OVERVIEW

FALL / WINTER 2022 - ISSUE 64



FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

FRANKLIN HILLS

RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION



President's Message

Alison Wallace

Welcome to the Franklin Hills history issue of the Overview. We sincerely hope you enjoy reading about the neighborhood, those who came before us and those who are building new spaces and traditions.

I recently read about an Elizabeth Hardwick piece called Back Issues, which "...pile up in front of and behind experience, wedging the sandwich of real life in between." I thought about how my experience with the FHRA began in 2018 as something squeezed in between my "real life" of family, work, friends, and setting up our new home. Then over time and unexpectedly, it became a meaningful part of my sandwich.

I joined the board in an effort to simply get to know my neighbors. I arrived during a time of transition, with several founding members ready to retire, and a new group not yet solidly in place. Our new team jumped off the cliff, with Elizabeth, Chris and Melinda guiding us, holding the parachutes.



FHRA BOARD MEMBERS (L TO R): SUZANNE CARNEY (FORMER BOARD MEMBER), MICHAEL WILSON, CD4 FIELD DEPUTY XANTHE SCHEPPS, KAREN ALTUS, PAT HADNAGY, ALISON WALLACE, DAVE MCDONALD, CINDY SOLOVEI.

(MEMBERS NOT PICTURED: RICK LAROCCA, JESSICA LUEBKE)



They continued to run Overview sales, distribution and editorial, plus handle the Franklin median. Other board members like Rick and Michael stepped forward, helping with social media, the website and new member packets. Suzanne initiated the idea of an updated Overview cover, and Dave transitioned us from an Excel spreadsheet to an actual membership database. Pat took seasonal bridge décor to the next level. The entire team embraced the idea of a block party, and with the help of amazing Ronda Vista Place neighbors, initiated our first on Halloween weekend last year. We took this idea as a springboard to evolve the annual meeting into a Spring Fling, publicized with Michael's fantastic yard signs. Dave quietly served as the glue, always filling in the gaps.

We made this transition during a global pandemic, moving our monthly board meetings to Zoom, banging pots and pans at 8pm each night. Through it all, we laughed, cried, and then laughed some more. Our board consists of intelligent, hardworking, accomplished and truly funny members, rooted in mutual respect. I cannot express how grateful I am for the combination of jokes, wine, supportive spouses and willingness to roll up sleeves.

Someday this will become one of many "Back Issues". If you are able to join us on any part of our neighborhood journey, we encourage you to do so. The sandwich has been edifying and delicious!

-AW

TUTO VI

About the Cover

MJ Collin is an artist and animator. He created the season artwork and design for *Oregon Shakespeare Festival* from 2019–2022 and he was the primary storyboard artist on the first six seasons of Starz's Outlander series.

You can see more of his work at www.mjcollin.com, on Instagram @mj_collin, and @atelier23official.

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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.

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Dave McDonald (Vice President)

Rick LaRocca

<u>Cindy Solovei</u>

Karen Altus Pat Hadnagy

Jessica Luebke Mary Frances Smith-

Reynolds Michael Wilson Elizabeth Richardson

(off-board member)

Contributors

Karen Altus **Kay Camphuis Bruce Carroll Tim Cowell** Lesley Kyle Rick LaRocca Jessica Luebke Dave McDonald **Steve Meeks** Joshua Melville Elizabeth Richardson Mary Smith-Reynolds **Richard Stanley** Alison Wallace Michael Wilson





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Marking Special Days

at the Shakespeare Bridge

Marking a nationally important day (July 4th) or marking culturally important days (Pride Month) or marking a just plain fun day (Halloween) is part of FHRA's message of the importance of community.

Elizabeth Richardson

It's also a lot of fun with a guaranteed sense of accomplishment when the job is done. Not only that, the team also gets great feedback from the folks crossing the Shakespeare Bridge as the decorations go up. Enjoy!





MISSION ACCOMPLISHED: JULY 4TH. PAT HADNAGY AND DAVE MCDONALD



HANGING HALLOWEEN [L-R]: PAT HADNAGY, KAY JOHANSSON, GAY PRIDE PROUD CINDY COLOVEI, ANISSA HADNAGY, KAREN ALTÚS, DAVE MCDONALD for: SHAWN SITES



: RICK LAROCCA



: ALISON WALLACE

"Colin takes all the pressure out of purchasing or selling a house. He does his research and takes the time to give you the best results. He's helped my family and I with both types of transactions. I can confidently say I'd use him again and recommend him to anyone

Side note - he's so sweet and hilarious, which seriously helps take off a lot of the stress with moving out/or into a new place. Thank you, Colin!!"

- Ciara F.



Colin Hoffmeister 310.435.4206 CHoffmeister@msn.com DRE 01921784

My Real Estate Activity (YTD) 2022

2485 Wild Oak Drive - 90068 Los Feliz Oaks

\$2,675,617 - Selling Agent

2373 Lyric Ave. - 90027 Franklin Hills - Los Feliz

\$1,920,000 - Listing Agent

2341 Ronda Vista Drive - 90027 Franklin Hills - Los Feliz \$2,325,000 - Selling Agent

Off Market Sale

Sold!

425 S. Beachwood Drive - 91506

\$1,169,000 - Selling Agent

5042 Monte Bonito Drive - 90041 Eagle Rock

\$1,405,500 - Selling Agent

270 Grandview Street - 91104

Pasadena

\$1,015,000 - Selling Agent

444 Piedmont Ave. #103 - 91206 Glendale

\$750,000 - Listing Agent

Sold!

444 Piedmont Ave. #329 - 91206 Glendale

\$700,000 - Listing Agent

Leverage my 25 years of experience. Realtor, Contractor, Homeowner, Real Estate Investor



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History of Franklin Hills

A brief history of our neighborhood

Michael Wilson

Long before Spanish settlers moved into what's now the state of California, Indigenous Tribes inhabited the region. The ancestors of the Chumash, who lived in the Los Angeles Basin for over 13,000 years, were the first to settle in what is now Los Angeles. These people were likely the first to make their home in the Franklin Hills.

When the Spanish came upon Native American settlements, they called them *Rancherias*. One such settlement became Rancho Los Feliz. Many have assumed the origin of the name "Los Feliz" was derived from Spanish for "The Happy." Not so.

The story goes: Rancho Los Feliz was a land grant given in 1795 by Spanish Governor Fages to José Vicente Feliz, one of the first Spanish settlers in California. The grant's boundaries were the LA River to the north and east, and Santa Monica Mountains to the west. This put Señor Feliz in control of land that we know as East Hollywood, Silver Lake, Los Feliz, and, of course, 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)

In 1882, the majority of Rancho Los Feliz was sold to Colonel Griffith Jenkins Griffith. He later gifted some of the land to the city, which eventually created Griffith Park in his name. Los Angeles's real estate boom of 1887 went bust in 1888 and from photos, the Franklin Hills remained mostly undeveloped until the 1920s.

Many of the hillier parts of Los Angeles witnessed the construction of public stairways at this time. While the claim is made that the stairs were built to ease Angelinos access to the considerable network of streetcars, no trains ever passed through Franklin Hills. Yet, you'll find in the Franklin Hills, the largest concentration of public stairways in the city. An extensive stairway map is available on the FHRA website (franklinhills.org). [See "'Our' Fabulous Stairways!" on page 17, which includes the stairway map.]

In 1926, construction was completed on the Shakespeare Bridge over Sacatela Creek at a cost of approximately \$58,000. Construction of the costly bridge was vigorously opposed by the LFIA, who suggested the real purpose of the bridge was to bring financial benefit to local property owners in the hills, and not to the public at large. Nevertheless, construction of J.C. Wright's openspandrel arch bridge began in 1925 and the Gothic Revival style bridge was a striking addition.

In 1915, Brooklyn-based film company American Vitagraph constructed a large film studio on the corner of Prospect and Talmadge, at the base of the Franklin Hills. In that year alone, Vitagraph produced at least 337 films. In 1925, Vitagraph was bought by Warner Brothers and became the Warner East Hollywood Annex. It was there Warner Brothers filmed portions of the first feature-length motion picture with synchronized dialogue: The Jazz Singer.

(Continued on page 13)

Spring Fling... A-Ring-Ding. Did you go?

What a **GREAT** idea to reinvent the event formerly known as: "FHRA Annual General Meeting." Rebranding paid mighty dividends. We're talking a great time was had by all. We met lots of new neighbors while getting caught up on the business. Plus, yummy BBQ, sweets, wine and entertainment. Right here in the nabe!

