

# NEWSLETTER



Number 188

November 2001

## Momo Nagano and the Japanese American Experience in The Bungalows

by Laurette Lavin

When my husband and I purchased our 1910 Craftsman bungalow on West 30<sup>th</sup> Street just west of Arlington Avenue, we were told that the Yamamoto family had owned our home for 35 years from 1957 to 1992. After moving into our house two years ago, we found that nearly thirty percent of our neighbors are Japanese American senior citizens. Our gardener, whose services we inherited from the former owners of our home, is Japanese American, as is our postal carrier. If you drive down Jefferson Boulevard between Western and Crenshaw, you can spot the store fronts of various Japanese businesses, some whose signs are barely visible due to age or having closed long ago.

This summer I visited the Japanese American National Museum in downtown Los Angeles at First and Alameda Streets. On display was a weaving by 76-year-old artist Momo Nagano, a former resident of

The Bungalows. Ms. Nagano's weaving commemorates the 197 Japanese American families who lived in the West 30<sup>th</sup> Street area and who lost their homes, businesses, possessions, pets and their freedom when they were interned by the U.S. Government in 1942. The weaving is in the shape of an American flag, with the names of each individual family listed within the stripes. The weaving is called "American Families" and is part of the permanent collection at the museum.

Recently I exchanged e-mail with Ms. Nagano, which led to our meeting in person. Momo currently lives in Silverlake, but still keeps tabs on her old neighborhood. She said the area used to be referred to as "30<sup>th</sup> Street"

because that was the street where most of the Japanese lived. It was also called "the west side" or "the Sienan" (Japanese for southwest). She recalled her sadness about how "it be-

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### New Neighborhood Council Hosts Information Meeting

United Neighborhoods, a proposed Neighborhood Council in the Crenshaw and Historic West Adams Districts of Los Angeles, will present its Board of Directors and information about the purpose of this new organization to community members at a reception on Saturday, November 3, from 3 to 5 p.m. at Sixth Avenue Elementary School, 3109 Sixth Avenue.

The United Neighborhoods Neighborhood Council will work to promote more community in-

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### An Afternoon at The Salisbury House

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

Hosted by Raphael A. Garcia and Sergio Gutman  
Saturday, November 17<sup>th</sup> 1:00 to 4:00 P.M.

Luncheon Potluck  
2703 S. Hoover Street (near USC)

See this fabulous 19<sup>th</sup> Century Queen Anne Victorian House, built in 1891, and designed by noted L.A. architects James H. Bradbeer and Walter Ferris. This house showcases grand collections of fans, dolls, and much, much more.

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

### West Adams Holiday Dreams

"The Street of Dreams," West Adams Boulevard, will be decorated in holiday finery the first weekend of December, when West Adams Heritage Association presents its 15th annual Holiday Tour and progressive dinner at several of its important mansions on Saturday and Sunday, December 1 and 2. But on October 17th, the City's Cultural Heritage Commission members got a "sneak preview" of the WAHA event when they toured the Dryden Residence, which we hope will soon be designated one of Los Angeles' newest Cultural Historic Monuments.

This red brick Georgian-Adam style Colonial Revival was constructed in 1913 for Ida and Josephine Dryden,

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**WEST ADAMS  
HERITAGE ASSOCIATION**

2263 S. Harvard Boulevard  
Historic West Adams  
Los Angeles, California 90018  
323/735-WAHA  
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**WAHA Committee Chairs and  
Standing Meetings**

**Community Outreach** Contact Jacqueline Sharps if you'd like to get involved with this activity 323/766-8842

**Historic Preservation/Zoning & Planning**

Chairs: Eric Bronson 323/737-1163 and Tom Florio 213/749-8469 - Meets third Mondays -11/19 at City Living Realty, 2316 1/2 South Union, Suite 2

**Newsletter** Chair: John Deaven 323/737-7761 -Dark in November - meets December 11th and then on Third Tuesdays as standing meeting

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

**Holiday Tour** Currently meets biweekly Tuesdays 11/13 and 11/27, plus as needed (Count-Down, 30 days until December 1 and 2!). Call Jacqueline Sharps 323/766-8842.

**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

## Membership Directory Completed

Stop scribbling changes into your WAHA Directory. And you don't need to keep track of that post-it note with Tom's, or Mary's, new phone numbers. WAHA's 2001-2002 Membership Directory is completed.

There are two pages of vendors who offer Member Discounts, and another two pages of government and other service bureau phone numbers, for your handy reference. (Please note: many L.A. City numbers have changed now that the departments are moving back into a refurbished City Hall. If we missed some changes, please, please let us know).

New for this year: the roster includes e-mail addresses as we have them. We'd like to encourage all WAHA members to provide us with their electronic addresses so that, in the future, we can update you with timely news as necessary. Please contact John Kurtz, WAHA's Membership Chair, with the information (2102 West 24th Street, 90018; 323/732-2990).

## Calling All Film Stars

For a future story in the WAHA newsletter, we'd like to know if your home has had a starring role in a feature film, television series, or music video (please, no aging heavy metallists). This is a basic Who-What-When request: tell us the name of the film or other project, who starred in it, and, if you can remember, the year of release. Please send the information to Newsletter Editor Laura Meyers (lauramink@aol.com).

## 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.

## PERSPECTIVE

Robert Leary

## The Sacred Fire of Liberty

In the shadow of shells of burnt-out buildings once proud and towering, the new President stood. He had come to see for himself the streets still full of rubble and ash. As he walked his feet would occasionally stomp on a shard of glass, a fragment of brick, or a stone disgorged by the fiery infernos.

The new President had come to view these New York streets, Broadway, Wall, Church, Canal, and Fulton, to witness the utter senselessness of what had happened there. He would see the staggering loss of life, and the heroics of the people of New York in the face of such terrible times. After viewing such devastation, he would need time to go off alone and ponder. He would call into question his ability as a leader to rally his people to rebuild, and call on them to never forget the cost of freedom in the days ahead.

Buildings sited in this area of Manhattan had once stood a staggering three and four stories tall. Now many of these same structures were only a memory to be found illustrated in books. As George W. looked above him the steeple of Trinity Church rose high into the air. Higher than any point in lower Manhattan. In nearby St Paul's Church, this President would find comfort and solace for the hard times that lay before him and his country.

