# OVERVIEW

## Remembering Chris Boutelle

### FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Spring/Summer Issue #63

# FRANKLIN HILLS **RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**



The last email I received from our Vice President Chris Boutelle was on November 22nd, confirming I would walk a route to distribute the Overview. The next day, Chris was involved

in a fatal car crash. After hearing the news, I waded through a haze of shock and sadness.

Meanwhile, we had 1,900 Overviews arriving from the printer, and a fleet of neighbors standing by to distribute them throughout Franklin Hills. In true community fashion, the team pulled together. A "distribution event" was organized near Chris' home. Walkers came and helped break down boxes, sort copies into bags and take their route copies. I printed out photos of Chris, brought a cooler of beverages and got to know the long-time volunteers that help distribute this publication. It is with gratitude that I highlight just a few below:

Lesley Kyle-Wilson (Ronda Vista: St. George to Franklin) first met Lesley when she and her band volunteered to perform at our autumn block party. She began delivering the Overview twenty years ago with her son in a stroller. He's now in college, and she works in event planning,

# **President's Message**

### Alison Wallace

which we took full advantage of for our first big event. Thank you, Lesley!

Penny Layne (Talmadge: Fountain to Prospect) Penny is a 30+ year volunteer with an enormous route, delivering over 120 copies. She arrived in Franklin Hills in 1986, joined the FHRA and started delivering in 1990. She enjoys hearing recipients tell her how happy they are to get the Overview. It was a delight to meet Penny. If you need a local cat sitter or masseuse, Penny can be found at catlayne@aol.com

Kay and Doug Camphuis (Tracy: St. George to Hyperion) Kay and Doug began delivering the Overview seven years ago after moving here from San Diego to be closer to family. They volunteer at Marshall High and have wonderful stories to share. Unlike me, they have not experienced a barely-dressed neighbor while receiving the Overview. (I'm still trying to erase that out of my memory.)

We now plan on making the "distribution event" a bi-annual gathering where volunteers can say hello to one another and help the team.

In this issue you will read about Chris making such a difference in this community. If you have interest in contributing to Franklin Hills with either time or funding, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at alison.wallace@franklinhills.org.



FOT: ALISON WALLACE

KAY AND DOUG CAMPHUIS FOT ALISON WALLACE

FOT: ALISON WALLACE

# In This Issue:

President's Message	2
Continuing-on in his honor	4
Caring for Franklin Hills	4
"Oh, I like my paper route"	5
The Joy of a Block Party	6
Neighborhood Contacts	7
Neighbors Caring	9
Chris Boutelle, Bruce Carroll	11
Christopher Boutelle, Obituary by Family	12
In memory of Chris Boutelle, IATSE	13
Alice Davis, Costume Designer	14
My Memory of Chris, Adam Weisman	15
Real Estate Conditions	16
Steve Beyer, Landscape Architect	18
Update on the Median Garden	19
Udell Court Stair Cleanup	20
FHRA Membership Form	23

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### **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.



# **Continuing-on in his honor** Shakespeare Bridge Holiday Decorations and The Overview

### Pat Hadnagy

I can't recall exactly how or why I first connected with Chris Boutelle, whether it was helping to hand out the Overview or decorating the Shakespeare Bridge for the holidays. It was a long time ago and, either way, it didn't take long for him to get my help doing both.

My daughters and I always loved driving over the bridge at night during the holidays and seeing it lit up. When a chance came to help decorate it, we were eager to help. We got up early, brought donuts, and that first year started an annual tradition for us.

From the first day, it was clear that seemingly everything Chris did was done in a purposeful and practiced manner, with good humor at the ready. Whether it was untying the ladders from the back of his



THE 2020 BRIDGE LIGHTING CREW: (L-R) DAVE MCDONALD, CHRIS BOUTELLE, ELIZABETH RICHARDSON, ROSELLA GIULIANI, ANISSA HADNAGY, PAT HADNAGY

impeccable El Camino, or carefully placing his trusty wooden wedge under the ladder for stability or turning on the power for the bridge and thoughtfully hanging extension cords and lights-all was handled with confidence and ease. As the new guy, I felt lucky to have had Chris show me the ropes. I learned a lot, met great people and look forward to it each year.

When Chris passed away, it left a huge void for us on the board. But, as a recent member to the board, I was so happy to see everyone pull together. We organized and decorated the bridge, documenting our steps along the way so that

(Continued on page 10)

Hills

issue



FOT: SHAWN SITES

# **"Oh, I like my paper route** quite a bit, but there's the one part that's my FAV-O-Rit!"

### Lesley Kyle-Wilson

Do you remember that song from the musical "Working" based upon the Studs Terkel book of the same name? It's a wonderful tribute to working people everywhere. I've had many jobs over my life. As a performer and a writer, many times I've had to expand my horizons, explore work for hire; whoever is hiring!

I have also had a volunteer job for the last 20 years. I deliver the Overview on a route that encompasses my street and a few others. Hard working neighbors have put this paper together and I get to take it to the people.

#### I love this job!

The Overview is newsy and uber-local. I think most folks on my route are happy to receive this periodical. I know I am.

My son, now 20, used to help me when he was a little guy. It was wonderful to walk with him, talk about our neighborhood, and decide the absolute best place to leave the little booklets at each house.

My route takes me up and down our street of over 25 years. When I make deliveries on a Saturday or Sunday morning, I don't take my phone to listen to music so I can have a friendly exchange, if I encounter a neighbor. I don't usually run into many people. Some dogs and cats, for sure. The odd squirrel or two. They are odd! Often they seem to wait until a car is so near, to make their break for the other side of the road. I hope it's worth the risk.

