



West Adams Matters

Lafayette Square is Home to This Year's Holiday Tour

by Mitzi March Mogul

When WAHA rings in the Silver Jubilee of its annual Holiday Historic Homes Tour and Progressive Dinner on December 3 and 4, it will be in one of West Adams' most famous neighborhoods, Lafayette Square.

When the first homes were built in Lafayette Square, the area was not yet part of the City of Los Angeles. That came in May of 1915. Lafayette Square was the vision of George L. Crenshaw, who, along with his son, Charles, was instrumental in developing Los Angeles. They also developed Wellington Square to the south.



Crenshaw's concept for the Square was based on traditional European plans. In a 1913 promotional article in *Out West Magazine*, Charles Crenshaw described St. Charles Place as a "Spanish pasear," a place where residents could stroll and meet socially. The original gateways were classical "of the Parisian type" – molded granite balustrades topped with electric light fixtures. The light fixtures, made of the same granite, were repeated along St. Charles Place. The inspiration of foreign cities, in particular those with a reputation for elegance and high style, was a deliberate one: "This elaborate plan of ornamenting the Pasear is a direct reproduction of the beautiful park effects

One of the houses on this year's tour

(continued on page 11)

Celebrate A Silver Jubilee: WAHA's 25th Annual Holiday Tour, Saturday and Sunday, December 3 and 4

WAHA will ring in the holiday season with **A Silver Jubilee Celebration** in Lafayette Square, at the 25th Annual Holiday Historic Homes Tour and Progressive Dinner, on Saturday, December 3, and Sunday, December 4. We'll make merry amid bright lights and bedecked homes, toasting the season with champagne and an enticing holiday feast.

WAHA's traditional holiday tour features a sumptuous progressive dinner, with each course served in one of the featured properties. We also schedule a Sunday afternoon walking tour, without the food.

The tour will raise funds for WAHA, which since its founding in 1983 has used revenues from a variety of tours to support preservation of the community's architectural and cultural heritage.

WAHA has been dressing up and opening our holiday doors to visitors for 25 years. Since the Holiday Tour's inception a quarter century ago, we have created, cooked up, and dished out not only 24 main courses, but also at least 50 different appetizers, 25-plus desserts, a score of delicious salads, and countless variations (from curried to gingered) of pumpkin and other pureed soups -- served up each year to some 600 visitors and volunteers.

As always, many, many, many volunteers are needed for this year's Holiday Tour. All the houses and kitchens need to be staffed on the nights of the Tour. And we rely on Tour Shepherds to escort our tour guests from house to house. But in

(continued on page 10)



Save the Date: WAHA Holiday Party

Saturday, December 10 6 p.m.
A Swank Setting in Lafayette Square

The Silver Jubilee celebration continues on Saturday, December 10, at the annual WAHA Holiday Party. Please do save the date for a special party in lovely Lafayette Square. And, think GLITZ. For this festive party, in honor of the Silver Anniversary of the Holiday Tour, we are planning a more elegant affair than usual, so we are also suggesting black tie as an option or your dressiest attire. Of course, anything sparkly or silver will be perfect.

As always, WAHA will provide all the food and beverages as a thank you to our members and volunteers.

If you would like to help with this event in any capacity, please contact Suzie Henderson at events@westadamsheritage.org. ●

Table of Contents

STEPPING OUT	
A Hauntingly Good Time	4
Doheny Mansion Tours	4
AROUND THE HOUSE	
Great Plumbers	5
HISTORY MATTERS	
The Lawson Clock Company	6
WAHA MATTERS	
25 Years of Holiday Recipes	8
COMMUNITY MATTERS	
Holiday Shopping	12
WAHA BOARD MEMBERS & E-MAILS	14
WAHA MEMBER DISCOUNTS	15
WAHA CLASSIFIEDS	15
WAHA CALENDAR	16

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WAHA Upcoming Events

WAHA plans many (many) events. Please mark your calendars for these upcoming activities.

Saturday and Sunday, December 3-4
 Annual Holiday Tour & Progressive Dinner

Saturday, December 10
 Holiday Party

January (date TBA)
 Potluck Pajama Party

February (date TBA)
 Potluck

Bank of Tokyo Update

by *Laura Meyers and Eric Bronson*

The Bank of Tokyo/Union Bank building in Jefferson Park, which exemplifies the community's important Japanese-American heritage, remains a top priority for WAHA's preservation advocacy efforts.

A mid-century modern building designed by a pair of noted architects, Tosh Terasawa and Arthur O'Leary, it is associated with the Japanese American resettlement experience in Jefferson Park after the internment camps of World War II, with the Japanese Americans' quest for financial equality in the face of racism, and with the development of a thriving commercial business corridor (Jefferson Boulevard) catering to the nearby Japanese American community during the late 1940s until well into the 1980s.

WAHA – along with the local neighborhood council and Council District 10 – has had to balance the neighborhood's desire for a new development at the long-vacant corner of Crenshaw and Jefferson, very close to the new Expo Line light rail train station, with our equally-important passion for historic preservation and design that is compatible with not just the adjacent community but also with "New Urbanism" goals of pedestrian-activated streets and transit-friendly development.

WAHA also believes that adaptive reuse of the building will enhance the overall project on the site.

In the initial proposal, the Bank of Tokyo building would be demolished to create a surface parking lot with, literally, three times the required parking for the associated development project, a new Fresh and Easy grocery store and a much-smaller branch of the bank. The surface parking was proposed even though the development partners control a nearby parking structure with 500 spaces, nearly all of which are empty every day but Sunday. Plus, the parking structure had previously been approved for a joint/shared use with this project.