Yet, George Washington stood firm in his commitment in those days of late April 1789 that he would:

"...uphold the preservation of the sacred fire of liberty and the destiny of the Republican model of Government..."

Yes, the horrors of war had indeed come to the streets of Manhattan once before. In the letters and diaries of George Washington are the reminiscences of his taking time to tour the streets of lower Manhattan and to view for himself the damage incurred by the recent War of Independence. George Washington had come to New York in those days of 1789 to assume the office of The President of The (new) United States of America.

In the light of September 11, 2001 it might be of some value to know that some things indeed remain in the area that once was known as the World Trade Center. We have seen the video images of planes, fire and collapse. Yet, much remains.

I invite you now to take a tour of some of the historic buildings that survived Tuesday, September 11, 2001 in the area immediately surrounding what was once the World Trade Center.

Right across from Wall Street is **Federal Hall National Historic Site**. It was on this site in April of 1789 that George Washington and John Adams became the first President and Vice President of the United States. On the steps leading up to Federal Hall is an enormous bronze statue of George Washington caught in the act of placing his hand on the Bible as he takes the oath of office for the first time.

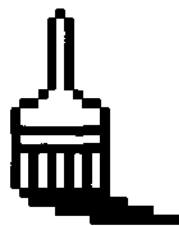
**Trinity Church** is only a few blocks from the World Trade Center. The present church dates from 1839-46 and was designed by Richard Upjohn. Trinity Church and Parish were originally established in 1696, preceding the establishment of The United States by a full 80 years. Mem-

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## Bolts and Nutz

by Linda Joshua



Hello and welcome to "Bolts and Nutz" – a column dedicated to matters of home renovation and the art of restoration within the WAHA community. As I am not a renovation or restoration expert by any means, I will take on the role of moderator and will be asking folks with home improvement experience to help answer the questions we receive here at the West Adams Heritage Association Newsletter. 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](mailto:Linda_Joshua@hotmail.com)

**Q. This is driving me crazy! I have residue of plaster dust on my woodwork, and I have tried several times to get rid of it, by washing it carefully. When it is wet everything looks great; however, when it dries, the dust reappears. Is there an easy way to fix this?**

Peter, Jefferson Park

**A. Easier than you think! Mix a tablespoon of any kind of oil (with the exception of linseed or motor oil!) in a bucket of warm water. Mix it as best you can, dip a sponge in the water, squeeze as dry as practicable, and wipe on the woodwork. That pesky plaster dust is now a thing of the past.**

**Q. I have noticed that my chimney has some loose bricks and is in need of some restoration, but I have no idea what sort of contractor I need that will provide quality work. Any suggestions?**

Lola, West Adams

**A. There are two people who work on chimneys – masons and chimney men. Not all chimney men are masons, but there are very few masons**

**who do not also work on chimneys. So, your mission, if you choose to accept it, is to find a mason who is experienced in chimney work. It sounds suspiciously as if the bricks are in need of repointing, which entails digging out the old mortar and inserting new mortar. If a lot of the bricks are loose, the services of a mason are definitely in order as it may require rebuilding the chimney from the roofline up.**

**Q. I would like to strip the paint from my interior doors that have six coats of paint on them, some of which contain lead. How can I strip off that paint safely?**

Ryan, Los Angeles

**A. Oh boy! Most home improvement projects are really kind of fun. Removing paint is not one of them... The more coats of paint on the old wood that you want to restore, the tougher it is to get it off. And when the wood has paint in all kinds of nooks and crannies the tedium is magnified. In your case, stripping the doors presents an additional problem, particularly since you know there is lead paint present. You can't sand the doors, and you really shouldn't remove such paint with a hot-air gun, although you might be able to do it outdoors, saving the scraped bits of paint for proper disposal, and wearing a proper mask while heating and scraping. The advantages of using a hot-air gun outdoors is that you can control the heat to prevent it from smoking and you from breathing the fumes, and that the scraped-off particles of paint tend to harden when they cool, making disposal easier. For additional information, including options of the chemical kind, start by looking at: <http://www.paintremoval.com>**

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## In the Garden: lawn Care

by Linda Joshua

As the summer starts winding down, it is a good time to have a closer look at our lawns, and see how they are faring. There are many benefits to a healthy thriving lawn such as keeping air temperatures cooler in the summertime, and providing a nice outdoor setting. On the other hand, Americans spend \$956 million on synthetic lawn fertilizers each year, and a whopping \$1.5 billion on pesticides and herbicides. Even when we use these chemicals correctly, they can wash into our lakes, rivers and groundwater. Closer to home, these chemicals can kill or harm beneficial soil life and insects, pets and wildlife, and even human beings who are sensitive to toxins.

Let's examine our relationship with our lawns and some of the key principles involved in a natural, low-maintenance lawn – one that you can feel good about growing and that is easy to maintain.

Start with the basics. You need to choose the right kind of grass. If the type of grass is not suited to the site, it will be very hard for it to thrive. When choosing grass for your garden, consider your climate (think hot desert summer), the amount of sun or shade the lawn receives, and how much traffic the lawn is subject to.

The next step is to provide a healthy soil environment. If the soil is soft and crumbly and you've noticed some worms, you're already on your way. If you need a bit of help, the best place to start is to feed the soil. Grass requires organic matter and the best way to do this is to apply a quarter inch layer of compost or good topsoil and rake it into the turf.

From here we move onto the question of how much to water your lawn. This really depends upon factors such as weather conditions, grass variety and soil type, but we'll go over some basics.

The best time to water is early in the morning, and sprinklers should be left on long enough to allow water to soak into the ground but not so long to cause runoff. By watering deeply (a depth of 6 to 8 inches) it allows the grass to develop a deep root system, which helps it to resist disease and drought. To check if the soil is sufficiently moist, insert a spade into the lawn and tilt it forward to see how far the moisture has spread. If the soil is not adequately moist, and you are not able to devote time and water to the lawn, do not water at all. This will result in stunted grass growth, and the grass will begin growing again when the weather cools or the rain returns.

So how about mowing? Mow high, mow a little at a time and keep the mower blade sharp. The more leafy material you remove from the turf, the more the grass is stimulated to replace it by using food reserves stored in the root system. If you cut too much of the grass blade at one time,

this can deplete the reserves faster than they can be replenished, resulting in a weak root system that's more susceptible to disease and weeds.

