

## 2009-2010 HPHT Awards

by Justine Leong

On Sun., Feb. 28, the 2009-2010 Highland Park Heritage Trust Awards were held at the Arroyo Seco Library. It is with pride and a privilege that HPHT recognizes these people for outstanding achievement in improving our historic neighborhood. These people raise our neighborhood's level of standard through rehabilitation and restoration of important structures in the fabric of the community. These individuals show exemplary purpose in preserving and protecting the historic character of our district, one building at a time. Good job and let's keep it up!

Despite dire warnings of economic collapse (the sky is falling, the sky is falling . . .), the individuals we are honoring today have chosen to strike out on the path of ingenuity and resourcefulness.

Their dedication to the preservation of historic structures as a way to enhance community life is an inspiration to us all.

Highland Park Heritage Trust is honored and proud to recognize them for preservation advocacy, restoration and preservation of private property, and restoration and adaptive reuse of commercial property.

### AWARD WINNERS:

- Immanuel United Methodist Church & School
- Gloria & Minervo Hernandez
- Linda Phelps
- Ruth & Jeffrey Kuzma
- Pisgah Village LP
- Nicole & Michael Possert
- Annie Morrissey Hu & Eric Hu
- Yolanda Nogueira
- Café de Leche, Anya & Matt Schodorf
- Antigua Cultural Coffee House, Yancey Quiñones
- Janelle McGlothlin & Charly Kemp
- Amy Inouye
- Barras Salon, Eric Barras Johnson
- Judy & Jonathan Merrick

### Award Jury

Many thanks to the 2009-2010 Awards Jury for their tireless efforts in selecting and judging the nominations: Anne Marie Wozniak, Charles Fisher, Carol Van Beek, John & Nancy Stoner, Justine Leong, Linda Miller, Nicole Possert, Steve Crouch, Tina Gulotta Miller



Charlie Fisher, Suzanne Jimenez (CD1), Eric Barras-Johnson, and Justine Leong at the awards ceremony.



Charlie Fisher, Suzanne Jimenez, Anya & Matt Schodorf of Café de Leche, Yolanda Nogueira, Justine Leong, Zenay Loera (CD14).

# The Organization That Works Together Makes Things Happen

by Carmela Gomes

## Arroyo Seco Parkway Upgrade – Safety or Expedience? (See the HPHT blog at [www.hpht.org](http://www.hpht.org) )

**H**urrah! for HPHT board member Steve Crouch who is doggedly following up on the quality of work being done on the Parkway.

HPHT member Martha Benedict, chair of the Recreation, Culture and the Arts Committee for Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council, convened a community-based committee that diligently pursued a list of concerns the community was voicing.

Meanwhile Kristi Lopez, from Assembly member Anthony Portantino's office, requested four key event days for consideration when scheduling the weekend closures for Arroyo Seco upgrade work, which were approved.

When staff member Alana Yañez, from Assembly member Kevin De Leon's office, sat in on the community discussion the question was raised, "What about the historic fabric of the medians and bridges?"

Unrelenting in manner, Steve Crouch called upon Nicole Posert, who is the most knowledgeable about the Parkway, to help him ferret out what is actually in the project plan for the scheduled work. Nicole's information gathering and prior knowledge, led to an HPHT letter to Wayne Donaldson, State of California Historic Preservation.

Meanwhile, HPHT member Heather Hoggan notified Nicole about the abuse suffered by a cornerstone of the Avenue 43 bridge. This triggered an in-depth investigation of the destruction of the Arroyo Seco Parkway's historic center median and curb system that has been scheduled for demolition without an appropriate review.

This news was fed to HPHT member, Assembly member Anthony Portantino, who sent a letter to district director Michael Miles concerning the nature of the work being done on the Arroyo Seco Parkway by those contracted by Caltrans. The work was set to commence at the north end of the Parkway in the Assembly member's district on April 23, tying up Parkway use for 55 hours per weekend.

". . . Respectfully, I request that before Caltrans creates irreplaceable changes to the character and historic integrity of the Arroyo Seco Parkway, this matter be investigated and that you work with the community to identify how necessary work can be completed that both preserves the historical characteristic of the center median barrier while still insuring the safety of those who drive on the freeway. . ."

We don't have any answers, as yet, to the letters. The LA Conservancy and the California Preservation Foundation are actively involved. Work has been put on hold until June 4. It's a really big thing!

Sometimes we feel we can do just so much because we have limited time or resources. None of us has to work alone. As an organization we have the resources to do more. HPHT uses many resources to advocate for preservation in the name of the community.



### 2010 Officers

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hphtpres@gmail.com

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## 2009-2010 HPHT Awards



Charlie Fisher, Suzanne Jimenez, Jeffrey and Ruth Kuzma with Otto, Justine Leong, Zenay Loera.



Charlie Fisher, Suzanne Jimenez, Eric Hu, Annie Morrisey Hu, Justine Leong.



Charlie Fisher, Suzanne Jimenez, Linda Phelps, Justine Leong, Zenay Loera.

