



OUR CORNERSTONE

VOLUME XVI · ISSUE 2

SPRING 2016

A Story Not Quite Finished: A Literary Adventure by Ann Walnum

Trumbo the movie, was coming. I didn't know much about Trumbo except that I was sure he was the Hollywood Ten leader who had lived at the bottom of Elyria Drive next to where Pat Griffith now lives and downhill from Charlie Fisher's childhood home. So how would our community look in the movie?

The movie's opening scene showed Trumbo driving on mountain roads, across a stream and to a gate that opened on a large field enclosing a home, stables and horses. Although we once had a small farm at the base of Elyria Drive, this was different.

Many scenes later the ranch was sold; time to move back to the city – Highland Park. "Highland Park? What kind of artistic license is this? I better read the book." (*Trumbo* by Bruce Cook)

Many days later – "Ah – here it is- page 250." Trumbo bought his Highland Park home from Lionel Sternberger, well-known local restaurateur. Sternberger loved his large 1905 home, the swimming pool and the six surrounding lots but it was time to give it up – to the right person, and Trumbo was the right person. Sternberger was a shareholder in the B Movie Company, King Brothers, which had provided a lot of work to Trumbo and other blacklisted writers. Sternberger identified with Trumbo's legal persecution, for he too had been victimized and harassed because he advised the use of health foods and herbs. For no money down, a very low price and a loan to get furniture out of storage, the Trumbos moved in.

The Highland Park home became a social center and refuge for blacklisted writers, families and friends. Among friends was Charles White, a highly

sought after African-American artist. When White expressed a desire to secure land to build a house, Trumbo immediately offered him one of the six lots at the very low price he had paid. So the Whites built their home and stayed at Annan Trail until their two children needed a flatter play space, and they moved to Altadena. As to the Trumbos, they stayed a few more years until their children were approaching adulthood. Their final home was above the Sunset Strip, in a large Moorish gated house alongside other large houses.

This story is unfinished because I have not actually found the houses on Annan Trail, a steep, narrow street with no parking signs and no turn-around. I was intimidated by the terrain and didn't get out of my car. I need to make the next trek on foot.



This issue of *Our Cornerstone* is dedicated to the memory of long-time HPHT member Gertrude Cares, who passed away in March 2016.

11th annual

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June 3, 4 and 5, 2016



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- *Occidental College
- *The Southwest Museum
- *York Blvd & N Avenue 50
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The Highland Park Heritage Trust was delighted to join many local community organizations in celebrating Fig Jam, a one-day festival on North Figueroa Street, named one of the Mayor's "Great Streets." Volunteers Marcia Gurrola, Yim Tam, Louisa Van Leer and Rebecca Schiffman lead three separate tours of Figueroa's architectural gems for numerous participants. The Heritage Trust was also happy to co-lead one of tours with Occidental's Urban studies program faculty Mark Vallianatos and the LA Walks non-profit. ★



Highland Park, Sycamore Grove Walking Tour seeking Docents in Training – We hope you have been waiting for HPHT to ask you to help with the tour. Learn while you enjoy the welcoming atmosphere of visiting with other tour participants. Contact the HPHT at (323) 908-4127 or info@hpht.org and a member of the appropriate committee will follow up with you.

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Interesting Homes for Interesting People

Rebecca Schiffman is a singer-songwriter and designer. Originally from New York City, she is a long-time member of the historic architecture preservation organization, Carnegie Hill Neighbors. In 2014, she moved with her husband, three cats, and dog, to Range View Avenue in Highland Park. She recently finished recording her third album of original songs that was produced by Money Mark in Atwater Village. Rebecca copyedits for the *Los Angeles Review of Books* and occasionally contributes reporting to the blog, *The Eastsider*. She also recently took up the proud post of “last cello” in Occidental’s newly created Sinfonia chamber orchestra.



Previously, Rebecca worked for several years as the archivist and webmaster for the art gallery Guild & Greyskul in SoHo. She went on to study wax carving and model making and created a jewelry collection based on architectural detail in her native neighborhood, the Upper East Side. She was then invited by the MTA to create a similar collection to celebrate Grand Central Terminal’s centennial anniversary in 2013. Now, in her spare time, she is working on jewelry pieces inspired by details in Los Angeles and can often be seen photographing buildings in search of the perfect ornament. ★



Highland Park Heritage Trust—Membership Registration/Renewal

You may join or renew online at www.hpht.org or by sending your tax deductible check to:
 Highland Park Heritage Trust • Attn: Membership • PO Box 50894 • Los Angeles CA 90050-0894

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I am interested in working on the following activities:

- Walking Tours: Docent Reception Archiving Awards Ceremony Mailing Assistance
 Oral History Email Fund Raising Marketing & Publicity Restoration Workshops
 Cornerstone Articles School & Education Programs Membership Events

Scenes from the Bob Inman Walking Tour

Bob Inman, urban hiking expert, lead 18 walkers on a fascinating walk through a portion his ambitious 220-mile Urban Trail project that connects Mountains to Ocean across the stair streets and sidewalks of Los Angeles. During this tour we explored Mt Washington environs and talked about the cultural and natural resources found along the route. We ended our tour at the Southwest Museum where for many of our participants this counted as their first visit. As a special bonus we arranged to have the upper

Crane Gates of the Southwest Museum unlocked for the afternoon allowing us enchanting access to the Southwest Museum and 12 acres of sweeping views. Thanks Bob Inman for the lovely Spring Walk and to the Autry Museum for the gate opening. The walk was hosted by “The Living Museum,” a public initiative of the Highland Park Heritage Trust to explore and bring awareness to the many cultural institutions within a 15-minute walk of the Southwest Museum Metro station. *(more photos on page 6)*★