Grass recycling is also a great idea and can be done with almost any mower. All you need to do is remove the collection bag so grass clippings drop to the lawn. These clippings decompose quickly, releasing valuable nutrients back into the soil.

What about those pesky weeds? Look carefully, because weeds are often indicators of infertile soil or troubled grass. Moss, for example can indicate a shady, acid and infertile soil, and dandelions may indicate a potassium deficiency. Another good reason to mow your lawn high is that most weeds need light to germinate and taller grass will shade them out. If you need to remove weeds, hand-pull them and reseed heavily with a fast-growing lawn seed, but if your lawn is at least 50% weeds, it's probably a good idea to start over.

Do you suspect disease? Lawn diseases are often difficult to recognize because the symptoms often resemble nutrient deficiencies and insect damage. If you think you have a fungal disease, your best bet is to contact your local nursery for a diagnosis. Most fungal diseases can be avoided by following proper lawn practices, which are, don't over water, don't water in the evening, remove thatch and mow high.

Proper mowing, watering and fertilizing are the key to a healthy green lawn. Once established, your lawn will reward you with green, lush blades of grass that will enhance your yard year after year.

[http://www.smartgardening.com/Grass\\_Recycling.htm](http://www.smartgardening.com/Grass_Recycling.htm)

<http://www.gardeners.com>

## A Berry, Merry Christmas

The Volunteer Association of Sherman Library and Gardens in Corona del Mar invites you to its "Berry Merry Christmas" gift shop, open November 9 through December 24, 10:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. daily.

Gift selections will include handmade needlework and decorations for the tree and home. Holiday cards, gift wrap, tags and eclectic gifts for the home and garden will be available.

Order Red, Monet or Christmas Rose Paul Ecke poinsettias now for delivery in December.

The Sherman Library and Gardens is located at 2647 E. Coast Highway, Corona del Mar. For additional information, call 949/673-2261.



# A Repainted Lady

by Jim Childs

As long-time preservation activists Jean Frost and I share the belief that we are only transitional stewards of a unique piece of Los Angeles history. The beautiful Victorian Queen-Anne / Eastlake house that we are most fortunate to own mandates the most sensitive of care. It is also however our home and we have been able to express our individual imprint on its character through color (the most easily reversible action).

Fifteen years ago we spent an agonizing amount of time in developing our color statement. This of course was long before today's convenient computer manipulations so we photo-

graphed, line-traced, and then hand colored all our variations. We limited our choice to the SHERWIN / WILLIAMS "Heritage Colors 1820-1920" because of their authentic palette and their high quality product. Their "SUPERPAINT" / Exterior Gloss Latex House and Trim Paint served us very well.

Alas the time inevitably came when we had to do it all over again. We were lucky, we found Ryan Painting Services. Joe Ryan (believe it or not, another Preservation-oriented Joe Ryan) and his staff had recently done several other University Park Victorian houses including those of WAHA members David and Sara Botcher (LA-HCM

#561) and Doctors Chet and the late Dorothy Miller (LA-HCM #560 and LA-HCM #500, address at 2125, 2121, & 2122 Bonsallo respectively).

When Joe initially walked through the project with me I'm sure he was quietly bemused as I kept repeating that I wasn't sure whether or not the whole house really needed to be repainted. I must confess that I had grown very comfortable with the aging of the house and felt very fond of its patina. I had dealt with my personal acquired patina for the last fifteen years daily in the mirror and was most likely reassured that although the house and I were "getting along in years" we were still acceptable. As I look at the house after the grime has been water-blasted off, the scaling paint scraped and sanded, the surface primed and painted with a glossy sheen, I'm wondering if I might not be better off myself with some exercise, diet, and possible a little tuck or two here or there.

We knew that our complex paint scheme design calling for seven principle and four accent colors was going to be a difficult and challenging assignment for the crew. The three man team — Mando, Arturo, and Omar — that Joe provided treated our home with the respect I had hoped for when we first contracted him for the job. Their professional dedication to detail and their work ethic are certainly unusual in today's culture. Lead painter Mando with his upbeat personality and patience with our concerns made every day of the six week experience very enjoyable.

While watching Mando make the necessary multiple accents up the 32' ladder, to complete the sun-burst gables where six of the colors converged, I wondered if he felt that a single yellow might not have been a better choice. If he did he never com-

## 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! \$1,300,000

\* **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

### In Escrow:

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

\* **Fourplex in The Bungalows**, 2181 W. 27th Street

### Sold:

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

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

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### Perspective: Sacred Fire of Liberty Continued from page 3

bers of the early congregations included Alexander Hamilton and Captain Kidd. Alexander Hamilton is buried in the adjoining graveyard. Richard Morris Hunt designed the enormous bronze doors at the front of the church. Karl Bitter designed the exterior sculptures, and some of the stained glass windows date from 1839.

At Bowling Green stands **The Old U.S. Customs House**. (Now part of The Smithsonian Institution). This building was designed by Cass Gilbert between 1899-1907. The U. S. Customs House is a Beaux Arts marvel of a building considered by many to be the finest and most beautiful example of this type of architecture in New York City. The building is flanked by four marble statues by the great Daniel Chester French. The statues are allegorical representations of four of the continents; Africa, Asia, America and Europa.

Finally, **St. Paul's Chapel** at Broadway and Fulton still stands. This is the only pre-revolutionary building left in New York City. St. Paul's Chapel is the chapel where George Washington came to pray directly after being sworn in as our first President. The pew that he and Martha Washington used when they came to services still bear their names. St. Paul's Chapel was severely damaged in the attack of September 11. As the North Tower of the World Trade Center came crashing down only hundreds of feet away from the property line, an old tree on the corner side of the property absorbed the full brunt of the titanic impact. A few of the windows in the building were blown out and there is damage to the original circa 1780's crystal chandeliers, yet the building is structurally sound and will be repaired.

Miraculously, inside the building one of the first oil paintings depicting the Great Seal of The United States went unharmed. As was reported in the New York Times, the remains of the tree that saved the building will be carved into a baptismal font to be used by the church as soon as the building can be reopened to the public.

Anyone interested in seeing photos of St. Paul's may log on to:

[http://www.trinitywallstreet.org/galleries/gal03\\_1.html](http://www.trinitywallstreet.org/galleries/gal03_1.html)

These are only four examples of the many structures that remain in the area that what was once The World Trade Center. These buildings hearken us back to a time when the United States was only an idea.

