



Our

# CORNERSTONE

## 1996 Successes for HPHT

The year 1996 held a lot of activity for this organization. As we begin 1997, let's look back and encapsulate some of the important accomplishments.

- This newsletter "Our Cornerstone" was officially launched in February and all six issues were delivered to members throughout the year. This made communication of issues much more effective for all involved.
- In May, the annual Walking Tour focused on the Montecito Park area of Highland Park.
- September is the traditional Awards Ceremony month. This year we gave out 10 awards; had over 100 people in attendance at the Southwest Museum; and Dr. Robert Winter was our keynote speaker.
- The 100th Centennial of the historic Arroyo Seco Railroad Bridge was celebrated in a significant way in October. With Councilman Alatorre and MTA, we rededicated the bridge and erected a new monument. Huell Howser surprised us all by responding to our invitation and showing up for the festivi-

ties.

HPHT received its first official City of Los Angeles Resolution -- a framed, hand-calligraphed document recognizing our efforts. If that's not enough, recognition was also given by the State Senator Polanco too!

- Trains are a theme this year and we also took a day train trip to historic Claremont.
- The Holiday Party at the home of Robert Brehler and Orin Burgess was jammed -- almost 40 people (on a rainy night too).

Thanks to everyone and especially the hosts of these 1996 events. In addition, the organization was very busy in other advocacy issues or projects meaningful to our community. These included:

- Increasing our membership base. The organization is supported solely by members so this is a vital undertaking and must continue in 1997.
- Countless hours were spent on the significant issues surrounding the Blueline Light-rail project. And this advocacy and education does not stop -- January

## '97 HPHT Meetings

For 1997, HPHT will again hold bi-monthly business meetings.

Each member is welcome to participate and get to know the working board of directors and have some say in the role this organization plays in our community in 1997. Meetings are held on the second Monday of alternating months at 7 p.m. We appreciate the kindness and openness of Arroyo Books (125 S. Avenue 57) for providing access and space. 1997 dates are as follows:

- February 10
- April 14
- June 9
- August 11
- October 13
- December 8 (No business -- just a great Holiday Party)

and February will be busy months. We are still working with MTA on the successful resolution of issues such as the Marmion Way alignment, station design and the Arroyo Seco Bridge.

- A funding grant was pursued for the stabilization and rehabilitation of the

## Cultural Activity = Southwest Museum

Diverse Programs and Exhibitions Scheduled that Just Call Out for Community Participation & Viewing

The first quarter of 1997 proves to be a busy one at the Southwest Museum. There must be something in this list that catches your attention. We encourage every person in our community to be active and support this internationally recognized museum, as it's unique treasures reside in our community. The building is a prominent landmark and make sure you tour the newly rehabilitated tunnel and dioramas while you're there!

### Current Exhibitions:

- "Dream Figures: Navajo Folk Art Traditions" Show runs through January 19th
- "Gifts of Power" salutes the creative Plains people and neighboring tribes. Ongoing show all of 1997
- "Spirit Horses" explores the integration of the horse into American Indian culture. Ongoing show all of 1997.

### Opening Exhibitions:

- "Historic Pueblo Pottery from the Museum's Collection" Opens Sat. January 18 through April 6, 1997.
- "Dreams of Horses: The Collective Works of Michael Horse" Opens Sat. February 1 through April 13, 1997.

### Special Events:

- Workshop for Adults: Beading a Storyteller Necklace, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Jan. 11 & 12th.
- Thirteenth Annual Film Festival, from 1-5 p.m. on Jan. 11 & 12th. Covering issues concerning Native American people.
- Workshop for Adults & Kids: Southwestern Style Pottery, from 9 a.m. to noon on Jan. 18 & 19th
- Exhibition opens to the public at 10 a.m. on Jan. 18
- Lecture Series: "Hemispheric Approach to Indigenous History and Culture (Alaska to Argentina)" presented by Jack Forbes at 2 p.m.
- Exhibition opens to the public at 10 a.m. on Feb. 1
- Workshop for Adults & Kids: Creating a Plains Indian-style Horse Stick, from 9 a.m. to noon on Feb. 22
- Lecture Series: "The Cherokee Nation" presented by Dr. Duane King at 2 p.m. on Feb. 23
- Sixth Annual Book Sale & Silent Auction, from 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. on March 16

Please call the Museum for reservations and/or details on costs associated with some of the activities at 221-2164. - Editor

## Update on Our Elected Officials

Representative Xavier Becerra was recently appointed to the powerful House Ways and Means Committee, becoming the first Latino member to serve on this panel. This committee is responsible for legislation related to raising federal government revenue, and crucial issues such as welfare, public debt and Medicare.

