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## JING RESIDENCE ON MT. WASHINGTON IS NEW MONUMENT

*By: Charlie Fisher*

The Dr. Fong Q. and Lorraine Jing Residence at 4414 E. Palmero Drive, Mount Washington was designated a Los Angeles Historic Cultural Monument No. 1265 by the Los Angeles City Council on August 12, 2022. This unique one-story single-family residence was designed in 1958 in the type of Mid-Century Modern design referred to as “organic architecture” by architect William Earl Wear and structural engineer R. E. McClellan and constructed by the Holland Dutch Building Company for radiologist Dr. Fong Quai Jing, Jr. and nurse Lorraine (Snyder) Jing.

Even though outlawed by the United States Supreme Court in 1948, racial covenants, which were allowed to remain in effect (*continued on page 3*)



*Jing Residence on E Palmero Dr, December 9, 2021.*

# A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT JAMIE TIJERINA



HPHT is off to a great start this year. As always, the time is going by quickly. In January, we hosted our annual board retreat during which we welcomed our three new board members and set our goals for the year.

The biggest set of plans that we finalized at retreat includes completing and submitting six Historic Cultural Monument nominations for local landmarks here in Highland Park this year.

We are happy to announce for 2023 our new partnership with Art in the Park LA at Hermon Park. Going forward, this will be our new home in the Northeast where we can host in-person meetings once again. You can read more in this issue about our first event in the space this past December.

We are also back in full swing with our production of the Cornerstone and our new printing and distribution partner, Mitchell Publishing, as well as a brand new look and layout that we rolled out in our Fall 2022 issue. For the first time since the pandemic began, we have a full year of issues in the works and we will be providing a run of printed copies of the Cornerstone free of charge to the community at Pop-Hop Books and Print which is something that we had not previously had the resources to offer. We would also like to give a special thank you to Amy Inouye who for 15 years prepared the digital layout of Our Cornerstone pro-bono. Amy retired from this role in 2021, passing the torch to Sam Andrel and myself, and she continues to be an active member of HPHT and our community.

Finally, we are also in the process of planning a major National Register nomination. We hope to have more information to share with you for our May issue. The Trust looks forward to more exciting announcements of efforts to preserve our history here in Highland Park for this upcoming year.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jamie".



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until 1968 prevented the Jings, a mixed-race couple who married in 1949, from purchasing a property to live in Glendale or Burbank, closer to the Glendale Community Hospital where Dr. Jing worked. The Mt. Washington locale was free from those restrictions and allowed the Jings to raise their three children in the semi-rural lifestyle that the hilltop provided.

Lorraine Jing sold the property to Bryan Moore after Dr. Jing's passing in 2001. Moore took on the task of restoring the building and site. The architect, Earl Wear, was still living at the time and was consulted on various elements of the design. The original construction documents were quite detailed and were used as an additional resource in the restoration process. Moore sold the house to Cyrus Etemad in 2016.

The architect, William Earl Wear was born in 1925 in Windsor, Ontario, Canada and studied architecture at the University of Toronto. He later immigrated to the United States and moved to Boston, Massachusetts where he worked for the firm of Coolidge, Shepley, Bulfinch, and Abbott. In 1952, Wear moved to California, working for John Lautner before setting up his own architectural firm. Wear designed nine houses in California before retiring in 1986, including the subject property and the Anderson House in Topanga, also built in 1958, which was designated as a Los Angeles County Landmark in 2020. Wear died in 2011 at the age of 86.

The nomination was written by Pasadena architect Virginia Worthington Paca, working with the homeowner, John J. Gray, who bought the 3 bedroom Usonian style hillside house from Cyrus Etemad in 2017. It is the 19th property on Mt. Washington to become a Historic Cultural Monument and the first to be designated on the far Western portion of the hill.



*Charlie Fisher, HPHT's Vice President, was recently featured in The Occidental to give historical background behind the famous landmark signs at the sites of The Highland Theatre and Manning's Coffee.*

*Scan the QR code above to read the full article on The Occidental's website.*

# A FEW THINGS I HAVE DONE WITH CARMELA GOMES

*By: HPHT Member Vernita Mason*

Carmela Gomes is a force to be reckoned with. She has good ideas and needs your help to make them all happen. Have you ever tried to say no to her? Have you ever been successful at that? She didn't take no for an answer. By the time she retired from Nightingale, I thought, "Good, maybe now I can get some rest!" Next thing I know, she's on the Board of HPHT and there's more to be done.