The lovely soundtrack of our many, beautiful birds.

"Only birds sing the song of heaven." Not sure which poet said that, but it's so true.

#### id, contact Chris Boutelle at (323) 666-5548 1722 Hally AVOID PUTTING OVERWING in mail box os as The USKS dow not like us to use Thom Mailbones, Mail slots into no or ganages are OK as LETHERCATHER WILL NOTSEE TO FRANKLIN Be creative! Good Walking - Chris Bartel ABC-TY IFYON walk sunday Motiving, tay po Durning with Their Sunday Figs 49 Clock to Their Front pach. CLAYTON MYTHA CINISERLAND please call me pick up on the and maps or drop Them by m me e 1722 Holly Thenkyore. and good wilk Ronda Vista including Ronda Vista place

OVERVIEW DELIVERY ROUTE #3 SHOWN ON THE FHRA STREET AND STAIRWAYS MAP WITH CHRIS' HANDWRITTEN INSTRUCTIONS ON THE MARGINS. LESLEY KYLE-WILSON'S ROUTE GOES FROM ST. GEORGE TO RADIO STREET ON RONDA VISTA DRIVE AND INCLUDES RONDA VISTA PLACE.

As the Overview comes out two times per year, I realize that walking the route is a seasonal meditation. It allows me to witness the changes in foliage, gardens and structures over these many years. My favorite tree in Los Angeles is planted about ten houses up the street from our home.

### 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)

It's a persimmon tree. I love to see this tree in every stage it enters and departs. Winter brings a sparse, twiggy demeanor and just now, during spring, it's filling out with luscious green leaves and those darling buds of May. Soon, these flowers will make way for the burnt orange fruit with the spikey calyx on top, to be born, from this precious tree.

# The Joy of a Block Party

One of my favorite childhood memories were the block parties my parents and neighbors would throw every Fourth of July on our cul-desac. There was a sense of freedom and fun, wandering the closed off streets playfully, seeing everyone relaxed, having fun, eating, drinking, listening to music....enjoying the neighborhood!

Years ago, my friends on Camero threw a block party and it was a blast. My kids got to experience something I didn't think could really happen here in LA, but in Franklin Hills, people make it happen.



DIVINING THE MEANING OF TAROT CARDS (L-R: MADELINE FAIREY & TRINIDAD CAMPBELL); BACKGROUND: FACE PAINTING (L-R: VIVIENNE & AMANDA FAIREY)



FHRA TREASURER DAVE MCDONALD IN A HALLOWEEN TUTU, TRESSA MILLER AND OLLIE, A MEMBER OF THE GUSTINCIC FAMILY

As the weight of the pandemic seemed to lift just a little, the FHRA President, Alison Wallace, had a brilliant idea: let's have a block party! Residents of Ronda Vista Place met several times to plan just that. Permits were pulled and the community together. really came Councilmember Nithya Raman's office provided the tables, chairs, porta potties, recycle and garbage cans. Neighbors, kids and FHRA Board members set it all up, then cleaned it up. Security

kept us safe, and on October 30, during a sunny and warm Saturday, the street was blocked and the party started.

The neighborhood band, Sage & Fool, kicked things off beautifully. Tressa Miller handled the reception table, and not far down the road there was a parked van, donated by Jenny Brandt and Mike Rosey, where local teen neighbors read Tarot cards and painted faces.

Sandwiches, pizza and drinks were free to everyone, courtesy of the FHRA. Right by the bandstand was the Wine Grotto, coordinated by Trinidad Campbell of *Urban Press Winery*, a local creator of some fantastic wines



MEMBER OF THE FABULOUS LOCAL BAND, SAGE & FOOL (L-R: LESLEY KYLE-WILSON, HOWARD WOLFINDEN, MICHAEL WILSON)

### Pat Hadnagy



FRANKLIN HILLS NEIGHBORS ENJOYING THE SENSATIONAL BAND, DAGNASTERPUS, IN FRONT OF THE WALLACE'S GARAGE

: ALISON WALLACE

that started in a neighborhood home and succeeded from there.

After Sage & Fool finished their amazing set, Award Winning Composer and Musician, Tree Adams, took the stage with his band Dagnasterpus. Yes, a funny sounding name perhaps, but with a sax, trombone, guitars, drums and vocals, they are indeed a jamming groove powerhouse and as soon as the first chorus rang out, people were dancing in the street.

My hope, and surely not mine alone, is that this will become an annual tradition. In a city of millions, it was great to be transported back to the simpler times of my youth with a friendly, fun and joyful block party. And our neighborhood here is the perfect place to have it. If we do it again, keep an eye out and come join the fun!



C: RICK LAROCCA

### **Neighborhood Contacts**

City of LA Contacts				
City Services				
Hours M-F Hours Sat - Sun Animal Services Dead Animal Pickup (Sanitation) Lost Animals Barking Dogs	<ul> <li> <sup>0</sup> 311         <sup>1</sup> 311@lacity.org         <sup>7</sup> am-7pm         8:30 am-4:45 pm         <sup>0</sup> (888) 452-7381         extension 2         extension 2         extension 2         extension 3         <sup>1</sup></li> </ul>			
Building & Safety Violations	① (213) 473-3231			
Parking Enforcement (DOT)	① (213) 485-4184			
Council D	District 4			
Councilmember Nithya Raman (CD4)	<ul> <li>⑦ (213) 473-7004</li> <li>S contactCD4@lacity.org</li> <li>▲ (213) 473-2311</li> </ul>			
Field Deputy Xanthe Scheps				
Graffiti Removal Homeless Services LA County Info Line				
Mayor Eric Garcetti, City of Los Angeles				
Central Area Representative Serapia Kim	🔄 serapia.kim@lacity.org			
Neighborhood Prosecutor Gabrielle Taylor	- ()()			

