



Our
CORNERSTONE

HPHT Launches Newsletter

Welcome to the premiere issue of our newsletter. It is with pleasure and enthusiasm that the Board of Directors has created a vehicle to share and carry forward educational information on the happenings, events, and issues (sometimes fights) taking place in and which are paramount to our historic area of the City of Los Angeles.

It is also the goal of this newsletter to begin to create a better dialogue among all of the organizations and groups advocating the preservation of our community and its meaningful revitalization. This outreach will build a

The President's "Corner"

One New Face with New Energy

What's to know about this new president? My name is Nicole Possert. My husband, Michael, and I moved to Highland Park in 1989 and have spent every year since renovating a 1905 Craftsman bungalow (so characteristic of Highland Park). It has changed my life and I decided to become "active in the

more meaningful community network. Therefore, story and event submissions are sincerely welcomed and appreciated.

This first issue is really a teaser of things to come. It's been published in the early stages of design and creative development and we hope you will watch with us, as it quickly changes into a standard, yet creative, bi-monthly newsletter that is first and foremost informative and focused on the issues our members are most concerned with – the preservation of the greater Highland Park area's cultural and historic resources! ENJOY.

community" just this past year through HPHT.

I treasure the unique built environment which I call home and am committed to fighting to preserve and revitalize this community and bring HPHT to the forefront. Feel free to call and introduce yourselves.

Nicole

SAVE THE DATE & DOCENTS NEEDED!

The 1996 Annual Walking Tour is scheduled for **Saturday, May 18, 1996** in the area between Griffin Ave. and Berenice and Avenues 35 through 43.

If interested in volunteering for this event, contact Pat Samson at (213) 223-4895.

More details on this event in the next newsletter.

1996 Marks Change for HP Heritage Trust

HPHT has already enacted many positive changes:

- A new board of directors and officers, "installed" at the December Holiday Party.
- New structure for business meetings and reporting minutes (see pg. 2)
- New identity logo – thanks Heather Hoggan and Robert Brehler!
- "Our Cornerstone" newsletter to regularly keep members informed and the first "exterior," visible change.
- More to come – watch us grow. Feedback welcome.

1996 Dates for Meetings

HPHT will now hold business meetings on a bi-monthly basis at Arroyo Books, beginning at 7:00 pm.

1996 Schedule:

February 12	April 8
June 10	August 12
October 14	December 9

A new policy regarding published minutes of HPHT business meetings: All active members are entitled to review minutes and minutes will be available at all business meetings for such review but will no longer be mailed automatically. It is the Board's hope that this newsletter will provide all pertinent information to our members.

1996 Officers

President:

Nicole Possert (255-3408)

Vice President: Anne Marie Wozniak (255-2849)

Treasurer:

Pat Samson (223-4895)

Secretary:

Ben Fisher (225-4508)

1996 Directors

Robert Brehler
Bob Ebinger
Charles Fisher
Heather Hoggan
James Kerswell
Robert MacTavish
Virginia Neely
Linda Phelps
Denise Sims

HPHT's Annual Recap of Events

On February 5th, 1995, HPHT held a Community Open House at the historic "Yoakum House" in the Echo-Hayes area of Highland Park. This was the first of several events HPHT hosted in 1995 and was intended to let the local community know what was being planned for the rest of the year.

It was also an opportunity to visit a Highland Park historic site which is not usually open for public view. The Yoakum House was built over a period of several years and completed in 1915 for Dr. Finis Ewing Yoakum, who founded the "Pisgah Home" on nearby Echo Street in 1895. The Yoakum House was designated a Historic Cultural Monument (No. 287) by the City of Los Angeles in 1984 - the application was submitted with the help of HPHT.

On May 20th, the Eleventh Annual Walking Tour took place in the "Echo-Hayes" area of Highland Park, which is part of the old Garvanza purchase and lies on a bluff above the Arroyo Seco. The unique aspect of this grand old neighborhood is that almost every local architectural style is represented. Four of the houses on the tour are LA City Historic Cultural Monuments.

In July, the HPHT hosted a day-long bus tour and visited the historic City of Orange

and the McNally Ranch in La Mirada.

