

## 2014 HPHT Awards Roundup

By ANNE MARIE WOZNIAK

The Highland Park Heritage Trust hosted its bi-annual Community Preservation Awards ceremony at the Temple Beth Israel of Highland Park and Eagle Rock during the afternoon of Sunday, March 30th, from 2:00 to 5:00 pm. There were a total of 15 winners and all but three were there to accept their awards. The underlying theme behind each of the award winners is a strong show of community pride and a desire to retain the cultural heritage of the greater Highland Park area.

The occasion marked the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Temple Beth Israel and the HPHT was honored to be able hold its awards ceremony at that location. The formation of the TBI was the combination of hard work, determination and the ability not to give in to defeat. The construction of the current synagogue began in August of 1930 and the new building was officially dedicated that December. The architect Gerson C. Cohen designed the original building and the interior was completed as it is today in 1948. The TBI has for 90 years been an important part of a legacy that has been maintained and treasured by its members who are planning for its centennial in a decade. The extensive archives exhibited on March

30th, tells their story and they are hoping for more information to be found.

The Community Preservation Awards demonstrate the ongoing pride that the community takes in its cultural and historical legacy. Evidence of community pride doesn't have to be showy or spectacular. A yard doesn't have to be torn out and replaced or a home given a complete restoration. Simple sustained maintenance of a home and yard demonstrating ongoing pride is more than sufficient.

The nominations are not just limited to buildings. Over the years we have seen a wide range of winners. In 1985 the restored 1927 International Harvester delivery truck used by Sparkletts received a award, as did a 1905 snorkel truck that was restored by Fire Station No. 12 (now at the Los Angeles Fire Department Museum), in 1982, the first year of the awards. The reopening of the Southwest Museum tunnel with the restoration of the original dioramas was honored in 1996 (The tunnel has since been closed again by the Autry). The restoration of the artistic enhancement of the Garvanza San Pasqual staircase was a recipient in 2002.

Businesses have also received many awards over the years. The Shell service station at Avenue 52 and Figueroa won an award in 1994. Cafe de Leche was a winner in 2010 and more recently Fresco's Community Market, in Hermon, won an award in 2012. Both local Jack-in-the Boxes have won; the one in Garvanza for its landscaping and the one in Highland Park for its then new Craftsman building.

TBI's hospitality is much appreciated and it was most rewarding to be a part of their 90th year celebration. Many thanks to all of the members of the Temple Beth Israel. *See Award Winners p. 4*



**TBI Awards: Jerry Schneider, Zenay Loera, CD 14, District Director, Melinda Ramos Alatorre, CD 1 Field Rep, Delaine Shane, Anne Marie Wozniak, Charles Fisher, Bill Fishman, Janetta Held, Henry Leventon, Ed Leibowitz, Mark Strunin**

# HPHT Partners with the Hermon Community

By WENDI RISER

Eleven years ago the Hermon community won a \$10,000 matching fund Community Beautification Grant from the City of Los Angeles for a Hermon monument sign to be placed at the Avenue 60 end of the Monterey Road median during the community's centennial year. Local artist Sandra Cruze designed and donated all her time to create a two-sided depiction of the majestic Avenue 60 Bridge—one side showing daybreak, the other side of the bridge at dusk. Arcadia Sign Company built tapered arroyo stone pilasters on either side and the words "Hermon Est. 1903" were gold-plated onto the large center panel. The "matching" part of the 2003 grant was paid for by 1000 volunteer hours from monthly "Clean Team" clean-ups, a Hermon community activity which still carries on some 141 months later.

More recently, when the Hermon Advance Team wanted evening lighting added for the sign, they realized that time had taken its toll and that the whole sign needed to be refurbished. Councilman Jose Huizar agreed to finance the entire project, original artist Sandra Cruze offered to once again donate all her time and Highland Park Heritage Trust stepped up to be the project's fiduciary agent.

This time, the artist will use automobile-grade paint. After gold leaf is re-applied onto the lettering by Arcadia Sign, they will then cover the entire sign with the newest technology protective coating. The project began mid-June and completion of the sign, with lighting, is projected for the end of summer.



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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](mailto:info@hpht.org).



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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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# The Corsi Saga Continues

By CHARLES J. FISHER

The story of Antonio Corsi, the model who worked for many famed artists, is being told as Jake Gorst (Director) and Tracey Rennie Gorst (Producer/Researcher) work to commit Corsi's life story to film. The Highland Park Heritage Trust has committed to assist in raising funds for this project. The latest event occurred on May 16th at the Judson Studios, where Corsi had posed many times during his time living in Garvanza.

