

"...to support preservation of the West Adams community's architectural heritage and beautification activities, and to educate Los Angeles' citizens and others about cultural heritage and restoration techniques. . ."

NEWSLETTER



Number 187

October 2001

Holiday on the Street of Dreams

by Janice Stevenor Dale

Like the shiny Christmas ornament you so carefully unwrap each year, memories of people and events linger in the mansions of West Adams Boulevard. These century-old mansions have bound up in them much of the romance and history and glamour of original Los Angeles. The West Adams District had its beginnings as the home of a young city's social elite, and soon West Adams Boulevard itself became known as Los Angeles' "Street of Dreams."

And now, here it is, a unique chance to review the fascinating Biography of West Adams Boulevard, the stories of old mansions that line the one-time bon-ton thoroughfare and of the society leaders of another day who resided in them.

West Adams Boulevard in West Adams Park – the area west of Arlington Avenue – is the featured locale of the 2001 WAHA Holiday Tour, "Holiday on the Street of Dreams." This annual progressive dinner and architectural tour, scheduled for December 1st and 2nd, will feature lavishly-appointed West Adams Boulevard mansions dressed in their holiday

best. All of the mansions on this gala tour are designated historic properties, and only the famous Secundo Guasti/Busby Berkeley mansion has previously been open to the public.

These are some of the remarkable stories on the Street of Dreams:

* Follow the story of one woman who spent her girlhood in a West Adams Street mansion and who, in attaining greatness, was faced with the necessity of overcoming tremendous handicaps, despite the wealth and prestige of her parents.

* Learn about the initial expense of more than \$100,000 that was utilized to erect the replica of an English castle on a West Adams property. Statuary and art objects were brought from Europe. The world's best artists contributed to the stained glass windows and craftsmanship.

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Charmed

WAHA's Annual Halloween Party

...will once again be held at
John and Nancy Deaven's house.

SATURDAY, October 27

6:30 - 10:30 p.m.

2410 Fourth Avenue

It's a Costume Party, with prizes
awarded for the best costumes

Potluck: Bring a covered dish
of scary food!

Haunted House in West Adams?

by Leslie Evans

If this were a movie, it would begin one balmy day when a hapless repair chappy is called to fix something in this fine modern-looking building. He drags his ladder up to the spot under the trapdoor and climbs up into the attic....

Many of you will remember the Jesuit houses. They were—and still are, although much changed—on the 2600 block of Menlo Avenue, the first historic register block in West Adams. There were three of them in a row, big old transition Victorian-Craftsman structures. Two are two stories with a low attic above; the third was larger with a full third story marked by gothic windows, like a country church. They were for more than twenty years owned by the Jesuit order and used as accommodations for priests. Unluckily for them, they were back to back with that long empty lot on Vermont Avenue that became, after much pressure from the community, the Ralphs market at the corner of Adams Boulevard.

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**WEST ADAMS
HERITAGE ASSOCIATION**

2263 S. Harvard Boulevard
Historic West Adams
Los Angeles, California 90018
323/ 735-WAHA

www.neighborhoodlink.com/la/westadams

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*Omar Ibn Al Kattab Mosque
see Perspective, page 3*

**WAHA Committee Chairs and
Standing Meetings**

Community Outreach Chair: Jennifer Charnofsky
323/734-7391 - call to join

Historic Preservation/Zoning & Planning

Chairs: Eric Bronson 323/737-1163 and
Tom Florio 213/749-8469 - Meets third Mondays -9/17 at
City Living Realty, 2316 1/2 South Union, Suite 2

Newsletter Chair: John Deaven 323/737-7761 - Meets
thirds Tuesdays - 9/18 at John Deaven's home

Membership Chair: John Kurtz 323/732-2990 - Meets the
Wednesday before the WAHA Board Meeting 6/27 and 7/25

Holiday Tour Currently meets third Tuesdays (9/18) -
will soon begin meeting biweekly. Call Jacqueline Sharps
323/766-8842 to join

Fundraising Call Catherine Barrier 323/732-7233

Web Site Call Clayton de Leon 323/734-0660

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

Programs and Events Greg Stegall 323/734-7725 and
Alma Carlisle 323/737-2060

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!*

WAHA NEWS

USC Proposes Major Events Center

by Laura Meyers

After months of speculation, the University of Southern California has confirmed its proposed plans to construct a 365,000-square-foot "on campus" Events Center complex on a 4.75 acre lot at Jefferson and Figueroa. As proposed, the new complex would play host to both sports teams (men's and women's basketball and men's and women's volleyball) and entertainment events including concerts, theatrical productions, comedy shows, lectures, and other cultural affairs. The university also anticipates holding conferences, commencement ceremonies, banquets, celebrity indoor tennis matches and high school athletic championships in the new venue, which will have 12,000 seats in the main arena, a USC Hall of Fame, three practice gymnasiums and a restaurant.

According to documents submitted in

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Exposition Park Update

by Jean Frost

As we reported previously, the FEIR (Final Environmental Impact Report) for a parking structure at Exposition Park, a four-level, 2,100-space "subterranean" parking structure, which consists of a six-acre hole to accommodate an open-air garage whose top level will be an at-grade neutered surface parking lot, is being challenged in the courts for failure to adequately identify and mitigate significant impacts and cumulative impacts and failure to provide a reasonable range of alternatives to the proposed project. The Petitioners, ADHOC (Adams Dockweiler Heritage Organizing Committee) and NUPCA (North University Park Community Association), continue to hope that a parking structure for Exposition Park will be developed with adequate mitigations and within a historic context.

A mandatory, confidential settlement conference occurred on August 16 between the petitioners ADHOC and NUPCA and the respondent CSC (California Science Center). The meeting produced no positive outcome and no proposed agreement.

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PERSPECTIVE

by Jacqueline Sharps,
WAHA President

In these weeks after the atrocities at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and a field in Pennsylvania, I've been thinking a lot about the true meaning of terror. It's not just bombs and airplane hijackings and collapsed buildings and fire and thousands of deaths. It's also intolerance – intolerance for religious freedom, intolerance of individuals' choices of lifestyles, intolerance of others' political beliefs. And as I think about it, I am thankful once again that I live in West Adams, a community perhaps more than anywhere else in Los Angeles where people of all generations, races, religions, religious and cultural heritage, socio-economic background, sexual orientation and family make-up live together and work together to make this historic community a better place to live.

