

Los Feliz Observer

Organized in 1916 for the betterment and protection of the Los Feliz District

FALL 2006



Los Feliz Steps Return to Full Glory

The historic Los Feliz Steps built in the 1920s as a shortcut for residents to catch the old Red Cars to take public transportation to downtown have been beautifully restored close to the way they were.

The efforts were orchestrated by the late Dr. Paul Rudnicki, a community volunteer and LFIA continued on page 9

How to Visit the Observatory When it Reopens on Nov. 3rd

Griffith Observatory reopens its familiar front doors on Friday, Nov. 3 after an extensive \$93 million renovation and expansion project. The announcement was made by Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa at a news conference in front of the Observatory on Oct. 3. Officials anticipate strong public interest in the Los Angeles landmark after being closed for nearly five years. The mayor cited the need for a plan to avoid gridlock when the popular institution reopens.



Marian Dodge

The Observatory's Visitor Access Management program calls for timed-entry reservations continued on page 14

INSIDE ...

page 3

The President's Column

pages 4-6

Back-to-School Features

page 7

Observer Notebook

page 12

LFIA Remembers Paul Runicki

page 13

New LFIA Officers & Board Members

page 14

Meliora Winners Are....

COMMENTARY

DWP's Festival of Lights

By Chuck Soter

On July 11, the LA Department of Water and Power management published a statement: "Global warming from human sources is predicted to have a potentially devastating impact on the economy, environment and public health if aggressive action is not taken in the near future to reduce GHG (greenhouse gas) emissions, primarily carbon dioxide."

The DWP management team requested the Board of Water & Power Commissioners to:

*Adopt California's publicly owned electric utilities' principles addressing greenhouse gas reductions
Submit the attached principles to the Los Angeles Mayor and City Council for their consideration, and;*

if these principles are adopted by the LADWP's governing bodies, then the LADWP will be required to comply with the provisions contained in the principles and will report to the Board on the progress made, as appropriate

Three weeks later, Governor Schwarzenegger and British Prime Minister Tony Blair signed a global warming reduction pact, and Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom pledged that their cities would join with the world's largest cities to fight greenhouse gas emissions.

Greenhouse gases come from a variety of sources, with internal combustion auto- continued on page 9

BARRY SLOANE

SELLING THE TROPHY PROPERTIES OF LOS FELIZ



JUST LISTED

4745 CROMWELL AVENUE

Stunning 1924 Mediterranean superbly remodeled and expanded with style and exquisite taste. Fabulous park-like grounds with waterfall and gorgeous gardens. Dramatic 2 story living room, family room, den, library, media room and wine cellar. Master suite plus 3 bedrooms and detached studio.

\$3,100,000



REDUCED

2208 W. LIVE OAK DRIVE

Magnificent 1926 Spanish celebrity compound designed by architect W.C. Tanner. 13,000 sq. ft. (per tax rolls) with amazing views, exotic pool. Lavishly detailed estate on double lot, lovingly restored after earlier celebrity owners. Diplomatic sized rooms. Game room, billiard room, cigar lounge, gym, catering area. Lush, private grounds. Just reduced from \$8,950,000.

Now \$6,995,000.



JUST SOLD

2666 ABERDEEN AVENUE

Spectacular private gated 1922 Spanish Colonial Revival compound designed by Stiles Clements. Set in extraordinary gardens with waterfalls, rare plantings and pool, the remodeled 3 bedroom home retains its fanciful and dramatic architecture with original historic tile and design features.

Private Sale/Price Confidential.

BARRY SLOANE
Historic and Architecturally
Significant Properties
(310) 786-1844



Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Fall 2006

The *Los Feliz Observer* is published by the Los Feliz Improvement Association

Editor Lynne T. Jewell

Advertising Director Terry Hughes

Graphic Design Kathryn Louyse

Photo Editor Marian Dodge

Observer Committee Charlotte De Armond,

Angela Stewart, Denise Wingate,

Donna Zenor

LFIA Purpose

The Los Feliz Improvement Association was formed in 1916 to further the interests of the Los Feliz district of Los Angeles, its residents and property owners, and to undertake any activity that in the opinion of the Board of Directors will be beneficial to the district, its residents or property owners.

LFIA Board of Directors

Marian Dodge, *President*

Angela Stewart, *1st Vice President*

Valerie Vanaman, *2nd Vice President*

Margie Bird, *Recording Secretary*

Chris Laib, *Corresponding Secretary*

Donna Kolb, *Treasurer*

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| George Abrahamian | Margret Lohfeld |
| Christy Barrett | Norman Mennes |
| Margie Bird | Tess Nelson |
| Marilyn Bush* | Rulon Openshaw |
| Margie Camusi | David Roberti |
| Dennis Chew | Mary Rodriguez |
| Sandra Collier | Patricia Ruben |
| Charlotte DeArmond* | Donald Seligman |
| Arabella Field | Mary Beth Sorensen |
| Krishna Gangadean | Chuck Soter |
| Margaret Goldsmith | Rainer Standke |
| Noah Graff | Theresa Sterling |
| Sharon Hallett | Jean Teal |
| Terry Hughes* | Denise Wingate |
| Lynne T. Jewell | Donna Zenor* |

*Past Presidents

Los Feliz Improvement Association

Post Office Box 29395

Los Angeles, CA 90029

Telephone & Fax 323.660.1914

website: www.lfia.org

The *Los Feliz Observer* is published quarterly and is one of the benefits of membership in the Los Feliz Improvement Association (LFIA), a non-profit corporation that is tax-exempt under 501(C)(4) of the Internal Revenue code.

Membership dues are \$30.00 annually.



LFIA Deals With Age-Old Community Issues

Marian Dodge

It is with awe and great respect that I assume the role of President of LFIA. My predecessors include such distinguished names as William Mead, Van M. Griffith, and Harvey Van Norman. Those are large footsteps to fill, but I will do my best to continue their long tradition of dedication to our community.