Portrayed by actor Jonathan Kwas, "Corsi" spoke of his life's work to the adoring crowd in the second-story gallery at Judson. He also posed for several artists who produced drawings that were then auctioned off as part of the fund raising for the film. Master of Ceremonies, Garvanza's own Charles Miller, introduced the crowd to Jake Gorst. Gorst showed a trailer of the film, which includes interviews with David Judson and Charlie Fisher, as well as voice over work by Troy Evans.

The local connection to Corsi's story is most important as the model lived here in Garvanza for the last fifteen years of his life, during which time he not only posed for artists, but also acted in silent movies, before succumbing to tuberculosis in his home on December 5, 1924.

Corsi was famous in life but he died virtually penniless, though according to a 1928 Los Angeles Times article on his estate indicated he had an extensive art and costume collection, at the time of his death, which may have been worth as much as \$100,000.00. Celebrated in life, but forgotten soon after his death, Corsi's legacy remains in his work and the art that historians and documentarians are bringing to us.



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# 2014 HPHT Award Winners

Photos by AL C. STRANGE

Award winners received certificates from Highland Park Heritage Trust and certificates from the City of Los Angeles. Presenters were Zenay Loera from José Huizar's office (beige jacket), Melinda Ramos Alatorre from Gil Cedillo's office (graphic top), Anne Marie Wozniak (striped top) and Charles J. Fisher (red shirt) on behalf of HPHT, who appear in each image.



**Avenue 50 Studio represented by Kathy Gallegos, Raoul De la Sota**



**Aaron Fontana and Jacqueline Diaz or 3924 Griffin Avenue**



**Jonathan Silberman for 127 Roselawn Place**



**Rick Corsini, Architect, Gwen Freeman and Andre Jardini for 815 Elyria Drive**



**Melinda, Zenay, Anne Marie, Charlie with Jesus Sanchez of The Eastsider**



**Maria Valenzuela for 1700 N. Phillips Way**



**Heather McLarty**



**Miguel Hernandez and Rio Diaz for 415 Mt. Washington Dr**



**Eric Magallon, J.J. Jackman for 210 Thorne**



**Wendy and Brad Chambers for 126 N. Avenue 63**



**Award recipients (l to r): , David Balmas (restoration contractor), Rob Hanson, Howard Rudzki (the owner who did the work), Michelle Abidoye, Kunle Abidoye for 1035 Dexter St**



**Award recipients (l to r): Pat Cochran, Edward Solis, Madeline Janis and David Cohen, Rob Hanson, David Solis, and members of the Hanson Group for 5928 Terrace Drive**

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Would you be interested in playing a more active role in our events or activities? Please consider volunteering to help us continue advocating for historic preservation in our community. Contact us at membership@hpht.org or (323) 908-4127 for more information on ways that you can help. Thank you.

### Time to Renew Your Membership for HPHT

**R**enew online at <http://www.hpht.org/join.html> or use this form to mail your check. Remember to consider how you can volunteer a few hours.

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# The Living Museum

By RONALD ROCHA

In 2013 the design team of Plum Architects and Louisa Van Leer Architecture met to brainstorm ways to save the Southwest Museum. From that meeting came a vision that would eventually be called: The Living Museum: Sycamore Grove. The inaugural event made its debut on March 8, 2014; it celebrated historic personages, history, architecture, ecology, culture, the community of Highland Park, and its surrounding Arroyo Seco communities. A special celebration included in the activities was the 100th Anniversary of The Southwest Museum. Everyone enjoyed the birthday cake. The many faceted event was initially organized by the HPHT Living Museum Committee that formed in January 2014 under the chairmanship of Louisa Van Leer. Joining her on the committee were Jonathan Silberman, Harvey Slater, and Ronald Rocha.

The Living Museum expresses the concept of a museum without walls; within this concept a geographic place exists and Sycamore Grove Park is at the heart of it. All of the sites that comprise the Living Museum are within a 15 minute walk of Sycamore Grove Park, hence the title, the Living Museum: Sycamore Grove. Sites such as the Southwest Museum, the Lummis Home, Casa de Adobe, the Audubon Center, Route 66, and Heritage Square are part of our community history and therefore, together, are our museum without walls, our living museum. The Living Museum celebrates the rich history of our community, the past and present, as it continues to evolve.