I'm reminded of our tour, just a few months ago, of West Adams' varied churches. WAHA's Religious Art and Architecture Tour, held June 23, wasn't just a fundraiser. It also introduced our West Adams visitors, and many WAHA members, to a group of religious institutions (along with dozens more we hope to visit another day) which all contribute to the rich cultural heritage of the Historic West Adams District.

In the wake of the terrorist acts of September 11, I'd like to urge all of you particularly to take a moment to visit the Omar Ibn Al Kattab Foundation and Mosque at 1025 Exposition Boulevard. Omar Ibn Al Kattab Foundation was the first Islamic mosque to be built in Los Angeles, and was one of the religious institutions on our WAHA tour. This beautiful building, like mosques throughout America, stands as a symbol of religious freedom and tolerance in America. There are some 6 million Muslims in the United States – hundreds of thousands here in Southern California – and the vast majority of these spiritual people were as horrified as the rest of us at the evil on the East Coast. As President Bush said, "Islam is peace."

Let me give you some background on Omar Ibn Al Khattab, as it was described in our tour brochure: "The idea for the mosque began to take shape in the late 1960s as Muslim activists met to consider their need for a formal place of worship. In 1977 a trust fund was established in the name of the mother of a USC student who had a great interest in seeing the mosque become a reality... In response to this gift, the Omar Ibn Al Khattab Foundation was formed in 1982 [and] launched construction in 1984. The first Friday evening prayer service/ Jummah was celebrated on January 21, 1994."

You'll recognize the mosque right away – it has a large dome and a minaret, the tower from which worshippers are called to prayer. The large prayer hall has an east-west orientation, facing in the direction of Mecca – the spiritual center of the Islam faith.

The Oman Ibn Al Khattab Foundation is now in the process of raising money to build a library as a major repository for Islamic cultural and religious writings in English and other languages. I hope such a library of materials will go a long way toward increasing understanding between people of varied faiths and spiritual beliefs.

In the meantime, I am praying for all the victims of the September 11 terror, and all of their families, and for all of us. I know that each of you have grieved in recent weeks in your own way, and given of yourself in your own way. But please, remember to take some time now to reach out to your West Adams neighbors – Christian, Jewish, Buddhist and Muslim – and join hands in tolerance and understanding.

USC Events Center Continued from page 3

early September to the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA), the facility's architecture "will reflect that of the existing buildings on campus while providing a strong and welcoming visible image of the University and an impressive gateway to the Figueroa Corridor from the southern entrance."

This proposed project faces a series of public reviews, which will focus on a number of issues, including:

* **Parking** - USC proposes using existing campus parking facilities for the Events Center. Although these parking structures are "significantly occupied during the daytime hours," says the university, "most if not all of our events will be held in the evenings...or on weekends." However, there is currently a parking shortage at the university, which now employs 3,800 faculty,

6,700 staff and 8,300 part-time and student workers, serving a student population of 15,400 undergrads and 13,400 graduate students.

* **Design** - many concerns "were voiced by both our university and neighborhood constituents regarding their desire to see a more open and inviting building - not the 'closed fortress' that was previously suggested," notes the proposal. The current design schematic has an at-grade arena floor, two entry courtyards with arched entries and landscaped spaces, and an amphitheater. The Events Center is at its tallest point 96 feet high.

* **Environmental Impact** - USC hopes to complete the design process in 10 months and the acquisition of permits and bidding in four months. However, an Environment Impact Report process usually takes well over a year. The issue is: is the university asking

CRA as lead agency to forego the usual requirement of an EIR?

* **Master Plan** - In 1989, during the course of a citywide rezoning process nicknamed "AB283," USC was required by the Los Angeles City Planning Department (and ultimately the City Council) to prepare a master plan. Conditions for approval of any building permits granted to USC were to be that, 1), "additional dormitory units shall conform to the R4-1 zone;" 2), "any other university-related uses shall be permitted and shall not exceed a maximum of 10% of existing gross floor area for any building on a site;" and 3), "the provisions ...shall remain in effect until such time as a Master Plan for the University Campus is approved by the City Planning Commission and the City Council. Such Master Plan shall include but not be limited to regulations governing expansion of the educational institution, special events, community activities, other university-related programs, student and staff housing, support facilities, access, circulation and any CRA related programs." USC has to date failed to prepare a Master Plan.

This proposal will be reviewed at the regularly-scheduled meeting of the Hoover Project Area Committee, which is the elected advisory group for CRA activities in the area, in October. At press time, the location and date of the meeting was not yet arranged. To attend, or get more information about the proposal, contact Jennifer Barrera at CRA, 323/766-9825.

Preservation Begins At Home



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For Sale:

* **The Dr. Grandville MacGowan Residence**, Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument #479. 14,500-sq-ft mansion on 3/4 acre. Stunning! \$1,250,000

* **Country Club Tudor** - Elegant, 3-story mansion, restored and upgraded, exquisite woods and fixtures, 5 bedrms, 7 1/2 baths, estimated 7,000-sq-ft. \$1,050,000

* **Coming Soon** - Surprisingly sophisticated Victorian cottage in HPOZ near USC - 3 bedrms, 1 ba. Mid-200,000s

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* **Craftsman Bungalow**, 3106 S. Brighton

* **Adams-Normandie HPOZ Prairie duplex**, 2622 Raymond

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* **Restored Victorian** 1269 S. Victoria. Welcome Randy and Meg Palisac!

* **Adams-Normandie HPOZ, Extraordinary Craftsman** 2618 Kenwood. Welcome Mario Chavarria and Ruth Bloomfield!

Our New Offices are in the Victorian Village
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Craftsman Weekend

Pasadena Heritage presents its Tenth Annual Craftsman Weekend, October 5 - 7. The weekend's offerings include a tour of six significant Craftsman-era houses, and lectures by prominent authorities like historian Robert Winter, and Jean Stern, executive director of the Irvine Museum. For a full-rundown on the event, see last month's WAHA newsletter, or contact Pasadena Heritage, 626/441-6333, or www.pasadenaheritage.org



In the Garden: An Environmental Approach

by Linda Joshua

Gardeners everywhere are turning to a more environmental approach to home landscaping. People are realizing that a healthy environment will produce healthy plants and that healthy soil is the best protection against pests and diseases.

