



Our

CORNERSTONE

Date Set: Victorian Moves to New Home

The night of Monday, October 6th will mark a historic milestone for the 2 1/2 story Victorian and the small guest cottage currently at 5212 Figueroa Street in Highland Park. These structures will be moved during the late evening and

Newsletter Blues...

By Nicole Possert, Editor

As you've probably noticed, the arrival of this issue is, well, not timely. And, the summer issue never even arrived. This deserves an explanation.

HPHT is now experiencing a severe time crunch by this editor, president and wearer of many community hats.

With substantially extra work and activity changes in my life, it pains me to report that the valuable amount of time I spent devoting to HPHT over the last 18 months is being tapped to the point of depletion. So, my heart is here, with this organization and in this community. But until someone makes more time in each

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night and placed on their new home, a now-vacant lot at 326 North Avenue 53.

John Nese, fearless owner of the lot, set this date for the move based on the assumption that the prep work and all the City of Los Angeles regulatory requirements should be in place.

We'd like to invite everyone to stay up all night with us and watch this remarkable move take place! But if that's not appealing to your sched-

ule, please visit Galco's Market and personally thank John for undertaking this large project. His motivating reason? To participate in enriching (saving) our historic community and make it more attractive to live and raise a family in Highland Park.

For those unfamiliar with this project: The Mystic Dharma Temple, who own the Victorian next to their temple, originally asked to demolish the house to pro-

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HPHT 1997 Annual Events

Awards Ceremony

Fifteenth Annual Awards Ceremony was a tremendous success! HPHT hosted this year's event in conjunction with the Lincoln Heights Preservation Association. Walter Judson delivered the perfect keynote speech at the recently renovated Hathaway Family Resource Center in Garvanza. With over 75 people in attendance, we had standing room only.

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Walk Tour Plans

Get ready for the 1997 Walk Tour, "Discovery Tour: Art & Architecture" taking place Saturday and Sunday, November 22 - 23 throughout greater Northeast Los Angeles.

The combination of three local non-profits will together create this Walk Tour showcasing the way that many residents already describe our community: a historic

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HPHT Elections for 1998 Held

HPHT will hold 1998 Board and Officer elections on Monday, October 13 at the Annual Meeting, held at the Ebell Club from 7-9 p.m.

If you are interested in joining the Board of Directors, please call Linda Phelps at 258-12420 to discuss. After the Board of Directors are elected, those new board members vote and elect the 1998 Officers.

We encourage and hope that a few current members would seriously consider becoming more involved. It's FUN!
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

Editors Sings Time Blues...

(con't from p.1)

day, I cannot avoid a more diminished role.

I challenge each member to come to the plate, if time permits any freedom in your schedule -- there is much to do to make this organization successful. I need people who want to lead events and projects.

The newsletter will still be our voice as I feel this is one of the most important products we produce. It is the basic tenant of our organization: EDUCATION. I'll try to keep it in production.

Nicole

Hanna Ritzman's New Address

Hanna Ritzman, long time member and former board member and HPHT Secretary, has a new address.

She would be delighted to see her comrades in historic preservation and welcomes you to come. For details or her new address, please call me at 255-2849.

- Anne Marie Wozniak

Editors Note: Many of you who know Hanna, are possibly wondering what's then happening with her family home. The historic structure (Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument #337) on South Avenue 57 in Highland Park has recently been sold. The new owners are moved in and we suspect they are very understanding of the treasure they've acquired.



HP to Receive \$\$ from new TNI

As part of a new City of Los Angeles program, Highland Park was chosen as one of 11 communities throughout the City to receive special 3-year grant funding through a new program called the "Targeted Neighborhood Initiative".

The Mayor's Office with our local Council office and various city department staff hosted a meeting to get community input and describe the program on Saturday, September 13 at Franklin High School. Mayor Riordan attended to hear ideas and concerns. Hopefully we were heard and get funding for beneficial projects! - Editor

HOUSE MOVES ON 10/6 - 10/7

(Con't from p.1)

vide parking for the temple. The community strongly objected to destroying contributing structures located within the Highland Park HPOZ and tried to find a better solution. In walks one brave individual, John Nese.

He created the solution: Save these two structures by moving them to another location within the HPOZ, refurbish this wonderful housing stock and offer it back to the community for affordable housing (a total of three units). The winning solution which he was personally willing to undertake and underwrite.

The temple and John Nese are in agreement and working to move the house to the vacant lot (coincidentally it used to hold the Piper House, a City-designated monument, before it burned). With the houses in place on the new lot, John will rehabilitate them appropriately, based on his plans already approved by the HPOZ Association and re-sold.