The organization was founded in 1916 by thirty-six people who established the Vermont Canyon Improvement Association to protect the canyon in preparation for the Greek Theatre. By 1922 the organization had expanded and changed its name to Los Feliz Improvement Association. Now known simply as LFIA to many residents, this organization has a long history of dealing with community issues.

The burning issues of the day were bus transportation in Griffith Park and the location of the zoo which was proposed to be on Vermont Canyon across from the Greek Theatre. LFIA's strenuous opposition to a zoo in Vermont Canyon because of noise and odors prompted several letters accusing LFIA of being "anti-zoo." But the young organization prevailed and camels and elk were not penned in the canyon. Instead board member Mrs. George Schneider led the effort to preserve habitat for native wildlife in the park and created the Bird Sanctuary in 1925.

For the last 90 years, LFIA's Zoning Committee has been fighting to preserve the quiet, gracious, residential character of the neighborhood.

The Parks Committee is continuing her efforts today. A Griffith Park Draft Master Plan released to the public in 2005 called for massive commercial development in the park. LFIA was instrumental in getting Councilmember Tom LaBonge to create the Griffith Park Master Plan Working Group. This group of private citizens representing local community organizations, such as LFIA and neighborhood councils, has been working for more than a year to rewrite the draft master plan. Their goal is to preserve and restore natural resources and ecosystems and enhance the park's urban wilderness identity.

"The Association reached the unanimous decision that Los Feliz Boulevard should not be zoned for business and entered a protest against undesirable zoning with the City Council and the City Planning Commission." That may sound like a quote from recent minutes, but it actually comes from the minutes of 1923. For the last 90 years LFIA's Zoning Committee has been fighting to preserve the quiet, gracious, residential character of the neighborhood.

The Griffith Observatory is scheduled to reopen soon after nearly five years of extensive renovation. They anticipate that 17,000 people a day will want to visit the Observatory. LFIA worked diligently with the Observatory and Recreation and Parks to develop a timed entry system with shuttle access only to minimize the impact of traffic on neighbors.

In the 1920s LFIA envisioned that Los Feliz would become a "showplace of the West." To that end they sought to make Los Feliz Blvd. "one of the most beautiful and exclusive boulevards to be found in America" and with the Los Feliz Woman's Club they planted deodar cedars along both sides of the boulevard. The boulevard may not be exclusive, but it is certainly one of the most beautiful because the Beautification Committee continues to plant and maintain the much-admired deodars.

Los Feliz Elementary School was the only school in the neighborhood in the early 1920s. LFIA and the community successfully lobbied the school district for more local schools and Franklin Avenue Elementary and

continued on page 11

This Is a Quiz: Name the Pictured JMHS Alums

By Marian Dodge and Norman Mennes



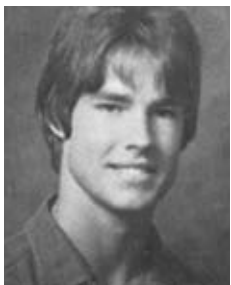
H. "I'm ready for my close-up, Mr. DeMille."



C. "It's the principle of the thing."



B. "Try, try, again!"



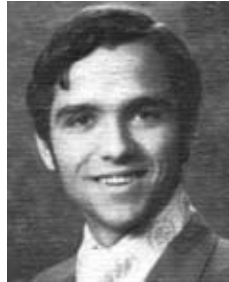
E. "Adonis was never bolder."

Since its first graduating class in 1931, John Marshall High School takes claim to a long list of well-known or even notorious alumni who have graced its academic hallways. Thanks to former students from around the country, LFIA has accumulated a collection of some of the famous alums.

See if you can match the faces with the clues in quotes.

Don't look until you've completed the quiz, but the names can be found on page 11.

J. "The voice heard 'round the world."



N. "You have to have a goal in life."



M. "The face that launched a 1,000 ships."



1. Rosemary LaPlanche '41
2. Warren Miller '42
3. Julie Newmar W. '51 (Newmeyer)
4. Mike Antonovich '57
5. Tom Abraham '64
6. Lance Ito W '68
7. Sue Lyon '68
8. David Ho S. '70
9. Ron Moss W. '70
10. Tom La Bonge '71
11. Pete Arbogast '72
12. Mike Haynes '74
13. Andy Reid '76
14. Leonardo DiCaprio '92 yearbook



A. "Why don't ya come up and see me sometime."



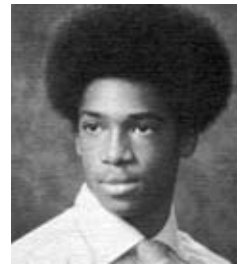
F. "If you can make it here, you'll make it anywhere."



G. "It's a bird! It's a plane! It's Superman!"



D. "This Santa will bring you the gift of life."



K. "Pirate of the Coliseum"



O. "Talk about a slippery slope."



L. "I'm king of the world!"

Photo credits: Our thanks for the yearbook photos to: Milton Lowrey, JMHS Alumni Association, Adrienne Pena, JMHS staff, Don Seligman, LFIA

COMMENTARY

A New Span School for the Neighborhood?

By Mary Beth Sorensen

Our public schools Thomas Starr King Middle and John Marshall High schools remain on a multi-track, year-round calendar due to continued overcrowding. This means that these two schools operate all year long and students attend one of three tracks (A, B, or C), each with a different vacation schedule. Students attend fewer school days, 163 instead of 180, but their days are longer so that all students have exactly the same number of instructional minutes.

The year-round calendar is slowly being phased out throughout the district as LAUSD continues to open new schools that relieve overcrowded conditions and puts schools back on a traditional calendar. However, in Los Feliz, we are still waiting for relief as we fight for a new school to be built.

Over a year ago LAUSD approached the neighborhood about a plan to build a "span-school," one that would serve, "to span" grades 6-12, and provide much needed seats, about 1200, to relieve overcrowding at both King and Marshall. However, four months later, due to the school district's declining enrollment, LAUSD tried to cancel the campus that we so desperately need. LFIA school committee members quickly met with LAUSD Board member David Tokofsky, (who was a teacher at Marshall) and with his support and guidance, as well as a flurry of phone calls and letters from the community, the School Board approved funding for the new school.