HUGE heartfelt thanks to LILA for their extraordinary team. They donated many extra hours for A/V, chairs, tables, trash and overall logistics/set-up and support. Great Neighbors! Thank you, especially to David Padilla.

Here's our gratitude list for all those that gave their time, goods & services:

- Speaker: LILA Head of School, Michael Maniska
- Speaker: LAPD Senior Lead Officer Jose Ramirez, Northeast Division, Silver Lake/Franklin Hills
- Entertainment: Local band, Sage & Fool

Board members along with support from their families and neighbors:

- Yard signs: Michael Wilson
- Renewal letters / Board member election / sent ballots to all FHRA members / LA City Permit: Dave McDonald
- Food: Michael Wilson (procurement);
 Scott Altus (sizzling hot BBQ duty);
 Pizza generously donated by
 Palermo and Tomato Pie
- Wine tasting: wines donated by Urban Press and the family of James Longerettaa and Jessica Luebke; wine pouring: lots of board members! (Especially: Pat Hadnagy, Melinda Taylor, Alison Wallace, and Rick LaRocca)

- Overall event support / Décor: Lesley Kyle
- Chocolate tasting: donated by Maple Hill LA brand specialist: Barry Callebaut Chocolates
- Welcome Desk: Cindy Solovei & Karen Altus
- Bridge Housing charitable donations: Dave McDonald
- LILA logistics A/V coordination:
 Pat Hadnagy & Dave McDonald
- Photography: Rick LaRocca
- Bounce house: Suzanne Carney
- FHRA History Display: Karen Altus
- Snacks / Dessert: Cindy Solovei
- Water / Sodas: Rick LaRocca
- Ice: Melinda Taylor

You see? It does take a village. Hope we got everyone on the grat list.

If you're not already a member of the FHRA, please consider joining us.

For info visit our website: **franklinhills.org**



: RICK LAROCCA



EIGHT BOXES OF TOILETRIES AND OTHER NECESSITIES DONATED BY

Lesley Kyle



NASTER OF CEREMONIES AND FHRA PRESIDENT ALISON WALLACE



BOARD MEMBER PAT HADNAGY SERVING WINES DONATED BY URBAN PRESS.



COTT ALTUS ON DUTY AT THE BBQ



SAGE AND FOOL LAYING DOWN THE BEAT!

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Neighborhood Contacts

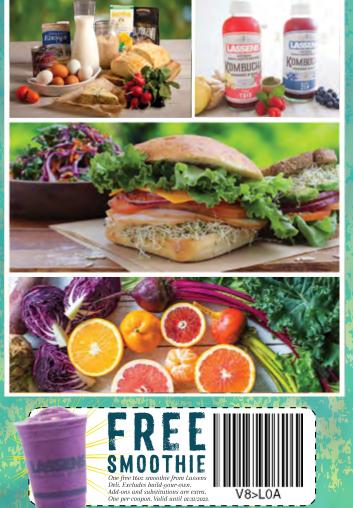
City of LA	City of LA Contacts				
City Services					
-	① 311				
	■ 311@lacity.org				
Hours M-F	7am-7pm				
Hours Sat - Sun	8:30 am-4:45 pm				
Animal Services	① (888) 452-7381				
Dead Animal Pickup (Sanitation)	extension 2				
Lost Animals	extension 2				
Barking Dogs	extension 3				
Building & Safety Violations	② (213) 473-3231				
Parking Enforcement (DOT)	① (213) 485-4184				
Council D	istrict 4				
	① (213) 473-7004				
Councilmember Nithya Raman (CD4)					
	(213) 473-2311				
Field Deputy	① (213) 500-7357				
Walker King	■ walker.king@lacity.org				
Graffiti Removal	③ 311				
Homeless Services	① 211				
LA County Info Line	② 211				
Mayor Eric Garcetti,	City of Los Angeles				
Central Area Representative	, ,				
Serapia Kim					
Neighborhood Prosecutor					
Gabrielle Taylor	- (.,				
Gabilele Taylor	gaorieretayioneracity.org				

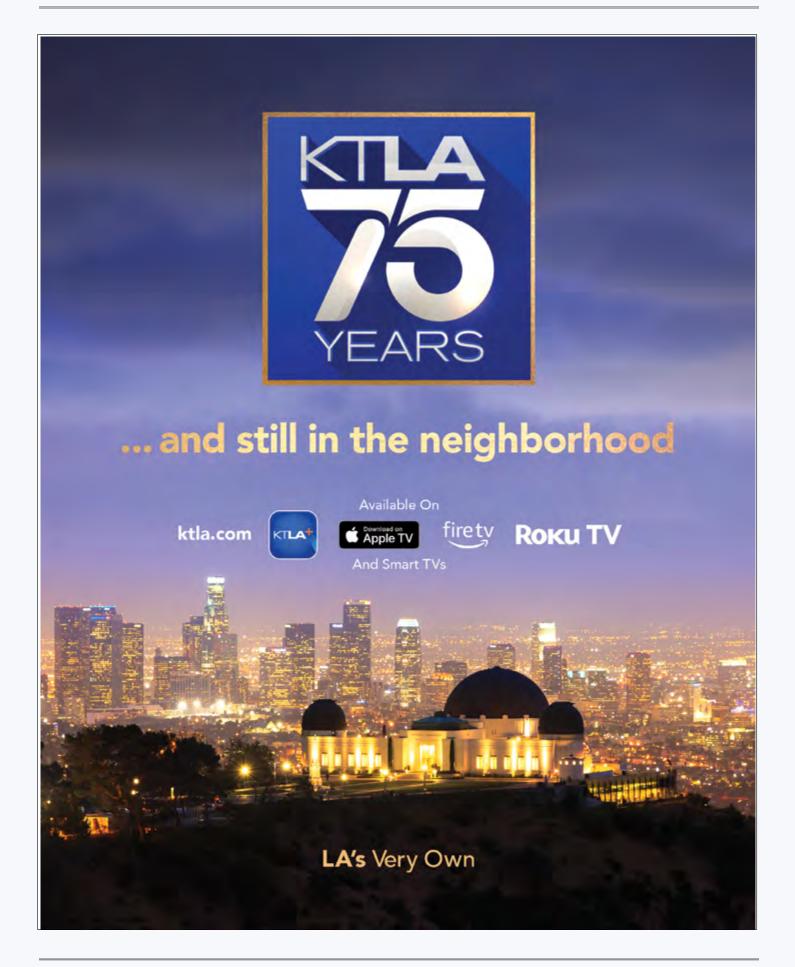
Utilities				
Dig Alert (call before digging)	① 811			
LADWP	① 1-800-DIAL-DWP (1-800-342-5397)			
SoCalGas (inc. leak reporting)	① 1-800-427-2200			
Sanitation				
Trash Bin Replacement	① (800) 773-2489x1			
Bulky Item Removal	① (800) 773-2489x1			

Communit	y Contacts
FHRA	(323) 908-6078
FRIKA	
LAUSD	
LAUSD School Police	① (213) 625-6631
Marshall High School - Main#	① (323) 671-1400
King Middle School - Main#	① (323) 644-6700
Los Feliz Public Library	① (323) 913-4710
Lycée International de Los Angeles (LILA)	③ (323) 665-4526
Lyce international de Los Aligeres (LILA)	■ losfeliz@lilaschool.com
Prospect Studios	
Janet Campus, Production Services	① (323) 671-4022
Prospect Studio Security Shift Leader	① (323) 203-5201
David Ortiz,	③ (323) 671-5973
Security Operations Program Manager	

Emergency	y Services					
LAFD						
Fire Department: Emergency	9 911					
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	① (800) 222-1222					
LAI	LAPD					
Police Department, Emergency	9 911					
Police Department, Northeast Division	① (323) 561-3211					
Sr. Lead Officer Jose Ramirez	① (213) 793-0763					
Sr. Lead Officer Jose Ramifice	☑ 39570@lapd.online					
Sr. Lead Officer Antonio Hernandez	① (213) 793-0762					
St. Lead Office / Artorio Tre Hariace	■ 39878@lapd.online					
Non-Emergency	① (877) ASK-LAPD or (877) 275-5273					
Gang Problems	① (323) 561-3335					
Noise Enforcement	① (213) 996-1251					
Rape Hotline	③ (310) 392-8381					
Restraining Orders						







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Make Art Not War

A Shepard Fairey Mural

Steve Meek

In 2013, Carol Blanding, Manager of Baller Art Ware, had the idea for local, yet world-renowned political graphic artist, Shepard Fairey, to paint a mural on the wall leading into the art store parking lot. Blanding asked through a mutual friend and Fairey agreed. Fairey's company Obey Giant was already a customer of the store.