In an effort to preserve the Bank of Tokyo building while permitting the development of the new Fresh & Easy, there have been a series of meetings with representatives from the developer (CIM), its partner West Angelus CDC, Fresh & Easy, Council District 10, WAHA, and the local neighborhood council (United Neighborhoods/UNNC). WAHA's goal has been to improve the project by encouraging pedestrian-friendly design initiatives, and at the same time save the building, which we consider to be a cultural and historic resource.

To that end, WAHA filed a series of land use appeals, including appeals requested by and on behalf of the developer, that ultimately resulted in the CIM partnership regaining additional square footage (as a result of WAHA's request, a 22-foot widening of the Crenshaw sidewalk was reduced to 11 feet, and a 2- to 5-foot dedication on Jefferson was rescinded).

The project, as proposed, had a nearly-blank wall on Crenshaw Boulevard, with Fresh and Easy's only entrance facing a surface parking lot that sprawled across the

(continued on next page)

President's Message by John Patterson

WAHA's GOLDEN STATE MUTUAL Open House event on Saturday, October 22, was a great success and the epitome of collaboration between various community organizations. While the primary purpose of the event was to continue to bring awareness to the threatened murals that grace the lobby of this wonderful Paul R. Williams landmark building, I was very pleased to have been able to create a wonderful tie-in to the "Places of Validation" exhibit at the California African American Museum.

On display until April 1, 2012, CAAM has brought together a significant collection of art and sculpture as their museum's contribution to the city-wide "Pacific Standard Time" exposition that launched in early October. Many of the works on display in Exposition Park are by artists whose works were displayed throughout the offices of the Golden State Mutual building, back before their works had acquired widespread stature. CAAM's exhibit also includes some of the original sketches of the Hale Woodruff and Charles Alston murals along with other memorabilia from this ground-breaking company's role in supporting and promoting the African American community here in Los Angeles.

CAAM brought a bus full of guests to view the murals in the morning. Mural Conservancy Los Angeles also participated, sharing with our visitors a multi-visual presentation on murals throughout the greater Los Angeles area. And our friends at Los Angeles Conservancy played a central role in spreading the word about the event, attracting a significant percentage of the guests who attended the open house.

Special thanks to Joshua Solomon for arranging for the works of three contemporary artists to be present. Several works by Lili Bernard and Bernard Hoyes were displayed in the lobby, and we were delighted to have the auditorium filled with the monumental tapestries of Leimert Park based artist RAMSESS. Several people commented on how the exhibition of these contemporary artists restored the energy, and revisited the insurance company's original purpose of supporting up-and-coming artists.

It will be our goal to continue WAHA's preservation advocacy with regard to these murals until we are confident that they will maintain their respected place and retain their legacy for generations to come!!

John Patterson may be reached by e-mail at President@WestAdamsHeritage.org

Bank of Tokyo Update

continued from prior page

entire east side of the project to Bronson Avenue, and which created surface parking on Jefferson Boulevard. UNNC and WAHA argued that a true entry door for the Fresh and Easy store on the Crenshaw elevation would activate the street, make the grocery store pedestrian friendly, and accessible to future light rail riders.

UNNC also asked that a small plaza with tables be added to the project, to encourage a little more social interaction and to provide a place for customers to eat the "easy" prepared foods.

The initial meetings proved productive, and CIM incorporated these design suggestions into the project.

That left the Bank of Tokyo building issue.

WAHA remains concerned about the complete inadequacy of the environmental clearance on this project. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) has some very specific regulations regarding historical/cultural resources, including what is called the "Low Threshold" guideline that says when experts disagree over whether or not a resource is historic, then an EIR shall be conducted to explore alternatives to demolition. In the case of the Bank of Tokyo building, experts certainly disagree. By now, at least half a dozen Qualified Historians have weighed in on the side that the building is historic, while two Qualified Historians hold the opposite opinion. By our mathematics, that disagreement should have resulted in an EIR.

Although this has now been a matter of strong discussion since early October, CIM and the Los Angeles City Planning Department have simply refused to correct the current environmental clearance by identifying the building as being even potentially historic. This disagreement went all the way to the Los Angeles City Council, which was expected to deny WAHA's appeal at a hearing in mid-November.

CIM has agreed to save a portion of the building (not quite half), which retains many character-defining mid-century modern features and also helps retain the street face along Jefferson Boulevard. The 5,400-square-foot remnant building will be looking for a tenant.

WAHA is still weighing its legal options, as there is currently no guarantee that the building will not be demolished. While WAHA fully supports the other aspects of the revised project, and looks forward to having this Fresh and Easy grocery store, the Bank of Tokyo building remains at risk. Hopefully, this issue will be resolved in the next 30 days, and the project will move forward as planned. ●



Stepping Out

A Hauntingly Good Time

by John Patterson

The first iteration of WAHA's newest member event, "Filmed in West Adams" was a huge success, much enjoyed by all who attended. WAHA's Events chairperson, Suzie Henderson, came up with the novel idea of screening movies that were shot in our West Adams neighborhood — and, if at all possible, shown in the very home in which they were filmed. This was not possible for the first in this new series, the screening of the 1944 classic haunted house movie, *The Uninvited*, since the West Adams home that served as the set was torn down many years ago.

The Rindge Mansion proved to be an exceptional "stand-in" for the evening's location, and WAHA extends a HUGE neighborly "Thank You" to Susan and Harold Greenberg for opening their home for this special occasion. Not only was this rare opportunity to view this stately house a unique treat, but stories of the mansion's "other-dimensional" residents were particularly opportune in the context of viewing this movie.

