

OVERVIEW

SPRING / SUMMER 2021 - ISSUE 61

What
Lies
Ahead

Parenting in the
Time of Covid

Tom LaBonge
A Life's Work

FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION



President's Message

What lies ahead

Alison Wallace

The theme of this issue is "What lies ahead." Like many of you, I also ask, "...and when can we get there?"

Coming past the end of the one-year mark, I find myself looking for inspiration and connection. Embarking upon the first year of presidency for an organization based in community and "coming together" has presented challenges. Fortunately, I have been lucky to work with a board full of positivity, pragmatism, Zoom skills and (most importantly) good humor. As a team, we strive to make an impact in the local community where possible. From stair and garden clean ups, to yard signs, to holiday décor, to new membership software and ongoing median investment, we want to support our community and prepare for the time when we can hold in-person events.

Throughout the most locked-down days of COVID-19, I kept hearing the band *Gorillaz* whisper, "...remember that it's all in your head." While this pandemic may not just be just in our heads, I do believe that often creative solutions to getting through the end of COVID-19 lie within our mental control. Sometimes just getting out for a walk around the block helps. Other times, answers come from unexpected places.

In December, my Ronda Vista Place neighbors and I participated in a holiday cookie bake-off. Each household baked two-dozen cookies and left them at the coordinator's doorstep. The redistributed assortment included a ballot that was texted to the coordinator. I applaud the brilliance of the "Little Pink Houses" cookie (photograph right) inspired by our newest nearby neighbor. The creators were most deserving of their awards in both the "best use of frosting" and "best soundtrack" categories. I sincerely appreciated the skills of veteran bakers and those non-bakers willing to participate. The laughter and ensuing sugar-coma lifted my spirits and reminded me of the importance of community and finding connections.



RVP HOLIDAY BAKE-OFF SUBMISSION, "LITTLE PINK HOUSES"
📷: ALISON WALLACE

In May, we hope to hold a hybrid FHRA annual meeting, with a combination of in-person and remote online attendance. The reopening process throughout the city and state remains fluid, so our team continues to look for compelling ways to host this traditional event. We want to meet our members where they are at, whether they are nervous about in-person events, or weary of online experiences or somewhere in between.

If you have thoughts or suggestions about innovatively connecting in Franklin Hills, please email us at fhra@franklinhills.org. We love hearing and sharing new ideas.

What lies ahead? Whatever and whenever it is, I sincerely look forward to turning the corner and meeting up with many of you in person. The future is coming on.

-AW



In This Issue:

President's Message	2
Building Bridges	4
2020 FHRA Meeting Recap	5
About the FHRA	5
The FHRA Logo	6
Neighborhood Contacts	7
2021 FHRA Annual Meeting	8
Street Talk	9
Welcome Kits	11
Remembering Tom LaBonge	12
Parenting in the time of COVID	14
Franklin Hills Real Estate 2021	16
Some Thoughts on the Garden	18
Median Garden Update	19
Stair Clean-Up	20
Good Looking	21
Bird's-eye View	22
FHRA Membership Form	23

Board Members

Alison Wallace (President)
Chris Boutelle (Vice-President)
Alexandra Rowe (Secretary)
David McDonald (Treasurer)
Suzanne Carney
Cameron Fedderman
Eric Frase
Rick LaRocca
Cesar Quinones
Katherine Reed
Melinda Taylor
Alexandra Mardirossian-Quinones
(Student Representative)

Contributors

Liz Arnold M.D.	Carole Nese
Suzanne Carney	Pauline O'Connor
Peter Clothier	Katherine Reed
Josh Eels	Robin Shorr
Matthew Lyberg	Melinda Taylor
David McDonald	Yvonne Troxclair
Shirley Mims	Alison Wallace
Charley Mims	



CHI DYNASTY

EST. 1983



AUTHENTIC CHINESE
CUISINE WITH A
CONTEMPORARY FLAIR.

SERVING LOS FELIZ
FOR OVER 30 YEARS.
FAMILY OWNED
AND OPERATED



1813 HILLHURST AVE • FULL BAR • DINE-IN • TAKEOUT • DELIVERY

(323) 667-3388

ORDER ONLINE
CHIDYNASTY.COM

FAX 323-667-3393

Building Bridges

with Halloween Décor

Yvonne Troxclair

2020 was rough. It hit all of us differently. I know I felt a little lost, a little helpless and a little less cheerful than usual. So, when I was tapped to help decorate our beloved Shakespeare bridge for fall and Halloween, I was excited!

I love decorating my house, and I've always loved the way the FHRA decorates the bridge for Christmas, but they'd never done other holidays. This was a first, but 2020 was a year of "firsts". This felt like an opportunity to do something positive, bright, and hopeful.

One windy day in October, we showed up at the bridge with our decorations and transformed our lovely bridge into something for the whole community to enjoy.

Throughout the month we took turns checking on it, fixing things that had fallen. While there, more than a few people waved or honked or gave a thumbs up. I wondered, had it really made a difference? So, I posted a question on Nextdoor to see if our humble efforts had brightened peoples' days, and I received the loveliest responses! It did matter. It did help and made people smile and feel civic pride.



AUTUMN DECORATIONS AT THE SHAKESPEARE BRIDGE

📷 RICK LARocca

"It was refreshing to see these decorations as a symbol of Franklin Hills pride! Thank you for making this little corner of the world a beautiful place."

Monica T

"The Shakespeare Bridge is one of my favorite things about this neighborhood, and seeing it all dolled up for the holidays is such a treat. Thank you for doing it!"

Sandra S

"Anything people do to uplift people in their community is totally wonderful and during these times it is even more important."

Danny K

The FHRA has decided this will be a new tradition, with other holiday décor ideas on the way. Until then, keep smiling, being kind and celebrating our beautiful community. Something positive, bright, and hopeful is just around the corner.



About The Overview

The Overview is a semi-annual publication created and distributed by volunteer residents, neighbors, friends, and supporters of the Franklin Hills Residents Association, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization

@franklinhills

@franklin_hills

www.franklinhills.org

FHRA@franklinhills.org
323-908-6078 voicemail/fax

Co-Editors – Suzanne Carney, Rick LaRocca, & Elizabeth Richardson

Layout Designer – David Padilla

Cover Designer – Peter Kagan & Suzanne Carney

Cover Photography – Peter Kagan

Cover Model – Graeme Gilison

Ad Sales - Chris Boutelle
ads@franklinhills.org
323-309-3434

MyLA311 App

Report potholes, pay a bill, request City services, or get information about city service. Download the app to your phone, or visit the website to find out more about 311.

<https://myla311.lacity.org>



2020 FHRA Meeting Recap

An Annual Meeting Like No Other

Shirley Mims

In March 2020, as the Board and I were working on plans for the spring FHRA annual meeting, our state's first 'shelter-in-place' order came down. What to do? Zoom was new to most of us. Was it possible to hold the Annual Meeting via Zoom? It was and we did. On **Saturday, June 13th**, more than 40 people joined **FHRA's first virtual annual meeting**. It was great to "see" and hear from everyone after we had been isolated for so long then, even longer now.

