



25 years
of Preservation

West Adams Matters

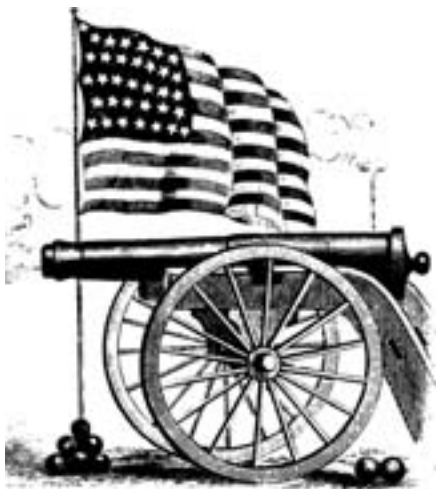
WAHA's Annual 4th of July Picnic

Friday, July 4 1 to 4 p.m. 4345 Victoria Park Drive

Bring the kids — your own or someone else's — and wear your summer whites or patriotic attire at WAHA's annual 4th of July picnic, which will be on Friday, July 4, from 1 to 4 p.m. on the grounds of the historic Henry Hoffman House, a 1909 Tudor-Craftsman mansion in Victoria Park. Now owned by Roz Pina, this grand estate was erected on

an extra-large parcel by Henry Hoffman, a wealthy hardware magnate. WAHA has been celebrating America's birthday annually with a potluck picnic for 25 years — please do join us at this year's event. Live music and lots of fun is on the

schedule, along with award-giving. This year we are also planning a silent auction (Hollywood Bowl tickets are among the list of prizes; your donations are also welcome — please contact Lore Hilburg, hilburg@ca.rr.com.) As always, Wa-hot dogs will be on the grill, cold drinks are on the house, and the potluck theme is summertime picnic -- please bring salads, main dishes, desserts, or fruits (enough for at least 10 people, please! And, let's avoid food that will melt on a summer day) to share. Victoria Park is a gated enclave — enter on Windsor from Pico Boulevard (west of Crenshaw). ●



WAHA's July 4th picnic will be held at the c.1909 Henry Hoffman House in Victoria Park

New Member Discounts Galore

One of the key benefits of membership in West Adams Heritage Association is access to discounts offered by local businesses and businesses throughout Southern California which cater to the historic preservation/restoration community. WAHA is please to announce five new Member Discounts (profiles of these businesses begin on pages 8-9; the complete list of Member Discounts appears on page 12.) Please note that only members in good standing (that means, you've paid your current dues!) receive Membership cards which entitle you to the discounts and services described. ●

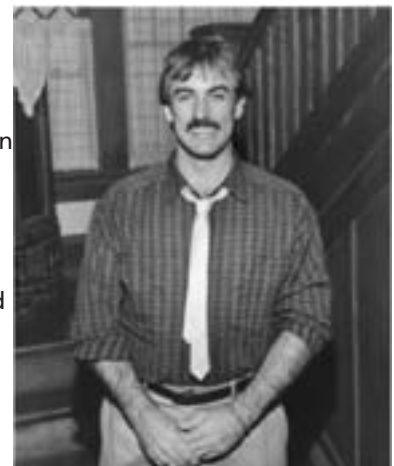
Award Season in West Adams

Bob Bortfeld Award Nominations Sought

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

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

Nominations now are being sought for this annual award. The nominee must be a member in good standing who demonstrates the following qualities: 1) consistent and visible leadership in WAHA and the preservation community, 2) an obvious commitment to preservation, 3) leadership in deed, not just title, 4) notable



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Bob Bortfeld

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Bob Bortfeld Award

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accomplishments/contributions over a range of activities, not just in one particular activity, and 5) an ability to bring people together to address issues and resolve problems.

Typically, the candidate would not currently be a WAHA Board member.

The award has been presented in the past to Kathleen Salisbury, Harry Anderson, David Raposa, Harold Greenberg, Lindsay Wiggins, Jodi Seigner, Jon Rake, Lana Soroko, Norma Latimer, John Kurtz, Audrey Arlington, Jim Meister, Joe Ryan. Laura Meyers, Linda Scribner, Corinne Pleger, Peggy King, Leslie Evans and Jennifer Charnofsky, Suzanne Henderson, and Ed Trosper. As you can see by this listing, all former Honorees have had leadership roles in WAHA and have undertaken a diverse range of activities in the organization and in the community at large.

Nominations should be submitted in writing to last year's winner, Ed Trosper, 2515 4th Avenue, Los Angeles CA 90018 or via e-mail at EdTrosper@aol.com. Please briefly describe the activities your candidate has undertaken for West Adams Heritage Association and in the West Adams community, and explain why you believe he or she should be chosen for the Bortfeld Award. The winner will be selected by WAHA's current President Jim Robinson, Membership Chair Candy Wynne, and Trosper.

Deadline for submission is TUESDAY, JUNE 24. ●

WAHA Paint & Garden Contest

Have you recently painted your home in new, perfect colors? Or, is your old paint job still looking fabulous? And, how does your garden grow? Is it an extraordinary cottage garden, or prime example of drought-resistant beauty?

Each year, WAHA looks for the best new exterior paint finishes in the West Adams area and the most spectacular gardens among us. We hope you had a chance to finish your painting, plant your garden, and prepare your digital photographs, because now is the time to submit the digital photographs for judging.

You may also nominate a West Adams' neighbor's paint or garden if the property meets these criteria.