Before the screening, guests were invited to stroll through the grand public rooms on the first floor. I had invited my very close friend Gabriela Castillo and her husband to join us, with the specific intention of sleuthing out any truth to the stories of the home's "other" guests. Gabi is an energy healer - and she excels in her work with animals. Her gifts provide a sensitivity that are shared by only a few. I'll let her own words describe her experience at the Rindge that evening:

Last night was a Halloween delight with the WAHA group putting on a screening of the 1944 version of The Uninvited in a historic and what I found to be a rather fun haunted house! It was good fun and great company! Doing what I do I would be remiss if I did not mention that I had more than a couple of paranormal experiences. It was all lovely and positive. Being in there felt a bit like that movie Star Trek Generations...there were so many ghosts from different time periods co mingling and enjoying the fun night. As I was there to have fun and there were tons of people "my radar" was not focused on the paranormal but they did make contact with me in a few different ways. I got brushed up against when no one was there. I took out an EMF device and it spiked several times where there were no plugs etc...



Did WAHA have a Special Guest at its first "Filmed in West Adams" event?

in places literally "thin air." I had another application with me that allows "the other side" to use words and well, we were talking about Philadelphia and when I asked out loud if they could hear us the device said "Philadelphia." At one point I was walking around alone and humming a tune. The device said two words..."keep singing" In that moment the EMF spiked and I felt a draft and there was no door or window open. To top it all off, as our group got ready to leave, we were headed for the front door and it swung open on it's own. The feeling was of a polite saying "good bye and nice to see you." I look forward to other WAHA events in that historic area and hope to have more positive paranormal encounters with other happy ghosts who enjoy the gatherings as much as the living

I did indeed share with Gabi feeling that "cold air" in the center of the house, and was quite surprised when the front door opened as we were all saying goodbye! Quite an experience, I must say!!

I have heard that there are a number of other houses in our neighborhood that share a similar experience, and I'd be very interested in hearing from our members any stories that you might wish to share!! ●



John Patterson and Gabriela Castillo

Doheny Mansion Open for Tours: Saturday, December 17 (morning tour times)

The Doheny Mansion at Mount St. Mary's College, former estate of early-1900s oil baron Edward L. Doheny, opens for public tours on December 17 at 9:45, 10:30 and 11:15 a.m. Home to the Doheny family for nearly 60 years, the mansion was designed by Theodore Augustus Eisen and Sumner P. Hunt in 1898. Doheny and his wife, Carrie Estelle Doheny, frequently remodeled the mansion. The docent-led public tours cost \$25 a person, and reservations are required. Tours include the first floor of the mansion and surrounding grounds. For tour information, call 213-477-2962, or go to www.dohenymansion.org for reservations and other mansion news. The Doheny Mansion is located in University Park at No. 8 Chester Place. ●



Around the House

Resources: Great Plumbers

By Steve Wallis

Carmen Zigrang in Harvard Heights recently had a very positive experience with a plumber and wanted to pass it on (below). While many of us have contractors we are comfortable using, it is always nice having a backup. Many of us use Ricky Ruiz and also find him to be professional and very affordable.

Thanks, Carmen, for the suggestion!

From Carmen Zigrang:

We just survived a horrible plumbing catastrophe. Our main line was plugged in two places and we had to replace the entire line from the house to the street, as well as clean out the line from our property to the manhole. Whew, what an expense! But now the line should outlive us both, and you should have seen the 100-year-old pipe! One of our great neighbors recommended a local plumber who came out right away, which was amazing enough. And they were priced half of what our regular plumber requested to do the job. I would love to recommend them for the WAHA newsletter.

[Editor's Note: Let's not forget WAHA's loyal local advertiser and supporter, Davidson Plumbing.]

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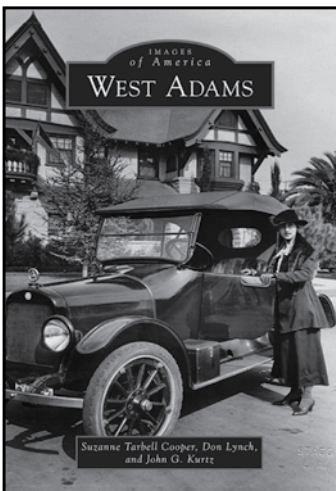
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History Matters

The Lawson Clock Story

by Randy Juster

I first saw a Lawson clock in an antique mall in the mid-1980s and didn't see another for several years. There was no information on the company and for a while I thought that my clock was the only model the company produced. Then, I saw another. Over time it became obvious that Lawson had been a prolific producer of clocks over many years--but where did they come from and where did they go?

Now, at last, I have some of the answers, courtesy of Henry Fenenbock, whose father owned the company from 1948 onward. As far as I know, none of this information has appeared anywhere else.

When the Roaring Twenties came to an abrupt end in October 1929, one casualty was ornate, European inspired Art Deco. For the foreseeable future, the last thing on people's minds would be keeping up with the latest styles.

Sadly, things would get worse. The Depression hit bottom in 1933 and it was here, at the most unlikely time, that a new streamlined style went on display. This "moderne" style, a sort of egalitarian Art Deco, was an unusual mix of optimism and pragmatism, science and science fiction. The Depression would linger for years but streamlining offered a peek at the future, suggesting better days were just around the corner.