With support now firmly in place, discussions began with Los Angeles Community College President, Dr. Steve Maradian, about plans for an innovative partnership with LAUSD. The current thinking is to build the new span-school on or near the LACC campus and to develop a unique educational collaboration for LAUSD students. Discussions and negotiations continue.

These ongoing community efforts have involved maintaining close contact with our Board member, David Tokofsky, who is in support of the span school, as well as with the LAUSD Facilities team that has alternated between gathering our support for the location of a new campus and canceling the project altogether.

As changes in LAUSD leadership occur, the LFIA schools committee will continue to press this important project forward to prevent further delays. Therefore, we thank you in advance when we urgently ask for letters or phone calls in support of this new school that will benefit Los Feliz and the broader community. Everyone's contribution is critical and your voice really does make a difference. It is the future of our neighborhood, the new families today with young children, who will benefit from these efforts.

The LFIA schools committee welcomes your voice and involvement on a variety of issues related to the public schools. Please email Mary Beth Sorensen, co-chair, at mbsorensen@sbcglobal.net, if you would like to attend the next schools committee meeting and help with our efforts to support the local campuses.

LFCSA Opens Its Doors to 120 Elementary Students

The first day of school was an historic moment for Los Feliz.

After well-over a year of relentless work by dozens of families and community members, The Los Feliz Charter School for the Arts (LFCSA) opened its doors for the very first time Sept. 5 to 120 elementary school children.

While the school is temporarily located in West Hollywood, future plans call for it to have a Los Feliz location.

This free public elementary school began as a vision by a handful of parents in Los Feliz who decided they wanted to create a school that incorporated the arts in all forms on a daily basis. Interest in the school spread as hundreds of families, business owners, educators and artists contributed time and money to make the school a reality. The school is led by an award-winning principal, Karin Newlin whose career has spanned districts throughout Southern California. Its Board of Directors includes Dr. Verna Dauterive, former principal of Franklin Elementary School and Elise Buik, president of the United Way of Los Angeles.

Using a project-based curriculum, known as constructivism among educators, the students will learn through a constructivist approach. The school will be held to rigorous standards mandated for all schools by the state of California. Thus, students will learn the same content as others in neighboring public elementary schools but the approach inside the classrooms will be more creative and hands-on.

Students will work in small groups on projects with multiple lessons. For example, building a teepee will require lessons in mathematics, history, science and art.

Principal Newlin best describes the school by saying, "This is such an exciting opportunity to truly engage children and share with them the love of learning. I feel so fortunate to be working with such a talented and dedicated community, and to be entrusted with this wonderful gift."

This approach to learning is capturing attention from more than the neighborhood, as the school has partnered with Corrine E. Seeds University Elementary School, the lab school for UCLA, and will have research students from UCLA studying the charter program from its inception. Community members hope that it will ultimately serve as a model for other arts-based schools in Los Angeles and other parts of the United States as a testament to the power of the arts in our public schools.

The Los Feliz Charter School for the Arts is a charter school granted through the Los Angeles Unified School District, which will serve grades K-6. In its inaugural year, the school will have four kindergarten and two first-grade classes. Each year after this first, the school plans to add a grade until it reaches the sixth. The charter is opening in a temporary site at St. Ambrose Church located at 1265 N. Fairfax Avenue in West Hollywood. For more information, go to www.losfelizarts.org or call 323-656-2810.

Franklin Ave. Elementary Welcomes New Principal

By Marilyn Bush

Teachers, parents and community are welcoming Veronica Vincenti Sasso as the new principal at Franklin Avenue School.

Mrs. Sasso comes from Lockwood Elementary School where she served as an assistant principal and Gardner Street School in Hollywood where she was a coordinator for more than 12 years. She is passionate about children and is very concerned about their well-being and education and believes that a strong foundation from a successful elementary academic experience facilitates one's ability to make quality choices throughout life.

Mrs. Sasso is enthusiastic about continuing the strong history of support for the arts at Franklin and she plans to add the school to the Arts Prototype program sponsored by the District. Friends of Franklin, the parent group at the school, provides both art and music teachers on campus.

The new principal says working collaboratively with teachers and parents and creating an environment where all stakeholders are welcome and involved in the success of students is a top priority. "My goal is to provide students with the opportunity to excel in academics so that they may become positive contributing members of our school and community," she says.

Franklin Avenue is now a K-5 school, having graduated the last 6th grade class in June. The school will have full-day kindergarten classes, which were not possible when a 6th grade remained on campus. Franklin offers both before and after-school supervision. The after-school playground program, sponsored by Friends of Franklin, is supervised by two adults and offers a variety of activities including tutoring, drama and sports.

Ms. Soo Joan Choi is the new assistant principal, a position that will be shared with Rockdale Elementary School. Ms. Choi is an accomplished educator with experience in instruction and special education. While the enrollment at many LAUSD schools is declining, Franklin Avenue's enrollment has remained steady.



Our Mother of Good Counsel School Boasts A Long History in Los Feliz

By Cheryl L. Ortega

Our Mother of Good Counsel School opened its doors in September, 1933 in a single wooden structure. The school was comprised of the first four grades and 37 pupils. Sister Florence Dovey IHM was the Directress. Very shortly afterwards classes were held in two small bungalows located at 4622 Ambrose Ave, site of the current school building.

The school was established by the Immaculate Heart Sisters, whose order had been founded in Spain in 1848. The parish in Los Feliz was built in 1925.

Sister Coletta Boyle became principal in 1939 and administered the school until 1951 when she was succeeded by Sister Mario Nigro. By 1953 the enrollment had expanded to 300 students and it became clear that there was a need for a new school building. The present school was dedicated on September 25, 1949. Succeeding principals were Sisters Ruth Kent, Edward Francis Burke, Mary Carol Carrig, and Marya Barr. Until 1954 the Sisters commuted daily from Immaculate Heart High School being driven by the school custodian because the sisters were not allowed to drive. A convent was built in 1954 which accommodated the sisters until 1968.

