that, even when the military stationed him in Saudi Arabia, his front yard was a carpet of bright orange iceplant — the only flowering plant he could find locally.

In Saudi Arabia, too, Tom first became aware of the cancer that has left him an invalid. And it was his growing disability that led his wife, actress Marianne Muellerliele, to redesign the garden in their back yard so that Tom could continue tending his beloved plants.

The specially designed beds, raised 18 inches off the ground to provide comfortable seating while Tom trims and weeds, are filled year ’round with roses, pansies, ranunculus, and birds of paradise. "When I was young, flowers became a way for me to show love to my mother," he says. "When I can walk into the house carrying flowers for Marianne that I grew myself, I feel that I’ve accomplished something."

Over their 13 years in the house, the back yard has evolved from a ragged patch of grass surrounded by razor wire to an intimate oasis of color and scent. In one corner, calla lilies appeared spontaneously several years ago, leading Tom to suspect that they are survivors from the home’s original garden. Plants from his bachelor days, freed from weeds, are filled year 'round with roses, pansies, ranunculus, and birds of paradise. "When I was young, flowers became a way for me to show love to my mother," he says. "When I can walk into the house carrying flowers for Marianne that I grew myself, I feel that I’ve accomplished something."

Tom’s spiritual connection with flowers is equally strong. "When you’re a prisoner in your home, you appreciate the little things," he says. "Flowers are God’s miracle that I can pass on to someone else. To sit all day and watch a bud open into a flower is so refreshing. It makes me feel that all the pain is transitory. There must be something above and beyond all this to have created all this beauty and just put it here for us."

Perhaps the only bond stronger than Tom’s feeling for his flowers is his love for his wife of 14 years. "The greatest blessing Marianne has given me is humor and the freedom to express myself," he says. "I compare her to the beauty of the roses, and I tell her, 'They’re second in beauty only to you.'"

-- Roberta Quiroz
**An Urban Plot of Land**

“I’ve always wanted a walled garden,” says Linda Marais, as she snips a stalk of Swiss chard to give to a visitor. There is something romantic about the notion, although Linda never thought her walled garden would be in a be-draggled former alley.

A year and a half ago, Linda peered over her backyard fence and realized that the alley, 50 feet long and about 20 feet wide, and abandoned to traffic years earlier, could add a “back forty” to her organic gardening efforts. A vegetarian, Linda is serious about growing healthy food. “It was definitely unused land,” she recalls. “And it would be a way to keep the dog out of our vegetable garden,” at the same time removing the tomatoes, lettuce, herbs and such from their interspersed positions among her decorative shrubs and flowers.

The alley itself was constructed of asphalt which, though decomposing, would not be a suitable place to garden in. So Linda went about constructing raised beds in the alley. Built of recycled lumber cobbled together from previous projects, she filled them with compost made in part from the morning glories that had been naturally decomposing for years in the space. When she was done preparing the beds and the soil, she filled them with all manner of tomatoes, Japanese cucumber, Swiss chard, sorrel, various lettuces and numerous herbs, including such herbs for brewing tea as lemon balm, mint and lemon grass. A giant sunflower also nods its head in her garden, not planted by Linda but rather, courtesy visiting birds.

“I’ve never had an easier garden in my life,” this South African native and longtime gardener observes. “Raised beds makes it so much easier, first of all. This alley gets full sun throughout the middle of the day, and there are very few problems with weeds.” And the space yields a bountiful harvest. “Last summer, I grew enough food for my family and still could takes bags and bags to share with my neighbors.”

Hidden though her walled garden is, Linda’s horticultural skills are no secret to her neighbors on 9th Avenue. From the street to the front porch, her Spanish Revival bungalow is awash with splendid flora in shades of blue, gray, green and purple — many of the plants rescued from film productions she’s worked on as a designer.

Linda has embraced Southern California’s Mediterranean climate and drought-tolerant gardening style — “not much of a stretch,” she says, “since we have nearly the same climate in South Africa.” Beneath the dappled shade of several silver dollar eucalyptus and flowering plum trees, the parkway and front garden are filled with cactus, irises, canna and rosemary. A stand of bamboo rises on one side, juxtaposed in the garden with an Australian tea tree, tall ornamental Papyrus with pom-pom flowers, and drifts of blue-green succulents.

— Laura Meyers

**A Hidden Sanctuary**

Standing contentedly between the warm-toned hibiscus and the stately artichokes, Emily emitted a shrill whistle. Three dogs, ranging from sedan to SUV in scale, turbo-charged around carefully planted beds. The canine trio careened smartly about curvilinear plantings, executing high-speed complex S-curve crosses guaranteed to win the admiration of any choreographer. “It’s for the joy of this freedom to play,” beamed Emily Green, “that I designed this garden.” The dogs again thunder through the sylvan setting demonstrating the veracity of the garden creator’s statement.

