



# OUR CORNERSTONE

VOLUME XVIII · ISSUE 1

JAN-FEB-MAR 2013

***It's overwhelming what a little tribe of volunteers has done to change/protect/inspire our section of the Arroyo and Los Angeles. Over its 30 years of community-based public service to the Arroyo Seco communities, the Highland Park Heritage Trust has accomplished the following:***

## **Preservation**

- One of the longest, continuously run, historic preservation organizations in the City of Los Angeles with a dedicated, all-volunteer board
- Played a key role in establishing the Highland Park HPOZ in 1994 and the Garvanza addition in 2010, creating the largest HPOZ in the City of LA, with over 2,500 Contributing Structures and the first to include commercial structures.
- Surveys and re-surveys to improve the historic district list of contributing structures in the HPOZ
- Nominated over 70 properties as Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monuments
- Moved two houses in the late 1990s and assisted with another house move in the 1980s
- Advocated opposition to any extension of the 710 Freeway since 1983 and reaffirmed in 2012.
- Played a key role in getting the Northeast Community Plan updated
- Formed the Arroyo Seco Parkway Task Force (1990s) and the nomination of the parkway as a National Scenic Byway
- Played a key role in the Gold Line train project including saving the Santa Fe Railroad bridge and its re-use due to the HCM status advocated by HPHT in 1988, prior to the project, not to mention saving all the homes along Marmion Way slated for demolition and many design decisions through NELA
- Advocated for the construction of the Southwest Museum Gold Line Station and then prevented its removal from the plan during cost containment, as well as preserving the original art design by the late Teddy Sandoval.



**Cake at the 30th Anniversary of the HPHT, Sycamore Grove Park, Oct 20, 2012.**

- Played a role in local mural protection and, in other cases, the creation of some: protection for the Arroyo Seco Library—Luis Becerra mural, conservation of the AT&T Building—Judy Baca mural, creation of several murals that now define Highland Park—Avenue 61/Fig, Cervantes' Southwest Museum mural on Marmion Way, Glenmary Stair Mural by LA Commons/Franklin High School project
- Played a key role in the work on the front door of Masonic Building, a historic bench along the Railroad and, most recently, funding as part of a larger project for the preservation of the Lummis Home front door, and the two rooftop signs—Highland Theatre and Manning's—along Route 66
- Southwest Museum and Casa de Adobe—HPHT is a founding organization and assumed leadership of the Friends of the SWM Coalition for this regional and city-wide issue.
- In 1999, assisted the Judson Studios on their National Register Listing
- In 1998, established "Operation Save" and assisted in moving and rehabilitating two houses from Figueroa Street to 326 N. Avenue 53 in Highland Park.

## **Recognition**

- Host of the Preservation Awards ceremony to acknowledge and celebrate the preservation work in the Arroyo Seco communities

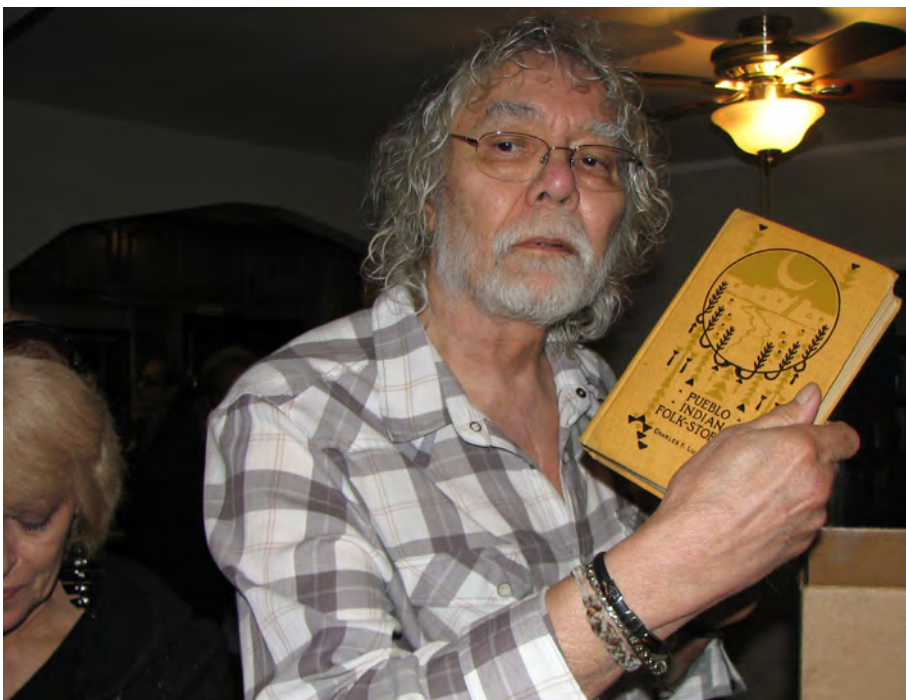
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# Happy New Year!