We heard from special guests **Captain Scott Souter** of Fire Station 35, **Captain Arturo Sandoval** from LAPD Northeast division, **Erin Seinfeld**, **Field Deputy to Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl** of the 3rd district, and **LFNC president Jon Deutsch**.

Former **CD4 Councilman David Ryu** had his first in-car Zoom meeting as he stopped between events to join FHRA. He and his **field deputy Rachel Fox** gave a presentation to the winners of the student art contest. School Board member **Jackie Goldberg** talked in depth on how LAUSD is preparing to start classes and reopen schools.

Shirley and **Charley Mims** said their farewells as they stepped off the board



SCREENSHOT OF SOME OF THE PARTICIPANTS ON THE FHRA'S ANNUAL MEETING IN 2020. LAUSD SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER JACKIE GOLDBERG IS SPEAKING.  SHIRLEY MIMS

to open their seats for a new generation of residents to take the helm of the organization. Mr. Ryu also awarded Charley and Shirley with certificates of appreciation which they received after the meeting.

Fun comments in the chat box had messages such as...

Lots of "hi's, howdy's and hello's", including from Los Feliz Librarian Pearl Yonezawa.

"We love the garden and enjoy it every day! Support it strongly. Thank you, Melinda!"

In relation to the student art contest, "The pictures are fabulous! Thank you young women of Franklin Hills."

And, as I might have anticipated, "Can we wrap this up?" when the meeting ran long. The meeting concluded with **Treasurer and Zoom host David McDonald** giving a brief overview of the FHRA finances and urging members to contribute to the **Median Fund** to keep it looking beautiful. He reminded everyone that membership renewals can be made online as well as by mail.

While we missed seeing everyone in person, Zoom held a safe space for us to be able to at least see each other and connect with others in our Franklin Hills community.

This year FHRA is exploring the possibility of holding an in person meeting combined with online streaming so that even more people can participate. Stay tuned and sign up for **FHRAAlerts** at fhra@franklinhills.org to stay up to date on the latest news in Franklin Hills.

About the FHRA

Mission Statement: *The FHRA promotes a sense of community by bringing neighbors together to help create a safe and vibrant neighborhood for all!*

Purpose: This Association is organized and operated exclusively for charitable and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. This Association is a nonprofit public benefit corporation and is not organized for the private gain of any person. It is organized under the Nonprofit Public Benefit Law for public purposes. *(from Bylaws)*

Objective: The specific purpose of this Association is to improve the community and the quality of life and promote the common good and general welfare of the people in the Franklin Hills neighborhood. *(from Bylaws)*



The FHRA Logo

A Look Back and a Step Forward

Alison Wallace and Katherine Reed

Last fall we began work on a **Franklin Hills Residents Association** logo face lift. In this digital age, we needed more flexibility for its use for social media, the website and marketing materials. However, we wanted to retain the history and tradition of what had come before us.

Gene Cheltenham created the original logo. An artist and resident of Franklin Hills since 1984, Gene felt an affinity for this neighborhood at a very early age. He began volunteering in the Neighborhood Watch program shortly after moving into the neighborhood. He later served as an FHRA board member. His favorite community project was the Shakespeare Bridge reopening celebration event, with nearly 3,000 in attendance.

While on the FHRA board, Gene took the initiative and used his design skills to develop a logo. He found inspiration from the work of early 20th century California printmakers Frances Gearhart and William S. Rice. Specifically looking at Rice's woodcut titled "Windswept", we see the style he emulated. Gene chose this for its representation of the distinctive style of art that was being made in California at the time that the Franklin Hills community was established in the 1920's.

When approaching a logo update in 2020, we used our collective skills in design and branding. Alison initiated the conversation, and Katherine designed several rounds of options. **Rick LaRocca** and **Dave McDonald** provided pragmatic feedback before we took the updated logo to the full board for approval.

Attached to this article are visuals of the original and updated logos. We kept the sans serif font but increased the size of the words Franklin Hills for readability. We introduced green, invoking the rich landscapes we find here in Franklin Hills. The lines at the top of the bridge artwork were removed to give a clean and focused look. We also developed a text-only version for additional uses.

Gene thanked us for including him in the update process and gave the board positive feedback. While the original version has been altered, its spirit remains, much like the spirit of Franklin Hills and our community.



**FRANKLIN HILLS
RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

Updated Logo



**FRANKLIN HILLS
RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

Also usable as text only

**FRANKLIN HILLS
RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

KATHERINE REED AND ALISON WALLACE

Neighborhood Contacts

City of LA Contacts	
City Services	
	☎ 311
	✉ 311@lacity.org
Hours M-F	7am-7pm
Hours Sat - Sun	8:30 am-4:45 pm
Animal Services	☎ (888) 452-7381
Dead Animal Pickup (Sanitation)	extension 2
Lost Animals	extension 2
Barking Dogs	extension 3
Building & Safety Violations	☎ (213) 473-3231
Parking Enforcement (DOT)	☎ (213) 485-4184
Council District 4	
	☎ (213) 473-7004
Councilmember Nithya Raman (CD4)	✉ contactCD4@lacity.org
	☎ (213) 473-2311
Field Deputy	☎ 323-570-4335
Sarah Tanberg	✉ sarah.tanberg@lacity.org
Graffiti Removal	☎ 311
Homeless Services	☎ 211
LA County Info Line	☎ 211
Mayor Eric Garcetti, City of Los Angeles	
Central Area Representative	☎ (213) 978-0430
Angie Aramayo	✉ angie.aramayo@lacity.org
Neighborhood Prosecutor	☎ (213) 978-2230 or (323) 561-3403
Gabrielle Taylor	✉ gabrielle.taylor@lacity.org

Utilities	
Dig Alert (call before digging)	☎ 811
LADWP	☎ 1-800-DIAL-DWP (1-800-342-5397)
SoCalGas (inc. leak reporting)	☎ 1-800-427-2200
Sanitation	
Trash Bin Replacement	☎ (800) 773-2489x1
Bulky Item Removal	☎ (800) 773-2489x1

Community Contacts	
FHRA	☎ (323) 908-6078 ✉ FHRA@franklinhills.org
LAUSD	
LAUSD School Police	☎ (213) 625-6631
Marshall High School - Main#	☎ (323) 671-1400
King Middle School - Main#	☎ (323) 644-6700
Los Feliz Public Library	☎ (323) 913-4710
Lycée International de Los Angeles (LILA)	☎ (323) 665-4526 ✉ losfeliz@lilaschool.com
Prospect Studios	
Janet Campus, Production Services	☎ (323) 671-4022
Prospect Studio Security Shift Leader	☎ (323) 203-5201
David Ortiz	☎ (323) 671-5973
Security Operations Program Manager	

Emergency Services	
LAFD	
Fire Department: Emergency	☎ 911
Non-Emergency	☎ (213) 485-6185
Fire Station 35: 1601 Hillhurst	☎ (213) 485-6235
Fire Station 56: 2759 Rowena	☎ (213) 485-6256
Poison Control	☎ (800) 222-1222
LAPD	
Police Department, Emergency	☎ 911
Police Department, Northeast Division	☎ (323) 561-3211
	☎ (213) 793-0763
Sr. Lead Officer Jesse Aispuro	✉ 36072@lapd.online
	☎ (213) 793-0762
Sr. Lead Officer Lenny Davis	✉ 26028@lapd.online
Non-Emergency	☎ (877) ASK-LAPD or (877) 275-5273
Gang Problems	☎ (323) 561-3335
Noise Enforcement	☎ (213) 996-1251
Rape Hotline	☎ (310) 392-8381
Restraining Orders	✉ www.lapdonline.org

Simplicity.