The mural, titled "Make Art Not War," has to be one of the most photographed murals in Los Angeles. The message is self-explanatory; and we have to agree.

Artist Frank Shepard Fairey emerged from the skateboarding scene. In 1989 he designed the "Andre the Giant Has a Posse" sticker campaign. Fairey later designed the Barack Obama "Hope" poster for the 2008 U.S. presidential election. His work is included in collections at the Smithsonian, New York's Museum of Modern Art, as well as the Los Angeles Museum of Art and numerous other museums.

V

Baller Art Ware, which has supported many artists in different ways through the years, is located at 3714 Tracy Street at Hyperion Avenue.

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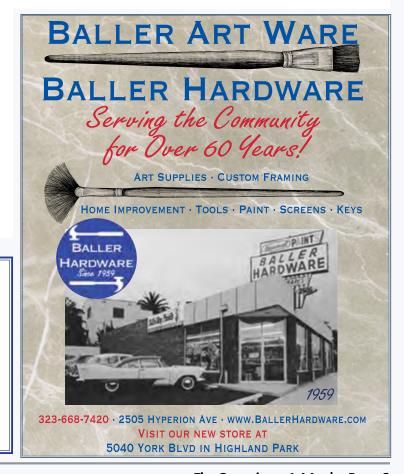
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Please be sure to tell our advertisers that you saw their ad in the **Franklin Hills Overview**.



'OBEY'DIENT DOGS AGREE 'MAKE ART NOT WAR' IS A WINNER!

(RICHARD STANLEY



Riparian Ruminations:

Arroyo de la Sacatela

Rick LaRocca

Living in the Franklin Hills, we spend a lot of time focused on the Shakespeare Bridge, and rightly so. Yet we often overlook that one of the reasons it was built was to cross over the long forgotten little arroyo below. There's been a lot written about the lost riparian habitat of the Los Angeles basin. If you know where to look on the web, you can get caught up in the current pretty fast.

Living next to what was once the perennial creek called Sacatela or Arroyo de la Sacatela, has given me a unique perspective on this lost habitat. The effort to tame the little creek began around 1916, when the upper section was diverted into a concrete storm drain at the end of what is now Monon Street. It would take at least until 1930 for Sacatela to be fully brought to heel by the engineers. The City wanted to stem the seasonal flooding it caused downstream and create opportunities for expansion of homes and businesses in the area.

A few times a year, when the storms come, a glimmer of its 'old' self bubbles to life. As the rain gets heavy and the water starts to collect and pick up speed, it rushes down our street. Be prepared if it's trash day or you may end up chasing your bins down to the end where a whole herd of black, blue, and green containers end up corralled like lost cattle.

The little 'creek' rushes into the storm drain echoing as it careens down the underground concrete channel following along its historic path. Under the LILA School and the ABC Studios it goes, deep beneath the concrete streets of Franklin Hills, below King Middle School and the Myra Street Bridge. Then on it goes to Koreatown to its terminus at the site of the old *Bimini Slough* where it used to connect with other creeks to form a long-gone wetland.

Now, there is only a manmade monument to the slough and the *Bimini Springs* in the form of the *Bimini Slough Ecological Park* at S. Juanita Avenue. Eventually, all this water drains towards the coast through hundreds of miles of storm drains as part of what is the *Ballona watershed*, finally emptying unceremoniously into the Pacific.

Early the other morning, we were visited by our local feline celebrity, P22, the mountain lion. I couldn't help but think that decades ago there were others like him that wandered along the old arroyo in search of an easy meal, a drink of water or a cool place to crash during the heat of the day. It's a unique little spot, always a few degrees cooler than at the top of the hill, a bit less hectic than the streets above, making it attractive to the coyotes, skunks, owls and other wildlife.



SACATELA STORM DRAIN AND THE SHAKESPEARE BRIDGE GARDEN

: RICK LAROCCA

I feel lucky that we made this our home and often remind myself how unique and special it is here in what's left of one of Los Angeles' lost little streams.

Links to more info:

https://exhibits.stanford.edu/ruderman/catalog/ vk161vh4160

http://militantangeleno.blogspot.com/2008/04/river-ran-through-it-in-search-of.html

For a related story, see "Shakespeare Bridge Garden is completed again. Finally!" on page 22.

V

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Tour of Two Neighborhood Gems:

The Franklin Avenue Median and Norm Harriton Community Gardens

Karen Altus

Neighbors gathered this spring near the Franklin Avenue Bridge to meet Melinda Taylor, who designed and has managed the Median Garden since 1995. News of upcoming watering restrictions prompted her to begin our tour by demonstrating how to test soil moisture, explaining that deep, infrequent watering is the way to go.

Become a Median Maven

The care and maintenance of the Median Garden is funded entirely by the FHRA. Please help support this beautiful gateway to our neighborhood by making a contribution to the FHRA "Median Garden Fund".

https://www.franklinhills.org/ median

We enjoyed hearing about the various plants in the median garden and how they were chosen and cared for. As a newcomer to the neighborhood, I was impressed to learn that in 1992, members of the FHRA began a campaign to create this beautifully landscaped median where only concrete existed. It took three years of developing plans, obtaining permits, soliciting grants, gathering donations, and negotiating with the agencies at City Hall to create this beautiful garden, which was planted by neighbors and the community in 1995.

The garden is drought-tolerant and was designed to visually reflect its particular location. It contains many plants native to Southern California, as well as plants growing in the gardens in front of houses on either side of Franklin Avenue. Plantings include purple lantana, Mexican sage, wooly blue curls, St. Catherine's lace, Matilija

Poppy, agave, bird-of-paradise, bush germander, western redbud, manzanita, and salvia. The purple-blooming Jacaranda trees are my favorite.

Next, we took the stairs down to Sanborn Avenue to the entrance of the Norman Harriton Community Garden, where we were greeted by Tim Cowell who is the Garden Coordinator. [See Tim's article "20 (+) Years and Growing!" on page 24.]

As we enjoyed the beautiful garden, Tim told us that the area was once used by the original motion picture studio, Vitagraph. It was later the site of the horse stables for DW Griffith's studio during the filming of the notorious 1916 movie, "The Birth of a Nation". Over the years, it was also the site of several movie sets, and was once a full-scale residential set with asphalt paving. Gardeners today are still digging up chunks of the asphalt.

In addition to their individual plots, the community gardeners share plants like sugar cane, dragon fruit, kumquat, blackberries, lemongrass, citrus and peach trees with one small apple tree. These plants are maintained by all. When fruits are available, everyone shares. Members occasionally hold "open garden" meetings and invite the community to visit and enjoy the space. Currently, there is one such event being planned; perhaps aligning with the FHRA's Spring Fling event next year.

As we were leaving, Tim dug up some fresh beets from his garden to share with us, which I roasted (greens and all) for dinner that night. It was a delicious ending to a memorable morning, enjoying these two beautiful natural treasures in our neighborhood.



rick Larocca



TIM COWELL AND HIS GIFT OF FRESH BEETS DESTINED FOR KAREN



WITH HER HAND ON A SOIL MOISTURE PROBE, MELINDA TAYLOR EXPLAINS HOW TO TEST WHETHER OR NOT THE MEDIAN GARDEN



INSPECTING THE NORM HARRITON COMMUNITY GARDEN

Living History:

John Marshall High School

At the base of Franklin Hills sits an historic Los Angeles institution: John Marshall High School. Named after United States Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall. The school opened over 91 years ago, on January 26, 1931. Justice Marshall impacted decisions made throughout the development of the school's motto ("Veritas Vincit / Truth Conquers"), colors (two shades of blue symbolizing truth), and mascot (Johnny Barrister). His statue still stands in the senior court.

With its five-story Gothic tower and coverage over multiple blocks in each direction, the school casts an imposing presence. John Marshall High has always been a large school, opening with approximately 1,200 students and holding current attendance now at 2,300. All who walk through the front door can see historic woodwork and beautiful tile in both the front lobby and front office.

We had the opportunity to visit the campus one sunny afternoon this autumn. We met Benin Lemus, the hardworking librarian/journalism teacher, and some of her students. They helped provide us with many of the interviews for this article.

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

Kay Camphuis and Alison Wallace



INTERVIEWED FOR THIS ARTICLE: (L-R) ARTURO PERAZA (CURRENT STUDENT), JOSEPH MANAHAN ('95 MARSHALL GRADUATE), AND MIRANDA DUTTON (CURRENT STUDENT).

