

# OVERVIEW

## NOW ITS MY TURN

### SAYING GOOD BYE, THE HARD WAY

By Elena De Vos

I'm that rarity, an L.A. native, direct from this neighborhood. Every street brims with memories of three generations of my family.

My grandparents and parents regularly took me to the pony rides at Griffith Park and to ride the trains at Travel Town and to visit the Old Zoo, full of its cages and dank walkways, smelling the way a kid thinks a zoo should smell. Friendship Day Camp met at the big fountain by the tennis courts on Riverside Drive; it was there I caught my first frog in the L.A. river. I rode the merry-go-round hundreds of times as a child and attended (what only can be called) love-ins at the same spot in my late teens.

I strolled with my mother through shady Fern Dell when you could do so safely. My brothers held their Cub Scout picnics at the barbecue grounds by the Greek Theater where our family would come for the hot-dogs and sunsets. My Saturday art lessons in elementary school were at the Barnsdall Art Center, topped off by pastry and singing at Sarno's.

Sometimes my father and I would go to Thrifty's together to buy nickel ice cream cones and look at the magazines at its newsstand. At 16 I learned to drive on the streets winding up to the observatory, my teenage haunt. Yes, this is home.

When I returned to L.A. after finishing graduate school and ending my marriage, I gravitated here, leasing a house on Hollyvista where I convinced the owners to sell to me at the peak of the housing boom. By not using a broker, I saved a bundle, but I still paid a small fortune, "After all," I told myself, "If I don't buy now, when will I be able to?"

The former owners cleared over a quarter of a million dollars after living in the house fourteen years. Unfortunately, I did not do so well, by any accounting method, creative or otherwise.

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Tree planters applaud John Yingling of ABC-TV. The studio provided everything from parking to T-shirts, from restrooms to lunch

### FHRA'S "GREEN FOR A DAY" DRIVES URBAN UGLIES AWAY

By Bruce Carroll

What do Socrates, KABC weatherman Dallas Raines, and Lila the cat have in common? If you weren't wielding a shovel along Prospect and Talmadge Avenues on Saturday morning, March 27th, you probably haven't a clue...so read on.

That was the day when over 200 volunteers recruited by the FHRA, the Los Feliz Improvement Association and ABC-TV planted 58 trees to beautify the neighborhood. The group assembled at 8 a.m. in the ABC-TV parking lot where a last-minute refueling on donuts and coffee, plus a commemorative t-shirt were provided by ABC. Under the slogan "Green for a Day," the mostly green (in experience) volunteers were tutored by the very green (in clothing) troops from the Los Angeles Conservation Corps. All the trees, tools and a mighty amount of assistance were provided by the LACC.

Project manager Peter Lassen, who headed the LACC staff of 20 youthful workers, rated the planting "among the better ones." Lassen, who spends several days a week turning novices into tree planters, praised our "good turnout and good workers." Noting we planted "very fast"—58 trees in about three hours—Lassen indicated

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

### One Down, One to Go

What was the proper action? We had a major uprising in the city in May of 1992, resulting from a jury verdict that many (possibly most) citizens of all races didn't believe was just. A segment of our society had revolted against the system by burning and looting, mostly in their own neighborhoods but in others as well.

We had seen nearby stores looted and knew about the attempted fire-bombing of a residence in the Los Feliz hills. Now we were looking at two upcoming related trials with a possibility (even a probability) of more unpopular verdicts.

The board of directors of the Association had worked to come up with a practical preparedness plan for a possible crisis. The Association joined a loose coalition of neighboring associations to develop an area-wide strategy.

We talked with a consultant, previously active in earthquake preparedness, who was now consulting on riot preparedness and who recommended street blockading. There had been some blockading in other Hollywood Hills areas during last year's events and this was considered successful by these groups.

Should we do the same? Should we close off our entrance streets, with residents manning the blockades? Or should we do it with hired security personnel so as not to endanger our own residents? What would be the liability position of the FHRA if some accident happened?

