



OUR CORNERSTONE

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FALL 2010

GARVANZA HPOZ TO BE EXTENSION OF HIGHLAND PARK HPOZ

By Charles J. Fisher

The Los Angeles City Council voted on September 22, 2010 to expand the existing Highland Park Historic Preservation Overlay Zone to include the Garvanza community and to rename it the "Highland Park-Garvanza HPOZ".

The Council vote brings to fruition over ten years of work to finally bring the same protection to Garvanza that the central Highland Park area has had since 1994. Although the original plan was for a separate HPOZ in Garvanza, the fiscal realities at City Hall are such, that the only way to get the process completed was to combine Garvanza into the existing Highland Park HPOZ under one Board, working with a single city planner.

The process in Garvanza began in 1997 with a successful effort by the HPHT and the Garvanza Improvement Association to get the City to re-establish Garvanza as a community name after of half century as a portion of the Greater Highland Park community. This was accomplished in November 1997 with the installation of community signs announcing Garvanza. The process then began to get an HPOZ established in Garvanza.

Former 14th District Councilmember Richard Alatorre had started the process with a motion in 1999, but the process stalled until restarted by the current Councilmember, Jose Huizar, and an Interim Control Ordinance (ICO) was established in Garvanza in 2007. The ICO put a temporary hold on building permits within the area until they could be reviewed

to see if they complied with the intent of the future HPOZ.

With the ICO due to expire in October 2010, it was important to have the permanent HPOZ in place before the ending of the ICO could lead to possible demolitions or inappropriate remodeling of historic structures in Garvanza.

There are presently 24 HPOZs in Los Angeles which not only protect the historic structures, but

give them eligibility for the City's Mills Act program, which is a property tax savings contract that is designed to encourage the preservation and restoration of those structures. The Highland Park-Garvanza HPOZ is the largest one in the City of Los Angeles and is the first to include a substantial commercial area as well as the residential neighborhoods.



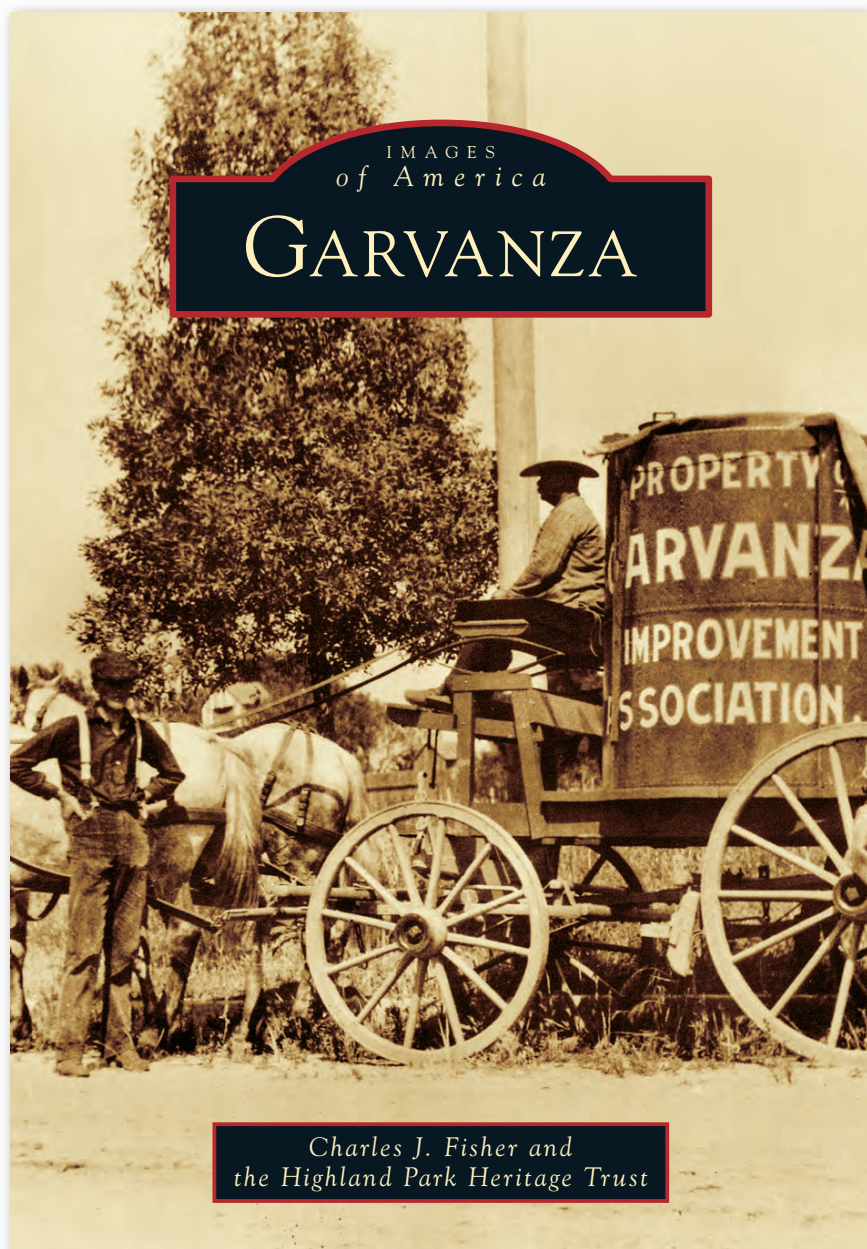
Avenue 63 & York Blvd. Photo taken in 1959 by Joe Frazier for the Northeast Newspapers shortly before the demolition of the historic Miller's Hall, which is to the right. Courtesy of Charles J. Fisher.

