



The Mount Washington Association

Serving the Mount Washington community since 1955.

January 2003

www.mtwashington.org

City Council Honors Mount Washington Gold Line Team

Pat Griffith

On Dec. 17th, 2002, the City Council honored the Mount Washington team who have fought so hard to ensure that the Gold Line crossings at Ave. 45 and Ave. 50 remain safe. In a half-hour ceremony, Councilman Ed Reyes thanked Mount Washington Association attorney Larry Hoffman, White & Case attorney Bryan Merryman, and MWA Gold Line committee chair Paul Ahrens for their long work on the California Public Utilities Commission (PUC) complaint regarding these crossings. While the Councilmember acknowledged that it was not always pleasant to 'see the lawyers coming', the team's efforts to improve the crossings eventually limited the trains' maximum speed to 20 mph and resulted in several physical and technical improvements ensuring the safety of pedestrians and cars crossing the tracks.



Photograph courtesy of Jim Leong.

Also honored were long-time activists Jim and Marie Leong, as well as White and Case attorneys Mark Gustafson and Maria Harrington.

In their own comments, each of the honorees reminded the City Council that more work needs to be done. The PUC decision did not address the issue of the trains blowing their horns on every crossing, which will cause loud reverberations in the Arroyo canyon 250 times each day. The PUC has deferred discussion of this problem until the noise of the train horns has actually been measured.

We expect the first train test runs in our area to take place within the next 90 days. During those tests, a sound engineer should be able to measure how sound travels throughout the canyon and the hillsides. The Association is currently looking for a noise or sound expert who would be able to assist us in formally asking the PUC for a No-Horn Zone at these crossings.



President's Message

Carol Jacques

Our community sharing drive was a tremendous success. We collected and donated five van-loads of food to needy families from the Northeast Mental Health Center (NEMHC.)

We wanted to make the NEMHC toy collection more personal by giving the children toys that they had asked for, so we adopted twelve families

from the Center. The therapists gave us a list of families with the name, sex, and toy request of each child. We were surprised that many children requested blankets and warm clothes; only the very young children requested toys. Thanks to the generosity of MWA members, the Association was able to fulfill the wish lists of all twelve families. One therapist told me that, when she gave her client a bag of food and a blanket, he thanked her and said "This is the best Christmas I've ever had."

Working on this project has certainly made the 2002 holiday season very special for many of us. I would like to thank everyone who participated, especially Eliot and Jain Sekuller, Ann Walnum, the SRF, and the Northeast Democratic Club.

In December, for the first time ever, the MWA also participated in the Highland Park Christmas Parade: Natalie Seaman and Anna Carpenter decorated and rode in David Moore's classic car.

In keeping with the Association's "Building Bridges" theme for 2002, the community sharing drive and participation in the Highland Park Parade have helped us build some important bridges to other communities.

Membership Report

Aurora Nordhausen

It has been an honor to serve as your membership vice president for the past two years. This month I will be turning over my responsibilities to Ed Raspa, who will serve as the next membership vice-president. Ed, a very capable, knowledgeable and dedicated volunteer, has served the Association in many capacities, including as President, and I know he will do an excellent job!

General Membership Meeting
Monday, January 27, 2003, 7:30 PM
Southwest Museum
234 Museum Drive
Jack Smith Readings
by Denise Smith and Others
Details on page 3.

As of January 7 we have a total of 430 memberships; 161 memberships have been paid thus far. As of December 31, 2002, we had recorded 72 new memberships for 2002 and three for 2003.

It is time to renew your membership for 2003 if you have not yet done so; dues were payable as of January 1, 2003. Please send in your membership renewal at your earliest convenience.

Officers

President

Carol Jacques (225-0501)

1st VP (Action)

Cheri Uno (222-0410)

2nd VP (Programs)

Natalie Seaman (223-0996)

3rd VP (Membership)

Aurora Nordhausen (221-1730)

4th VP (Hospitality)

Rob Schraff (254-4207)

Secretary

Ann Walnum (222-8327)

Treasurer

Ron Johnson (256-2162)

Historian

Pat Samson (223-4895)

Past president

Rob Newman (221-9030)

Directors

David Brunk (223-1533)

Judy Call (223-2834)

Scott Folsom (224-0006)

Paul Girard (221-7822)

Maria Gray (225-4256)

Pat Griffith (225-8330)

Ed Raspa (223-9934)

Jerry Schneider (225-2748)

Eleana Williams (227-9738)

Committee Chairs

Gold Line

Paul Ahrens (227-9392)

Public Safety

David Brunk (223-1533)

Neighborhood Council

Anna Carpenter (222-2404)

Land Use

Elizabeth Herron (225-5711)

Beautification

Lynnette Kampe (221-1782)

Communications

Maria Gray (225-4256)

Children's Issues

Scott Folsom (224-0006)

Economic Development

Susan Baldwin (227-5597)

Newsletter edited by Scott Burleigh (225-4546)

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We value your participation.