Utilities			
Dig Alert (call before digging)	③ 811		
LADWP	③ 1-800-DIAL-DWP (1-800-342-5397)		
SoCalGas (inc. leak reporting)	① 1-800-427-2200		
Sanitation			
Trash Bin Replacement	(800) 773-2489x1		
Bulky Item Removal	③ (800) 773-2489x1		

Community Contacts					
FHRA	<ul> <li>(323) 908-6078</li> <li>FHRA@franklinhills.org</li> </ul>				
LAUSD					
LAUSD School Police	③ (213) 625-6631				
Marshall High School - Main#	③ (323) 671-1400				
King Middle School - Main#	③ (323) 644-6700				
Los Feliz Public Library	③ (323) 913-4710				
Lycée International de Los Angeles (LILA)	③ (323) 665-4526				
Lycee International de Los Aligeres (LILA)	Iosfeliz@lilaschool.com				
Prospect Studios					
Janet Campus, Production Services	③ (323) 671-4022				
Prospect Studio Security Shift Leader	③ (323) 203-5201				
David Ortiz,	③ (323) 671-5973				
Security Operations Program Manager					

Emergency Services			
LAF	D		
Fire Department: Emergency	<b>0</b> 911		
Non-Emergency	① (213) 485-6185		
Fire Station 35: 1601 Hillhurst	① (213) 485-6235		
Fire Station 56: 2759 Rowena	① (213) 485-6256		
Poison Control	③ (800) 222-1222		
LAF	D،		
Police Department, Emergency	<b>0</b> 911		
Police Department, Northeast Division	③ (323) 561-3211		
Sr. Lead Officer Jose Ramirez	① (213) 793-0763		
SI. Lead Officer Jose Raininez	39570@lapd.online		
Sr. Lead Officer Lenny Davis	① (213) 793-0762		
Sr. Lead Officer Lenity Davis	26028@lapd.online		
Non-Emergency	③ (877) ASK-LAPD or (877) 275-5273		
Gang Problems	③ (323) 561-3335		
Noise Enforcement	① (213) 996-1251		
Rape Hotline	① (310) 392-8381		
Restraining Orders	www.lapdonline.org		





Who isn't spending more time at home lately? We want our homes to be refuges that complement our lives in a way that is both stimulating and soothing. How can your home please you now, and others later, should you decide to move? What improvements will stand the test of time and are worth the investment?

Before you act, consider some trends I've observed: • The overused black-white-and-gray formula endures-for now. • The recent dark exterior color trend bucks the lighter and brighter taste of people in the COVID era. Change may be near, as dark colors fade and show grime. • Blur indoors and outdoors with a househugging patio "room." • Invest in low-maintenance and durable upgrades. • Create multi-function flex spaces that can be sectioned into now-essential home offices. • Popular for over a century, the white room seems eternal. • The gray room's popularity, however, is waning. • White kitchens reign perennial, lately with agua, sage or purple under counters. • Kitchen bars thrive, but not the cliche "waterfall" style. • Choose stone countertops, but not granite or tile. • Use natural finish, not "brown," wood. • Lay wide-plank flooring in a herringbone or diagonal pattern. • Look for low-VOC (Volatile Organic Compounds) finishes. • Avoid wood flooring in wet areas. Select low-sheen surfaces over shiny, as on floors and cabinets. • Gold, brass or copper fixtures and pulls are back, but not polished to a cheap gloss. • Dark finishes on fixtures don't wear well. • Wallpaper adds punch, but be wary of visual chaos. • Window screens keep disease-spreading mosquitoes out. • Mix design classics of any era. They're friends. • "Organic" is new again. • Add a note of whimsy to every room and smile. • Less is still more: an organized space engenders connectedness, harmony and serenity-especially needed now.



#### **Richard Stanley**

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# Neighbors Caring for Our Children

### **Alison Wallace**

Down the street from Franklin Hills lies nationally-renowned Children's Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA), serving Los Angeles with premier health care for children. We recently discovered that two of their special doctors reside here in Franklin Hills: sisters Lindsay and Lydia Andras. Graduates of Emory University Medical School, these accomplished sisters found their way to us over the past decade. Orthopedic Surgeon Lindsay came to Children's Hospital in 2011 and currently serves as Associate Division Chief and Director of the Spine Program at the Children's Orthopedic Center. When Anesthesiologist Lydia decided to focus on pediatrics as a subspecialty, Lindsay recruited her sister to CHLA in 2014.

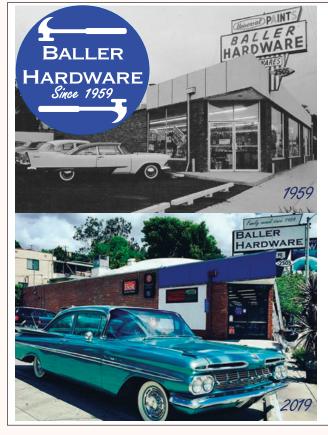


DR. LYDIA ANDRAS ON LEFT WITH HER SISTER DR. LINDSAY ANDRAS

Both sisters keep their patients close to their hearts, listing "the kids!" as their favorite part of working at Children's Hospital Los Angeles. The children provide them with "constant sources of laughter and joy". Lindsay has a particular focus on early onset scoliosis, and often enjoys

(Continued on page 16)

CLINT WALLACE



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#### (Continuing-on, continued from page 4)



THE LEGENDARY EL CAMINO: LADDER, WREATH AND LIGHT TRANSPORT AND PLATFORM FOR SORTING THE OVERVIEW PRIOR TO DISTRIBUTION ©: SHIRLEY MIMS

Chris' wise methods will continue to guide us. Soon thereafter, a beautiful memorial graced the bridge, surrounded by poinsettias and under the lights at night.

