

# OVERVIEW

FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

ISSUE No. 15

SUMMER 1998

Volunteers have trouble keeping up with the demand for food tickets and the new t shirts



Catherine Metcalf McGowan cuts the ribbon officially opening the Shakespeare Bridge

## BRIDGE PARTY IS SMASHING SUCCESS!!

William Shakespeare (aka actor Gregory Bell) gets into the swing

### “MOVE OVER, CECIL B. DE MILLE”

**FHRA Produces Gala Gift to the Community Attended by a Cast of Thousands**

by Sheri Mobley

Franklin Hills, April 19, 1998 - Take one neighborhood landmark, add a handful of hardworking committee members and one beautiful Sunday afternoon and what do you get? One of the most successful events in Franklin Hills history!

Celebrating 72 years of service and the completion of a year long retrofit, Shakespeare Bridge was reopened in style on Sunday, April 19th. Over 2500 people attended the gala in honor of the gothic-style bridge that leads into the Franklin Hills. Highlights of the music and dance party included: The Pat Longo Super Big Band, a 17 piece orchestra, along with singer Mark Copeland (and featuring re-

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Adam Weisman

**T**he Bridge is Finished! The Bridge is Finished! Run for your cars! Grab the children! Savor the moment! April 19th marked the reopening of the Shakespeare Bridge. For those of you who happened to have been out of town that day, our creative bridge committee cooked up a small get together to celebrate the occasion. What an event! Thousands of people from far, wide, and Franklin Hills, celebrated by dancing on the Bridge. I even saw William Shakespeare learning how to swing dance. The event was a gift to the community from FHRA, and also another example of the talent and skill which comes from our community. In the months prior to the event, residents called the hot line asking to join the committee and become involved in the celebration. The time and commitment from members outside of the board was exceptional. It is my hope that this event will lead to similar events and projects developed by our residents. In closing, if you know any of the committee members involved in the party, let them know how much you enjoyed the day.

As a way to continue our celebration of the bridge, the symbol of our association, two new projects are in development. The first will involve the design and installation of holiday lights along the bridge. Thanks to the city officials, electrical outlets have been placed on the upper part of each of the inside bridge turrets. We will have free use of the power during the holiday season, with automatic activation at dusk. The next step will be developing a committee to work on the design and installation. Another project is the establishment of permanent benches along the southern ends of the bridge which would permit citizens to sit at the bridge during their walks in the community. The hope is to purchase benches which will complement the bridge. Of course, this project is in need of a committee. Anyone interested can call the hot line.

Apart from the bridge reconstruction, association members have raised new projects and concerns which will again fill the tables at our Board meetings. By this time this column has hit the streets, our Annual Meeting will have introduced our community to the Metropolitan Transit Association Red Line and Dash shuttle system. (See story on p 18) Through your input, FHRA hopes that the MTA will provide a shuttle system for the community to the Red Line. Your voices are needed to let MTA know its importance—give Marcelle Zonta a call.

During the interim following the last newsletter, we invited Shirley Newland, our "lady of the bridge," to join our board of directors. Congratulations to Shirley, and to Sue Appleton and Ric Gomez, all of whom were elected to board positions at the May General Meeting.

Since the publication of the last newsletter, we have been assigned a new Senior Lead Officer, Al Polehonki. Officer Polehonki and Senior Lead Officer Sam Salazar are actively involved in the care and safety of Franklin Hills. Carol



President Adam Weisman, one of the few people wearing a tie to the party, accepts an Outstanding Service Award given to FHRA by the City of Los Angeles

## FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Chairman*

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*President*

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CHARLEY MIMS

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VIOLET WEBER

MARCELLE ZONTA

## ACTION TEAM LEADERS

### **ABC-TV & COMMUNITY:**

Adam Weisman 666-4630

### **CRIME WATCH:**

Carol Skinner 662-1775

### **ENVIRONMENTAL:**

Marcelle Zonta 664-4124

### **FRANKLIN MEDIAN:**

Shirley Newland 666-2520

### **MEMBERSHIP:**

Robert Page 660-0501

### **METRO RAIL:**

Marcelle Zonta 664-4124

### **PLANNING & ZONING:**

Charley Mims 666-2520

## Franklin Hills OVERVIEW

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The Franklin Hills OVERVIEW is published as often as possible. We invite your comments on matters relating to articles and the community and, space permitting, we will publish letters mailed to *Editor, OVERVIEW, Box 29122, Los Angeles, CA 90029*

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# KEEPING THE BRIDGE OPEN

by Shirley Newland

It is truly amazing what can be accomplished by a group of people dedicated to a common goal. For me it all started when Clark Robins, Principal Civil Engineer with the City of Los Angeles, gave a presentation for the Shakespeare Bridge retrofit project at the annual meeting last year. He promised to maintain the original design and historic charm of the bridge and to work with the residents as changes arose. Clark Robins was the first city official I listened to, heard, and believed. And his promise was never let down. Throughout the project and to its end he and others in the city kept their word. Clark and Senior Structural Engineer, Terry Wong, are responsible for getting the turrets finished in time for the bridge reopening party, a task that was not in the original contract.

Community involvement is key to the success of this whole project. Talking with Dave Spangler, the city's on-site construction inspector, he expressed the sentiment that of all the projects he has worked on, our community has impressed him as being the most actively involved and cooperative. Also important was the cooperation of the contractors of TM Engineering. Matt Moetazedi, Project

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The Last Lonely Night for the Shakespeare Bridge  
April 18, 1998



FHRA Secretary Charley Mims (wearing one of the hot-selling new FHRA t-shirts) emceed the official ceremonies.

## The Shakespeare Bridge:

**the old look with new earthquake resistant strength**

By Clark Robins and Charley M. Mims

The Shakespeare Bridge on Franklin Avenue was built over a deep ravine in 1926. This gothic-style bridge, known to Angelenos as the Shakespeare Bridge, is a reinforced concrete structure 30 feet wide and 260 feet long with 3 arch spans. The fanciful bridge is architecturally set off with turrets and towers, arches and spandrel columns. The bridge was declared Historic Cultural Monument No. 126 in 1974 by the Department of Cultural Affairs of the City of Los Angeles.

After the 1994 Northridge earthquake, structural engineers from the City of Los Angeles took another look at the design of the bridge and decided that it needed to be strengthened to resist seismic forces. The seismic retrofit design strategy was to guard against the bridge collapsing in a major earthquake. To accomplish this goal the design elements of the bridge were reviewed and the structural elements found to be deficient in resistance to seismic forces were analyzed. Engineers were confronted with the need to retrofit those structural elements found to be deficient when subjected to seismic loading while preserving the historic appearance of the bridge. To do this they designed a retrofit program that minimized aesthetic impacts and minimized the removal of historic reinforced concrete fabric.

