

Founding Board Member, A Recollection by Diana Barnwell

When Diana bought & moved into her “fixer-upper” house on Mt. Washington, it was 1976—nearly 40 years ago. Few people that she knew had ever heard of Mt. Washington or Highland Park. It was an area that had been largely ignored or abandoned during the years after WW II. Construction & rapid expansion of the freeway system had flung people and development into new suburbs & communities away from the older, center of the City. The tree-lined streets with rows of mostly craftsman homes on deep lots were often occupied by elderly widows or, increasingly, broken up into multiple units for larger, multi-generational families.

After a few years of spending much of her free time & money on fixing up her little house and large

yard, Diana began to feel not only financially, but emotionally invested in the community. And, 1980 saw her first efforts toward community involvement & advocacy.

On Figueroa Street one day, she noticed, for the first time, a little storefront office with a sign over the door: “Highland Park Improvement Association.” Simple curiosity led her to go in to see what was going on to improve her community. The HPIA was a City-funded program sponsoring commercial revitalization on Figueroa Street. And, discovering that Diana was in the Marketing Research Department of the *Los Angeles Times*, they persuaded her to provide some volunteer training for the merchants & storeowners. This led to her leaving the *Times* and becoming the

Director of the program in December of 1980.

After four years & considerable effort by Diana, the Board, volunteers and a consultant architect, it became clear that Highland Park was not yet ready to be *improved*. Demographics were in a state of flux & critical mass to affect any significant change was not going to occur. It was determined, with some regret, to close the effort down,

continued on page 4



LtoR, seated: Pat Samson, Martin Olivera; standing: Mary Jones, Caroline Deuerling, Renee Kesler, Phillip Ellison, Diana Barnwell. Not pictured: Virginia Neely, Robert Ebinger and Frank Parrello.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pasadena Heritage Craftsman Weekend, Nov. 12-14 is featuring the Sycamore Grove Walking Tour, on Friday, November 13 from 2 to 4:30PM.

This is a great opportunity to volunteer as HPHT members as we are expecting 45 participants. The HPHT Docents are highly capable individuals who keep the bi-monthly Walking Tours going all year long but having charming and interesting members assisting is a welcome addition. Contact HPHT at info@hpht.org or (323) 908-4127 to volunteer.



Baker House. Photo by Al C. Strange.

Social Media in the form of the HPHT Facebook Page are slowly catching on. Informative and interesting dialogue has been surfacing concerning restoration projects and possible resources. HPHT members have so much good information and so many experiences “taking care of things” that we need to know about so we can help our neighbors. Visit HPHT’s Facebook page or contact info@hpht.org or (323) 908-4127 if you have a topic of interest.

Schedule for 2015-16 Community Awards

Wednesday, December 16, 2015 – Deadline for submission of nominations

Thursday, December 17, Meeting to organize January 2016 tour of nominations

January 2016 Tour of Nominations

_____ 2016 Date and Venue to be announced

Contact HPHT at info@hpht.org or (323) 908-4127 to volunteer.



2015 Officers

President: **Antonio Castillo**

antonio.castillo@hpht.org

Vice President: **Jonathan Silberman**

Vice President: **Louisa Van Leer**

Secretary: **Justine Leong**

Treasurer: **Charly Kemp**

Membership Chair:

Anne Marie Wozniak

Board of Directors

Steve Crouch

Carmela Gomes

Marcia Gurrola

Charles Fisher

John Nese

Harvey Slater

Robert Spira

Ann Walnum

Jonathan Silberman

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

Editor: Carmela Gomes

Layout: Future Studio

Distribution: Dedicated member committee

Email articles to: Info@hpht.org

Mail to:

HPHT

P.O. Box 50894

Los Angeles, CA 90050-0894

HPHT message line: (323) 908-4127

www.hpht.org

Find us on FACEBOOK

Advertisement Policy:

Advertisements will be accepted for this publication from advertisers who are in keeping with the intention and goals of this organization. Contact Charly Kemp for submission info and rates.

Do you have a historic home or preservation story you want to publicize? Please contribute articles, photos and anecdotes to our blog. Email to info@hpht.org.