California Assembly-member Antonio Villaraigosa has been appointed the Majority Floor Leader in the '97-98 session of the Calif. Assembly.

Our congratulations to both officials!

- Editor

### 1997 Officers

*President:*

Nicole Possert (255-3408)

*Vice President:*

Anne Marie Wozniak  
(255-2849)

*Treasurer:*

Pat Samson (223-4895)

*Secretary:*

Heather Hoggan (258-1240)

### 1997 Directors

Diana Barnwell  
Robert Brehler  
Bob Ebinger  
Ben Fisher  
Charles Fisher  
Priscilla Fisher  
Robert MacTavish  
Virginia Neely  
Linda Phelps  
Denise Sims

# 1997 Dues are Now Due

**P**utting out this newsletter is fair trade for your membership renewal in HPHT. Notification of dues is on its way but we must make this gentle reminder and reinforcement plea for your prompt action in renewing.

The last newsletter produced a number of renewals without any "formal" notification and we thank those honorable members. Our group

## Mills Act Passes in late December

**H**ey, not much of the details to report but good news just came our way! HPHT has just learned that the Mills Act was adopted by the City of Los Angeles in late December. The Cultural Heritage Commission will be the administrator of this program to assist homeowners of historic properties. A letter from the Commission should be forthcoming in the next month outlining the program and what procedures are established. The Mills Act is an incentive program for owners of local Historic-Cultural Monuments as well as those contributing structures within a HPOZ. This will affect Highland Park in significant ways! More details and a full report in the next issue. - Editor

can't thank each of you enough for caring about this historic community by supporting HPHT.

Vice President and Membership Chair, Anne Marie Wozniak, will answer any questions and will dutifully accept each renewal. If at all possible, please consider an extra donation to help offset the costs of what you're reading now (even \$5 will help with postage). - Editor

## Arroyo Seco Bridge is Nominated for CPF Annual Awards

**W**ith such a successful Centennial celebration under our belts, HPHT decided to go one step further in our attempts to properly recognize this historic landmark.

Frank Parrello took the lead (thanks Frank) in nominating the Santa Fe Arroyo Seco Railroad Bridge for the annual statewide awards sponsored by the California Preservation Foundation. The judging will be complete mid-January and winners announced. Thanks also go to the MTA Staff and the consultants involved in the project that helped in the nomination. But mostly, we appreciate the work that rehabilitated this wonderfully classic railroad bridge.

Keep your fingers crossed for a winning entry! - Editor

## Preservation Activity to Watch in 1997

**M**any wonderful projects are in progress or soon to get underway. Heads up and watch our community begin to make some major progress through the use of our historic resources.

You've watched Heritage Square as you slowly crawl along the Arroyo Seco Parkway -- well I'm sure you've seen the progress on the Octagon House. Go by and take a closer look, it's quite remarkable. Also, did you know that Heritage Square took ownership of the Mt. Pleasant House recently?

The historic Police Station on York Blvd. in Highland Park is a local monument and National Register Listed. It is the future site of the Police Historical Society Museum and Center. After attending the groundbreaking ceremony in late 1996, we look forward to watching the rehabilitation and new project begin to transform this property.

The historic Ziegler Estate, 4601 Figueroa Street, is owned by the City and is in the process of great change as it will become a daycare facility through a rehabilitation project. Councilman Hernandez' Office has indicated that funding is now secured and is working hard to get this project underway.

- Editor

## Two Statewide Activities to Take Place in Our Own Back Yard

### Annual Conference in Pasadena; 5/29 - 6/1

The Annual California Preservation Conference for 1997 will be convening in Pasadena. This conference will be held from May 29 through June 1st.