When you need a quick answer to a simple question, do you call a committee? Of course not. In a committee, getting answers can be complicated and time-consuming. In real estate, "teams" sometimes work like committees. If you like dealing with a chain of command, hire a committee to sell your house. If you want answers and action now, hire me. It's simple: I'm where the buck stops!

1413-1415 Edgecliffe Drive
\$2,350,000

REDUCED

PROPERTY CAN BE DELIVERED VACANT. The best of then and now: at front, a beautifully-updated vintage Craftsman bungalow in the heart of Sunset Junction boasts 3 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms with an office, tons of closet space, storage and a gas fireplace! Enjoy a book on the expansive, covered front porch or delight in the equally expansive back deck. The rear home, an ADU, has a huge, open, kitchen/living/dining great room with balcony and master suite on the upper level. High ceilings, complete amenities; private. Very special, hard-to-find Modern living space with a nod to the Craftsman bungalow.



www.1413edgecliffe.com

3500 Griffith Park Boulevard
\$2,200,000

REDUCED

There's more here than meets the eye. From the elegant, tree-lined sweep of one of Los Feliz's grandest streets to the great welcoming arch of the front door, discover vintage Mediterranean style and substance. Character details of a golden era meld with handsome updates to satisfy today's taste and needs. Grand step-down living room, sunny family room with open rafters, the formal dining room, a cheerfully remodeled kitchen, pantry and bath, breakfast room and home office. Upstairs, find 3 bedrooms and 2 baths. And what lies across the rear patio and garden is the unexpected: a permitted, approximately 1,125 square foot, two-story, detached studio/guest house/3-car, rear entrance garage with tremendous potential for unlimited uses-it's what everyone can use but not so easily find.



www.3500griffithpark.com



Richard Stanley

#1 Agent - Coldwell Banker, Los Feliz
Estates Director
Architectural and Historic Properties

rstanley@richardstanleyrealtor.com
213 300-4567 cell / voice mail



©2021 Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. Coldwell Banker is a registered trademark licensed to Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. An Equal Opportunity Company. Equal Housing Opportunity. Owned and operated by NRT LLC. All rights reserved. If your property is listed with another broker, this is not intended as a solicitation. DRE# 00971211

2021 FHRA Annual Meeting



Is it time for a change?

What's on your horizon?
How do you get there?
Where do you start?

Listing your home is a step-by-step process, but done right and done well is the only way to do it. There has literally never been a better time.

Suzanne Carney
323.491-4390
suzanne.carney@corcorangl.com



Street Talk

Looking at the pavement

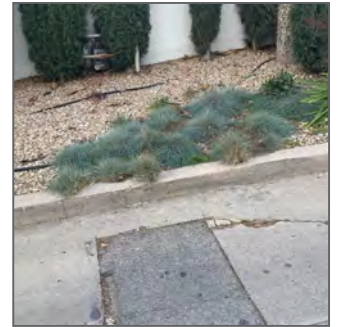
Charley Mims



ROBERT METCALF L.A. 1926 – CONTRACTOR FOR OUR CONCRETE STREETS

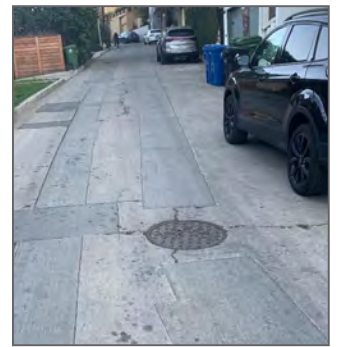
As I walked the concrete streets in the Franklin Hills over the last 34 years, the streets tell me a story of their origins and changes over the years. The first photo shows the stamp of the contractor who constructed the concrete streets in the Franklin Hills back in 1926. He was **Robert Metcalf** and he also constructed the **Shakespeare Bridge** on Franklin Avenue west of St. George Street that same year. Until the 1950's the City of Los Angeles required contractors to put their stamp in new concrete streets and sidewalks. Keep your eyes open not only for the contractors stamp, but also for the Inspectors name stamp.

As time went on, repairs and replacements to utilities buried in our streets became necessary. The next photo shows an asphalt patch over a pothole made to put in a new gas service line to a residence. The concrete patch started sinking, so Street Services put the asphalt patch in place to even up the street surface. Notice the gas meter almost hidden behind the Cypress trees.



GAS SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT WITH GAS METER BETWEEN TWO CYPRESSES

Later on the Bureau of Sanitation had a contractor replace the sewer mainline pipe in **Lyric Avenue**. Notice the Sewer Maintenance Hole iron cover between the sewer trenches. (They used to be called "Manholes" since they were for men to climb down to unclog the sewer lines. After women began doing this work too, the name was changed to Maintenance Hole. That way the MH's on all the sewer plans did not need to be rewritten!)



SEWER MAINTENANCE HOLE COVER AND TRENCH FOR SEWER PIPE MAINLINE REPLACEMENT

(Continued on page 10)

SHOP ONLINE AT BALLERHARDWARE.COM

**CELEBRATING OVER 60 YEARS!
PLEASE LIKE US ON FACEBOOK**

**HOME IMPROVEMENT • TOOLS
PAINT • SCREENS • KEYS
ART SUPPLIES & FRAMING**

MON-FRI 7:00AM - 5:00PM

SAT 8:00AM - 5:00PM

SUN 9:00AM - 4:00PM

323-668-7420

2505 HYPERION AVE • BALLERHARDWARE.COM

Hi·TECH

AUTOMOTIVE

AUTO REPAIR • TIRES • SHOCKS • ALIGNMENT

4000 Fountain Avenue
 Los Angeles, CA 90029
 T: 323.661.2788
www.hitechsilverlake.com

electric AVE.

servicing hybrid and alternative vehicles

2300 hyperion ave, silver lake
www.electricsilverlake.com
 323.665.8807

(Street Talk, continued from page 9)

To the left in the same picture you notice another long trench line where DW&P replaced the old water main in Lyric Avenue. Trenches crossing or approaching the water trench were where water service lines were replaced to homes. You can look toward the houses from these service trenches and will see the water meters, so you know it was a water main line pipe replacement.

Another photo shows intersecting trench lines and painted arrows and lettering pointing to the trench lines. The USA is short for *Underground Service Alert*, which is the entity established to mark the location and type of utilities in an area. This service must be called by a contractor before they cut a new trench in the street, so they could avoid damaging an existing utility line. The DW&P painted in blue indicates that water lines are located there.



USA (UNDERGROUND SERVICE ALERT) AND DWP (DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND POWER)



POWER POLES WITH DW&P HIGH VOLTAGE LINES ON THE TOP TWO CROSS ARMS AND TELEPHONE AND CABLE LINES ON THE BOTTOM TWO CROSS ARMS

The last photo shows Power Poles with four cross arms and various lines attached to each cross arm. The lower two short cross arms carry telephone and cable TV lines. The upper two cross arms contain DW&P high voltage conductors (wires) which provide the electrical energy to supply our homes. In some areas these high voltage lines are buried under the street pavement. DW&P has a program where customers on blocks or portions of a block could have their electrical lines placed underground. That avoids lines being blown down in high winds and improves the aesthetic appeal of an area.