This doesn't have to involve large amounts of horticultural care, especially if one veers towards native landscapes. Native landscapes are low-maintenance, don't need toxic chemicals and use far less water - very important in an increasingly thirsty California. Natural landscapes also provide valuable habitats for endangered wildlife and plants that are adapted to local conditions will hold their own without having to be pampered with synthetic substances. In addition, if plants are chosen with diversity in mind, companion plants protect each other. The trick is to think of your plants as part of a whole system within Nature that starts in the soil and includes the water supply, people, wildlife and insects. An environmental gardener strives to work in harmony with natural systems and to minimize and continually replenish any resources the garden consumes.

Composting is of course a great way to do this, and this involves regularly adding organic matter to the soil, using locally available resources such as decaying plant wastes, grass clippings, fall leaves and vegetable scraps from your kitchen. If your garden is in need of a boost try mixing in some well-rotted animal fertilizers such as cow, horse or chicken manure.

Another way to make your garden love you is to mulch. Mulch conserves moisture and builds your soil as it decomposes. It involves blanketing the ground around your plants with shredded leaves, straw, dry grass clippings, wood or bark chips, newspaper or other degradable material, and that layer of mulch will block light from reaching weeds and stop or slow their growth. If your garden already has weeds, buy a good hoe designed for weeding, such as a stirrup or diamond style hoe, which allows you to slice off weeds below the soil surface.

How does insect control fit into environmental gardening? It can be very distressing for a gardener to see pests and pest damage on beloved plants. However, insects, even those that eat your plants, are a crucial part of nature. Keep in mind that there is a difference between a little nibble and decimation. The best defenses against insect attack are preventative measures. Grow plants suited to your local conditions and they'll be healthier.

You may be tempted to wipe out the pest population with a pesticide, but if you do this, you will lose many other garden friends - beneficial insects, birds, frogs and lizards that control pests by eating them. Instead of using

chemicals to manage insects, encourage the natural predators of pest insects to hunt in your garden.

If your insect problem requires more aggressive measures, barriers such as netting and plant collars very effectively protect crops from pests. Sticky traps and pheromone lures are another way to minimize your pest problems without harming other living things in your garden. If you are dealing with a full-blown pest invasion you can choose from several natural products that affect specific insects, such as bacterias, horticultural oils, insecticidal soaps and garlic and/or hot pepper.

The City of Los Angeles provides free composting workshops once a month and there is an abundance of information on the web on the subject of Environmental Gardening for those of you interested in learning more about treading more lightly on your own bit of earth.



All-American Deco

The Art Deco Society of Los Angeles presents a night of dancing and celebration in Deco style on Saturday, November 10, 7 p.m. - midnight. The event will be held at Patriotic Hall, 1816 S. Figueroa, and will feature Art Deco and His Society Orchestra. Tickets are \$35 for the general public, \$25 for Art Deco Society members. For information/reservations, call 310/659-DECO

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Through My Eyes Only Currently Surviving

By John B. Deaven

This month's article has nothing much to do with WAHA, other than it is being written by your WAHA Publications Board Liaison! This article also has nothing to do with historic houses, other than I own one, which will be the site of this month's WAHA Halloween party. This month I am taking liberties and writing about a personal experience I had that I decided to share with my friends, neighbors, and acquaintances in WAHA. I hope that by my sharing some uncomfortable personal information with you, you all might past some of your own fears and squeamishness about medical procedures that could save your life.

Nearly a year ago, during November 2000, I felt a slight off-and-on stinging pain in my buttock. I waited until December, but it never went away. My doctor was unavailable during the Christmas holidays, but I truly wanted his opinion. So I waited until January 4th, 2001, when he was back in his office. After he examined me, in his soft, gentle doctor voice, he said "John, I want you to see a specialist. I think you might have a growth." I thought to myself, a growth. What is he trying to tell me, and I said, "A growth...like cancer?" He replied, "Possibly. That's why I want you to see the specialist."

An appointment was given to me that very day, and just an hour later, the specialist was giving me another examination, the first of what proved to be many very personal, very embarrassing exams. Only this time the specialist took a biopsy, a piece of me for a laboratory test. Meanwhile, the specialist wanted me to see a doctor in the Urology Department, just as an extra precaution. This doctor examined my front thoroughly and claimed that that part of me was currently not in danger. Then the specialist arranged for me to have a Cat Scan, which I had a few days later.

Two weeks later, I was back in the specialist's office again to hear the

results. The diagnosis: Anal Squamous Cancer ("squamous" meaning utmost top layer of the skin). The Cat Scan showed that it was only in the one concentrated area of my body, my rear-end, and the "good news," according to the specialist, was that this type of cancer was "very treatable." Again, the specialist broke this news to me with his kind doctor voice, and I felt a little encouraged that they said it was "very treatable."

Now, my papers were faxed to the Radiation Department. Time marched on. By now it was February 6th, 2001. I had an appointment with a radiation doctor. After yet another quite personal examination, the radiation doctor presented his plan of treatment. It was to consist of 30 sessions of radiation treatments, split 15 and 15, and 8 days of chemotherapy, split 4 and 4. My wife, Nancy, came along to the first two planning sessions to lend moral support, and frankly, I was now getting into some scary terminology. Words like cancer, chemotherapy, and radiation always create frightening, negative thoughts, indeed. I truly was unsure what events exactly I was soon to engage in. The "fear of the unknown" is always alarming.

After the radiation doctor, I had to go see a chemotherapy doctor. With each new encounter, I got a hands-on examination.