Some of these buildings were here before this Government even existed. These buildings survived The French and Indian Wars, The Revolutionary War, The War of 1812, The War with Mexico, The Civil War, The Spanish-American War, World War I, The Great Depression, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, The Gulf War and now they have, and will continue to survive whatever may come in the days ahead.

Louis Sullivan once said that a building should be: "a proud and soaring thing." These four buildings now stand with the greatest National monuments ever produced by the American mind and spirit. Their histories are ennobled

and enriched by the people who lost their lives that day. May these buildings continue to stand for generations to come. And when we return to these buildings may we always remember "the sacred fire of liberty" bourn out of the fires of September 11, 2001 and the lives of those who are now forever entwined within the story of these buildings.

### A Repainted Lady Continued from page 6

plained and when the gables were finished he seem every bit as pleased with a job well done as we were.

It was a timely and prudent action. Although I had grown accustomed to the patina, that patina wasn't doing the job of paint. Paints' job of course is to protect the wood, only secondarily offering the possibility for a peacockian display of individual taste. We're confident that Sherwin-Williams will continue to perform the job of paint and so thrilled with the revitalized visual impact. Our somewhat faded Painted-Lady has been restored again to her full and glorious splendor. I must add that this effort was only accomplished through the availability of a matching grant program funded through the recently terminated CRA Adams-Normandie 4321 Project Area and our many thanks to Project Manager Ed Saulet, Ruth Mathis and all of the staff for their kind assistance. When you're in the neighborhood please stop by for a look-see.

*Jim Childs & Jean Frost are the current owners of 2314 Scarff Street: The Seaman-Foshay House (1887) is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, a contributing structure to the St. James Park National Register Historic District, a Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument #408, and part of the University Park Historic Preservation Overlay Zone.*

*For information about Ryan Painting Services contact: Joe Ryan, 909 El Centro South Pasadena, CA 91030. Or call 626/799-2672 or e-mail: painternow@hotmail.com*

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## Through My Eyes Only Our 2001 Cemetery Tour

By John B. Deaven

Remember how pleasant WAHA's 4<sup>th</sup> of July bash was this year at the well-known Cummings B. Jones/Marvin Gaye Residence owned by Larry Leker and Tom Rozelle? There was good food, good attendance, and good fellowship as the Bob Bortfeld Award was presented to Newsletter Editor Laura Meyers. At the same affair our very efficient cemetery tour committee members, Audrey Arlington, Corinne Pleger, Don Lynch, and historian Lyn Gillson, were very busy recruiting volunteers for their autumn event. This is where my 2001 Angelus-Rosedale Cemetery Tour story begins.

Would I be willing, asked the committee members, to accept something more challenging than greeting people at the tour's check-in booth, which I enjoyed doing for the last three years? Would I be willing to portray one of this year's deceased on the tour? My mind flashed on WAHA members Rory Cunningham, Peggy King, Natalie Neith, Joe Bergin, Leslie Evans, Harold Toliver, and Martin Weil. Would my efforts be as memorable to others as their graveside performances were to me in the past? One never knows until one tries! So, I agreed. I was told I would be Los Angeles poet Albert Kercheval (1829-1893). His monument is Rosedale's "weeping lady," carved in stone. I was familiar with the sculpture from previous Rosedale visits, and I felt that was a good omen and a nice honor. The stonework was featured inside this year's tour program.

In August, Lyn, along with board member John Kurtz, gave me plenty of information on my gentleman. He was an enthusiastic horticulturist, once serving as president of the Los Angeles County Horticultural Commission, and he was a member of the L.A. City Council.

In mid-September my fellow performers and I were asked to meet at Corinne's 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue house for a dress rehearsal and costume fitting. Like I

said in our Sept. '01 newsletter, Corinne is an award-winning costumer, winning 1<sup>st</sup> place blue ribbons at the L.A. County Fair. Nine-year-old Evan Pleger was part of our preview audience! Thus, it was in the Pleger's beautiful 1908 living room that I got to witness the other components of the 2001 tour. Gary Lee portrayed Asian art importer Fong See (1857-1957). Peter Lownds was historian Charles Prudhomme (1854-1934). Ron Farwell became Los Angeles N.A.A.C.P. Chapter founder Dr. John Somerville (1882-1973). Plus, Ka'ua Archambault told her real life story about her great-grandparents Sam (1897-1954) and Eugenia Nainoa (1884-1946), entertainers who popularized the Hawaiian Steel Guitar. That same evening Audrey, Corinne, and Lyn expressed concern whether Don Lynch would be back in time for the tour. Don, who has written extensively about the Titanic, was invited to actually see the real Titanic at the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean in a special submarine. However, the events of September 11<sup>th</sup> delayed his return a great deal. On tour day, Saturday, Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>, Don was still not in California.

Nevertheless, the show must go on, as they say, and it did. Volunteers, set pieces, booths, tents, and chairs all seemed to be in place and ready. Dave Pleger, Laurie Brainard, Carla Sotelo, and Jean Crupper were directing cars where to park. Sally Turner and Stevie Stern worked the check-in table. Peggy King checked in all volunteers and gave them their nametags. Tom Gracyk, Rina Rubenstein, Leah Griffith, and board member Alma Carlisle helped guests at the chapel, the tour's starting point. Steve Heywood was inside the chapel giving the welcoming speech.

The 1<sup>st</sup> tour was at 9 a.m., and Judie and Alan Schoening were the guides. In the 1<sup>st</sup> group I spotted my WAHA friends Allen and Zhenya King staring at me. It took me a second or

two to realize that I could not say hello to them. I had to just trust that they were having an enjoyable morning watching the show and that Zhenya's pregnancy was going smoothly.

Natalie Neith and Ken Catbagan were the guides for the 2<sup>nd</sup> group, which included Ron Jarman video taping. Like Norma Desmond, I was ready for my close-up! Suzie Henderson's unique black dress and hat as a tour guide truly caught my attention. I found myself looking at her several times during my speech, knowing in my heart how much I enjoy her sense of fun. Rory Cunningham was the guide for the final group, and I felt that those people truly got their money's worth. Rory's thoroughness about the cemetery's details was plentiful. Other helpful guides that day included David Saffer, Julian Montalbano, Theresa Lownds, Marian Clarke, Frank Cooper, Michael J. Kouri, Suzanne Cooper, Paula Bryen, Lisa Berns, and David Pacheco. Taking the tour as a customer was former active WAHA member Donald Leonard, now of San Francisco. He made a point to say hello to me afterwards. He was in L.A. for a visit, and he said he had family at Rosedale.