We needed information: how serious could this become? What is the likelihood that there would be any riotous events in our neighborhood? We had sources for information, both police and civilian, and all were, while tending to push us toward mobilization, extremely hard to substantiate.

The entire purpose of our March meeting was to give our members information on what we were planning to do to help protect lives and property from possible disaster and to prevent any incursion into our neighborhood.

Unfortunately, we made a serious mistake - we quoted an unverified rumor. Also unfortunately, the news media was feeding on items like this to stay alive since the indicators steadily tended toward a non-riot. The Los Angeles Times published a particularly negative and inaccurate piece which was picked up by other media outlets, including KFI, Channel 13, KCRW and Inside Edition, and brought negative publicity for our Association.

This we regret, hoping that no lasting damage has been done. But more importantly, we want to know what you, our residents, want. Do you want the FHRA to concern itself with the possible repercussions of the Reginald Denny / L.A. Four trial in July or not? Should we enter again in what some believe is a political minefield without a way out or should we be concerned at all? Please write us, or call the FHRA Hotline at (213) 664-7247 and give us your opinion.

— DON WALDROP

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RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION  
HOTLINE (213) 664-7247**

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#### **DISASTER PREPAREDNESS:**

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Bruce Carroll 665-9875

#### **PLANNING & ZONING:**

Riccardo Accorsi, 666-2431

### Franklin Hills OVERVIEW

*Publisher & Editor:* Don Waldrop

*Copy Editor:* Carol Mason

#### *Contributing Writers:*

Riccardo Accorsi, Bruce Carroll,

Violet Weber, Lisa Brenneis,

Jim Churchill.

*Copy Input:* Carol Skinner

*Editorial and Advertising Sales:*  
(213) 664-4124; FAX 664-4192

The Franklin Hills OVERVIEW is published on an occasional basis. We invite your comments on matters relating to articles and the community and, space permitting, will publish letters mailed to Editor, OVERVIEW, Box 29122, Los Angeles, CA 90027

# FHRA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Members come and vote  
for your Board of Directors

Thursday, MAY 20, 1993

Check in starts at 6:45 p.m. Meeting at 7:15 p.m. sharp  
L.I.L.A. (THE FRENCH AMERICAN SCHOOL)  
4155 RUSSELL AVENUE

(Entrance to campus one block east of Talmadge on Russell Avenue)

HOMEMADE GOODIES

## Nominations for the Board of Directors

Submitted by Jim Churchill, Chair  
Nominating Committee

The job of the Nominating Committee is to find the best people we know to serve on the Board of Directors. The slate that we have submitted below represents our best effort. It's important to note, however, that there are a lot of people in Franklin Hills that we don't know. **If there is someone that you think would be a good board member (including yourself) we urge you strongly to nominate that person.** You can do this in a couple of ways: anybody may be nominated from the floor at the Annual Meeting, which this year will be on May 19; or you could call any Nominating Committee member and arrange for one of us to nominate your candidate or have him or her nominated at the Annual Meeting.

If you know of such a person, we won't be offended – we'll be glad, because we're always looking for additional contributions of time and energy. Our numbers are listed below. The primary qualifications for serving on the Board are (a) you have to be able to come to the monthly Board meetings; (b) you need listening skills – you must be able to hear someone speak whom you may not agree with, and still get along with him or her. That's all it takes (plus you have to be a member of FHRA.)

Six Board positions are open this year: terms expire for Chris Boutelle, Bruce Carroll, Gene Cornell, Bryant Crouse, Arnie Netka, and Don Waldrop.

Under the by-laws, the nominating committee reports its nominations to all members two weeks before the Annual Meeting. At the Annual Meeting, any other member in good standing may be nominated from the floor.

This year's nominating committee consisted of Vi Weber (663-6427), Bryant Crouse (666-0307) and Jim Churchill (663-0580).