Liz Johnson
323.397.6041 www.lizsells.com
BRE00803070 TelesProperties

President's Message

Through the volunteer efforts of our membership, the Highland Park Heritage Trust has been active and involved in many great activities throughout the year. Among these activities is the annual Archives Bazaar at USC, which took place this year on October 17th. The event celebrated the Archives Bazaar 10th anniversary and proved to be a success with over 80 exhibitors and as many as 1,200 visitors. To promote the NELA Newspaper Project, we teamed up with our community partners, the Eagle Rock Valley Historical Society and Occidental College to exhibit archived newspapers from Northeast LA and encouraged people to visit the California Digital Newspaper Collection website. The online collection is a freely accessible repository of digitized California newspapers from 1846 to the present through the University of California, Riverside. At our table, our group exhibited a few historic newspapers, including an edition of the *Highland Park News-Herald and Journal* from 1975 celebrating 70 years of Northeast newspapers. The annual event is organized by LA as Subject, a research alliance dedicated to preserving and improving access to the archival material of Los Angeles history.

My favorite part of the annual event is that it attracts



1975 *Highland Park News-Herald and Journal*

people of all ages. It was wonderful to see children and youth enjoying their afternoon while learning about their local history. Most schools do not include local history within its curriculum. Through archival material, we are able to hold on to the tangible sources that tell our stories from yesterday to be able to share tomorrow. But in order to do so, we need to inspire our youth to learn and appreciate our community's history and that education is largely local in nature.

HPHT depends upon volunteers and local action to promote our neighborhoods and preserve our history – and for that, we need you! The annual Membership Appreciation and Board Elections will take place on Monday, November 9th and all members and friends are welcome to attend. With so much going on in the community, we need our members to consider taking on a leadership role and join the Board of Directors. For more information or to express interest, please submit a

brief statement of interest to info@hpht.org or send your statement via USPS to HPHT, P.O. Box 50894, Los Angeles, CA 90050. Our information hotline is (323) 908-4127. You must be an HPHT member in good standing to qualify. —ANTONIO CASTILLO



A father and daughter peruse the old newspapers

SOCIETY of the SPECTACLE 4563 York Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90041
(323) 255 4300



Come On By

M-F 11-7
Sat 10-6
Sun 12-5
Late night Thurs

eyewear & sunglasses

character PROJECTS

Jonathan Silberman
Design, Restoration & Real Estate
Period Lighting & Hardware

characterprojects@gmail.com
818-599-5568 • characterprojects.com



continued from page 1

However, about 3 years before July 1984, when HPIA closed its doors, there had been an increasing awareness of the architectural beauty & cultural richness of many of the houses and commercial structures in the community. It was clear that they merited more study.

So, City funding was obtained to cover the cost of special consultants to work with a small but dedicated group of about six volunteers who, with Diana, did an initial survey of the buildings and significant architecture in the community. They were amazed at the wealth of what they found and determined to continue on their own to pursue the research & record and share the results with the wider community. The Highland Park Heritage Trust (HPHT) was created out of this effort and Diana was among the founding Board members.

Diana moved on to do marketing with several architecture firms in the area while continuing to devote time to work with HPHT as well as other community organizations, organizations whose necessity for being grew out of the rapid and aggressive interest in the area by developers in the 1980s. The large residential lots with their excessive zoning combined with a rapidly expanding

population to make Highland Park ripe for the developer's picking.

Diana was co-founder of the Highland Park Neighborhood Association, specifically formed in 1988 to counter the excessive development pressures. She was a member & last co-chair of the City Planning Department's Northeast Los Angeles Community Plan Advisory Committee, charged with analyzing & advising on land use & zoning issues for the area. And, she went on to form & co-chair Save Our Southwest Museum (SOS) in 1988 to campaign against the Museum abandoning its historic location on Mt. Washington. That battle was won & SOS was disbanded in 1991 but subsequent battles were lost and finally, in 2003 the Southwest Museum merged with the Autry Museum. (The effort to restore the Southwest Museum continues under the guidance & leadership of a number of dedicated community members.)

Diana retired from being Director of the Pasadena & Foothill Chapter of the American Institute of Architects in 2006 and, while she no longer lives in her beloved, little house on Mt. Washington, still lives in the area. And, the rest, as they say, is history.