Georgia Toliver was in charge of lunch for all volunteers, and Phoebe Heywood worked the refreshment table. WAHA President Jacqueline Sharps worked the WAHA booth at the end, encouraging folks to buy their Holiday Tour tickets, along with Arabella Davis, who sold WAHA merchandise. Plus, it wouldn't be a cemetery tour without the help of Fran Carraway. She was in charge of crowd control this year. Also, Cat Slater was recruited at the last minute to work all day helping the tour coordinators in Don's absence.

Before leaving Rosedale Cemetery, I felt the need to quickly visit the grave of Bob Bortfeld (1950-1986), founder of City Living Realty and West Adams Heritage Association. It has now been 15 years since he left us.

The volunteer party that evening was at the Schoening's lovely 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue house. Everyone had a good time retelling highlights of the day!



## BLOCK CLUB & NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS



### 24th Street Block Club

At the September and October 24th Street block club meetings the neighbors talked of the recent changes surrounding the area of 24th Street. New alleyway gates have been installed on 24th street between Gramercy and Cimmaron, to the delight of all. The palm trees on the surrounding streets have been trimmed and there is road reconstruction on Gramercy by the Amateur Athletic Foundation. The thorny issue of property zoning was discussed, as was the issue of acceptable noise levels when neigh-

bors have large outdoor parties. The issue of the amount of trash left behind on homeowner's lawns by the children exiting the schools in the area was brought to the floor. Neighbors also expressed their concern about the busses that roar down 24th Street during the week. This is a practice this is both illegal and unsafe. A petition is being written to be sent to the principal of the school and the bus companies to let it be known that the patience of the neighbors is wearing thin and something needs to be done about these problems and soon!

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

## Mark Your Calendars!

We're thinking of an Old-Fashioned Christmas....Don't forget WAHA's Holiday Tour (as if we'd let you!) -- Saturday and Sunday, December 1 and 2. Kick off the holiday season in style, and invite your friends to tour our beautiful mansions on the Street of Dreams. Or volunteer to help. See page 10.

**Gingerbread and Lace....** Join WAHA for an Afternoon at the Salisbury House, Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument #240, on Saturday, November 17, from 1 to 4 p.m. See this extravagant 1891 Queen Anne Victorian, designed by architects James H. Bradbeer and Walter Ferris.

Owners Raphael A. Garcia and Sergio Gutman have not only beautifully restored and maintained this historic residence, they have added their personal touch many times over with collections of fans, dolls, and much, much more.

The event is a Potluck luncheon. Salisbury House is located at 2703 S. Hoover Street, in the North University Park/USC area.

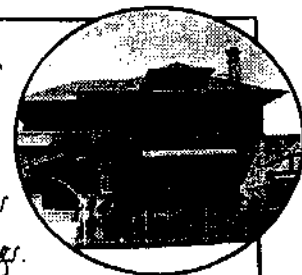
**Still in a Party Mood?...** John John and Nancy Deaven at their annual Autumn Reception, in honor of son Joseph's 12th birthday. Saturday, November 17, 6 - 10 p.m. at 2410 Fourth Avenue. Theme: Take Me Out to the Ball Game. RSVP: 323/737-7761.

## Lady Effie's Tea Parlor

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## Holiday Tour Volunteers Needed

WAHA's annual Holiday Tour, scheduled for December 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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](mailto:wigginsla@mediaone.net)) or call her at 323/733-1246.

### Holiday on the Street of Dreams

#### Continued from page 1

the daughters of Los Angeles pioneer William Dryden. Their home was in the heart of the Adams Boulevard mansion district, in a section called West Adams Terrace. Indeed, between 1900 and 1920, West Adams was considered to be the finest residential street in Los Angeles and the social life of the adolescent city centered here. A high proportion of the Angelenos listed in the Blue Book of 1910 owned elegant mansions on or nearby Adams Boulevard. Directly across from the Drydens' new home, on the south side of Adams Boulevard, West Adams Park offered view lots stretching 500 feet deep along a ridge overlooking the Baldwin Hills, and 150- to 200-foot frontages. Here were built major estates, like the Guasti Villa (better known today as the Busby Berkeley Mansion), and the 14,500-square-foot MacGowan Mansion

(perhaps the largest original pre-WWI residence still standing in Los Angeles). Both landmark properties will be opened for WAHA's Holiday Tour, along with the Dryden Residence.

William Dryden was a prominent member of the Los Angeles Pioneer Society. Dryden was born in New York in 1835, and moved to Santa Cruz, California in 1861, leaving a job as a train conductor in the Southern States of the U.S. as the Civil War was breaking out. According to an early historical record, Dryden had "a long cherished plan, that of going to the Pacific Coast. His father had made the trip in 1852, on the ill-fated ship Emily, and ere she had reached her destination twenty-two of her passengers died and were buried at sea." The elder Dryden had presided over these funeral services, but was among the fortunate survivors. Reaching California, he successfully prospected, and even-

Continued on next page

## Holiday on the Street of Dreams Continued from Page 10

eventually convinced his son to move west as well. When William Dryden reached Santa Cruz, he found work with the father of Hon. Stephen M. White. In 1868, Dryden moved again, to Los Angeles, and began to purchase land until he owned several hundred acres, becoming one of the young city's most prosperous citizens. He had been involved in some of the early litigation disputes over old Spanish landholdings, losing some 80 acres, but over time the acres he retained were profitably farmed. He also invested in oil and mines in Southern California. According to this account, Dryden was also active in local politics, and the Democratic Party, casting his first vote for Stephen A. Douglas "and never since that time has [he] failed to use his vote and influence for his party."

The Drydens hired architect, Charles E. Shattuck, who was an eminent East Coast native who had moved to Los Angeles in the 1880s. Shattuck pioneered in the design of country clubs, and helped prepare the plans for the city's first produce market. According to his obituary, he also "designed the first mausoleum in Southern California." Among the structures he designed was also the Tudor Revival residence built next door to the Dryden family's home, at 3817 West Adams Blvd., the following year.

The Dryden Residence has been meticulously restored and updated by current owners Eric and Greg Wolfson-Sagot. You won't want to miss out seeing this landmark house, and all the others on this year's tour. WAHA members are invited to participate as volunteers (see accompanying story) or as touring guests (OR BOTH — this IS a two-day event!).