Retrofit work included complete removal and reconstruction of the bridge's deck, sidewalk, and the railing on both sides of the bridge. The abutment walls at each end of the bridge were removed and replaced with stronger rein-

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## Annual Meeting Chews on Community Issues ... and cookies

by Bruce Carroll

If you've attended any of the FHRA's past annual meetings you know the highlight was Vivien Shea's delicious cookies. It was the same this year when two score and seven Franklinites found their way to the King Middle School auditorium on May 28th.

After some pre-meeting munching and schmoozing in the foyer, FHRA President Adam Weisman called the meeting to order and recounted a year of accomplishments. Chief among them was FHRA's much praised role as liaison between area residents and the rebuilders of the Shakespeare Bridge. That spirit of cooperation got a firm foundation at FHRA's 1997 annual meeting, spanned 10 months of construction and was cemented with song, dance and civic awards at the biggest bridge party LA has ever seen.

For those who didn't see it live...or wanted to relive it...a video of party highlights was presented larger than life. Where Shakespeare (aka actor Gregory Bell) joined the dance lesson and smiled as he learned the rock step...presumably to symbolize how rock-solid his bridge has become after seismic strengthening.

As Vince Rossini, area deputy for Councilman John Ferraro, spoke, he seemed to join the FHRA fan club praising our spirit of community involvement and pledging to continue the cooperation.

That desire for cooperation and citizen input was demonstrated again when MTA transit experts Max Gephart, (MTA Project Manager) and Russ Chisholm, (Transportation Management and Design) came to hear what the FHRA's "transit experts" had to say about bus routes to link us to the Red Line subway. Our station at Sunset and Vermont should open next year. The proposals, discussed in detail in Marcelle Zonta's article, envision a small DASH bus traversing the Shakespeare Bridge.

Passengers on such a bus would be able to feast their eyes on the luxuriant greenery of the FHRA landscaped median. But according to treasurer Bruce Carroll the

median needs more green. The kind that's rumored to grow on the elusive money tree. While red is a lovely color for flowers, it's an ugly color on the balance sheet, and over the last year median expenses have outrun donations nearly three-to-one. In fact, Carroll noted, "there has not been a single median donation in 1998." Bridge Party expenses, combined with the median deficit, have lowered the FHRA's treasury by nearly \$1,600 in our fiscal year from May to May.

And there was other less than rosy news at the meeting. Despite FHRA support for community efforts to shut down sexual encounter clubs along Hyperion Avenue, President Weisman reported, "to date both clubs remain open." But he vowed, "this issue has not ended."

Elsewhere in the neighborhood, the battle of good against evil seems to be going more in our favor...assuming you're on the side of good. LAPD senior lead officers Sam Salazar and Al Polehonki reported a downward trend in crime and success in uprooting drug dealing elements from our midst. Several at the meeting expressed concerns about the continued effectiveness of community policing. It was noted that Chief Parks consistently has turned a deaf ear to public requests that he not diminish the role of senior lead officers in providing the key link between you and the police.

And what would an annual meeting be without an election? Ours, accomplished with no negative ads nor multi-million dollar budgets, resulted in an unanimous vote for three returning members of the FHRA board of directors: Charley Mims, Adam Weisman, and Marcelle Zonta. An equally unanimous welcoming vote went to our two new board members Sue Appleton and Ricardo Gomez.

And when all the voting and talking was done...it was time for more cookies.

**Would you like to own your own copy of the bridge party video? Want to hear the band, see Shakespeare swing, relive the whole day? Call the Hotline (664-7247) and order a copy for \$15.**

## • community phones •

### IMPORTANT COMMUNITY PHONE NUMBERS

**ABANDONED VEHICLES:** (800) 222-6366

**ABC-TELEVISION:**

Security: (310) 557-5354.

**ALARM PERMITS** (323)485-2931

**ANIMAL REGULATION** (323) 485-5771

**BATTERED WOMEN** (800) 978-3600

**BRIGHT LIGHTS Streetlight repair** (800) 303-5267

**COUNCILMAN JOHN FERRARO, 4th District-**  
(323) 485-3337

Room M-30, City Hall, 200 Spring St., L.A. 90012

**DEPT. OF ANIMAL REGULATION:** (213)485-5771

(Pet Info/Complaints)

**ENVIRONMENTAL:**

Recycling: (800)-CITYSAN

Rebate for Ultra Low Flush Toilet installation.  
(323) 481-5800; (800) 722-1122

Rebate for Super Efficient Gas Water Heater.  
(800) 852-9820

Hazardous Waste Hotline (323) 237-1634

Operation Clean Sweep (213) 237-1797

**FIRE DEPARTMENT: Emergency 911;**

Non-emergency: 485-6185.

**GRAFFITI :** (323) 237-0887

**HOMELESS, Food and Shelter** (323) 974-1234

**INFO LINE** (L.A. County Referral Service) (213) 686-0950

**LOS FELIZ PUBLIC LIBRARY:** (323) 913-4710

**NOISE ENFORCEMENT** (323) 893-8120

**PARKING ENFORCEMENT:** (213)485-4184

**POLICE: EMERGENCY 911;**

**Spanish:** (323) 485-4333; **Asian:** (323) 893-8100

**Northeast Division, 3353 San Fernando Road, LA 90065:**

Main Desk (213) 485-2563

Community Relations (323) 485-2548

Sr. Lead Officer Al Polehonki (213) 485-4079

Sr. Lead Officer Sam Salazar: (213) 847-3135

Los Feliz Outpost: 21347 Hillhurst Ave. (323) 913-4682

**POISON CONTROL** (800) 777-6476

**RAPE HOTLINE** (213) 392-8381

**RESTRAINING ORDER** (213) 974-5587

**RECYCLING INFO:** (800) 773-2489

**ROAD CONDITIONS** (800) 427-7623

**SANITATION:** (213) 485-4906

**STREET MAINTENANCE:** (213) 485-5661

**SUICIDE PREVENTION HOTLINE:** (213) 381-5111

**TELECOMMUNICATIONS:** (TV Cable) (213) 485-2751

**TRASH RECEPTACLE INFO:** (800) 248-9726

BULK ITEM REMOVAL (213) 485-4911

**TREE TRIMMING (Hazards)**(213) 485-5661

**WATER & POWER:** (800) 342-5397

**WE TIP** (Anonymous crime tips) (800) 873-7283

## FRANKLIN FOTOS

As you have no doubt noticed, the editor of the Overview has an affinity for photographs taken in the early years of the Franklin Hills, Los Feliz and Silver Lake areas. We are trying to assemble a pictorial history of our district and would like to hear from anyone with such photos. If you grew up here, or if your parents built a house here, or if you inherited some photographs, please give us a call on the Hotline or send them to our mailbox.

We guarantee they will be handled very carefully while we have a copy negative made. The originals will be returned to you in their original condition. Look for your old photographs and give us a call!