Bridge Decorating wasn't the only void his loss created. It became immediately clear how little we knew about the massive effort required to distribute the Overview and how flawlessly Chris managed it. Again, the FHRA gathered together and got it done—a fitting tribute to Chris' positive influence and impact on our community.

In these regards, Chris Boutelle's legacy will live on. The Shakespeare Bridge will continue to be decorated for holidays to come, and with this in hand, you can see that the Overview is being handled, as well.

V



SHAKESPEARE BRIDGE HOLIDAY LIGHTS AT NIGHT

### **Volunteer Today!**

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

Let us know at FHRA@franklinhills.org

# **Chris Boutelle**

### **Bruce Carroll**

The letters F.H.R.A. perfectly portray Chris Boutelle... Friendly, Helpful, Responsible, Activist.

Even before he joined the FHRA Board in 1991 his endless efforts were on projects directed at making the Franklin Hills a better, safer, more cohesive neighborhood.

He loved the Shakespeare Bridge and highlighted the end of the year for all of us by creating and managing the holiday decoration. During the bridge reconstruction in 1998 he worked with the city to put electrical outlets on each of the bridge's turrets so the FHRA could put up the lights and wreaths that beautifully mark the holiday season each year. But his love of the bridge wasn't just a holiday event...long before the lights went on Chris and his paintbrush worked often to make the graffiti come off.

Chris was also a driving force behind organizing many of the stairway clean-ups, disaster preparedness meetings, and encouraging the city to repair our pothole plagued streets.



L-R BRUCE CARROLL, CHRIS BOUTELLE, SHIRLEY MIMS, TIM COWELL AT THE 2013 FHRA ANNUAL MEETING

His efforts also were directed to the Welcome Basket program that provides residents new to Franklin Hills with a basket chock-full of info on the neighborhood, discounts at some businesses, and as the name implies shows we are a welcoming neighborhood.

(Continued on page 17)



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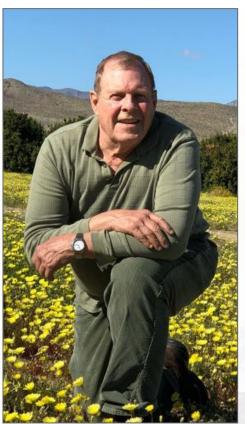
# Christopher Boutelle 9/2/46 - 11/22/21

Eighty percent of life is just showing up, Woody Allen once said, or perhaps he said it's 99%. Sometimes the quote is "success" instead of "life", but for Christopher Boutelle, reliably showing up for everyone else was 100% of his successful and well lived life. All his life, Chris could be counted on to show up whenever anyone needed him, helping out with kindness and generosity.

In his family, he was first and foremost the loving uncle every family needs and appreciates. His biological nieces and nephews were the offspring of his late brother Jonathan Boutelle (Phil, Tommy and Annie Boutelle) and of his brother Dr. William Boutelle (Jonathan, Laura and Xander Boutelle). In the next generation, he was great-uncle to Phil's kids Desmond, Elliette and Addie, as well as to nephew Jonathan Boutelle's sons Rohan and Vikram and Laura's daughter Iona. He also was like an uncle to the daughters of his first cousin Michael O'Malley (Sara, Rachel and Eliza O'Malley) and their daughters Sophia and Isabel O'Malley-Krohn and Nora Hylton.

Beyond genetic ties, Chris was the glue that kept everyone in his extended family together. He remained good friends with Kim Tyler, his brother Jonathan's former wife. His long-standing Thanksgiving tradition was to drive up to Northern California from Los Angeles where he lived to have a midday dinner with Kim and his nieces and nephews in Santa Cruz, and then jump in his car, sometimes with brother Jonathan, and make it up to Berkeley in time for dessert with the families of his brother Will and cousin Mike and his old friend Neale McGoldrick. At the time of his death in an auto accident on November 22, he was setting out from LA on his way north for the family Thanksgiving as usual.

He showed up for everyone else's weddings, starting in 1960, when he was just fourteen. He rode alone on Greyhound buses from New Jersey where he lived with his parents, Sara Holmes Boutelle and Dr. William Boutelle, to represent his family at his



CHRIS BOUTELLE

: NICOLE EWING

cousin Mike's wedding in Pasadena.

Four decades later, in 1999, he and his beloved longtime partner Glenn Patterson went to India for the wedding of his nephew Jonathan Boutelle. Tragically, Glenn died suddenly on that trip. That's when Chris stepped into yet another uncle role, becoming friend and mentor for Glenn's nephew Nick Di Fruscia for the rest of his life.

He had a rich history of showing up for others in Los Angeles, where he had lived since the 1970s. He and Glenn moved to the Franklin Hills neighborhood in 1981, where they were active in the Franklin Hills Residents Association (FHRA). Chris joined the FHRA board thirty years ago, serving tirelessly as a pillar of his local community, including as president and vice president of the FHRA.