On September 10th, HPHT presented nine community preservation awards at the Thirteenth Annual Awards Ceremony to the following:

- Mr. and Mrs. Jose Lopez
239 E. Avenue 38
- Orville Walker
206 E. Avenue 41
- Connie Neyrey Trust
116-118 E. Avenue 42
- Pat and Roy Samson
William Hoffman
460 W. Avenue 45
- Jeffrey Hart
4430 Griffin Avenue
- Mr. and Mrs. James Devlin
6251 Saylin Lane
- La Tierra de la Culebra
240 S. Avenue 57 (Snake)
- Arroyo Books
125 S. Avenue 57
- Arroyo Arts Collective for
"Poetry in the Windows"

In December, the annual Holiday Party was held at the home of Greg and Elena Williams, a beautiful Craftsman on Mt. Washington. HPHT presented LA City Historic Cultural Monument plaques to four homeowners whose homes were most recently added to the listing. In addition, we were honored with the presence of James DeLong, AIA, the architect for two of these homes.

- A.M. Wozniak

Update on Northeast Community Plan

The current draft of the Northeast Los Angeles Community Plan, proposed by the City Planning Department, could have profound negative effects on the central Highland Park area if adopted in its current form. The plan currently calls for much of the historic residential core surrounding Figueroa Street to be re-zoned commercial. The HPHT is presently working with the Northeast Community Plan Advisory Committee (CPAC) to re-write and submit a modified plan, to the Planning Department, City of Los Angeles, that complements the already established Highland Park Historic Preservation Overlay Zone (HPOZ). A community plan that will revitalize, not destroy, our historic neighborhoods and commercial districts. - C. Fisher

Los Angeles-Pasadena Light Rail Update

In all negotiations with the MTA, HPHT has fought for the integrity of our Historic Preservation Overlay Zone (HPOZ) and the preservation of our historic affordable housing and commercial district. Our fall-back position has been to encourage the moving of threatened structures to other locations within the historic zone (only when demolition is imminent).

This past month, the MTA's staff proposals on cost cutting have created grave concerns about many community fought issues: most

significant are the return to an "at grade" separation at Marmion/ Figueroa and a generic station design. These along with concerns over street closures, noise and vibration problems and property acquisitions will continue to be resolved by our community. On the positive front, the Southwest Museum Station appears safe and secure.

HPHT continues to strive for a Light Rail system that is built for our community, not one that merely passes through the Northeast.

- B. Eblinger

Local History Articles:

"Focus On People"

Our local communities were built and lived in by many fascinating individuals. Future issues of this newsletter will feature articles on these people and the impacts and contributions they made to our communities. Just to wet your appetite, people like Charles Lummis, William Lees Judson, Albert Judson (not related), Ralph Rogers, Elizabeth Young Gordon, G.W.E. Griffith, Clyde Brown and Edwin Hiner just to name a few. So goes the history lesson... keep on the lookout with your history books out!

- C. Fisher

It is a 1996 priority for our organization to increase our membership base and funding levels (to support all our endeavors). So, here's the official plea to please renew your membership, become a new member, ask others to join, etc. The point is fairly obvious: we need your help.

HELP STRENGTHEN THE PRESERVATION OF OUR COMMUNITY - BECOME A MEMBER OF HPHT:

\$15 (Individual) \$25 (Family) \$35 (Sponsor) \$50-149 (Benefactor) \$150+ (Corporate)

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ I am interested in volunteering.

Please make check payable to **Highland Park Heritage Trust** and mail to: P.O. Box 42894, Los Angeles, CA 90050-0894.

**This issue is dedicated
in memory of
Jack Smith
1916-1996**

Advertising Policy:

Advertisements will be accepted for this publication by advertisers who are in keeping with the intention and goals of the Highland Park Heritage Trust organization. Interested persons or companies should contact Nicole Possert (255-3408) for ad submission and rates.

Our Cornerstone, is the newsletter for the Highland Park Heritage Trust, a non-profit community organization.

Editor: Nicole Possert

The deadline for all editorial submissions for the March/April 1996 issue is February 2, 1996. Please mail to our P.O. address (below).



P.O. Box 42894
Los Angeles, CA
90050-0894

Calendar of Upcoming Events

FEBRUARY

8 LA Cty Hazardous Material Roundup in Eagle Rock. (800) 98-TOXIC for appt.

9 America Smithsonian Exhibit opens at LA Convention Center through March 7. (800) 913-TOUR to reserve tickets.

11 CA Preservation Foundation Awards at Castle Green, Pasadena (510) 763-0972 (Dr. Winter, HPHT Advisor, receives award)

12 HPHT Business Meeting, Arroyo Books, 7pm

24-25 Angels Flight reopens!

28 MTA Board Meeting re: Blueline cost containment

APRIL

8 HPHT Business Meeting, Arroyo Books, 7pm

MAY

12-18 National Preservation Week, themed "Preserve Community"

18 HPHT Walking Tour. Docents/volunteers needed, call Pat 223-4895.