The deadline for nominations is Tuesday, June 24. We'll all have a chance to review the lovely photos of your garden/exterior paint job at WAHA's annual 4th of July picnic (and a group of expert judges will also review submissions in advance.) Please submit your nominations to Lore Hilburg via e-mail, hilburg@ca.rr.com. Call her if you need to, 323-737-4444.

What's in it for the winners? Besides a lot of pride in a job well-done, your garden and/or your exterior paint job will be lauded in a future *WAHA Matters* and you will win bragging rights for at least one year. ●

Newsletter Staff

Laura Meyers, *Editor and Layout*, ph: 323-737-6146,
e-mail: Lauramink@aol.com

Jim Robinson, *Director of Publications*, ph: 213-663-3022

Hilary Lentini, *Art Director*, ph: 323-766-8090,
e-mail: hilary@lentinidesign.com

Suzie Henderson, *Resources*, ph: 323-731-3900,
e-mail westadamsgoddess@aol.com

Jean Cade, *Advertising Director*, ph: 323-737-5034

Outgoing President's Message by Lore Hilburg

The WAHA board 2008 retreat was an enormous success. We elected new officers and my reign as president has come to an end. During my tenure, we accomplished some wonderful feats for which I would love to take all of the credit, but too many know the truth.

Thanks to the efforts of Roland Souza, Gail Peterson, Lisa Berns and others, we had two general meetings in which dinner was served, including one potluck - with plans for more. We held a coffee cart stroll in Jefferson Park, led by John Patterson and Gail Peterson. As a result of Gail's efforts, we were introduced to a wonderful new coffee cart vendor, the Wiggins family, residents of West Adams. There were two other Community Outreach events: an introduction to, and interview of, sculptor and painter Artis Lane, held at the California African American Museum, and our participation in the first annual Heritage Day event, held at the Heritage Square Museum, off the Pasadena Freeway. Our involvement in the first event was organized by our new board member, Lisa Berns, and in the second by Roland Souza, Laura Meyers and myself. Finally, we had a joint meeting with the Los Angeles Native Plant Society at the home of Jennifer Charnofsky, who did most of the work. That was an exciting program, both because of the large WAHA participation and because it introduced our special part of Los Angeles to a new group of visitors.

Last, and equally exciting, was the participation of a creative writing class at Johnnie Cochran Middle School in providing essays on their neighborhood. We will be publishing them, and they will break your heart and provide joy that, with just a small nudge, these smart children can have their eyes opened to the beauty of the historic homes they pass every day. This was the brainchild of Michael Medina and, as the new chair of Community Outreach, I hope to continue those efforts to reach out to the youth in WAHA.

(continued on page 11)

Incoming President's Message by Jim Robinson

Along with being WAHA's new president, I'm also the chair of the University Park Historic Preservation Overlay Zone (HPOZ), which is why I attended the annual citywide conference of HPOZ board members in Highland Park last month. The major discussions focused on improving outreach to residents, improving enforcement of historic requirements, and managing an explosion of new HPOZs across much of the city. But for me the best news of all was a free booklet just published by L.A.'s Department of Planning. It's so good that the Los Angeles Conservancy honored the department in May with its 2008 Preservation Award.

Titled "Caring for Your Historic Home: Preserving L.A.'s Legacy," the 32-page booklet contains a wealth of information on why old houses are valuable, why it's a good idea to repair and maintain them correctly, and how you can handle a slew of issues that may arise along the way. It's all told in simple English – and soon in simple Spanish and Korean – accompanied by informative drawings and dozens of color photos illustrating what to do and what not to do.

For example, one drawing dissects the parts of a double-hung window, for those who'd like to be able to tell the "trim" from the "header" and the "sash" from the "sill." (It helps to know the difference when you're talking to window suppliers or installers.) Another drawing shows the parts of an elaborate entrance door, identifying the casing, a stile (vertical member), a rail (horizontal member), a panel, the jamb, etc.

A particularly useful section carries illustrated instructions on how to fix the sash cord of a double-hung window. Sash cords are the ropes that connect a window to weights inside the wall, allowing the window to be easily raised and lowered. Replacing them isn't terribly complicated, but it does require several steps and it takes a little time.

Along with the do-it-yourself tips, the booklet uses paired "Do" and "Don't" photos to illustrate some of the rights and wrongs of dealing with historic houses. A "Do" photo shows the correct use of paint to highlight details in wood shingling, while "Don't" photos show the undesirable effects of mismatched siding, or of adding brick veneer to a clapboard exterior.

(continued on page 11)

25 Months, 25 Monuments

WAHA Launches 25th Anniversary Initiative

WAHA, its members, and many preservation advocates past and present have managed to designate some 125 Los Angeles Historic Cultural Monuments over the past several decades, making West Adams home to the City's largest collection of individual landmarks. But, we say, it's not enough! For our 25th anniversary, WAHA is urging members to nominate 25 MORE Monuments, over the next 25 months. WAHA will provide technical support, education and maybe even prizes! To learn more, contact WAHA Historic Preservation Chair Jean Frost at jfrost@earthlink.net. ●

Stepping Out

Volstead Act Repealed! A Lighthearted Look at Prohibition

Saturday, June 21 beginning at 1 p.m.