Nick Di Fruscia said that Chris spearheaded many projects, most notably decorating the neighborhood's "Shakespeare Bridge" for the holidays, overseeing sales and distribution for their Overview newsletter, graffiti removal, street repair and stair cleanups. Chris and Glenn were known for helping out older neighbors with home maintenance and in many other ways.

Chris was not only an active member of FHRA, but he was very passionate about his civic duties in his work with the Democrats for Neighborhood Action, the Stonewall Democratic club and a variety of other causes that he not only contributed his time to, but financially supported.

He had a long history in the motion picture and television industry, where he was active in his union, IATSE local 80, and the LA County branch of the AFL-CIO.

Prior to his retirement, he was a Best Boy / Grip, working on many projects such as WKRP in Cincinnati, Charles In Charge, Father of The Bride, and so many others while closing out his career working on the daytime CBS talk show The Talk.

And in this busy life he found time to be loyal for decades to many good friends from his youth. Born in Manhattan, he grew up in Pittstown, New Jersey. He attended Brown University, Foothill College and the University of Southern California. He and Neale McGoldrick, a friend from Brown days, took 28 memorable trips together all over the world.

His nephew Xander remembers that his uncle "built community and brought people together in all elements of his life, for our families, for his union, for his neighborhood association, for his political party, for his friends. His natural instinct was always to bring folks together."

All of Chris Boutelle's family and friends, the many who loved him dearly, greatly miss him. A memorial gathering in Los Angeles will be scheduled for the spring, COVID permitting.

W

# **In memory of Chris Boutelle**

### Thom Davis

#### International Vice President, International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees

As an introduction, My name is Thom Davis, and I have been given the honor of sharing some of my personal experiences and recollections of Chris Boutelle.

Although Chris and I became members of the same local union in the latter part of the 1970's, it wasn't till the mid 1980's that we met and got to know one another. We met on the job and quickly became friends, which of course was the norm with Chris.

While working alongside Chris a bit of a bond was created. As everyone who had the opportunity to engage with Chris will attest, Chris was easy to get along with and was always there to assist and help. As a mutual friend once said about Chris, "the work is always a little lighter when Chris is on the job".

But, aside from being a great coworker, he became a good friend and ally. We would spend time discussing ways to make the local union a more progressive force. We talked about ways to engage the membership on issues that not only affected the Contracts that the members were working under, but ways to engage them into the political process that would benefit society as a whole. He agreed that representing the members of the union went beyond just the Contract with the employer. This was one of the key traits of Chris. Always thinking about ways to improve the lives of everyone, not just his or those that he associated with, but everyone. To build a better, richer society, economically and culturally, was always front of mind for Chris.



Remembering that these were the Reagan years, there were a lot of union members who had been duped into thinking that the policies being put forth were in the best interest of working people. I recall on more than one occasion I would be doing my usual speech and argument and Chris would intercede. With the calmness and conviction that he was noted for, Chris would gently enter into the conversation and articulate the points in a way that were clear and concise without the visceral that was, and is all too common in these types of discussions . I don't know how many minds he changed, but I do know that he had an impact on those that he interacted with.

Although encouraged to do so, Chris never ran for union office. He was much more content to do the work of serving on committees and acting as an advisor. Knowing that Chris would have easily been elected, I asked several times why he wouldn't run for elected office in the union. His answer was always the same. He wasn't comfortable with putting himself up front.

He was much more comfortable supporting others and doing the work that needed to be done. And true to his personality, he did do the work, and then would give credit to the others around him.

Chris was instrumental in setting up the local's Political Action Committee (PAC), and was the first member of that committee. Using his depth of knowledge and connections he had made over the years the local's committee transformed the perception of the Below the Line craft unions in the political arena. Always humble and not one to announce or brag, he never really let on that he already knew many of the politicians that committee members were meeting for the first time.

Chris also served on the budget committee, the election committee, the Contract ratification committee, as well as volunteering for any other activities the local was sponsoring.

The above is nothing more than a list of things that Chris devoted his time to. But, for me, I must say that having lost Chris is a personal loss. In Chris I found a true partisan compatriot. A person that I could confide in.

Chris was many things. Aside from work and the work of the union, Chris was a friend that could always be counted on and be trusted. He is deeply missed.

W

# Alice Davis Disney Costume Designer

### Suzanne Carney



ALICE DAVIS TODAY AT HER HOME IN SILVER LAKE

Alice remembers the day she stood in the admissions office of The Chouinard Art Institute, one of the best animation schools in the world, and was told that animation classes were only for men.

"I started crying, and I wasn't the crying type." She was a young artist who wanted to learn from the best animators in the world, but it wasn't even an option. But Mrs. Chouinard came up with a solution, she told Alice to hang tight, she'd be right back. She



POSTCARD FROM ALICE TO MR. DAVIS - PAR AVION - À PARIS. ILLUSTRATED BY ALICE DAVIS

: SID DOBLIN

returned with another woman who wore a smock and had a measuring tape around her neck.

"I think I've got everything solved for you," Chouinard said. "You're going to be a Costume Design major!" Alice wasn't the least bit interested.

As a consolation she was told she could audit a class being taught by Mark Davis. In order to observe the class, however, she would have to call the roll and be sure Mr. Davis always had at least three pieces of chalk.

The class with Mark Davis, as she described it, was magical. "He did drawings on the black board," she said. "All the way around the room, and he would explain how a deer would jump over a fence."

Talking about that day more than sixty years later, Alice's hands move through the air as she describes the

lecture. "There were black boards on every wall in the classroom, all the way around." Her fingers hold an imaginary pencil and she sketches out what she saw that day. "By the time he finished talking he'd drawn the whole thing. You could see this animal running around the room."