GARVANZA BOOK TO BE RELEASED

Arcadia Press is releasing a new book on Garvanza on September 27th, 2010, written by former HPHT President and current board member Charles J. Fisher. This new book is the second the author has written on the area. The Arcadia book on Highland Park has been available since February of 2008.

The new book traces the community of Garvanza from the early Rancho San Rafael to the present day with over 200 photos of the community, many that have never before been published.

A book signing with the author will be held at Figueroa Produce on November 6, 2010, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.



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www.hpht.org

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BEING A MEMBER OF HPHT

According to Articles 3 and 10 of the bylaws of the HPHT, membership and dues are intertwined. When you are a member in good standing your dues are paid annually by January 1st and no later than March 31 of a calendar year. Anyone joining after October 1st has membership for the coming calendar year.

Being a member gives you the pleasure of inviting other like-minded individuals to help with the mission of preservation through advocacy and education, and the recognition of those who make a special effort in those areas, as well as helping the board of directors make cogent decisions that are pertinent to our mission.

Coming to a meeting is optional but useful especially because there are many decisions that come the way of the Trust through land use that affects the heritage we all share. Some of the presentations we have had in the calendar year ending in December have dealt with window restoration, interaction with the architect and communications director of Occidental College concerning their building program, results of a master's degree seminar project at Cal Poly Pomona on projected plans for land use affecting the Arroyo Seco River in the area adjacent to Highland

Park, and the Glenmary Stairs temporary mural installation researched and designed by students working with LA Commons and influenced by educational outreach by board members.

We've had to deal with concerns about poor planning for the upgrade on the Arroyo Seco Parkway and the resulting, ongoing battle to save the parkway's status as a national treasure. The specter of inappropriate development in the historic zone surrounding and adjacent to the Metro Gold Line is still looms over our community. Many hours have been spent by a certain number of people as we represent the preservation community of the Arroyo Seco Communities of Northeast Los Angeles at City Council, Commission and Planning and Land Use meetings.

The Awards Ceremony on February 28, 2010, featured 15 award winners that included three businesses that had made a difference in the business sections of Cypress Park, Figueroa Street in the Highland Park HPOZ and the York Valley through adaptive reuse of existing commercial buildings. Several members chose to be present at the 3rd Annual L.A. Heritage Alliance, Heritage Day at Heritage Square Museum and joined in the Music, Poetry and Dance

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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**

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family/Couple \$30 | <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> New Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student \$5 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> My employer or my spouse's employer matches gifts to non-profits. HPHT is a 501c3 Non-Profit Corporation, Tax ID #95-4034485 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor (\$51 to \$150) _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Please contact me about creating an endowment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Angel (over \$150) _____ | |

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

I am interested in working on the following activities:

- | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Walking Tours | <input type="checkbox"/> Docent | <input type="checkbox"/> Reception | <input type="checkbox"/> Archiving | <input type="checkbox"/> Awards Ceremony | <input type="checkbox"/> Mailing Assistance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oral History | <input type="checkbox"/> Email | <input type="checkbox"/> Fund Raising | <input type="checkbox"/> Marketing & Publicity | <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration Workshops | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cornerstone Articles | <input type="checkbox"/> School & Education Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Events | <input type="checkbox"/> Operation Save | | |

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of the 5th Annual Lummis Day Festival on June 6th. HPHT members were key personnel for the festival and donated countless hours to fundraising.

