

## Celebrating May Preservation Month and 35 Years of Highland Park Heritage Trust

CARMELA GOMES, editor

**R**obert Spira, an original HPHT member, created a zine last October for the 1-year anniversary of Civil Coffee on N. Figueroa Street, in the HPOZ business district of Highland Park, in which he recollected the importance of the formation of the Highland Park Heritage Trust 35 years ago. His title, “Beyond *Reservoir Dogs*: Highland Park in the 80’s” intrigued me so I read on. (Yes, even then Highland Park was a choice filming location.)

Robert recounted the story of how “four magnificent Craftsmen homes on Sycamore Terrace in Highland Park” were slated for demolition “to make way for the erection of a massive multi-story apartment building. The homes had been designed and constructed by famed architects at the turn of century to house faculty members of Occidental College—which was located in Highland Park at that time.” Leadership of two artists, Pearl Beach and Steve Johnson, brought to light the zoning changes that had been enacted for Northeast LA.

“The City’s vision was to replace each single family

home with twelve or more apartment units. The plan was designed to incentivize the destruction of anything old. Nothing was budgeted for infrastructure to handle the proposed population growth.”

“Subsequent citizen organizing efforts to push back against the Mayor, the City Council, and the City’s Planning Department resulted in the creation of . . . LA’s largest Historic Preservation Overlay Zone (HPOZ)—designed to preserve and enhance the essential character of our neighborhoods and make possible the recent business renaissance of the York and Figueroa corridors.” . . . and as we know, the Highland Park Heritage Trust.

“Those efforts continue today. People now pride themselves in the statement ‘I live

in Highland Park.’” Robert entreats the reader to “Join Highland Park Heritage Trust . . . and be part of these efforts to make a better community.”

The following seems appropriate as we consider our role in preservation. “The purpose of any monument is to bring the past into the present to inspire the future.” —Judith F. Baca, Founder and Artistic Director, SPARC (Social and Public Art Resource Center)



4939 Sycamore Terrace by Charles Fisher

**The Spring edition of *Our Cornerstone* is dedicated to the remembrance of the Reverend William Cruver, who passed away on April 29, 2017**

## President's Message

It has been an exciting spring and HPHT is hard at work advocating and promoting on behalf of our many cultural landmarks in the Arroyo. Our **Preserve the Lummis Home** campaign is underway—have you signed the petition? We are asking the City of Los Angeles to seize the moment and provide the final funding so that Occidental College can to restore the Lummis Home and Gardens and open the Institute for the Study of Los Angeles.

In May, the Heritage Trust will be partnering with the California Preservation Foundation at their biannual conference held in Pasadena this year. We will be welcoming over thirty attendees from all over the state for a walking tour of the Historic Business North Figueroa Street corridor. Several Board members will be attending conference workshops with important themes such as Preservation, Gentrification, and Equity and Housing, that will resonate with our Arroyo Communities as well as workshops about cutting edge tech tools used in the historic preservation field.

Last but not least, the Southwest Museum and Casa de Adobe Community Forums will be cranking up again. Look for the dates of upcoming events when you can join in on discussions around the future of these beloved institutions and meeting potential institutional partners who may pave the way for their rebirth and renewal.

Your interest and involvement in these initiatives is what makes Highland Park Heritage Trust a leader in using preservation as a tool in building a sustainable community. We would love to hear from you.

Email us at [info@hpht.org](mailto:info@hpht.org) or call 323-908-4127.

LOUISA VAN LEER

**"Cities have the capability of providing something for everybody, only because, and only when, they are created by everybody."**

—JANE JACOBS, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*  
[https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/17285.Jane\\_Jacobs](https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/17285.Jane_Jacobs)

Do you have a historic home or preservation story you want to publicize? Please contribute articles, photos and anecdotes to HPHT. Email to [info@hpht.org](mailto:info@hpht.org).

"Like" us on our Facebook fan page "Highland Park Heritage Trust"



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*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

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## Preserve the Lummis Home

Dear Mayor Garcetti, Councilmembers, Cultural Heritage Commission, Department Heads and all City of Los Angeles Leaders,

We, the undersigned, urge the City of Los Angeles to seize the moment and provide the resources to help preserve the Lummis Home, a City of Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument and National Register listed resource. Occidental College has stepped forward with a comprehensive and viable plan and has raised substantial funds to rehabilitate the Lummis Home, to establish academic programing at the historic site and expand the community’s usage of the home. Despite valiant efforts, the prospects for raising the final funds are looking dim. City of Los Angeles, help this worthy endeavor with resources, help the community and help preserve one of Los Angeles’ most important historic sites.