We will provide a follow up article in the next *Overview* to continue exploring our knowledge of "Street Talk".



📷: CHARLEY MIMS

Volunteer Today!

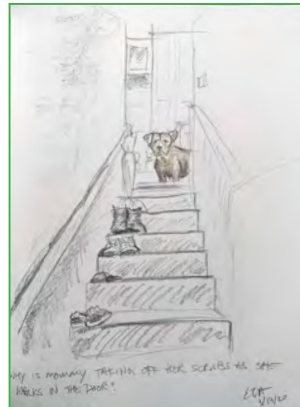
We're always looking for new volunteers and interested board members.

Let us know at FHRA@franklinhills.org

Pupper's First Pandemic

Drawing inspiration

Liz Arnold, M.D.



It's hard to believe that we're still at it over a year later. In January 2020, I watched the horrors in Wuhan, then Italy, then I began to fear for our own community. It wasn't long before the first case of COVID was reported in Northern California, and shortly thereafter our first case showed up in the ER where I work. Our lives were about to change dramatically. I stockpiled PPE in case my hospital ran out. I worried that I might bring the virus home and give it to my husband, Rick, and our dog, Jake. Would my neighbors be safe from us? It was stressful to say the least. Jake is a very popular dog on our street. On almost every walk his friends stop to give him belly-rubs, butt-scratches, and even treats. Some of our neighbors are older, and I feared what the virus would do to them. So, we started to shy away on walks, just in case.

I commented that this must be so confusing for him since he was blissfully unaware of the pandemic, and suddenly he couldn't say "hi" to his buddies. My husband joked that we should pitch a book showing how the pandemic and all these perplexing new behaviors must look from the perspective of our dog.

We could call it *Pupper's First Pandemic*! I dabbled with sketching when I was younger, but haven't had much time to draw since becoming a doctor. Last March, after I had finally finished putting together training materials for other doctors and podiatrists to round on COVID patients in the event of a major surge, I felt the urge to pick up my sketchbook for the first time since medical school (2005 OMG!) and drew a mock-up of the cover art for *Pupper's First Pandemic*.

I was rusty and tentative at first, but it felt good to escape for a half-hour at a time and create vignettes of how our new life must appear to Jake. To avoid bringing COVID home, I would take my scrubs off as soon as I entered from the garage and run upstairs to shower. I drew that. Social distancing on walks. I drew that. Zoom yoga at home. Learning to cut my own hair. My first time wearing a Powered Air-Purifying Respirator (PAPR) was scary because of how close I had to be to my first critically-ill COVID patient. I drew all those. I finally got my second vaccine shot this January and it surprised me how emotional and relieved I was and I had to commemorate that with a drawing.

We never did pitch the book but it was a release that really helped me cope with all the stress of this unprecedented event. I never imagined that I would encounter a pandemic in my career, but at this point I've learned how to treat it and keep myself and my family safe. In the meantime, [@PuppersFirstPandemic](https://www.instagram.com/PuppersFirstPandemic) lives on Instagram for all to enjoy. Some of my nurses certainly do!



📷: LIZ ARNOLD

Welcome Kits

Do you have a new neighbor?

Contact FHRA for a welcome kit that includes lots of current information about the Franklin Hills and our neighborhood businesses and services. Email Cameron Fedderman at membership@franklinhills.org for a packet.

Remembering Tom LaBonge

Tom LaBonge: "A Life's Work"

Suzanne Carney

Some highlights from a conversation with Brigid LaBonge on what lies ahead for the legacy of her husband, Tom LaBonge.

When we were putting together this edition of *the Overview* there was no doubt we had to include the loss of Tom LaBonge, one of the most beloved and well known pillars of the community and, of course, a longtime friend and supporter of FHRA.

"He was the real deal," is how Brigid described her husband. Now in the aftermath of the loss, through all the letters and phone calls, Brigid LaBonge said she'd gotten a view of her own husband that she hadn't seen before, not entirely.

"There's a part of Tom that with these stories - now that he's gone - I'm understanding that we had a 'private Tom' here, we understood the 'public Tom' (because we were part of it), but there's this underlying part of Tom that came from these really deep-seated service oriented parts of him." It was what she called "quiet service," and he managed it every single day in ways even she had not been entirely aware of.

What makes a man love a city like Tom LaBonge loved L.A.? Commitment. He spent his whole life here devoted to the care of Los Angeles leaving no stone unturned from civics to sprucing up Griffith Park. When asked to do something his motto was, "Don't say no, say you'll try and get it done."

After fourteen years as District 4 Councilman most people might consider a retirement plan, but that was not the case for Brigid and Tom.

"Even sometimes after he left office I would ask - Are we still doing this?" Assuming, rightfully, that the family might get a reprieve, but the answer to her question was his own affirmative - Yes. The answer was yes, and off they'd go.

When someone asked Tom how do you run for office? He kept it simple. "Meet voters. Get three pairs of shoes." And speaking of steps, Brigid described his last day, which was a normal day for him.

"He walked 13,000 steps the day he died," she said. "He was working on the homeless issue in LA touring a federal judge who is will ultimately make a decision about the problem."

It seemed obvious that LaBonge would spend his last hours addressing a problem looking for solutions, or in other words solving what lies ahead. Regarding the work Tom had done his whole life I asked Brigid what lies ahead for her. And I will tell you Brigid LaBonge sounded a lot like the man she'd been describing. In terms of service she had a plan.

"Adapt, carry on in his memory and find him in other places...I'm going to carry on with his work."



TOM AND BRIGID LABONGE.

LABONGE FAMILY



THE LABONGE FAMILY (FROM LEFT) MARY CATE, BRIGID, TOM, CHARLES AND HAZEL

LABONGE FAMILY

Remembering Tom LaBonge

The Last Time I Saw Tom La Bonge

Carole Nese

The last time I saw Tom LaBonge I was walking my dog down Tracy St. this past fall. I noticed a man raking the trash and debris in the street in front of the John Marshall High School wearing a baseball cap, face mask and wind breaker.

I was intrigued because in the last year, despite no students in school, the entire sidewalk and front of Marshall High was extremely littered. I even volunteered in a community clean up specifically concentrating on the front of the school and sidewalk just to help out with the problem.

So I was delighted to see someone else was doing something. I was on the other side of Tracy and I did not recognize our former Councilman immediately. It was his cap and mask covering his face that threw me. I called out and asked if he was part of the school janitorial service.

He didn't miss a beat and without looking up, he replied dutifully, "John Marshall High School Class of '71."

Instantly I knew and blurted out, "Tom La Bonge! It's good to see you! You are looking well! I'm a loyal Marshall Alum too. I've been doing my part to keep the school clean. I think they need more janitors."

Diligently sweeping he said, "I know the janitorial staff at the school and they work very hard. I got to know everyone in my job. I had a good run and loved every minute of it. I'll never stop."