Each year the Highland Park Heritage Trust celebrates the holidays by hosting a party for its members and friends. This past year was no exception. On December 9th, cheer was in the air as we enjoyed an afternoon full of laughter and engaging conversations around a delicious spread of food. The idea of a potluck not only exemplified a team effort, but also gave us an opportunity to enjoy a diversity of tastes from kitchens throughout the community. In the course of the event, Councilmember Ed Reyes on behalf of Council Districts 1 and 14, presented the Trust with a Resolution from the Los Angeles City Council for its 30th anniversary as a community organization. As part of the recognition, the 2012 Board of Directors was also honored with a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of our service to the community. Following the recognition, the party gathered by the Christmas tree for the customary Kris Kringle gift exchange. The gifts from participants were thoughtful and gave way to an exciting round of gifts exchanged. One of my favorites gifts that afternoon was a rare original print of a 1903 book written by Charles Fletcher Lummis.

All year we are focused on business so it is to no surprise that we look forward to celebrating the holidays with a year-end party to celebrate our efforts and successes. The best part of these festivities remind us all that we are a part of a common endeavor. But now that the holidays have come and gone, we are back to business and the Board of Directors will be meeting later this month to plan and prioritize the initiatives for 2013. We look forward to another great year.

ANTONIO CASTILLO  
HPHT President



Jim Leong gets Lummis' *Pueblo Indian Folk Stories* at HPHT Christmas party at Antonio Castillo's place, Dec. 9, 2012.



## 2013 Officers

President: **Antonio Castillo**  
info@hpht.org

Vice President: **Robert Spira**

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

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*Layout:* Future Studio

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Awards presented at HPHT Christmas party at Antonio Castillo's place, Dec. 9, 2012.



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- In 1997, played a key role in the renaming of "Garvanza" and advocated for the installation of City signage
- Naming the Sousa/Hiner Band Shell at Sycamore Grove Park
- Received the 1998 President's Award from the California Preservation Foundation
- Received awards for work on the historic Santa Fe Arroyo Seco Railroad Bridge
- In 1996, celebrated the rehabilitation of the Santa Fe Arroyo Seco Railroad Bridge

## Education

- Acts as a primary resource for residents, new and old, as well as businesses in terms of local history, preservation, architecture, community empowerment, etc. Also acts as a partner with various faculties at schools, mainly Occidental College, for student research and papers on Highland Park and various subject matters.
- Archiving Northeast LA newspapers—joint project with Eagle Rock Valley Historical Society and Occidental College
- Arroyo Fest and Lummis Day—HPHT, either formally, or due to the leadership of our board members, was at the core beginning and instrumental to the creation and success of these events.
- Conducts various walking tours bringing areas of the community into the forefront—the first walking tour of Garvanza was the genesis of activating local Trust members to lead and push for historic district protection. One of the first historic preservation organizations to embrace the idea doing a tour of "modern" resources—Modern Arroyo was

done in the late 90s. Partnered with LA Conservancy for the Highland Park Walking Tour that has now evolved into the Sycamore Grove bi-monthly walking tour.

- Various board members have participated in lectures at our local schools
- Due to Charles Fisher's determination, HPHT is co-author on two Arcadia Press pictorial books about local history—*Highland Park* and *Garvanza*
- Completed a number of oral history projects as well as assisted Pasadena Heritage in the oral history for the Abbey San Encino.
- Since 2009, sponsored the Lummis Day Festival and awarded a grant to the Lummis Day Community Foundation to fund the Festival's activities in the areas of education and preservation advocacy.
- Participates and co-sponsors various community events throughout the year
- In 2000, produced a video *The Lure and Legacy of the Lower Arroyo Seco*, used for a bus tour at the National Trust for Historic Preservation annual conference held that year in Los Angeles
- In 1999, created the McAvoy Education Fund that provides books on preservation and architecture to local elementary schools

There are so many projects and/or issues that we have had a tremendous voice in and this is a sample list. Advocacy is such a big area where our "invisible" touch has made tremendous positive change over so many years. A lot of buildings still stand and are being actively used because HPHT stood up and found a voice for preservation and then found a solution. The sparking point for HPHT's formalization as an organization was the demolition of two large Craftsman structures on Sycamore Terrace that are now lovely anchors of our heritage.