Signature	Name (print)	Address	Email (optional)
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HIGHLAND PARK HERITAGE TRUST  
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March 28, 2017

Re: Preserve the Lummis Home

***Board of Directors***

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Robert Spira

Dear City Leader:

We are concerned that despite diligent work by committed people and institutions to find a path forward to preserve our City's iconic Lummis Home, those efforts have hit a wall. The Highland Park Heritage Trust, its members, and the Northeast Los Angeles public demand that City leaders do everything in their power to preserve this National Historic Register Landmark. In 1970 the City recognized the importance of Lummis Home by designating it a Cultural Historic Monument. In doing so the City recognized Charles Lummis' unparalleled contributions to the growth and development of the City of Los Angeles, the country's emerging national park system, and the influential Arts and Crafts movement, as well as to the preservation of Native American and Mexican/Spanish Southwest culture.

We are stunned by the lack of resources devoted by the City to the preservation and stewardship of Lummis Home - particularly in contrast to the efforts being made by Occidental College during the course of negotiations with the City.

Occidental College has stepped forward with a concrete preservation and stewardship plan for Lummis Home and brings its unique expertise and scholarship to the table. Occidental has, in good faith, already invested substantial time, money and personnel during the negotiation process. Occidental has:

- 1) Raised substantial amounts of money in support of the Lummis Home preservation project;
- 2) Engaged experts to study the Lummis property and its rehabilitation and preservation needs;
- 3) Developed a budget for the proper ongoing operation and maintenance of the Lummis property as a community resource;
- 4) Developed research and academic programs to implement the highest and best uses of the Lummis Home.

It is clear that Occidental College with its Institute for the Study of Los Angeles is a perfect fit with the City for the proper stewardship and utilization of Lummis Home and its grounds as a living study and teaching tool, as well as a community resource. City leaders and departments need to stop their foot-dragging and make this partnership a working reality for the benefit of current and future generations of Angelenos.

The City has the financial resources and connections to make this a reality. Make it happen. Now.

Very truly yours,

Concerned NELA Citizen (Your Name Here)



12<sup>th</sup> Annual

FREE!  
GRATIS!

# Lummis Day

El Festival de  
Noreste Los Angeles

2017



THREE DAYS • SIX LOCATIONS  
**June 2, 3, 4**

Music  
Dance  
Poetry  
Art  
Film  
Theater



FRIDAY, JUNE 2 • 7:00 PM-9:30 PM  
**Thorne Hall, Occidental College**  
"NELA Film, NELA Alive:  
An L.A. Film Event"

FRIDAY, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY,  
JUNE 2-4 • TIMES VARY  
**Historic Security Trust  
and Savings building**  
"Muralismo in Northeast L.A.:  
A Visual History of  
L.A.'s Mural Tradition"

SATURDAY, JUNE 3 • 5:00 PM-9:00 PM  
**Avenue 50 at York Boulevard,**  
"The Café Stage"  
The best of NELA indie acoustic music.

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, JUNE 3-4  
10AM-4:00PM  
**Southwest Museum**  
"For the Love of the Arroyo"  
group show: paintings, drawings,  
mixed-media works

SUNDAY, JUNE 4 • 10:30 AM-NOON  
**Lummis Home**  
Poetry

SUNDAY, JUNE 4 • NOON-7:00 PM  
**Sycamore Grove Park**  
Music, dance, theater, puppets,  
family activities



[www.LummisDay.org](http://www.LummisDay.org)



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## Highland Park Heritage Trust—Membership Registration/Renewal

You may join or renew online at [www.hpht.org](http://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 \_\_\_\_\_

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***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



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BRE# 01491001

# May is Preservation Month!

## Celebrate with #ThisPlaceMatters

Take advantage of this opportunity during Preservation Month

<https://savingplaces.org/this-place-matters>



## Find Out What Your Local Council Member Is Doing to Support Preservation

On Tuesday, May 2, 2017, the Los Angeles City Council asked city staff to prepare reports on potential zoning and land use strategies to discourage “dense” development in Silver Lake and Echo Park, while preserving historic properties.