All I could say was "Thank you. I hope to see you again soon."

He looked up briefly and with a kindly gesture of his hand he warned, "Be careful walking your dog, don't go into the street, stay on the sidewalk."

I often think of that chance meeting when I walk my dog by the front of Marshall. In my mind I can still see Tom, our beloved and tireless ambassador for the city, with his rake and push broom, happily raking and sweeping and loving every minute of it.



© ONLYMAC / ADOBE STOCK

Where to Give

Donations in Tom LaBonge's honor can be made to:

Tom LaBonge Memorial Fund for Griffith Park

Online: www.laparksfoundation.org/donations/donate
click on *Fund for drop down menu for his memorial fund

By mail: **LA Parks Foundation:** 2650 North Commonwealth Ave, LA, CA 90027
(memo line: Tom LaBonge Memorial)

Los Feliz Improvement Association – Tom LaBonge Leadership Scholarship

Online: lfia.org/lfia-creates-student-scholarship-in-memory-of-tom-labonge/

By mail: **LFIA:** PO Box 29395, LA, CA 90029
(memo line: LaBonge Scholarship)

BACKGROUND: © OTHMAN / ADOBE STOCK

Parenting in the time of COVID

on the Shakespeare Bridge

Josh Eells

On March 12 of last year, my wife and I took our daughter to the pediatrician for her semi-annual checkup. The W.H.O. had declared Covid-19 officially a pandemic the day before; our doctor told us to start hunkering down. Within hours, it seemed, the whole world was doing the same.

Previously, our two-year-old's social calendar was more packed than ours: art and music classes, playdates and Griffith Park pony rides. In an instant, her universe had shrunk to the size of a few blocks in our immediate neighborhood. At the same time, however, like the zooming in of a microscope, while the scale of her world got smaller, her experience of it deepened and magnified.

We quickly established a morning routine: a stroller ride to "the ducks" (her name for the Rowena Reservoir), where we'd stop, have a snack and, if we were lucky, catch a glimpse of the three coyotes denning inside — a mom, dad and pup, just like us. My wife taught her the names of trees and flowers we'd see along the way: hibiscus and magnolia, Persian silk and Irish rose. We also got to meet many of our neighbors for the first time. "WHAT'S YOUR DOG'S NAME?" our daughter would shout from

across the street, eliciting confused reactions from masked passers-by. Within weeks, we'd met every dog and most cats in a half-mile radius. (Sometimes we'd even remember to ask the owners' names, too.)

With everything on pause, the streets became her playground. She learned to ride a bike at the dystopically empty L.A. Zoo parking lot and had epic scooter rides at the shuttered Griffith Observatory, the city spread out below her like a toddler version of La La Land. Even neighborhood spots my wife and I never would have looked twice at became iconic landmarks and destinations in their own right: the kumquat tree on Monon Street, the house on St. George where the two cats were always sunning themselves in the window. And I'll never forget the look on her face when she realized that the Shakespeare Bridge we walk under is the same Shakespeare Bridge we walk over. Mind = blown.

Summertime was tougher. We had ice cream picnics on the lawn of John Marshall and made weekly pilgrimages to Victor's fruit cart. But for the most part, the heat and wildfires drove us back indoors. We refreshed AQI forecasts and celebrated her third birthday under



THE AUTHOR'S DAUGHTER ON THE HUNT FOR COYOTES AT THE ROWENA RESERVOIR.  JOSH EELLS

an ash-red sky. But then came fall, cool and clear, and we had our first backyard campout — going "fishing" in our tiny (fish-free) fountain and falling asleep to the sound of two great horned owls hooting a peaceful lullaby.

Now, one year in, not much has changed. We're on our approximately 8,000th trip to the ducks (although now she can walk the whole way). We know how incredibly lucky we've been — everyone healthy, no Zoom-induced breakdowns. But we're still excited for the end of all this. Hopefully by the fall, we'll be back to gymnastics class and library storytime. But I also hope we don't lose our renewed appreciation for living in this magical place. Until then, if you're ever out for a sunset walk and hear a preschooler harassing you to let her pet your dog — we'd love to say hi.



You have PC expert in Franklin Hills!

Michael Martin

- Small business & In home service
- Organize & access your data everywhere: on your PC, smartphone, tablet or in the cloud.
- Migrate your data to a new computer.
- Wi-fi & networking issues.
- iPhone, iPad, Android, tablets and more.
- Remote support available.
- Reasonable rates.
- House calls accepted.
- Plain, non-technical English.
- 20 years of experience.
- Franklin Hills resident since 2002



The PC Expert
training · software/hardware installation · networking · web design · internet · repairs · troubles shooting

(323) 810-6453 www.michaelmartin.net michael@michaelmartin.net

Netflix & Hills

FHRA Creates New Position

Robin Shorr

Observations gleaned from a year of sitting on my couch and walking around Los Feliz.

Folks in the Franklin Hills are handling the pandemic in unique ways. In the early days when we would salute our frontline workers at 8pm, some of us used disco lights and foghorns, others posted on Next Door asking if we would consider doing a “silent salute” instead. As I walked on my 50th loop of the day, I heard kids making massive progress on the piano and saw a guy making real inroads with the punching bag in his garage. One friendly neighbor’s coping mechanism was to become a Boo Radley of sorts - peeking through the shadows of his second story window each night to make sure all the late night dog walkers were safe. The short term renter next door got through it by partying like she was on a banana boat in Lake Havasu. Another neighbor painted her entire house hot pink. As I’ve often said, always live in a neighborhood with at least one hot pink house.

As the pandemic showed no signs of slowing down, we saw some of our favorite businesses pivot to meet the moment. **Baller Hardware** started selling reasonably priced sweatshirts and **Stamp Proper Foods** became pick up and delivery only. We ate in the parking lot of **Barbrix**, got to know the friendly guy who sprays down the baskets at **Gelson’s**, and waited patiently for the nice people at **Maggie’s** to finally let us in so we could stuff our faces with some vegan, corn-almond soft serve. We hoped upon hope that the virus wouldn’t take down a special place like **Glaze Fire**. **Hyperion Public** became a delicious deli and people ordered wine from Lou in droves. However, I do have one small bone to pick. As much as I love to support a local business, I must raise a concern that the line in front of **Maru** is much too long each morning and clogs up a busy sidewalk. May I suggest a trip to the **Daily Donut** just a few steps away?

Let’s spread the love!

Marshall High and the **Lyric Hyperion Theatre** may still be closed, but our hearts are open to a bright future. I’d be remiss if I didn’t bid a fond farewell to our beloved neighbor and Franklin Hills activist, **Elizabeth Richardson**, who moved up north with her dog Diggity. I can’t tell you how much I’ll miss hearing her say “No, Diggity!” everyday.

(Continued on page 20)



@PETERKAGAN

Future Barrister

Lyric Preschool
2328 Hyperion Ave.
Los Angeles 90027
323 667 2275
www.lyricpreschool.com

Franklin Hills Real Estate 2021

A perspective on the market

Suzanne Carney

With home-value growth to rise 10.5% over the previous year, there is incentive to get in and substantive equity when you decide to sell.