First came the chemotherapy, and in my case, it was a unique experience. The chemo medicine was put inside a plastic bag, which was put inside a canvas bag that strapped over my shoulder, putting the canvas bag at waist level. Inside this bag was a 9-volt battery that pumped the medicine up into a long plastic tube. The tube went up the side of my upper body, down my arm, and into my arm at the inner elbow joint. It was a very small tube in diameter. Being right-handed, I had it put into my left arm. I was not suppose to get it wet. Thus, for four days I took baths in our antique claw-foot tub with my left arm dangling over the side. I could hide the tube under a long sleeve shirt, and I also could hide the canvas bag under a dress coat. So for those four days, I was always in a coat and tie!

Meanwhile, my personal privacy was soon to be a thing of the past. The radiation department drew black lines on my bare bottom, framing the area to be treated. They also gave me three dot-size tattoos, the size of a freckle. These were reference points to match my body up with the radiation machine. In my case, I had to lay down on a narrow table, face pressed down into a donut-shaped pillow, with my bare bottom up for all to see! The radiation staff would move me around until I was lined-up correctly. Then they all would leave the room, always saying, "Don't move!" Then for about 10 to 20 seconds, the machine would buzz. They would come back into the room, and I was free to get dressed and go. I did that for three weeks, Monday

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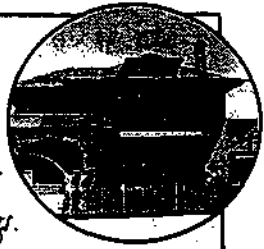
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WAHA Invites You to....An Afternoon at The Salisbury House

(L.A. Historic-Cultural Monument #240)

Saturday, November 17TH 1:00 to 4:00 P.M. Luncheon Potluck
2703 S. Hoover Street, L.A. 90007

Hosted by Raphael A. Garcia and Sergio Gutman

See this fabulous 19th Century Queen Anne Victorian House, built in 1891, designed by noted L.A. architects James H. Bradbeer and Walter Ferris. This house was featured in our June/July '01 WAHA Newsletter and showcases grand collections of fans, dolls, and much, much more.

To volunteer, call Greg Stegall 323/734-7725 or Alma Carlisle 323/737-2060

Through My Eyes Only Continued from page 6

through Friday, every afternoon for 15 sessions.

On the fourth day with the chemo, my arm was rather sore. I was glad to get the tube out. It took several weeks for the soreness in my arm to go away.

During the actual radiation sessions, there was no pain. After the first week, I thought, "This is easy; no problem." However, by the 15th session my skin was red and sore. It was like I sun bathed on a nude beach, day after day, and didn't have the sense to stop.

The first four days of chemo were February 12 - 16. The first 15 rounds of radiation were February 12 - March 2nd. Then I was allowed a long rest period for my skin to heal. I needed it!

When the doctors felt that it was time to start up again, the second four days of chemo were from March 22 - 26. My left arm was still sore, so I had it put into my right arm this time. On March 22nd I went to a WAHA Board meeting at Jean Cade's historic "Kennedy" house in Lafayette Square, wearing the chemo bag, under a long sleeve shirt and dress coat. No one was the wiser, and at that point in time I was not ready to share my situation. My right arm ended up being just as sore as the left one, but eventually both healed. The second round of radiation (15 more sessions) was from April 19 to May 9. Again I had more black lines drawn on my buttock, and three more additional pin-dot tattoos since it was now a smaller, more concentrated area! The second round of radiation left me very fatigue for weeks afterwards. In fact, my regular doctor suggested that I have two units of red blood cells put into me for an extra boost of energy, and I did. However, I never missed any work at my job at California Lutheran Homes in Alhambra over this entire illness and ordeal, working my schedule around the radiation schedule.

In June, four weeks after the final treatment, I returned to the radiation doctor for a one-month follow-up exam. It was fairly thorough, and he concluded by saying, "Your body has responded well to the treatments. I don't see anything." I was happy and relieved. I was told to return in August.

I did, indeed, return in August for the three-month follow-up. Four doctors were there this time, along with my wife. Another thorough examination was conducted, and according to Nancy, all four doctors (two were medical students) had a "hands-on experience" with my rear-end. I guess it was my contribution to medical science. However, I also complained about some discomfort when sitting, and the doctors agreed that there should be a second biopsy performed, which was done shortly afterwards by the specialist. I went back in the last week of August to hear the results of that second biopsy, and I am very thankful to report that the results were negative (benign). Thus this story has a wonderfully pleasant closure (surgery would have been the next step if the results would have been positive). The discomfort I was feeling was the result of scar tissue from the radiation, said the specialist.

You might be wondering why I feel a need to share all this. Every month we come together to discuss our love for old houses, but truthfully WAHA friendships go deeper than that. In fact, fellow WAHA Board member Jennifer Charnofsky encouraged me to be open and honest with my ordeal. This particular cancer story is tame, especially compared to others that I could see in the radiation waiting room. I was lucky that it was treatable. I'm thankful to be alive to share it.

Sometimes I fantasize that I, too, might end up at West Adam's Rosedale Cemetery. However, I do not want to get to that situation too soon. I still have two wonderful children to raise, who are currently only 14 (Peggy Sue) and 11 (Joe). I still have many WAHA functions in my future that I wish to host with my family in our 1902 Colonial Revival house on 4th Ave. in Historic West Adams!

About 3 years ago I was told that I am diabetic II (adult onset). I learned to eventually control it with diet and exercise so I wouldn't have to be insulin-dependent. In my mind, the diabetes was my third major huddle in life to jump over to survive, and the above-told cancer story was my fourth. I will currently spare you the details of the first two, but some year when I'm old and gray and have nothing to lose, I might choose to write about them, too.

Holiday Tour Volunteers Needed

WAHA's annual Holiday Tour, scheduled for December 1st and 2nd, is not only our biggest fundraiser of the year. It's also our biggest volunteer event. By the time the weekend is over, we will have thanked, literally, hundreds of volunteers who have served as docents, tour guides, greeters, reservations and check-in team, logistics managers, house captains, kitchen captains and assistants (and, yes, dishwashers), food servers, researchers, costumers, decorators, babysitters, schleppers and clean-up crew. We hope one of those volunteers will be YOU.