## Some Observations Around the 2010 H.P.H.T. Awards

*By Hendrik Stoker*

It should never be forgotten that just a small group of very dedicated volunteers created in 1982 the Highland Park Heritage Trust. At that time our now again mostly beloved community appeared in danger of being seriously damaged. Too many doors to once interesting places closed. Zoning everywhere allowed and even encouraged demolition of single family homes in favor of unsightly apartment projects.

Then, after several locally organized petition drives, in combination with numerous forceful neighborhood meetings, city government granted Highland Park its Historic Preservation Overlay Zoning (thereby becoming the largest protected area in Los Angeles). Moreover, much of our community was again downzoned to single family housing. And once a year, owners of unique properties who showed their preservation efforts by means of aesthetic rehabilitation became recipients of H.P.H.T. awards.

Now consider our current year of 2010 and its recent recipients. What appeared to be a much appreciated difference between some of this year's award winners and those more typical of past events has been an inspiring inclusion of business establishments, their interiors and even a recently re-erected vintage roof ornament.

Caring inhabitants of Highland Park have always warmly offered their now protected territory to historically interesting homes that were endangered in other parts of Los Angeles. Two outstanding samples of worthwhile transplantations are our Heritage Square Museum and the House That Moved Twice (on Avenue 53). Now a less traditional project from the past was welcomed here when a large and colorful advertising sign from old downtown L.A. received more recently a green card in Highland Park! Fittingly, this year's award ceremony started with Amy Inouye's jocular reminiscence of the just mentioned business sign's moving history. The sizable sign known as Chicken Boy, now stands impressively on top of Future Studio art gallery in Highland Park. The sign's historic ties with Route 66 were definitely remembered in the recognition. Once prominently on the roof of a "chicken place" on Broadway, a street initially known as Route 66, the whimsical creature now adorns the 5500 block of North Figueroa (also once known as Route 66).

*continued on next page*



Charlie Fisher, Justine Leong, Frank Parrello, Sarah Hays (project architect), Channa Grace (owner/developer), Stephen McAvoy, Suzanne Jimenez, Zenay Loera.



Charlie Fisher, Suzanne Jimenez, Janelle McGlothlin, Matty, Gus, Charly Kemp, Justine Leong, Zenay Loera.



Every seat was filled.



Carmela Gomes, Rev. Moo Kim, Hendrik Stoker, and Amy Inouye present Rev. Kim his awards at Immanuel United Methodist Church & School.

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Another pleasant surprise was the recognition of Barras' hairstyling salon at 5607 North Figueroa.

Already pleasing to the eye as seen from the sidewalk, it is the tasteful interior of this business that truly earned the award. With no professional experience as an architectural designer, Eric, the owner of the salon, created himself this unique and quite aesthetic environment.

Café de Leche is also a successful example of aesthetically adapting the interior part of an historic building (the splendidly restored Nogueira Building on York Boulevard) into an attractive and contemporary coffee shop. Well deserved awards were presented to both the building' and business owners.

A predominantly socially-focused award was given to now colorful The Antigua Cultural Coffee House at 3400 North Figueroa. Much appreciated by the community as a welcoming neighborhood meeting place for casual meals and drinks, the artistic transformation of the demure old interior into a lively new place is another refreshing example of cultural rebirth in our area.

Nowadays, Highland Park's heritage as Los Angeles' true birthplace of the visual arts and poetry is again appreciated. Early resident Charles Lummis' discerning collecting of native arts resulted in the construction of Los Angeles' first (art) museum here in Highland Park. The University of Southern California also chose Highland Park's bucolic arroyo region to initiate its instruction in art and architecture. More than 100 years later, the original campus building on Avenue 66 is still in active operation and known as the Judson Studios (specializing in the production of stained glass).

We should feel rewarded for our promotional efforts in knowing that Highland Park has now the largest number of officially recognized historic monuments in the city of L.A. However, all of these are so far for architecture. Unless we recognize Hermon to be a part of Highland Park, we have not one exclusively (folk) art-related monument in our area. (The still little known remaining parts of the Hermon Car Wall, near Debs Park, were recently acknowledged as a Historic Cultural Monument.)

Let us consider how potentially the recognition of other "non-architectural" projects can make our community a place of still greater cultural interest and diversity. Two challenging ideas jump readily to mind: the revival of the York Theater as a movie theater and its neighbor, MorYork Gallery, as an exciting and officially recognized museum.

Although realizing the often subjective nature of award bestowments (especially cultural designations), it should nevertheless be impossible to dismiss

the aesthetic and permanent importance of MorYork Gallery (a place definitely located in our Highland Park). This is a unique situation where the interior of a well-maintained old building has over many decades been transformed into something very precious by the imaginative owner of the place (once the Senior Managing Art Director at Disneyland). The already widely-known gallery attracts repeatedly large crowds from all over the city. This beloved and exquisite place greatly deserves monument status.

And then to watch an interesting film or documentary at the now completely under-utilized old York Theater, right in our own neighborhood, should not have to remain a dream to many of us either. A good number of people living here have contacts with the filmmaking industry. Are at least some of these individuals not interested in helping to revive a forgotten movie theater into a potential lively place for historic and contemporary film efforts?