# We Value All Our 2012 Members A Special Thank You to:

## **Sponsors**

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Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Guttormsen  
Roger Di Virgilio  
Kirby Shanklin  
Wally and Lynn Wilson  
Richard Gilman  
Adel and Doss Mabe

## **Life Member**

Yim Tam

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## **Lummis Books to be at January Meeting**

HPHT board member Charlie Fisher will be showcasing his collection of books by and about Charles Fletcher Lummis at the January 14, 2013 meeting.

Lummis was the author of a number of books on the Southwest, including the adventures of Native Americans, American and Spanish settlers and his own adventures. His books have helped to preserve much of the traditional lore of the area, as well as to document the perseverance of the people themselves.

Lummis' story is integral to this history and these books demonstrate not only his ability as a chronicler of history, but his passion for his subjects as well.



**The Avenue 50 Studio  
is a proud sponsor of the  
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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:  
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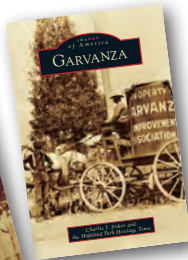
***I am interested in working on the following activities:***

- 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    Operation Save

**HPHT Kiosk**

## Video

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



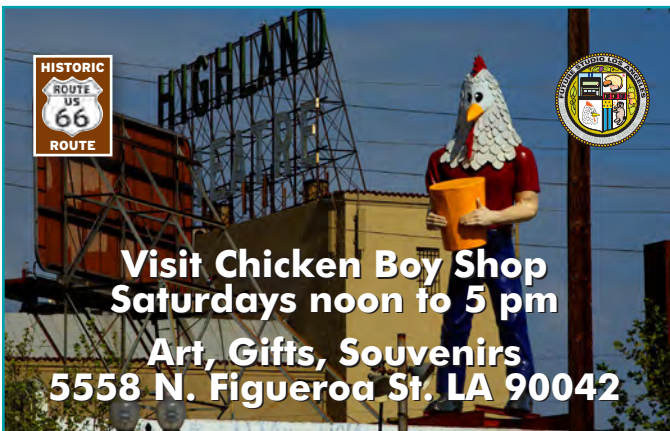
## Books

- *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)

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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).

# “Act Local, Think Monumental”

*Local Blacksmith, Heather McLarty completes new monumental gates for Occidental College.*

Written and Photographed by Louisa Van Leer

I interviewed the artist in her Highland Park tipi studio, under the dappled shade of giant oaks in her backyard, where McLarty has been forging steel and perfecting the art of repousse\* for 16 years. After a long career in the theater, building props for South Coast Rep in Costa Mesa among other west coast companies, she is now at the creative center of the blacksmithing scene in Los Angeles where she is a teacher and co-founder of Adam's Forge in Glassell Park. The gates are the second Occidental commission for McLarty, who is also known for her lyrical gates for the Audubon children's garden at Debs Park.

You may ask, how is that a set of monumental gates (they measure up at 15'-6" wide by 14 feet high) can be made in a tipi? Well the answer is in the parts that make up the whole. McLarty makes great use of her backyard space, ingeniously forging small scale sculptural elements, such as leaves, figures and insects that are then welded to the longer sections of steel bar that make up the gate framework. The longer sections of the framework are superheated in 6-inch long segments in a small gas forge. McLarty then quickly clangs and bangs the red hot steel on an anvil, turning an ordinary square bar into a flowing leaf or a "curlie cue" or a "whoop-de-do." The entire gate for Occidental was assembled on large tables under the oak tree behind her historic house, with the final work completed at a friend's welding shop.