Pasadena Heritage and the City of Pasadena are sponsoring this conference in conjunction with the California Preservation Foundation, the only statewide organization promoting historic preservation.

The Highland Park Heritage Trust will be a Participating Organization in this conference and will be as involved as we can. What this really means is we will need to provide some volunteers to assist in various ways in the planning or logistics of the event. HPHT will also be suggesting topics of interest to our group for inclusion in the program.

If you have been to this conference, you know how much you will learn and have a great time. If you have NOT been, HPHT urges you to consider attending, learning issues and getting to know the regulars... Since it's so close, I hope our members will be there in good number!

So, anyone who would like to volunteer for this conference or wants more information, call me at 255-3408. No time like the present to get prepared! - N. Possert

### Calif. Historical Resources Commission Quarterly Meeting Held in Eagle Rock; Feb. 13 - 15

Not many people really even know what the California State Historical Resources Commission does. Would you like to find out? This Commission's quarterly meeting will take place at Occidental College on Thursday and Friday, February 13 - 14, 1997. In addition, there are activities surrounding this meeting that you might consider attending.

First, the Friday meeting is open to the public. It takes place at the Mary Norton Clapp Library at Occidental College. This Commission is responsible for National Register Nominations, State Historical Landmarks and Points of Historical Interest. In addition, the Commission works with the State Office of Historic Preservation on numerous statewide preservation programs, evaluates historic resources and recently participated in the decisions for statewide grants for historic preservation. There are nine Commissioners who are appointed by the Governor and serve a four-year term.

On Thursday evening, Feb 13th, the Society for Architectural Historians/Southern California is hosting a benefit for the Eagle Rock Women's 20th Century Club. This reception and dinner will honor David Cameron (who chairs the State Commission among other activities). Huell Howser is the honorary chair of this event. Councilman Richard Alatorre and Los Angeles Cultural Affairs staff will also be among the VIPs. Located at the 20th Century Club from 6:30 - 9:30 p.m., the benefit will cost \$30 per person.

On Saturday, February 15th, a self-guided tour of historic Eagle Rock will take place from 9 am - 4 pm. This is a typical public historic tour. Advance cost will be \$15 each or \$12 per person for groups of four+; On tour day costs are \$18 each or \$15 per person for groups of four+.

Starting point is the Eagle Rock City Hall. Sites include the Richard Neutra designed Eagle Rock Playground Clubhouse, the Myron Hunt designed campus of Occidental College, the Eagle Rock Women's 20th Century Club, the former site of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, Home for Women, The Eagle Rock Carnegie Library (newly restored as the Cultural and Community Center) and grand Craftsman and Mediterranean Revival homes of the Eagle Rock area. HPHT will most likely have a table set up at a stop on the tour.

This activity will bring a new appreciation for the historic Northeast Los Angeles area to a statewide audience. This is a unique opportunity for our community and I look forward to hopefully seeing you at these events. - N. Possert

# Preservation Workshop -

## A Must Do for Old & New Alike

For many of us, it's time for an educational opportunity in preservation. On Saturday, January 25th, the L.A. Cultural Heritage Commission and Historic Resources Group will present a day-long, interactive workshop on Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monuments and Historic Preservation Overlay Zones (HPOZ). What a better place to learn than our own landmark, the Los Angeles Central Library.

This workshop provides an opportunity for people in our community to learn about Monuments, the process of designation, current research resources, why an HPOZ and how to nominate one (especially for those living in Garvanza?) and the incentives (grants/loans, etc.) and

assistance available.

Highland Park, through the long and staunch efforts of HPHT and its members, has the largest HPOZ in Los Angeles as well as over 50 Historic-Cultural Monuments. HPHT strives to protect historic resources in our community by nominating more eligible candidates. This is a time-consuming process and we need help.

For those interested in learning the basics and latest information - **this is the workshop is for YOU!** The



event is co-sponsored by L.A. Conservancy, L.A. Public Library and three Los Angeles City Departments: Community Development; Housing; and Planning.

Each participant will receive a "whole lot" of printed reference materials.