HPHT has been supportive of the entire process and is working in partnership with John to ensure the smoothest historic house move ever! Our organization feels that this a model demonstration project showcasing the opportunities for revitalizing our valuable historic housing resources within the HPOZ and greater Highland Park. We hope it sparks the interest of other property owners and/or "developers" to undertake rehabilitation housing projects that meet or exceed the rehabilitation standards of the HPOZ. Let's re-claim the fabric of historic Highland Park (one structure at a time!)

Thanks to our community-angel John Nese, the Mystic Dharma Temple, and our elected officials who have supported and worked to make this project breath life and become a reality. And special recognition goes to HPHT-members Frank Parrello and Heather Hoggan!

Look for another great community celebration when the project is completed. (If John has his way, that won't be very long!) - N. Possert

AWARDS PROGRAM

(Con't from p.1)

This Craftsman home in was built in 1905 by prominent local architects Robert Train & Robert Edmund Williams (who also lived here). These architects also designed the Judson Studios.

And to illustrate the woven inter-relationships of artists and craftsmen in Garvanza at the time, the stained glass at this home was designed by Judson Studios.

Finally, to come full circle, part of rehabilitation work done in 1997 included the artisans of today's Judson repairing that original stained glass. So, Walter Judson was the perfect speaker for the perfect location!

Thanks to each person who assisted in whatever way was needed to pull off the event; with sincere thanks to Charlie Fisher and Anne Marie Wozniak for spearheading. Also, we'd like to recognize Pat Bowie and the entire staff at Hathaway for opening the house and supporting this community event; Walter Judson for speaking and his wife and son, David, for being our guests. - N. Possert

1997 HPHT Award Winners (Go Take a Look!)

- Arroyo Seco Railroad Bridge (LA HCM)
- Jack in the Box #3343 at Figueroa/Avenue 43
- LANI for the Highland Park Theatre Project at Figueroa/Avenue 55 (LA HCM)
- 6315 Elgin
- 137 N. Avenue 56
- 520 N. Avenue 53
- 220 S. Avenue 60 "Drake House" (LA HCM)
- 840 N. Avenue 66 "Hathaway" (LA HCM)
- 231 N. Ave 50: Armando's Restaurant

"Focus on People"

George W. Morgan: The Nuts & Bolts of Community Building

By Charles J. Fisher

“Five Friendly Valleys” only mentions him once. But George W. Morgan was pivotal in the early growth and direction of Highland Park.

Born on April 30, 1831 in Theresa, Jefferson County, New York. He was of a farming background. Educated in small one-room schoolhouses, he spent his offhours of boyhood doing his share of farming with his family. At 14, his family moved to Wisconsin where he was to remain with them for the next nine years.

In 1855, the 24-year-old Morgan moved to Oberlin, Ohio where he lived seven years and attended the local college until he was forced to find a better climate due to bronchial problems. This prompted a move, via Panama, to San Francisco in 1862 with his wife and children. He soon took up some mining interests in Contra Costa County, but a diphtheria epidemic killed his wife and two children in 1864. He then returned to San Francisco and spent the next eight years making a very successful living selling life insurance, in one year selling over \$900,000 worth.

On January 26, 1868 he married Alice Brown of Santa Barbara, whom he had known back in Oberlin. They had two daughters and a son. during their honeymoon, Morgan visited Los Angeles for the first time.

He was so favorably impressed with that visit that he bought 320 acres of government land at \$1.68 per acre. By the boom in 1886, this land was worth between \$200 - \$1,000 per acre and he sold most of it

to various buyers, thus making a handsome profit.

After 1868, the family began to winter in Los Angeles and in 1872 moved there permanently. He soon began a very extensive real estate business, which eventually brought him in contact with Albert H. Judson, an attorney who also had extensive real estate ventures.

Together they bought what is today Mt. Washington and Cypress Park from the heirs of Jesse D. Hunter and filed the Hunter Highland View Tract, this was the first subdivision filed in the Rancho San Rafael.

In 1885, they purchased the Highland Park Tract from A. B. Chapman and Andrew Glassell and subdivided it for the first time. The following year, Morgan and Judson split their holdings. Morgan filed new subdivision maps for his holdings in both tracts thus breaking his large blocks of acreage into town lots.

In 1886 Morgan hired architect W.R. Norton, the creator of South Pasadena's Wyngate Mansion, to design a house for him on Pasadena Avenue (Figueroa St.) on the corner where the Taco Fiesta now stands in the Lucky's parking lot. A few years later the house was moved across Avenue 45 so the first property could be developed as the original Page private school.

Moved again in 1970 to Heritage Square, the house today is known as the "Hale House," named for the couple that bought it after it was moved in 1900. Mrs. Bessie Hale lived in the home for almost 70 years.