The last year was productive without following established seasonal patterns. Throughout 2020, on average, there was one home sold every week in Franklin Hills, proving that the real estate market in this

part of 90027 remained undeterred by the pandemic. It seems probable that 2021 will break more records.

When people worry about a crash, the fact is that ten years of tight lending standards minimize that risk, even with rising prices and lower rates. Speaking of rates, here's how low rates translate. This factor helps stabilize the market along with qualified borrowers and homeowners who have strong credit, good savings and low debt.

The Franklin Hills area is magnetic in a market that is thriving, but it's not just about the brick and mortar, it's the community. The issue of low inventory remains a variable. It's hard to leave this area, and homes here are not easy to find. So when you find the right one, don't hesitate, buyers are locked and focused. When you're ready to sell it will be lucrative.

History has taught us lessons about recessions and housing markets and even pandemics. We can learn from the past to prepare for the future.

Your Franklin Hills real estate is an advantage like no other. Owning a home is a relationship. We grow when we enter and have become a new person when we leave, but you have to follow your life not the market.

If you are moving in we're glad you came. If you're moving on, we hope your time in our community sustains you going forward, and you can leverage what you built here toward something even better.



CHARMAINE DAVID



We Ship Picassos...

Warhols, Harings, Lichtensteins, Frederick Remington Bronzes, custom art glass, kids school projects and anything else of value that needs to be shipped with the best handling & packing possible.



Goodman Packing & Shipping

1920 Hillhurst Ave, Los Feliz, CA 90027 t. 323.662.9000

Hollywood: 5551 Hollywood Bl., LA 90028, **Atwater:** 3154 Atwater Bl., 90039, **Frogtown:** 3009 Gilroy St, LA 90039

Expert Packaging of Fragile Items, Art, Antiques and Furniture • Moving Boxes & Shipping Supplies • On-Site Parking • Freight Services • Mailbox Rentals • UPS Return & Amazon Drop Off Center
info@GoodmanShipping.com



visit us at GoodmanShipping.Com



Red Lilly

**PLUMBING | HEATING
SEWER & DRAIN SERVICE**

*Your Neighborhood
Plumber!*

323-664-2906

LOS ANGELES - SAN FERNANDO - ORANGE COUNTY

Why join the Franklin Hills Residents Association?



Because you'll know who, what, why and how things happen in the Franklin Hills. Your awareness and your voice not only matter, they make things possible. And we would love to have YOU.

click on : franklinhills.org

Some Thoughts on the [Norm Harriton] Garden

Matthew Lyber

When you join a community garden, there is a sense of “we’re all in this together”. Sure, you’re responsible for your own plot and growing your own bounty, but you must also think of the greater good. Everyone agrees to not use pesticides, to attend meetings, to maintain the hoses and walkways. When we first moved to Los Feliz a little over a year ago, we were eager to become active members of our neighborhood. We wanted to dine at local restaurants, frequent shops, and see movies at the Vista. Unfortunately, the pandemic rendered those things inaccessible to us.

Our time was now spent watching “*Tiger King*” and learning to knit. Then, like a saving grace, we were invited to join the **Norm Harriton Community Garden** in Franklin Hills. Eager for a new experience, we jumped at the opportunity. Within a week we planted spinach, Swiss chard, sugar snap peas— greens galore! We met our garden mates and though we could only see a portion of their faces behind masks, the welcoming of a new community was invaluable. We tended to shared grapevines, ate ripe kumquats from the bush— we had found our eden, our personal escape from COVID-19.

Saturday mornings stopped revolving around reality TV and doomscrolling, there was a garden to grow! We watered, we weeded, and we watched our little plot blossom. Our first harvest was so big we didn’t know what to do with it! So we bagged extras and safely delivered them to friends who we hadn’t seen since long before becoming “garden people”. The next time, we brought some to the community fridge around the corner.



MATTHEW LYBER AND JACOB SCOTT STAND BEHIND THEIR BEANS

The garden gave us the sense of community that we had longed for since moving to this corner of Los Angeles.

As we head into spring, fellow gardeners are prepping their tomato and cucumber plants and our strawberries are poking through the dirt— some have little buds! At the 1-year mark of the COVID quarantine, a lot has changed. When you enter a pandemic, there is a sense of “we’re all in this together”. Sure, you must take care of yourself, but you must also think of the greater good. We wear masks at shops and stand 6 feet apart in public. Much like a garden’s caterpillars, we all have gone through a transformation of sorts and have found a sense of community that had not existed before.



📷: @KELLYKRAUTERPHOTO



JACOB SCOTT HARVESTS SOME ROMAINE LETTUCE



JACOB SCOTT HARVESTS KUMQUATS



MATTHEW LYBER AND JACOB SCOTT WEED AROUND THEIR SPINACH

Median Garden Update

Spring 2021

Melinda Taylor

Hello, neighbors! It's a beautiful morning in February as I write this, your update on what's been happening and will be happening at the **Median Garden**.

Last Fall we did a lot of cutting back and shaping plants, to clean up and get ready for 2021. We also built some new planters out of stacked pieces of broken concrete to hold new plants, transplanted lots of volunteer seedlings, added some new plants we've been wanting to include in the Median garden for a long time, and added a layer of decomposed granite to cover all bare dirt on the flat area of the garden. The Median Garden is now ready for its close-up!

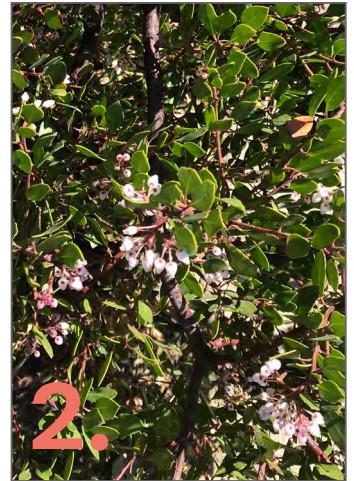
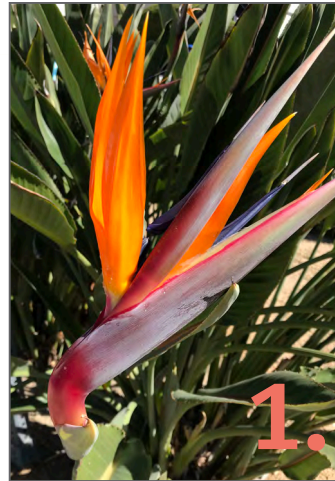
Early Spring is always the beginning of a long period of flowering for drought-tolerant and native California plants. The Median Garden, composed predominantly of these plants, has a predictable sequence of flowers to watch for.

While February is typically when we welcome the first blooms of native California plants, the Median Garden hosts four non-native, drought tolerant plants that start color in the garden a bit earlier than that. **Red Texas Sage** (*Salvia greggii*), native to Southwest Texas and Mexico, blooms generally year-round, and **Bird of Paradise plant** (*Strelitzia reginae*), native to South Africa, blooms late fall through late spring. The blue flowers of **Bush Germander** (*Teucrium fruticans*), a Mediterranean native, are already prominent on the slopes of the garden in February, as are the carpeting flowers of Trailing Lantana (*Lantana sellowiana*), a South American native.