She was a whiz at getting anybody to do anything that needed to be done, and she was full of ideas of what should be done.

I worked with Carmela at Florence Nightingale Middle School. She was proud that she could work in the community in which she lived and she formed lasting friendships with both the parents and her students.

She was a wizard at incorporating the arts and technology into her curriculum and she and I would attend conference after conference presenting her instructional approach to integrating technology. A computer on the desk is "Just Another Box of Crayons".

"There should be a salary point workshop teaching teachers how to give students "A Sense of Place," she said. She created through her workshop: The River Runs Through It: Charles Lummis and the Culture of the Arroyo Seco thus providing teachers an opportunity to develop lesson plans based on field experiences. I attended that class more times than I can count. We took walks along the head of the Arroyo Seco River under the Colorado Street Bridge with an environmentalist, visits to the Greene and Greene house in Pasadena, visits to the Judson Studios, walking the Highland Park neighborhood to view historical homes and locations, visiting the Lummis House, the Casa de Adobe, the Southwest Museum. Planting Trees with NorthEast Trees and the Civilian Conservation Corp. She brought this community alive for the students and the teachers of North East Los Angeles. Having an online evening with Camp Internet, UC Santa Barbara, and the Neighborhood Astronomers at Nightingale, I have the videos to prove it, having been recruited to be the videographer on many of the field trips and events.

We would meet up with Pat Griffith for Historical tours of Highland Park (Pat couldn't say no either), after having breakfast at Antigua Cafe across from Nightingale Middle School where her former student was the proprietor, being sure to support his business.

She wanted the students to have "A Sense of Place" to learn of the history of Highland Park and then to figure out where their place would be in the history. Would they become stewards of the community? Would they learn to care for the community in which they lived through their own Participation?

She coordinated with Friends of the LA River, the Chumash tribe, the Lummis Day Organization, The LA River Museum at the LA River Center and Gardens. Her students wrote plays, acted in the play, filmed the play, learned to produce videos and field reports. The last day of school one year, her students were still filming their last scenes at Florence Nightingale Middle School. This was not time for school to end. Of course, I had to



bring the Trojan Horse for the scene of the Peloponnesian War. Speaking of the Trojan Horse, which my students made, she got me to bring it to the first Lummis Day Celebration. For some reason (how about to gain newsworthy attention?), they shut down the Pasadena Freeway (now the Arroyo Seco Parkway), and Fish People swam up the freeway to Sycamore Grove Park, the scene of the Lummis Day celebration. I was requested to bring my Trojan Horse to the Ave 26 on ramp and City Councilman Ed Reyes was to pull the Trojan Horse upstream with the Fish People following. Who knew this was a thing that must be done? There was no getting out of it. Ed had to lead the way pulling an 8 foot high Trojan Horse. I still have the horse if there are any USC grads or History buffs who have been looking for a Trojan horse out there.

She encouraged Poetry writing and our students published their Peace Poems on line following the 9/11 attack at the World Trade Center. She and Rosa Maria Marquez invited my students to read their poetry at the Rock Rose Cafe, and again for an evening of poetry in the auditorium at School.

She came into my classroom one summer session to speak to the students about the history of the Arroyo Seco and brought a guest speaker to discuss Graffiti in Highland Park, which they loved. Then the children wrote and published community newspapers to learn more about the rich history of the neighborhood in Highland Park.

She approached the neighboring Neighborhood Councils for fundraising and networking to support the Lummis Day Festival, which began to draw people from far and wide, San Pedro to Ventura and Santa Barbara.

She made certain that students attended the Lummis Day Celebration as participants, exhibiting their work and sharing learning experiences with the visitors, whether it was mapping your neighborhood, sharing your technology skills or performing on stage with your orchestra or band, she made sure that Nightingale students and teachers were represented.

One year we took our computers and forty kids up to the San Gabriel Mountains for a week long field trip of outdoor learning. The Environmental Club had an opportunity to experience snow, hike mountain trails, climb straight up mountain walls, take moonlight walks to gaze at the starry sky far above the city lights and write their field reports to publish online. My cabin stayed up past curfew learning to knit.

