

Floored!

by JJ JACKMAN

“If it’s in good shape, we keep going; if it isn’t we put the rug back on it and not speak of it again.”

I was only half-kidding when I presented those two options to my husband Eric as he, on hands and knees wielding a box cutter, slashed a sinister “X” into the middle of the wall-to-wall carpeting in our parlour. We were close to starting our tenth year of home ownership here in Garvanza and contemplating a major change in our house.

We moved into the “Judson House” on New Year’s Eve 2010. Designed and built in the last years of the 19th century by renowned painter and art teacher William Lees Judson (whose progeny would go on to found Judson Studios), and with some additions built by his students, the house is a hodgepodge of architectural styles – Victorian, Craftsman, and a new one we just learned, Second Empire.

It has a library. It has a lovely parlour with bay windows. It has a weird brick-and-rock fireplace that belongs in a ski lodge. There are no right angles to be found anywhere; maybe they were right 120 years ago but not now. It’s quirky and odd in places – I’m quirky and odd in places. It embraces and complements antiques – Eric has loads of antiques. We fit perfectly. We adore this place.

And we work on it constantly. For 9+ years we’ve rewired, plumbed, painted, wallpapered, chandeliered and chair-moulded our little sanctuary into a stunning interior that still elicits audible gasps from visitors and yet...that carpeting. That beige, inconspicuous, omnipresent carpeting. It was this past April when we arrived at the moment

described above. It was time to get rid of the carpet...or at least make the attempt.

Eric pulled back the corners of the newly cut “X” and what we saw looked OK. The wood was intact, and a nice dark hue – too much dust to tell what kind of wood yet. Then the first line appeared – a 2-inch wide, white painted line on the floor. *Hub?* Then a second line. Then one of the lines took off at a right angle (OK, there’s one.) And next to the angle, a solid circle. We hadn’t planned to pull this much carpet up tonight – this was supposed to just be exploratory. But what in the world was this symbol slowly being revealed on the floor? It was cryptic. It was old. It was HUGE.

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President's Message

by JAMIE TIJERINA

Dear Members,

The Board of the Heritage Trust has been hard at work on various initiatives and planning out activities for final months of 2019!

In October, we held a successful Sycamore Grove Walking Tour, the last one scheduled for this year. Don't worry, we will announce dates for next year's tours in our next Cornerstone.

We hosted a great and very well-attended Lawn Bowling event in collaboration with Art in the Park LA, and our very own Vice President provided detailed historical insight into this sport and its history at Hermon Park.

We have been continuing the initiative to modernize our organization's infrastructure. The end of the year is coming up, so make sure you renew your membership. It's very easy: you can visit our website and renew your membership via the link. Of course, you can complete your renewal at the November 11 Annual Membership meeting.

We have our end-of-the year holiday party coming up in December and are also looking ahead to the 2020 Preservation Awards, so please consider making a nomination! Make sure you are keeping up with us on our social media outlets on Facebook and Instagram for the latest updates.

Charles Lummis' Home and Its Remarkable Visitors

In the late 1890s and early 1900s, the home of Charles Lummis was a gathering place for artists, writers, early preservationists, politicians, and other historically significant individuals of the time. Located in Highland Park and known as El Alisal, the home continues to be a beloved historic and community landmark in Northeast Los Angeles.

Learn about some of the varied and diverse individuals who visited El Alisal through this community-curated exhibit featuring more than 60 visitors who signed its Housebook. Descriptions of visitors will be supplemented by a digitized replica of the Housebook, which will be available for browsing through the duration of the exhibit.

Lummis' Housebook that will run from Saturday November 16 to December 28. The exhibit will be open Saturdays from 10 AM to 4 PM. Each Saturday, Lummis Housebook researcher/designer and community volunteer Dennis Harbach will be available to answer questions about the exhibit content and the life of Charles Lummis. The exhibit was organized by Frank Parello.

At the Autry's Historic Southwest Museum, Mt. Washington Campus
234 Museum Drive, Los Angeles, CA • Free Admission & Free Parking



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Upsetting the whole parlour we soon cleared it out and uncovered the entire symbol – a huge circle with four pie-slice quadrants inside it and a big 9-inch solid circle in the middle. It encompassed the entire floor of the parlour, but much of its outer edge had been painted over. The next realization was a funny one...at least four times over the last 12 decades before this carpet was installed, the floor had been painted. But rather than paint the whole floor, it looked like all the furniture had been piled in the middle of the room, the rug pulled up around it, the perimeter of the floor painted and then the rug put back down. “Why, those lazy people!” I laughed. But actually we were grateful – had they been more exacting in their paint job, the symbol would have been lost.

Over the course of the next week or two we contemplated what to do. Preliminary research suggested that the symbol was benevolent, possibly meditative. Similar images had been found on cave walls and in ancient religions of the sun. Neither of us said it that night, but I think right away we both knew we wanted to keep it. After all, if it was created on the floor before those four shoddy paint jobs – it could be over 100 years old and possibly connected to William Lees Judson himself! This was architectural archaeology! This was a study of *kinda* ancient cultures! But mostly we just thought it was really cool.