Their California native garden mates **Western Redbud Tree** (*Cercis occidentalis*) and **John Dourly Manzanita** (*Arctostaphylos 'John Dourly'*) started the California bloom show for this year in February; here's some information to help you spot what follows:

	March	
Mexican Sage (<i>Salvia leucantha</i>)		flowers year-round
	April	
Woolly Blue Curls (<i>Trichostema lanatum</i>)		April – Sept.
	May	
St. Catherine's Lace (<i>Eriogonum giganteum</i>)		May — Oct.
Matillija Poppy (<i>Romneya coulteri</i>)		May — June
Jacaranda trees (<i>Jacaranda spp.</i>)		May — June
(The Jacaranda tree is native to South America).		
	June	
White sage (<i>Salvia apiana</i>)		June-August
California buckwheat (<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i>)		June — Sept.

There is always more to share in these Overview posts than there is space to share it! Next time I hope we can take a look at the Median Garden's foliage plants together. Until then, please stay well, and enjoy the garden! As always, your support of the garden is sorely needed and deeply appreciated – <https://www.franklinhills.org/median>.



1) BIRD OF PARADISE IN BLOOM
 2) MANZANITA IN BLOOM
 3) RED TEXAS SAGE IN BLOOM
 4) MATILLIJA POPPY IN BLOOM

MELINDA TAYLOR



Jose de Jesus Sanchez
 Gardening Services
 Free Estimates

Sprinklers, New Lawns
 Tree Trimming, Clean-up
 Clean Gutters

818- 834- 0273

Stair Clean-Up

Coming Together While Staying Apart

Dave McDonald

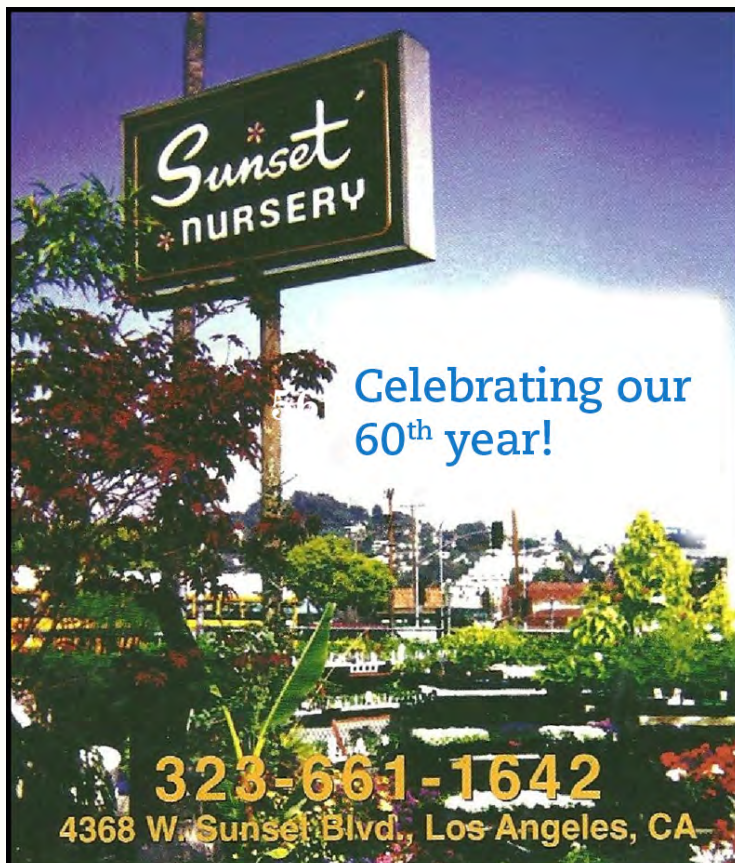
On Saturday, November 6th, the FHRA hosted a stairway clean-up event on the *Udell Court* stairs. This lengthy and less visible stairway receives a considerable amount of use from Franklin Hills residents, but it needed some care and attention. Community members of all ages came together for two hours to sweep, shovel and trim excess leaves, dirt and branches from the stairs and pathway. This masked, outdoor and socially-distant endeavor gave us a chance to get out of our homes and help out the neighborhood. We received many positive responses both online and in person.

The FHRA hosts two to three neighborhood clean ups per year. If you have interest in joining us in the future, please keep an eye out on Instagram [@franklinhills](https://www.instagram.com/franklinhills), on our website under the “events” section at www.franklinhills.org or email us at FHRA@franklinhills.org



THE CLEANUP CREW WITH BAGS OF DEBRIS

📷: RICK LAROCCA



Sunset NURSERY

Celebrating our 60th year!

323-661-1642
4368 W. Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA

(Netflix & Hills, continued from page 15)



📷: @PETERKAGAN

But as I walk Sadie each and every day through these hills with no sidewalks, one thing always remains true: if you're going to be stuck anywhere, the Franklin Hills is a pretty great place to be. But please, we don't all need to go to Maru at the same time.



Good Looking Meditations by local poet

Peter Clothier

Meditation is an art. Fortunate enough to have discovered the practice long ago, I love to share it with a friendly group of neighbors here on the Franklin Hill. We meet every week—on Zoom, these days!—to sit together for a guided meditation.

There's a nexus between the art of meditation and the other kind. Are you an art lover? Love to visit museums and galleries? Look at paintings? Need to have art of some kind at home?

Me too. I was an art critic for years. Until I realized to my dismay that I was hardly looking at paintings at all.

You know how it is, looking at a painting in a gallery. You're so curious about the artist, and the title, and the date... you spend more time peering at the label than looking at the painting!

And you can be blinded by all the baggage you bring along, unaware that it affects you: your likes and dislikes, judgments, "knowledge." We know what "art" is, right? And what it's NOT! Abstract art? My child could do it! Landscapes? Old-fashioned, 19th century...! Even painting, you'll recall, was recently pronounced dead by the avant-garde.

So we risk looking at our prejudices instead of at the painting. I know, because I caught myself doing just that.

I stumbled into meditation around the same time. I started with ten, fifteen minutes, but was soon invited to join a group that sat for a whole hour. An hour! Impossible, for someone with a head as busy as my own!



📷: JOANN CARNEY

(Continued on page 23)

Aloha Summertime



My Recent Sales

- Waverly Drive #206 90039 • \$460,000 • Selling Agent
- 302 Livermore Terrace 90042 • \$991,885 • Selling Agent
- 3108 Bellevue Ave. 90026 • \$1,020,000 • Listing Agent

2337 Ronda Vista Drive - Sold for \$2,396,900
• Selling Agent •

Be Well. Be Happy. Be Kind.



Colin Hoffmeister
Realtor®, Contractor, Homeowner, Real Estate Investor

310.435.4206 | Choffmeister@msn.com | CADRE01921784



Bird's-eye View

The Owls in Our Midst

Franklin Hills Welcomes Some Noisy New Neighbors — A Family of Barn Owls



BARN OWL (TYTO ALBA) :FREE STOCK PHOTO

A Raptor Rhapsody

Having lived in Franklin Hills for over a decade, I've become well-accustomed to the sights and sounds of the coyotes, skunks, opossums, raccoons, hawks, and other forms of wildlife that share our neighborhood. But one evening this past summer while out walking my dog, I began hearing a noise I had never before encountered. A loud, repetitive "SHHH-SHHH-SHHH," it was emanating from a tree in my next-door neighbor's yard. "Probably some dreadful new species of invasive locust or cicada," I thought grimly, my state of mind having turned rather pessimistic in the face of the deadly virus, civil unrest, curfews, toilet paper shortages, murder hornets, and other assorted bad news of the day.