## Please Patronize "Our" Advertisers

Traveling to other areas to shop is troublesome now that the population and traffic have increased so much.

The businesses that are advertising in this newsletter are charged the absolute minimum possible advertising fees. Their ads pay for the paper and any surplus supports FHRA on-going projects.

Please support our advertisers and  
**Tell them you saw their  
ads in the "Overview."**

## DOES GRAFFITI BUG YOU?

FHRA NEEDS YOUR HELP in fighting graffiti in our area. We need someone to organize paint outs and people to work.

We provide all materials.  
Call the Hotline to volunteer. 664-7247

## OLD LOOK

Continued from page 3

forced concrete to transfer seismic forces from the bridge deck to the ground. The arched ribs, spandrel columns and spandrel walls under the bridge deck were also removed and reconstructed with reinforced concrete to strengthen the historic arches and to allow forces to be safely transferred through them to the ground. The key element of the new seismic design was the removal and reconstruction of the bridge deck. The deck had been constructed in several separate sections with expansion joints separating each section. The new design created a single section so that the entire bridge deck is now a one-piece structural diaphragm. This new design allows the seismic forces that would be generated from a major earthquake to be transferred through the bridge deck and into the strengthened abutment walls at the ends of the bridge. This design helps to protect the arches of the bridge from becoming overloaded by the greater seismic forces that will occur in an earthquake.

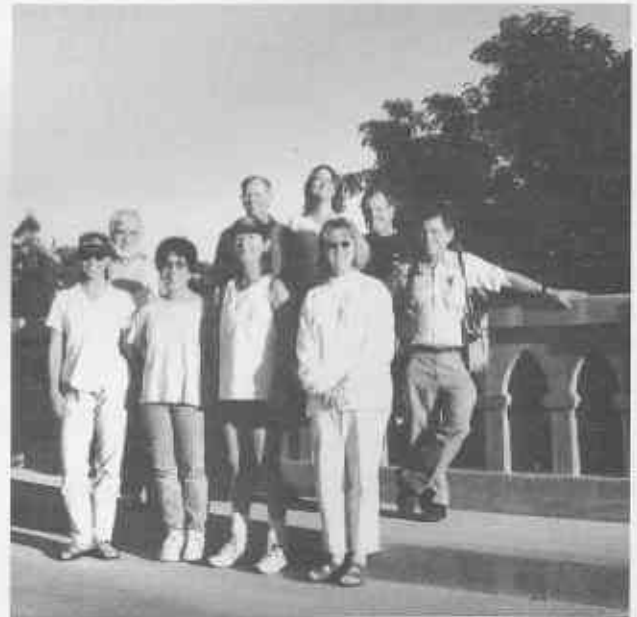
The bridge's railing was also carefully rebuilt to its original appearance while being reconstructed out of steel reinforced concrete to resist cracking and seismic forces. The turrets at either end of the bridge were also strengthened and refinished. At the request of the Franklin Hills Residents Association, electrical outlets were installed at the top of turrets on each end and each side of the bridge. These outlets will provide the opportunity for holiday lighting and for lighting at events such as the April 19, 1998 Bridge Rededication Ceremonies hosted by FHRA with the support of Councilman John Ferraro. Ornamental street lights on both the bridge railings and on the turrets were rebuilt and architecturally restored to maintain the beauty of our neighborhood landmark.

The Board of Public Works received the construction bids on February 5, 1997. The Board awarded a contract to T M Engineering in the amount of \$1,525,802.36 on May 9, 1997. Senior Construction Inspector David Spangler inspected the project and Saba Engineer and Clark Robins approved design changes during construction. The contractor finished its work in time for our bridge rededication on April 19, 1998. If you were one of the three to four thousand Angelenos who came to the party, you know that the new bridge can withstand our whole neighborhood load at one time! Congratulations to the City for saving our historic landmark and to our neighbors for supporting a well designed and well constructed project!

## Fast Facts About the Shakespeare Bridge Party

- over 700 pizza slices sold
- at least 1 Shakespeare impersonator in attendance
- 8 vintage cars, 1 antique fire truck and 12 cool motorcycles displayed
- 2100 Trader Joe's soft drinks given away (in the first 90 minutes!)
- over \$1200 worth of Thai food consumed
- 13 members of the brass section in the Pat Longo Super Big Band played (expertly!)
- over 101 *new* beautiful four-color FHRA t shirts sold
- 10 vintage photos sold
- 11 members signed up

## Shakespeare Bridge Reopening Party Committee Poses for "class photo"



Rear L-R: Don Waldrop, Charley Mims, Shirley Newland, Chris Boutelle, Bruce Carroll,  
Front row: Lesle Kyle, Sue Appleton, Marcelle Zonta, Sheri Mobley. Hiding: Gene Cheltenham, Stephanie and Gabriel Baltierra.

# PARTY

Continued from page 1

owned from trombone player and FHRA chairman, Don Waldrop.)

A vintage car competition with first place won by a 1937 Rolls-Royce, second place by a 1956 Chevy Nomad and third place scooped up by a 1956 Cadillac Eldorado.

Official ribbon cutting by Catherine McGowan, the 83-year-old daughter of the original builder of the bridge, with City Councilman John Ferraro, and our own FHRA President Adam Weisman.

Food tastings presented by three favorite area restaurants — Palermo's, Caffe Capriccio, and TubTim Thai. Special thanks to Trader Joe's and Joe-to-Go for the beverage service.

Swing dance lessons hosted by The Derby, and additional musical entertainment provided by the Kirk Smart Trio.

Built in 1926 at a cost of \$59,690, the Shakespeare Bridge was closed in June of last year for repairs and a seismic retrofit at an estimated cost of \$1.5 million dollars. Local residents and FHRA board members decided to put together a party to pay tribute to the bridge and the lovely neighborhood that surrounds it. Kudos to all the committee members listed below, and others (you know who you are!) who helped make this party such a roaring success.

## Shakespeare Bridge Reopening Party Committee

Don Waldrop, Chair  
 Gene Cheltenham, Event Designer  
 Bruce Carroll, Treasurer/Historian  
 Charley Mims, City Government

Liaison  
 Shirley Newland, Neighborhood Liaison/  
 Fundraising

Sheri Mobley, Publicity  
 Lesley Kyle, Event Coordinator  
 Sue Appleton, Food Coordinator  
 Chris Boutelle, Labor Coordinator  
 Marcelle Zonta, Loyal Committee Member

Stephanie and Gabriel Baltierra,  
 Vintage Cars  
 Marie-Doree and Patrice Lambert,  
 Website  
 Adam Weisman, Morale Support

# THE CLASSIC BRIDGE T-SHIRT IS NOW IN FULL COLOR



▼ FULL COLOR

**FRANKLIN HILLS T-SHIRTS**

**QUANTITIES LIMITED ON THE ORIGINAL DESIGNS**

Franklin Hills/Shakespeare Bridge. Printed teal and purple on a white shirt.