So we kept it. Having discovered that the floor was



redwood and in great shape, we repainted the white lines, stained the wood inside the four quadrants, added a pretty green color around the quadrants within the outer circle and embellished the middle disc with gold. The furniture came back in, but it couldn't overshadow the floor. The parlour floor remains the centerpiece. We'll continue to research it, but, as with most of the discoveries we've made in this historic house, finding more information will most likely generate more mystery and more questions. We sure hope so.

JJ Jackman and his husband Eric Magallon are on the Board of Directors of the Highland Park Heritage Trust. JJ currently serves as HPHT Secretary and Eric is chair of the Archives Committee

NOIR LIBRARIAN is a new book authored by the guide of our own historic Highland Park Heritage Trust Walking Tour, Marilyn N. Robertson. A librarian for many years with LAUSD's Central Office and a student of poet Suzanne Lummis, who wrote a killer blurb on the back, this is a must-have book. Available on Amazon, Vroman's and from the author, if you can catch her.



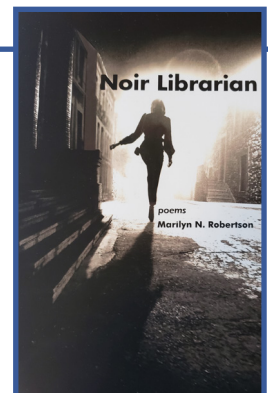
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Lawn Bowling with HPHT & Art in the Park

Highland Park Heritage Trust collaborated with Art in the Park (AITP) to bring northeast Los Angeles a day of history, lawn bowling, music, and 1930s-era libations on October 12. Held in Hermon Park, the event featured a discussion of the park's 1939 clubhouse's architectural and social history by HPHT Vice President and Architectural Historian Alexandra Madsen. Following this morning presentation was a day of lawn bowling instruction and

Bocce Ball play. The festive mood of the day was heightened by delectable 1939-inspired refreshments by local food artist Jasmine Sarp and AITP's Community Band, which played period-appropriate music. The event was orchestrated by AITP President Jonathan Silberman and Executive Director Liz Goetz. Funding for the event was provided by Hermon Neighborhood Council.

The approval of a 13-unit small lots project in Historic Garvanza with units as tall as 57 feet is being appealed

by CLARA SOLIS

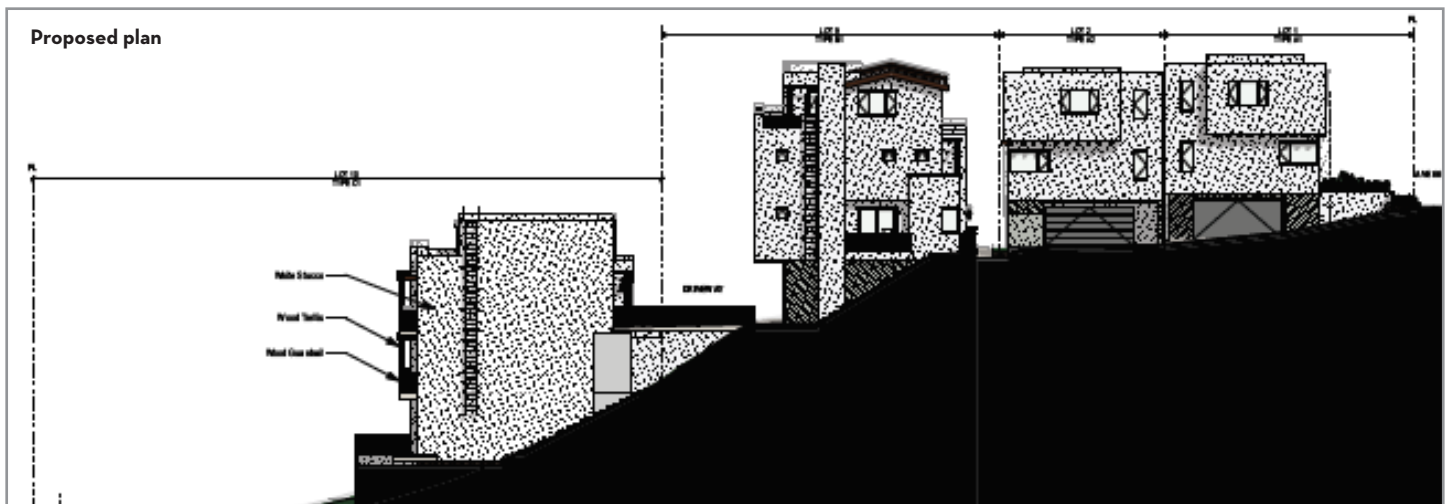
On Monday, September 9, 2019, at the monthly meeting of the Highland Park Heritage Trust, Clara Solis presented a report concerning the above captioned project to the HPHT board and members. Following are excerpts from the full article that can be found at <http://highlandparkheritagetrust.org/preservation/>

"A 13 unit small lots project with units as tall as 57 feet descending down the hillside was approved in June 2019 on

Historic Cultural Monument (HCM) 418—the George Wilson Estate." This project has had some controversy.