Later that week, I started hearing yet another unfamiliar, inhuman sound coming again from the yard next door. Occurring during the wee hours of the morning, this one was a jarring, abrasive screech like something out of a Foley artist's "pterodactyl" sound FX files. At a loss as to what the source of the racket might be, I turned to

the internet. A few youtube videos later, I had the answer—my noisy new neighbors were a family of barn owls.

One of the three types of owls commonly found throughout Southern California, barn owls do not build their own nests, but instead take shelter in caves, crevasses, and man-made structures such as—you guessed it—barns. In setting up house in the massive palm tree next door, my neighboring owls displayed excellent taste in real estate, as it contains several sizable hollows perfect



ONE OF THE OWLETS KEEPING AN EYE OUT FOR THE RETURN OF ITS PARENTS FROM THEIR HUNTING EXPEDITIONS. PHOTO TAKEN WITH AN IPHONE 11 PROMAX USING NIGHT MODE, NO FLASH.

:PAULINE O'CONNOR

for nesting. Before long, two little heart-shaped faces could be seen peering out from one of the hollows every evening at sundown, issuing their by-now-familiar hiss, a demand to be fed that their parents worked overtime to meet.

Initially just thankful to get a little diversion from the stress, tedium, and isolation of lockdown life, I soon found myself becoming quite invested in the little raptor family: thinking up silly names for them (Owlivia DeHavilland, Lawrence Owlivier, Weird Owl, Louisa May Owlcott), wincing

Pauline O'Connor

for them whenever someone in the neighborhood set off fireworks, cheering their success whenever I heard the uproar and commotion that meant one of the parents had returned to the nest with a freshly killed rodent. I may have even shed a few tears the day the fledglings took their first flights, swooping circles around each other over the street like newly licensed teenagers doing donuts in a parking lot.

Both youngsters have moved on now, and with them gone, only occasionally do I catch a thrilling glimpse of the remaining pair as they conduct their nightly hunting expeditions on silent wings. But I'm hopeful that one day in the not-too-distant future, I'll be lucky enough to hear that telltale "SHHH-SHHH-SHHH!" coming from the tree next door once more—it will be music to my ears.



Barn Owls (*Tyto alba*) are found primarily in the Lower 48 states. They range in height from 12 to 15 inches, weigh about 14-24 oz, and have a wingspan of about 31 to 40 inches, with females being larger and darker in coloration than males. Their diet largely consists of mice, rats, pocket gophers, voles, and other rodents. According to the Cornell Lab's All About Birds website, their ability to locate prey by sound alone is the "most accurate of any animal that has ever been tested." Barn owls mate for life, and both parents will feed their offspring until they are about two months old, with the male doing the majority of the hunting. Threats to the species include habitat loss, secondary poisoning via pesticides and rodenticides, and predation by Great Horned Owls.



FRANKLINHILLS.ORG

FHRA Membership Form

FHRA is supported entirely by
Your Membership Dues
and Generous Donations

All Donations and Memberships are Tax Deductible
FHRA is an IRS 501(c)(3) Tax Exempt Organization

I am interested in:

- Beautification
- Community Garden
- Event Planning
- Graffiti
- Historic Preservation
- Median
- Planning & Zoning
- Safety/Crime/Disaster
- Stairways Cleanup
- Traffic & Parking
- Other: _____

Name

Address

City State, Zip

Email Phone

MEMBERSHIP AND DONATIONS

Dues start as low as \$20/individual, \$35/household. We also invite you to renew at the \$100 or \$250/year rate.

To become a member, renew a membership, or make a donation, visit www.franklinhills.org/join, or clip this form and send a check to:

FHRA, PO Box 29122, Los Angeles, CA 90029-0122

Enclosed membership dues are: Single: \$20 /mo. or \$100 /yr.
Household: \$35 /mo. or \$250 /yr.

Plus Donation for Unspecified: \$ _____

Plus Donation for Median Maintenance Fund: \$ _____

Additional Contribution to Median Maintenance Fund:

- Monkeyflower \$25
- Matilija Poppy \$50
- St. Catherine's Lace \$100
- Western redbud \$250
- Jacaranda \$500+

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Contact Voice Mail: (323)908-6078 | FHRA@franklinhills.org

THANK YOU for your support!!

(Good Looking, continued from page 21)

And yet miraculously I did not expire from boredom or frustration. I felt pretty good about my achievement.

So I started thinking, one hour, one painting... Why not? So I tried sitting in front of a single painting for an hour. Just looking. Without judgment. Without "knowledge." Just sitting, not-thinking, really looking.

That was twenty-five years ago. I've done it dozens of times since, in a series of events in museums and galleries called (you guessed it!) "One Hour/One Painting."

The first task is to drop the baggage—the likes and dislikes, the assumptions about what's good and bad. Some people love the piece before we start. Others not. But it doesn't matter. What matters is to simply look without judgment and ask the painting to reveal itself. We don't "talk about" it, we walk

through it, with rapt attention, looking. Some people still love the painting afterwards. Some still not. The point is to let be what it is, not what we assume.

So there's an art in looking, too. It's a skill that can be honed, like the "art" of meditation, with practice. You need no special quality of mind. We all have busy ones. But it feels good to quiet the mind and learn to "see." Which is why we meet each week, to sit in meditation.

Peter Clothier is a writer who has been living on the Franklin Hill since 1969



Thank our Advertisers!

When you visit any of the businesses who advertise in **the Overview**, please be sure to thank them for their support of the Franklin Hills Residents Association. Advertising helps to pay for this free publication for all the residents of the Franklin Hills.

Please be sure to tell our advertisers that you saw their ad in the **Franklin Hills Overview**.

COLDWELL BANKER | REALTY



1847 N KINGSLEY DR | LOS ANGELES, CA 90027

A TROPHY 1950's 28 UNIT APARTMENT BUILDING
OFFERED AT \$7,250,000

www.1847NORTHKINGSLEY.com



ROSS CARTER | CalRE# 01190160

323.376.2462

RossCarter@coldwellbanker.com

RossCarterProperties.com |  RossCarterProperties



ROSS CARTER

COLDWELL BANKER REALTY

©2021 Coldwell Banker. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker and the Coldwell Banker logos are trademarks of Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. The Coldwell Banker® System is comprised of company owned offices which are owned by a subsidiary of Realogy Brokerage Group LLC and franchised offices which are independently owned and operated. The Coldwell Banker System fully supports the principles of the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Opportunity Act.

PALESMO

RISTORANTE ITALIANO



1858 N. VERMONT AVE., LOS ANGELES, CA 90027

(323) 663-1178 • 663-1430 • Fax (323) 660-0284

HOURS: MON. 11AM - 10:30PM WED. THUR. SUN. 11AM - 12AM
FRI. & SAT. 11AM - 1AM

NOW OPEN SATURDAY & SUNDAY FOR BREAKFAST 9:00AM TO 2PM