The first major exhibit of streamlined Art Deco was the Chicago World's Fair of 1933-34. It was here that Henry Fenenbock, a young entrepreneur from New York's lower east side, started a new venture. He became the "Turtle King," selling live turtles with hand painted shells as souvenirs. He sold thousands.

Due to a mishap with the heating system in his hotel, Henry's turtles were lost. He tried several other businesses before deciding to seek his fortune in California, where he arrived in Los Angeles in 1936.

In those days, good penmanship and a high quality fountain pen were essential for successful businessmen and Henry, who had always been interested in pens, opened Swanee's Pen Hospital (named after a favorite song). "Swanee" as Henry came to be known, would build a huge business, becoming the largest Parker Pen dealer in the world and ultimately owning a part of that company.

Two years earlier, and not far from Swanee's shop, Lindley S. Lawson and Harold B. Lawson had opened a clock business. Their company, Lawson Clocks Limited, at 2329 W. Washington Boulevard (in West Adams), made a line of strikingly modern digital clocks that displayed the time on rolling wheels much like an odometer. The clocks were of very high quality and at the apex of streamlined design. The Lawsons worked with designer KEM Weber to assure the clock cases were as up-to-date as the digital concept.

Did Henry Fenenbock's work with fountain pens bring him into contact with the Lawsons? Did one of Henry's customers have a Lawson clock on his desk? We don't know. But selling and servicing fine pens in downtown Los Angeles, Henry must have been acquainted with Lawson products. Eventually, the paths of Fenenbock and Lawson would cross.

In 1940, Lawson (now Lawson Time, Inc.) relocated to Pasadena. The reason for the move is unknown and it appears operations shut down around 1941-42, probably due to the war.

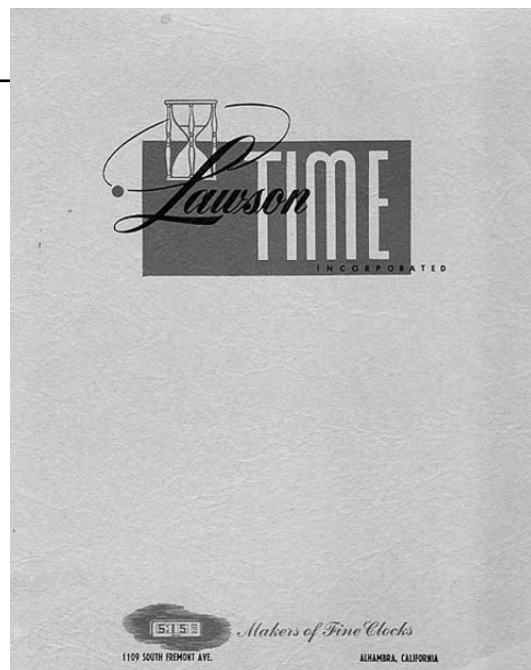
After being listed in the September 1941 Pasadena phone book, Lawson Time next appears in the Alhambra book in September 1947. What happened during those six years is another mystery but again, it seems likely World War II played a role.

Meanwhile, Henry Fenenbock's pen business continued to grow and, always on the lookout for a for a good opportunity, he bought Lawson Time in 1948. The factory had excess capacity so Henry set up an operation making Onyx and black glass desk sets for Parker.

With Parker Pen's steady orders coming in, Henry was able to continue producing beautiful Lawson clocks. To the surprise (and some dismay) of Lawson collectors, the Lawson Alhambra facility continued making distinctly Art Deco clocks until sometime in the late 1960s and the walnut case clocks were produced in small quantities until the mid-1970s!

I am extremely grateful to Henry's son, also named Henry Fenenbock, for providing illustrations and fascinating information on his family's history, without which this article would not have been possible. ●

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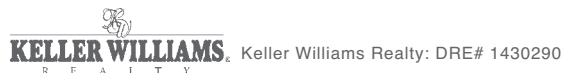
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WAHA Cooks: 25 Years of Holiday Recipes

WAHA has been serving up Progressive Dinners for a quarter century, and as we have been pouring through our cookbooks to come up with delicious treats for this year's event, we thought we'd share some of our "hits" from prior years with you, perhaps to try on your own holiday tables.

Eggplant Caviar on Crostini

From *A Holiday on the Street of Dreams* (2001)

2 small eggplants (2 pounds)
4 cloves of garlic, or more
1 tsp soy sauce
4 T olive oil
1 medium sized tomato, peeled, seeded and chopped
1/4 cup golden raisins
1/4 cup roasted pinenuts

Cut eggplants into halves, lengthwise, and make holes in flesh. Insert garlic slivers. Sprinkle with salt; put on baking sheet. Bake one hour at 350 degrees. Cool slightly. Invert onto paper towels. As the eggplants cool, squeeze gently to eliminate excess liquid. Scrape flesh and garlic away from skin — and throw away the skin.

Put garlic and eggplant into bowl. Mash with fork. Season with salt and pepper. Stir in all other ingredients EXCEPT pine nuts. Chill overnight.

Before serving, toast pine nuts in 400 degree oven for five minutes until golden brown. Add to eggplant caviar just before serving.

To make Crostini: Thinly slice a baguette (French, Sour Dough or European-style Brown Bread) into appetizer-sized rounds. Melt small amount of butter. Add about the same amount of olive oil (in a ratio to your own taste). Place bread slices into baking pan, and brush the butter-oil mixture on top. Bake in oven at 400 degrees until golden brown. Cool. Serve at room temperature topped with Eggplant Caviar.