The Walking Tour Docents continue to engage visitors in the history and culture of the Sycamore Grove area every other month. We've been told it is one of the best that is available. Just the other evening, about 20 members got together at the Hollywood Bowl for the last classical concert of the summer season and were blown away by the beauty of the music of Weber and Stravinsky, and the intertwining of the energetically, lithe acrobatic dance movements of Diavolo and the music of John Adams superbly performed by the world class Los Angeles Philharmonic.

As we go to press, the designation of Garvanza as part of the Highland Park-Garvanza HPOZ, is being discussed and decided upon by the LA City Council, helping to preserve the first town in Northeast Los

Angeles. The hard work and dedication of a number of people has made it possible for this important event to come to fruition.

Charles Fisher has now written two books that tell the story of two of our mission regions, Highland Park and Garvanza. We've been selling Highland Park, the book, after a glorious book signing event 2 years ago, and are planning the book signing event for Garvanza in late October.

On Monday, October 11, 2010, we will have the Second Annual Membership Recognition Event at Café de Leche, 5000 York Blvd, at the corner of N. Avenue 50 from 7 to 9 PM. Surely, this is one time you want to be with other HPHT members, and prospective members, savoring some delectable treats and sampling flavorful coffees and teas. It's a good time to bring your checkbook to pay your 2011 dues, or your debit/credit card so you can go on line on one of the laptops that will be available to complete the process by Pay Pal. Bring a like-minded individual with you.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

by Martha Benedict

Montecito Heights celebrated their centennial on Saturday, July 10, 2010, with a festival from noon to early evening in the sycamore dotted grove of the Montecito Heights Recreation Center on Griffin Avenue. As with all events in Northeast Los Angeles, Highland Park Heritage Trust members were present to encourage the volunteers and participants who enjoyed historic presentations and musical acts as well as a variety of community, crafts and food booths. HPHT manned a popular booth sharing information about our shared heritage. Charlie Fisher was pleased to be able to loan two wonderful vintage cars that complimented the period costumes worn by some presenters and attendees. No centennial celebration would be complete without recognition of those who help to maintain the history and culture of the region. City Council President, Eric Garcetti was on hand to lead a chorus of Happy Birthday. Council District 1 Field Deputy Marisoal Salgado presented Montecito Heights Improvement Association President Roy Payan with a Certificate of Recognition for the organization.



HPHT Membership Appreciation Event

Mon., Oct. 11, 2010 • 7 to 9 pm

Cafe de Leche

5000 York Blvd. (corner Avenue 50), Highland Park, CA

CELEBRATE PRESERVATION

- What a year this has been and it's not over yet!
- Discuss HPHT preservation activities with the Board and other members
- Recognition of very special member volunteers
- See the "year in action" photos and find out what's still to come!
- Free to members . . . same as last year
- Charles Fisher will be available to sign both *Highland Park* and *Garvanza*
- Coffee, Tea and Tasty Treats

Free to members • Guests \$5

While you're at it, Renew for 2010

Acknowledge each other as well as our Sponsors, Benefactors, Angels, and Life Members

Please RSVP by October 7 by phone 323-256-4326 or by email hphtpres@gmail.com

ROADSIDE ARCHITECTURE OF ROUTE 66 IN HIGHLAND PARK

Project Begins: Relight Two Rooftop Signs on Figueroa St.

By Nicole Possert



The North Figueroa Association (NFA) just received a significant cost-share grant from the National Park Service's Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program to preserve and re-light two important historic rooftop signs—the Highland Theatre and Manning's Coffee Store! Significantly adding to the burgeoning sign/lighting corridor in downtown Highland Park, the preservation project will bring back two rooftop signs.

Highland Theatre sign has over 800 light bulbs that just need bulbs so the landmark sign can be enjoyed after dark. Perched on the top of Las Cazuelas, the Manning's Coffee sign is a metal skeleton, missing its neon and opal glass components; once preserved it can artistically contribute a new "old glow" to the Figueroa sign

corridor.

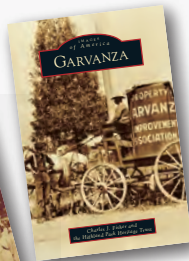
Signs like these don't get built anymore so preserving these treasures that are part of the business district is vitally important to Highland Park's history. This will help create an authentic sense of place, add to the appeal of visiting and in turn bolster the economy of local businesses. Preservation in action!