That same year James Francis Cardinal McIntyre asked the sisters to leave many parishes, including Our Mother of Good Counsel, because of their commitment to Church renewal. Sister Joseph Ann Kercevak CSC was appointed principal followed by Sister Claire Briody BVM. In 1969 the Immaculate Heart Community returned in the person of Sister Margaret Galavan.

Lay principals have administered the school since 1986 – Andrea Deebes, Tina Kipp and Frank Crean with Mrs. Deebes returning in 2004.

Our Mother of Good Counsel School still serves approximately 300 students who now come from all over the city. The school's mission is to provide spiritual, intellectual, physical and social formation of its pupils.

Los Feliz Teen Vaults High Into LA History

Los Feliz resident Sarah Inkelis made Los Angeles history last spring by flying through the air with the greatest of ease.

Inkelis, 15, a straight-A student at Marshall High School, broke the city pole vault record by jumping 8'1". She stands 5'2" tall.

She was featured on the front page of the *Los Feliz Ledger's* July issue. The article stated that Inkelis was honored as the athlete who jumped higher than any other freshman or sophomore in the history of LA. She was also named the MVP Performer for 2006 for JMHS's freshman/sophomore track and field program.

The record-holder is the daughter of Mary Beth Sorensen and Dr. Stan Inkelis. Sorensen is a LFIA board member and co-chairs the Schools Committee.

LACC Expands Campus To Historic Bakery Site

Los Angeles City College's Northeast campus located at the historic Van De Kamp Bakery building in Glassell Park will begin construction next spring.

The Van De Kamp Bakery office's distinctive Dutch step façade, designated a city monument, will be preserved in the year-long restoration. The renovated two-story building will be used for classrooms and offices.

The focus of LACC's northeast campus will be workforce preparation as well as general education and developmental programs. Additional facilities will include two science labs, several computer labs and a fitness center.

The site is located at Fletcher Drive and San Fernando Road.

Take Advantage of Senior Savings

There are some great bargains in the Los Feliz area for senior citizens. Here are just a few senior concessions in the area:

Autry National Center: \$5 for those 60 and over. Everyone's free on the second Tuesday of the month.

Goodwill Stores: 10% discount daily for those 55 and over.

DASH Shuttle Service: 10¢ for those 65 and over. Must have driver's license or government agency proof of age.

The Vista Theatre: \$4 for 65 and over.

Los Feliz 3 Cinemas: \$4 for 62 and over.

If you know of other senior discount rates in Los Feliz, let us know via the website: www.lfia.org.

Los Feliz Landmark Cards Now For Sale at Skylight Books



The Los Feliz Landmarks notecards, produced by LFIA, are now available for purchase at Skylight Books, 1818 N. Vermont Ave. in Los Feliz.

A packet of five cards featuring famous local landmarks sells for \$8 or individual cards for \$2 each.

The sepia-toned notecards feature photos of Griffith Observatory, John Marshall High School, Mulholland Fountain, Shakespeare Bridge and the Greek Theatre.



A Taste of Los Feliz Was Held on October 8

The first Taste of Los Feliz was held on Sunday, Oct. 8, from 5-8 p.m. along Vermont Ave. from Prospect to Franklin Avenues.

Guests enjoyed "tastes" of cuisine of many neighborhood restaurants while strolling the avenue and listening to music.

The fundraising event benefited Hope-Net, a non-profit providing food, shelter and self-help assistance in Metro Los Angeles, including a food pantry at Our Mother of Good Counsel in Los Feliz.

Cost for a "passport" was \$35 for adults and \$15 for children under 12.

LFIA and the Los Feliz Ledger were among the event sponsors.

For more information on Hope-Net, call 213-389-9949.

Eatz Cafe Changes Hands After 25 Years

Eatz Café, the popular breakfast and lunch eatery overlooking the Los Feliz Pitch-and-Putt golf course in Atwater Village, has changed hands.

Los Feliz resident Marie Jabour and her family started the restaurant, known for its malts, shakes and burgers, in 1967.

The new owner of the concession is Paul Lee of JL Dining Services. The company will also run the sister restaurant, Roosevelt Café, at Roosevelt Golf Course in Griffith Park.

No Elephants on GP Golf Courses

There will be no elephants on the 18th hole of Harding Golf Course in Griffith Park.

That's the word from James Ward of LA City Golf.

For months, there have been rumors that an elephant habitat would be built on a portion of the heavily-used golf course next to the Los Angeles Zoo.

Instead, the elephants' housing quarters will be expanded within the footprint of the zoo, said Ward.

Help Keep Los Feliz Beautiful

Residents are asked to help keep Los Feliz beautiful by bringing in trash bins and not posting signs on public property.

LFIA's Beautification Committee is chaired by Margret Lohfeld.

Lohfeld reminds residents that trash barrels are to be placed curbside on Wednesday evenings, not earlier, for garbage pick-up on Thursday mornings. She points out that trash barrels left out after pick-up suggest property owners are not home and can become a safety hazard. Call (800) 773-2489 or 3-1-1 for trash pick-up issues.

Lohfeld also points out that it is illegal to post signs on telephone poles, trees, traffic signs, medians, parkways and switch boxes, based on Los Angeles Municipal Code 28.04.



Mayor Visits Los Feliz

Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa was the featured speaker at a LFIA general meeting at the Autry National Center. He presented LFIA with a city proclamation saluting the organization's 90th anniversary. Pictured from left, LFIA boardmember Marilyn Bush, Mayor Villaraigosa, former LFIA president Donna Zenor and Councilmember Tom LaBonge.

SHOULDN'T YOUR REALTOR KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD AT LEAST AS WELL AS YOU DO?