🔯: ALISON WALLACE

The two student interviewers, Miranda and Arturo (pictured in this article along with teacher Mr. Manahan), later wrote for their journalism class: "With quite a bit of change made over time as well as some still being the same,



HENRY CUAZ, MARSHALL '69 GRADUATE AND CURRENT VOLUNTEER.

T: KAY CAMPHUIS

there is something that Mr. Manahan also expressed, 'Schools seem more aware now of cultural differences.'" He also shared that the school seems to care and pay closer attention to their students whereas, in the past, the school might not have implemented as many security protocols as we have now.

(Continued on page 28)

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(History of Franklin Hills, continued from page 5)

Warner East Studios was sold to ABC in 1948 and became known as ABC Television Center. Programming like The Dating Game, The Newlywed Game, Let's Make a Deal, and Family Feud were taped there, along with World News Tonight. Disney acquired it in 1966.

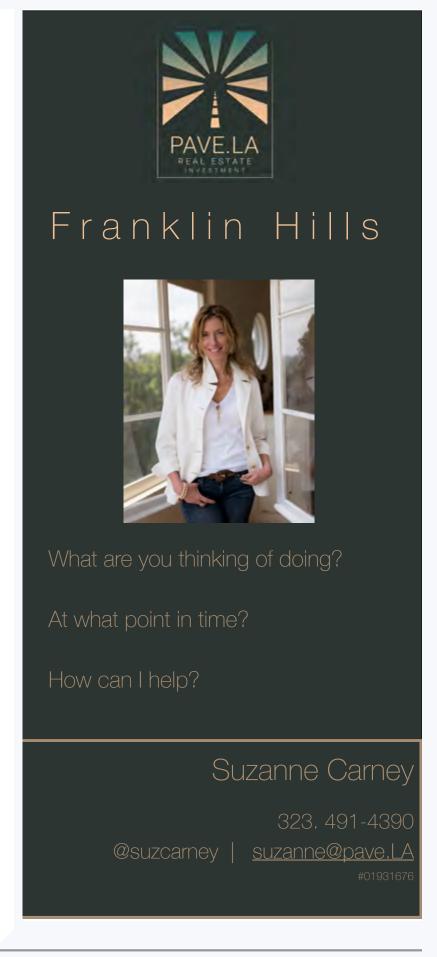
Many other original film studios were established in the area. Max Sennett built his on Fountain, across from King Middle School. D.W. Griffith constructed huge outdoor sets for *Birth of a Nation* at the corner of Hollywood and Hillhurst.

The 1920s saw a housing boom, and many of the homes in the Franklin Hills are originals, being the first on the hillsides. At that time, the Franklin Hills were dry and barren of trees. The views were the draw. Development continued well into the 1950s and 1960s. There are quite a few mid-century gems dotting the hillside, next door to Spanish Revivals and Storybooks.

In the 1920s twin homes at the corner of Lyric and St. George were owned by brothers Roy and Walt Disney. In 1926, when the brothers were still living in their Lyric Avenue houses, they opened Walt Disney Hyperion Studios here because they could walk to work! Our Gelson's grocery store sits on the site of the old studio. Along the five block walk between their houses and the studio site, you'll find the quaint animator's cottages that inspired the home of the seven dwarfs in Snow White.

In 1960, celebrated architect John Lautner was commissioned by wealthy industrialist Kenneth Reiner to build the *Midtown School*. Completed in 1961, the Midtown School is the only campus designed by Lautner. The school later became the *Apple School / Los Feliz Hills School*, and in 1991 became a campus of *Lycée International de Los Angeles* (LILA).

(Continued on page 23)



Clarinets and Communists

in Franklin Hills

Dave McDonald

Franklin Hills has long been a neighborhood of creative and musical professionals. Two such early residents were Kalman and Frances Bloch, who lived on Franklin Avenue.

Kalman is best known as the principal clarinetist of the Los Angeles Philharmonic for more than 40 years. (His daughter, Michele Zukovsky, then served in that same role from 1961 to 2015.)

Their grandson, Stefano Bloch, recounts this story.

Around 1940, Kalman and Frances drove up the hill and looked at the few houses already built. Frances saw one she liked and sent Kalman to knock on the door and offer the woman living in it cash. She would take no less than \$12,000, so it took him a few days for the bank to give him that much money. He finally collected the money and handed her a sandwich sack with \$12k in cash. She asked for a few days to move out and handed him the deed.

They ended up raising two kids in the house, both of whom went to King and Marshall and became professional musicians.

While Kalman was playing concerts at the Hollywood Bowl, Frances held Communist Party parties that were brought up in a House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) interrogation of Kalman. A Los Angeles Times article features a picture of Frances being accused of "cozy Communist parties in her house in Los Feliz". Kalman really didn't know about the meetings because Frances held them while he played, to give him plausible deniability so he wouldn't get blacklisted.

The meetings she held were usually to collect money for orphanages in Romania, or support gay rights and the arts in Czechoslovakia, or Jews in Hungary.

As recounted in the April 21, 1956 Los Angeles Times article "Spectators Stir Uproar at Red Probe," Bloch was forced to testify before the HUA Committee for his and his wife's progressive

The Los Angeles, Times 20 Apr 1956, FriPage 2- (Los Angeles, California)

Of Cozy Red Meeting

Witness Says Wife Cooked Two Turkeys
for Party to Raise Money for Communists

A cozy picture of family style Communism was recited
yesterday before the House Subcommittee on Un-Amer-

A cozy picture of family style Communism was recited yesterday before the House Subcommittee on Un-American Activities by a couple who testified they cooked turkeys and halted the neighborhood bakery truck to augment refreshments during Communist cell meetings at their home.

AN APRIL 20, 1956 LOS ANGELES TIMES' ARTICLES ABOUT KALMAN BLOCH'S TESTIMONY BEFORE
THE HUAC COMMITTEE.

activities in Southern California after World War II. Invoking the 1st and 5th Amendments, he refused to answer any questions regarding his membership in the Communist Party, instead telling the committee that he "abhorred violence." His passport was taken, and he was refused travel for the Philharmonic's Asian tour that same year.

Kalman Bloch lived and taught in the home and studio on Franklin Avenue for over 50 years until his death at age 95 in 2009.

Of note: Kalman's grandson, Stefano Bloch is an American author, graffiti writer, and professor of cultural geography and critical criminology at the University of Arizona. Bloch is the author of Going All City: Struggle and Survival in LA's Graffiti Subculture.





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Spotlight on Architecture A History lesson from Overview #60

Richard Stanley

Any walk in our neighborhood offers a smorgasbord of architectural delights. The variety is dazzling. For example, if you are curious about our Spanish style houses, delve into the Overview's archives. Realtor Richard Stanley, himself a connoisseur of Franklin Hills history and architecture, wrote a wonderful piece in *Issue* #60 (Fall/Winter 2020, page 12).

"Spanish and Mexican era structures used indigenous materials and their simple application to solve the basic need for shelter. Adobe bricks, rough-hewn timbers, reeds and tar were used by the Spanish to build an everyman's house that was relatively warm in winter and cool in summer. Scaled-up, these materials, along with clay tiles, were used for the famous chain of California missions. By the late 19th Century, professional architects and local

boosters were searching for a unique and appropriate style for California."

"Moving on to describe the four major types of Spanish Style Houses in our area, Stanley describes the elements of each: Mission Revival, Spanish Revival, Santa Fe, and Monterrey Colonial. And just so you'll have an idea of what he's talking about, there are descriptive pictures to aid the eye in sorting out one from another."





MISSION REVIVAL



MONTEREY COLONIAL



MEDITERRANEAN

CHANGE

Any of these six fundamental life changes lead people to take a chance in the real estate market:

Urgent Family Need: "Our baby is due soon—we need more room." "This 'empty nest' is too big." "The stairs are too many." "We want to live closer to our family."

Urgent Financial Need: "We need to spend less and reduce what we owe." "We want to cashout our equity and rent."

Divorce: "We need to sell the house to split the proceeds."

Death: "The heirs must settle the estate." **Relocation:** "I work at home now and need

more room." "I have to move to accept a job I can't refuse." "I'm retiring out of town." "We're ready for assisted living."

"I Can't Take It Anymore": "This house needs more work than I can handle." "I don't want to be a landlord any longer." "I've had enough of Los Angeles."

Do any of the needs above resonate with you? Perhaps we could chat soon to explore your opportunities while they last? If you want a chance, take a chance.