Emily purchased the property with dreams of a secret garden to rival the one she had left behind on her London rooftop. The former owners of this West Adams home bequeathed to her their parched Bermuda grass, a concrete pad complete with basketball hoop, a stately tree and a few struggling fruit saplings as her backyard starter kit — truly a New World challenge.

Hired muscle transformed the concrete basketball pad into path pavers, which soon meandered from the backdoor to the carriage house at the rear of the property. Another tendril of pavers wound around the side of the house to the northeast gate. This and the felling of the hoop offered hope.

Scouring farmers’ markets yielded a fragrant crop of rosemary and lavenders. These began to form beds and partial borders integrating the pavers into the evolving landscape. Citrus and guava trees followed Emily home. Trucks arrived bearing more. These joined species already in place. If they could talk some would tell you that they’ve enjoyed more than one perspective in Emily’s garden as she moved them about. Now they are content and firmly rooted. They share their home with olive trees and avacados.

The eastern vista enjoyed from the dining room window is lush with rose blooms and lavenders against a backdrop of Carolina cherry and morning glory. It’s a setting perfectly in tune with the finely laid table and culinary expertise of this exceptional food and science writer.

Returning to the garden through the kitchen door you are lollled by the gentle cascade of water over the multi-tiered basins of the lion’s head fountain. This memorial to a fallen photojournalist lends a sense of complete tranquility to the garden.

Every morning birds descend from the trees to enjoy breakfast at several feeders in Emily’s and her adjoining neighbor, Wally’s garden. The ambiance is magical as morning doves coo while birds flutter in and out of the organic garden and bathe in the fountain or birdbath. It’s the perfect time to wander paths surveying the grapevines, tomatoes and herbs. Scattered roses offer up their scents inducing the wanderer to pause and partake of their gifts. A classic arched trellis conveys a fragrant pink climber overhead while yellow sentinel bushes guard either side of this dreamy passsthrough.

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Conserving and Rebuilding A Monumental Garden, Prana Adds A Spiritual Twist
by Anna Marie Brooks

Prana’s once secret garden is about to go public and you’re invited for a sneak preview.

Prana is the current name for the Secondo Guasti Villa, often referred to as the Busby Berkeley estate. This landmark on West Adams Boulevard was built between 1910 and 1913 by vintner Guasti. Los Angeles Historical Cultural Monument No. 478 was purchased in 1974 during the formative phase of the Movement of Spiritual Inner Awareness (MISA). Now world headquarters of MISA, the elaborate Italianate villa is daily appreciated by students of the Peace Theological Seminary and College of Philosophy. Followers are drawn from many nations to earn advanced degrees here in West Adams.

A visitor exiting the seminary’s grand foyer on the rear views the four-level terraced gardens from the villa’s lyrically curving colonnaded veranda. The garden’s axis is a slender watercourse lined with small deep hued opalescent tiles. As it leads the eye the watercourse channels into the serene rectangular tile adorned reflecting pool. At the distant end the course recommences, disappearing under the stair, descending secretly to the next level. It reemerges; still bisecting the gardens and climaxes in the believed-to-be original multi-tiered fountain. Here the garden path divides, curving gracefully as stairs descending in arcs around the fountain to the parking lot/carriage house level below.

The Prana garden is a work-in-progress. The uppermost tier or courtyard softens the building’s 1930s perpendicular wing additions with base plantings of variegated leaf hydrangea, lemon lilies, calla lilies, feathery silver leafed trees, rosemary, lavenders and companion herbs. Peace and multiflora heirloom roses define the courtyard’s southern lip.

Descending the stairs one notes the increased breadth of the reflecting pool terrace. The central pool is surrounded by decomposed granite and fragrant lavender borders. A classic arced pergola defines the western terrace boundary. Backed by lush greenery which screens the driveway, the pergola is newly planted with climbing roses and bougainvillea. One can envision it in a future season happily laden with finely scented roses and vividly hued bougainvillea – a perfect afternoon sanctuary.

East of the pool is a hardscape unique in West Adams. Taking its inspiration from the 13th century labyrinth at Chartres Cathedral in France, the Prana labyrinth is a circular form composed of a tightly curvilinear path which leads one to the center of the circle and returns one to its perimeter. Crafted in two tones of inlaid grey marble, the labyrinth is utilized as a walking meditation tool – an opportunity to unburden one’s mind while gently treading the circuitous route defined by the pathways.

Beyond the labyrinth is a prosaic basketball court which soon will make way for a landscaped refreshment pavilion for the public’s enjoyment of the gardens. The eastern property border of the garden is defined by the graceful palms of the neighboring Polish Parish.

The third terrace is an overflow parking lot which enables event attendees to park off-street. The gem of the terrace is the original two-level carriage house built by Guasti. It now houses institutional offices and lends a solid tone to the lot’s eastern flank.