I recently came across a cell phone video of Carmela receiving recognition for her work in promoting the preservation of the Arroyo Seco Watershed through education at JPL.

We all know that Highland Park is a better place for having been home to Carmela Gomes. We have benefitted from her life time of giving back selflessly and showing up when she asked us to do what must be done to make the world a better place.

She made me a better teacher, got me to do more than I thought I could do. Always, she was a mentor and saw to it that the next leaders were in place to follow in her footsteps as she let go of the reins.

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Carmela Gomes retired from her role on the HPHT board in 2019, just before the pandemic began. We are thankful for all her years of service, and that she continues to be an active member of HPHT and the Highland Park community.

## EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS

The HCM nomination of Highland Park's Mexico-Tenochtitlan mural is going to be presented at the next PLUM telephonic meeting set for Tuesday, March 7th 2023. Please send a public comment in support of the nomination to [clerk.plumcommittee@lacity.org](mailto:clerk.plumcommittee@lacity.org) with subject line "Support for Council File No, 22-1583"

On April 4th, 2023, join the L.A. Conservancy, Highland Park Heritage Trust, and Santa Monica Conservancy to explore the role of historic designation in telling fuller, more equitable, stories of L.A.

The presentations and conversation will discuss ways to increase representation of marginalized communities in historic monuments and how to reckon with legacies of supremacy and oppression embedded in the built environment. HPHT President Jamie Tijerina and former HPHT Vice President Alexandra Madsen will be presenting about the successful Historic Cultural Monument nominations of the Chicano Arts Collectives of Highland Park.

This panel is part of the L.A. Conservancy's quarterly Preservation Partners Meet Ups. These gatherings intend to facilitate knowledge sharing and grow partnerships among advocates of cultural and architectural heritage across L.A. County.

**When:** April 4, 2023 from 12-1pm

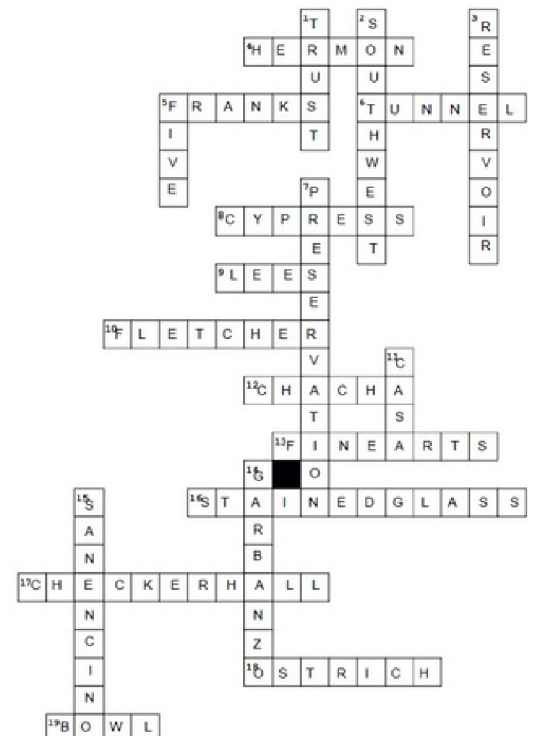
**Where:** Zoom

To attend, please email Lindsay Mulcahy, [lmulcahy@laconservancy.org](mailto:lmulcahy@laconservancy.org) for the Zoom link.

### Community Crossword Answers (puzzle on pg. 10)



*HPHT members and friends had a great time marching in the 2022 NELA Holiday Parade!*



# HPHT HOSTS HOLIDAY PARTY IN OUR NEW HOME AT ART IN THE PARK LA

*By: Jamie Tijerina*

On December 12, 2022, HPHT board and membership came together in-person to celebrate the holidays at our new home at Art in the Park Los Angeles at Hermon Park. It was great to see so many familiar faces and enjoy each other's company once again, especially as the COVID-19 pandemic moved HPHT's operations and meetings to a fully remote format. We were also able to send off our long-time board members Antonio Castillo and Louisa Van Leer who, after 11 years of dedicated service to HPHT, decided to pass the torch to new board members from our community. We are grateful for their service and very happy that they will continue to be active members of HPHT. We welcomed Maggie Daret-Quiroz, Jim Round, and John Vangelisti as new board members and are looking forward to working together with them.