Webmaster Needed!

Maria Gray

The Mt. Washington community is in urgent need of a new webmaster to update and administer the Mt. Washington Association web site. This web site is an excellent resource for the community and has received almost fifty thousand hits since its creation in February 2000.

Unfortunately it has not been updated for some time as our last webmaster has moved. If you, or anyone you know, would be interested in serving the community in this way, please contact Maria Gray at 323 225 4256. This would not take up too much time but would be of great service to us all. Many thanks.

Action Report

Cheri Uno

Body Scans

Lately there has been a lot of discussion pro and con concerning complete body scans, heart scans or CT scans. Some doctors endorse a full-body scan to find trouble early while it

is still treatable. Many authorities, including the American Cancer Society, FDA and American College of Radiology, do not endorse these scans because a scan may point out harmless irregularities and lead to unnecessary treatment.

Become informed before you undergo one of these expensive procedures. For information about CT scans, check the following sources:

American College of Radiology and Radiological Society of North America at

www.radiologyinfo.org/content/ct_of_the_body.htm

FDA Center for Devices and radiological Health at www.fda.gov/cdrh/ct/ or 800-638-2041 ext. 141.

Elder Abuse

A new publication is available from the Office of the Attorney General, Bureau of Medi-Cal fraud and Elder Abuse, 1425 River Park Drive, Suite 300, Sacramento, CA 95815 or at www.caag.state.ca.us/bmfea/.

Neighborhood Council Report

Pat Griffith

Mt. Washington is one of the five communities bordering the Arroyo that comprise the Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council: Mt. Washington, Montecito Heights, Sycamore Grove, Monterey Hills and Hermon. The City electorate ratified creation of these advisory councils in 1999, when we voters approved the new City Charter. Since that time, neighborhoods have been free to organize themselves into prospective councils, with the appointed Board of Neighborhood Commissioners reviewing the applications. Our ASNC application was approved on October 2; however, the 6th community originally included in the ASNC, Cypress Park, was removed from the ASNC at the November 19 BONC hearing, when the commissioners approved the Greater Cypress Park Neighborhood Council application.

The ASNC now needs to define the processes needed for its first elections. Once a Board for the ASNC has been elected, the ASNC can begin to receive City funding and will have a stakeholder-ratified means of coming to decisions. The ASNC Transition Committee, which is chartered to draft all the procedures and policies for the first election, is open to all stakeholders within the ASNC – that is, all adults who live, work or own property within the ASNC boundaries. This committee and its subcommittees are actively looking for volunteers who can help with this process.

The most recent ASNC Transition Committee meeting was held on January 14 at the River Center; please look for posters and emails announcing the next meeting of the Committee. If you are interested in helping develop our first elections, please contact any of the following people:

Interim Chair – Jim Thompson, 323-256-3625, Jim.Thompson@wnsnews.com

Outreach – Laura Knowles, 323-225-7980, mimulus@ureach.com

Treasury – Pat Griffith, 323-221-9807, PatGriffit@aol.com

Stakeholder Registration – Rob Schraff, 323-258-1168, rob_schraff@hotmail.com

Election rules and process – Mary Quirarte, 323-222-2620, mhquirarte@aol.com

Logistics – Joe Riser, 323-258-2164, rjosephla@cs.com

or go to the ASNC's official website: www.asnc.us.

To learn more about Neighborhood Councils, look at www.ALLNCs.org (the website for The Citywide Alliance of Neighborhood Councils). Also look at the Los Angeles Community Policing website (<http://www.lacp.org/BONC-DONE/BONC-DONE.html>).

The official website for the Los Angeles Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) is www.lacityneighborhoods.com.

Another online site, www.yahogroups.com, lets you search for "groups" which offer information and opinion about topics of interest to ASNC stakeholders. Yahoo's groups include ASNCAlert (announcements to ASNC stakeholders) and the interactive discussion forums (opinions and news) ASNCPost and nelalist

January General Membership Meeting

Carol Jacques

Our next general membership meeting will be held at 7:30 PM on January 27, at the Southwest Museum. Featured on the program will be Denise Smith and other Mount Washington residents reading passages from Jack Smith's books. Jack's love of Mount Washington often figured in his memorable Los Angeles Times columns. It will be great fun to hear Jack Smith's humorous perspectives on our beloved community.

Also, Los Angeles County Supervisor and Mount Washington resident Gloria Molina will install our new officers at this meeting

Natalie Seaman asks all "brownie chefs" to bring plates of brownies made from their favorite recipes. Members will have the chance to sample the goods and cast their votes for their favorite brownie recipe. The Museum staff certainly hopes there will be leftovers!