Of the six Board Members whose terms are due to expire, five have been able to be continually active, showing up at Board meetings and strongly pro-active. Those five are nominated to serve another term. That left us with one vacancy to fill, and we're pleased to have found a nominee who we think will do an excellent job on the board. She has already been working with the organization for about a year.

The nominees are:

Chris Boutelle — Chris Boutelle joined the Board in May 1991. An unfailing source of cheerful labor and a thoughtful,

## Disaster Preparedness: THE "BIG ONE" HITS FRANKLIN HILLS — NOT yet

by  
BRUCE  
CARROLL



Chris Boutelle and Jay Glassman act as stretcher bearers.

The contrived cries and mimicked moans of volunteer victims may have awakened some Franklin Hills residents Saturday, April 24th. The ABC parking lot was the scene of a disaster...not the kind TV is sometimes accused of foisting on the viewing public...but the kind we should all be prepared for.

A dozen members of the FHRA disaster response teams joined with ABC teams to triage the two dozen teenagers sporting fake fracture and more serious simulated symptoms. The rehearsal for the BIG ONE was a joint exercise involving the fire department and local hospitals where the "victims" were transported to test emergency room readiness.

Fire officials, on the "disaster scene" only as observers, sensed a lack of coordination as the root of most problems. One paramedic who observed that we "need a lot of training," also noted that, "it

probably went as well as it would have if it was a real disaster." Vi Weber, who heads the FHRA Disaster Preparedness program said one message was very clear, "what it taught me was that when no one is in charge, take charge."

The fire chief observed big problems, like the lack of leadership, and small details that could turn rescue workers into casualties. Chief Tucker noted, "I saw very few legs bent when lifting." Using your back instead of knees when lifting stretchers could lead to back injuries.

Another LAFD observer termed it a "good effort" that pointed up the need for more practice. Vi Weber intends "to have more and regular refresher courses" for our FHRA disaster teams, hopefully two a year. All agreed with Ms. Weber that they "learned a lot" and that knowledge applied and practiced will likely save lives and suffering when the real big one hits. •

### ARE YOU EQUIPPED FOR FIRE?

The FHRA Disaster Preparedness Group, headed by Violet Weber, urges every household in the Franklin Hills to have at least one household-sized fire extinguisher on hand at all times. This may help a great deal in controlling a fire until the city firefighters can reach your home. In times of a large scale disaster such as a major earthquake, this may mean the difference between saving your home (or your neighbor's) and a potential great loss of property and human life.

You should have one 5lb, dry chemical fire extinguisher rated at least 2-A:10-B:C for each 600 square feet of your home. One should be located in the kitchen since that is the number one place fires start in the home. Others could be near sleeping areas and possibly in the garage and your car.

Type A:B:C extinguishers fight wood, paper, cloth, plus flammable liquid and electrical fires. These are basically all of the fires that a homeowner should need to

## needs & wants

### Second Annual Street Fair

sponsored by the  
Los Feliz Village  
Business Association  
**Sunday, May 23**  
from 11 am to 4 pm  
on Hillhurst Avenue,  
(between Clarissa and Price)  
Fine food, gifts, exhibits, music, magic,  
petting zoo, games and much more.

Information: Ellie Sandler, 662-7747  
Stephanie Chiacos, 663-2430

### LOS FELIZ LIBRARY

Volunteer TUTORs are needed for a tutorial program, estimated time per week: 2-3 hours.

Donations needed: Books and videos to sell, patio furniture, indoor plants and watering can, outdoor planters and plants.

The Los Feliz Library is beginning a rental program with multiple copies of books taken from the best seller lists. The books will rent for 10 cents a day, with no reserves being taken. PROJECT BESTSELLER is being funded by the Los Feliz Friends of the Library.

The Library has urgent need of a working typewriter. If you can donate one, please call.