In the 1890s Morgan had a house built on a bluff just north

of what is now East Avenue 49, which overlooked Sycamore Grove. This house still stands today and is used as a board and care home.

As the real estate boom died in 1888, Morgan began to utilize various types of publicity to sell his Highland Park holdings. Albert Judson, at this point, was living in San Bernardino County so Morgan was the principle agent for both of their Highland Park interests.

One of the more frustrating battles was to get the Santa Fe Subsidiary to make stops in Highland Park as the Los Angeles & San Gabriel Railroad had originally promised. They solved this problem by incorporating a rival railroad that was to be strictly a commuter line between Los Angeles and the San Gabriel Valley. This venture was known as the "dummy railroad" because it's steam locomotive was to look like an electric car. Fearing competition, Santa Fe agreed to buy the line and to make regular stops in Highland Park. Ironically by 1895, there were two rival railroads going up the Arroyo Seco.

During the 1890s, Morgan was to continue to pursue various real estate interests. He moved out of his Highland Park home in 1899, leaving it to his son, James, who opened up a nursery in Sycamore Grove. Many of the mature plantings that now exist throughout Highland Park had their beginning in this enterprise.

G. W. Morgan spent his final retirement years still buying and selling real estate while living near downtown Los Angeles. He passed away on January 9, 1903, after a short illness at the age of 71.

TOUR: Arts & Architecture Highlighted (con't from p.1)

and still thriving arts community with wonderful architectural treasures throughout.

The event has appeal for many:

Do you want to see today's local artists' work in their studios? Would you like to see where historically prominent artists did their work? How about an artist of today, working in a historic bungalow? Or, a historic building with contemporary art? Well, it's all for the choosing on this tour!

HPHT will provide docents at homes and sites that have specific historic relevance.

For example: We've asked Judson Stained Glass Studios to be part of this tour because of the architectural significance of the studios as well as the historical and artistic significance of the activities undertaken at the Studio.

In addition, HPHT will host a Saturday afternoon reception at Judson Studios to celebrate their Centennial year and recognize the role played (and still plays) in Garvanza as the focal point of what was described as a "bohemian artist colony" at the turn of the last Century.

There is also a possibility

that HPHT and the Council office would dedicate the "Garvanza" signage (see story below). This would certainly create a synergistic effect for uniting the community of Garvanza.

If you are interested in helping organize this event, call Nicole at 255-3408. We always need help and fresh ideas! Or, just mark it on your calendar and plan to enjoy Art & Architecture in November! - *Editor*

Event sponsored by:

- HPHT
- Arroyo Arts Collective
- Historical Society of S. CA

Garvanza, Oh, Garvanza IS COMING BACK!

The latest word from Councilman Alatorre's office (thanks Fernando Tovar) is signage for Garvanza is going to be ordered!

As most of you know, last year a committee of people approached the Councilman to request City of Los Angeles signage to appropriately designate the Garvanza area!

Within the next two months, the signs

should be produced and installed at specific locations that the committee suggested. The traditional centerpoint of Garvanza was York Blvd at Avenue 64. The boundaries which will soon be officially designated are roughly: the York Avenue bridge for the east; Figueroa Street for the west and Avenue 61/Figueroa to the south and Figueroa/Burwood Avenue to the north.

- *Editor*



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

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

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

SEPTEMBER

now-Oct. 13 Exhibition on Charles Rennie Mackintosh at LACMA.

OCTOBER

4 "Day of the Dead" Show opens at La Casita Tovar by Arroyo Arts Collective

4-5 "Es Costumbre: Traditional Dress of Mexico" opens at Southwest Museum

5 "Cruising Industrial L.A." tour by LA Conservancy; \$10/members or \$15 for non-members; Sparklets in Eagle Rock is on tour; call 213.623.CITY for reserves.

6-7 Victorian House Moves (5212 Figueroa St.) evening through night

16 Community Resource Fair/Open House; 6-9 p.m. at Burbank Middle School

NOVEMBER

1 Day of the Dead Festival at Art in the Park; evening

8-9 Seventh Annual Inter-Tribal Marketplace at Southwest Museum

8 - Special Street Breakfast 8-11:30 a.m., early entrance to the Marketplace

9 CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION of Judson Studios; hosted by the Judson Family from 1-5 p.m. at 200 S. Avenue 66.

22-23 "Discovery Tour: Art & Architecture" **DOCENTS/ VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Call Nicole Possert 255-3408 today!

22 Community Reception at Judson Studios, free from 4-6 p.m.

DECEMBER

8 HPHT Holiday Party

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.



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

Editor: Nicole Possert

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