Heritage Square Museum, 3800 Homer St. (Highland Park)

Join Heritage Square and the Art Deco Society of Los Angeles as they mark the 75th Anniversary of the end of Prohibition with festive 1930s-style picnic celebration. Dancing to live music provided by the Bilgewater Rats, prizes for picnic presentation, and other surprises are part of the celebration. Included in the ticket price of \$62 is one-year membership in both organizations! (Special price is for new members only.) For those who are already members of either HSM or ADSLA, a ticket price of \$47 includes membership in the other organization. Ticket price includes a \$2.00 service charge. Proceeds from this important fundraiser benefit preservation activities and tickets are tax-deductible. Tickets can be purchased by calling 323-225-2700 ext. 223 or by mailing a check to Heritage Square. Tickets may also be purchased on-line through PayPal at www.adsla.org. ●

All the Saints of the City of Los Angeles

Through September 7

Autry National Museum, 4700 Western Heritage Way (Griffith Park)

Where is the soul of a city? Is it in its asphalt streets? Its buildings of concrete and steel? Does its heart lay in its history? Its moments of progressive triumph and cultural defeat? Or is it the people, from the hilltop elite to the forgotten and forlorn, who shape a city's essence? Might it not be all of these, a grand soul greater than the sum of its parts?

In *All the Saints of the City of the Angels*, artist J. Michael Walker uses the saints and the streets bearing their names to uncover the soul of Los Angeles, the City of the Angels. Walker unlocks a treasure trove of voices amidst the saintly named city streets of Los Angeles, where stories carry metaphorical qualities, and examines connections between our history, heritage, and present-day realities. Approximately 50 exquisitely detailed, large-scale paintings are set among precious objects and artifacts from the collections of the Museum of the American West and Southwest Museum of the American Indian.

Los Angeles is home to 103 streets named for saints, harkening back to the time when Spanish settlers bestowed upon new territories the names of saints to invoke their protection. Thanks to land developers and urban planners who continued the tradition, the saints still live among us. They walk our streets, ride the Metro, and shoot hoops in neighborhood recreation centers. Their presence provides counterpoint to the popular image of L.A. as a city of conflict, hedonism, and simmering rage.

By connecting the stories of the saints with the people and places of L.A., Walker illuminates the many facets of Los Angeles' multicultural heritage, from a troubled past including forced Native labor and greedy land developers to a contemporary landscape of economic chasms and newly built cultural bridges.

Walker's work reveals the tragedies and triumphs of Los Angeles's residents and lays bare the complex realities of urban living. Most important, it infuses all with the hope that we may yet live up to the standards set by our saintly protectors and the recognition that our neighbors may well be the "saints" to whom we need to turn.

Availing himself of local archives; amassing a library of rare nineteenth- and early twentieth-century books, photographs, and ephemera about Southern California and the hagiography of saints; and walking each of the 103 saint-streets in the city of Los Angeles and "seeking the spirit of the saint" on its namesake street, J. Michael dedicated seven years to what he calls his "loopy valentine to the City of the Angels."

An exhibiting artist since 1984, J. Michael Walker has participated in more than 100 exhibitions and has received a dozen grants, fellowships, and residencies. He has also enjoyed solo shows at the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, Harvard; el Museo Nacional de Culturas Populares, Mexico City; the National Museum of Catholic Art and History, East Harlem, New York City; and the Arkansas Arts Center; among others.

The Museum of the American West and Museum Store are open Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. From June 1 to August 31, Thursday hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Admission is free on the second Tuesday of every month. Admission is \$9 for adults, \$5 for students and seniors 60+, \$3 for children 3–12, and free for Autry members, veterans, and children 2 and under. For more information, call 323-667-2000 or visit www.autrynationalcenter.org. ●



Soul Survivor: Author Reception

Saturday, July 19, 2 to 5 p.m.

At the home of WAHA member Sally Turner, 2280 West 21st Street (Western Heights)

WAHA invites you to meet Mary Ross Smith, author of the memoir *Soul Survivor*, at a author's reception/talk and book signing event. Mary Ross Smith, then known as "Lil' Mary," was raised in West Adams, about a block away from Turner's home, in the early 1950s.

The 1950s were a pivotal time in West Adams as the real estate covenants prohibiting non-whites from owning property had been overturned by the Supreme Court. Smith's fair-skinned family members became some of West Adams' earliest African American residents. In her recently-published book, Smith tells a moving, personal story of her childhood here. The memoir also describes her life later, as a black woman who was fair-complexioned enough to "pass" for white during the turbulent social times of the 1950s and '60s.

This event is open to all, however it is NOT suitable for children, as Smith explores some adult themes in her memoir.

Smith was born in Shreveport, Louisiana, the youngest of five children. Her family moved to Los Angeles in 1947. Smith's mother, "Big Mary," at the time owned and operated several well-respected and very successful mortuaries. This is the true *Six Feet Under* family story! She spent her youth playing and working in the funeral business. The family knew and worked with many well know preachers as well as people of note such as Johnny Cochran, Red Foxx, Sam Cooke, and more.

But Lil' Mary grew up in an atmosphere filled with death, scandal and intrigue. Against the backdrop of partying and revelry that sometimes took place in her family's living room, Smith lived in constant fear of advances by older men invited to their home by her mother; she tells of how she often barricaded her bedroom door with a chair, to keep out intruders.


Soul Survivor also offers a historical look at different means by which African Americans sought acceptance in a segregated society. Smith explores the life of her grandfather, J.T. Stone, a black man raised as white. Stone chooses to embrace his black heritage after learning the truth of his ancestry, in spite of his many fair-complexioned peers and relatives, who chose the benefits of being counted among white citizens.

For those who may wish to read the memoir before the event and/or to have their book signed, *Soul Survivor* will be available for sale after June 8 through WAHA Board member Lisa Berns, who is organizing the book signing and author reception, or it can be purchased at Amazon.com.