2 COLORS



Franklin Hills End of Summer Festival T-shirts



Printed white on peacock blue or purple shirt

1 COLOR

Now get the classic Franklin Hills/Shakespeare Bridge design in full color, printed in crisp detail on a 100% cotton shirt. Also, limited quantities of the original T's are available while they last. Shirts are designed and illustrated by Eugene Cheltenham of Franklin Hills. All profits go to fund Franklin Hills Residents Association projects to enhance the Franklin Hills area.

**ORDER NOW, DON'T MISS OUT**

### HOW TO ORDER:

MAIL TO: Franklin Hills T-Shirt, P.O. Box 29122, Los Angeles, CA 90029

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: Franklin Hills Residents Association (Do not send cash.) Please allow 2 to 4 weeks for delivery. T-Shirts subject to availability

### PRICES:

**FULL COLOR DESIGN:**  
 1 for \$15, 2 for \$28, 3 for \$35

**ORIGINAL DESIGNS:**  
 1 for \$12, 2 for \$22, 3 for \$30

STYLE	NO. OF SHIRTS				COST
<b>FULL COLOR DESIGN:</b> Franklin Hills/Shakespeare Bridge	MED.	LG.	X. LG.	XX LG.	
<b>TWO COLOR:</b> Franklin Hills/Bridge	MED.	LG.	X. LG.	XX LG.	
(PURPLE) End Of Summer Festival	MED.	LG.	X. LG.		
(BLUE) End Of Summer Festival	MED.	LG.	X. LG.		
Add postage and handling (\$2.00 for 1st shirt, add \$1.00 for each additional shirt.)					
<b>Total (Do not send cash)</b>					

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

APT. \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION MEMBER?:

YES  
NO

## BRIDGE OPEN

continued from page 3

Manager, and Moe Deyanat, Superintendent, were both interactive and friendly with the residents. Their presence is forever cemented in the craftsmanship of the newly finished bridge.

Prior to the bridge's reopening I became involved with another extraordinary group of people who formed the committee for the reopening party. The committee met regularly and put in countless hours planning and coordinating. Interestingly, the committee attracted the people it needed, all from our neighborhood. It was truly a team effort of these talented individuals who came together and presented the celebration to the community.

During the planning, the committee met with the Los Angeles City Fire Department (LAFD) on the bridge to check the electricity the night before the event. At around 6:50 p.m. on Saturday, April 18, the LAFD, in their engines, drove the first vehicles (project workers aside) across the bridge.

It was a sign that the event might be bigger than we anticipated when a group drove up a day early looking for the party. By 4 o'clock at the start of the party the bridge was already full. By 4:30 people could only wade through the current of slow moving crowds from one end of the bridge to the other. When more than five times as many people came to the event than was expected, many undaunted volunteers pulled together to accommodate the large crowd handing out pizza and sodas, serving cookies, and selling

tickets. I spent an incredibly fast hour at the coffee and cookie table. Somebody paid with a silver certificate and I shall cherish it as a memento from this historic event.

Cleaning up after the party we started to arrange the barricades. "Why?" someone asked. The bridge was ready to go. The City had already painted lines down the lane. There was nothing left to do. In uniform agreement we stacked the barricades to the side of the bridge. We had a little after-party that night and cheered the cars, trucks, pedestrians and bicyclists as they began to trickle across the bridge. Yeah!!! First Mercedes across the bridge! Yahoo! First blue Honda to cross the bridge! Look at that - First dog to pee on the bridge! With delight, we, the committee members, opened the bridge.

It was only by the combined efforts of everyone involved that this event was possible. City workers, residents, local businesses and every devoted person were committed to making this a tremendous celebration. And it doesn't stop here. The bridge is open now. As the gateway to Franklin Hills, the bridge stands as the entryway to a wonderful neighborhood where community spirit abounds. Future committees will be involved in designing and placing benches on either side of the bridge, replanting under the bridge, and maintaining the median. If you would like to take part in such a rewarding experience as I have had meeting these people and working in the community I invite you to join us and have fun with these and many other projects we are working on.

## PLAY THE LOST AND FOUND GAME

by Bruce Carroll

Many popular publications use puzzles, contests and prizes to encourage readership. The promotional value of such gimmicks has not escaped the notice of your *Franklin Hills Overview*.

Below we inaugurate the Lost & Found game.

Correctly answer all questions, follow contest instructions and you could win.

- 1) Did you attend the Bridge Opening Party?
  - a) Yes
  - b) No
  - c) There were so many people there I can't remember.
- 2) Did you lose something?
  - a) My shoes
  - b) My wife/husband
  - c) My money clip
- 3) Can you describe the item?
  - a) She/He is bigger than a bread box.
  - b) It is smaller than a bread box.
  - c) The bread would be stale by now, so who cares?

The first person with a complete description of the item and the correct answers to these questions might recover their loss. Call FHRA at 323-664-7247.



Fireman on bridge



by Chuck Thompson

## Palermo Restaurant

1858 North Vermont (Across from the Post Office)

One of the most popular and busiest restaurants in Los Feliz is Palermo, particularly on weekends. The green, red and white awnings and stained glass windows present an attractive entrance to the restaurant. Once inside, the cozy dining area with burgundy leather booths and candlelit tables makes for a warm dining experience. Its owner/manager Tony Fanara welcomes you as you enter, just as he has been doing for over 20 years.

Tony was born in Montenegro, Sicily and came to the United States with his parents when he was 17 years old, settling in Los Angeles. He joined the army and served in Viet Nam. After being discharged, he returned to the United States to complete his education. While studying for a degree in engineering, he worked full time as a barber and later for San Antonio Winery. Having always been interested in the restaurant business, he decided to give up his \$1,500 a month job at the winery and open his own business. He took over Palermo Restaurant in May 1976, which was located at that time on Hillhurst Avenue. He worked seven days a week and many long hours in the business but, after a year and half, the restaurant finally started to pay for itself. In 1978, he expanded seating capacity from 24 to 48.

Tony acquired his present location on Vermont Avenue in 1981. It took about a year and a half to complete the remodeling and, in November 1982, he opened for business. The first two nights of the grand opening over 1,300 people were served and the food was free. The Vermont location now has a seating capacity for 150 people, in addition to a banquet room that seats 90.



Owner/manager Tony Fanara welcomes you as you enter



When Tony first started, he did all the cooking using recipes from different family members—all from Italy, of course. Over the years he has expanded the menu considerably, with entree choices of seafood, chicken, vegetarian, pasta, veal, and the best pizza this side of heaven. Most entrees include garlic bread, and a choice of soup or salad. Desserts include cannoli, truffles, ice cream, Tony's tiramisu, spumoni ice cream and cheesecake. Espresso and cappuccino are also served. Tony's favorite entrees are the Lasagna Alla Bolognese, Linguini with red clam sauce, and the Chicken Diane with white cream sauce. Takeout orders and a delivery service are also available.