When that semester ended Alice continued in Costume Design. Mr. Davis moved on in his career, and they went their separate ways.

Years later Alice got a call from Mr. Davis who was at Disney Studios doing Sleeping Beauty. They needed someone to make Princess Aurora's blue dress.

(Continued on page 21)



# **My Memory of Chris**

### Adam Weisman

I have known Chris since the early 1990s after I moved to Franklin Hills from Michigan. I attended my first FHRA Board Meeting in 1993 to advocate for our stairways and Chris helped me with the process, including hoisting me, the first renter, onto the board. Chris was an asset to FHRA as well as to helping nurture new board members to achieve the goals of the organization, neighborhood improvement for all the residents. Together we worked on numerous events, like the various festivals, annual meetings, street fairs, Overview distributions, and juggling many critical incidents that impacted our FHRA neighbors. His intelligence, insight, and creativity was an asset to the board to solve problems and to be empathetic to the needs of our neighbors.

I also fondly remember Chris as someone that helped me get my house on Cumberland Avenue. I was renting on lower Sunset Drive and when I searched for something larger, he and his partner tipped me off on their next-door neighbor's lower unit. I was their neighbor and eventual homeowner of the residence until they moved to another home on the hill. Without Chris and his partner, Glenn, I never would have ended up living in Franklin Hills, attaining FHRA board positions, LILA board positions, and helping establish the Norm Harrington Community Garden. Chris was part of my foundation as a community service activist and was always a source of guidance and collaboration on each of these community positions.

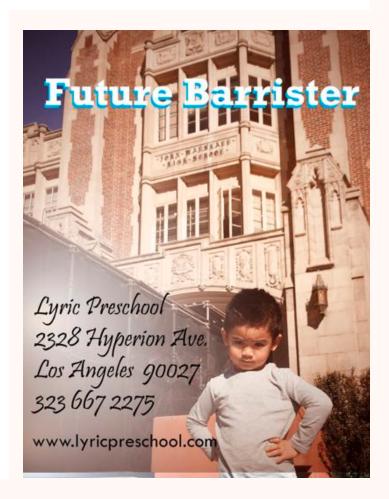
I considered Chris to be a reference point when I talk to newcomers to Franklin Hills; no story or event about Franklin Hills is complete without mentioning how Chris was an important part of it. He was a kind, gentle, humorous, and inventive soul on Franklin Hills. He will be missed by all.



[Adam Wiesman was FHRA president from 1997 to 1999 and chairman from 2000 to 2004. His tenure on the board overlapped with his participation on the LILA board from 1998 through 2015. In 2019 he was elected by the membership as a Board Member Emeritus.]



FORMER FHRA PRESIDENT ADAM WEISMAN, STILL ACTIVE, SPEAKING AT THE 2021 ANNUAL MEETING



# **Real Estate Conditions**

### Suzanne Carney



#### (Two sisters/doctors, continued from page 9)

following her patients for years, getting to know them and watching them grow up. She describes this process as "a privilege". Lydia says that the children impress her constantly in the way they face challenges and adversity with grace and courage.

The sisters take pride in their "mission driven" team of colleagues. Lindsay notes that CHLA is the only top-five children's hospital in the nation which also serves as the pediatric safety net hospital for the area. As far as pediatrics is concerned, CHLA takes care of everything and everyone. She cites its family feel, even more so now with her sister, who has worked alongside her in the operating room. Lydia finds that the people attracted to working at a children's hospital have "a more playful personality" and are willing to do what they can to make things better for the kids.

Growing up in Murrayville, a small farming town in central Illinois, neither sister suspected they would be living in the heart of Los Angeles. In late 2011, their mother helped Lindsay find her first place in Franklin Hills. Their mother passed away shortly thereafter but left Lindsay with a wonderful memory of her smiling in the sunshine outside that home. Lindsay later purchased a place up the street, and this March Lydia purchased the home right next door to Lindsay. They both enjoy the quiet oasis of Franklin Hills, where they can walk their dogs and experience "the magical sunrises and sunsets". They love the special spirit of neighborhood camaraderie, whether through the Shakespeare Bridge décor, autumn block party, or daily waves and chats

along the road seeing neighbors. Lydia was touched when the neighborhood recently came together to search for a potentially missing child (quickly found). She came outside to help, and the street was covered with supportive neighbors, renewing her faith in the community.

Meeting these sisters was such a pleasure. We applaud both Lindsay and Lydia for their ongoing contribution to children's health and enriching our Franklin Hills community.

#### (Boutelle by Carroll, continued from page 11)

But the most valuable of all his efforts was his endless work to get the FHRA message out to everyone in the neighborhood through the Overview newsletter. He worked all year to sign up advertisers for the two yearly editions of the Overview. Then he worked with the printer going over each page, article and ad to make sure they were just right. He even managed to get costs down enough that the Overview made a slight profit.

But printing was only half the work, then came getting the 2,500 Overviews to every Franklin Hills household. He lined up the twentynine volunteers, mapped out the routes and once the issue was printed, then distributed the right number of copies to each of the volunteers who would be walking from home to home to deliver the FHRA's message of community unity.



CELEBRATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RENOVATED SHAKESPEARE BRIDGE; BACK ROW L-R: FORMER COUNCILMEMBER TOM LABONGE, CHRIS BOUTELLE, SHIRLEY MIMS; FRONT ROW: A FEW OF THE YOUNGER NEIGHBOR CELEBRANTS

CHARLEY MIMS

Chris and I served on the FHRA Board together for more than a quarter century and I was constantly impressed with his dedication to getting the job done right. Even after I had moved away and gotten to an age when I could no longer bring my 24' ladder to the Holiday light installation and take it down, Chris would come by to pick it up and bring it back. He got all the jobs done by taking care of every detail.



