



OUR CORNERSTONE

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SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2007

Memorial Benches to be Dedicated

By Anne Marie Wozniak

Two benches honoring Pat Samson and Lucille Lemon will be unveiled on November 17, 2007 at a 9:00 AM until Noon ceremony. The site of the dedication is at the top of Elyria Canyon Park, which is reached at the end of Elyria Drive off of San Rafael Avenue. Volunteers cleaned up the site on October 13th and concrete footings will be prepared on November 10th. Wildflower seeds will be sown at the dedication ceremony.

Both Pat and Lucille were anchors of the community and their benches will help to preserve their memory for generations to come.

Pat Samson, who died on October 18, 2006, was an original founder of the Highland Park Heritage Trust and served for many years as the organization's Treasurer. Her bright smile and good council are truly missed.

Lucille Lemon, a resident of Elyria Drive on Mt. Washington since the 1950s, was a visible and effective community activist whose impact will be felt for years to come.



Pat Samson at HPHT Lummi Day Booth, 2006
(Charles J. Fisher photo).

To RSVP for attendance, please call Lynette Kampe at (323) 221-1782 or send an email to lynette@pacbell.net.

Victory for Garvanza Residents

Tomoko Copon and I managed to stop the developers of 6615 E. Elder St. that are building a development called "Garvanza Villas" on the downsloping ravine that abuts many homes in a tightknit community. It also runs along Avenue 66, being that they plan on building 16 luxury homes approx. 2700 sq feet each on 4 acres of land. On two of the lots toward the top of the hill near Elder Street there is the most charming orchard of trees, namely

the Historic Lindsey Olive Orchard that consists of 11 olive trees over 100 years old and 1 coastal oak tree that are on the development. We managed to speak with Nelson Rodriguez and Michael Young in the City Planning offices at City Hall and were able to have them acknowledge a mistake that they made concerning a covenant agreement that was made on behalf of the preservation of these trees. They not only admitted the mistake but were able to draft an email to

Ray Wooden, Supervisor of Grading for the Department of Building and Safety to explain their error. With this document, Mr. Wooden was able to issue an "Order to Comply" to protect and preserve the historic orchard and the oak tree. This was a monumental feat and a great victory for Garvanza residents!

Tina Gulotta-Miller
Garvanza Improvement Association

President's Corner

By Carmela Gomes



"Ah, the music of home . . ." I visited my home state of New Jersey for just enough time, 2 and ½ weeks, to be able to miss everyone, friends and family, that I visited. We had a high school reunion, with 12 of us showing up for the 50th, and a family reunion of 27. I was treated to rest and relaxation, walks on the wide beaches "down the shore" and laughter. Lots of laughter. I spent time with a 96 year old aunt, a 93 year old cousin and some cousins I hadn't seen in 40 years. The most important aspect of the visit was the nostalgia of hearing familiar voices, seeing familiar faces and visiting familiar places. This is what home is. This is what "a sense of place" is all about.

HPHT is all about preserving and maintaining that which makes this our home and gives us that sense of place that makes us cling to the nostalgic, albeit historic, quality of our community. Encouraging people to think of where they live in the context of the historical significance of the community helps them to connect the importance of their lives to the community and thereby maintains the quality and appearance of their surroundings.

HPHT is the ultimate educational institution in the communities we serve. We introduce our families and friends and their children, the residents and visitors, the teachers and students, the politicians and the press, to that sense of place that makes us a unique and warm group of people.

We had tears running down our cheeks when I left, I miss everyone and I love them dearly, but I'm happy to be back home.



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Our Cornerstone is the official bi-monthly newsletter of the Highland Park Heritage Trust, a non-profit community organization.

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Advertisement Policy:

Advertisements will be accepted for this publication from advertisers who are in keeping with the intention and goals of this organization. Contact Charly Kemp for submission info and rates.

Monday, November 12, 5PM to 10PM, Fundraiser at Italiano's, 5101 York Blvd, on the corner of N. Avenue 51 for the Franklin HS Cheer Squad members who have been selected to appear in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Sponsored by HPHT, HP Chamber of Commerce and Las Casas Realty.

Thank you LA Corps/Clean and Green for cleaning Figueroa Street between Avenue 50 and Woodside Drive

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.