Negotiating the final set of stairs one enters a garden just beginning construction. When complete it will be a Balinese-themed meditation garden. Hardscape consisting of walls of stacked cement pavers recycled from the reflecting pool redesign define the meditation garden’s tri-level plan. Paralleling each wall is a segment of watercourse with an East/West orientation, perpendicular to that of the main garden’s axis. All feed southerly flowing waters that culminate in a small irregularly shaped pool with a footbridge on the garden’s west side. Large ceramic urns, when installed, will provide curvaceous focal points. A surprising batten board yard shed topped by a thatched pyramid roof anchors the eastern tip. Meandering paths on each level lead through stands of bamboo affording one a private meditation amongst the flowing waters.

Fig, apricot and avocado trees flourish throughout the gardens rewarding residents with their organically grown abundance. Every level of the garden yields up utility amidst its beauty.

Call Carol Jones at 323/737-4055 to arrange for your rendezvous with tranquility amidst Prana’s once secret gardens.

A Hidden Sanctuary
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Each turn of the paths offers a new vista with mottled greens and grey-greens gently accented with creamy tones. The timeless setting gently erodes all sense of the Los Angeles just beyond the softly camouflaged walls.

Dusk creeps in slowly. The canine trio is at rest. A mourning dove offers one final coo of serenity as it settles overhead for the night. A neighbor and a reporter friend wander in to share day’s end reflections over a glass of wine. It is for this that one creates a secret garden.

— Anna Marie Brooks
Greening Los Angeles, and West Adams
by Linda Joshua

There are some great free programs out there for Los Angeles residents, and I recently took advantage of two programs offered by the City of Los Angeles and the Department of Water and Power (DWP).

First, we have a fabulous program for those of you interested in greening up your yard. As part of LADWP’s commitment to environmental initiatives that reduce energy use, improve air quality and beautify our surroundings, they have launched the “Trees for a Green LA” tree planting program. DWP hopes to plant more than 200,000 shade trees throughout the City of Los Angeles over a two-year period so that we all can enjoy the following benefits:

- Mature trees help reduce air conditioning use and associated costs at homes and other buildings by up to 20 percent.
- Through the reduction of energy use, trees directly lessen the air pollution that comes from the generation of electricity.
- By removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, trees help lower the rate of global warming.
- By trapping and holding up to 50 gallons of water each, trees reduce the storm water runoff that causes flooding and pollution during the rainy season.
- Trees have the ability to lower air temperatures by 5° to 10° F, mitigating the “urban heat island” effect caused by heat-absorbing buildings and paved surfaces.

You do need to sign up for this program, and you will receive a rather thick package in the mail, that includes a contract that you must sign in order to receive up to seven free trees. It’s just to ensure that you will plant and choose appropriate trees based on the information that was given in the workshop, and that DWP has the right to follow up on the progress of your trees. The workshop runs you through “Trees 101” and was actually a lot of fun. Our class was actually given by a Korean Youth Group and was held in the West Adams area, though the workshops are held throughout Los Angeles.

You also need to be a DWP customer to participate in this program. At the time of publication, the DWP schedule only ran through May 30th, but please go to http://www.greenla.com/tree/index.htm for details of the summer schedule or call 1-800-GREEN LA for more information.

Second, the City of Los Angeles also offers free composting workshops at Griffith Park, and after participating in the workshop you can buy a quality compost bin at a reduced cost. The workshop is held in a very nice part of Griffith Park (you could even have a picnic afterwards), and everyone is very helpful and friendly. No appointment is necessary, the class takes about an hour and a half, and you’ll find out everything you wanted to know about composting and then some! Very highly recommended!

2002 Schedule: JULY 27; AUGUST 24; SEPTEMBER 28; OCTOBER 26; NOVEMBER 2

Directions to the Griffith Park Composting Facility:
From either direction on the 134 Freeway, exit Forest Lawn Drive. Turn left on Zoo Drive. Turn right onto Griffith Park Drive. The Compost Facility is on the left past Mount Hollywood Drive at 5400 Griffith Park Drive.

For more information: BUREAU OF SANITATION, SOLID RESOURCES CITYWIDE RECYCLING DIVISION (213)473-8228 e-mail: srcrd@san.lacity.org Web Site: http://www.lacity.org/SAN

West Adams’ Own Oxford Park
by Darby Bayliss

Two years ago, Harvard Heights created a verdant garden out of a narrow dirt lot on Oxford Avenue between Venice and Washington Boulevards. Funding was provided by the Matching Grant Program of Operation Clean Sweep, Los Angeles Board of Public Works. This project was the 100th grant awarded and the City threw a block party and an awards ceremony in celebration.

Harvard Heights went to work again last month to spruce up our green space. With the help of a second grant, on Saturday, May 4 neighbors cleaned, weeded, trimmed the greenery and dug up weedy areas, which will be replaced with small stones to complement the lush vegetation and river rocks already in place.

Nearby businesses generously donated refreshments to keep the workers’ spirits up. Donors included: Starbucks (La Brea and San Vicente store), Noah’s Bagels (Larchmont Village) and Jamba Juice (also Larchmont).

