



OUR CORNERSTONE

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How to Come Up With a Nomination

By Anne Marie Wozniak

While going to the Post Office or driving to the store, or walking around your neighborhood, are you struck by a new paint job, or an earthquake damaged chimney that has been accurately repaired? Maybe a friend told you that one of their neighbors has replaced aluminum sliders with wooden windows.

Has your neighborhood barber, grocer or hardware store done something to their property that displays community pride? Has a new building in your neighborhood been constructed so as to be sensitive to the architectural integrity of the area? Don't forget the property that is consistently maintained in



This Craftsman cottage on Holland was awarded by the HPHT in 2002 for sustained maintenance.

both appearance and landscaping.

It is these little things that help us put on our awards ceremony every year and we need your input to make it a success.

Taking a short drive around your neighborhood might net some surprises and you may come up with not only one, but two or even more nominations.



The Garvanza-San Pascual staircase was recognized by the HPHT in 2002 for its artistic tile that was done by local children as an art project.

So put on your nominating hat and go looking.



H. J. Moline Flats on Monte Vista St. received a 2004 HPHT award for a façade and restoration.

to the architectural integrity of the area? Don't forget the property that is consistently maintained in

HPHT Community Awards Nomination Form

Deadline: January 20, 2008

I Submit the Following for Consideration: _____

I nominate (name or address): _____

Property address or directions to the property: _____

I think there is justification to make this nomination as it meets criteria number: _____

Criteria:

1. There is evidence of significant exterior improvement and preservation of this property in the last year.
2. There is evidence of continued/sustained maintenance and care of this property.
3. There has been preservation, improvement or maintenance of the garden or landscape.
4. There has been a significant contribution by an individual toward the preservation of our cultural heritage.

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President's Corner

By Carmela Gomes



Take care of your community and your community will take care of you. That's the phrase that came trippingly from my tongue as Venita and Al Strange, Charles Fisher and I took our trip down the Northeast Christmas Parade route on Sunday, December 2. It sounded good at the time and still does. After all, isn't that what historical preservation is all about, taking care of what defines us as a community so that the generations that follow have a sense of community?

We have come a long way as an organization in the last 25 years and if it wasn't for the care and preservation of traditions and community that the Highland Park Heritage Trust has been instrumental in fostering, those of us who are the later arrivals to this historical region would not be able to build upon your efforts in the care of the community.

This is the time to say thank you, once again, for all those who give even the smallest amount of their time that makes a difference in the way in which events and activities are presented. There will be several times during the coming year when you will be called upon to contribute your hands and your hearts, as the saying goes, to help out and we know you will come through, once again.

Finally, if you haven't done so, as yet, do send in your renewal. As I said in my first message, not everyone goes to meetings but everyone is so very important to the life of an organization. You are all teaching me many things about our community and that is the most delightful aspect of serving on the board.

At this time I would like to thank the Graphic Arts Department of Franklin High School under the able tutelage of Miguel Robles that is printing the Cornerstone. Also, the Franklin High Cheer Squad that does the preparation for the mailing under the direction of coach Natalie Esber.

Happy Holidays! Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!



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Remember to Clean and Green Your Parkway!

HPHT Kiosk

Videos

- *The House That Moved Twice* (\$14.95)
- *The Lure & Legacy of the Lower Arroyo Seco* (\$19.95)



Books

- *The Five Friendly Valleys: The Story of Greater Highland Park* (\$5.95)
- *Los Angeles County Route 66 Guide* by Scott Piotrowski (\$18.95)



Street Banners that hung on Figueroa St. (\$50.00 each)

All proceeds benefit HPHT. Orders may be picked up at the monthly meetings or shipping for an additional \$4.00 donation.

Chicken Boy Loves Highland Park

By Amy Inouye (aka Chicken Boy's mom)

When I moved to Los Angeles in the 1970s, it was the land of the roadside attraction and I loved it. Big bright signs, giant hot dogs, donuts, and hats, space-age coffee shops with toasters on the tables; it was heaven. Driving up Broadway one morning, I saw the 22-foot tall fiberglass statue of Chicken Boy and nothing would ever be the same. He stood atop his namesake restaurant. He just made me feel welcome in my new habitat. I thought, "if he feels OK here, I feel OK here." Two outsiders who only wanted to blend.

He became my touchstone. I would drive by in the middle of the night and wave to him. I'd take out of towners to go wave. He was not just a marker for a fried chicken joint, he was a beacon of peaceful dignity intent on finding the silver lining of life. In time, I discovered I wasn't the only one who saw this in his being.



Chicken Boy on Broadway, 1970s.

In 1984, the proprietor went to the big diner in the sky and his kin were unable to keep up with the fryers. A "for lease" sign went up and I called several times to inquire as to the future of Mr Boy. Ultimately, they let me adopt him if I would get him outta there pronto. It was not easy, but it was done with the happy anticipation that a sculpture garden would soon take him in. Except no one wanted him.

Thus, CB embarked on 23 years' worth of mostly-hibernation in a variety of storage facilities. There were a few appearances: (1) he graced the stage of a live taping of *Whaddy Know* (a radio show, so the listening audience didn't get to see him); (2) a country radio station organized an installation of the statue at Arco Plaza mall (CB was asked to leave at holiday time because they claimed he clashed with the Currier & Ives themed décor); and (3) an appearance in Gregg Araki's film *Nowhere* (his part was cut but he does have a cameo in a beach scene).