You just need to call (213) 485-5343 to RSVP and register but the workshop is free. It will take only half your day (from 9 am - 1 pm).  
- Editor

### *Have you Ever Wondered:*

- *What is a Historic-Cultural Monument? HPOZ?*
- *What do these do for community preservation?*
- *Could I nominate my property? How?*
- *What resources are available?*

*Learn the answers . . .*

## 1996: A Year in Review for Highland Park Heritage Trust (con't from p.1)

Guest Houses at the Lummis Home. Although our application was not funded, this project is most worthy of pursuit in 1997.

- The historic area of Garvanza began a process of reclaiming this historic name. HPHT successfully gathered community support for the idea of appropriately-placed signage. The process is ongoing

with the help of Councilman Alatorre's office.

- At the urging and work of member Frank Parrello, HPHT nominated the Arroyo Seco Railroad Bridge for the annual California Preservation Foundation Awards.
- Continued support and work with the coalition of groups opposed to the 710 Freeway.

- Worked with the Southwest Museum in naming a community liaison to their board -- naming HPHT Board member Diana Barnwell to this post.

1996 was a stimulating and exciting year in historic Highland Park. If you would like to shape 1997, please call (255-3408) and let us know how.  
- Editor

# New Faces on the Block

By Robert Eblinger

**O**ur first New Face on the Block is an apartment structure at 4940 Figueroa Street. Formerly, this large 1960s cell block-type apartment was a major eyesore at the entrance to central Highland Park. Recently the owners have spruced up this corner property at Figueroa and Echo (across from Pillar of Fire and next to Sycamore Park) with a new and somewhat controversial paint job. I happen to like the results although I might not have chosen the exact same colors designating different wall surfaces.

The wall areas at the corner of Echo have been painted apricot and yellow. The horizontal panels enclosing small windows have been differentiated from the wall area by a mustard color on the flat surface and brown highlighting the frames and sills. The adjoining surface area on the north has been painted a terracotta. This section of the apartment structure has all the units opening onto an inside courtyard. A purple wall perpendicular to the front surface area separates these two different structures.

The motel-style apartment to the north side is painted a sandy cream color with a travertine color accenting the windows and doors on the first floor. A light green separates the two floors. Brown highlights the window frames on the second floor and the stairs and railings.

There seems to be a concentrated effort to keep graffiti off the large wall surfaces. What was once an unattractive, unmanicured facade has been transformed into an unconventional but street-friendly apartment. I find myself smiling whenever I pass by.

## National Arts & Crafts Conference in Asheville, North Carolina

**E**ach February, the Grove Park Inn Arts & Crafts Conference is held in Asheville, NC. Since Highland Park is a community that

played a significant role in the development of this movement in California, I would urge people to consider this event to learn more about Arts & Crafts.

Otherwise, drive by the Judson Studios, Lummis Home, Abbey San Encino or walk the Arroyo and rejoice in our local heritage and its contribution to this era. -Editor

**T**he two-story house at 353-355 North Avenue 53 has undergone a positive facade treatment thanks in part to the Highland Park Historic Preservation Overlay Zone Association Board. What was planned to be a new two-car carport with a simple cement block retaining wall has been enhanced with the addition of a pre-cast half-rock arroyo stone surface. Additional planting and creeping vines will help to integrate the new wall with the original arroyo stone retaining wall. I only wish the makers of this pre-cast arroyo stone would make them in different sizes and shapes, in order to mask the regularity of the stones.

The house (a duplex) has been renovated inside. The exterior has been painted a light blue with dark blue accents. A much needed new roof finishes off the exterior. This work was not a restoration. The house was in very bad shape due to years of neglect. More work is needed in reconditioning the painted wood surfaces. In addition, the asbestos siding was not removed, only painted, probably for cost reasons. However, the new addition and paint job is a pleasant, attractive addition to the streetscape.

**T**he garage at 425 North Avenue 53 has undergone a wonderful transformation. New cedar shingles on the walls, a new roof, and four inch tongue-and-groove doors make this project a truly fine rehabilitation success. It is worth a pass-by just to see how nicely it compliments the surrounding neighborhood.