# **Steve Beyer** Landscape Architect & Good Neighbor Extraordinaire!

If you've spent more time outdoors walking around our neighborhood during the COVID-19 Quarantine, you've probably noticed the gorgeous transformation of several front yards in the area. Drought tolerant plants and succulents, all donated by local residents and beautifully arranged by Steve Beyer, have replaced barren dirt, weeds and dying vegetation.



OFTEN NEIGHBORS WALK RIGHT BY STEVE AND NEVER NOTICE HIM AS HE WORKS TIRELESSLY AND SILENTLY IN THE FRONT YARDS OF OUR NEIGHBORHOOD BUT NOT THIS TIME!

RICK LAROCCA



LOCALS EXPRESS THEIR ADMIRATION AND GRATITUDE FOR STEVE THIS WAY: "HOW DID WE GET SO LUCKY, HE MUST HAVE FALLEN OUT OF A TREE!"

Steve Beyer, Franklin Hills' resident tree hugger for over 30 years and Landscape Architect extraordinaire donated his time and labor to produce the amazing works of art.

Born and raised on a farm in North Dakota, Steve went to college in Minneapolis where he received degrees in both Architecture and Landscape Architecture. Fortunately for us, Steve found his way into our little neighborhood of Lyric, Monon and Holly Knoll, on the other side of St. George, about 30 years ago.

After spending 12 years abroad in Asia, building theme parks in Singapore, Malaysia, China and Japan, Steve returned home and took up his hobby of landscaping neighborhood yards. That led to several landscape jobs in the Los Feliz area.

"I am happiest spending all day working in my garden and neighborhood yards, beautifying the community," Steve says with a proud, wide smile.

His work has been admired by all who walk our streets. Parents watch their children skip along the paths of the stone and succulent gardens Steve created. He only asked the owners of the property for permission, there was

#### **Carole Nese**



CRUISE THE MONON, TRACY, LYRIC AND HOLLY KNOLL NEIGHBORHOOD AND YOU SPY SOME OF STEVE'S HANDIWORK!

: RICK LAROCCA

no cost for his labor, planting or the plants.

But all good things must come to an end. With Steve's skill and amazing talents, he was recently hired by 'Universal Studios Creative' in Orlando to work as an Art Director. He returns to his home on Monon when he can, where he lives with his spouse, Herve.





CAN YOU DISCOVER WHERE THIS BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPING IS TO BE FOUND?

🞯: RICK LAROCCA

## Update on the Median Garden March 2022

### **Melinda Taylor**

Every time an Overview is planned, I'm invited to share thoughts on the Median Garden with you. I often write about specific plants, about their flowers, seeds, and berries. I've written about how many of the Median Garden's plants are California natives, and how growing these plants provides good food and nesting source materials for California native insects, and the California native birds that eat them, and the animals that eat them etc., etc., etc. all the way up to the apex predators of the food chain, represented locally by P-22, the Brad Pitt of mountain lions, who has been seen in Silver Lake recently and who resides generally in Griffith Park. Might you see P-22 lolling on the median early one evening? You might.

It's true, so true it bears being repeated from one Median Garden article to another. Everything is connected to everything else in the great chain of life. Everything is linked, so the choices we make (in gardening, for example to leave leaf litter on the ground as mulch, to not use pesticides, to let a few logs be outdoor chairs, to plant native and climateappropriate plants) affect all other life forms, not just humans.

One of the great pleasures of being a gardener is spending a lot of time with non-human life forms. In my work in LA I've walked down a driveway with a bobcat, watched a mountain lion nap, seen a falcon easily pick off pigeon out of mid-air while both were in flight. I've watched pairs and packs of coyotes hunting, swamps of bushtits gleaning trees, squadrons of ants farming aphids, long ribbons of mycorrhizae linking trees to the soil of a roof deck. All life forms are always in a state of change, and gardens are a poignant place to witness this – gardens are an ideal stage set for the drama.

The Median Garden is a valuable space in our community, and I hope I can successfully motivate you to support it financially, either from the Franklin Hills website (*www.franklinhills.org/median*) or by mailing FHRA a check. If you have read any of the previous Median Garden articles, you know that the Franklin Hills Residents Association oversees the Median Garden's maintenance, and that the funding for that maintenance relies on the generosity of you, me, our neighbors, and loyal supporters far and wide.

We really need your support. I know I've said it before but let me say it with more emphasis this time: We really need your support. Please help us as you can, and our deepest thanks to you for doing so!

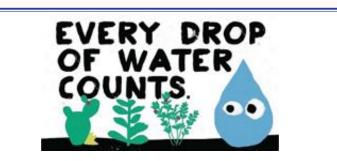


OUR SPECTACULAR MEDIAN GARDEN

🔞 : MELINDA TAYLOR



P-22 TAKES A NIGHTTIME STROLL IN SILVER LAKE ON MARCH 9TH



California is in a drought! Go to **www.ladwp.com/ waterconservation** for watering schedules, water saving tips and rebates for removing your lawn.