WAHA members who pitched in (Thank you, thank you!) included Gary Rieck, Dierdre Higgins, Gary Weitz, Ed Saunders, Liz Cooper, Stephen Schuster, Martin Weil, Eric Bronson, Robert Totten, Bill Vestal, Roland Souza, Francisco George and myself. Sure, we got dirty and had water fights, and there was talk in the neighborhood the next day of sore and aching muscles, but fun was had by all on a beautiful L.A. day.

We still plan to do more to improve our small urban garden, including putting in some park benches. Please stop by to see our progress this summer.
Hello and welcome to “Bolts and Nutz” – a column dedicated to matters of home renovation, beautification and the art of restoration within the WAHA community. If you have a question, or you have an area of expertise and would be interested in sharing your knowledge by answering the questions, please contact me at Linda_joshua@hotmail.com. This month we tackle your garden questions.

Q. In short, my rose bushes are being overrun by whitefly. Help!
Sam, 2nd Avenue

A. Glad to oblige. Whiteflies suck sap from the plant, resulting in a yellow motting on the surface of the leaf, as well as leaf loss, wilting and stunting. Not only do they feed on plants, but they also produce hone-dew, which spoils the plants’ appearance, attracts ants and black soot mould. Whiteflies can also transmit plant viruses. This is one insect we do not want in our gardens!

Let’s look at some earth friendly solutions. Some biological controls are natural enemies of whitefly, some of which include small birds, spiders, ground beetles, wasps and ladybirds. If you are using a lot of pesticides, cut back so that the good insects have a chance of survival. In many ways, whitefly is a modern pest, created by the over-use of pesticides that have killed off its natural enemies. Some studies have even demonstrated an increased whitefly reproductive capacity when sprayed with certain insecticides!

Physical and cultural controls can include wacky solutions such as vacuuming the little suckers up in the early morning when whiteflies are cold and slow moving. This can remove many of the adults before they have a chance to lay many eggs. After vacuuming, empty the vacuum bag into a plastic bag and put in the freezer for 24 hours.

If that’s a little wild for you, try hanging sticky yellow traps above the plants, at the beginning of the season to detect an invasion early. Tapping the plants with a stick will cause the whitefly to fly up and onto the traps. Whiteflies are strongly attracted to the color yellow, so you really shouldn’t wear yellow clothing around whiteflies or you may carry them from plant to plant.

Handpick older leaves to remove young whitefly stages. Avoid using a high-pressure hose on the affected areas in the early morning, three days in a row.

Finally, chemical controls could include botanical insecticides such as garlic or a hot chili spray. I hope that one or a combination of these methods work for you.

Q. I have a big snail party happening in my garden! As I have just introduced a very curious puppy into my household, I am really reluctant to use snail bait. Any suggestions about how to tone the invasion down a little?
DJ, Jefferson Park

A. Another bug question, huh? Well, let’s see what we can do. Start with a garden cleanup to reduce snail and slug breeding sites. Remove any old wooden boards and other garden trash. Check around the compost heap, inside stored pots and around drains and retaining walls. If you have a strong stomach, use a bucket of soapy water to drown any you find.

You can greatly reduce the number of snails by handpicking them, though this method is less effective for slugs. The best time to do this is two hours after sunset. Maybe you can bribe the younger members of your household or neighborhood to collect them for a bounty fee.

A great new non-toxic product to use is Snail-Barr, which is a strip of copper with which you encircle your garden. When slugs and snails make contact with the copper, there is a toxic reaction, similar to an electric shock, which repels them. Snail-Barr is ideal for raised beds, herb gardens, container plants and other areas with a defined perimeter. This product is available at http://www.bountifulgardens.org/plant-protection.html for 50 cents a foot.

Q. It’s hot outside! Do I hang up my gardening gloves in July and August, and just sit back and enjoy the fruits of my labor?
Liza, Country Club Park

A. Not so fast! Although the summer months are when gardening comes almost to a complete standstill in Southern California, it’s a good time to do some garden maintenance, and even plant a few things.

For instance, I would encourage you to mulch your garden heavily, covering the soil two to three inches deep with organic material. This will help you water less, and cut down on weeds.

You can also plant tropicals (bananas, papayas, palms, bougainvilleas) through August, though the earlier the better for those of you in more inland areas. If you didn’t plant tuberous begonias in the spring, you can now find them in bloom at dig-your-own and specialty nurseries.

It’s not even too late for vegetables — plant bean, corn, cucumber and summer squash seeds.
The YMCA Healthy Habits Project Invites You to Participate

The Ketchum-Downtown YMCA is inviting new and returning members who have not been exercising regularly in the recent past — and who are interested in becoming more physically active — to participate in the Healthy Habits Project, a mutual learning opportunity.

The project involves ten YMCA’s on the West Coast, from Seattle to Los Angeles. Three thousand participants will be tracked for eighteen months to learn what contributes to successful, sustained changes in behavior.