TELES



PROPERTIES

California Real Estate #01048877
California Real Estate #01834633

TRACY KING & KEELY MYRES

626.827.9795 | LADigs.com



Interesting Homes for Interesting People



HISTORIC ROUTE 66 ROUTE

The Statue of Liberty of L.A. in Highland Park
ChickenBoyShop.com
Art & Souvenirs



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

Board Member Spotlight

Louisa Van Leer is an architect, practicing in Northeast Los Angeles. Her practice incorporates residential and light commercial projects with an emphasis on Historic Preservation. She received her BFA and B'Arch from Rhode Island School of Design and her MFA from California Institute of the Arts with a Fellowship from Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture. She has served on the Board of the Highland Park Heritage Trust since 2011.

Van Leer came to the attention of the HPHT



Louisa with one of the student dioramas displayed in the Mayan Tunnel for the 100th Anniversary of the Southwest Museum.

after organizing "Stairstreet Ghosts" a walking tour incorporating Art and History, exploring the numerous historic stairstreets of Mt. Angelus in Highland Park. Currently she leads the Living Museum public initiative she founded with HPHT that seeks to bring greater awareness to the trove of historical assets around Sycamore Grove Park forming a cultural district within walking/biking distance of the Southwest Museum Metro station.

CEQA 101: "What is it?" and "Why do I need to know about it?"

BY HARVEY SLATER

On Saturday, October 10th, the Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council hosted "CEQA 101," a well-attended workshop to assist local residents to better understand the CEQA process and how it affects our historic neighborhood.

Ken Bernstein, Director of Los Angeles City Office of Historic Resources proved to be a highly skilled and knowledgeable presenter. With the use of a simple Powerpoint presentation, attendees were given a "tour" of the California Environmental Quality Act asking questions throughout the presentation.

Starting with an overview of CEQA and moving into the definition of a project Ken guided the participants in an understanding of when CEQA applies to a project and when it doesn't. All the significant points of the CEQA process were covered including the MND process, what is an EIR, fair argument standards, how "historical resources" are defined and how that plays into the process.

The meeting ended with a list of hypothetical scenarios, or case studies, such as, "Is It a Project?," "Is It a Historical Resource?," "Fair Argument Test." Attendees were encouraged to give answers and to back their answers up with reason. Ken guided a brief discussion around each case study. The feedback from the attendees was positive and everyone left with a lot of useful and revealing information. Members of Plan Check LA, and many representatives from other neighborhood councils across LA also attended the workshop.



Digital copies of the Powerpoint presentation and the hypothetical scenarios can be found on the Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council Website. www.highlandparknc.com

EVENTS & MEETINGS

2nd Monday: 2016 Monthly HPHT Board and Program meetings (7 to 9PM), January 11, 2016, February 8, March 7, April 11, Ebell Club, 131 S. Avenue 57, Highland Park, info@hpht.org or (323) 908-4127

Monday, November 9, 2015 (7 to 8:30PM), Annual Membership Reception and Meeting including Board Elections 8:00 to 8:30PM, Character Projects, 6042 Monte Vista Street, corner of N. Avenue 61, Los Angeles, 90042 info@hpht.org or (323) 908-4127, information post card and email blast notification

Nov. 12-14: Pasadena Heritage Craftsman Weekend, For tickets and information call (626) 441-6333 or visit www.pasadenaheritage.org

Sunday, November 22: Arroyo Arts Collective 23rd Discovery Tour (9:30AM to 5PM), information www.arroyartscollective.org Starting at the Southwest Museum

Sunday, December 6: 71st NELA Holiday Parade (1PM), N. Figueroa St, Highland Park, between Avenues 50 and 60

Sunday, December 13—Save the Date - more information to come - National Trust for Historic Preservation event at the Southwest Museum

Sunday, December 13: Annual Holiday Party (4:30 to 7:30PM), information postcard and email blast notification

Bi-monthly Walking Tour, Sycamore Grove Highland Park area (10AM to 12:30PM), register at www.hpht.org or (323) 908-4127, \$5 HPHT/LAC members, \$10 non-members, Tour Dates, Saturdays 12/19/15, through 2016 02/27, 04/23, 06/25, 08/27, 10/22, 12/17

Saturday, February 13, 2016: FIG JAM (noon to 10PM), Celebrate North Figueroa's Past, Present & Future—a Great Streets LA event. Info and volunteer sign-ups: www.figjam.la

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.