CONTACT: Thea March, Los Feliz Library, 1939 1/2 Hillhurst Avenue, (213) 664-2903

fight. Read the picture instructions on the box when purchasing. Familiarize yourself and your family with the operation of the extinguisher before you need to use it.

2-A:10-B:C type fire extinguishers are available at our local Baller Hardware on Hyperion at Tracy as well as at major discount hardware stores such as Home Depot or HomeBase from \$20.00.

Isn't it worth a little money for the peace of mind that comes from knowing you are prepared for an emergency? We think so.

For more information call the FHRA HOTLINE (213) 664-724 7 •

## • community phones •

### IMPORTANT COMMUNITY PHONE NUMBERS

#### ABC-TELEVISION:

John Yingling, Plant Manager, (310) 557-5000  
Security: (310) 557-5354.

**CITY ANIMAL REGULATION:** (213) 222-7138

**COUNCILMAN JOHN FERRARO, 4th District:**

Room M-30, City Hall, 200 Spring St., (213) 485-3337  
District Office, 625 S. New Hampshire (213) 485-4377

#### ENVIRONMENTAL:

Recycling: (800)-CITYSAN

Rebate for Ultra Low Flush Toilet installation.  
(213) 481-5800; (800)-722-1122

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

Hazardous Waste Hotline (213) 237-1634

**FIRE DEPARTMENT: Emergency 911;**

Non-emergency: 485-6235;

#### GRAFFITI:

On private property: (213) 253-2687

On public property: (818) 772-7753

FHRA Graffiti Action Coordinator: (213) 661-4351

**LOS FELIZ PUBLIC LIBRARY:** (213) 664-2903.

Hours: Mon-Tues 12:30-8:00; Wed-Thurs 12:30-5:30;  
Fri-Sat 10:00-5:30.

**PARKING ENFORCEMENT DISPATCH:** (818) 904-1418

**POLICE: Emergency 911;**

Northeast Division: Non-emergency (213) 485-2563

**RECYCLING INFO:** (800) CITY SAN

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

**STREET LIGHTING:** (213) 482-5483

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

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

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

**WATER & POWER:** (800) 722-1122

## FHRA HOTLINE

The Franklin Hills Residents Association reminds you that we now have our own telephone number. By calling **(213) 664-7247**, you can ask questions, leave messages for board and committee members or make suggestions.

It's not exactly a "hotline," and getting an "800" number didn't seem to make much sense, so we hope you find our plain old neighborhood number useful.

## FHRA HOTLINE

### (213) 664-7247

## HAMS

If you are a ham radio operator or if you have handheld Ham or CB radios, or a CB base station and are willing to help on the Disaster Preparedness team, please contact Bruce Carroll at 665-9875

## GRAFFITI ALERT

*Plans are being made for another FHRA community paint-out. If you would like to be involved or if you know of a trouble area, call Isabel Dietz: 661-4351.*

## Patronize "Our" Businesses

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

The businesses that have shown interest in reaching you and your neighbors by advertising in this news-letter 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 by utilizing their services regularly and, by all means, tell them you saw their ads in the "Overview."

## TRUE BLUE: OFFICER PAUL AFDAHL PROFILED

By Violet Weber

Let's turn the blazing media spotlight to the positive side of the police force in our city for a change and get to know the person in charge of protecting those of us who live in Franklin Hills.

Senior Lead Officer Paul Afdahl didn't dream of being a police officer when his parents moved him and three brothers from South Dakota to California when he was seven years old. Nor did he imagine that someday he would be one of the thousands of men in blue caught up in a drama focusing the world's attention on a police force once held up as a model to the nation and the world.

To 23-year veteran Afdahl, the LAPD is still the best. His career as a policeman wasn't intentional as careers go. A recruitment ad in the newspaper in 1970 looked interesting to the footloose young man fresh from a three-year stint in the Army during the Vietnam conflict. After being stationed in freezing Korea, warm Southern California seemed like a pretty good idea. He still enjoys the 40-mile drive to the Northeast Division station where he oversees a staff of twelve assigned to car 11A1.