All members should by now have received both a flyer/ticket order form (enclosed in last month's newsletter) and a postcard in the mail with the same ticket ordering information.

### But just in case, here are the details again:

Tour dates: December 1 and 2

Tours begin....Saturday from 3:30 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.,  
Sundat from 3 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

Tickets: \$60 per person (members discount, \$55; \$25 for children under 12)

Make checks payable to WAHA and mail to: 1620 Virginia Road, Los Angeles 90019.

Reservations and information: 323/732-2774.

To volunteer: Contact Lindsay Wiggins, 323/733-1246 or (better) by e-mail, wigginsla@mediaone.net. (Please do not call Lindsay for reservations — she can't take them!).

## United Neighborhoods Continued from page 1

put into the City's decision-making processes in order to make government more responsive to local needs. At the November 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, officers will discuss why United Neighborhoods is forming a Neighborhood Council, and will present the group's by-laws and proposed application for certification by the City.

Voters in the City of Los Angeles established a Department of Neighborhood Empowerment(DONE) with the goal of creating localized Neighborhood Councils when they passed a revised City Charter in June, 1999. The first several proposed Neighborhood Councils submitted their applications for certification to the City in early October. United Neighborhoods will turn in its application for certification after the November 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

The boundaries of the proposed United Neighborhoods Neighborhood Council are Pico Boulevard on the north, Crenshaw Boulevard on the west, Exposition Place on the south, and, to the east, Western Boulevard below (south) of the 10 Freeway, and Normandie above (north) the 10 Freeway back up to Pico. It includes many distinct neighborhoods and tracts, including: Harvard Heights, West Adams Heights, Jefferson Park, Western Heights, Kinney Heights, Arlington Heights Extension (the Avenues/ Bronson/Washington/Venice), Angelus Vista Tract (Cimarron/Gramercy Place/Washington Boulevard), The Bungalows of West Adams (26<sup>th</sup> through 31<sup>st</sup> Streets) and West Adams Avenues.

The United Neighborhoods reception is open to all "community stakeholders," including residents, business owners and their employees, property owners, and anyone who worships, shops and/or attends school in the area. Any WAHA member who participates regularly in activities within these boundaries is considered a stakeholder (ie: potential member) of a Neighborhood Council under DONE's guidelines, whether or not you actually live within the specific boundaries, although if you live in other parts of Historic West Adams you may not be eligible to run for a Board position. (Yes, the rules are a bit strange).

Community stakeholders are also invited to participate in the United Neighborhoods' monthly Board meetings, held on the first Thursday of each month, at the Community Room of the Wilshire Division LAPD Police Station, 4861 Venice Blvd., at 6:30 p.m.

It's especially important for those interested in historic preservation issues, and zoning issues, to become involved with this fledgling Neighborhood Council, since -- once it's certified by the City (if it is) -- the Council will be responsible for making at least some recommendations on your behalf about these issues to government staffers and elected officials.

So, make your voice heard and your opinion count. Please plan to attend the November 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting and, if possible, the monthly Board meetings as well.

-- Laura Meyers

## Resources Judie Schoening

As I promised last month, this column is all about catalogues. Since I am writing it early in the month in order to meet Laura's deadline before we leave on another business trip, I have not waited to receive any input from you people out there. Sorry! I will include any suggestions you have next time but do get them to me early in the month. So the following are from out own experiences here at the Schoenings.

As you can imagine, lots of the catalogues go right in the circular file. When a new one comes in however, we do at least glance through. When catalogues first started hitting the mailbox, we did not succumb. An occasional try did not turn out well. But we now use them extensively mainly because we are not enamoured with Mall shopping and also because we spend so much time in stores for our business.. We have found that phoning rather than mailing or faxing your order works a lot better. You can ask questions and also find out if your item is in stock or backordered. Most of the clerks are quite helpful. Buying online has not worked well for me personally and I seem to end up having to phone a real person anyway. Information such as taxes and shipping cost are generally not given online and I seem to always make some mistake and end up thinking I've order something when I haven't. Also you get all those annoying solicitations on your email afterward.

The following are listed alphabetically and I have included websites when they are given.

*Gardener's Supply Company 128 Intervale Road Burlington VT 05401 Ph: 888-833-1412 [www.gardeners.com](http://www.gardeners.com) All sorts of wonderful things for the garden or related to the garden. A gadget lover heaven.*

*Grill Lover's P.O. Box 1300 Columbus GA 31902-1300. Ph: 800-241-8981 FAX: 706-565-2121 [www.GrillLovers.com](http://www.GrillLovers.com) How about a \$5000 grill or maybe a \$29.95 Light*

*you can attach to the grill you already have? Delivers promptly too*

*LandsEnd Ph: 800-356-4444 FAX 8000-332-0103 or [www.landsend.com](http://www.landsend.com) You can find "discontinued" merchandise online and then order via phone if you can't find what you want in your current catalogue. This catalogue is a godsend when you have a husband like mine who won't shop for himself and hates what I buy for him. I also sent a gift to my stepmother last year and got rave reviews on the packaging as well as the items.*

*Penzeys Spices.19300 Janacek Court P O Box 924 Brookfield WI 55008-0924 Ph: 800-741-7787 FAX: 262-785-7678 [www.penzeys.com](http://www.penzeys.com) My first experience with this was sending gifts at Christmas. They package the gift packs with bay leaves, nutmegs and cinnamon sticks. We love the spices especially the mixes and the catalogue has new recipes every month. The spice jars have recipes as well.*

*Plow & Hearth P O Box 6000 Madison VA 22727-1600 Ph: 800-627-1712 FAX: 800-843-2509 [www.plowhearth.com](http://www.plowhearth.com) Great stuff for the fireplace or the house in general. We were pleased with what we ordered from them and with the delivery.*

*Van Dyke's Restorers P O Box 278 Woonsocket SD 57385 Ph: 800-787-3355*

*FAX: 605-796-4085 [www.vandykes.com](http://www.vandykes.com) This is a big fat catalogue and includes everything from furniture kits to hardware to upholstery supplies. Alan found a real Dietz oil lamp and a replacement globe for the Dietz lamp we already owned.*