Richard Stanley

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

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A Radio Walk Through History

Joshua Melville

Neighbors refer to me as "the guy who renovated Radio Walk." My Normandy home known by that nickname sits atop of Franklin Hills. Originally, my wife and I thought we were just getting a good deal on a fixer-upper with a great view. Little did we know we were buying a piece of controversial hill history.

In the 1920's, Disney and Warner production facilities were very nearby, and the few houses near the peak of Franklin Hills were secluded "studio homes" sometimes used as a convenient respite by Hollywood's early elite. One home is "the castle," said to be originally maintained by Douglass Fairbanks. The pharaonic residence with its stucco corbels and grand pool, built about 1927 was, according to folklore, host to debauched parties and paramour rendezvous.

Enter Christian evangelist, Paul Myers. In 1934, he began to broadcast his historic radio show, The Haven of Rest, from a Craftsman at the hill's base. By 1939 the show's budding audience included my house's second owner, Allen Phelps, a radio producer. Phelps moved the show to his Ronda Vista home where he lived with his wife and three teenage children, two additional female boarders and the home's original owners, the McClintocks. Nine occupants in all, sharing the fourbedroom, three-bath Normandy, now to be the production facility for Myers. Ronda Vista offered broader bandwidth promised by higher ground. Although it was a half-mile closer to heaven than the old location, it was also directly across the street from the castle.

Next came the fans. A mid-1930s building boom had already become a magnet for families seeking proximity to their on-air missionary. "Our street seemed to attract that sort of religious type," said Steve Ginn when I interviewed him. My 79-year-old neighbor has lived on Ronda Vista since the day he was born. With the fans, came a culture clash with upper tier homeowners who valued discretion as much as the hill's vistas. They circulated a petition to force the live broadcast out.

Shortly after their exodus, in 1942, *The Haven of Rest* settled into a building near what is now Gelson's in Silverlake Village. According to Wikipedia, the program "moved to a new station about every 2 years." NBC eventually syndicated *The Haven of Rest* to over 600 stations. Myers remained its main host until he retired in 1973.

A year after the show's departure, Phelps sold the house in 1943 and the path in front was named "Radio Walk;" maybe as a victory lap by the early adopters, or maybe in homage of Myers' devotees who remained. In 2019, the artery was renamed to the less charming "Radio Street. Now only a vestige remains: one sign, missed by the city engineers. Hidden behind a nurturing bush, it still reads "Radio Walk." The spirit lives on! And so, although the catalyst is clear, the exact reasoning and the souls who championed the moniker, "Radio Walk," reside now, in the air.

Thanks to the following for their help: Rosemary Low, Greg Lane of Lawyers Title, and Riley Schmidt Realty.



For additional information, please see Overview #36 Fall/Winter 2008, Page 13 "Ronda Vista in the 30s and 40s: How Radio Walk Got its Name".



RADIO STREET SIGN AT THE CORNER OF RONDA VISTA DRIVE AND

(alison Wallace



FINDING THE LAST REMAINING RADIO WALK SIGN ON RONDA VISTA

: SUZANNE CARNEY



THE RADIO WALK HOUSE

🗃 : SUZANNE CARNEY

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'Our' Fabulous Stairways!

Elizabeth Richardson

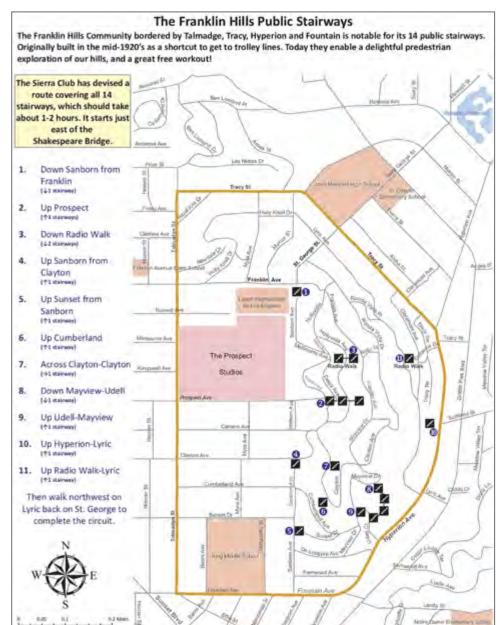
Are you new to the Franklin Hills? Do you know about 'our' fabulous stairways?

Maybe you have noticed the crowd of people out walking on a Tuesday night and wondered what they were doing. They are walking the Franklin Hills stairways, all 11 of them. And then they head on down to Tomato Pie for eats.

Want to find out where all 11 of 'our' stairways' are? There's a map smack dab on the FHRA website. Go to franklinhill.org/about/stairwaywalk. Interesting fact: this map was created in the early 1990s by the Sierra Club and is republished occasionally in the Overview. Some stairway enthusiasts say there are actually 14, not 11. Why? Because Prospect has three sections and Radio Walk has two. What do your legs tell you?

Want a little more history about them and other stairways? Check out Charles Fleming's Secret Stairs: A Walking Guide to the Historic Staircases of Los Angeles. It's available online and at Skylight Books. Once, the author came to an FHRA annual meeting to recount their stories (and to sign copies).

Want to make them more walkable and safe? Stairway cleanups were started in the 1990s by then newcomer and later FHRA Board President Adam Weisman. Now they are an annual or biannual 'party'. Watch for the notices. It's a great way to get a little exercise, meet your neighbors, activate those positive endorphins, and care for our outdoor treasures. (See the story about the September stairway cleanup, "'A Sunday Kind of Love'. Sweeping the Mayview/Udell Court Stairs" on page 26).



THIS MAP IS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT: HTTPS://WWW.FRANKLINHILLS.ORG/STAIRWAYWALK

Want to see a longer article on the stairways? See Charley Mims' article in Overview #45, Spring/Summer, 2013, page 12.

V

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Signs of Recognition

Bruce Carroll

In hopes of reducing the "where's that?" factor, when local residents say they live in the *Franklin Hills*, the FHRA asked City Councilman John Ferraro's office if we could get some of those nifty signs that mark the entrances to neighborhoods around the city. And in the words of FHRA president Adam Weisman, "the councilman's new deputy for our area, Vince Rossini, really hustled."



FRANKLIN HILLS IDENTITY SIGN AT THE CORNER OF ST. GEORGE AND TRACY

You can see the results at seven locations around the Franklin Hills:

Along Talmadge St. at Franklin, Prospect, and Fountain Avenues; along Hyperion Ave. near Fountain Ave. and Entrance Drive; on Tracy St. at Hyperion Ave.; and on St. George St. at Tracy St.

Unless you're a secret agent...or hiding out from one...the signs should help us all...and resolve our neighborhood's identity crisis. Thanks, Councilman!



This article appeared in Overview #14: Winter 1997, Page 11.

Volunteer Today!

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Franklin Hills B.C.

A local geology lesson

Shirley Mims

Ever notice the cut in the earth as you go down Lyric towards Hyperion? It's huge. To an earth scientist like Shirley Mims, it speaks volumes. It says 'Monterey Shale.' Here's an excerpt from her article:

Shale deposits occur mostly in calm waters of ocean basins and lakes. Shale is a sedimentary rock made up of compressed silt, mud and clay. Thin layers of cobble (rock pieces) between thicker deposits of fine grained shale are possible indicators of earthquakes, either from fault movement or volcanic activity, which shook loose debris and produced under water landslides.

During the Miocene epoch some 16 million years ago, the land beneath our homes was in a flat basin under ocean water. The climate on Earth was transitioning from warm to cold during a series of Ice Ages. As ice sheets grew, sea level fell. Grasslands were forming making for better survival of grazing animals on land. ... Relative to this timescale, humans only arrived in the Franklin Hills this morning.



CHARLEY MIMS DEMONSTRATES THE SCALE AND TILT OF MONTEREY FORMATION SHALE BEDS ON LYRIC AVE.

FOT: SHIRLEY MIMS

The Earth is constantly in flux. The outer layer is broken up into several large sections called plates. These plates move around on the surface and physically change the size and shape

of our continents and oceans over time. Los Angeles, Baja and Northern California are on the uplifted portion of the Pacific Plate which is sliding ever slightly northward against

the North American Plate along the San Andreas Fault. When the Pacific Plate collided with the North American Plate, our mountain ranges were formed and the thick beds of sediments deposited on the ocean floor were pushed up into the hills of our local landscape.



This article is an excerpt of Shirley Mims original article published in Overview #45 Spring/Summer 2013, page 18.