Afdahl is the quintessential police officer, but with a really big difference. It's not putting bad guys away that keeps his adrenaline flowing. The strapping 6' 2" officer most enjoys the daily patrol and public relations aspects of his job. Afdahl directs his officers where and when to respond, settles problems within the Division, liazes with our councilpersons, keeps close tabs on area complaints, and still makes time to get out on patrol, his first love. He likes keeping in constant

contact with the area's residents and business people. He even answers his telephone. If you dial his personal telephone number, 213-847-3138, you'll get the affable officer in person. If he isn't there, he always calls back.

In addition, Afdahl puts in hundreds of extra hours attending the local Neighborhood Crime Watch meetings. He not only addresses the problems of the latest crimes going down, but also offers valuable advice on the prevention of personal crime, crime in the home, and the latest crime trend, carjacking.

Afdahl waxes angrily eloquent about drugs as a continuing threat to peace and tranquillity on our streets and a major reason for the increase in violent crime worldwide.

In spite of his service longevity, Afdahl is still a young man and retirement is only a topic of conversation now. However, he and his wife are improving their golf game and Afdahl carefully maintains his fishing rod. Their frequent travels take them to likely retirement states like Arkansas, Utah, Nevada, and North Carolina, his wife's home state. But then you hear his enthusiasm for the good-neighbor police programs he works for like the original Paint Out Program, Parenting Program, Youth Athletic League, and his and his wife's work with youths in the Episcopalian Church, and you know he is having a much better time now than any retirement plans could provide.

Paul Afdahl is the kind of police officer you would like to have as your next-door neighbor. I wish he was mine.



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## FHRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### WHAT WE'RE UP TO

Since the mission of the *Overview* is to trumpet the message of the FHRA, and since FHRA President and *Overview* publisher Don Waldrop is a professional horn blower (albeit trombone not trumpet), this column on the actions of the FHRA Board of Directors usually has only a few minor notes to sound.

But there has been one major theme replayed at this year's board meetings. What Waldrop termed the need for "new vitality." We always have enthusiastic spectators and at the tree planting we gathered an outpouring of helping hands. What we seek is enough leaders willing to actively head up committees and provide the spark to ignite action. Arsonists need not apply. If you see a something that needs to be done and have the desire to work with others to see it through, call the hotline, 664-7247, and let's talk.

The February Board meeting was a special dinner treat hosted by board member Frank Yogus. We all got to know each other better, enjoyed delicious food and drink and still got some business done.