The restaurant has a gourmet section featuring fine wines, food from Italy and beautiful gift baskets. They have a full cocktail bar as well as "Tony's Lounge," which features jazz every Friday and Saturday from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

In addition to the Vermont location, Palermo also has a restaurant in Duarte called Fanara. They opened another Palermo restaurant in La Canada in April of 1997. The restaurant is closed on Tuesdays, as well for two weeks vacation in July, and employees are also given a paid vacation at this time.

Tony eagerly supports community fundraisers, Marshall High School, Los Feliz Improvement Association, Franklin Hills Residents Association, and the Los Feliz Village Business Association. He attributes much of his success to the restaurant's friendly atmosphere and giving back to the community whenever possible. His motto: always be fair and honest with people and you will always be rewarded.

*(Note: This article first appeared in the Spring 1997 edition of the Los Feliz Observer, which is published by the Los Feliz Improvement Association. Very minor editing was done to update it for accuracy. FHRA extends its deepest thanks to Tony and all the employees of Palermo for the help with the Bridge party. We all savored that delicious Palermo pizza that Tony donated in a steady stream throughout the evening.)*

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**PRESIDENT**

Skinner, our Community Police Advisory Board representative, is working hard to address crime trends in our community. If anyone has an interest in participating in crime prevention with Carol, please give her a call.

Amongst the "big" projects and events, are the routine activities of our association which are essential for our existence: Membership, The Overview, our median garden, Hillside Federation, mailings, zoning issues, stairway maintenance, school relations, noise and crime abatement - each of these areas requires a great number of volunteers to make it a success. The Bridge Reopening Event generated new volunteers from the community working together. It is the hope that other volunteers will step up and choose a committee to join or manage. FHRA continues to stand as a forum for new projects in the community. Do you have new ideas? We would like to hear about them. We have monthly board meetings which are open to all.

In closing, in the six months since the last newsletter, Franklin Hills has hit

the bullseye with the party of the year. We hope to present similar events in the coming years, but each project and event requires the volunteer efforts of many people. With your intellectual, creative, physical and financial support, FHRA will keep you "dancing in the streets!"

Have a safe and comfortable Summer.

**Disaster Preparedness**

**FHRA Disaster Preparedness needs to know about the trained professionals living in our area. There is a clear need for doctors, nurses & trained emergency personnel in a disaster. If you are willing to assist in such an event, please contact the Hotline: 664-7247**

**CALLING ALL GREEN THUMBS**

**A committee is being formed to maintain the Franklin Avenue median. Under the expert guidance of median designer Melinda Taylor, learn how to care for native California plants while helping to maintain the median. Interested? Call Shirley Newland at (323) 666-2520.**

**PALERMO**

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# THOMAS STARR KING

By Mary Rodriguez

Thomas Starr King Middle School has educated the children of our neighborhood since 1926. It faces Fountain Avenue and borders Bates Avenue, Sunset Drive, and Manzanita Street. Thirteen elementary schools feed into King Middle School. Franklin Avenue in Los Feliz, Ivanhoe in Silver Lake, Micheltorena and Logan in Echo Park and Lockwood in Hollywood are among the elementary schools that graduate their 5th grade students to King, accounting for its current enrollment of 2,200 students.

Three years ago the makeup of the school was changed by changing from 7th through 9th grade to 6th through 8th. The 9th grade class was then incorporated into John Marshall High School. Along with the grade change came the introduction of school uniforms and two years ago a new principal, Dr. Thelma Yoshii. The combination of these changes have helped to alleviate some of the problems in the surrounding community.

Principal Yoshii has worked within the Los Angeles Unified School District for 37 years. She points out the excellence of the computer technology department, the drill team, and the annual Renaissance Faire put on by the drama department, held during the first week in May. She is proud of the students and would like to reward their efforts in academics. Currently the school gives out laminated certificates for achievement during their honor assemblies, but Principal Yoshii would love to be able to award some of the students with medals and trophies for their hard earned efforts. Unfortunately the school budget does not allow for these kinds of awards. Any ideas or suggestions from the community would be more than welcomed; please give Principal Yoshii a call.

The school is seeking volunteers to help monitor uniforms at the entrance gates and to monitor the students during nutrition. You might think that to monitor teenage students you need a lot of muscle, but it has been proven that many grandmothers are every bit as effective. There aren't very many friends that will disrespect

someone's grandmother. What is most important to the school is reliability and consistency. Interacting with the students at King Middle School and enjoying the energy that the students display could prove a very positive experience. If you would like to volunteer you should contact the main office in September at the beginning of the new school year.

Plans are currently under way to re-landscape the front of the school and the inside courtyards. The school faces Fountain Ave. & Myra Ave. and is in need of a softer more colorful and welcoming entrance. The inside courtyards which are beautifully designed have become a barren ground because of the lack of Los Angeles Unified School District moneys for landscaping and gardening. Beautifying these grounds will help the students feel pride for their school and themselves. If you would like to help in organizing/volunteering please contact Mary Rodriguez at 661-6366. In particular we are looking for a landscape architect to help with the initial plans.

Franklin Hills, Silverlake, Echo Park, Hollywood and Los Feliz are strong and active communities and it would serve them well to become involved with Thomas Starr King Middle School. The invitation is open for your involvement and it's a win win situation.

*Mary Rodriguez is a community activist and a board member of Los Feliz Improvement Association. She is the Los Feliz representative to the Community- Police Advisory Board.*

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# JUSTICE ON THE HILL

by Adam Weisman

*(Author's note: The details which form this article were based upon information from the Los Angeles Times, interviews with friends of the victim, and attendance at the sentencing hearing.)*

On June 5, 1997 there was a murder in Franklin Hills. On June 3, 1998 justice was finally served. Forty-nine year old Jeffrey Green lived with his roommate, Dale Wibben on Ronda Vista Place. Jeffrey was a psychotherapist providing services in the community for over ten years. He moved into the neighborhood in January 1996. He had injured his neck in a travel accident, decreasing his mobility, and sometimes he suffered from dizzy spells. On June 5th, he met Joshua Geier, age 18, at Griffith Park. During the conversation Jeffrey invited the youth to his home to do handyman work.

At Jeffrey's home, the crime began.

Joshua had been carrying a Glock 9mm semiautomatic pistol, which he stole from an uncle's friend. A frequent run-away, Joshua sought money. Sometime during the time period at the home, Joshua shot and killed Jeffrey. He then picked up the shell casings, bullets, wiped off finger prints from the house, stole cash, and a "gold" credit card. He sped off in Jeffrey's BMW Z-3. Within days, Geier had gone shopping and charged more than \$1,000 worth of merchandise. He drove the car around Glendale, and finally left it abandoned after he had burned out the transmission. He then fled the state.