Then, his guardians relocated to Highland Park and Chicken Boy got some respect. We realized (1) we had a flat roof where he could roost; (2) the roof overlooked a commercial district with much drive-by traffic; and (3) that district happened to be in a stretch of Historic Route 66 (his former roost was also on HR66). We did a lot of planning, went to many meetings, and

managed to (1) hire the rock star of structural engineers, Mr Melvyn Green, to prepare the installation plans; (2) secure approval and support of all major neighborhood groups for the plan; (3) get permit approval from the city in a manner that constantly called to mind the movie *Brazil*; (4) win a Community Beautification grant to help pay for all this; and (5) hire the fabulous Tako Tyko to install our Mr Boy in a most secure fashion.

On October 18, 2007, installation was completed and Chicken Boy is home to roost at last. But wait, there's more: sometime in 2008 we will install disco lights, possibly even solar-powered, and throw a block party to celebrate "Chicken Boy on Figueroa Street." (Watch this space!) Many thanks are due myriad people and groups, including the Highland Park Heritage Trust.

BTW, the Future Studio Gallery (home of CB and the tiny Chicken Boy Souvenir Stand) is open for NelaArt.com's Second Saturday art walks, and by appointment (call 323 254-4565 or email futurestudio@sbcglobal.net). Proceeds from the souvenir stand go toward lighting and maintenance of CB. Drive by sometime—5558 N. Figueroa Street (half-block south of the Highland Theater).



"We salute your artistic talent and your ingenuity and generosity on behalf of our community. Thank you for realizing your dream in our midst. You enrich us all." Carmela presents the HPHT certificate of honor to Amy at the Highland Park Holiday Party, Dec. 13, 2007.



Chicken Boy on Figueroa Street, October 18 2007, 3 pm.

HPHT Christmas Party in the home of Eleana and Greg Williams

The spectacular California Craftsman home, originally built in 1910 as a sanitarium but never really used for that, is perched on the edge of Mt Washington. Due to the efforts of Charles Fisher and the HPHT the home was adopted as a city of LA Historical Cultural Monument in 1994 and has been on the HPHT tour twice. The bigger than usual public rooms made the festivities even more enjoyable.

We were honored by the recognition of the 2007 Board Members by Assemblyman Anthony Portantino who was represented by Field Deputy Elizabeth Garcia. The usual Kris Kringle gift exchange was highlighted by the serendipitous uncovering of an anonymous donation to the HPHT of \$100 cash tucked into a pair of comfortable and cozy socks. Somehow, HPHT President Carmela Gomes chose the little gift bag which was not swooped up in the game. When the packages were finally opened, the envelope, note and gift were uncovered to the delight of everyone.



Virginia Neely



Ann Walnum



Robert Spira & Lori Fiacco



Charles Fisher with
Elizabeth Garcia



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Scenes from the 63rd Annual Highland Park Christmas Parade



Sunday, December 2, 2007: A beautiful day for a parade! Top left: The Highland Park Heritage Trust parade entry was led by Venita Strange, Carmela Gomes, Charles Fisher, and Al Strange (bottom right), in one of Charlie's vintage vehicles. Top right: The crowd anxiously awaits. Bottom left: The Lummi Day Community Foundation float "Charles Lummi and Friends."

Please take a moment to join HPHT or renew your membership for 2008!

The mission of the Highland Park Heritage Trust is to preserve the heritage of Los Angeles' Arroyo Seco communities through education, advocacy and preservation projects for the benefit of present and future generations. LA's Arroyo Seco communities consist of Highland Park, Garvanza, Mt Washington, Hermon, Montecito Heights, and Cypress Park.

To join the Highland Park Heritage Trust, send your tax-deductible check to:

Highland Park Heritage Trust
PO Box 50894
Los Angeles CA 90050-0894

- Individual \$20
- Family \$30
- Sponsor \$50
- Benefactor (\$51 to \$150) _____
- Angel (over \$150) _____

- Renewal
- New Member

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

Calendar of Upcoming HPHT & Community Events

Free Tai Chi Classes Every Sunday, 8:30 am, Audubon Center at Debs Park, http://ca.audubon.org/debs_park.htm

January

- 12 NelaArt.com's Second Saturday Art Walk, 7-10pm, maps of participating galleries available at nelaart.com
- 14 HPHT Board Meeting, 7-9 pm, Ramona Hall

February

- 2&9 3rd Annual "The River Runs Through It" Teachers' Workshop, www.lummisday.org
- 9 Book Signing, *Highland Park*, by Charles Fisher, 6-9 pm, La Casa Blue
NelaArt.com's Second Saturday Art Walk, 7-10pm, maps of participating galleries available at nelaart.com
- 11 HPHT Board Meeting, 7-9 pm, Ramona Hall
- 24 HPHT Awards Ceremony, 2-4 pm (location TBA)

HPHT Board Meetings

Jan. 14, Feb. 11, March 10, April 14, May 12, June 9 • 7-9 pm, Ramona Hall

Mark Your Calendars!

June 1, 2008, 3rd Annual Lummis Day, www.lummisday.org

September 11-14, 2008, Preserving the Historic Road sixth biennial conference
in Albuquerque, New Mexico, www.historicroads.org



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