Refreshments will be served. So we can get an idea of how many will attend, we'd appreciate your RSVP to WAHAholiday@aol.com. ●



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Stepping Out

Explore John Lautner's Architecture

MAK Center Tours Series, starting July 27

Hammer Museum Exhibition, July 13 – October 12

The MAK Center is expanding its annual architecture tour to focus on the work of John Lautner as a complement to the groundbreaking exhibition, *Between Earth and Heaven: The Architecture of John Lautner*, on view July 13 through October 12 at the Hammer Museum (see exhibition description below). The Lautner tours will provide a rare opportunity to experience an insider view of residential works by this maverick architect.

Tour I: Sunday, July 27 — The Harpel Residence (1956), the Tyler Residence (1953), and the Schwimmer Residence (1982)

Tour II: Sunday, September 14 — The Jacobsen Residence (1947), the Harvey Residence (1950), and the Reiner Residence, also known as Silvertop (1963)

Tickets for Tours I and II are \$145 per person, per tour. Tickets include admission to the exhibition, shuttle service, and discounted parking at the Hammer. To purchase tickets for Tours I and II, you must be a member of the Hammer Museum at the Contributor level or above. As a special Lautner Tour benefit, when you sign up for Hammer membership you will automatically receive MAK Center Active-level friendship at no additional charge. Up to four (4) tickets can be purchased per tour, per membership.

Tour III: Sunday, August 24 — The Sheats/Goldstein House (1963) only

Tour IV: Sunday, October 12 — The Sheats/Goldstein House (1963) only

Tickets for Tours III and IV are \$55 per person, per tour. Tickets include admission to the exhibition, shuttle service, and discounted parking at the Hammer. To purchase tickets for Tours III and IV, no membership is required. No refunds or exchanges. The MAK Center is located at 835 N. Kings Road in West Hollywood. Public hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The MAK Bookstore is open seven days a week, 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Regular admission to the Schindler House is \$7; \$6 students and seniors. Admission and the "Schindler by MAK" guidebook is \$17; \$16 students and seniors. Admission is free for children under 12 and Friends of the Schindler House, and on Fridays from 4:00-6:00 p.m. For more information, call 323-651-1510 or visit www.MAKcenter.org.

John Lautner (1911-94), one of the most important and influential architects of the twentieth century, had a remarkable career spanning nearly six decades. Residing and working in Los Angeles during much of that time, his designs are known for their radical innovation with specific attention to materiality, space and a consciousness of the natural environment.

While Lautner has attained a cult-like status in the world of architecture and design, until now his achievement remains little known and often misunderstood by the public at large — from his infamous coffee-shop "Googie" style at the start of his career; the misperception of his poetic experiments with form as Space Age or dystopic; to the dismissal of his later, perhaps most meditative houses, as Hollywood showcase. The Hammer Museum brings John Lautner's legacy and creative process to a wider audience by presenting the first major exhibition survey of his work: *Between Earth and Heaven: The Architecture of John Lautner*.

An aesthetic, philosophical and social visionary, Lautner made buildings that continue to amaze architects and patrons alike with their formal variety and freedom, their structural originality and their sculptural force. Lautner's work has come to represent some of the most important examples of architecture in Southern California including private residences such as Elrod House

(1968) in Palm Springs and Malin House (1960) in Los Angeles -- also known as the "Chemosphere," which hovers high over a canyon balanced on a single support -- all iconic examples of his work and vision.

Lautner is often referred to as an architect's architect and many renowned practitioners, such as Frank Gehry, have cited him as an abiding influence. One can see the influence and legacy of his vision time and again in the work of architects that have followed him.

"This exhibition is long overdue as it recognizes one of architecture's greatest visionaries," says Ann Philbin, Director of the Hammer Museum. "We hope it will encourage wider recognition of Lautner's work and working methods which have contributed so greatly to Southern California's art and design history."

For more information, visit www.hammer.ucla.edu. ●



Resources *By Suzanne Henderson*

This month I owe a big thank you to Steve Wallis. He sent me these wonderful resources and they were so well written, that I am using his own words. Perhaps, when I retire, Steve will be the next resource columnist.

From Steve:

"I use Mid City Plumbing for all of my plumbing supplies. This is a great family-owned business and they know most all of their customers by name. I get water heaters, garbage disposals, copper pipe, cast iron pipe, fittings, faucets, sinks, shower valve stems, etc. from Mid City. The prices are terrific and you can't beat the personalized service. I love giving my business to such great people and saving money to boot.

"I frequently use Miguel Camarillo of Community Builders for many jobs. Miguel is a general contractor who started out as an electrician. He has done foundation work, framing, stucco work, and electrical work for me in the past. Miguel is very honest and bends over backwards to make sure his customers are happy with the job.

"I have used Francisco Hardwood Floors on eight different jobs and he has done fantastic work on each one. He was able to save oak flooring that was almost too thin to refinish on one job and laced in original oak flooring on another complete renovation which required the removal and re-laying of all of the flooring. He is extremely capable and really cares about doing a first-rate job. He does repairs, installations, and refinishing and his prices are very good. Please call his supervisor, Jilmer, to set up an appointment.

"I like to use Abatron epoxy products for wood restoration, as demonstrated at a WAHA restoration event a couple of years ago. LiquidWood is perfect for restoring rotted window sills, frames, structural and decorative parts, furniture, columns, and floors by penetrating into the wood, making the wood very hard and water/insect-proof. WoodEpoxy is a structural adhesive putty and wood replacement compound used to fill holes or gaps in rotted or damaged wood. It is also water- and insect-proof. These, and other, epoxy products can be purchased on-line or in person at B&B Hardware in Long Beach.