Nearby residents complain that there are many things wrong with this project... "Residents below the project have expressed concerns that the 57-foot tall buildings with 23-foot tall retaining walls will be oppressive and will make the neighborhood feel like a prison. Other residents are

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The remaining porch of the George Wilson Estate as it stands today.



Membership with HPHT just got easier.
We've instituted *JoinIt* for online registration and renewal.

You may join or renew online at <https://www.joinit.org/o/hpht>

or use this form and mail your tax-deductible check to:

Highland Park Heritage Trust • Attn: Membership • PO Box 50894 • Los Angeles CA 90050-0894

NAME

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CITY/STATE/ZIP

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Individual \$20

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Student \$5

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Angel \$200

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Renewal New Member

My preference for contact: Phone 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

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

Small Lot Project *continued from page 4*

concerned about the removal of protected and mature trees that provide homes to local wildlife. Seniors are worried that the year-long construction, which will remove 4464 cubic yards of earth, will impact their health."

The project has not been reviewed by the Highland Park-Garvanza HPOZ board.

According to Fernando Tovar (Zoning Administrator) the project is exempt from HPOZ guidelines pursuant to LAMC Section 12.20.3 H 4, because the property is a HCM. At the July 24 Planning Commission Appeal Hearing, Mr. Tovar stated "the design before you is the design selected by the Cultural Heritage Commission on May 12, 2015." However, the 13 small lot unit design was not in existence until after 2016.

Lambert Giessinger, Office of Historic Resources, has stated that he didn't believe a CEQA Class 32 exemption was appropriate for this project. The Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council (HHPNC) initially supported the project, but later rescinded their support when they saw more complete designs and learned more about the project's impact. At the August 22, 2019 HHPNC Land Use Committee meeting, Charlie Fisher stated this project does not qualify for a Class 32 exemption.

The July 24 Appeal Hearing had to be continued due to an error in the description of the property. Subsequently, the developer asked for a continuance. The Appeal was initially set for October 23 but that date has also been postponed. HPHT will alert our members as soon as we learn of the new date, and we encourage you to attend and lend your voice to this appeal.



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Highland Park Heritage Trust Bi-Annual Community Preservation Awards 2020

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 review the nominations and visit 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.

Criteria

Please use these specific criteria in completing your nominations on the form:

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 virtue of the impact on the preservation community because of this activity or event.
5. There has been a significant contribution by an organization or individual toward the preservation of our cultural heritage.

Highland Park Heritage Trust
P.O. Box 30894 • Los Angeles, CA 90050
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HPHT is an all-volunteer, nonprofit 501c3 organization (#95-4034485) 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 2020 Awards 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) _____

CONTACT INFORMATION (EMAIL) _____

I would like to nominate this:

- property
- place
- activity/event
- organization
- individual, for a HPHT Community Preservation Award

Contact information for nominee:

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP CODE _____

Use the *criteria* to explain why you are making this nomination.

For a building or a place: What has happened here that deserves recognition by HPHT?

For some action or event, an organization or an individual, 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, January 15, 2020

HPHT message line: (323) 908-4127

HPHT EVENTS Info@hpht.org or by telephone at (323) 908-4127

Monday, November 11, 2019 • 7 to 8 PM • HPHT Annual Membership Meeting • Ebell Club, 137 S. Avenue 57, Highland Park, 90042 • Program: “How to Design an ADU for an HPOZ,” followed by annual board of directors elections

Save the Date: Monday, December 9, 2019 • 6:30 to 9:30 PM • HPHT Annual Holiday Party at the historic La Boheme house, hosted by Hillary Danner • 4665 Sycamore Terrace, Los Angeles CA 90065 • Hot and cold finger food, desserts and White Elephant gift exchange, more info to come

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Saturdays & Sundays, October 12 to November 9, 2019 • 10 AM to 4 PM • *The Skies Above* art exhibit • Historic Southwest Museum, free admission. *Artists talks: Saturday, November 2 • 11 AM* - Mexican artist Isabel Martinez and Native American artist Gail Werner. • **Saturday, November 9 • 11 AM** - Native American artist Eve-Lauryn “Little Shell” La Fountain and Raoul De la Sota talk about his Peruvian paintings. Curated by Raoul de la Sota in collaboration with the Autry Museum of the American West • www.TheAutry.org/SkiesAbove

Mondays - Fridays, September 12 through November 24, 2019 • 11 AM to 5 PM • *Breaking Bread, Connecting Cultures Through Food* • Oxy Arts, 4757 York Blvd, 90042 • (323) 259-1317 • www.oxyarts@oxy.edu, for events schedule and registration.

Save the Date: Sunday, December 1, 2019 • 1 to 3 PM • Annual NELA Holiday Parade, N. Figueroa Street between N. Avenue 60 and N. Avenue 52, Highland Park.



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Address Correction Requested

What's Inside

Floored!

Nominations for HPHT Awards

Please Renew Your Membership

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