When news of the murder was made known to the residents of Franklin Hills, the board of directors was informed about the nature of the crime. Neighbors were provided with sufficient information to understand the homicide. The crime was described as an isolated event. Within four days, the perpetrator was located at a bus station in San Antonio, Texas. At the bus station, he was found with the pistol, 90 rounds of ammunition, and \$1,700 worth of clothing he had charged with the stolen credit card.

The trial was held before Judge Terry A. Green, in Department 120 on the 13th Floor of the Criminal Courts Building. In a trial that lasted nine days, defense made the claim that the victim had made sexual advances toward the defendant. The defendant was allegedly depressed and despondent about his financial situation. He reportedly had the gun with the intent to commit suicide. At the victim's home, the defendant claimed that the victim made sexual advances towards him. In addition, the defendant claimed that he had been sexually molested, at age 12, and the victim's advances spurred him into the shooting. The defendant's mother and step-father, who are police officers for Burbank and Glendale, respectively, testified that his claim of prior sexual molestation was a lie and was used in the past to extort money from a transient.

In the end it took the jury only two hours to deliberate. On February 7th, they found the defendant guilty of committing a felony murder, where the murder was committed during the commission of a robbery. In addition, he was found guilty of burglary and receiving stolen property. For the next four

continued on page 14

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## WHO IS SARA? What is she?—That all our SLOs Attend Her

By Carol Skinner

Anyone who has worked for a large organization as long as I worked for the school district becomes fluent in ACRO-NYM, easily able to comprehend and create all manner of neologisms. When relating to other large organizations this is extremely useful, and members of CPAB need to understand LAPD-speak. So, hanging out in the CRO (Community Relations Office) we become acquainted with the SLOs (Senior Lead Officers) and find that FASTRAC has nothing to do with Hollywood Park, and SARA is not a new member of the Police Commission.

On June 9 members of the Northeast CPAB, including your editor, were invited to attend a FASTRAC/SARA meeting. These are regular meetings held downtown where each of the LAPD areas in rotation meet with senior police officials. When the Northeast group arrived at 12:30 or so, the morning group of officers and civilians from Rampart Division was still in session. Our group consisted of the Northeast SLOs, Captain Ron Sanchez, Lieutenant Raul Vega, (Captain Gray was attending another meeting), other police officers from NOE or from Central; and the CPAB representatives from Silver Lake, Los Feliz, Franklin Hills and Atwater. Deputy Chief Art Sanchez and half a dozen senior LAPD officers made up the rest of the gathering. (Chief Parks also was at another meeting.)

The purpose is to present problems following the SARA model: Scanning, Analysis, Response and Assessment. Scanning: is to identify and define the problem in specific terms: Analysis: seek information, look for underlying cause, set short and long term goals. Response: Design a response that will eliminate or reduce the problem; including traditional and non-traditional resources. Assessment: Evaluate the effectiveness of the response in both short and long term periods. Crime Analysis, reduction of complaints, reduction in calls for service—if no reduction, go back to the analysis stage. Several of the SLO's combined to make a presentation, following this outline, of problems which have been getting a great deal of citizen and media attention in the west end of NOE: cruising, illegal operation of sex encounter clubs in residential neighborhoods, and lewd conduct in Griffith Park. The civilians present added their observations and concerns, and the chiefs asked questions and/or made suggestions throughout the presentation, and those which followed from the other Northeast SLOs.

Continued on page 21

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**JUSTICE** continued from page 12

months, defense worked hard to develop evidence to get a lenient sentence. The district attorney argued, that the family members wanted closure and wanted a quick sentencing hearing. The judge made a calm comment to the family, stating that he felt that the defendant should receive the harshest sentence permitted, or life without parole. However, before making such a judgment, it was his responsibility to review all evidence presented by defense. Justice stood still for four months.

On June 3rd, at the sentencing hearing, the victim's sister, also a psychotherapist with a child developmental education, pointed out that this was not the first death in their family. Years ago, another brother was killed by a gun shot wound. The victim's father had substantial heart damage following this recent killing and could not leave his home in Las Vegas for the hearing. Her voice was loud and clear: no sympathy. The victim's son, age 32 and a 9-year police officer, described the crime as "beyond senseless" and the vic-

tim as a wonderful father and grandfather. The third speaker, who was the grandchild's godfather, gave a religious plea for forgiveness yet accountability. No one spoke in the defendant's behalf. The defendant spoke to the victim's friends and family for a few minutes, attempting to tell them that he accepts the responsibility and is ready to spend the rest of his life behind bars.

Judge Terry attempted to make sense out of the killings. To him this represented a "thrill killing" where the victim was set up. He believed the defendant gained excitement from the act of killing someone. The robbery was viewed as having a different objective, that of escaping town. In sum, the judge was at a loss for words to say to the defendant. The sentence: Life without parole, plus 10 years consecutive. For the robbery, an additional 6 years consecutive with the other sentence. The restoration costs would total \$10,000 to the family.

Since this loss to our community, Dale placed the house up for sale and moved away.

Case closed. In a quiet courtroom justice was served. It was a tragic event for the family and friends of the victim. It was also unfortunate for Franklin Hills that such a crime should strike so deep. Two lessons we can gain from this terrible loss. First, be careful about hiring day workers. Second, know your neighbors and stay in communication with them. FHRA extends its best wishes to the family, friends, and neighbors of the victim.

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## Officer Al Polehonki

#22869 Northeast Division  
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Officer Polehonki is the Senior Lead Officer for basic car A71 serving the Silverlake and Franklin Hills area. "Al" was appointed to SLO in 1997 and is a 17 year veteran of the LAPD. He has worked Communications, Southwest, Vice and has been a part of the Northeast family for the last 9 years.

Born and raised in Pennsylvania, Al moved to California with his family shortly after high school. He joined the LAPD in 1981 and has raised his own family here in the L.A. County. He is an avid sportsman who enjoys the outdoors and has many hobbies including woodworking and music. Officer Polehonki looks forward to serving your community and if you need to contact him, call him at (213) 485 4079.



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# THE DOGS OF APRIL

by Bob Page

For me, one of the great pleasures of living on this mound is the constant parade of pooches that are led past the house. What brought that to mind was a mini-event that caught my eye one rainy morning. Elegantly coming down Hollyvista was a standard white poodle, striding along like a trotting steed without its sulky. Proud, alert, he was obviously allowing his owner (frantically grasping the leash) to accompany him on his spirited sojourn.