15 YEAR LOS FELIZ RESIDENT... I LIVE WHERE I WORK

As a long-time Los Feliz resident, I am intimately familiar with the joys of living in our wonderful neighborhood. Starting your day with a round of tennis or a jog in Griffith Park, grabbing an al fresco lunch at *The Alcove* or the James Beard award-winning *Yuca's*. Then ending the day at a concert under the stars at The Greek, or a movie at the incomparable Vista Theater.

Los Feliz has some of the most beautiful classic architecture in Los Angeles. But there's more to Los Feliz than pretty homes. It's about the Los Feliz Lifestyle.

If you're considering selling or buying in Los Feliz, you owe it to yourself to consult with a realtor who understands and can convey the nuances of one of LA's premier neighborhoods.

REAL ESTATE. REAL SERVICE. REAL RESULTS.



Michael Tunick

310.888.3879

michael.tunick@sothebysrealty.com

www.michaeltunick.com

9200 Sunset Boulevard, Suite 200 • Los Angeles, California 90069

socalsir.com



2245 Talmadge St.
3bd/2.5ba Steven Hill architectural
Listed at \$1,249,000



2249 Talmadge St.
3bd/2.5ba Steven Hill architectural
Sold over asking.



1450 Laveta Terrace
Sold in one week with multiple
offers, over asking price.



4343 Finley Ave. #2
Sold in one week for full price.

Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY



Traffic congestion along the boulevard on any given weekend.

Lights story continued from front page

mobile engines accounting for a huge portion. Although many automobile pollutants have been reduced thanks to strict emissions standards, carbon dioxide (CO₂) cannot be reduced, filtered or eliminated from exhaust.

How much CO₂ do we produce, and how does it affect the environment? According to Environmental Defense, automobiles in the United States emitted 314 million metric tons of CO₂ in 2004, which equals the amount of carbon in a coal train 55,000 miles long. An average 2 car household emits 10 tons of CO₂ per year, gases which are forming a thick blanket around the

Stairs continued from front page board member (*accompanying story on page 12*).

The bottom of the more than 550 stairs is located at Cromwell Avenue and Berendo Street. The community project restored the four sets of stairs, and re-cast urns and a decorative basin.

This project was underwritten by Los Feliz residents and a City of Los Angeles Community Beautification grant to return the local landmark "to its historical cultural dignity and original appearance."

Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council vol-

unteers cleared debris, oversaw reproduction work and re-landscaped while the Board of Public Works restored the stairway and the sidewalk.

Over the years, LFIA members have worked to maintain the steps and keep them clean.

Earth and leading to climate change, some of the results of which we may already be experiencing.

Idling our automobiles is one of the worst ways we can pollute. Idling a car for 10 seconds uses as much fuel as starting your engine. And the slower one drives, the more one pollutes. CO₂ emissions double when one's speed drops from 35 to 20 miles per hour.

So what, you may ask, do automobiles and the DWP management's recent action have in common? This year, the DWP's Griffith Park Holiday Festival of Lights will mark its tenth anniversary. It has grown in popularity to the extent that in 2005, over 155,000 cars drove the course along Crystal Springs Drive. That is 155,000 cars driving slowly, after waiting – and idling – for 1 to 2 hours. Let's say that the average wait was 90 minutes. That is the equivalent of every car starting its engine 540 times; or a total for all 155,000 cars starting their engine over 83 million times! And that is only the cars that drove (idled) the Light Festival. What about all of the commuters who were stuck in the resulting traffic jam all 38 days of the Festival?! That is a whole lot of pollution and a whole lot of global warming created by an event that is produced by a City agency committed to addressing global warming.

So, what are we proposing? We do not want to cancel the DWP holiday Festival of Lights. But, we do want the

DWP to change the Festival into an environmentally friendlier event. Let's compel the DWP to embrace a 21st century holiday celebration that encourages people to get out of their cars. Instead of waiting in a long, idling line to slowly drive past light displays, maybe visitors can park in the Zoo lot and walk through a more pedestrian-oriented Festival, such as the one in New Orleans's city park during the holidays. Electric shuttles can be used for those who cannot walk. Or, perhaps the Light Festival can move to a different area of the park more conducive to walking where there may be less of a burden on the commuter off ramps, for example.

Certainly, many people will say it just cannot be done; that nobody will want to come to the Festival, that it will just ruin it. This line of reasoning reminds me of the fear the airlines had when smoking was banned; no one would fly, business would be sorely damaged and it would cost too much to implement. But after the ban was in place, the airlines realized that maintenance costs went down, air conditioning costs went down, due to less filter contamination, and the employees were happier, healthier and more productive.

Banning smoking in airlines was an impossibility in the 1950s; until the Surgeon General began publicizing the health impact. Converting a car-driven event in Los Angeles is not dissimilar. Our city's culture has been automobile dominated; however, we are all realizing that the climatic and other changes from global warming have already become more than an unfortunate reality. And the time is right for the DWP (and the city) to adhere to the principles it is already advocating. Let's teach our children that they can enjoy the festivities of the holidays without compromising our health and futures. And walking in the clean, fresh air of Griffith Park will make the event even more festive!

CORRECTION

We thank reader Charles Richard for taking the time to point out that the sculpture of James Dean at the Griffith Observatory, pictured in the *Spring 2006* issue, was incorrectly referred to as a "bust." Of course, he's right as the bronze statue does not include the torso of the famous actor.

visit www.dographer.com



P H O T O G R A P H Y



TimeGoesByFast.CaptureIt.

Patricia Ruben

323.671.2310

*rescue an animal in the month of December and I will photograph your pet for free.

President continued from page 3 Thomas Starr King Junior High were built in 1927. John Marshall High School's opening in 1931 was widely celebrated. Today the Schools Committee is working with the district to build a new school in our area to relieve overcrowding at both Marshall and King.

Major concerns of the Association have been, and continue to be, monitoring zoning variance requests, ensuring adequate educational facilities, improving traffic flow, protecting the park, supporting our local library, planting trees along Los Feliz Boulevard, keeping billboards off of the boulevard, and cleaning the parkways.