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Hoover Street Mural

Fluid City Rising

Mary Frances Smith-Reynolds

A neighborhood treasure turned 13 this year. Fluid City Rising, a colorful mural on a three-paneled city retaining wall, was completed in 2009 at the Hoover Walk site. Its creator, Ricardo Mendoza, who has painted more than 20 murals in Los Angeles County, recently described it as, "one of my most hidden murals, but one of the most visible. It has a life of its own."

Mendoza was referring to the mural's popularity on Instagram and other social media, and its presence over the years on websites, including those of the Los Angeles City Cultural Affairs Department, and Mt. Hollywood Congregational Church. It has appeared on commercials and in countless selfies. Wedding and travel photos have been shot there.

The Hoover Walk is located at a much-traversed intersection of Hoover Street and Prospect Avenue. The staircase itself was constructed in 1923, so will be celebrating its 100th birthday next year. In 2003, community members identified it as a long-neglected location, desperately in need of improvement and beautification.

The mural was funded by a Neighborhood Matching Fund grant, through the City's Board of Public Works. In addition, generous support was given by the FHRA, the LFIA, and the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council, as well as the late Councilmember Tom LaBonge and CD4. The FHRA was the sponsoring organization and a donor to the project.

The mural is the heart of the *Hoover Walk*. Its arresting images are actually painted on non-woven membranes. They were painted in Mendoza's Boyle Heights studio, then affixed to the three walls.

In 2015, Mendoza returned to the site to do restoration work, cleaning off graffiti and surgically replacing and repainting a damaged piece.



HOOVER WALK MURAL DEDICATION – STUDENTS FROM THOMAS STARR KING MIDDLE SCHOOL LINE THE STAIRWAY FOR A CELEBRATORY PHOTO LED BY COUNCILMEMBER TOM LABONGE, PROJECT COORDINATOR MARY FRANCES SMITH-REYNOLDS WITH DAUGHTER GRACIE, ARTIST RICARDO MENDOZA WHO CREATED "FLUID CITY RISING" AND MICHAEL ESPINOZA, CITY PROJECT MANAGER.

CHRIS REYNOLDS

While there, he experienced first-hand the neighborhood's pride and protectiveness for the artwork. People approached him wondering what he was doing to their mural. When they learned that he was the artist, they were excited and supportive. "You're the artist! It's awesome to meet you!" Mendoza added, "You do these things and you never know who cares beyond the initial audience."

The mural will soon be undergoing another restoration project, led by Mendoza. This will entail cleaning, infill painting, and adding another protective coating.

Mendoza, who currently resides in the desert with his wife and daughter, has fond memories of creating Fluid City Rising. From the beginning, it was a labor of love, in that the site required many months and dollars of preparation to make it suitable for a mural. Ricardo was joined by many professionals and volunteers to scrape layers of age and paint from the walls. "It felt archaeological," he laughed as he remembered their efforts. But he said that he had "faith in the site."



DETAIL OF FLUID CITY RISING

(CHRIS REYNOLDS

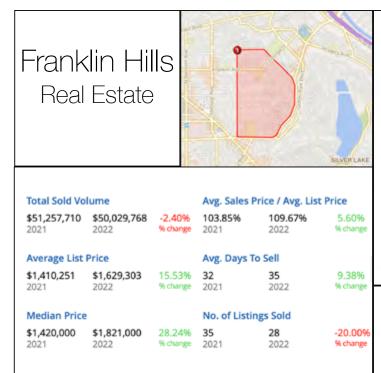
Meanwhile the two slopes were being cleared and planted, adjacent retaining walls were being demolished and replaced, hand rails were being installed, and decorative stone walls were constructed by hand.

When asked about the inspirations for the Hoover Walk mural, Mendoza said that the images emerged out of conversations with community members and their "proactive enthusiasm" for creating a place of beauty. The two large human figures on the side panels are planting, nurturing, and making things grow, "a homage to the efforts of the community." In the middle of the mural is the LA skyline above a watchful eye, flanked by two giant wings. This is our "city being lifted."

(Continued on page 30)

Real Estate Conditions

Suzanne Carney





The Market Overview

The Shakespeare Bridge Garden is finally complete. Again!

As you might recall from previous articles, the garden had fallen into disrepair several times. It first happened when an emergency sewer repair was needed and the garden was dug up. The second and third times it happened when a trash truck hit the backflow preventer device, two different times, ultimately rendering the water system unusable. Volunteers dug up the roses and put them in pots which were cared for by neighbors until they could be replanted. Engineering drew up the plans including a new retaining wall to hold up the slope that was cut away for the emergency repair. Sanitation rebuilt the garden with the retaining wall, new water system and plants. The roses were replanted along with new ones donated by Monon residents. Sanitation also provided the commemorative plaque. It displays the FHRA logo which was originally designed by Franklin Hills

neighbor Eugene Cheltenham. He helped to make sure the fine lines and details would show up in the bronze cast. The City crew, who restored the garden, work out of Lopez Canyon. They mounted the plaque on a native boulder from their yard as a symbol of tying together our two communities. On July 25th (2018), neighbors celebrated with City dignitaries to officially unveil the commemorative plaque at the garden.

Follow the old course of Arroyo de Sacatela down Monon Street and you'll find, up against the fill dirt from the construction of I-5 many years ago, a rose garden. Its creation was, in the words of former FHRA Board President, Shirley Mims, "to dissuade the graffitiridden hoodlum-hangout under the arches of the bridge" and to create a "serene and beautiful setting" for the public's enjoyment.

Shirley Mims*



APPLAUDING THE UNVEILING OF THE PLAQUE.
FRONT: CONTEST WINNERS XENIA SOROKINA AND CHARLIE
MARCUS & FHRA BOARD MEMBER CHARLEY MIMS
BACK: COUNCILMEMBER DAVID RYU, GIBBET TASCONE
(SANITATION DIRECTOR), ADEL HAGEKHALIL (STREET SERVICES),
FHRA PRESIDENT SHIRLEY MIMS, GARDEN DESIGNER &
PRINCIPAL CIVIL ENGINEER RYAN TOLES (ENGINEERING, AND
SUPERINTENDENT JAMES GREENFIELD (SANITATION)

for: MICK BROWN

The original garden was dedicated in 2003. But getting it to its rededication in 2018 was no easy task. Think about the area's history. It once was a waterway, an arroyo.

(Continued on page 23)

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(History of Franklin Hills, continued from page 13)

In 1988 some neighbors organized the *Franklin Hills Residents Association*, motivated by opposition to the dense construction including talk of townhouses on land sold by the Los Feliz Hills School.

Our lovely Franklin Hills remains a tranquil, historic district in the midst of the bustling metropolis of Los Angeles. The distinctive *Shakespeare Bridge* led the way for development of a unique neighborhood that embodies the best of LA.

The people who live in Franklin Hills are multi-cultural, creative, span a wide age and income range, and yet compose a harmonious community. The beautiful homes, schools and libraries in the area reflect the architectural grace of Frank Lloyd Wright, John Lautner, Paul R. Williams and others. Cultural amenities nearby include the Greek Theater, Griffith Park and Observatory and Barnsdall Art Park.

V

(Shakespeare Bridge Garden, continued from page 22)

Now it's a street with water coursing down it after even the smallest rainfall. Enter several city agencies. Not only was the storm drainage system put in place in 2003 but it had to undergo an emergency sewer repair a few years later. With those major construction efforts, the slope of the garden had to be reconfigured. Trash trucks backed into the irrigation system cutting off water to the garden. It was one complication after another.

Restoring it took the participation of many volunteers. Neighbors showed up. So did people from outside the neighborhood. Invasive weeds needed to be cleaned out and hauled away by the city. The roses needed pruning. Several construction contractors and countless city agencies were involved. Two different councilmembers, FHRA, and neighboring organizations donated their funds and their labor. Through it all, the indefatigable Shirley Mims guided the project to its completion. A rededication ceremony was held on July 25, 2018 and a plaque acknowledging everyone who was involved was unveiled. [Note: The garden will be 20 in 2023.]

For a related story, see the article on the Arroyo de la Sacatela: "Riparian Ruminations" on page 10.



This article is based on the many articles written by Shirley Mims about this garden but was primarily excerpted from her story in Overview #58, Fall/Winter 2019, page 16.

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20 (+) Years and Growing!

The Norm Harriton Community Garden

Tim Cowell

The Franklin Hills Community Garden celebrates over 20 years of green growing. Long before the idea of growing your own food was popular, Norm Harriton organized local advocates and worked with city leaders to carve out a section of land from Lycée International de Los Angeles (founded 1978), and the Community Garden was formed.