The event officially started at 10:00 a.m. at



Sycamore Grove Park, the Reception Center for the museum without walls. Harvey Slater served as the official host at the park and ensured a smooth operation from start to finish. Laurie Boyer guided numerous children and adults in the art of button making as Native American Julia Bogany of the Tongva Tribe sat close by Laurie demonstrating the ancient tribal art of Tongva beading.

Carmela Gomes, Jonathan Silberman (when he wasn't playing sax) and other volunteers held down the reception center greeting tables collecting donations and provided information of the scheduled events.

There were many activities spread out over the major sites of the Living Museum. Five walking events were exceptionally popular and began at Sycamore Grove Park. Tour guides led large enthusiastic crowds to various places of historical note within the Living Museum boundaries every 1.5 hours from beginning to end. The guides



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and a group of fellow artists painted in Sycamore Grove, the Mele Ohana Ukuele Ukuleles Orchestra dazzled at the Lummis Home, the Old Time Fiddle Jam Band jammed at the Audubon, Timothy Sellers played tunes from his album at the Lummis Home, Living Museum committee member Jonathan Silberman held jazz court with his Selmer Mark Six tenor saxophone at the Historic Glenn Mary Stairs on North Figueroa followed by Corey Fogel on drums, then Emily Lacy and Daniel Brummel closed up with folk music and a rousing tribute to Pete Seeger. The music went on long past the official 4:30 p.m. closing time as an enraptured audience, sitting on the steps, swayed and bobbed to the music and song.

Hats off to the numerous unnamed volunteers that pulled together to make this event a huge success. And a special thanks to Councilman Gil Cedillo and his field representative Sylvia Robledo for their many contributions in getting this inaugural event off the ground.

The overall event encompassed so much more. For a full listing of events and participating organizations and sponsors please see: <http://livingmuseumla.blogspot.com>. See you at the 2015 Living Museum: Sycamore Grove Park. Don't miss it!

included historian and author Charles Fisher, Bob Inman, author of *Finding Los Angeles by Foot*, Charles Fleming, *L.A. Times* Columnist, "L.A. Walks" and author of *Secret Stairs: A Walking Guide to the Historic Staircases of Los Angeles*, as well as Dan Koepfel, author & founder of the "Big Parade," an annual 2 day walking tour of the stair streets of Los Angeles.

Music and art flourished as Roderick Smith



## EVENTS

- **2nd Monday**, *Monthly HPHT Board and Program meetings*, 7 to 9 PM, July 14 (Special Presentation: History Pin), Aug. 11, Sept. 8, Oct. 13, Nov. 10, Dec. 8, Ebell Club, 131 S. Avenue 57, Highland Park
- **2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month**, Highland Park/Garvanza HPOZ, 6 PM, Arroyo Seco Library Community Room, 6145 N. Figueroa St, Highland Park
- **Thursdays and Saturdays**, 10:00 AM –12:00 PM, Volunteer your time to help with the Community Garden at the top of the Hopi Trail at the Southwest Museum. Scroll down to view the garden at <http://indianfamilies.org/> as well as a photo of the 3rd Saturday Cooking Class. Click on the photo and learn more about how you can join Barbara Arvi as she instructs at these events. Call the center (323) 247-1070, [Barbara@indiancenter.org](mailto:Barbara@indiancenter.org)
- **Bi-monthly Walking Tour**, Saturday, August 23, October 25, December 20, register at [www.hpht.org](http://www.hpht.org) or (323) 908-4127
- **NELA Art Second Saturday Gallery Nights**, 7 to 10 PM, Saturday, July 12, August 9, Sept. 13, Oct. 11, Nov. 8, Dec. 13. See gallery map, *NELA Art News* or online at [nelaart.com](http://nelaart.com)
- **Saturday, July 20**, 5-8 PM, Galco's Soda Tasting #4 (See page 6)

### Special Presentation Monday, July 14, 2014

#### History Pin: A Global Community Collaborating Around History

On Monday, July 14, 2014, beginning at 7PM, Anne Mar, Archive Librarian at Occidental Library, will give a demonstration of how to use History Pin [www.historypin.com](http://www.historypin.com) to create your unique, personal archive of photos. Bring your smart phone to the monthly HPHT meeting at the Ebell Club, 131 S. Avenue 57, in Highland Park.

Do you have a picture of your house as it originally looked years ago? Do you have a family photo that shows a building, or panorama, or a setting that has changed measurably? Perhaps you have a photo of something that to this day hasn't changed at all! *Intrigued? See you July 14th!*

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