"The membership's loyal support strengthened the Association's power." That is a quote from 1940 when the LFIA was a quarter of a century old, but it is just as valid today. It is your continued support that makes us strong. Invite your neighbor on the left, your neighbor on the right, and your neighbor across the street to join LFIA. The more members we have, the greater our voice.

Griffith Park Urban Wilderness Petitions Pass the 10,000 Mark

Chuck Soter

Alarmed by the multiple proposals to urbanize Griffith Park contained in the Draft version of its new Master Plan released in spring 2005, the LFIA resolved to find a permanent way to preserve this extraordinary resource. We launched the Griffith Park Urban Wilderness Petition directing the City to protect all of the Park's natural, green and open spaces from the development and commercialization that would destroy the very qualities that make it unique.

The LFIA took the petition public in July 2005, and we are proud to say that after 15 months of grass roots effort, more than 10,000 citizens have signed on. We've learned that people everywhere value Griffith Park as a natural refuge in our congested city. As a matter of fact, more than 75% of signers live outside the 90027 zip code.

If you would like to sign the petition, circulate petitions to your family, friends and co-workers or help gather signatures in public settings, contact Chuck Soter or Chris Laib, co-chairs of LFIA's parks committee, at 323-660-1914.

Please help us protect and preserve Griffith Park for future generations. If you go to www.lfia.com or www.savegriffith-park.org and click on "vision" chapter in the PARKS section to receive more information regarding this important topic.

ANSWERS TO JMHS QUIZ

1. M/Rosemary LaPlanche Miss America 1941
2. O/Warren Miller producer of ski films
3. H/Julie Newmeyer actress Julie Newmar, "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers"
4. G/Mike Antonovich LA County Supervisor
5. C/Tom Abraham Principal, John Marshall High School
6. B/Lance Ito Judge at O. J. Simpson trial
7. A/Sue Lyon actress, "Lolita"
8. D/David Ho AIDS researcher, Time Magazine's "Man of the Year" in 1996
9. E/Ron Moss actor, "The Bold and the Beautiful"
10. F/Tom La Bonge City Councilmember
11. J/Pete Arbogast sports broadcaster
12. K/Mike Haynes Raider defensive back, NFL Hall of Fame
13. N/Andy Reid Philadelphia Eagles coach
14. L/Leonardo DiCaprio actor, "Titanic", "The Departed"

Tired of the Pain? Want to Feel Better?

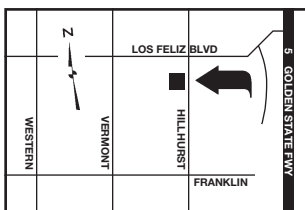


Are you sick or tired of being sick and tired?

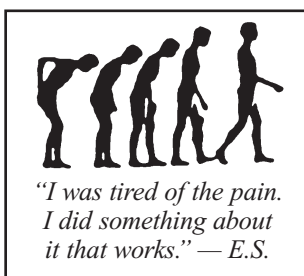
When you are ready to feel better, function better, worry less about how you feel and have more energy, call for a complimentary consultation!

Dr. Renée Davidson
Chiropractic

The local pain relief specialist.



2107 Hillhurst Ave. at Ambrose
Near Nature Mart
323.664.6003



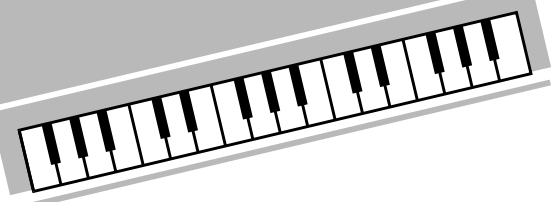
"I was tired of the pain. I did something about it that works." — E.S.

IN LOS FELIZ...

Charles Shaffer

Teacher of Piano
& Organ

323.663.1079



Former Faculty Member:
Occidental College
California State University, Fullerton
California Institute of the Arts

In Remembrance of Community Volunteer and LFIA Board Member Paul Rudnicki



"I'm not at all used to the fact that our neighbor, Paul Rudnicki, is no longer among us. Los Feliz has lost a real friend"

- Los Feliz resident/volunteer
Richard Stanley

Dr. Paul Rudnicki, a retired anesthesiologist and dedicated community volunteer, died July 26th, just five months before his 50th birthday.

Dr. Paul, as he was called by many of his friends, was involved in many community projects in the Los Feliz area, including a member of the LFIA Board of Directors. Most recently he served as project chair for the renovation of the Los Feliz Steps Landmark. The historic steps at Cromwell Avenue and Berendo Street were rededicated on July 6th, and Paul received a proclamation for his efforts from Los Angeles City Councilman Tom LaBonge.

LaBonge's office, the LFIA and the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council partnered to erect a plaque at the landing of the stairway in Paul's honor.

Paul was also working with fellow volunteer Richard Stanley on the restoration of the Will Rogers Memorial Tree at the Mulholland Fountain.

Paul was born in Detroit, Michigan in 1956, just minutes after his identical twin brother, Mark. He grew up in Glendora and Fair Oaks, Calif.

A graduate of UC Davis, he began his

medical training at St. George's Medical School in Grenada, and was one of the students airlifted out by U.S. forces in 1983. He went on to complete his medical studies and residence at USC Medical School.

Prior to his retirement, he served as director of the Arcadia Outpatient Surgical Center. He was also a volunteer docent at the Gamble House in Pasadena, and a board member for Camp Bravo, a nonprofit organization that sponsors summer theater programs for underprivileged children. In addition, he co-chaired LFIA's hospitality committee.

Paul was a gifted pianist and singer, a creative chef and an avid gardener.

He comes from a large family and is survived by his parents, Mark and Danuta Rudnicki, brothers Andrew, George and Mark and three nieces and four nephews.

He also leaves behind many close friends and people and patients he touched.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks donations be made to the Paul Rudnicki Memorial Fund, Camp Bravo, 19360 Rinaldi, St., #406, Northridge, CA 91326.