New Roof for Venerable Hale House

By Brian Sheridan

After 30 years of wear and tear, the roof of Heritage Square Museum's historic Hale House received a well-deserved overhaul. Sun, wind and rain had brought the cedar shingles of the building to a point where many would fall apart by simply touching them. In one section of the house, the roof had been so badly damaged that sun could be seen coming through the displaced shingles through the window to the attic.

Early in the month of September, historic preservation consultants came to survey the roof of this his-

toric building, trying to determine what course of action should be taken for such a delicate job. In the end, it was decided to keep the shingles around the turret intact, as they were in good condition. The remaining restoration work was done to exact specifications, with care and due diligence.

Built between 1887 and 1888 for G.W. Morgan, the house was sold several times and moved once before coming to the museum. Many people in Highland Park may remember the home on its second location at 4425 North Pasadena Avenue (now Figueroa Street). After being declared Los Angeles Historic Cultural Monument No. 40, the house moved to Heritage Square in 1970, undergoing an incredible restoration effort. Today, the classic example of a Queen Anne style house is one of the most popular structures at the museum and has been featured in numerous publications.

We thank Garvey Roofing for doing an excellent job on the roof. However, museum staff would especially like to thank all of the people who donated to the roof fund over the years to make this happen. After all, it is their donations that make everything we do possible. We encourage you to come by, take a tour and see all the improvements for yourself.



Roofers working on Hale House roof.

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
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Renewal
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From There to Here – A Personal View

by Ann Walnum

For four and a half years the Friends of the Southwest Museum Coalition has sought the right resolution to the questions over the merger of the Southwest Museum with the Autry Museum.

Knowing the background of lackluster management and the two previous attempts to move away, we felt deep concern. Many of us had joined the Museum, made large financial contributions and participated in a large variety of volunteer activities.

Knowing the Autry's reputation for strong marketing and inclusive programming we felt hopeful. Most commentary about Autry riches and the cash-poor Southwest predicted better days ahead.

We understood that, despite its billion dollar collection, 12.5 acres of prime real estate and its world famous building, the museum had run out of readily accessible operating funds. Its large stock portfolio and dwindling endowment were legally encumbered and untouchable.

In the spirit of welcome and optimism, three of us ventured to Autry director John Gray's inner office to hear him say, "That's no museum. A museum should sparkle and shine." He was indifferent to my litany of unproductive management and my chart of local cultural institutions providing "synergy." We left his office profoundly disappointed. Within a month, public meetings had been held and the Los Angeles City Council passed a resolution, authored by Councilmen Pacheco and Reyes, supporting retention of artifacts and museum in the Northeast.

Our coalition endeavored, in multiple ways, to show that with marketing and enthusiasm the museum's programs could succeed. With volunteer publicity, staffing, refreshments, attendance, and membership, we broke records. In letters directed to us, we learned to read the embedded words such as "public destination," "economically feasible," "public funding support," that showed John Gray was not swayed.

Ongoing dialogue and regular information meetings raised hope, but promises were not kept. The Autry did not share the merger paper ("Our lawyers say it's too early"). No business or master plan was prepared. Museum staff did not know what was in their future. Rumor was abundant.

Finally, the Brenda Levin plan was available

showing several plans of economic feasibility and building development. The executive summary, written by John Gray, contradicted the main body of the text by saying the plans were not feasible. Griffith Park building plans were announced without our prior knowledge. On March 31, 2005, we held an overflow Ramona Hall meeting. Councilman Ed Reyes declared "Cultural Piracy" and vowed to help our cause. To-be Mayor Villaraigosa made his promise to tie Griffith Park Autry wishes to a full museum plan for Mount Washington.

Within a matter of months, Mayor Villaraigosa had been sworn in and Councilman Huizar had been elected to fill his place. We carefully briefed them and their staffs, thoroughly. Our reward? The Mayor would never again speak openly and supportively. The Councilman would speak supportive words with no follow-through.

Now, two years later we have an entity formed to diminish the museum, not to build it, as the original SOUTHWEST SOCIETY had done. The program that is being supported differs insignificantly from the Autry's 2006 proposals. We are saddened that certain elected officials and cultural figures seem to have been attracted by political glitter and arm-twisting, and not a careful reading of the facts, as we had become accustomed to their doing. We believe we have read the facts, carefully. We have studied the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Griffith Park Building Plans.