Many Americans share a concern for their own health and the health of friends and family members. They know that, if they adopt certain core health habits, they may reduce their risk for heart disease, diabetes and some forms of cancer. Nevertheless, they find it difficult to stick to a regular exercise program, eat right and manage the stress in their lives. The YMCA offers programs, activities and a supportive community of members that can help people make fundamental lifestyle changes. Through this project, the YMCA hopes to learn more about what makes the greatest difference for those who do succeed.

All participants in the Health Habits Project will agree to take a series of assessments every six months for eighteen months. These include the Stanford Healthy People Survey, the Stanford Readiness for Change Survey, three clinical measures and the YMCA Programs and Relationships Survey.

Total Health Plus +

One third of project participants will meet with a Total Health Plus+ coach and a group of 12-15 fellow members twice a month. These groups will focus on behavior change, wellness and community. Participants will work with their coaches, buddies, and the group as a whole to build and maintain support for the health habits they are working on. Some may focus on integrating physical activity into their daily routines, others on strength or flexibility training, while still others may work on healthy eating, weight management or coping with stress. The YMCA, with the help of the Stanford Center for Research in Disease Prevention, has developed a special curriculum for the groups.

Anyone interested in participating is encouraged to volunteer — all new members, inactive current members or former members who want to adopt a healthier lifestyle and “make it work this time” are welcome. Contact: Jeanne Ostro 213/624-2348, ext. 4033 jeanneostro@ymcala.org

Important West Adams Mansion Has New Owner

The Movement of Spiritual Inner Awareness (at the Guasti Villa) has purchased the beautiful three-story Alpine Craftsman (circa 1912) MacGowan residence at 3726 West Adams. It was built by Hudson and Munsell, the same architectural firm that designed the Guasti Villa. After some essential repairs and restoration, it will be used as a residence and for some classes.

If you'd like a tour of the new Peace Awareness Labyrinth and Gardens at 3500 West Adams, we'll be happy to show you around. We're proud and excited about what's happening in our neck of the woods! And when we officially open the MacGowan Residence, we'll let you know so you can come visit.

We are seeking donations of new or used furniture in good condition and all manner of household items to dress our new house. As you know, the house is gigantic, and there are many rooms to decorate. Sofas, chairs, objects of art, tables, lamps, kitchen appliances and utensils, carpets, vases, plants, exercise equipment, etc. will all be useful and welcomed.

MSIA is a nonprofit organization and donations are tax deductible as allowed by law. Contact Carol Jones at (323) 737-4055 or carol@pts.org if you'd like to visit or if you can help.
Los Angeles' renowned chefs and restaurateurs will pair Asian flavors with wines from Napa, Sonoma, Santa Barbara County and Oregon at the fourth annual Asia Pacific Fusion Food & Wine Festival. The afternoon celebration will be held at the landmark 20th Century Fox Studios on Sunday, June 23 from 12 - 4 p.m.

The Festival will present continuous entertainment from Indonesia, Thailand, China, Malaysia, the Philippines as well as Bhangra dancers from India. Demonstrations by the California Sushi Academy and walking tours of the historic Fox Studios back-lot are part of the afternoon's festivities. Highlight of the festival includes the Grand Raffle Prize of A Culinary Trip for Two to Hong Kong sponsored by Cathay Pacific and a six-night accommodation courtesy of Harbour Plaza Hong Kong and Harbour Plaza North Point.

Foodies - savor sushi, taste the tandooris, nibble on dim-sum as Los Angeles' renowned chefs and restaurateurs gather at the landmark 20th Century Fox Studios to whip up gourmet delights.

Keith Lord, Executive Chef at Fox Studios will be joined by participants such as Chinois on Main, Sushi Roku, Crustacean, Hamasaku, Joss, Chaya Brasserie, Max, Five Feet, Manhattan Wonton Company, Michelia, ChanDarette, Monsoon, Arirang, A Thousand Cranes, The Clay Pit, Chicken Madras, Natalee Thai, Flavor of India, Surya, Zen Zoo Tea and Dole Foods.

These Asian flavors will be paired with wines from such Napa and Sonoma wineries as Clos du Val, Grgich Hills, Trefethen, Matanzas Creek, Silverado, Franciscan, B.R. Cohen, Peju Province, Monticello and Rubissow Sargent. The Santa Barbara and Central Coast wines will be represented by Au Bon Climat, Firestone, Presidio, Lactitia, Tantara, Bedford Thompson, Zaca Mesa, Bridlewood, Cottonwood Canyon, Adelaida Cellars and Wild Horse; Mendocino region wines will include Roederer, Navarro, Greenwood Ridge, Handley, Pacific Echo and McDowell; and wines of the Oregon region will be represented by Domaine Drouhin, Chehalem, Rex Hills, Elk Cove, Eyrie, Argyle and Panther Creek. The Asian flavors will be further cooled down by beverages such as Yosemite Waters, Kirin Beer, Ginger Beer and premium Jizake.