With a cash donation of \$1,500 and a bucket more volunteer time help do this preservation project properly, HPHT is a key project partner. But your help is needed too. Soon a fundraising campaign will be underway to raise the rest of the matching money that's needed. Let's all work together to bring back the heritage of Route 66.

HPHT Kiosk

Video

- ALMOST SOLD-OUT!
- *The Lure & Legacy of the Lower Arroyo Seco* (\$19.95)



Books

- **NEW!** *Images of America: Garvanza* by Charles J. Fisher and HPHT (\$21.95)
- *Images of America: Highland Park* by Charles J. Fisher and HPHT (\$21.95)
- *The Five Friendly Valleys: The Story of Greater Highland Park* (\$5.95)

please add 9.75% LA sales tax and \$4.95 for shipping (each additional item, add \$2.00)



Highland Park Heritage Trust • PO Box 50894 • Los Angeles CA 90050-0894

A BLURB ABOUT THE BLOG

Highland Park and Neighboring communities of Northeast LA are rich in History. We are also History in the Making.

Historic Highland Park blog shares views of board members and any active members of HPHT who are passionate about preserving our history and the legacy of our area.

There are historic photos, current photos, news articles, opinion editorials, links to articles about preservation and sustainability, links to other blogs, pictures of "This Day in History" and a plethora of preservation

related topics.

Most current topics include the "improvements" to the Arroyo Parkway by Caltrans. A historic home was moved in the middle of the night. We were there! View of videos of our Sycamore Grove walking tour.

Check it out! Post your ideas and comments to:

<http://historichighlandpark.blogspot.com/>

Contributions and content for future postings, please email *Justine @ jleongarch@gmail.com*

"THIS PLACE MATTERS COMMUNITY CHALLENGE" GRANT

What would the Trust do without people like Nicole Possert? Nicole shepherded "Highland Park Heritage Trust, LA's Arroyo Seco region, Southwest Museum" to the 8th highest vote getter (2.9% of the vote) in the national \$25,000 grant challenge. With just two weeks, we came out the highest in the state of California. Thank you to all of you who took time to vote and pass on the information that helped us to get so close to the prize.

This was sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and there were 116 groups vying for the top vote. Since the grant only went to the top vote getter, National Trust for Historic Preservation, when they send out their winner-announcement email to all the voters, will offer all voters the opportunity to click through and make a donation designated for HPHT on a secure donation page they host. Any donations received in the HPHT name will be passed on in their entirety, along with a list of names and addresses so that we can thank them personally. (With this donation, they will even throw in a free National Trust membership to the donor to thank them as well.)



The 18th Annual Discovery Tour
Happens Sunday, Nov. 21 • 9:30 am–5 pm
Tickets & info: arroyoartscollective.org



Tour Preview Party: Sat. Nov. 13 • 7 to 10 pm
Future Studio Gallery • 5558 N. Figueroa St.



The Avenue 50 Studio
is a proud sponsor of the
Highland Park Sycamore Grove Walking Tour



SOUTHWEST MUSEUM AND CASA DE ADOBE UPDATE

by *Nicole Possert*

Irreplaceable. These places matter to the history of Los Angeles and especially to the communities of the Arroyo Seco. There is no argument about their place in history yet their future remains uncertain.

Last month, Autry announced two new projects yet neither was to preserve and re-open the Southwest Museum or Casa de Adobes. This seven-year plan is to raise \$75 million for two projects: 1) the purchase and renovation of a site in the City of Burbank to locate an offsite storage for the Southwest Museum collection and 2) the renovation of the Griffith Park museum (Museum of the American West) to create more exhibition space for items from the collection of the Southwest Museum. That means that there are no plans to include the Southwest Museum in their fundraising or operations (other than as a warehouse) for many years to come.

HPHT is working as part of our leadership efforts within the Friends of the Southwest Museum Coalition with Councilmember Huizar on a solution. As you recall, he offered Autry a significant funding package to rehabilitate and re-open the Southwest Museum as a museum in early 2010. They passed and/or were not interested in this positive solution that could have been well over \$20 million and would have fully implemented the Brenda Levin Rehabilitation Plan's conclusions for a museum use.

Looking forward, HPHT will continue to have our education and advocacy voices out there and need each of you to help protect these irreplaceable resources who've contributed to our very own identity and cultural value of the entire region and the City beyond.