Chevre and Pear Tartlets

From *A Holiday to Remember in Victoria Park* (2006)

Try these chevre and caramelized pear tartlets with a little prosciutto ham.

Pre-made tartlet shells
Chevre (goat) cheese, softened
Sliced fresh pears, sautéed in butter until caramelized
Fig spread or puree
Prosciutto (optional)

Preheat the broiler.

Spoon a small amount of fig spread in tartlet, and spread it to cover the bottom. If you would like to use prosciutto, place a small piece on top of the fig paste. Spoon 1 teaspoon of chevre into the tartlet shell. Top with a small amount of caramelized pears. Place on cookie sheet under the broiler, and watch carefully — the tartlet is done when cheese begins to melt. Watch closely as broiling time will vary.

Gingered Pumpkin Bisque

From *Wellington Wonderland* (1999)

12 cups Libbey Pumpkin
12 cups double-strength chicken broth (use Knorr powder - 2 tsp powder per cup of water)
10 cups milk
2 cups heavy cream
1/2 cup sugar
2 tablespoons granulated onion
2 tablespoons Lawry's seasoned salt
1 tablespoon nutmeg
1 tablespoon powdered ginger
3 tablespoons pureed ginger (from jar) - to taste
3 tablespoons butter

Combine all ingredients. Blend well. Heat. Serve. Dust with nutmeg, if desired. Feeds a crowd - Makes 50 6-ounce servings

Fennel-Pear Soup

From *A Holiday to Remember in Victoria Park* (2006)

4 cups diced fennel (3-4 fennel bulbs)
4 cups diced onions
4 cups diced pears (two 29-ounce cans)
1 tsp fennel seed, ground
1/4 tsp garam masala
1 tsp salt
8 cups vegetable stock or broth
1 cup pear juice or nectar
1 1/2 tsp white pepper
2 cups half & half
1 T Pernod
3 T butter
2 fresh pears, sliced and caramelized in butter

Saute onion, fennel and diced pear in 2 T butter, until translucent (do not brown.)

Add spices.

Add broth and pear juice. Cook for 20 minutes. While soup is simmering, caramelize the fresh pears in 1 T butter. Add these pears to the soup. Puree, and then add the half & half. Add Pernod and stir well.

Serve with a garnish of fresh fennel leaves, minced small.
(Makes 15 9-ounce serving)



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Chicken and Shitake Mushroom Stroganoff

From *A Victorian Holiday* (2004)

10 lbs. Chicken (1/4 to 1/2 inch slices)
5 1/2 lbs. Mushrooms (sliced thin (approx. 1/8 inch), 5:2 ration
of Shitake to King Oyster)
7 1/2 lbs. Onions (sliced thin)
6 cups Chicken Stock
2 1/2 lbs. Sour Cream
10 TB Cooking Sherry or Cognac (1/2 to 3/4 cup)
5 TB Dijon Mustard (1/4 to 1/2 cup)
1/4 lb. (1 stick) Butter
5 TB Olive Oil (1/4 to 1/2 cup)

Saute Chicken in butter/olive oil until white, seasoning to taste with salt, pepper and chicken seasoning. Separately, saute onions in butter until glassy, mixing regularly. Once glassy, add mushrooms, sauteed chicken, chicken stock and sherry/cognac. Bring to a steady simmer for 5 minutes. Lower heat and add sour cream and mustard. Mix in thoroughly.

Place in serving trays and cover with aluminum foil. Place in oven (140 degrees) if not immediately needed. Feeds an Army!

Poached Chicken with Pomegranate Sauce

From *Monuments of the Millenium* (2000)

One of Mitzi Mogul's favorite recipes!

2 lbs skinless, boneless chicken breasts
1 large onion, sliced
3 large carrots
3 bay leaves
Equal parts white wine and water to cover

Place chicken in large pan. Cover with half water, half white wine. Add onion slices and bay leaves. Cut carrots in large pieces, add to pan. Chicken breasts can be crowded, but all must be covered by the liquid. In a 400 degree oven, cook until done (approximately half an hour, but this depends on the size of the chicken breasts; check for doneness after 20 minutes). Turn at least once so that they cook evenly. Serve over couscous prepared according to the package directions.

To make Pomegranate Sauce, you will need:

1 cup pomegranate juice
2 tablespoons sugar (scant)
1 tablespoon lemon juice
1 tablespoon cornstarch
1 tablespoon water

In a saucepan, combine pomegranate juice, sugar, and lemon juice. In a cup (or small bowl) stir water and cornstarch together, then stir that mixture into the saucepan. Place pan over medium-low heat and stir constantly until thickened and clear. It can cool slightly but don't let it get cold. Spoon over chicken/couscous on each plate. These ingredients may need to be adjusted slightly to taste. For instance, you may want a little more or less sugar, perhaps more lemon juice. The sauce should be slightly sweet, but not cloying. ●