PO Box 50894
Los Angeles CA 90050-0894
www.hpht.org

Address Correction Requested

follow **highland park heritage trust** on **facebook**



PO Box 50894 • Los Angeles CA 90050-0894

November 2015

Renewing your 2016 Highland Park Heritage Trust Membership

Many of you who have **assisted** with HCM nominations and HPOZ designations, **attended** Awards Ceremonies or **reviewed** the nominations, or **volunteered** at an event to encourage membership, **purchased** one of the Arcadia books, **logged onto** the CDNC website to see the progress of the NELA Newspaper Archives, **been involved** in the Living Museum initiative, **helped** with a Soda Tasting, or **participated in** the recent CEQA workshop, are reminded about the **constant vigilance** it takes to make sure the character of our communities is honored and preserved.

Please take a few minutes and either send this form with your annual membership for 2016 via USPS to HPHT, P.O. Box 50894, Los Angeles, CA 90050 or log onto <http://www.hpht.org/get-involved.php>

Thank you.

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

- Family/Couple \$30
- Individual \$20
- Student \$5
- Sponsor \$50
- Benefactor (\$51 to \$150) _____
- Angel (over \$150) _____
- Renewal New Member
- My preference for contact: Phone Email
- I prefer to receive the Cornerstone Newsletter by Mail Email
- My employer or my spouse's employer matches gifts to non-profits. HPHT is a 501c3 Non-Profit Corporation, Tax ID #95-4034485
- Please contact me about creating an endowment

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

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



PO Box 50894 • Los Angeles CA 90050-0894
#95-4034485

Highland Park Heritage Trust Bi-Annual Community Preservation Awards for 2015-16

Highland Park Heritage Trust has a reputation for recognizing a wide range of buildings, murals, gardens, special neighborhood people and efforts that are indicative of the preservation ethic of our Arroyo communities.

By celebrating the actions taken by our residents to improve the historic heritage of the communities of the Arroyo Seco, we give deserved recognition and honor to those that best match our mission.

All nominations need to be exterior based as the restoration of the façade, or have the ability to be experienced by the general public in some tangible manner such as in a website or event or actions of an individual.

Each year a community minded group of member volunteers form an **Awards Committee** that will be reviewing the nominations and then visiting locations to determine award recipients. By sending in your nominations as soon as possible you will aid this much valued group of dedicated individuals to complete this activity.

*The Bi-annual Awards Ceremony will take place in the spring of 2016,
on a date and at a location and time to be announced by the committee in October 2015.*

Deadline for Nominations, Wednesday, December 16, 2015.

Suggested Criteria – Please use these specific criteria in reference to your nominations

1. There is evidence of significant exterior improvement and preservation of this property in the last year (home, residence, commercial property, historic, non-historic).
2. There is evidence of continued/sustained maintenance and care of this property.
3. There has been preservation, improvement or maintenance of the garden or landscape.
4. There has been a significant contribution by an individual or organization toward the preservation of our cultural heritage.
5. There has been a significant contribution by virtue of the impact on the preservation community because of this activity or event.

HPHT is an all-volunteer, nonprofit 501c3 organization that is dedicated to the historic preservation of Los Angeles' Arroyo Seco communities of Highland Park, Garvanza, Mt. Washington, Hermon, Montecito Heights and Cypress Park. Our mission is to advocate and educate the community about our historic neighborhood by hosting walking tours and programs, and sponsoring events that feature our rich cultural and architectural heritage.

HPHT 2015-2016 Nomination Form
The form is also available online at www.hpht.org

Please use a separate form for each nomination.

Name and contact information of the HPHT member making the nomination:

NAME

CONTACT INFORMATION (PHONE, EMAIL)

I would like to nominate this property, place, activity/event, organization or individual for an HPHT Community Preservation Award.

Contact information for nominee:

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP CODE _____

Use the criteria to explain why you are making this nomination?

What has happened here that deserves recognition by HPHT?

If the nomination is not an historic building or a place but you feel there's some action/event that matches our mission of historic preservation, please elaborate specifics about the nomination so the judges best understand the context of the nomination.

Submit via mail to P.O. Box 50894, Los Angeles, CA 90050-0894
Or submit via email to info@hpht.org
Submission Deadline: Wednesday, December 16, 2015
HPHT message line: (323) 908-4127