For the monumental gates, which are intended for ceremonial entry to the athletic fields, McLarty has lovingly forged close to 50 small scale sculptural "moments" that intertwine, dangle, perch and balance on the sinuous limbs and ribbons of the gates steel framework. Each moment tells a story about the place, whether it's the arched body of a tiny high jumper, a bowling ball Jupiter spinning, or the glowing glass balls on the tips of thin rods that bounce like cat tails. Spider webs are employed in the service of sport, becoming goal nets for the assortment of cast glass balls that visually ricochet across the gates surface. Each moment tells a story about movement and play, the building blocks of sport often forgotten in the heat of competition. The gates form a gentle reminder.

McLarty describes the aesthetic role of iron work as "Jewelry for Architecture." If that's the case then the glass beads, orbs and cast elements that a scattered across the gate are like semi-precious stones adding light and color to her playful gates. The glass work was fabricated by another local artisan, Cathi Milligan, owner of the Glass Studio on York Boulevard. The grand unveiling of new Monumental Gates to the athletic fields at Occidental College was held in October of 2012. The gates are located directly off the main Alumni Avenue axis to the Campus, next to the new Swan Hall expansion.

\*Repousse—from the French "to push up," is the art of hammering sheet metal from the reverse side to create a low relief.



# HPHT 2012 Scrapbook



**Carmela Gomes at the 30th Anniversary of the HPHT Picnic, Sycamore Grove Park, Oct. 20, 2012.**



**Mele O'Hana Ukulele Band at the 30th Anniversary of the HPHT Picnic, Sycamore Grove Park, Oct. 20, 2012.**



**HPHT in Nash at Northeast Christmas Parade, Dec. 2, 2012. Pictured: Linda Miller, Antonio Castillo, Louisa Van Leer with Anton, Charles Miller.**



**Linda Miller at Christmas Parade.**



**HPHT Christmas party at Antonio Castillo's place, Dec. 9, 2012.**



**Tim and Mari Parker join the HPHT convoy with their Model "A" at the 2012 Christmas Parade.**

## Calendar of Upcoming HPHT & Community Events

- 2nd Monday, Monthly HPHT Board and Program meetings, 7- 9pm, January 14, February 11, March 11, April 8 • Hathaway-Sycamores Family Center, 840 N. Avenue 66
- Tuesday, January 15 – 6:30-8:30pm • LA City Council District 1 Candidate Forum, Franklin HS Cafeteria, 840 N. Avenue 54, HPHT & HP Chamber of Commerce co-host
- 2nd Saturdays, Monthly Gallery Night – 7-10pm • <http://nelaart.org/>
- Saturday, January 26 – 8pm • Heritage Square Museum Presents *Soirées Mystique – An Evening of Victorian Enchantment*, Contact: John Kearns 323-225-2700 ext. 221, Tickets online at <http://victorianmagick.ticketleap.com/perry-mansion/>.
- Saturday, February 2 – 10am-noon • Los Angeles Heritage Alliance, African American Firefighters Museum, 1401 So. Central Avenue
- Saturday, February 23 – 10am-12:30pm • HPHT Bi-Monthly Sycamore Grove Walking Tour, reservations online [www.hpht.org](http://www.hpht.org) via PayPal, (323) 908-4127
- Saturday, March 23 – 8pm • Heritage Square Museum Presents *Haunted Heritage*, [www.hauntedorange.com/heritagesquare.htm](http://www.hauntedorange.com/heritagesquare.htm)
- Saturday, March 23 – 6:30-10pm • Lummis Day Community Foundation, Inc, Film Fund Raiser, Ebell Club, Tickets \$15, available online through PayPal, [www.lummisday.org](http://www.lummisday.org), and at Galco's
- Sunday, April 14 – 11:00am-4:00pm • LA Heritage Day, El Pueblo de Los Angeles
- Sunday, April 21, 11am-5pm • Abbey San Encino Tour, 6211 Arroyo Glen Street, tours every 45 minutes, reservations online [www.hpht.org](http://www.hpht.org) via PayPal, Info (323) 908-4127. Member mailing with schedule and reservation information
- Saturday, April 27 – 10:00am-12:30pm • HPHT Bi-Monthly Sycamore Grove Walking Tour, reservations online [www.hpht.org](http://www.hpht.org) via PayPal, (323) 908-4127

For information about affiliated heritage organizations see LA Heritage Alliance, <http://www.laheritage.blogspot.com/> and use the large member organization button to become informed



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