Finally, we had the chance to announce our new partnership with Art in the Park LA at Hermon Park, led by Executive Director Liz Goetz. This historic space once served as the clubhouse for the lawn-bowling courts at Hermon Park, and now it serves as a space for art, culture, and community for people in our Northeast and Eastside communities. HPHT will be hosting in-person meetings at this new space going forward and we are looking forward to welcoming our members to join us in community here.



## HPHT BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE AT POP HOP!

Looking for a special gift or the perfect book for your coffee table? You can now pick up copies of "The Five Friendly Valleys" and "Images of America: Garvanza" at our local bookshop, the Pop-Hop Books and Print.

Pop-Hop Books and Print is located at York Blvd. and Ave 50  
(5002 York Blvd., 90042)



## NEW YEAR, NEW CHANCE TO GIVE

For your charitable giving in 2023, would you consider a contribution to the Highland Park Heritage Trust? We are an I.R.C. 501(c)(3) non-profit. Your donation to our General Fund or the Diana Barnwell Fund is tax deductible and will help our organization continue to fulfill its mission and persevere through the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.



You may Donate via  
PayPal or mail in a  
check to the address  
listed on page 2 of  
*Our Cornerstone*



# VILLA'S TACOS OPENS FIRST STOREFRONT IN NELA

*By: Jamie Tijerina*

On February 5, 2023, Highland Park's own Villa's Tacos opened its first brick and mortar location within the shopping center located at 5455 N Figueroa St. The community came out in droves, with lines of people going around the building waiting for hours to enjoy some of the first tacos from the new location. As people waited in the line, they enjoyed music from the live band, words of thanks from Victor Villa, and even a brief fireworks display at dusk. Villa's Tacos will continue setting up at their sidewalk location on York Blvd but you can now enjoy their tacos any day of the week at their new shop. Please enjoy photos from their opening day.





# SETTLEMENT REACHED WITH SKYA

*By: The Historic Garvanza Coalition*

The Historic Garvanza Coalition was formed to file an appeal against the SKYA project at Avenue 64 & Garvanza.

The Historic Garvanza Coalition (HGC), Aguilar and SKYA Highland Park Partners II (Skya) have reached a settlement regarding SKYA's planned mixed use development at East Garvanza Avenue and North Avenue 64. HGC and Aguilar have agreed to withdraw their appeal related to this project. Subsequently, an additional moderate income unit will be provided for 55 years, landscape and design changes to the corner building at Avenue 64 and Garvanza will be made, all subject to City approval. The parties have also agreed on additional safeguards for residents and children during construction and to a proposed haul route.

Since the project was first presented, the original proposed 151 bedrooms has been reduced to 100 bedrooms and the design has been modified to include a larger courtyard and slightly smaller footprint with more articulation so that the building looks like several smaller buildings rather than one large building. The developer has agreed to support efforts and work with the community and the City to minimize the impact of the additional traffic congestion that will be created by this building.



*HPHT President Jamie Tijerina, a Garvanza resident and Historic Garvanza Coalition member, signing the agreement.*