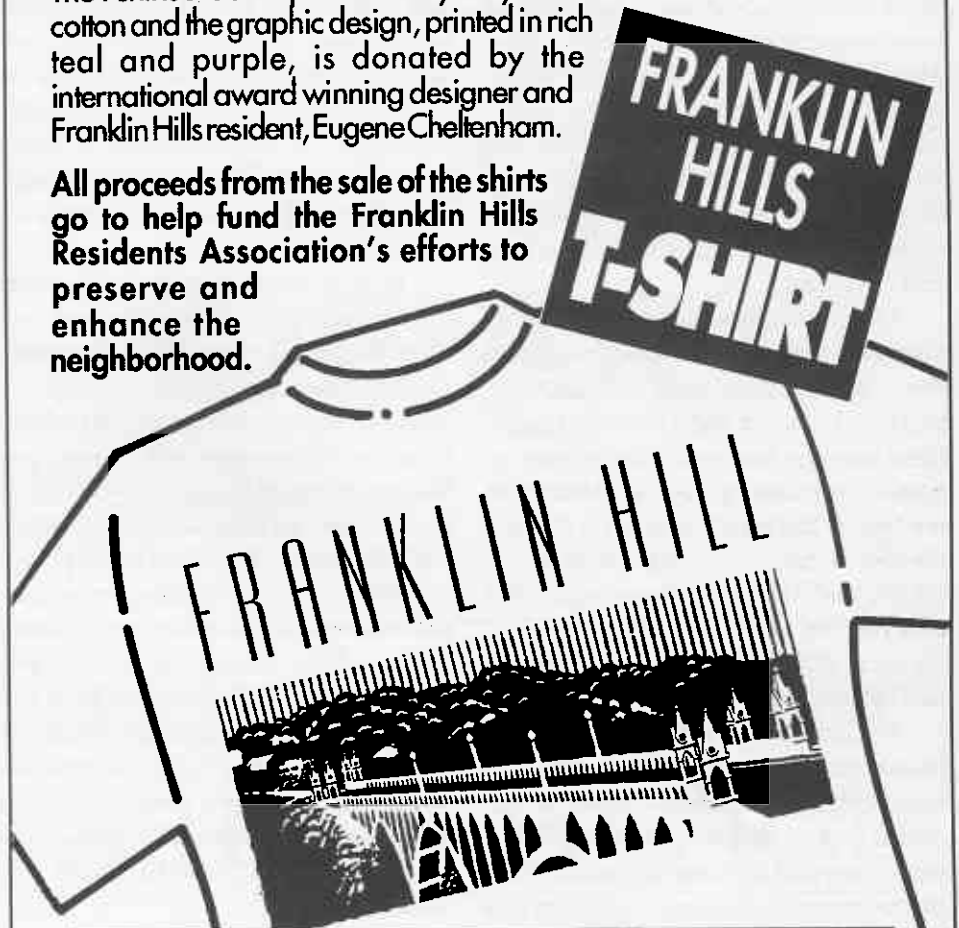
March's board meeting was back to the regular time and place: the 3rd Tuesday of each month at LILA French American school. We heard how the deliberate wheels of bureaucracy are ever so slowly processing our request to have Franklin Ave taken off the list of secondary highways. As part of our disaster preparedness effort, we gave the go ahead to purchase six handheld CB radios and a base station. We discussed the need for additional funds for the median beautification and voted a contingency appropriation for extra trees if needed for the Talmadge tree planting. We also made plans for the FHRA Annual Meeting and elections dealt with elsewhere in this issue of the *Overview*. Let's have a big turnout on Wednesday evening May 19th.

-Bruce Carroll, Secretary

**Y**ou'll be proud to wear this t-shirt with its classically designed graphics that show the Shakespeare Bridge and a silhouette of our historic Franklin Hills.

The t-shirts are a crisp white heavy-duty 100% cotton and the graphic design, printed in rich teal and purple, is donated by the international award winning designer and Franklin Hills resident, Eugene Cheltenham.

**All proceeds from the sale of the shirts go to help fund the Franklin Hills Residents Association's efforts to preserve and enhance the neighborhood.**



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T-shirts subject to availability.  
Please allow 2 to 4 weeks for delivery.

NO. OF SHIRTS			PRICE	
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			POSTAGE & HANDLING	\$2.00
			TOTAL	

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FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS  
ASSOCIATION MEMBER?:

YES

NO

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De Vos, from p. 1

I sunk my entire inheritance and profit from my former house into my new home. Although the payments and taxes were enormous, I loved my house with its fireplace, hardwood floors, privacy, fabulous views, patios with the smell of jasmine, and—of course—the warm neighbors. The house was built in the year I was born, a good omen. As it turned out, it was, though not in the way that I imagined.

Life's path takes its twists. Despite planning never to marry again, I met Bruce and married him straightaway, much to both our surprise and delight. Here was the husband I had given up hope of ever finding—yet he insisted that we live at the beach where he already owned a condo. There were worse things, yes? An old Jewish saying advises that you can't have everything in life at the same time. The house went on the market and I moved to the beach.

For one year, we tried to sell the house, making its huge payments as it stood empty. Ultimately we gave up and rented it. We paid more than a \$1000 a month beyond the collected rent to meet the mortgage and taxes. Two years and thousands of dollars more passed by as we tried to wait out the slump.