SIGN UP FOR A HIGHLAND PARK HISTORIC WALKING TOUR

by *Marilyn Robertson*

On October 23 and December 18, 2010, and six times the following year, you can sign up for the bi-monthly walking tour of the Sycamore Grove area of Highland Park. It is an eye-opening experience for the uninitiated and a wonderful event every time thanks to the tour members themselves who, along with the guides, make it happen.

Led on a rotating basis by HPHT Board members Charles Fisher, Pat Griffiths, Justine Leong, Tina Gullota-Miller, and Curt and Marilyn Robertson, the tour starts next to the Sousa-Hiner Bandshell in Sycamore Park at 10 a.m. and ends at the Avenue 50 Gallery after noon where President Carmela Gomes and gallery operator, Kathy Gallegos, welcome walkers with refreshments, eye-candy, and information.

Recent tours have included groups from the Inland Empire, the Westside, and Orange County. Occasionally, we have people who grew up here, moved away, and have come back for the tour. We have had

students from Franklin High School who were simply overcome by the beauty of the historic homes and rich history of their own community. Each participant has a brief story to tell that enriches everyone. Sharing a look at our local history with residents, as well as those from distant areas, is one of the most gratifying aspects of tour leading

If you have never gone on this tour, you can sign up on the HPHT website (<http://www.hpht.org>) or the LA Conservancy website (<http://www.laconservancy.org/tours>). Cost for the tour is \$5.00 for members of HPHT and LAC, \$10.00 for non-members. You can also send a check for reservations to HPHT, P.O. Box 50894, Los Angeles, CA 90050, and confirm your mail-in reservation by calling 323-256-4623. If you have, come again and bring a friend, a neighbor, and especially a young adult. Our community's rich history is worth sharing.

Calendar of Upcoming HPHT & Community Events

Free Tai Chi Classes Every Sunday, 8:30 AM • Audubon Center at Debs Park, http://ca.audubon.org/debs_park.htm

Saturday, October 9 • Opening 7:00 to 10:00 PM: Arroyo Arts Collective: "Fig KnitOn," Future Studio Gallery, 5558 N. Figueroa St., Highland Park, Second Saturday Gallery Night • www.futurestudiogallery.com

Monday, October 11 • 7:00 to 9:00 PM: Membership Recognition Event, Café de Leche, 5000 York Blvd., corner of No. Avenue 50, Highland Park. An array of finger foods and pastries, hot and cold coffee house drinks. Free to members, \$5 for guests

Saturday, October 23 • Bi-monthly Sycamore Grove Walking Tour, \$5 for members, \$10 non-members, sign up online at www.hpht.org, click on tour button, or send a check for reservations to HPHT, PO Box 50894, Los Angeles CA 90050, and call to confirm attendance: 323-256-4623

Saturday, November 6 • 6:30 to 8:30 PM: *Garvanza* Gala Book Signing Event and Celebration of the inclusion of Garvanza in the Highland Park-Garvanza HPOZ, at Figueroa Produce, in the shopping plaza at Figueroa St. and York Blvd., delicious finger foods and beverages for patrons and attendees

Monday, November 8 • 6:30 to 8:15 PM: Annual membership meeting and elections for Board of Directors, Ramona Hall, 4580 N. Figueroa St. 90065. Light refreshments

Sunday, November 21 • 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM, Arroyo Arts Collective Discovery Tour "North by Northeast." Tour begins at Lummis Home, 200 East Ave. 43. Tickets: \$10 in advance, \$15 day of tour, online at www.arroyoartscollective.org or at Galco's, 5702 York Blvd., Highland Park

Sunday, December 5 • 12:00 Noon to 3:00 PM: 64th Annual NELA Holiday Parade on Figueroa St., Highland Park

Monday, December 13 • 7:00 to 10:00 PM: HPHT Annual Potluck Christmas Party, at the home of Lupe Handy, 4671 N. Figueroa St., Los Angeles, hosted by Linda Miller and Rod Smith. Invitational postcards will be mailed

Monday, January 10, 2011 • 6:30 to 8:15 PM: First regular HPHT meeting of 2011 calendar year, Ramona Hall, 4580 N. Figueroa St., 90065. Light refreshments

Check resource links listed at <http://laheritage.blogspot.com/> for activities of other organizations with similar missions as HPHT for activities in Los Angeles County

Keep abreast of events online www.hpht.org or by phone 323-256-4623

Blog items should be sent to Justine Leong: jleongarch@gmail.com



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