Because this year's Holiday Tour takes place in grand mansions on West Adams Boulevard, we will need additional volunteers compared to prior years. But please be assured, we are working very hard this year to pay great attention to the care and comfort of our volunteers. There will be plenty of food, plus work breaks (well, we hope!), and time set aside (on Sunday afternoon, before the second day's tour begins) for all volunteers to tour this year's houses. WAHA has also, as always, scheduled a lovely holiday fete on December 15 for all WAHA members and all Tour volunteers (details to follow in the next newsletter). Over the years, WAHA members have often invited their out-of-area friends and work colleagues to join them as volunteers (that is, if they aren't participating as paying guests), and we encourage you to do this as well.

This tour, while complex to produce, can be quite fun and rewarding to participate in as a volunteer - especially if everything goes well, and on time. And with that in mind, Volunteer Coordinator Lindsay Wiggins is planning an advance volunteer training day for all docents, kitchen assistants and servers, and shepherds. This training is MANDATORY for shepherds.

In particular, we need volunteers as:

* **Docents**, whose job it is to greet guests in the homes and point out architectural, decorative and historical features, and to be sure our guests are where they are supposed to be; this year, we'd like to see as many docents

as possible dressed in vintage or reproduction attire;

* **Kitchen assistants**, whose job it is to help prepare, serve and clean the food courses presented to our guests;

* **Shepherds**, who serve as walking and standing tour guides for assigned groups, to make sure people get to the houses safely and on time, and to present historical information along the way. This year, shepherds will also serve as a volunteer in another capacity for the duration of that day's shift (if you are scheduled to escort a later tour, for example, you may check people in earlier; or, conversely, if you escort an early tour you may be called upon to relieve a docent for a break later in the evening). We probably will be scheduling three or even four shepherds per tour this year, due to the size of both the houses and the expected tour groups, so please do contact us if you're interested in this task and haven't had the opportunity to do it in the past;

* **Childcare volunteers**, to help free up other WAHA parents by watching their children while they volunteer on the Tour itself (ideally, pairs of parents could team, so one set could volunteer on Saturday and the other on Sunday);

* **Logistics volunteers**, whose job it is to assist the house captains and tour committee with all the myriad details it takes to create and operate this tour.

Remember, this Holiday Tour is WAHA's major fundraiser for the year. Our budget, especially to cover the costs of this newsletter and our preservation activities, is heavily dependent on a financially-successful event. If you are simply not available on the tour days but would like to help, please consider a contribution to help offset the myriad costs associated with the Tour, from printing and flowers to festive nametags and napkins.

Please contact Lindsay if you'd like to volunteer. E-mail is preferred (wigginsla@mediaone.net) or call her at 323/733-1246.

Holiday on the Street of Dreams Continued from page 1

* Hear about a woman entrepreneur, Mrs. Briggs, who turned dirt into a fortune, investing her father's inheritance and her uncle's vision of a pueblo becoming the City of Los Angeles.

* Discover the story of Mrs. Banning's garden, sheltered from prying eyes by a high masonry wall and by heavy hedges, the scene of many of the city's swankiest parties. And hear about the Darbys' mansion next door, and the rooms overlooking the garden.

* Imagine the gala balls!! The cars, the fashion, the regal guests. Listen carefully for the scandalous behavior! Ponder the whispers at the ladies Friday Morning Club.

* Listen to the legend of Mr. Neustadt, a highly successful builder. For years he had promised himself that when

he made \$3,000,000 he would retire. One night he checked over his books and found he had reached his goal. He closed the books and announced "he was through." Yet when he inventoried his supplies, he found he had some 700 sacks of cement to dispose of. So he struck upon the notion of building himself a home and he determined upon a West Adams mansion, the famed "cement house."

* Picture Mr. Murphy, long a director at Standard Oil Company of California, who was known as a Midas. In his early years, he was in the general merchandising business and found success, traveling from Los Angeles to Needles. With his "stake," he invested in oil properties and Arizona mining interests. All that he touched turned to gold.

* Hear about Thomas Carey, the millionaire Chicago sportsman who bought his way into West Adams.

Holiday on the Street of Dreams Continued from Page 8

* Meet Busby Berkeley, the motion picture director, who purchased a home on West Adams, and brought along his mother. His mother in turn acquired many of the Guasti treasures, and other European antiques, to aid in the refurbishing of the once proud mansion.

And there are so many more stories...How a President loved to sit in the shade of a West Adams garden and enjoy the quiet and serenity of a scene that has gone...How Mrs. J. Ross Clark coped after her son Walter went down to a watery grave on the Titanic...Rumors of Mrs. Miner's building plans copied by another, forcing her to leave the area...The stairway adapted from carvings in Woodsome Hall, Yorkshire, England...The organ loft....

These stories truly now only exist in our memories. But today there are still outstanding remaining examples of these elegant and imposing structures, in nearly original condition, waiting to be rediscovered by our WAHA holiday touring elite. This is your invitation to visit yesteryear's mansions, landmarks all - a once sought-after invitation which in the old days was the equivalent of a fanfare announcing that one had arrived in Los Angeles society.

Tickets are limited and a sell-out is expected, so purchase early! As always, members have this first chance to reserve, but you must send in your money now.

For Tickets call: 323/732-2774, or send in your check with the enclosed Advance Ticket Order Form inside this newsletter

Tour date: December 1 and 2, 2001

Tickets: \$60 (Members discount, \$55, children under 12, \$25)

WAHA's Holiday Party and Volunteer Soiree: December 15th (location to be announced)

Volunteers: Please wear Vintage Clothing if possible

To Volunteer contact: Lindsay Wiggins, 323/733-1246 or (better) by e-mail: wigginsla@mediaone.net

Exposition Park Lawsuit Update Continued from page 3

The Petitioners continue to press for a development that adequately considers the 1993 Master Plan, which assessed that for Exposition Park one needed "to restore wholeness in the form of a shared stewardship of Exposition Park as an invaluable resource to metropolitan Los Angeles...Of importance is the function of planning to initiate a shared stewardship of Exposition Park: to bring together all people who truly care for the Park..." The 1993 Master Plan envisioned green space with underground parking at the proposed site, not the proposed surface-parking scheme.