"What a neighborhood bookstore should be..." -*LA Times*

Voted Best Bookstore by *LA Alternative Press*

SKYLIGHT Books

1818 N. Vermont Ave Los Angeles, CA 90027
(between Hollywood Blvd and Franklin Ave)
T: (323) 660-1175 F: (323) 660-0232
Open daily 10 AM-10 PM



www.skylightbooks.com

Marian Dodge Elected New LFIA President

Marian Dodge, a long-time Los Feliz resident and former teacher at John Marshall High School, has been elected to serve as the 2006-2007 LFIA president.

She succeeds attorney Donna Zenor, who served the past three years.

Dodge has lived in Los Feliz since 1968. She taught English as a Second Language at JMHS for 12 years.

Dodge served as chair of LFIA's History Committee since 1995 and was instrumental in the publication of the second edition of the LFIA history book and the Historic Resources Survey.

She was a political science major at UC Berkeley, where she met her husband Steve. She served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Togo, West Africa.

Other elected officers are Angela Stewart, first vice president; Valerie Vanaman, second vice president; Chris Laib, corresponding secretary; Margie



New LFIA Board Members elected at the membership general meeting were (left to right) Christy Barrett, Don Seligman, Theresa Sterling and Arabella Field. (Not pictured: Margie Camusi, Mary Rodriguez, Sharon Hallett and Rainer Standke).

Bird, recording secretary; and Donna Kolb, treasurer.

Elected as new board members were Christy Barrett, Arabella Field, Mary Rodriguez, Don Seligman, Rainer Standke, Margie Camusi, Sharon

Hallett and Theresa Sterling.

The general membership meeting was held at the Autry National Center in June. Elections were held at the May board meeting.



Tess Nelson & Gary Bergevin

323.671.1215

tessandgary@prula.com

www.tessandgary.com



**Prudential
California Realty**

JOHN AAROE DIVISION

1714 Hillhurst Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90027



JUST LISTED

4784 Cromwell Ave.

Offered at \$1,699,000

- 5 Bedrooms
- 3.5 Baths
- Den with Fireplace
- Formal Dining Room
- Large Yard
- Cosmetic Fixer



JUST LISTED

2200 Mountain Oak Dr.

Offered at \$2,799,000

- 4 Bedrooms
- 3.5 Updated Baths
- Game Room
- Gourmet Kitchen
- Formal Dining Room
- Dazzling City Views



JUST SOLD

3830 Carnation Way

Offered at \$1,195,000

- 4 Bedrooms
- 3.5 Baths
- Gourmet Kitchen
- Lovely "Outdoor" Room
- Sumptuous Master Bath
- Stunning City Views



JUST SOLD

3751 Prestwick Dr.

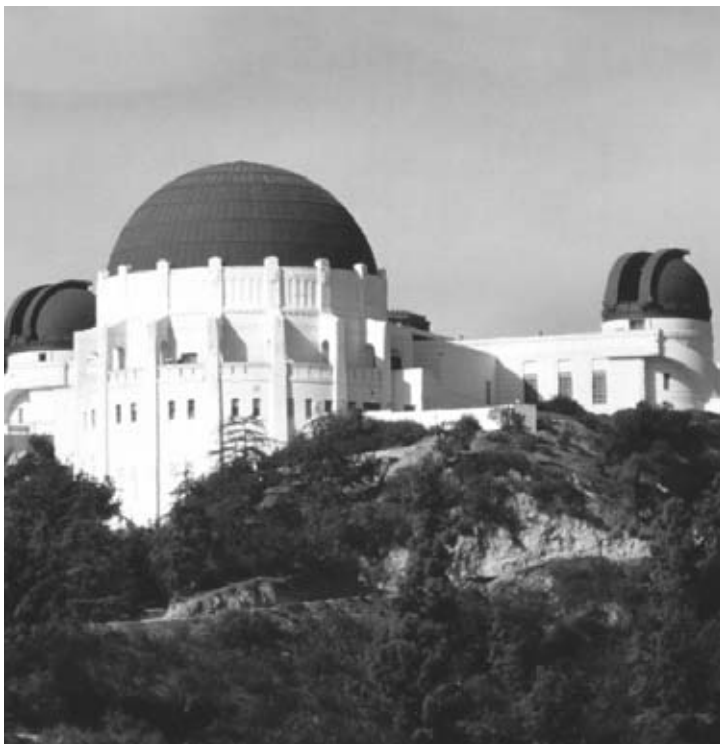
Offered at \$1,099,000

- 4 Bedrooms
- 4.5 Baths
- Spacious Den
- High Ceilings
- Lush Patios
- Stunning Views

We don't just represent property, we represent you.

Take a virtual tour of these properties at our website: www.tessandgary.com

If your home is currently listed, please disregard this notice as it is not our intention to solicit other brokers' listings. Independently owned and operated.



Observatory continued from front page (a system similar to the one used by the Getty Villa in Malibu when it reopened in January) and a shuttle system.

Cost for the reservations and shuttle will be \$8 for general admission, \$4 for children 5-12 and seniors 60 and over, and children 4 years-old and under free. The two points for shuttle departure are at the Griffith Observatory Satellite parking adjacent to the LA Zoo and the parking lot at the Hollywood & Highland entertainment complex in Hollywood.

Timed-entry reservations for hikers and cyclists are free 48 hours in advance.

There will be no parking for Observatory visitors at the top of the hill or on adjacent roadways, according to information released by the Observatory.

Admission to the Observatory grounds, exhibit halls and telescopes remains free-of-charge. As in the past, there will be a separate charge for admission to the show in the completely renovated Samuel Oschin Planetarium.

Representatives from both LFIA, Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council, Los Feliz Business Improvement District, Hollywood United Neighborhood Council and the Oaks Homeowners Assn. worked with the Observatory and the Department of Recreation and Parks for two years to develop a plan to maximize public access and minimize impact on local residents. "We want to make sure that people know we have made great efforts to make the reopening a success for the visitors, the Observatory and the neighborhood," said LFIA president Marian Dodge.