Sponsored by The Franklin Hills Residents Association, the garden began its first official spring planting season in April 2001. The original 27 plots (10 for LILA, and 16 for local neighbors) have remained more in demand than any plot in Forest Lawn. The waiting list for a plot is often more than 20 wishful gardeners long, who will usually wait 2-3 years for an opportunity to claim a prized plot. One of our gardeners, Adam Weisman, has had his hands in the garden dirt from its inception and was part of the team that worked to create this green island within the neighborhood.

In 2002, the garden was fenced with funds provided by the City Council and Councilman Tom Labonge's office. Our happy little green garden shed was built by the gardeners with additional funds that same year. This year's gardeners agreed to spend garden funds to help recreate and refresh the rose garden to celebrate our 20th year. The rose garden was one of the last additions overseen by Norm while he was a gardener.

Our current membership has spent the Covid years happily gardening at a distance and forgoing the in-person monthly meeting/workday, for Zoom meetings and individual work to insure we are doing our part to keep the garden growing.

The garden initiatives change from season to season, but one of which we are very proud of was championed by gardener, Mia Trachinger.

She has planted a Monarch Butterfly conservation garden. This emphasizes only allowing native milkweed plants within our boundaries, which is critical in Monarch migration. It creates a waystation along the California Monarch migration path.

The big emphasis for the garden community this year has been water conservation. We have pushed everyone to hand water their plants and to be extra diligent in keeping watering systems from leaking and from over watering our plots.

We have invested in new composting bins and have had great results in decomposing garden and household waste, creating rich fertile mulch to add to gardens. This is a healthy way to improve our plots with natural enrichment, although it can be a bit smelly.

Our newly-installed Garden Coordinator is Julie Sharbutt with the Cocoordinator role being filled by Mathilde Bittner. Inquiries can be directed to FranklinHillsCommunityGarden@qmail.com.

The future of the Franklin Hills Community Garden is like the cornfields in Oklahoma, "as high as an elephant's



SUMMER HARVEST

for: TIM COWELL

eye, and it looks like it's climbing clear up to the sky!" loosely quoting Roger and Hammerstein. "The sound of our earth is like music."

Thank you to those early founders who envisioned, dug deep, and created our garden spot nestled into a lush and usually, very quiet corner of our Franklin Hills community.

The same of



ROSE GARDEN REFRESH

TIM COWELL

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Franklin Median Garden History

Elizabeth Richardson

Doesn't the Franklin Avenue Median Garden look wonderful?

Hasn't it always been this way?

Answer: Not at all!

In 1992, the Garden was all blacktop with weeds growing through the cracks except for one lone palm tree. Worse still, Franklin Avenue's median had been 'streamlined' over several years to accommodate increasing vehicular speeds.

The newly formed Franklin Hills Residents Association decided to change the median from an eyesore to an amenity. After all, it was the western entrance into the Franklin Hills, and it was vital to slow down the traffic. This took a while to get it done. City bureaucracies rarely move quickly. Money had to be raised. Grants had to be written. The neighborhood's support turned out to be both vocal and financial. Armida Bolton generously put the fund over the top with a contribution of \$5,000 in memory of her husband, Donald. (See the plaque on the rock in the middle of the garden.)

As the project looked like it was going to happen, someone suggested calling neighbor and landscape architect, Melinda Taylor. She took the group's concept, and developed it. On December 14, 1995, the Median Garden was officially dedicated by then Councilman John Ferraro.

The agreement made with the city was this: The city retained the ownership of the property. FHRA would maintain it and pay for the necessary water. FHRA was also responsible for doing all weeding and pruning.

At first, people came out to help. But times change. People move away. It was hard to keep the momentum going, so the Board hired a series of gardeners. They kept the plants alive (mostly) but by 2016, the garden was looking pretty sad. The sprinkler system needed an overhaul. Inexperienced gardeners had



THE MEDIAN AS IT LOOKED IN 2022

: MELINDA TAYLOR

'box-trimmed' plants which should have been allowed to spread their branches.

Once again, FHRA turned to Melinda Taylor. She surveyed the garden and said all was not lost. The existing plants would respond well with proper pruning. Some plants needed to be replaced. New ones should be added. Site specific nutrition was necessary. Bottom line: the garden needed better maintenance every single month.

Melinda volunteered herself and her gardeners to manage the garden. FHRA paid for the new plants, fertilizer, palm tree trimming, irrigation system, and, of course, the water.

The garden responded almost immediately. Melinda and her team of experienced gardeners performed wonders. The garden was beautiful. But could this new care regime be sustained? Melina retired from active management, but saw to it that good gardeners were hired to manage it. FHRA began active fundraising to cover the additional cost. The old saying "It takes a village to raise a child" can be restated here to read:



THE MEDIAN AS IT LOOKED IN 1992

"It takes a community to sustain a garden." Here's a big thank you for all your past, and future, contributions!

V

This article was adapted from an article by the same author in Overview #58 Fall/ Winter 2019, Page 9.

"A Sunday Kind of Love"

Sweeping the Mayview/Udell Court Stairs

Jessica Luebke

One of my favorite parts of living in Franklin Hills is having access to so many great stair streets. The Udell Court/ Mayview Stairway runs directly next to my house and it is always wonderful to hear the voices of all the people walking the stairs and truly enjoying one of the many features of our neighborhood. The stairs are utilized by Franklin Hills residents, as well as visitors who travel to the hills, just to hike the stairs. With all of this traffic, it is inevitable that the stairs occasionally need a little neighborly help staying tidy and maintained.

On Sunday, September 11, the Franklin Hills Residents Association held its yearly cleanup of the Udell Court Stairs which stretch from Mayview Drive to Udell Court. This is the longest stair streets in Franklin Hills and contains not only multiple sets of stairs, but also a long stretch of sidewalk. Over 25 Franklin Hills residents spent their Sunday morning

trimming overgrowth, sweeping, raking, and bagging debris. With so many neighbors helping, the stairs were cleaned in under two hours. Many tools and bags were generously loaned to the FHRA by the City of Los Angeles.

The cleanup acted as not only a great opportunity to help maintain our neighborhood, but it was also a chance for neighbors to meet and connect.

The FHRA hosts two to three neighborhood clean-ups per year. If you would be interested in joining us in the future, please follow our Instagram @franklinhills, on our website under the "events" at www.franklinhills.org, or email us at FHRA@franklinhills.org.



"A Sunday Kind of Love" is a song by Etta James released November 1960.



PHILIP AND ANDY CRAVEN SHOVELING AND SWEEPING : JAMES LONGERETTA

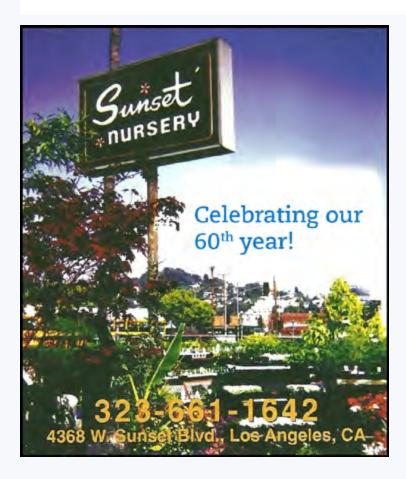


JENNY CHANG AND ALISON WALLACE CHEERING A SIDEWALK CLEANUP SUCCESS!



JESSICA LUEBKE AND SON SEBASTIAN: SETTING UP CLEANUP FUEL OF DOUGHNUTS AND COFFEE

: JAMES LONGERETTA



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A Sliver of Lithuania

on St. George

Roland Giedraitis

Los Angeles is home to so many people from so many different countries. Dotted throughout the city are monuments to their journey and the reasons they left their beloved homeland.

One such monument, a small treasure, is nearby, on St. George at the corner with Griffith Park Blvd. Next time you go by, pull over for a moment and look for the three pillars and the plaque in the courtyard of the rectory at St. Casimir's Church. The pillars were the gift of one such traveler.

The plaque reads:

In loving memory of Bronė Vasiliauskaitė Venckus (1911-2007) and thousands of other Lithuanian immigrants who shared a similar fate. **LIETUVA (Lithuania)** – Represents the land of their birth, the land that nurtured them and instilled in them the values of faith, family and education.

TREMTIS (Exile) – The years spent in the refugee camps of Europe where they fled to escape the Communist threat of concentration camps and deportation to Siberia in the 1940's. The Rūpintojėlis or the Pensive Christ on this pillar represents the Catholic faith which sustained them during those uncertain years.

AMERIKA (America) – Their adopted nation which provided the opportunity to raise their children in moral and economic prosperity and freedom.