The West Adams Heritage Association Board after deliberation has voted to file an amicus brief to support the Petitioners and engage leading a CEQA attorney, Rose Zoia of Brandt Hawley & Zoia write the brief. One may remember the firm of Brandt-Hawley & Zoia was successful locally

A.D.H.O.C. SUMMONS YOU TO A MAD-HATTERS TEA PARTY

A benefit fund-raising event in support of litigation efforts to save Exposition Park as a park, not a parking lot.

The Tea Party will be held in the historic A.E. Kelly house, Los Angeles Cultural-Historic Monument #295, at 1140 West Adams Blvd. This stunning 1892 Queen Anne Victorian designed by George Barber has not been open to the public since 1990.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20

3:00 TO 7:00 PM

Cocktails & hors-d'oeuvres featuring:
Long-island ice tea & magic mushrooms

Please join with plaintiffs Jean-the-queen-of-hearts-Frost, Tina-alice-Saddington, and Jim-the mad-hatter-Childs for a thoughtful review of the \$23,000,000 rabbit-hole including music and readings.

Wonderland attire suggested
mad-hats de rigueur.

Suggested tax deductible donation of \$25 per person payable to: A.D.H.O.C. a non-profit 501-3c corporation.

RSVP: The Mad-Hatter Himself (213) 748-1656

in the CEQA case "Chester Place Coalition v. Mt. St. Mary's College" and also succeeded in overturning the City of Sierra Madre in the City's delisting of historic properties without CEQA review, among their many successful cases.

The current status of the Exposition Park case is that the administrative record is being compiled and lodged. Several fundraisers and going to be held by ADHOC and NUPCA to defray court costs. For information, please call Jim Childs at 213-748-1656. Your help is needed both financially and to help our public officials understand what the issues are to improve the proposed project for the benefit of all of the people who use and work in Exposition Park and the surrounding community. For a view of what used to be where the parking structure is contemplated, check out this view on the internet: <http://www.usc.edu/dept/CCR/theme/col4.html>

Resources Judie Schoening

Next month, I am planning a column on catalogues that have been tried/tested as being good sources. Hopefully, some of you out there will send me some ideas! Please e-mail or FAX and include both .com and regular addresses/ phone numbers and your comments.

Meanwhile, Jennifer Charnofsky recommends Gray Goose Framing which is already in the Guide(I do like to hear your experience with our sources.) And, Appliances Plumbing Design, Inc., which Jennifer describes as "an up-scale plumbing and appliance supply store, similar to Snyder-Diamond but closer and smaller." They were very helpful to her in choosing a replacement for her range-hood. Then their recommended installer, M.B. Installations (Jennifer did not give me their information), installed the hood. They were on time and reasonably-priced as well as cleaning up when finished.

Peggy King e-mailed a recommendation for Hugo's Shoe Repair. Hugo Laguan not only repairs shoes but can also make them. Peggy's neighbor, Dianne, says he can restore anything "from worn-out boots to vintage shoes." Peggy took in a vintage purse and was pleased with the results.

Natalie Neith refers Gateway Termite Co. which was referred to her by the Coldwell Banker Concierge Service which checks out all referrals thoroughly before recommending them. Natalie says they have been "very responsive & quick to arrange appointments." Charges seem "competitive."

PLUMBING SUPPLY

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Culver City 90232
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Gateway Termite
310/815-2250 Contact: Judy

SHOE REPAIR

Hugo's Shoe Repair
3086 West Pico
South side/1st door east of Western
323/735-9786 Contact: Hugo Laguan

Finally, When I was in San Francisco recently, I cut out a column on salvage yards in the Bay area some which have Internet access. So for those of you who have not been able to find a particular item here in the Southland, here are some additional sources:

Beyond Waste: Flooring from old growth Douglas Fir. Carries entire sets of home windows, casement and double

hung www.beyondwaste.com

Caldwell Building Wreckers: Lumber, flooring, bricks, marble, plumbing www.caldwell-bldg-salvage.com

Crossroads Recycled Lumber: resawn timbers & remanufactured flooring www.crossroadslumber.com

East Bay Depot for Creative Reuse: Non-profit redistributes materials at low cost. Small furniture books, art materials, frames, garden artifacts www.eastbaydepot.com

Omega Too: antique & reproduction lighting, plumbing, doors windows www.omegato.com

Ohmega Salvage: Doors, windows, stained glass, claw-foot tubs, mantles, wrought iron, architectural elements www.ohmegasalvage.com

Savvy Salvage: garden ornaments & architectural elements www.savvysalvage.com

The Sink Factory: New & used basins, repairs, rebuilds, rechromes new or used sinks www.sinkfactory.com

Whole House Building Supply: Doors cabinets, bricks, roof tiles, gates, heaters mantles, hardware www.driftwoodsalvage.com

There are many other salvage places in the Chronicle column but they give addresses and phones only. I will keep a copy in case you need something you can't find, call me. Or e-mail the writer, Bill Burnett: bburnett@chronicle.com 8/5/01 Real Estate section.

Don't forget to send me your ideas for catalogue shopping!

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A Thought for Food by Alan Schoening

EUREKA, I've found it!!!

I was a world-weary jaded traveler by the age of 18, having gone from the farm in Wisconsin to postwar Germany in 1953. Unfortunately I did not travel on the QEII like Mr. Kurtz, but on the Gen. W. O. Darby, a troop-carrying liberty ship reconstituted from WWII. Working with an intelligence-gathering unit at Air Force Headquarters in Weisbaden, I felt that some of the intelligence must have rubbed off and enhanced me personally. As opposed to just going out to the local bierstube and getting silly on German beer and wurstchen as many of my compatriots did, I ALSO discovered many other ecstasies, which included drinking Johannisberger Reising on the banks of the Rhine, dining on Beef Tartare with capers, anchovies and a raw egg yolk in the Rathskeller, i.e. basement of the city hall, or going to Holland to eat smoked eels followed by chilled glasses of Genever. Oh yes, those were heady times after being raised on over-cooked venison sans porcini and Barolo sauce.

Directly behind our base, I discovered a small Italian restaurant next to a block of bombed out buildings. As part of a pay-day ritual, I dined there every two weeks. Chickens were rare in Germany, and the Cacciatore reflected it. The Bifstek mit Champignons was a disaster. However, a Rigatone casserole was fantastic, and it became my must eat meal every two weeks. I have been hoping to find this recipe for the past almost 50 years and just this week it appeared in a fairly new magazine called "Cucina Italiana." Before Faye Levy reinvents it, I will share it with you, and hope to be invited to dinner.