# **Udell Court Stair Cleanup**

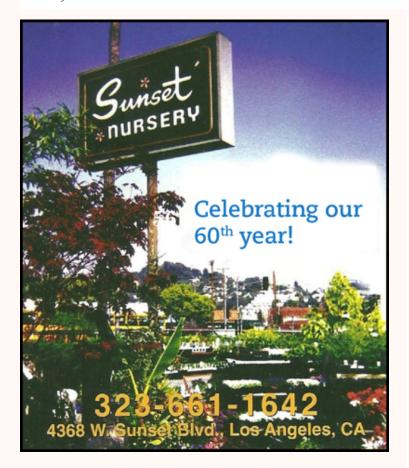
### Dave McDonald

One of Franklin Hills many great features is our public stairways. Joggers, dog walkers, and just plain walkers enjoy them for fresh air and wonderful views. You might be surprised to know that keeping them debris-free is not a city service. Your neighbors get together from time to time to trim BACK the bushes and sweep up the debris.

On Saturday, February 5th, FHRA joined the Los Feliz Improvement Association (LFIA) and Council District 4 in cleaning the stairway from Mayview to Udell Court. Over 20 people trimmed, swept, shoveled, and bagged debris.

We were joined by members of the LA Conservation Corps. From their website (*www.lacorps.org*):

"The LA Conservation Corps is an environmentally focused youth development organization. As the largest urban conservation corps in the country, we provide opportunities for young adults throughout Los Angeles who are out-of-work and out-of-school to explore new pathways to meaningful career and education opportunities while improving the quality of life in Southern California. By offering paid work experience on green community projects, we strive to build resilience in our Corps Members and in the neighborhoods they call home."





A FEW VERY SATISFIED NEIGHBORS AT THE END OF A STAIRWAY CLEANUP!

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, on our website under the "events" section at **www.franklinhills.org** or email us at **FHRA@franklinhills.org**.



STAIRWAYS NEED REGULAR ATTENTION. HERE'S CHRIS BOUTELLE (2ND FROM LEFT) IN 2013 AT THE RADIO WALK STAIRWAY CLEANUP!



A STAIRWAY CLEANUP IS FEEL-GOOD FUN FOR ALL AGES!

(Disney/Davis, continued from page 14)



POSTCARD FROM ALICE TO MARK WHILE WORKING ABROAD IN PARIS, ILLUSTRATED BY ALICE DAVID

The costume had to fit, fall, and flow in such a way that would show the motion. Alice knew fabric and patterns by that point of course, but she also understood animation. The collaboration worked in more ways than one because eventually they were married and settled in Silverlake.

When it came to working for Disney Studio, Alice described a lush and creative work environment, unlimited imagination and a healthy budget. Having come from the Garment District where, "they checked every penny and cheated as much as possible," Disney had a different approach. The process was a collective effort designed to explore and harvest a superior result.

It was only when I had seen Alice Davis's house that I saw the love story of her marriage to Mark Davis on every wall, all the art they had either created over time or collected from the places they loved to go. For this couple their letters to one another weren't written, they were drawn. They reinvented the billet-doux concept with colors and figures and floating pull quotes.

Today, years later, Alice still lives in the house she bought with her late husband, Mark Davis. It's filled with their life and art, and lots of memories. Mrs. Davis's voice has a soft sing-song cadence, she speaks in short phrases that paint vivid images and you can tell she sees things that way.

I noticed when she talks about her husband, when they first met and he was a mentor, she often refers to him in the story as Mr. Davis and her admiration comes through.

"At what point did you stop calling him Mr. Davis?" I ask, and she thinks about it.

"I think about two days after we were married." She says this with a smile.

Eventually, he did become Mark and she would remain Alice and they would always be, Mr. & Mrs. Davis.



COLLAGE OF SMALL WORLD COSTUMES DESIGNED BY ALICE DAVIS FOR DISNEY STUDIOS 1964



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#### ("'Oh, I Like my Paper Route...'", continued from page 5)

What a miracle life is. During lockdown, my tree, being biennial, was in its off year for bearing. The lady who lives at this residence told me, only one fruit came through in summer 2020. In 2019, the previous summer, the tree was so laden with persimmons that I was given permission to take some to make jam. The family with the persimmon tree, also allowed others to take fruit. Including an organization, Food Forward, dedicated to feeding hungry people, that came, picked fruit, and took away bushels. I say again, this is a miraculous life.

If you see me on a weekend morning, in the future, backpack filled with the Overview, wearing a Peaky-Blinders-style news cap, stop and say, "Hi." Maybe we can sing the "Newsboy" song together.

"Put your hands around the paper, Throw the paper in the bushes, Watch the bushes go... Boi-nng Watch the bushes go... Sproi-ng. As long as I'm in business, you know where you can find me working and enjoying..... Oh, Oh... Watch the bushes go: Sproi-ng"

V

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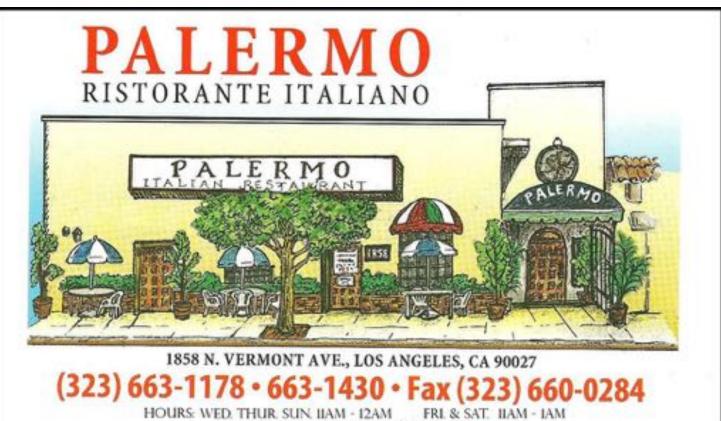


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