Asia Society, a non-profit organization, is America's leading institution dedicated to fostering American understanding of Asia. Headquartered in New York, Asia Society has regional centers in Los Angeles, Houston, Washington D.C., Hong Kong, Melbourne, Manila and representative offices in San Francisco and Shanghai.

Ticket Prices: $75 Single; $120 Couple; Special Group rates of $50/person for groups of 10 or more for WAHA members.

For reservations call - (213) 624-0945
20th Century Fox Studios, 10201 W. Pico Blvd., Los An-

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For Sale:
* Gracious Country Club Park period home, circa 1915. Huge living room, grand staircase, fabulous custom eat-in contemporary kitchen, 7 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, upgraded systems inc. elec and plumbing, Gated street, 6,000-sq-ft residence on a 12,000-sq-ft lot. Co-listed: Jerry Mendelsohn/David Raposa. $750,000.
* Transitional Victorian. Built circa 1901, only three owners in 100 years. 4,300 sq ft home plus carriage house plus studio apt; original features, new heating system needs restoration. $349,000.

Sold:
* 1826 S. Bronson, 2 bd, 1 ba - listing agent Jerry Mendelsohn, buyers' agent David Raposa.

Our New Offices are in the Victorian Village
2316 w Union Avenue  Suite 2
213/747-1337
Adams-Normandie Neighborhood Assn (ANNA)

A large turnout for our May meeting might have been generated by the authentic Cinco de Mayo meal provided by Piedad and Al Nunez. The two hours prior to the feast was spent in lively discussions on subjects from — How best to maintain the Paseo to which show to see at the Last Remaining Seats screenings. We also postponed our ANNA picnic until the summer, voted to give $250 to support the Norwood Elementary Health Fair and have decided to hold a mini garage sale this June 8 from 10 to 2.

This last item came about because of large donations made to ANNA from two production houses. One is a company that makes commercials and the other is from a daytime soap opera. So on June 8 at 1656 W 25th Street we will be selling these wardrobes only. Please stop by.

We intend to hold our annual Garage Sale as usual in October.

We reluctantly bid adieu to long standing ANNA members Stan and Sondra Holwitz. We will miss their dedication and participation, especially as the hosts of the annual National Night Out on Crime each August. We wish them health and happiness in their new home up north.

24th Street Block Club

At the May 2002 meeting of concerned Citizens of 24th Street, the main topic of conversation was the now-certain restoration and rehabilitation of the South Seas House. Many of the people in the neighborhood attended the groundbreaking ceremonies the week before, and were impressed that this long-delayed project might now seem to be truly beginning.

The subject of alleyway gating on the north side of 24th Street was discussed as there has been a noticeable increase in the amount of trash and debris being left behind in the alleyways that are not already gated.

Wellington Square Improvement Association (WSIA)

The Wellington Square Improvement Association’s annual yard sale will take place on Saturday, June 15th, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Many homes in the four-block area will be participating in this event. Bargains and great finds are the order of the day, including housewares, furniture, antique and vintage items, lighting, books, clothes, manufacturer’s samples, art, garden stuff, tools, CDs, records, electronics, sporting goods, jewelry and everything else you may be looking for.

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

Save the Date/Neighborhood Pride Day

June 8, 2002
Jefferson Park, Crenshaw

Natalie Neith & Ken Catbagan
Prudential-John Aaroe Presidents Circle

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS SERIOUS ABOUT SELLING THEIR HOME? WE HAVE QUALIFIED BUYERS LOOKING FOR CHARACTER HOUSES! WE'LL BRING GREAT NEW NEIGHBORS!!!

JUST LISTED:
2036 So. Oxford—7+3.75 $405,000
Grande Dame in need of Face Lift!
3rd floor Ballroom, Double Parlours Needs Work!!!

AVAILABLE:
2129 W. 21st St. 1904 Beauty
$626,000 Orig. Details —3 story 5+4,
Lot & __, HPOZ Gourmet Kit,
Hand-painted mural+More!

JUST SOLD:
2243 W. 20th - 9 Offers!!!-Over Asking!
2361 W. 20th
1625 W. 23rd - 3 Offers!-Over Asking!!!

IN ESCROW:
2036 S. Oxford—Multi Offers -1 week!
2388 W. 21st St
1044 S. Gramercy Drive

WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS:
Vivian Juter & Dan Frankel
Katie Larkin
Tina Wolfson

Please note new info:
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227 No. Larchmont Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90004
Direct: (323) 769-3322, 769-3324
www.natalieneith.com

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Directory Updates

If you have any changes which need to be incorporated into the current WAHA Directory, or if you have a new mailing address, please let us know. We don’t want to lose you! You can contact WAHA by mail, or call John Kurtz (Membership Chair), so your information can be updated.