Rigatoni Casserole

- 2 Tbs sweet butter
- 3 Tbs flour
- 1 cup whole milk, heated
- 3/4 lb rigatoni
- 1 onion, minced
- 1 carrot, minced
- 1 celery stalk, minced
- 3 Tbs extra virgin olive oil
- 2 zucchini, cubed
- 3 1/2 oz. Prosciutto, cubed
- 2 Tsp minced parsley
- 1 Tsp minced marjoram
- 2 1/4 cup grated Grana Padano

Make the Bechemel sauce: melt the butter in a 1 quart pot. Add the flour; cook 5 minutes, stirring, over medium heat. Pour in the milk, whisking to avoid lumps. Bring to the boil; cook, stirring, 10 minutes over low heat. Season with salt.

Preheat the oven to 450 degrees. Bring 4 quarts of water to a boil. Cook the Rigatoni with salt & a little oil until al dente; drain.

Saute the onion, carrot, and celery in the olive oil for 5 minutes over medium heat in a 12" saute pan. Add the zucchini, Prosciutto, parsley and marjoram. Cook 5 minutes. Fold in the rigatoni. Transfer to a buttered baking dish. Top with the Bechemel sauce and Grana. Bake 10 minutes; serve hot. Serves 6.

My daughter Lisa, the Italian cook, told me that Grana Padano is a very fine form of Parmaggiano de Reggiano.

Buono appetito!!!

Natalie Neith
&
Ken Catbagan
Catbagan/Neith Team
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A Haunted House

Continued from Page 1

Ralphs wanted to demolish the three houses. After an uproar of several years' duration, they agreed instead to put them up on blocks and move them down the street so the market could have its parking lot. The plan was to eventually relocate them somewhere on that block of Menlo.

Since the houses had become somewhat celebrated from the controversy, we old house buffs would have jumped at a chance to take a closer look, but they were surrounded by chain link and there was a security guard at the gate night and day. Then a piece of luck. My wife Jennifer Charnofsky is an adult education teacher, and it happened (first coincidence) that one of her students was the caretaker for the three houses, and lived in one of them with his family. The other two houses were empty. He offered to open them up one Saturday for Jennifer, myself, Natalie Neith, Joe Ryan and perhaps a few other WAHA members.

Our first stop was the caretaker's house. Jennifer made immediate friends with his six-year-old daughter and they were carrying on an animated conversation in Spanish. I became impatient to see the other houses and set off next door a little ahead of the others. This was one of the two somewhat smaller houses. I walked around the first and second floors for a quick look. Then I found the stairs to the attic. The attic at first appeared to be a single unfinished room with one small window on each of the four sides. Bare rafters and a rough plank floor, like many in the neighborhood. Then I noticed something odd. There was a small room, not more than six by six, off to my right where the roof sloped down where it faced the street. Why, when there were four windows in the attic, build a windowless room? I could see that it was also unfinished on the inside. It was a pool of blackness, but as I took a step toward it I saw a bare light bulb hanging on a cord just inside the doorless entrance.

I took another step toward the tiny room, and then was struck by an overwhelming sense that there was some evil presence in there. I don't mean to be melodramatic or superstitious, but I couldn't shake it off. I looked ahead and said to myself, "Five steps and I can pull the string on the light. This is nonsense. Just do it." I willed myself to cover the distance in a few quick strides and grab the light string. All I could manage was one more step forward before freezing. I didn't care how silly it would look. Better to look silly than to wind up alone in a dark corner with what I seemed to feel was in there. I turned around and bolted down the stairs.

Somehow I missed Jennifer, who had brought the little girl with her to look at the house. I got to the fence outside and stood looking around for her. A minute later the two of them came hurrying out of the house. "What happened?" I asked. "I don't know," Jennifer replied. "As we started up the stairs to the second floor the little girl tugged on my sleeve and kept saying [in Spanish], 'This is a bad, bad place! Let's get out of here!' So we left."

"You didn't go into the attic?" "No, we never even got to the second floor. She was terrified. We had to leave."

I could still sense what I thought of as the lurker in the room. I didn't say anything to Joe and Natalie, but when Jennifer and I got home I thought about it, then became convinced that even *thinking* about "it" would draw its attention and it would migrate from Menlo to our house. I forced myself to think of something else every time the sense of its presence welled up, to keep it from getting a fix on where I was. For about a year I carefully avoided driving or walking on that block of Menlo. I had forgotten this, but Jennifer insists today that at one point our Block Club President, Norma Latimer, proposed buying the evil house and moving it onto an empty lot on Raymond Ave. back to back with our stretch of Van Buren Place—and I threatened to move away!

That is where the story stood for a number of years. Probably a ridiculous case of the willies. Then in February 1999 my work took me to Peru. No connection, right? I was serving as editor on a two-year World Bank study of secondary education in Peru. A draft of the report had to be submitted to the Fujimori government in a few weeks and I was asked to go to Lima to edit the final English version and format the Spanish version. I spent a week in Lima and in the process became friends with the translator, a young Peruvian woman named Lucha. One evening she showed me the sights, including a visit to the historic Jesuit cathedral near the old city square. Her regular job, it seems, was teaching Spanish to long-term visitors, and she kept telling me about a close

Continued on the next page

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A Haunted House

Continued from Page 12

friend and former student of hers who lived in Los Angeles, Father Tom.

When it came time to leave, Lucha gave me a picture of herself to give to Father Tom. She insisted that I really meet him. So in March Jennifer and I invited Thomas Powers, S. J., a professor of theology at Loyola Marymount, to dinner.

Father Tom proved to be a big, genial fellow somewhat younger than we were who seemed to have bummed around the world and worked many jobs before settling down to the clerical life. Kind of a Brother Cadfael. When he arrived at the house, the first thing he said was, "You know, I used to live in this neighborhood." It turned out he was one of the Jesuit priests who had lived on Menlo Avenue (big coincidence two). This immediately recalled the episode of the phantom lurker. So I asked if he would think I was loony if I told him an odd story about one of the Jesuit houses. He said to go ahead. When I finished, his response was completely unexpected. He said, "Did you know that when the order bought the three houses we found Satanic carvings in the big attic room?" He meant the largest of the three houses, the one with the gothic windows.