We know how to read.

And we know how to not give up.



Southwest Museum viewed from Debs Park, Sept. 2, 2007
(Charles J. Fisher photo)



Eleana Williams will be hosting the
HPHT Christmas Party
 Monday, December 10 from 7PM to 10 PM
 4163 Seaview Lane • Mt Washington • 323-227-9738

It is suggested that people carpool is suggested or park on San Rafael and walk around the corner as parking is limited. As usual, this is a pot luck. For the Kris Kringle gift exchange activity, bring a wrapped item worth \$10 or less.

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Richard Barron Correction

In our last newsletter, it was erroneously reported that the Judson stained glass panel was won by "Robert Barrons." The panel was actually won by long time Highland Park resident and preservationist, Richard Barron.

Barron is an architect who has lived and worked in Highland Park for over a quarter of a century. He was one of the original founders of the Highland Park Neighborhood Association in the 1980s. That organization worked to bring about reforms in the Northeast Community Plan to help eliminate the threat to Highland Park that was caused by the high density R-3 and R-4 zoning that at the time made the historic Highland Park core vulnerable to the type of redevelopment that would have destroyed the historic housing stock.

Barron chaired the HPNA's architectural review committee that worked with developers to bring about better-designed projects that would blend better with the existing community.

Since the formation of the Historic Preservation Overlay Zone in 1994, Richard has served on that board as the architect. His experience and counsel has been a valuable asset to the community.

Barron is also currently the Vice President of the Los Angeles City Cultural Heritage Commission, which he has served on since 2004.

Congratulations again Richard, on your winning the Judson panel.

The Judson Gallery of Contemporary & Traditional Art
 200 South Avenue 66 • Los Angeles, CA 90042

WILLIAM LEES JUDSON: ARTIST

Curated by Prof. Ronald E. Steen, Art Historian and Art Educator

Exhibition dates:

Monday, October 15, 2007 through Friday, January 4, 2008

Gallery hours: Mon.-Fri. 10 to 3, and 2nd Saturdays, 1-4

Group Tours: The William Lees Judson Exhibition & Judson Studios Workshop
 Wednesdays, 10 a.m. and at 2 p.m. Tour format approx. 1 1/2 hr.

\$10.00 per person. Group minimum 20. Call Mon.-Fri. 9-1 (800) 445-8376



Calendar of Upcoming HPHT & Community Events

Free Tai Chi Classes Every Sunday, 9 am, Audubon Center at Debs Park, http://ca.audubon.org/debs_park.htm

November

- 10 Free Family Nature Walk, 10 am, Audubon Center at Debs Park, http://ca.audubon.org/debs_park.htm
- 10 "Antonio Corsi, the World's Most Famous Artist's Model," 4 to 6 pm. Free illustrated lecture by Jake Gorst, Judson Gallery, 200 S Ave 66. www.judsonstudios.com
- 17 Memorial Benches Dedication Ceremony, 9 am until noon (see details on page 1 of this newsletter)
- 18 Arroyo Arts Collective 15th Annual Discovery Tour, "Now Is the Time," 9:30 am until 6:00 pm. Self-guided tour of over 100 artists' studios. Tickets \$10 in advance (purchase at Galco's or online), \$15 on tour day. Tour begins at Lummis Home, 200 E Ave 43. www.arroyoartscollective.org
- 24 After Thanksgiving Free Shape Up Hike, 9 am, Audubon Center at Debs Park, http://ca.audubon.org/debs_park.htm

December

- 1,2 Holiday Lamplight Celebration at Heritage Square. Call for reservations and tickets: 323 225-2700 x224
- 2 63rd Northeast LA Christmas Parade & Winterfest, "Peace Around the World," starts at 1 pm at Figueroa & Ave 60, proceeds to Sycamore Grove Park. Winterfest at the park, 3-5 pm. www.nelachristmasparade2007.com
- 2 HSSC Christmas Reception
- 10 HPHT Christmas Party (see details on page 5 of this newsletter)
- 20 LA Conservancy Walking Tour of Highland Park, starts at 10 am. Reservations required \$10 (general) and \$5 (LAC members). Call 213-623-2489 or make your reservation online at www.laconservancy.org/tours

SAVE THE DATE! Sunday, Feb. 25, 2008—HPHT Awards Ceremony, Location TBA



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