Update with New/Correct Information
Bro. Stephen De La Rosa, Brothers of St. John of God, 2425 S. Western Avenue, 90018
Jeffrey & Margaret Kritzer, JBK96@attbi.com
Charles & Sally Rafowicz, CharlesRafowicz@aol.com
Dr. Floyd Tobias & Debra A. Vanado, Harvart@Mindspring.com, DaVanado@MindSpring.com

Add (and welcome) New WAHA Members
Kwesi & Jennifer Ankai, 2309 W. 23rd Street, 90018, 323/735-3260, Jenny@usip.com
Gavin Gllynn, 2525 7th Street, 90018, 323/766-1690
Michael Jeter & Rebecca Johnson, 2406 Gramercy Park, 90018, 323/735-6812
Michael Turner & Dean Williams, 1739 W. 24th Street, 90018, 323/733-0866, 323/733-8179

A Picket Fence
Continued from page 1

Phillip was here by 5:45 a.m. and the men headed off to Home Depot. That was way too early for me to be making a public appearance, so I offered to cook breakfast. The guys came back about an hour and a half later with everything we needed to make the fence a reality. A picket fence – the American dream, or so they say – was about to become our reality!

The hard work began in earnest. Devin and Phillip set about digging and measuring and sawing and hammering. The fence quickly began to take shape, and it looked great. Then a wonderful thing began to happen...

We have a lot of foot traffic in our area, and our neighbors started walking by and commenting on our fence. People started introducing themselves, and there were rounds of congratulations. Neighborhood kids begged to help us (especially when we got the paint out), and some of the locals who wanted to embark on a similar project asked us a multitude of questions. A very friendly on-duty policeman cruised by and asked for advice on whether he should paint his fence at home or not, before continuing his patrol. A loud jolly woman who lives across the street drove off in her car, but not before spiritedly telling us that the fence was “Out-a-sight” about 20 times. Two separate neighbors who have each lived on the street for 20 years or more let me know about various neighborhood activities that I should get involved in, and told us a little about the history of the street. A steady stream of well-wishers and advice-givers continued throughout the weekend.

After two days of hard work, the fence was erected and painted a pleasing white. All the while people dropped by to comment on our progress. I was really glad to get the fence up as it adds a pleasing quality to our property, but mainly I was thrilled by the response that we received from the neighborhood. After living here for many months, I felt a real connection with the street and the people.

So if you are contemplating a similar project for your house, I would really encourage you to move forward with it. It’s much cheaper to do it yourself (we literally saved thousands of dollars), and you get to know your neighborhood in an intimate way.

It isn’t just our fence anymore — it is a fence that belongs to all of 3rd Avenue. We feel very lucky to have become a part of the Jefferson Park community, and judging by people’s reactions, it was nice to give a little something back.

MEASURE YOUR SUCCESS!

Are you losing money and don’t even know it?
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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
E-News from Councilwoman Cynthia Miscikowski

(Edited for North University Park/West Adams by Donald Ferguson)

First of all, I urge you to look into the proposals pending before LAFCO and to read the Executive Officers’ report - available on-line at:
http://www.lalafco.org/lafco_topics.htm

Above Ground Facilities

On May 22nd, the Information Technology and General Services Committee of the City Council heard the proposed Above Ground Facilities plan to deal with the burgeoning construction of telecom networks throughout our city. In the past two years, the Bureau of Engineering has hosted many workshops with both the community and the interested telecommunication and cable companies to try and create the most appropriate guidelines for facilities being placed in our City’s rights of way.

The guidelines currently call for undergrounding in areas that have Specific Plans, Historic Preservation Overlay Zones and Pedestrian Overlay Zones.

Other areas throughout the City are protected by strict size, landscaping and graffiti abatement requirements.

The current guidelines provide the aesthetic protections and appropriate box regulations so that we can protect our rights of way from unnecessary clutter.

Low-Cost Rabies Vaccination Clinics

The City of Los Angeles’ Animal Services and Department of Recreation & Parks are sponsoring a number of clinics that offer dog and cat anti-rabies vaccinations for $5, as well as other vaccinations that guard against various canine and feline diseases for $9-12 each. These clinics are scheduled through December and are throughout the City. For information and specific dates and locations contact L.A. Animal Services at 1-888-452-7381.

Trees For a Green LA

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) has launched its “Trees for a Green LA.” Customers of the LADWP can receive a FREE 5-gallon tree for their property after attending a workshop teaching you how to properly select, plant and maintain the trees. More information can be found at www.GreenLA.com or by calling 1-800-473-3652.

DECO EXOTIQUE

Exotic Influences on Deco Fashion

On Saturday, June 15, 2002 The Art Deco Society of Los Angeles presents a fashion show of clothing of the 20’s and 30’s. The event will be held from 1:30 to 3:30 PM at the El Rey Theater, 5515 Wilshire Boulevard. Cost is $15 per person and includes tea. Reservations recommended, call (310) 659-3326.

Fashion in the 20’s was an exuberant affair. From the Far East to the American West, any culture deemed exotic found its way into style. Chinese robes and pajamas were all the rage. The discovery of Tutankhamen’s tomb brought an enduring craze for all things Egyptian, and Hollywood popularized a parade of vamps...who never looked like the girl next door. By the 1930’s, exotic influences were more likely to show up in details of shape and decoration, changed and adapted to fit the current styles from Paris or Hollywood.