"There were always strange things going on in that house. Objects frequently disappeared. There were loud noises with no explanation. It was so persistent, that we finally contacted the police to find out who had lived there before we bought the property."

It occurred to me that you had to be working on a thesis of supernatural occurrences to ask the police that question rather than asking who might be breaking in now. But Father Tom said the police were obliging and searched their records for police contact with the houses (they were owned by the same person and sold as a block) in the years before the Jesuits moved in. Now you should understand that this was a long, long time ago. The three houses were supposed to have been deserted for perhaps a decade before the Jesuits bought the property toward the end of

the 1970s. The police, however, did turn up records of complaints about people squatting in the big house and who they were. According to Father Tom, the police said they were members of the Manson family.

The Manson family was broken up when many of its loosely affiliated members were arrested for the murders in August 1969 of pregnant actress Sharon Tate and her guests, Abigail Folger the coffee heiress and her boyfriend Voytek Frykowski, and internationally known hair stylist Jay Sebring, on Cielo Drive in the canyons of Beverly Hills. The next night they killed Leno and Rosemary LaBianca in the Los Feliz district. In the investigations afterward, it was established that the Manson cult had planned to murder a long list of Hollywood notables by various colorful methods of dismemberment, from Elizabeth Taylor to Frank Sinatra. They really did leave bodies in numerous locations where the members lived, particularly at the Spahn Ranch in the mountains near Chatsworth and along a few California roadsides. Where there other places as well? Manson family member Susan Atkins after her arrest said, "There are three bodies buried behind Barker Ranch that they will never find." What about on Menlo Avenue?

Father Tom asked me, "Do you think that the house has absorbed the evil that may have been done there?" "No," I replied. "This was too powerful to be an echo. If you want my gut feeling without any proof that this is real, it is that some very strong and very evil thing lives there, and it incited whatever was done in the house; it didn't just witness it." So much for my doctoral training in sociology and the scientific method.

Around dusk Jennifer, Father Tom, and I walked over to look at the three former Jesuit houses. At that time the properties were partway through their renovation by the CRA as housing for the elderly. The big house with the gothic windows had been moved from the west to the east side of the street. The security guards, perhaps in deference to Father Tom's clerical collar, let us walk freely through the three

structures. My evil house is the southern most of the pair of CRA rehabs on the west side of Menlo just south of the Ralphs market.

When we got inside we saw that the stairs to the attic had been removed and only a trapdoor in the ceiling now provided access. How often does a house remodel include yanking out the stairway to the next level? I couldn't help thinking, "Is there something up there that doesn't want company?" I pulled over a piece of scaffolding and climbed up on it, lifted the trapdoor, and chinned myself on the sill to take a look. Below the attic the two floors had been completely renovated. Everything looked spanking new and modern. As I pulled myself above the level of the floor I could see that nothing in the attic had changed, except for the installation of some ventilation ducts. Off in the corner the evil room was still there. Why, in a full restoration that included cutting off any possibility of ever finishing off the attic for living space, would they leave a room to which there is no access?

Now the house is completed. It looks great when I drive by (I do that now). Old people will move in, and have no idea that walled up and hidden in the ceiling above them is an attic in which there is a small dark room. Did something awful happen there in the days when the Mansonites had the run of the place?

On that balmy day when our film begins, when the handyman opens the attic's trap door and hoists himself up and inside, and peers around the big empty space, he notices that there is an odd little room over in the corner. The background music begins a sinister theme as Curious George walks over to the empty doorway. He steps inside and reaches for the light string as the camera discreetly shifts to something else. Suddenly there is a scream....

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

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1117 24th Street Los Angeles, CA 90007 213/667-0417
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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 323/733-6869 and I would be happy to contact them. -- Steve Wallis

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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 John Deaven (323/737-7761). Classifieds will be for one month only. If you wish to repeat your ad, please call John Deaven by the deadline. After 3 issues for the same ad, there will be a charge of \$.25 per word.

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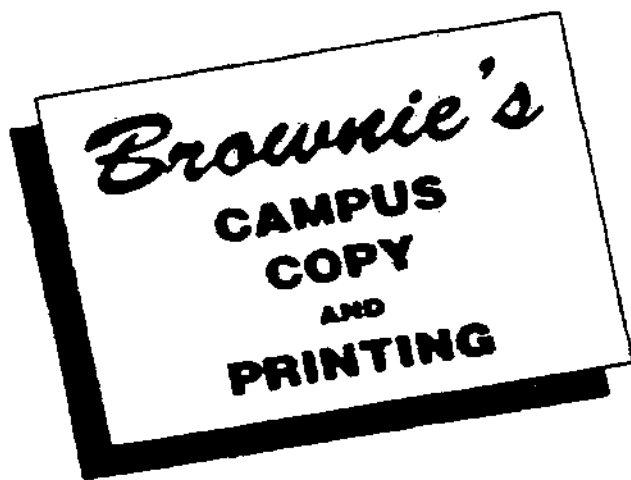
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OPEN YOUR DOORS TO THE WORLD! Students attending a private English Language school on Wilshire near Mariposa are in need of room & board. These students are from Asia, Europe, & South America, mostly in their early to mid-twenties, & typically stay 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.

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 John Deaven (323/737-7761) NO LATER THAN the first of the prior month.



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Notice:

As of October 1, the Community Redevelopment Agency site offices will relocate from Vermont and 29th back into the main downtown CRA headquarters, 354 S. Spring, 213/977-1600.

WAHA October Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5 Pasadena Craftsman Weekend	6
7 Craftsman Weekend continues	8	9	10	11	12	
14	15 Preservation Zoning/ Planning Committee	16 Holiday Tour Committee	17	18	19	20 NUPCA/ ADHOC Mad Hatter Party
21	22	23 Newsletter Committee	24 Membership Committee	25 Board Meeting	26	27 WAHA Halloween Costume Party
28	29	30	31			

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