Near neighbors Siri and Alex's mutt of mixed ancestry, a bundle of sequestered energy with canine canniness, exists for the moment when, with sporadic assuredness, he can explosively escape the confines of the house. Proceeding with great propulsion, he rockets in Hollyvisitic orbit. Not one to stop and chat about how Purina stock is doing nor to debate whether topical flea treatment is better than flea collars, he moves with such speed that you wonder if what you saw was what you saw. He has been reported to be in three different places...at the same time.

Another neighbor has a white mountain of a dog (a Great Pyrenees, I suspect), a stunning pooch and sweet at that. But the dern thing still thinks it's a puppy...wanting to share the overflowing exuberance with you by placing both paws on your shoulders with enough force to reduce you in stature. What a neat dog, but the owner keeps dog firmly on leash and me at a distance. No, he's not at all concerned about my welfare as much as he is in keeping loving Trudy under control. Too bad...I'd really like to get down and tumble with her...even though it might be my last act.

Denise and Gene walk often their two sibling Boston terriers, and the five of us have become quite friendly. I call the dogs "the girls", and they are a pleasure. One of them (Daisy?) has always been on the lookout for my cat, Papito, because she wanted to

16

play. I was always on the lookout too...for her benefit. She and Papito had not the same thing in mind. Papito died last August, but Daisy still looks for him.

Not all of our four-footed residents are pleasures. Tasha resides in the adjacent downhill house. A brindled beast, she is a German Shepherd with an advanced degree in neighborhood annoyance, and her owner must wince at all the telephone messages suggesting that he perform some remarkable feats to his body. Tasha, however, with Teutonic assertiveness, has decided to relocate...taking her owner along. Those of use left behind with impaired hearing and frazzled nerves can only pray that the new owners have a Basenji!!!

Another "hill" couple (young, blonde, joggingly healthy...I hate them!) have a questionable "dog" always jauntily with them. It looks like a classic case of electrostatic hair-do and is really a perky little mutt...except that it is totally terrified by any other human type. Not at all snippy, the dog is not going to get anywhere near you or the other way around. One day the young man reached down and pushed the dog toward me. I was sitting on the street at what I thought would be a comfort level. The dog braced its front feet and sat on its rump...and that's the position firmly retained as he was pushed along. I gotta tell you...I literally fell over laughing.

There are others...like the two young women that occasionally speed past with a trotting troika of black dogs, and the woman with two sleek Italian Greyhounds, and the wrinkled dog from China, et wonderfully al. Ironically, in this year of such abundant moisture, there's not a Water Spaniel on the hill...





LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Mr. Weisman:

Just a short note to express our thanks to you and to Shirley Newland for all your efforts to celebrate the reopening of the Franklin Bridge. It was a beautiful event.

We have had to date numerous occasions to drive over the new bridge and it is a most welcomed sight! Truly, our community is enhanced by the reconstructed bridge. But this community should never lose sight of the work done by this association.

Again and again—  
THANK YOU!

With best regards,  
Sincerely yours,

NICHOLAS MEDVID

*Have a point you'd like to make? Write to us at: P.O. Box 29122, Los Angeles, CA 90029. We'd love to hear from you!*

Photos by BRUCE CARROLL

**Top:** Swing dancers seen over the shoulders of the band. Chairman-Trombonist Don Waldrop is on left

**Middle:** FHRA sells historic pictures of our hill. Bruce Carroll can be found in the crowd somewhere

**Bottom:** elegant cars were part of the celebration



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# MORE ON KISS AND GO: OR IS THERE LIFE AFTER MTA?

by Marcelle Zonta

No doubt as you go about your business during the day and you pass Barnsdall Park or drive down Sunset near Kaiser, you might just wonder what is going on and what is the current status of our Sunset/Vermont station.

The Red Line subway is slated to open in mid-spring of 1999 and it will have no parking lot. Remember my prior column about their euphemism, "Kiss and Go"? I have been working diligently with representatives of the MTA on ways for our residents to get to the station since many of us live as much as two miles from the Sunset and Vermont location. We are working on some form of transportation to the subway that will be convenient to a large majority of Franklin Hills residents.

Max Gephart of the MTA and Russ Chisholm of Transportation Management and Design have been going up and down the various byways of the Franklin Hills trying to work out some routes to the Sunset-Vermont Metro Station that would be satisfactory to all who would wish to take the Metro. At the FHRA meeting we were all given colored maps of the routes that were thought to be feasible, for our area, then the meeting participants were given an opportunity for input. Results from this interaction will be forthcoming in a future newsletter.

Also, since so much of the MetroRail project is underground, I have made it a point to find out the current status of "our" station at Sunset and Vermont. According to my contacts, the main station concrete is about 97% complete. Side structures are in construction as well as the main entrance. Up above, curb, gutter, sidewalk and bus pad installation are in progress.

Architectural finishes are 45% complete. The platform edge pavers are complete. Floor tile, wall and ceiling panels are in progress in the main station and they are placing concrete and backfill for the main entrance and backfilling a south blast relief shaft. Sidewalks south of Sunset on the east and west sides of Vermont are complete (but not south of DeLongpre Avenue).

Well there it is, I will try to keep you apprised of progress. As you can see building one of these is no easy task. If you have any questions call me on the FHRA hotline at (323) 664 - 7247.

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# Ode to a code

By Bruce Carroll

Your Number is up...

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You were LA's first area code.  
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But, since June 13 we live in 3-2-3  
Who said "okay?" Did they ask me?

For sure, this area code inflation...  
Is no great cause for jubilation.

Reprint your letterhead...ditto your card...  
Update the address book...it's really hard.

Is it worth all this trouble?...I'd wager...  
You'd not give up your cellphone, fax or pager.

But we have 6 months to dial and forget.  
Before our calls are greeted with nyet.

*Franklin Hills residents at home can still call the FHRA  
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**SARA**

Continued from page 13

**Other news from Northeast:** *Captain Ronald Sanchez* has been assigned as Commanding Officer of the Operations Support Division, which includes Detectives, Vice, CRASH and Investigative Control Section. *Captain Louis Gray* continues as Commanding Officer of NOE and responsible for Patrol, and for most Community relations functions. This is to move the division closer to the Ideal Area. In the course of this discussion, Captain Gray stated that for the time being we will still be able to *call our SLO*, and depend on the SLO calling back; and that there will always be someone who will take and return calls from citizens. *Deputy Chief Lopez* dropped in on the local CPAB meeting on June 15 and discussed several issues which had come up in the SARA meeting.

**NOTE:** *By some fluke or other the Echo Park and Glassell Park communities were not mentioned as part of the NOE neighborhoods in the last newsletter. This was entirely unintended, and we apologize.*

**ALERT FOR ALL RESIDENTS!**

At press time we received word of a dangerous scam which was run just after the July 4 holiday on two of our neighbors in the south-western part of Franklin Hills.