Left: The Crane Blvd. gates are open for the first time in many years at the Southwest Museum • Right: On top of the world at the Southwest Museum



Left: View from the top with the Southwest Museum on the left and the downtown LA skyline on the right • Right: Craftsman charm on Glenalbyn Drive



Left: Self Realization Fellowship, aka Mt. Washington Hotel • Right: Mid-century Masterpiece. A.Quincy Jones “Pilot House” 1948

Saturday, May 7 • 2 to 4 PM: Panel discussion featuring Suzanne Lummis at the Southwest Museum in conjunction with KCET Departures Series on Tuesday, May 10, focused on Charles Lummis



MORE SCENES FROM THE BOB INMAN WALKING TOUR (continued from page 5). Top: The historic Southwest Museum from the top of the hill with Debs Park beyond • Left: Many, many steps climbing the old funicular route up Mt. Washington on Glenmuir Avenue • Middle right: Bob Inman talks about Glenalbyn Drive, one of his favorite streets, loaded with historic homes.

Bob Ebinger and the Highland Park Heritage Trust

Bob Ebinger moved to Highland Park the fall of 1976 when he bought the La Paloma Tract at 369 North Avenue 53. Built in 1907 Bob was the first non-family member to occupy this Tudor Craftsman home. The house was 100 percent original and only suffered from deferred maintenance. Over the next 27 years Bob would restore the house and gardens. La Paloma was named a Los Angeles Historic Cultural Monument # 554 on March 18, 1992.

In 1980 Bob noticed a Figueroa Street storefront sign “Highland Park Improvement Association” (HPIA), ventured in the office, and met Diana Barnwell the director of a program which promoted commercial revitalization. Bob joined the group that had been surveying historic buildings in Highland Park. When HPIA closed its doors, the group felt that their efforts to preserve their historic neighborhood should continue and created the Highland Park Heritage Trust.

But the demolition of properties for incompatible development, an ongoing threat, was worsening. At a Highland Park Chamber of Commerce meeting Mayor Bradley asked how the community was doing. Bob, not mincing words, told the mayor of our plight. When Mayor Bradley mentioned a possible moratorium on demolition, the Trust went into action. During this stay of destruction, the Trust created a slide show



showing the history of the area, its historic significance, and the need for an historic overlay zone. A community meeting at the Southwest Museum filled the hall with residents, city and county commissioners, and planning officials. Diana Barnwell narrated the presentation created by her and Bob. The end result was the creation of the Highland Park Historic Preservation Overlay Zone, overseen by a group of local residents. The tide had turned toward preservation.

Bob met many concerned and dedicated people during his tenure in Highland Park. Similar to HPHT co-founder Frank Parrello, he met his future wife, Robin Hoggan, Heather Hoggan’s sister. They sold La Paloma in 2000 and live in Livingston, Montana in an 1889 historic home. Bob and Robin have adapted an historic 1891 commercial structure into high-end condo residences. They are founding members of the seventeen-year-old “Livingston Center for Art and Culture,” a not-for-profit art gallery. Bob has served on the City Commission and was a two term State Legislator. He is presently a member of the Livingston Historic Preservation Commission, the Urban Renewal Board, and the state-wide Montana Preservation Alliance. He has fond memories of his days in Highland Park and his wonderful dedicated friends. ★

2016 Awards Committee, Sunday, February 21, after the tour of nominated properties.

L to R: Charlie Fisher, Anne Marie Wozniak, Nancy Stoner, Jonathan Silberman, John Ritmayer and Ron Rocha.

Not pictured: Marcia Gurrola and Anthea Raymond.



EVENTS & MEETINGS

2nd Monday • 7 to 9 PM • Monthly HPHT Meetings, Ebell Club, 131 S. Avenue 57, Highland Park, www.hpht.org or (323) 908-4127; Program meeting: June 13, 7-8:30 PM, Preparing for the Preservation Plan.

Saturday April 23 • 10 AM to 12:30 PM • Bi-monthly Walking Tour, Sycamore Grove Highland Park area, register at www.hpht.org or (323) 908-4127, \$5 HPHT members, \$10 non-members. Future 2016 tour dates: Saturdays June 25, August 27, October 22, and December 17.

2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month • 6 PM • Highland Park/Garvanza HPOZ, Arroyo Seco Library Community Room, 6145 N. Figueroa St., Highland Park

Sunday May 1 • 2 to 5 PM • HPHT Awards Ceremony, The Ruby Street, 6408 Ruby Street, Los Angeles, CA 90042, info@hpht.org or (323) 908-4127

Saturday May 7 • Audubon Center at Debs Park, Second Annual LA Bird Day, www.birdla.org or contact Audubon at Debs Park, (323) 221-2255

Saturday May 7 • 11 AM • Second Annual El Mercado – Arts and Crafts Festival, York Blvd between N. Avenue 50 and 52, Highland Park, <https://www.facebook.com/YorkVillageartsandcraftsfair/?fref=ts>

Saturday May 14, 21, 28 • 3 to 5 PM • Viva! Poetry Lummis Day Library Series, May 14, El Sereno Library; May 21, Arroyo Seco Library; May 28, Eagle Rock Library; www.lummisday.org

Saturday May 21 • Neighborhood Councils, Region 8, Election Day, [www.http://empowerla.org/councils/](http://empowerla.org/councils/) for the information about council elections

Sundae August 7 • 1 to 4 PM • Ice Cream Social, Eagle Rock Valley Historical Society, Center for the Arts, Eagle Rock, <http://eaglerockhistory.org/>



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Address Correction Requested

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