The Art Deco Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and awareness of Art Deco as a major influence on the 20th Century.

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

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<th>Company</th>
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<td>Best Lock and Safe Service</td>
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<td>10% discount on lock and safe labor and materials</td>
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<td>50% off office exams</td>
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<td>4 East Adams Boulevard, Los Angeles</td>
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<td>1367 Venice Blvd. L.A. 90006</td>
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<td>20% discount off regular product price (you must have a special discount card)</td>
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<td>1951 W. Washington Blvd. Los Angeles</td>
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<td>Dealer’s pricing on all tires and full line of custom wheels (See Bill Fuqua, Jr. for this discount)</td>
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<td>10% discount on catered food orders</td>
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<td>9339 Canoga Avenue Chatsworth, CA 818/772-1721 (hours: by appointment only)</td>
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<td>10% discount on purchases at Chatsworth facility</td>
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<td>Boulevard Vacuum &amp; Sewing Machine Company, 5086 W. Pico Boulevard, Los Angeles CA 90019, (323) 938-2661</td>
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<td>10% discount on sale of new vacuums, and vacuum service &amp; repair</td>
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<td>Wholesale Carpet Liquidators, 1225 E. Washington Boulevard, Los Angeles CA 90021, (213) 747-7474, <a href="mailto:Wholesalecarpetla@Yahoo.com">mailto:Wholesalecarpetla@Yahoo.com</a> Contact = Linda Or Parisa</td>
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<td>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.</td>
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**A Call to Members**

If you frequent a local business — retail store, restaurant, service provider, etc. — ask them if they would 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 323/733-8869 and I would be happy to contact them. — Steve Wallis
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 ad, call Lisa Schoening (323/732-5108). Classifieds will be for one month only. If you wish to repeat your ad, please call Lisa Schoening by the deadline. After 3 issues for the same ad, there will be a charge of $.25 per word.

ADVERTISING RATES FOR DISPLAY ADS
The WAHA Newsletter is published 11 times a year
- Full Page .... $150 monthly, $1,800/annual
- Quarter Page (5 3/4 x 4 5/8).... $35 monthly, $295 /annual
- Business Card ..(3 1/2 x 2)......$15 monthly, $125 /annual
Remember, the deadline is the 1st of the prior month!

WAHA CLASSIFIEDS
WAHA has a new e-mail address for all your classifieds!
If you can, please send your classified ads to: wahaclassifieds@yahoo.com

FOR SALE: Olympus Canedia C-12500 L-SLR digital camera; new, with 1.45 telephoto lens and warranty. Asking $350 (retails for $795) Call Shelley, 731-3710

FOR SALE: Five clear glass, Art Nouveau, sash windows, 31" X 24" and a never used, still in box, 1.5 gal tan color toilet. Call Lionel 323/735-5056.

BABYSITTER AVAILABLE. Brittany Cabrales (granddaughter of Lucy Nigh, longtime WAHA member), age 14 - very experienced, toddlers and older. 323/933-9779.

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.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for a great multi-family yard and estate sale, Friday - Saturday, July 12-13, 1800 block of South Gramercy Place. Antiques, collectibles, vintage clothing and just stuff. Details in July newsletter.

WOMEN'S SHELTER at Adams & Hoover needs donations: sewing machine, fabric, microwave oven, plants for garden, table cloths, arts & craft materials, games, puzzles. TAX DEDUCTIBLE. Please call Carole or Michele at 323/731-1408.

FOR SALE - 500 antique doors, windows, & house fragments. Call Roland at 310/392-1056.

Roommate Wanted? Vintage Stove for Sale? Garden Plants in Search of New Home? Place your classified ad here to reach preservation-minded readers. Contact Advertising Director Lisa Schoening (tel 323/732-5108; wahaclassifieds@yahoo.com) NO LATER THAN the first of the prior month.

Add Glamour and Glitz to Your Closet!
Saturday, June 8 10 AM to 2 PM
ANNA Special Sale

ANNA, the Adams-Normandie Neighborhood Association, is having a mini garage sale on Saturday, June 8, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 1656 W 25th Street. We will only be selling the wardrobes and costumes from two production companies—one from a daytime soap opera and the other from a commercial production house. Besides the clothing (including evening wear), there will be accessories, purses, shoes and jewelry.

Shop 'Til You Drop the Next Week, Too!
Saturday, June 15 8AM to 3 PM
Wellington Square Multi-Household Yard Sale

The Wellington Square Improvement Association's annual yard sale includes many homes in a four-block area, selling housewares, furnishings, antique and vintage items, lighting, books, clothes, manufacturer's samples, art, garden stuff, CDs, records, electronics, sporting goods, jewelry, etc. etc. -- bargains and great finds are the order of the day!
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