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Holiday Tour

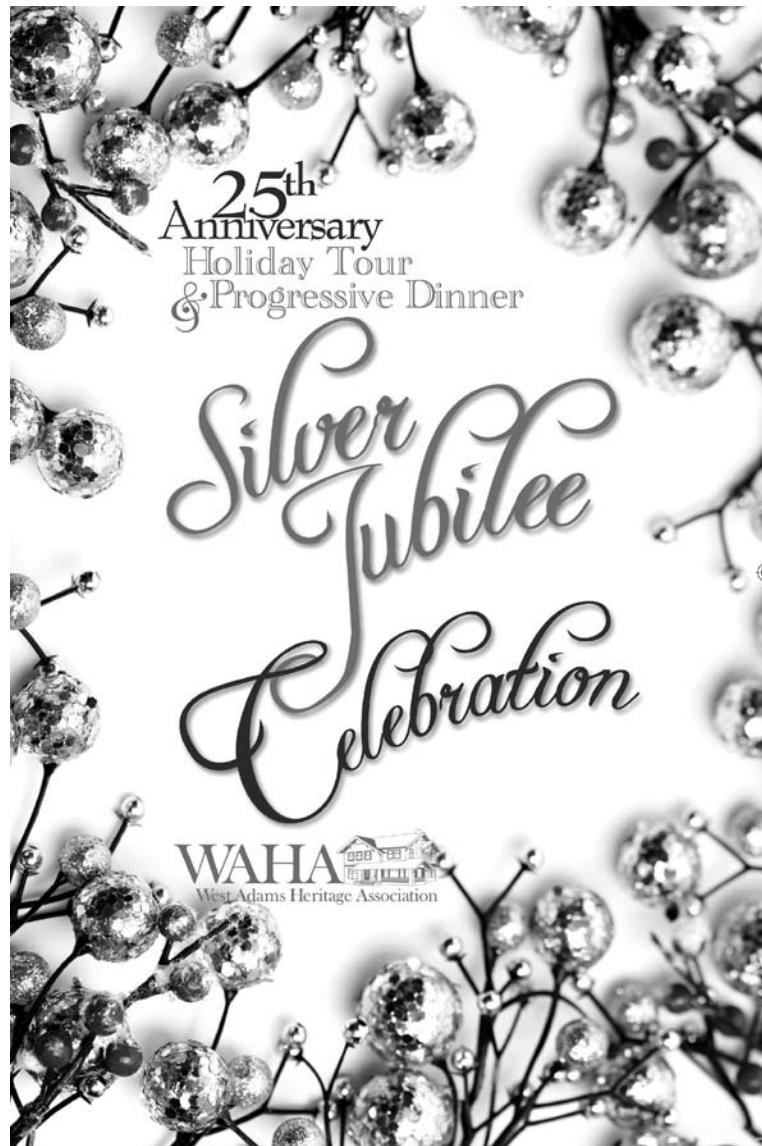
continued from page 1

In addition there are lots of volunteers who assist behind the scenes in other roles, and on other days. Can you help with any of these tasks:

- Prep Cook – cook or bake in your own home the week before the Tour
- Volunteer Dinners - pick up and deliver volunteer dinners on Saturday 12/3 and Sunday 12/4, tentatively from 4 to 6 p.m. both days
- WAHA Holiday Party – decorate, set-up and otherwise assist with this party (for our members and wonderful volunteers) on the weekend following the tour
- Crafty types – we need your creative skills (and possibly your glue guns) to make tourgoer badges and ornaments
- Shopping - Trader Joe's, 99 Cent Store, Smart & Final, Von's, the Flower Mart — they'll all get a WAHA visit or two
- Holiday decorating – some of our tour properties can use a helping hand hanging ornaments, garland and other seasonal "attire" during the week before the Tour
- Street decorating - install signs at Tour houses on Saturday 12/3 by 1 p.m.

If you are available any of these times, please raise your hand and volunteer. Contact us at volunteer@westadamsheritage.org.

The Holiday Tour is WAHA's major annual fundraising event, and helps pay for our award-winning Evening Strolls as well as our many preservation support and advocacy activities. We encourage all of our members to contribute to that effort by taking the Holiday Tour and Progressive Dinner — and bringing their friends — on the day they are not volunteering.



If you purchase your ticket by November 15, prices are \$70 for non-members, \$60 for WAHA members. After November 15, all tickets are \$85 apiece. Each year, some of you wish to purchase large groups of tickets, and we love that you do so – but please contact us at WAHAholiday@aol.com ASAP to reserve your block of seats. Please be sure to return the forms and your checks as early as possible, so that you and your guests will not be disappointed. It is not unusual for this event to sell out. A Holiday Walking Tour on Sunday afternoon only (no food) will also be offered (free to tour volunteers; \$30 paid admission.)

If you have joined WAHA at a membership level that may provide tickets to you and a guest for this tour, please DO contact us immediately (and no later than November 1) with your reservation, so we can be sure to accommodate you.

As always, if you just want to peek inside the homes and you ARE volunteering for the event, you may do so -- free -- during the Sunday afternoon walking tour.

As you can see, WAHA's Holiday Tour is a complex event. If you would like more information about any aspect of the tour, contact Tour Chair Lindsay Wiggins at tours@westadamsheritage.org.

Please note that we have provided three distinct e-mail addresses for different purposes in this article, and we repeat them here:

To VOLUNTEER, write volunteer@westadamsheritage.org.

For TOUR VISITOR INFORMATION, and RESERVATIONS, GROUP TOURS, etc., write wahaholiday@aol.com

For any other aspect of the tour, write tours@westadamsheritage.org. ●

Lafayette Square History

continued from page 1

that surround the magnificent Theatro Municipal at Rio de Janeiro, South America, and has created widespread admiration.”

This adoption or adaptation of foreign influences is a telling social commentary. In the years prior to World War I, and characterized by the Arts & Crafts Movement, there was a desire to connect with older, more established—and therefore respected – styles and manners. America had few historical references upon which to draw. In Los Angeles, especially, this desire to assimilate some of the more romantic features of the past was part of a need to prove that this city was respectful of social proprieties and tradition. Many people came to California looking for an opportunity to reinvent themselves and get a fresh start, but they still wanted to be taken seriously. There was also an intense interest in the early Spanish and Mexican history of Southern California, which had its own unique romanticism. Promoting it was an affirmation of the area’s indigenous significance and a validation of the city’s character. Despite those regional references, the ancient, and thus foreign, styles were still the overriding influence used to legitimize L.A.’s youth. United States involvement in World War I ended the atmosphere of innocence and dependency on idealism and romance.