<https://la.curbed.com/2017/5/2/15526680/echo-park-silver-lake-dense-historic-character>

## Historical Rehabilitation Guidelines for Residents of Oakland, CA

Frank Parrello, president of Eagle Rock Valley Historical Society, suggests referring to the city of Oakland’s website for a PDF version of a 150-page book, published in 1978 and written for residents and city homeowners.

Frank thinks that *Rehab Right: How to Rehabilitate Your Oakland House Without Sacrificing Architectural Assets* is applicable to the architecture of Eagle Rock.

Ann Walnum wanted *Our Cornerstone* readers to have access to this information, as many homes in Northeast LA area have the same features

<http://www2.oaklandnet.com/oakca1/groups/ceda/documents/agenda/oak039424.pdf>

## Historic Preservation Addressing Social Issues

Robert Kieft, dear friend, former librarian at Occidental College, and HPHT member who now resides in St. Paul, Minnesota, sent a copy of an article, “Beyond Pretty Buildings,” written by Max Page, professor of architecture and history at UMass, Amherst. Published in the *Chronicle Review* on January 13, 2017, Max Page proffers that the role of preservation with the subtitle “How Historic Preservation Can Solve Social Ills.”

If you would like to read this article, you can contact the Occidental College Library at (323) 259-2640 or [circdesk@oxy.edu](mailto:circdesk@oxy.edu) for information about hours of operation. Oxy receives an electronic copy only. As a member of the community, you can request the opportunity to read it on one of the library’s computers or bring your own laptop to do so.

**Did you know that if you don’t use the Internet at home, take your copy of *Our Cornerstone* to the either a public library, or our friends at the Occidental College Library, and have a librarian help you access the other websites and information noted?**



## EVENTS & MEETINGS

**MONTHLY HPHT BOARD AND PROGRAM MEETINGS • 2nd Mondays • 7 to 8:30 PM •** Ebell Club, 131 S. Avenue 57, Highland Park; [www.hpht.org](http://www.hpht.org) or (323) 908-4127

**BI-MONTHLY WALKING TOUR • Saturday June 24 • 10 AM to 12:30 PM •** Sycamore Grove Highland Park area, register at <http://hpht.org/walking-tour.php> for 2017 Tour Dates or (323) 908-4127; \$5 HPHT members, \$10 non-members

**HIGHLAND PARK/GARVANZA HPOZ • 2nd & 4th Tuesdays • 6 PM •** Arroyo Seco Library Community Room, 6145 N. Figueroa St., Highland Park

**MUSEUMS OF THE ARROYO DAY • Sunday May 21 • noon to 5 PM •** Entrance to 6 sites with shuttle bus; last museum entrance at 4 pm, <http://www.mota.dreamhosters.com>

**FOR THE LOVE OF THE ARROYO • Opening Day: Sunday May 21 • noon to 5 PM •** Continuing on view: May 27 to June 18, Saturdays and Sundays, 10 AM to 4 PM; Historic Southwest Museum Mt. Washington Campus; <https://theautry.org/exhibitions/love-arroyo-mt-washington-campus>

**VIVA! POETRY LUMMIS DAY LIBRARY SERIES • Saturdays May 13 & May 20 • 3 to 5 PM •** Arroyo Seco Library, Eagle Rock Library, [www.lummisday.org](http://www.lummisday.org)

### **“FISH GOTTA SWIM, BIRDS GOTTA FLY” PUPPET MAKING WORKSHOPS FOR CHILDREN**

- **Sundays May 14 & 21 • 12 PM •** Lummis Home;
  - **Saturday May 20 • 2 to 4 PM •** Arroyo Seco Regional Library;
  - **Wednesday May 17 • 5:30 to 8:30 PM •** Puppet-Making “SOIREE” for adults, Audubon Center Debs Park;
  - **Wednesday May 24 • 4 to 6 PM •** Eagle Rock Branch Library
- Contact Maria De La Torre [maritadelatorre@gmail.com](mailto:maritadelatorre@gmail.com), 310-871-3226

**ICE CREAM SOCIAL • Sunday August 6 • 1 to 4 PM •** Eagle Rock Valley Historical Society, Center for the Arts, Eagle Rock, <http://eaglerockhistory.org/>



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Address Correction Requested

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