*Talbots Womens clothes and accessories Ph:800-825-2687 The advantages here are that: you can order sizes that are not in the store, if you order catalogue items at a store, there is no shipping charge and you can return merchandise to the store in stead of shipping it back. If you like the Talbot's style, it is a great catalogue.*

*The Vermont Country Store P O 6999 Rutland VT 05702-6999 Ph: 802-362-8440 FAX: 802-363-0285 [www.vermontcountrystore.com](http://www.vermontcountrystore.com). All the stuff you used to buy in stores like dress-shields (did anybody every wear those?) and walnettos (did people eat them or were they just a joke on Laugh-In?) I ordered Nonpareils in two flavors to be sent to a store called Nonpareils for their opening. They found them "just delicious" and ordered more to serve in the store.*

Finally, I have a correction and amplification on last month resource: Gateway Exterminators (note correct name) Corrected number 310-372-0984 FAX is 310-379-6906 email: [jjj@flash.net](mailto:jjj@flash.net). Judy Jackson is happy to supply references and she is offering WAHA Members a \$50 discount on the first visit. This company has been on the Coldwell Banker Concierge list for 5 years.

Next month I will put in all the other resources I have received recently plus any of your catalogue suggestions. Please FAX 323-733-3541 or email [schoening@mediaone.net](mailto:schoening@mediaone.net) any suggestions. This is the best way to get them to me.

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## A Thought for Food by Alan Schoening

IF LIFE SERVES UP LEMONS, MAKE LEMONADE!!!

September was a terrible month in the life of our little country. Incomprehensible destruction rained down within our cities and upon our psyches. There are parts of each that will never recover. While I am a master of the one-liner, the quick retort, the sarcastic comment directed at both friends and foes, I am at a loss to be flip about our country at this time.

My father and his four brothers fought in WWII along with my step-father and his brother. I served during the Korean War, my brother served in Vietnam and all the while we hoped for peace for future generations. Well, here we go again. My daughters, fortunately for me, are beyond draft age. My brother's two sons are in their teens and twenties. Could they go to fight terrorists? Should they go? Where would they go?

I can define a recipe of hate:

4 cups of rubble from the World Trade Center  
 1 cup incomprehensible bile  
 2 irradiated eggs separated religiously and racially  
 1 1/2 cups of anthrax inspired milk  
 Mix thoroughly into a jet fuel blackened crust and bake forever.

For the filling:

6 cups of acid rain apples, sliced. Stir into 4 cups of bio-chemically destroyed beet sugar, and 1 Tbs. Of angst and a tsp. Of bitters. Cover with a Talibanic chador, sprinkle with bits of our flag and bake, never turning the oven off until the last trace has disappeared.

On the other hand, in spite of the tragedy and the attacks on our country and our sanity, life will go on again.

MOM'S APPLE PIE - it solves most problems

6 to 8 tart apples, pared, cored and thinly sliced  
 1 Tbs lime juice  
 1 cup sugar  
 1 Tbs all-purpose flour  
 1/2 tsp cinnamon  
 dash of ground nutmeg  
 pastry for 2-crust 9 inch pie  
 2 Tbs butter

Sprinkle the sliced apples with lime juice. Combine sugar, flour, spices and a dash of salt; mix with apples. Line a 9 inch pie plate with pastry. (Pillsbury ready-made crusts work beautifully). Fill with the apple mixture; dot with butter. Adjust top crust, cutting slits for escape of steam. Sprinkle with cinnamon sugar. Bake at 400 degrees for 50 minutes or until done.

The really hard part is deciding between sharp Cheddar or Breyers French vanilla. There, feel better???

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 www.natalieneith.com

### Japanese American Experience Continued from Page 1

came a ghost neighborhood in a single day when every Japanese family was ordered to report to the Japanese Methodist Church at Normandie and 37<sup>th</sup> Street from where they were put on buses that took them to the Santa Anita racetrack for incarceration."

Momo's family left Los Angeles on April 2, before the actual removal of the Japanese, "because my father [Kiro Nagano] was picked up by the F.B.I. on the night of December 7, 1941." The U.S. Attorney authorized the F.B.I. on that familiar date to arrest "dangerous enemy aliens" as they termed it, which included Japanese nationals. Of course, there was never any evidence found that the Japanese living in the United States posed any threat. The hysteria was so high, however, that 1942 was the only time that the Rose Bowl was not held in Pasadena. It was held in Durham, North Carolina, instead, because the government feared that bombings were planned for Pasadena.

Momo's mother instructed her not to tell anyone that her father had been taken into custody. When she went to school the next day, however, she found out that some of her friends' fathers had also been taken. One friend, Yuri Rikimaru, was cheered to learn that Momo's father had also been taken; apparently it was comforting to know that her father was not the only one. Yuri died last May and in the week before her death the two friends still joked about the humor of Yuri's reaction at such a frightening time.

After the attack on Pearl Harbor, a boy in Momo's class raised his hand and told the teacher that he thought all Japanese should be sent back to Japan. Momo had considered the boy a friend, and his comment hurt the Japanese American students in the class. A fellow female student and the teacher quickly spoke up in disagreement.

The Nagano family had originally lived on West 30<sup>th</sup> Street, then on West 31<sup>st</sup> Street, and two months after the war

had moved to a home on West 27<sup>th</sup> Street which Mr. Nagano had been building for them and which her brother had designed. With her father gone and tensions high, Momo's mother "chose to go with family friends who were going to Manzanar, the first permanent internment camp established." Momo recalled that her mother "had us just walk away from the house, after we packed all of our personal belongings into crates which we left in the living room."

Many of the Japanese in The Bungalows were renters, due to the restrictive covenants. Some who owned their homes were forced to quickly sell them at a loss before being interned, while others were lucky enough to find someone to tend to their property. In the case of the Naganos, "a white friend of our family friends took it upon himself to find a family to rent the house during the war and literally saved it for us while we were gone." Momo recently learned that this man was a dentist who had been a regular customer at a small snack shop near Angel's Flight which was owned by a family friend. This man collected the rent on her family's house and arranged for repairs. He even maintained the family car while they were gone, starting the engine periodically. Momo regrets she never met this man to thank him.

Manzanar Relocation Center was located due east of Fresno. Momo missed her friends, as almost all of the other families from The Bungalows were sent to a different camp in Colorado called Amache. For her flag weaving project, Momo "asked all of my surviving friends for the date that they left the neighborhood, but not a single one remembers the actual date. Some don't remember how their families got to the Methodist church" as "they appear to have blocked the memory of that day from their minds."