"BTW, B&B Hardware is a GREAT place to browse for any kind of hardware for old houses. It is a boutique hardware store that stocks old doors, light fixtures, sinks, etc., as well as nuts, bolts, and everything else one might find in a small-town hardware store. It's worth the weekend trip just to look around."

Great suggestions, Steve! Now, I await other recommendations and stern warnings at WestAdamsGoddess.com. Stay cool, Suzanne ●

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New Member Discounts Galore *By Steve Wallis*

Silverlake Architectural Salvage

Silverlake Architectural Salvage is happy to announce a 20% discount on all purchases to WAHA members.

Owner Bruce Baker has followed his passion by opening this wonderful resource for old house restoration in an old industrial building near Sunset Junction. Bruce has personally restored many Los Angeles-area houses and added most of his personal collection of saved building supplies to his inventory.

Silverlake Architectural Salvage carries a large supply of salvaged doors and windows (many removed with the original jambs and frames), plumbing fixtures, built-in pieces, hardware, garden furniture, etc. Bruce and his staff enjoy helping customers with their projects. Visitors to the store often comment how much they enjoy browsing and spending time wandering through the display areas. Stop by for a visit!

Silverlake Architectural Salvage welcomes trades and invites WAHA members to trade or sell surplus salvaged arched windows and doors, plumbing fixtures, sinks, claw foot tubs, and built-in cabinets with architectural significance. Please call for an appointment.

Silverlake Architectural Salvage is located at 1085 Manzanita Street in Silverlake; enter from Gateway. They are open Tuesday through Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. 323-667-2875. ●

8th Avenue Cafe

The 8th Avenue Café would like to welcome all WAHA members by offering a 20 percent for their first visit and a 10 percent for each visit thereafter!

Modeled after the rustic, charming hideaways found in the French countryside, 8th Avenue Café is a place where customers are greeted by name and served according to their special requests. 8th Avenue Café serves fresh, made-to-order, crafted sandwiches, salads, soups and desserts.



Chef Michael has 22 years of experience cooking and leading teams in kitchens. He is a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America and, for eleven years, learned French fine dining from the most demanding and recognized French chefs in New York's most reputable restaurants.

During this time, Michael was invited by Chef Bruno Davailon to open Encore Restaurant at the St. Regis Hotel. Following his work at Encore, Michael spent the next 5 years at La Cachette Restaurant. From popular American fare to fine French cuisine, Michael is a chef with an extraordinary range of culinary gifts.

Michael's business partner, Jessica, has more than a decade of experience in front-of-the-house operations (serving, managing, event planning). She is a frequent guest and host at the café and is responsible for coordinating special events in the café as well as leading the business development for their event planning catering company, Purely Catering. Together, the duo comprises a well-balanced team whose core values put guests and clients interests first.

They look forward to meeting you in their café!

8th Avenue Café is open Tuesday through Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The cafe is located inside Ken's Market at 8400 South 8th Avenue, at the corner of 8th Avenue and 84th Street in Inglewood, 2 ½ blocks north of Manchester. They can be reached at 323-294-9706. Visit the web site of their companion business at www.purelycatering.com. ●

Jonathan Bert Rollup Screens

Jonathan Bert is offering WAHA members a 5% discount on all repairs or installation of rollup screens.

Rollup screens were installed in Los Angeles-area homes from approximately 1915 through the 1950s. These installations allowed screens to be pulled down from an overhead cannister attached on or inside the upper window frame and latched at the bottom sill to keep pesty insects out of the house. One could later retract the screens out of sight for a clear window view.

On a typical job, Jonathan rebuilds the cannisters, replaces the old screens with new bronze screens, clears the tracks of any obstructions, and ensures the locking mechanisms work properly. Jonathan can make new drawbars and locking mechanisms, if necessary, and rebuilds all types of cannisters. Turnaround time is approximately three weeks.

Jonathan can be reached by calling 626-359-0513. ●



Ted Gibson Art Materials and Picture Frames

Ted Gibson, Inc. is pleased to announce a 20% discount on all purchases of art materials and picture frames.

In 1932, Meyer Flax, Gustav Gilbert, and Ted Gibson traveled across country on train to settle and live in Los Angeles. As young men having worked in the fine arts in New York, Meyer and Gustav opened a gallery, The Louvre, on 7th Street in Los Angeles across from MacArthur Park, employing the younger Ted. The area was a Mecca for the fine arts movement, with galleries and artists' studios dotting the neighborhood. Chounards, Otis, and the Jepson Art Institute were doing a fine business with teachers such as Millard Sheets, Laurence Murphey, Sergie Bongart, and Rex Brandt. The area was also (and still is) home to the businesses that catered to artists, such as Cannel and Chaffen, Morilla Company Art Materials, Duncan Vail Art Supplies, and McManus & Morgan paper house. This was a very exciting time for art in Los Angeles. Ted opened his first store at 2940 W. 7th Street in 1946 after getting out of the service, selling art materials and making frames for movie stars, artists, collectors, museums and galleries in Los Angeles. Some famous customers and friends were Ira Gershwin, Zero Mostel, David Meyer, and David Niven. Ted's impeccable taste and well-honed frame crafting abilities allowed him to become one of LA's most desired framers.

Ted passed away in 2000 and his son Richard now runs the business. Gibson's four craftsmen were trained by Ted and each have been practicing their craft at Gibson's for over thirty years. Gibson's is an old world craftsman's shop with a staff that complements each individual job as needed to complete each work of art.