**That's all for this issue! See you around our historic neighborhood.**

## **1996 HPHT Award Winners:**

### ***Take a Drive Around Town; Look & Enjoy the Abundant Architectural Heritage of Highland Park***

Part 2 of 2 -- Part 2 highlights the commercial properties in greater Highland Park who were presented a 1996 HPHT Award at the September Ceremony with keynote speaker Dr. Robert Winter. See the last issue for Part 1, which highlighted each of the residential properties that also received recognition.

#### **FIGUEROA STREET BANNERS**

According to our school children, Highland Park is a great place to be! In a project sponsored by the LANI/RCO, children from Highland Park elementary schools took part in a banner design contest.

Three winners were selected. Erika Ramirez Andraca from Aldama Elementary School submitted a drawing of faces with different colors and shapes which represent our diverse community. Drawings by Evalyn Peralta and Michelle Gascon of Buchanan Elementary School were combined to depict mountains, trees and children holding hands. The kids are right -- Highland Park is

Great! The unique character and community pride shown by these banners is deserving of a 1996 award.

#### **TUNNEL ENTRANCE TO THE SOUTHWEST MUSEUM**

The Southwest Museum stands as a tribute to the cultural, historical and architectural significance of the Northeast Los Angeles area. Its striking presence is as important today as it was in 1914 when it first opened its doors. The tunnel entrance was added in 1920 by architects Allison and Allison.

After many years of use as a primary entry point, the tunnel was closed to the public in the early 1990s. A restoration effort culminated in the successful re-opening of this tunnel to the public in May 1996. It is an excellent example of Mayan Revival architecture and the dioramas (also restored) are located within the tunnel to illustrate various aspects of the Indian culture. The desire to

maintain the Museum upholds the dream envisioned by Charles Fletcher Lummis and is well deserving of the 1996 award for restoration.

- Anne Marie Wozniak

### **Award Nominations Always Welcome**

Even though HPHT holds the Awards Ceremony in September of each year, we will take your nominations year round. If you see a property making good changes or sustaining its historic beauty in the neighborhood, take the time to send us some information. When we begin the selection process, the committee then has input from a broader membership base.

Nominating a home or property when you think about it eliminates the possibility of forgetting about it when we specifically ask everyone for ideas! So keep your eyes open...



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

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

### JANUARY

Southwest Museum Events & Openings --  
See story on Page 2 for listing/details!

- 12 "Salute to Neighborhood & Business"; mixer hosted by UGLA from 2-5 pm; call Eric Toro at 254-1792
- 14 HPOZ Assoc. Mtg; 7pm at Pillar of Fire
- 16 HP Chamber Mixer, 6-8 pm at Universal Primary Care, 5059 York Blvd.
- 18 "Uncovering the Past: Resources for Los Angeles History" Conference from 8 am - 4:30 pm at Autry Museum. \$50; \$40 for members of HSSC/AMWH
- 19 Lecture at Central Library on "Migrants West and the Pioneers of S. Calif." by Ronald Woolsey, 2pm; free and open to public.
- 25 HPOZ Assoc. Mtg.; 10 am at Pillar of Fire
- 25 Free Workshop "From Memories to Monuments: Planning for Preservation"**

at Central Library from 9 am - 1 pm;  
**RSVP necessary, call 485-5343 (see story on page 5.)**

- 30 HP Community Council Meeting, 6:30 pm at 115 N. Avenue 53. Info call Guadelupe (Council Office) at 485-3451

### FEBRUARY

- 10 HPHT Business Meeting at Arroyo Books, 125 S. Avenue 57 from 7-9 pm**
- 11 HPOZ Assoc. Mtg., 7 pm at Pillar of Fire
- 13 Public Meeting of the State Historical Resources Commission in Eagle Rock at Occidental College (see page 4)
- 15 Tour of Historic Eagle Rock, by SAH/SCC and TERA from 9 am - 4 pm; \$15 in advance, \$18 at door. (800) 9SAHSCC.
- 16 Lecture at Central Library on "Water Famine or Water Needs: LA & Population Growth, 1896-1905" by Abraham Hoffman; 2 pm; free and open to public

**Advertising Policy:** Advertisements will be accepted for this publication by advertisers who are in keeping with the intention and goals of this organization. Contact Nicole Possert (255-3408) for ad submission and rates.



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

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 1997 issue is February 10, 1996. Please mail to our P.O. address.**