A photograph taken in the 1930's shows the Nagano family in formal clothing (with Momo in traditional Japanese garb). Their Christmas gifts are meticulously displayed for the camera. In the background of the photograph is the dining room of a typical bungalow in this area (and yes, the

woodwork is not painted!) In contrast to the woody coziness of the bungalows, the internment camps were surrounded by barbed wire, were cheaply constructed, and provided little privacy or protection from the elements.

Momo was 16 when she went to Manzanar; she graduated from Manzanar High School. While at Manzanar, she signed up to work for the military camouflage net project, where she was first exposed to weaving. That assignment was short-lived, however, when workers went on strike over the low wages. Some 22 years later she re-discovered weaving as an artist. Momo used the same netting format she learned in the camp to produce the flag portion of the 30<sup>th</sup> Street weaving.

Momo's father was incarcerated  
Continued on the next page

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**Los Angeles, CA 90036**

### Japanese American Experience Continued from Page 12

separately from the rest of the family, being moved from detention camp to detention camp all over the U.S. In late 1943, Kiro Nagano received a hearing allowing him to rejoin the family in Manzanar. Accompanied by a mandatory Caucasian escort, young Momo traveled to her father's hearing with letters in his behalf. By then, Momo's older brother had left Manzanar to attend Yale. Momo's younger brother "volunteered for the U.S. Army out of Manzanar," as did many other Japanese Americans.

In 1944, with help from the American Friends Service Committee, Momo left the camp to become the first Japanese American student at Wheaton College in Massachusetts, which was then an all-girls, liberal arts school. She graduated with a history degree. Previously, even Booker T. Washington's daughter had been rejected as a student. A year after Momo's pioneering enrollment, Wheaton accepted its first African American student.

In the Summer of 1945, Momo's parents were freed from Manzanar and moved to Colorado with her assistance. They were not allowed to return to California until a year later. California and the West Coast states were considered part of the Western Defense Command. The government feared that allowing Japanese Americans to resettle along the coast might lead to their aiding an invasion by the Japanese.

Once the Nagano family was

allowed to return to Los Angeles in 1946, they resumed their pre-war lives. After college, Momo raised a family on West 39<sup>th</sup> Street and in the Silverlake area. She has four children, whom she raised as a single parent after being divorced in the 1960's. She attended various arts schools, eventually becoming a potter and a weaver. She was the weaving instructor at Immaculate Heart College for eight years, worked in the art gallery at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center from 1983 to 1995, and she continues to be a respected artist and vibrant individual. Her father, mother and two brothers are all deceased.

be no Japanese Americans still living in The Bungalows. I spoke to Kaz Inouye, owner of Kashu K Realty at 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Jefferson Boulevard. Mr. Inouye was once one of 22 Japanese American real estate agents, but now he is the only one left. He said that Japanese Americans settled in this particular area because of racial covenants that prevented them from moving elsewhere. Even where there were no overt racial covenants, there were rules meant to discourage ownership, such as that children of Japanese were not allowed to purchase homes with money received from their parents. Momo can "still remember the unease I used to feel when

we would go on bicycle rides beyond the boundaries set by the restrictive covenants." Momo's African American friends in The Bungalows, who included Tuskegee airmen and child actors, also endured blatant discrimination.

The site of the former relocation camp at Manzanar is now a registered historic landmark (#850). It bears a plaque which reads, "May the injustices and humiliation suffered here as a result of hysteria, racism and economic

exploitation never emerge again."

Residents of The Bungalows would like to install a memorial to document and honor the history of our Japanese American residents. We are interested in hearing from anyone who has ideas, contacts or help to offer to this end. Please contact me at: 323/733-0345 or via e-mail, [rette@mindspring.com](mailto:rette@mindspring.com)



Like the Nagano family, most of the residents of The Bungalows who were Japanese immigrants (called "Issei") and second generation Japanese Americans like Momo (called "Nisei") have either moved or passed away. Younger generations (called "Sansei" or third generation Japanese Americans) have not bought homes in the area. Within 20 years, there will likely

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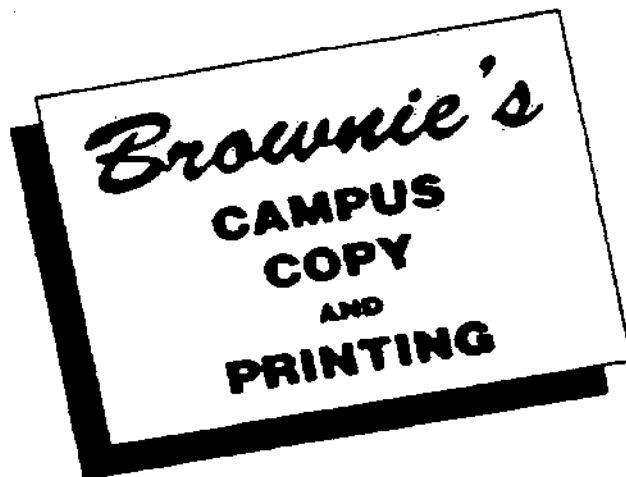
**OPEN YOUR DOORS TO THE WORLD!** Students attending a private English Language school on Wilshire near Mariposa are in need of room & board. These students are from Asia, Europe, & South America, mostly in their early to mid-twenties, & typically stay from two to six months. They pay \$750 per month 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.

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# WAHA November Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	
11	12	13 Holiday Tour Committee	14	15	16	17 WAHA General Meeting - Salisbury House
18	19 Preservation Zoning/ Planning Committee	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 Holiday Tour Committee	28 Membership Committee	29 Board Meeting	30	Dec 1 WAHA Holiday Tour

The *WAHA Newsletter* is a publication of the West Adams Heritage Association. Members and supporters of WAHA are invited to submit articles to the *Newsletter*. Letters will be published subject to space constraints and will be cut for length if necessary. Articles will be published subject to acceptance by the editors of the WAHA Board. Advertising is subject to the approval of the publishers. Although the Association appreciates its many fine advertisers, the Association does not accept responsibility for claims made by advertisers. Services and products are not tested and appearance of advertising does not imply, nor does it constitute, endorsement by the West Adams Heritage Association. Copyright 2001. All rights for graphic and written material appearing in the newsletter are reserved. Contact Director of Publications for permissions.

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