Gibson's also restores artwork, paintings, sculptures, and, of course, frames. They have thousands of framed and unframed oils, water colors, pastels, serigraphs, lithographs, prints, sculptures, brick-a-brac, jewelry, and many beautiful Asian pieces of artwork in various mediums.

Ted Gibson, Inc., 2866 W. 7th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90005, 213-382-9195. They are open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and Saturdays 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Even if you don't have an immediate need, stop in and introduce yourself. You will receive a warm welcome and will find the sales area and craft shop wonderful and fascinating. ●

McCabe Property Management and Ti-KEN Managers

McCabe Property Management and Ti-KEN Personal Account Managers are pleased to offer WAHA members a discount on property management and professional financial services.

For over twenty years, owner Joseph McCabe has managed all forms of properties, such as single family homes, apartment buildings, smaller commercial properties, and home owner associations (HOAs) for condominiums. McCabe Property Management will assume the responsibility for all accounting, rent collections and tenant relations, as well as supervision of all on-site managerial maintenance activities for your property. McCabe Property Management will also perform monthly inspections by a licensed contractor to ensure that your property is being maintained efficiently. Their committed team of professionals will meet with you to determine your specific property management needs and customize a management program designed for you.

McCabe Property Management is offering WAHA members a reduced set-up fee of \$50 for any property, a savings of \$150. (The standard \$200.00 fee is assessed to cover the time necessary to acquire/simulate all documentation - bank statements, invoices - and arrange it in chronological order, presenting a clearer picture of past activity and allowing the process to efficiently continue forward.)

Ti-KEN Personal Account Managers are available for anyone who needs help with the organization and regular processing of the non-advisory aspects of their business or personal financial responsibilities. This can include bookkeeping, recordkeeping, and bill paying. Ti-KEN Personal Account Managers will manage your financials and save you money by establishing a better credit rating and eliminating various late fees and penalties. They provide a comprehensive presentation of your financial picture so you can feel more in control, and have the peace of mind that comes with knowing your finances are in order.

Ti-KEN also is offering WAHA members a reduced set-up fee of \$100 for any new account, a savings of \$150. (The standard \$250.00 fee is assessed to cover the time necessary to acquire, simulate, and input the owners' documentation - bank statement, invoices, change of mailing addresses - into QuickBooks to present a clearer picture of monthly expenses and efficiently continue forward.)

Please contact McCabe Property Management at 310-828-4829 (fax 310-828-7959) or by e-mail at joseph@mccabemanagement.com. They are located at 2461 Santa Monica Boulevard, # 235, Santa Monica, CA 90404. Visit their web site at www.mccabepropertymanagement.com. Contact a Ti-KEN Personal Account Manager by calling 310-701-2399 (fax 310-828-7959), or by e-mail at ti.ken.manager@gmail.com. ●

Preservation Matters

Save the Stewart Cottage and its Next-Door Neighbor

Two More Historic Structures Need New Homes

WAHA has been quietly working since January 2007 to save an 1871 cottage and an adjacent Craftsman triplex from the wrecking ball. A developer is planning to erect a housing complex at the site (505-511 West 31st Street, between Flower and Figueroa Streets), and from the start Community Redevelopment Agency staff indicated that these houses should be moved.

The Victorian cottage was built by early Los Angeles nurseryman John Marcellus Stewart, who was a member of the Los Angeles Pioneer Society. Stewart had a colorful life. He walked across the country, through Indian territory, to California, to become a gold miner in 1850, and later a merchant in San Francisco. In 1871, Stewart, his wife Melissa, and younger daughter, Grace, moved south, to Los Angeles. He bought a 17-acre vineyard, dug up the vines, and planted instead "exotic" nursery plants like Pampas grasses, pepper trees and sweet oranges as landscaping materials for the growing metropolis. And he built the still-extant cottage, which is one of the oldest wood frame houses still standing in Los Angeles.

Later, Stewart became a real estate developer, and it was during this period that the adjacent Craftsman residence was built. Stewart himself erected a mansion on 30th Street, where he and Melissa lived until their deaths in 1913, just weeks apart; his daughter lived in the mansion and owned the cottage well into the 1920s.

The mansion is long since demolished. That the cottage has survived 135 years is a miracle in itself. Can you be a part of this century's miracle, and identify an appropriate place to move the Stewart Cottage to?

If you would be interested in moving the cottage or the triplex, contact architect Kym Vitar at kymikelias.vitar@gmail.com or the development's land use consultant, Elizabeth Peterson-Gower, at 213-674-2686 or elizabeth@epgla.com. ●



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Incoming President's Message

continued from page 3

Much of the book is upbeat, with colorful photos of architectural styles: Queen Anne, Craftsman, Mission Revival, Spanish Colonial Revival, English Revival, Colonial Revival, Art Deco and Contemporary. But the booklet also deals with subjects that are the bane of historic districts: front-yard parking, front-yard fences, security bars and stuccoed siding.

"The City does not allow parking in the front yard," the booklet states, ignoring contrary evidence in yards throughout the city. "Front-yard fences must be less than 42 inches in height," it says, quoting another oft-flouted requirement. Interestingly, both these restrictions are Zoning Code matters that predate HPOZs. But it's good that they're mentioned in the booklet; maybe some transgressors will have second thoughts.

On the subject of security bars, the booklet urges owners of historic homes to consider other ways of improving safety, such as installing a burglar alarm. "If you decide to add security bars," it says, "place them on the sides or rear. This is the most likely location of a break-in" As for stucco, the booklet takes an egalitarian approach: "Don't cover wood siding or details with vinyl, stucco or other materials," it advises. But it also says, "Don't cover original stucco with other building materials like wood, brick or stone veneer."