Today with so much uncertainty, particularly in Eastern Europe, these pillars and the message on the plaque are especially poignant and meaningful.



THE THREE PILLARS STAND PROUDLY IN FRONT OF THE RECTORY OF THE ST. CASIMIR'S CHURCH. 2718 ST. GEORGE ST., LOS ANGELES.

: ROLAND GIEDRAITIS



*This article was adapted from one written by Roland Giedraitis in Overview #60 Fall/Winter 2020, Page 9.



A Strong Influence

on Franklin Hills

Once upon a time, when all the cars were big and American, a young man cruising the narrow confines of Sunset Drive between Mayview and Sanborn had to swerve to allow an expensive car to proceed. As the two passed, the man in the expensive car rolled down his window and said, "The son of a bitch that laid this street out ought to be in jail." The young man approvingly replied, "He sure should be."

That story, told to the Overview by Rose Dee Tavella, illustrates the wit and wile of Frank R. Strong, the man in the expensive car. He's also the man who subdivided parts of the Franklin Hills and laid out some of our narrowest streets. The theory was, "the smaller you made the streets the more lots you'd have to sell." according to Ms. Tavella. She grew up admiring the humor and generosity of Mr. Strong, her mother's boss. The family still lives on one of the Franklin Hills lots that he gave her mother, Pam Hanrahan, over 50 years ago.



UNDATED PHOTO OF JOHN MARSHALL HIGH SCHOOL, THE SHAKESPEARE BRIDGE AND PORTIONS OF FRANKLIN HILLS

for: (UNDATED PHOTO DONATED TO THE FHRA PHOTO ARCHIVES BY BRUCE CARROLL)

(Continued on page 29)



FRONT ENTRANCE TO JOHN MARSHALL HIGH SCHOOL, WITH HISTORICAL CULTURAL MONUMENT DESIGNATION SIGNAGE

for: KAY CAMPHUIS

(**John Marshall High,** continued from page 12)

Reading and listening to interviews, we began to see consistent themes. We repeatedly heard about the lifelong impact teachers had on Marshall students. Through each generation, we learned about the special imprint teachers made. Areas that made an impact on students through multiple generations include the Orchestra program, Special Education program and supportive and active alumni/volunteers.

Currently, Marshall students have access to theater, music visual media, arts, technical arts, Advanced Placement (AP) classes, Magnet School for Gifted students, School for Advanced Studies, Schools for Sound and Stage, Health Sciences, Environmental Studies, and Sports Medicine.

Marshall High also participates in a variety of city-wide sports teams, as well as the US Academic Decathlon.

We loved listening to stories about classic high school memories, such as friendships, a crush, a first kiss or getting caught parking in the teachers' lot. If the walls of John Marshall High could talk, they certainly would be telling their tales with a smile.

We send special thanks to those who agreed to be interviewed:

- Henry Cuaz '69, now volunteers weekly in a variety of roles
- Alvina Louie '74
- Brian Weinstein '03
- Steve Weinstein '08
- Joseph Manahan '95, now a twenty-year veteran teacher at Marshall

(Continued on page 29)

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(A Strong Influence, continued from page 28)



FRANK R STRONG

Mr. Frank Strong and his photographer, Alvaro A. Pratt came out to take pictures of the still naked Franklin Hills in March 1917. Three years later, surveyor Horace N. Taylor had mapped tract #3594, encompassing all the lots from the north side of Cumberland south to Fountain

and not dead-end at Sanborn; those who live on DeLongpre would be residing on Felice Street; and the folks on Fernwood would call Mildred home instead. While the city had no problem with most of Mr. Strong's plans, including naming his daughter Mildred, they did object to a street by the same name. Perhaps they still harbored hope that someday the ten mostly non-contiguous blocks of Fernwood Avenue, stretching from Bronson to Micheltorena, would one day be joined.



*This article was excerpted from the original which appeared in Overview #12 Winter 1992, Page 1.

(**John Marshall High School**, continued from page 28)

A few notable alumni of Marshall are Julie Newmar, Tony award winner actress, singer and dancer, Tom LaBonge, former LA City councilman, Carolyn See, author, Leonardo DiCaprio, actor & environmental activist, and Edward Fredkin, award winning computer scientist.

For more information on the history of Marshall and their Hall of Fame graduates, go to their website: **johnmarshallhs.org**.



The Gallery on Ronda Vista Drive

Elizabeth Richardson with Ellie Blankfort (Clothier)

If only houses could tell stories. A certain house on Ronda Vista Drive could tell you about the years when it was open to the public as an art gallery. A gallery where people could enjoy art in a lived-in environment.

The house was purchased in 1972 by Ellie Blankfort and her



ELLIE BLANKFORT AND PETER CLOTHIER IN THEIR DINING ROOM AT THE ELLIE BLANKFORT GALLERY C. 1973

: LOST TO THE MISTS OF TIME

husband Peter Clothier. At that time, Ellie was working at the LA County Museum in charge of the Art Rental Gallery. Having grown up with it from childhood, she knew the art world well, from studio to dealership. She also knew lots of emerging artists.

So when Peter and Ellie moved in, all sorts of artists showed up to help. Casual conversation soon turned to the lack of public gallery space for young artists, and urged them to turn the house into an offbeat exhibition space. Why not show art in a real home? People could see what an individual piece looked like, say, in an entry way; the dining room was surely big enough for a one-person show. The living room walls could host a group show.

It was decided. They would hang art everywhere, even the laundry room! And open the house three days a week.

Says Ellie, "Marketing the gallery was a challenge because it was off the beaten track, so I took out ads in national art magazines. I created a mailing list. Offered artist talks. And hosted an opening every six weeks with wine and good conversation." Eventually, to her delight, an opening could attract 200 people. (She doesn't remember any neighbors complaining about the parking!)

Word went out! East coast friends of LA art enthusiasts would come by when they came to town. Ronda Vista sounded very exotic. Well-known artists and collectors began walking up those stairs to see who had something hanging in the dining room. It was going well!

But after several years, the City of Los Angeles also heard about it and came calling. The house was not zoned for business—and there was her business card, on the front hall table. It was time to close down or go to jail, they said. So, that was curtains for the only art gallery Ronda Vista ever had—and it was only much later Ellie found out who had turned her in: the Los Angeles Art Dealers Association. With friends like these…!

Ellie adds that to this day, many people remember this gallery on a residential street with fondness—and the gallery was successful in advancing many young artists' careers.

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(Hoover Mural, continued from page 21)



DETAIL OF FLUID CITY RISING

CHRIS REYNOLDS

The physical elements of the site itself also informed Mendoza's design: The three panels; the planted slopes; and the steps down the middle, which are painted with the image of flowing water.

When asked why he does public artwork, Mendoza replied, "Opportunity. Viable opportunity. I was a creative person in search of an outlet. Murals are viable places to express myself creatively."

He continued, "The wall is a canvas to which everyone has access. I love the interaction and community involvement of it. You can't hide." While Fluid City Rising was done in his studio, the prepping and installation were done "on stage." The engagement with the "audience" during the creation of public art fuels Mendoza's work, too.

Ricardo Mendoza's public works are currently mostly tile mosaics and other permanent art mediums, including a tile mosaic for the new LA City Animal Shelter in Lincoln Heights. Prior to this, he completed mixed-media murals at the Monterey Park Library and the White Memorial building in Boyle Heights.

Fluid City Rising is a life-long gift to our neighborhood. Just ask anyone who walks, runs, stretches, meditates, rests, marries, celebrates, take photos, or works on their laptop in front of it.



For further interest, see Mary Frances' article on the cover of Overview #37 Spring/Summer 2009 and her article in Overview #29 Spring/Summer, page 4.

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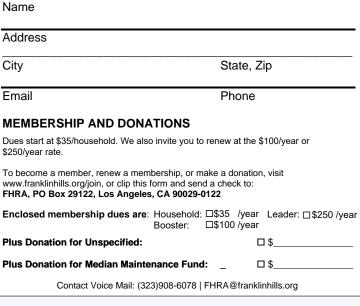


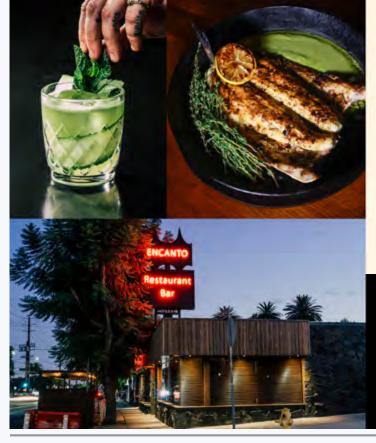
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