Draft Minutes of the November General Membership Meeting

Ann Walnum

The meeting convened on November 18 at 7:40 PM at Carlin G. Smith Recreation Center.

President Carol Jacques introduced Robert Carlin, clinical supervisor of Northeast Mental Health Center, which serves 1200 clients who are chronically mentally ill. Although the center's primary mission is to provide mental health services, he and his staff of three maintain

a year-round emergency food bank, and try to offer other related services. It was moved, seconded, amended and passed that MWA help to sponsor a NMHC family in need when assistance is needed, that this be facilitated through a committee, that confidentiality be maintained, but that we receive a profile of those we help. Natalie Seaman, program chair, announced a food drive drop-off for Saturday, December 7, to collect food for the Center's emergency food bank.

Paul Ahrens and Larry Hoffman, Gold Line Committee, elaborated on the October 3 Public Utilities Commission decision as described in the November newsletter. It didn't give us a no-horn zone, but it didn't retract other rulings. The PUC have authority to grant exemptions from horn-blowing, contrary to MTA and Construction Authority statements. They won't rule now; the train is not up and running. They will welcome future applications for exemptions. We can make technical and political preparations. White and Case have announced their availability to work on a future no-horn zone application, and elected leaders have said that they will be with us if the horn sounds are a problem. It was moved, seconded and passed that the association take no further action at this time.

President Carol Jacques presented flowers and commendation to Anna Carpenter and Natalie Seaman for their leadership and hard work in initiating the development of neighborhood councils in the Northeast and particularly for facilitating the Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council. She further announced that they would ride in the MWA entry in the Northeast Christmas Parade on December 1.

The nominating committee reported this proposed slate of candidates:

President – Carol Jacques

First Vice President, Action – Pat Griffith

Second Vice President, Program – Natalie Seaman

Third Vice President, Membership – Ed Raspa

Fourth Vice President, Hospitality – Rob Schraff

Secretary – David Brunk

Treasurer – Ron Johnson

Directors – Susan Baldwin, Grayson Cook, Nancy Lily, Ann Walnum

The slate remained unchanged through calls for nominations from the floor, and was elected by acclamation. Continuing Directors are Judy Call, Scott Folsom, Paul Girard, Maria Gray, and Jerry Schneider

Director Pat Griffith announced that the Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council is now working on election procedures and bylaw adjustments, and that it will not be officially certified until the elections are complete.

Lynnette Kampe, beautification, reported on Jacaranda replacement, planting of 2,000 native trees, Northeast Tree proposal, Rainbow Canyon work party, and delivery of MWA Native Plant sale orders.

Ann Walnum, community relations, announced the third holiday toy drive and reported on Southwest Museum Intertribal Marketplace vendor hospitality, which was supplied and staffed by fifteen MWA volunteers.

David Brunk, public safety, reported on his experiences volunteering at the Dorothy Day Food Kitchen and urged members to participate in a personal way at this facility or others similar.

Liz Herron, land Use, reported on State Park proposals for Taylor Yard interim use. Director Jerry Schneider interjected the need for active recreation in the park for local underserved youth. This omission in current plans is regrettably noted. Liz further reported on proposed developments at Cynthia and San Andreas, and in Moon Canyon. A tract map and hearing will be required for both areas.

Scott Folsom, children's issues, reported that a December 11 community meeting would be held to resolve issues over use and placement of the Jack Smith multi-purpose room. He also announced that Assemblywoman Jackie Goldberg had scheduled a smaller meeting with representatives of all local elected officials, high level LAUSD staff, and two local activists. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.

In Praise of Hands

On Sunday, January 26, from noon to 5 PM, the Ruskin Art Club will present an exhibition featuring five artists exhibiting contemporary works in jewelry, textiles, and painting:

- Estelle Carlson – handweaver
- Connie Rohman – fiber artist
- Rita Rubin – metal jeweler
- Olya Savtchenko – painter
- Liz Smith – beadweaver

The show will include a lecture/symposium at 2 PM: a conversation between the artists and audience discussing inspiration and creativity.

The Ruskin Art Club's historic clubhouse is located at 800 S. Plymouth Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90005 on the corner of S. Plymouth and 8th Street, one block south of Wilshire and three blocks west of Crenshaw.

For information please call Lucy Kuns at 323-755-3530 or visit <http://www.ruskinartclub.org>.

Southwest Museum News

Ann Walnum

Recent news about proposed changes in our local museum, Los Angeles' oldest, focuses our attention on the treasures this wonderful institution holds. The programs scheduled for the first quarter of 2003 offer richness and variety. All are free with museum membership (available at our January meeting) except the feather jewelry workshop and the San Fernando mission program.