City planners say they designed the booklet to aid HPOZ residents, and it certainly will serve that purpose. I plan to hand it out to every applicant who comes before my HPOZ board – if they haven't already received one at the Planning Department's front counter. But the booklet's advice applies equally to the thousands of owners whose historic homes are not in HPOZs. The authors had that in mind when they deliberately downplayed references to HPOZs in the text.

The department also has produced a smaller, fold-over brochure called "HPOZ Living" that explains the workings and benefits of a Historic Preservation Overlay Zone. It's a great tool for recruiting support for an existing HPOZ – or one in the making. Copies of both publications are available from HPOZ planners, from the Office of Historic Resources (call 213-978-1200), and at front counters of the Planning Department and the Department of Building and Safety. Or you can download and print them from the Office of Historic Resources web site at www.preservation.lacity.org.

Jim Robinson can be reached via e-mail, jghrobinson@ca.rr.com.

Outgoing President's Message

continued from page 3

Our historic preservation efforts of the past year will be reported on in the July issue of *West Adams Matters*.

I also think congratulations are in order for the incredible update, expansion and revitalization of our website. Our new president and publications chair, both of whom happen to be Jim Robinson, has even bigger plans for the website this year. None of it would be possible without the herculean efforts of webmaster Leslie Evans.

I am grateful for the help and participation I received from the board members. I also need to thank Laura Meyers for her willingness to put in more time than anyone, not just for WAHA activities but for the many organizations that are part of the neighborhoods that make up WAHA. Laura also utilizes her considerable talents not only as editor of *West Adams Matters* and all of our brochures, but as a repository of the institutional memory that is vital to any organization.

See you at WAHA's 4th of July picnic and at the other many events planned for this year.

Lore Hilburg can be reached via e-mail, hilburg@ca.rr.com.

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WAHA Matters

MEMBER DISCOUNTS

The following companies offer discounts to WAHA members. Remember to show your WAHA membership card when you make your purchase.

Silverlake Architectural Salvage

1085 Manzanita Street, Silverlake,
323-667-2875

20% discount on all purchases

Ted Gibson, Inc.

2866 West 7th St. Los Angeles 90005,
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20% discount on purchases of art materials and picture frames

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Washington Dog & Cat Hospital

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323-735-0291

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Meyers Roofing

5048 W. Jefferson Blvd., 323-733-0188

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Lighthouse Stained Glass

5155 Melrose, 323-465-4475

20% discount off regular class prices with WAHA membership card

Cafe Club Fais Do Do

5257 West Adams Blvd., 323-954-8080

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Sherwin-Williams

1367 Venice Blvd. 213-365-2471

20% off regular product price (with WAHA discount card)

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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 offer a discount to WAHA members. Explain that they'd benefit from the increased exposure to local consumers, and be listed in the WAHA monthly newsletter. Or, call me at 323-733-6869 and I'll contact them — Steve Wallis

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Preservation Matters

HPOZ Court Victory

The term "historic district" typically conjures images of tree-lined streets, charming homes, and friendly neighbors -- not bitter court battles. Yet over the past few years, the Conservancy and other groups have had to enter the legal fray to defend historic districts in the City of Los Angeles (called

Historic Preservation Overlay Zones, or HPOZs). Fortunately, preservation has prevailed in the latest round of litigation, keeping the city's HPOZ program safe -- for now.

In June 2007, a small group of Windsor Square homeowners called the No HPOZ Alliance filed a new lawsuit seeking to overturn the re-designation of the Windsor Square HPOZ. This suit alleged that the city violated the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) by failing to prepare a full environmental impact report to consider potentially significant adverse environmental impacts of HPOZ designation, including "the cumulative impacts of the HPOZ program citywide."

By focusing on the alleged impacts of all HPOZs, however unsubstantiated and speculative, the lawsuit could have had far-reaching and damaging implications beyond Windsor Square, potentially making it much more difficult and expensive for aspiring HPOZs to complete the process.

HPOZs Bad for the Environment? Hardly

The alliance also argued that HPOZ designation would actually harm the environment by limiting conservation measures such as solar panels. This isn't true, of course: the city has approved solar panels for Mayor Villarraigosa's official residence within the HPOZ, as well as other measures for other homes in the district.

Many historic homes have energy conservation built in, from cross-ventilation to insulating materials. Photo from Conservancy archives.

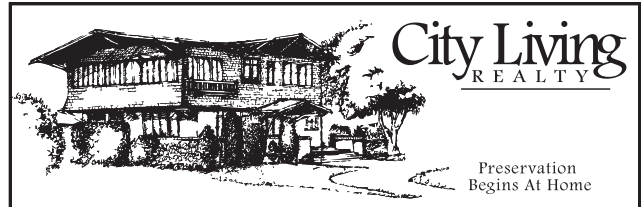
Many historic homes also have built-in conservation features, from cross-ventilation to insulating building materials such as lath and plaster, clay tile, and slate roofs. And it's entirely feasible to increase energy efficiency in historic homes without replacing original doors or windows.

Favorable Ruling Keeps HPOZs on Track

On May 15, Superior Court Judge Ann Jones ruled against the No HPOZ Alliance, upholding the re-designation of the Windsor Square HPOZ and forcefully rejecting claims that HPOZs somehow harm the environment. The court dismissed evidence submitted by petitioners as "baseless speculation" and held that the city "has properly determined that the HPOZ project in Windsor Square is categorically exempt from CEQA."