This year, we tried refinancing to take advantage of the lower interest rates, hoping to get the payments in line with the rents. The banks said no—the house's value had decreased over \$100,000. To them, we were not any more "qualified" for having had made all payments on time for four years; a person starting fresh could get a much better loan than ours, they advised us. Oh (or was that *ow*?) we said, stunned. Now what? Now you sell ice in Alaska.

We put the house on the market again and there it stayed for seven months. If you read the papers and listen to your neighbors, you'll hear stories like ours from all over town. We started our sacrificial offering to the real estate gods at \$5000 less than comparable homes and continued to lower our price until we

were asking less than what we owed.

The good news? It sold, finally. The bad news? My down payment and inheritance were irretrievable, we depleted our savings, and we took an additional loss at the sale. My dictionary says "loss" is the condition of being deprived of what you once had or ought to have had. That definition works for me.

In many ways, though, we consider ourselves lucky. We still own our affordable condo at the beach. Our credit record should stay intact, although we must come up with the difference between what we owe and what we got. We are fortunate to be young enough to have time to try to make up the \$100,000 plus we lost.

While I had been setting the brilliant real estate deal into action, my husband had been investing his money into Executive Life insurance, the firm that went bankrupt last year. As I said, we were destined to marry. Yes, we are lucky to have found one another in this sprawling town, especially starting out as far apart as Franklin Hills and Redondo Beach.

Since the house went into escrow, I feel as though my family history is being sold too—does it matter I'm the only one left in my family who remembers that our first phone number was also a Normandy exchange? I can barely bring myself to say goodbye to the neighborhood where— a lifetime ago—my father and I ate pistachio ice cream cones while we read magazines at the Thrifty at Vermont and Sunset.

How about *au revoir*, instead? •

### **MR. ENTHUSIASM!**

*Like to tell other people about a good thing? Put your enthusiasm to work. Earn good income, part - or full - time  
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Nominations, from p. 3

calming presence at meetings, Chris is active in Disaster Preparedness and Neighborhood Watch; he also coordinates distribution of *The Overview*. He has lived in Franklin Hills for 12 years.

**Bruce Carroll:** What can we say about Bruce? A retired producer for ABC News, a resident of Franklin Hills for many years, he has been serving the Board as Secretary, Treasurer, Photographer, *Overview* contributor, and Chief Humorist for two years.

**Bryant Crouse:** Bryant has served as Board vice-president since the FHRA was founded. An executive recruiter and meeting facilitator, Bryant's perpetual goals are (a) increasing active membership, (b) developing a functioning committee structure, and (c) keeping the meetings flowing smoothly.

**Arnie Netka:** Arnie, an 18-year resident of Franklin Hills, is Director of Purchasing of the Port of Los Angeles; his wife, Suzanne, teaches first grade at Franklin Elementary School. He joined

Continued next page

## *K-9 Tubs*

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the Board last year, to fill a vacancy created by a resignation. The Committee feels that Arnie is a constructive Board member and should serve a full term. He is particularly interested in crime issues.

**Carol Skinner:** The nominee who is new to the Board this year, Carol is a retired LA Unified School District teacher of choral music. She has been tending to the FHRA mailing list for close to a year now, updating the database, printing out labels as appropriate, keeping track of the membership. Carol is already working closely with the Board, and has demonstrated reliability, competence and enthusiasm. She has lived in Franklin Hills since 1969.

**Don Waldrop:** Don has served as President of the FHRA since its inception, and was very active for years before that. He is FHRA's sparkplug, the guy who talks to everybody else on the phone or in person, keeps the ball rolling and the scene active.

This slate will be presented at the May 19 Annual Meeting for election. At that time, nominations will also be welcome from the floor. •



# THE STATE OF ART

paintings • sculpture • fine prints • folk art

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