Crenshaw spent ten years thinking about Lafayette Square before it came to fruition. Like many others, he saw westward expansion as the future of Los Angeles, and this area seemed ideally strategic – close enough to the downtown center, equally easy access to the ocean. Washington Boulevard was called the “great highway” between Los Angeles and Venice, which had opened in 1905.

Development of the site began in the summer of 1912. The improvements totaled \$15,000. In addition to paved streets, the gateways and balustrades, street lights, and the parks of St. Charles Place, the Crenshaw Security Company built a sample house “as a material demonstration of the high class character of La Fayette Square.” Crenshaw considered Lafayette Square his crowning achievement. As an enthusiastic booster of Los Angeles, he saw this residential park as a contribution to the city as much as a personal investment – in his words, “something of real merit and permanent beauty.”

Over the years, Lafayette Square attracted a variety of entrepreneurs and established citizens, names both obscure and noted.



This classic Paul Williams-remodeled Period Revival home is featured on the Holiday Tour

The list of famous residents is extensive: Joseph Nadeau, Exupere Sentous, David Hamberger, Orlando and Henry Boos, George Pepperdine, Alan Hancock, Jr., Fatty Arbuckle, Alexander Pantages, Joe Louis, Norton Simon and Jennifer Jones, Paul R. Williams, Little Richard, Princess Conchetta Sepulveda Pignatelli, and of course George and Charles Crenshaw. The majority of residents, however, though financially well-situated, were not famous. Similarly, most homes in Lafayette Square were not designed by important architects. In addition to Paul Williams, S. Tilden Norton and Plummer & Feil are also represented, but there were many very capable architects who did great work, but never rose to great prominence.

Today, Lafayette Square is designated as a Historic Preservation Overlay Zone (HPOZ), which hopefully will protect the integrity of these beautiful homes for generations to come. ●

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GET READY FOR HOLIDAY SHOPPING

Special Shopping Opportunities in West Adams

Ceramic artist **Masuo Ojima** presents his annual Ceramics Studio Sale, **Saturday and Sunday, December 3 and 4**, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. both days, at his home and studio in Western Heights, 2143 West 21st Street. For more information, call 323-734-0723.

Fellow ceramic artist **Art Tobias** also offers up his annual sale on the same weekend: **Saturday and Sunday, December 3 and 4**, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days, at his home and studio in the West Adams Avenues, 2519 5th Avenue. Tobias will be selling functional and sculptural clay works. For more information, call 323-737-2120.

Think Indian fashion. **Mira Honeycutt** is having a special holiday sale at her home in Western Heights, 2283 West 21st Street, on **Sunday, December 11, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.** scarves, jewelry, jackets, Sari fabric – new and vintage. Don't miss her Indian Chai and holiday sweets! For more information, call 323-766-8825. ●



THE DISCOVER PICO SHOPPING DISTRICT HOLIDAY RAFFLE

Saturday, December 17, 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Sunday, December 18, Noon - 6 p.m.

Why pay top \$\$ for Larchmont and Culver City quality when you can get the same for much less in your own backyard?? The Neighborhood News presents a Holiday Shopping Raffle. Do your holiday shopping at the Pico Shopping District (La Brea to Spalding) and Win (Win, Win)!

Win up to three times: 24 Stores, 24 prizes — Gift Certificates worth \$25, \$40 or Free Service.

How to Win - Super Simple:

1. Enter participating stores (Balloons will indicate). There are three geographic areas: La Brea to Redondo - just west of Hauser going east to Curson - Lucy Florence over by Spalding. Place your contact info in their raffle box. You are not obligated to buy anything, we just want you to go in and see what amazing products and services are offered.
2. At the end of the weekend ALL the boxes will be gathered into One Big Box. SO THE MORE STORES YOU PUT YOUR NAME IN, THE MORE CHANCES YOU HAVE OF WINNING! You can win up to three times.

3. On Tuesday, December 20, a name will be drawn for each store at 7:30 pm at PIPS. The winners will be contacted December 21. Use your gift or give as a holiday gift.

TIP: Fill out your name on 24 pieces of paper before you leave the house and save time.

You can check out the event on Facebook after November 20 (the FB page launch date). Just google "Pico Shopping District." There will be a map and pictures of the different stores. Or e-mail the neighborhoodnews@yahoo.com for a copy of the map or more information.