Three nicely dressed neat looking men rang a doorbell and said that they were from the Department of Water and Power and needed to check . . . whatever. The resident let them in; and shortly one of them asked her husband to show him something in the yard, after which another asked the wife to show him something else outside. As she stepped out of the house both residents realized that the third "inspector" was now alone. She returned immediately, but by that time the third man was gone—and so was personal property, and cash which had been saved for a special trip.

The moral? As we all know, and all too easily forget, it is sadly necessary to be sceptical of anyone who rings your doorbell. Genuine utility workers will have ID's, usually uniforms, and will understand if you need to verify their identity by phone. We can all be thankful that in this instance no one was hurt. Surely the loss of the travel budget is very distressing; but nothing like seeing a loved one or neighbor harmed. We are fortunate to live in a peaceful place; crimes against persons are very rare here, but rare is no consolation if that rare occurrence touches your own life.

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## LOS FELIZ BRANCH LIBRARY

### SUMMER EVENTS

by Pearl M. Yonezawa, Senior Librarian

There are exciting events coming to the Los Feliz Branch of the Los Angeles Public Library this summer. The annual Children's & Teen's Reading Program this year is *A World of Tales* and will be held from June 13th to September 3rd. Special Reading Club programs, open to all, will be on Thursday afternoons from 4:00- 5:00.

Other special programs include a beginning adult Yoga demonstration class on Saturday July 18th from 10:30-noon, Stamp Club for all ages meeting on September 12th, and the regular Friends of the Library Book Sale held the 4th Saturday of each month.

Although there have been delays caused by the El Niño rains, work is progressing rapidly at the construction site on the corner of Hillhurst and Franklin. Photographs of the interior work are on display in the current library building at 1801 Hillhurst Ave.

Come in and visit soon.



## Checking Out Our New Library

By Bruce Carroll

At the intersection of Franklin and Hillhurst it's not hard to recognize what is on three of the four corners. Mini-malls and gas stations are all too familiar to all of us. But, if it weren't for the sign saying it's the new Los Feliz Branch Library that's being built on the southeast corner, it would be hard to say just what it was.

In fact, even with the sign, a prominent part of architect Barton Phelps' imaginative structure is raising that age old question: "What is it?" The guesses range from: a new Square Burger franchise, to a library appropriate '90's version of Get Smart's "cone of silence," to a drive-thru book checkout with a roof on steroids.

The LA City Library's Hollywood area manager, Jennifer Lambelet, denies all these rumors and explains it's not a novel idea, just "a very attractive place with good light for people to sit and read." She also points to another of the library's features that's being misunderstood in its unfinished form. "There's a little storybook area that's off the children's area that right now because the lighting is not in, nor is the seating area, that looks like a dungeon either for bad staff or bad patrons."

But Lambelet likely would favor locking El Niño in a dungeon for the library's construction delays. The two extra months, she says, is "strictly weather related...if we don't have the kind of rains we had last year I think we'll be okay. If not, it could be delayed further."

As things stand now what was scheduled to be a December Xmas present looks more like a Valentine gift. And the community has already shown it has a heart donating more than \$6,000 to realtor Elisabeth Klock's campaign to finance new books.

Continued on page 23

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Moving the old books will require closing down the temporary library about a month before the new building opens. Despite the fact the two buildings are only 148 steps apart, Lambelet says, "we'll still use a truck." But the move won't be as difficult as our library's last move after the Northridge quake. "The entire collection ended up on the ground," recalled Lambelet. "It was like a giant jigsaw puzzle."

What's puzzling library officials these days is how to keep up with the demand for technology. While falling computer prices will allow our new library to have between 18 and 24 computer stations, Lambelet concedes, "We find that basically whatever we open up with we need more the very next day."

To help prepare for that "next day" library donations may be made through FHRA by designating your contribution to the Library.

*Accompanying photos, taken early in June, courtesy of Los Feliz Branch, L.A. Public Library*



**The Last Eight Houses Featured Here Sold**



**Karen Weiss**



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NEW  RENEWAL

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ TEL (H) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ TEL(W) \_\_\_\_\_

- I'm willing to help in:  Planning /Zoning  Graffiti  Crime/Safety  Traffic  Library  Newsletter prod.  
 Historic Preservation  Environmental  Parks  Gangs  Tutoring  WEB SITE  ABC-TV  legal  
 Telephone tree  Membership  Beautification  Disaster Prep  other \_\_\_\_\_

DUES are \$20.00 per couple or \$10.00 per person; AMOUNT ENCLOSED:  \$10  \$20  \$50  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Larger contributions are extremely welcome. Thank you for joining FHRA!**

# ARE YOU A GOOD SAMARITAN?

By Don Waldrop

I had just come out of my house and was packing my bags into my car – leaving late for a trip to San Diego and I needed to stop at the bank for some ATM cash. I was approached by a man in a camper truck, his left forearm covered with blood – looked really bad. There was a bloody towel on the seat beside him and he asked for my help.

"I'm your neighbor up the street, you know the house with the wood fence, four doors up around the curve? 1948...you know the house. My wife and you met last year. I burned my arm really bad just now and I need to get to the emergency room down at Kaiser! Can you help me? I don't have enough money to check in at Kaiser and my wife is not home. She is going to meet me at Kaiser, but right now I have to come up with \$40 in order to go to the emergency room".

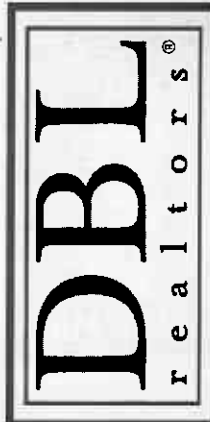
Now, here is my neighbor, whom I have never met, asking me for help. He needs money urgently to care for a badly burned arm which seems to be getting bloodier as we talk. I looked at him and quickly made a decision: he needs \$40, I will give it to him. I look in my wallet and realize I have not made it to the bank yet. Oh god!

So, I say to him, "Follow me to the bank, I will get some cash from the ATM." We fly off to the bank, him right behind me and at the bank I give him \$40 plus another \$5 for parking, at his request. He quickly goes off toward Kaiser.

On my way to San Diego, I thought more about the above event and something was bothering me – "1948!" My house number is 1940 and my next door neighbor's address is 2000. There is no 1948. So, I must have not remembered the right number. When I returned from my trip, I walked up the hill, looking for his house, the house with the board fence. No such house. I have been scammed!

Up the hill, a neighbor I have known for years was standing outside his house so I started to tell him about the scam. As I got to the part about the burned arm, my neighbor continued for me, "and I need \$40 to get into Kaiser's Emergency Room!" He had been scammed by the same guy about a year ago! Furthermore, he had tracked him down! He lives here in our neighborhood!

I checked with the police about this crime – according to them, even though I thought it was fraud, since I handed him the money under my own volition he is free to continue doing this against his neighbors. So watch out for your neighborhood scam master! And if you've already been hit, contact me, (because I know where he lives!) – (323) 664-4124.



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