The court's ruling is a major victory not only for Windsor Square, but for historic neighborhoods throughout Los Angeles and the city's HPOZ program at large. Communities across the city can continue to seek historic designation without expensive, burdensome, and unnecessary environmental review. So chalk one up for preservation, which is good for the environment in more ways than one. ●

Excerpted from the Los Angeles Conservancy's June-July 2008 E-newsletter.



David Raposa • Broker/Owner
323-734-2001

AVAILABLE

Solar & More: Craftsman Bungalow, Jefferson Park — Extensive woodwork, great period detail, new systems. 3 BD, 1 BA, 2062 West 29th St. \$609,000. David Raposa

Harvard Heights Craftsman — Frank Tyler-designed beauty in HPOZ. 4 BD, 2 BA. 2892 West 15th St. \$759,000. Adam Janeiro, 323-401-3952

Jefferson Park Craftsman — Sparkling condition, top block, a true gardener's Eden. 2332 West 31st St. \$589,000. Adam Janeiro, 323-401-3952

Adams-Normandie Craftsman — Best buy in the neighborhood! Great period details, 4 BD, HPOZ. 2317 S. Budlong. \$599,000. Suzanne Henderson, 323-731-3900

Grand Jefferson Park Bungalow — 2,240 sq ft, 3 BD, 2 BA, liv, dining, library, etc. Biggest bungalow on the block! 2078 West 29th Place. \$659,000. David Raposa

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Harvard Heights Craftsman (Adam Janeiro, buyer's agent)

Eco-Conscious Craftsman in Arlington Heights (David Raposa, seller's agent; Adam Janeiro, buyer's agent)

Highland Ave Duplex (Carlton Joseph, seller's and buyer's agent)

Leimert Park Spanish (Adam Janeiro, buyer's agent)

1890s East Adams Fourplex (Adam Janeiro, seller's agent)

Central L.A. Probate (Nancy Deaven, seller's agent)

SOLD

Landmark Joseph L. Starr Farmhouse in Jefferson Park (LA-HCM No. 865), 2801 S. Arlington. Purchased by David Raposa, who is planning a top-to-bottom restoration — another example of our commitment to historic preservation in West Adams.

Beverly Hills Adj. Condo (Nancy Deaven, seller's agent)

Atwater Village Spanish (Adam Janeiro, buyer's agent)

*David Raposa, Conrado Alberto, Darby Bayliss,
Nancy Deaven, Jane Harrington, Suzanne Henderson,
Adam Janeiro, Carlton Joseph*

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- ___ Business/Corporate \$ 200.00
- ___ Heritage Circle \$ 250.00
- ___ Patron Circle \$ 500.00
- ___ Benefactor \$1,000.00

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___ Please DO NOT include my name, address, e-mail, or telephone in the WAHA membership directory.

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



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Free Jade plants to whoever would like them. There are a couple of fairly large trees, to four feet high, that could be broken up — and a lot of smaller ones. Just cleaning up the backyard. We've also got some used bricks (100+) that would be free to a good home. Contact Michele McDonough, 323-731-8377.

Free firewood for the taking...already cut up, but we can't use it because our fireplace can no longer function as wood burning! Contact Lana Soroko or Lauren Schlau, 323-735-4464.

Kathleen Cooper is an experienced designer and project manager, who specializes in historic homes of West Adams. Free consult, 323-731-6360.

Jacquelin and Kathleen invite you to join them for prayer on Tuesday, June 24, at 10:30 a.m. Please call Kathleen 323-559-8949 or Jacquelin 310-228-8674.

Roommate Wanted? Vintage Stove for Sale? Garden Plants in Search of New Home? Place your classified ad here to reach preservation-minded readers. Contact lauramink@aol.com, NO LATER THAN the first of the prior month.

WAHA's Annual No Excuses Calendar

July:

Friday, July 4 — WAHA's Annual 4th of July Picnic
Saturday, July 19 — Meet Mary Ross Smith, author of *Soul Survivor*

August:

Thursday, August 7 — WAHA new member event
Wednesday, August 20 — Evening Stroll in Wellington Square

September:

Saturday, September 27: Living History Tour at Angelus Rosedale Cemetery

October:

Sunday, October 26 — Frightful Halloween Festival

December:

Saturday and Sunday, December 6 and 7 — Holiday Tour
Sunday, December 14 — WAHA Holiday Party

WAHA's Board of Directors usually meets on the 4th Thursday of the month, at 7 p.m. WAHA members may attend. Check with the WAHA president for specific details of location and date, and/or if you wish to have an item placed on an agenda.

Calendar ✓

WAHA's Upcoming Events

WAHA events and other programs of interest:

Saturday, July 19: Author Reception — Meet Mary Ross Smith, as she signs and talks about her memoir, *Soul Survivor* (see story, page 5)

Thursday, August 7: WAHA New Member Dessert

Wednesday, August 20: Evening Stroll in Wellington Square

Saturday, September 27: Living History Tour at Angelus Rosedale Cemetery

WAHA Celebrates America's Birthday Annual 4th of July Picnic

Friday, July 4 1 to 4 p.m.
4345 Victoria Park Drive
(Victoria Park)

Please put on your patriotic best, and join WAHA at our annual potluck picnic. Food. Fun.



Awards. Music. Silent auction. Kid-friendly, and mother-approved. This year's celebration will be at one of Victoria Park's grand original homes, a beautiful 1909 Tudor-Craftsman. (See story, page 1.)

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 2008. All rights for graphic and written material appearing in the newsletter are reserved. Contact Director of Publications for permission.



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