Final plans for the shuttle operation were explained to the public at a community meeting at Friendship Auditorium on July 17.

To make reservations, visit the Observatory's website www.GriffithObservatory.org or telephone the toll-free call center at 1-888-695-0888 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Reservations may also be made in-person at a reservation center at the Griffith Observatory Satellite, 4800 Western Heritage Way in Griffith Park opening no later than Oct. 30.

And the Meliora Winners Are...

By Patricia Ruben

It was an honor to present the Meliora Awards for 2005-2006 to winners that dress our Los Feliz streets with beauty by preserving, protecting and providing authenticity in our community. Our drive home is brightened by the privilege of viewing their fine workmanship. And here they are...

Best Restoration

*The Complete Project Team
of 2400 Inverness*

Once rumored that Errol Flynn drove his car into the pool, something wonderful has driven the vibrant owners of the property at 2400 Inverness to a brilliant, unrivaled restoration of the Fuller House, a landmark 1929 estate. Upon discovering a 1930 Architectural Digest that featured a picture of their original breakfast room, the absolute adventure began. The owners carefully hired a brilliant team of craftsmen who shared their vision; a journey to bridge art and history as one, returning rooms to their glorious namesake. From a master faux bois painter, to a faithful replication of original bathroom tiles, moments of miracles unfold, kindly as this dreamlike Summer Palace of style - lifts you in spirit and stretches your imagination of what once was. The Inverness residence is simply a pure poem to the fidelity of architecture. As payback for their good doing - a traveling friend spotted a farmer discarding dozens of 50-year-old olive trees, which were swiftly rescued from demise by this fine duo and honoring nature they are housed in pastoral proportions in their front yard, a feast for all eyes to see. The efforts of this thoroughbred ensemble will grace our history for generations to come.

Best Commerical Renovation

Alcove and Village Gourmet

The culinary cast of Tom Trellis and Dan and Wendy Kerr light up the street at 1929 Hillhurst, known citywide as The Alcove and Village Gourmet. Once, two overlooked houses built in 1916 and 1897, their updated vision of a mellow mixture of new and old interiors, has inspired their guests; new and old residents and my personal favorite...new and old dogs. Perhaps unwittingly what they have created for us is a residential-like environment, for a community to gather and to discover more than the passion of pastry, but the most important thing of all to discover each other. The LFIA is awake and aroused by your careful efforts to beautify and invigorate our street, with the best recipe of all; smiling children, dogs' tails wagging and familiar faces.

Best Renovation

2458 Park Oak Drive

Form, materials, placement and sumptuous textured surfaces, illuminate 2458 Park Oak Drive as Larry Lipson from Robot and Sons and James Meyer from Lean Arch Inc., have joined powerful forces in modern magic, provoking newness and swimming against the grain with green strategies and purposeful risks. With its eco-friendly geometric purity, this innovative expression of art unites both



2400 Inverness



Alcove and Village Gourmet



2458 Park Oak Drive

form and function in a spiritual union. Their mission to weave a contemporary tapestry is best sighted from the street where a coat of stainless steel mesh drapes the south-facing elevation and lays sparkling like beaded jewelry in the sun. This recognition pays homage to diversity in our growing contemporary community.

Best Front Garden

4176 Holly Knoll Drive

"Possibilities" must have been the thought in Gary Kaplan's mind when he purchased his Los Feliz home with its average mound of grass. Lucky neighbors of this wonderful walking street have watched this insignificant green mound transformed to a wavy path of a remarkable gallery of

daylilies, agapanthus, azaleas, Chinese magnolias, hibiscus, agave Americana, camellia japonicas, three princess flowers, a few sword ferns, roebellini palm... and the guest star, perfectly placed society garlic. With its "at attention" eight queen palms that salute the entranceway, this award is given for gracious garden literacy.

Neighbors Plaque

This was suggested by one of our winners and my husband, Aria. Although invisible, it is quite real in our hearts. It is to the neighbors of these renovators who endure some early morning pounding and blocked streets, yet more often than not with a smile and nod of support and well wishes. We, the board members of LFIA, thank you for all your neighborly submissions and look forward to even more in this next coming year and wonder who will be the 2006 winners. Please send your submission for 2006 to: Patricia Ruben, P.O. Box 29395, L.A., CA 90029, or if you have questions, call (323) 660-1914.



4176 Holly Knoll Drive

All Meliora photos/Patti Ruben

2007-2008 Meliora Awards Nominations Being Accepted

Nominations are being accepted for the annual beautification Meliora Awards, sponsored by the Los Feliz Improvement. The deadline is Feb. 1.

Meliora (meaning "make it better" in Latin) competition goes to Los Feliz residents for their excellence in showcasing their property in an outstanding way, according to Patricia Ruben, the LFIA board member who oversees the awards. "Each year we get more and more submissions," she said. "One can nominate themselves or one of their Los Feliz neighbors." Here are the categories for nominations:

- Best Single Family Restoration*
- Best Single-Family Renovation*
- Best Commercial or Public Space*
- Best Multi-Family Renovation*
- Best Front Garden*

The winners will be honored at the LFIA general meeting in the spring.

Please send your submissions to Patricia Ruben, LFIA, P.O. Box 29395, L.A., CA 90029. For further information, call (323) 660-1914.

Photos by Lynne T. Jewell, Kathryn Louyse, Patti Ruben



Los Feliz Improvement Association celebrated its 90th anniversary with a sneak preview of the beautifully renovated and expanded Griffith Observatory for LFIA members, family and friends. Special thanks to Friends of the Observatory's executive director Camille Lombardo for hosting us and Council-member Tom LaBonge for providing the shuttles. And, an astronomical thanks to LFIA members for joining us in the celebration.

LOS FELIZ IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER
Los Feliz Observer

P.O. Box 29395, Los Angeles, CA 90029