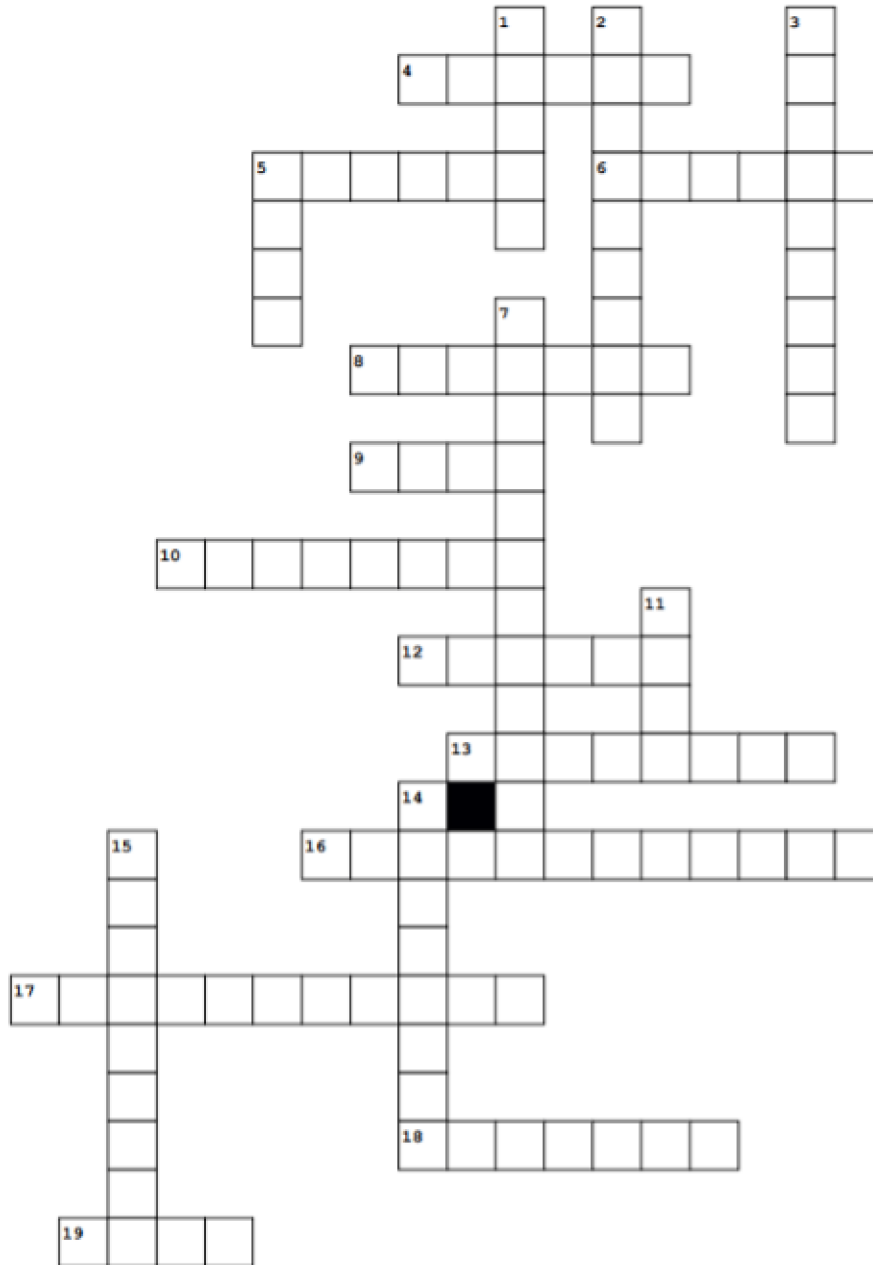


*These photos show the design that was approved by the City of Los Angeles.*



# COMMUNITY CROSSWORD

By: JJ Jackman



## ACROSS

4. Historic neighborhood to the south of Highland Park
5. famous camera store on Figueroa, now only the sign remains
6. One of the unique ways to enter the Southwest Museum is by \_\_\_\_\_
8. Neighborhood that sits in the valley created by the Los Angeles River and the Arroyo Seco, \_\_\_\_\_ Park
9. What's his middle name? William \_\_\_\_\_ Judson
10. What's his middle name? Charles \_\_\_\_\_ Lummis
12. Actor Annette Cardona's best known role, \_\_\_\_\_ De Gregorio
13. Judson Studios was originally the campus for the USC College of \_\_\_\_\_
16. what Judson Studios is known for
17. Restaurant and bar housed in the historic Masonic lodge on Figueroa
18. America's first \_\_\_\_\_ farm and was located in the Arroyo Seco Valley.
19. originally opened in 1927, restored and reopened in 2016, a great place to roll a few frames – Highland Park \_\_\_\_\_

## DOWN

1. Highland Park Heritage \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Museum, built in 1914 on a hilltop in the Mt. Washington area
3. \_\_\_\_\_ dogs – Tarantino film shot in Highland Park
5. Highland Park was once known as the \_\_\_\_\_ Friendly Valleys
7. HPHT's mission: Dedicated to the \_\_\_\_\_ of Los Angeles' Arroyo Seco communities
11. \_\_\_\_\_ de adobe, built in 1916 near the Southwest Museum
14. Garvanza got its name from this tree
15. historic Arroyo Seco home built by Clyde Browne, Abbey \_\_\_\_\_

*(Answers on pg. 6)*