Participating Stores to date:

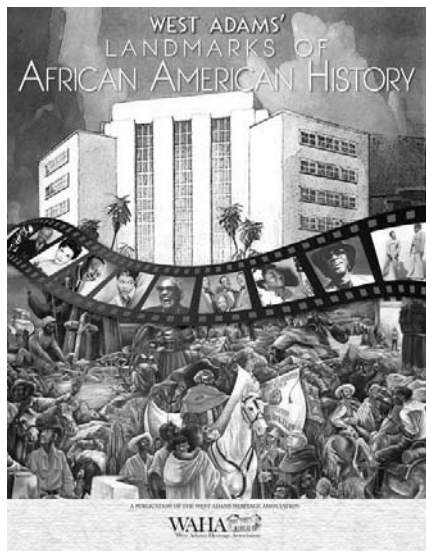
Pastries, tea room, Jamaican food: Lucy Florence, WiJammin
Modern era 50's – 60's Art, furniture, objects: Sleek Modern, Herman Schwartz, Pico Modern
Fashion: Charli's Shoes, Ritch Bich Fashion, Clae Shoes, Pinky's Boutique, GlamLust
Beauty and Hair Care: MBarbering, Indulgent Concept Hair Salon, Cocobella Hair Salon
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Services: Boulevard Vacuum, Vitality Event Furniture Rental
Close Up Barbers, Chocolat Boutique ●

WEST ADAMS' LANDMARKS OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY

WAHA presents *West Adams' Landmarks of African American History*, a compendium of photos and brief biographies of more than 70 prominent African Americans who lived in the West Adams area of Los Angeles and their homes. Also included are many buildings of historical importance to the African American community.

Inside the pages of *West Adams' Landmarks of African American History*, you'll learn about religious and civic institutions that play significant roles in West Adams' (and Los Angeles') black heritage, along with civil rights leaders, entertainers, sports figures, wartime heroes, and trailblazers in their fields. You'll meet many who forged the way:

- Los Angeles' first African American school principal
- The first black graduate of Caltech
- The first African American to lead a major U.S. symphony, and the first African American composer in the United States to have a symphony performed by a major symphony orchestra
- The first black judge west of the Mississippi
- Pioneering doctors, both male and female, including the first African American woman doctor to practice medicine in Los Angeles
- African American attorneys who fought for civil rights, not only for black residents but also their Japanese-American neighbors
- Trailblazing black journalists
- Jazz virtuosos, rhythm & blues legends, and many other black songwriters, composers, arrangers, and musicians
- A lauded African American soprano whose life was cut short by a tragic accident
- The first black dentist to graduate from USC's renown School of Dentistry, and his wife, the first female black dentist to do the same; together they helped found the Los Angeles chapter of the NAACP
- The first African American actor to find success on the Silver Screen — and many others who followed in his footsteps to a reel life in Hollywood and a real life in the West Adams District
- Buffalo Soldiers and Tuskegee Airmen



- The black property owners who successfully challenged racial covenants, taking their cases to the Supreme Court
- The first African American female board member of the Musicians Union
- One of the "Little Rock Nine" — who braved intimidation to help desegregate America's schools
- The first African Americans to own a successful recording label, and a musician/sound engineer whose recording studio would rival the majors
- The first African Americans to run for local elected office in Los Angeles
- California's first black librarian
- A music teacher who opened a classical music academy on Central Avenue
- The first African American member of the prestigious American Institute of Architects (MA), and two other architects of African American descent
- An innovative black businesswoman who established a national fast-food chain
- African American businessmen whose companies — Golden State Mutual Insurance, Broadway Federal, Angelus Funeral Home — helped change the face of Los Angeles

44 pages, 8-1/2 X 11, glossy, full color throughout. \$10.

Purchase at www.WestAdamsHeritage.org (click on "WAHA store" — "WAHA books").



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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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Los Angeles California 90018
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www.WestAdamsHeritage.org

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Calendar ✓

Upcoming Events

Look for more details on upcoming events on WAHA's website, www.WestAdamsHeritage.org

DECEMBER

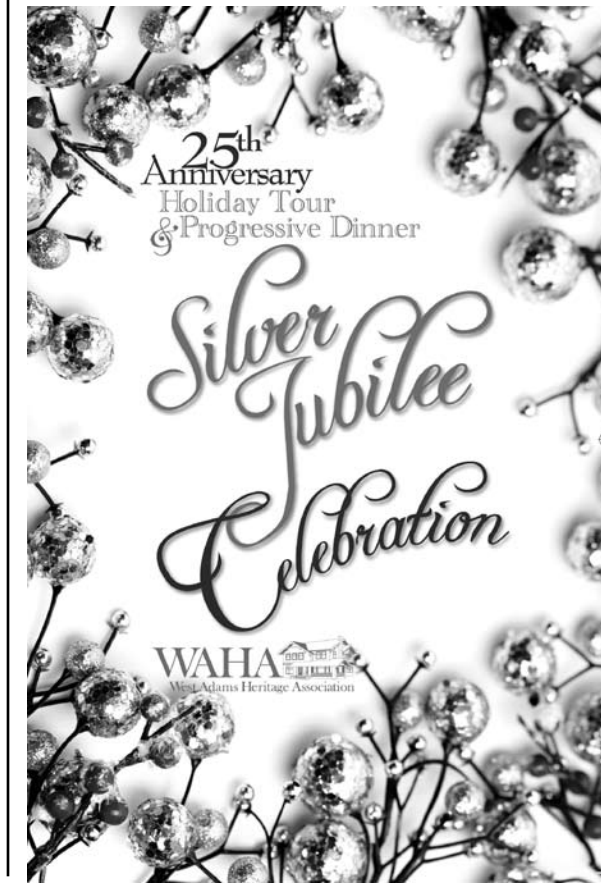
Saturday and Sunday, December 3 and 4:

Annual Holiday Tour and Progressive Dinner,
in Lafayette Square

Celebrate the Silver Jubilee of WAHA's
holiday event! (see page 1)

Saturday, December 10:

You are invited to WAHA's Annual Holiday
Party -- Think glitz! (see page 1)



WAHA....Creating Our Future by Preserving Our Past

The WAHA Matters 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 2011. All rights for graphic and written material appearing in the newsletter are reserved. Contact Director of Publications for permission.

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