Charlie Fisher, Suzanne Jimenez, Michael & Nicole Possert, Justine Leong, Zenay Loera.



Charlie Fisher, Suzanne Jimenez, Yancey Quiñones and daughter Itzli of Antigua Cultural Coffee House, Justine Leong, Zenay Loera.



Charlie Fisher, Suzanne Jimenez, Amy Inouye, Justine Leong, Zenay Loera.



Charlie Fisher, Rob Hansen accepting award for Jonathan and Judy Merrick, Suzanne Jimenez, Justine Leong.



Charlie Fisher, Suzanne Jimenez, Hernandez Family represented by Gilbert Hernandez, Zenay Loera, Justine Leong.

## A Reminder

It's time for those of you who have received an envelope in this edition of the *Cornerstone* to renew your membership in Highland Park Heritage Trust. The efforts of all volunteer organizations, like HPHT, are dependent upon the ongoing commitment of members like you.

We hope that you will fill out the form below and mail it back in the envelope provided. Of course, you can renew online: Simply go to <http://www.hpht.org/join.html> and click on "Donate."



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- *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)

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# LUMMIS DAY 5

THE FIFTH ANNUAL LUMMIS DAY FESTIVAL FEATURING THE MUSIC, DANCE, ART, FOOD & HISTORY OF THE DIVERSE CULTURES OF NORTHEAST LOS ANGELES TAKES PLACE ON SUNDAY, JUNE 6 AT LUMMIS HOME & HERITAGE SQUARE MUSEUM.

POETRY @ THE LUMMIS HOME  
10:30 AM

ART, CRAFTS & ARTISANS @ THE LUMMIS HOME  
12:00-5PM

MUSIC & DANCE  
COMMUNITY BOOTHS & FOOD VENDORS  
@ HERITAGE SQUARE MUSEUM 12:30-7PM



# JUNE 6 2010

LUMMIS DAY WAS NAMED AFTER AUTHOR, ADVENTURER, AND EARLY ADVOCATE OF MULTICULTURALISM, CHARLES FLETCHER LUMMIS. LUMMIS SETTLED INTO NORTHEAST LOS ANGELES IN 1895. LUMMIS FOUNDED THE SOUTHWEST MUSEUM AS THE FIRST PUBLIC MUSEUM IN LOS ANGELES. HE WAS AMONG THE CITY'S FIRST LIBRARIANS, WAS THE FIRST CITY EDITOR OF L.A. TIMES, AND CHAMPIONED THE RIGHTS OF NATIVE AMERICANS AND OTHER MINORITIES.



COMPLETE INFORMATION  
[WWW.LUMMISDAY.ORG](http://WWW.LUMMISDAY.ORG)  
INQUIRE TO: [LUMMISDAY@YAHOO.COM](mailto:LUMMISDAY@YAHOO.COM)

## 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](http://ca.audubon.org/debs_park.htm)

**Monday, May 10 • 6:30 – 8:30 PM** • HPHT General meeting with special presentation from 7:00 – 7:30PM on the CA High Speed Rail represented by Consensus, Inc. re: Palmdale to LA, re: EIR process, timeline and community participation with Q&A, Board meeting re: Operation Save project, etc., full agenda online at [www.hpht.org](http://www.hpht.org)

**Saturday, May 8 • NELAart Second Saturday Gallery Night • 7 –10 PM** • Information and map available online at [www.NELAart.com](http://www.NELAart.com)

**Saturdays, May 8, 15, 22** • “Viva Poetry” Series at Eagle Rock and Arroyo Seco Libraries, and the Autry in Griffith Park; info at [www.lummisday.org](http://www.lummisday.org)

**Saturday, May 15 & Sunday May 16** • “A River Runs Through It” workshop for teachers, check online at [www.lummisday.com](http://www.lummisday.com); or contact Carmela Gomes for information, 323-257-1900 or [cngomes@quixnet.net](mailto:cngomes@quixnet.net)

**Sunday, May 16, Museums of the Arroyo Day • 10 AM to 5 PM** • Shuttle buses available, visit 6 museums in the Arroyo Seco region

**Sunday, June 6, Lummis Day** • Lummis Home & Garden and Heritage Square Museum; [www.lummisday.com](http://www.lummisday.com) for schedules and activities, shuttle service, parking

**Monday, June 14 • 6:30 – 8:30 PM** • HPHT General meeting, Ramona Hall, agenda online at [www.hpht.org](http://www.hpht.org)

**Saturday, June 26 • 10 AM – 12:30 PM** • Sycamore Grove, Bi-Monthly Walking Tour: reservations online at [www.hpht.org](http://www.hpht.org) or by phone at 323-256-4623 by Thursday, June 24

**Saturday, July 10 • 11 AM – 8 PM** • Montecito Hts Centennial at Montecito Park on Griffin Ave.

***Keep abreast of events online [www.hpht.org](http://www.hpht.org) or by phone 323-256-4623***

***No scheduled HPHT meetings in July and August***

***Blog items should be sent to Justine Leong: [jleongarch@gmail.com](mailto:jleongarch@gmail.com)***



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