Friday, January 31, 6:30 PM

Recent donations to Southwest Museum, Part I. Member opening.

Saturday, February 8, 2 PM

Lecture and historic display about Mission San Fernando by authors Kenneth and Carol Pauley, showing materials incorporated into their forthcoming book.

Saturday, February 8, 9 AM to noon

Beginning of docent training with Director of Education Barbara Arvi. Classes will be held every Saturday for six months.

Sunday, February 16, 1 to 4 PM

Film festival presents four films concerning traditional and contemporary issues for American Indians in the Northern Plains area of Canada and the United States. These film presentations are unique in presenting works that are rarely shown.

Saturday, February 22, 2 PM

Blackfoot Traditional Arts – language preservation, oral histories, botanical lore, arts and crafts – lecture and display by two noted Blackfoot teachers.

Saturday, March 1, 9 AM to 3 PM

Creek artist Julie Marshall leads workshop in painted feather jewelry. Fee includes material - \$15, members; \$20, non-members.

Friday March 7, 1:30 to 10 PM and Saturday, March 8, 9 AM to 3 PM

Second Annual Navajo Rug Auction and Trunk Sale. Preview and Auction each day. Almost one million dollars in rugs from trading posts, collectors, and weavers will be auctions. TO BE HELD AT RAMONA HALL because of the high attendance last year.

Friday, March 14, 6:30 PM

Recent donations to Southwest Museum, Part II. Member opening. Includes Hopi baskets and Katsina dolls, Navajo textiles and Pueblo potter.

Please plan ahead. On Saturday, March 22, the library will hold its twelfth Annual sale. We dare you to browse and still go home empty handed. A silent auction will include outstanding items, especially some original Charles Lummis photos.

On Saturday, April 5, from 10 AM to 3 PM, an Appraisal Clinic will be held. This is an opportunity to solve some mysteries about origin, maker, value. Three accredited experts will examine each piece presented and discuss for you their findings. I went to an appraisal clinic a few years ago bearing three Indian baskets, but I went home with one – one Indian basket and two non-Indian baskets. Appraisal fees and services will be donated to the conservation project.

Southwest Museum telephone: 323-221-2164.

Protest

Bob Squires

Your local Neighbors for Peace and Justice group, which was organized by Mt. Washington residents, invites you to protest against war in Iraq every Saturday from 1 to 3 PM at Eagle Rock Boulevard and El Paso Avenue (near the Albertsons) in Glassell Park. Please bring a sign with large lettering and a simple, direct message. We have several signs available for those who cannot provide their own. If you wish to bring signs, flags, or banners indicating your individual affiliations, you are welcome to do so.

For a list of reasons to oppose the war, see the American Friends Service Committee Web site:

<http://www.afsc.org/iraq/guide/10reasons.shtm>

For more information about the Iraq war and viable alternatives, see the Human Rights Watch Web site:

<http://www.hrw.org/campaigns/iraq/>

We are also collecting signatures for a petition asking Los Angeles City Council to issue a resolution opposing war in Iraq. Several cities throughout the United States, including San Francisco, Detroit, and New Haven, have already issued resolutions. The coalition needs volunteers to serve as signature gatherers for Nick Pacheco's District 14. If you are interested in volunteering, please call Bob Squires at 323-550.1878 or email to evelynsq@pacbell.net.

Carlin G. Smith News

L.A. KIDS free classes in arts, crafts and sports are open to all, Monday through Friday, 4 to 5 PM. The after-school program for children of ages 5 and up continues, Monday through Friday. The pre-school program also continues, Tuesday through Friday, 9:30 AM to noon. The Adult Work-out class, meeting on Tuesday and Friday from 7 to 8 PM, provides free T-shirt with enrollment.

The Carlin G. Smith Recreation Center is at 511 West Avenue 46, 323-225-4960. Director Lola Moquin.

Many Dolls, Many Teddy Bears

Ann Walnum

This third year of toy-sharing was exceptional in amount – about 1400 toys collected – and in variety and quality. Our MWA members and the Mount Washington students and PTA responded generously. Special helpers were Veronica Smith, Forencia Teran, Samantha Allen and Vicky Fong.

Toys were distributed through Congressman Xavier Becerra to:

El Centro de Pueblo

Elysian Valley United

Echo Park Boys and Girls Club

Chinatown Service Center

Search to Involve Filipino Americans

ACORN

Los Angeles Boys and Girls Club

PACE

Toys distributed through Councilman Nick Pacheco, per Linda Herbert's recommendations, went to:

Aliso Village

Ramona Gardens

Rose Hills housing projects

We also distributed toys to the Northeast Mental Health center through Carol Jacques, to W.O.R.K.S. at Highland Village through Vicky Fong, and to Good Shepherd and St. Mary's Centers through Judy Call.

It has been suggested that we collect toys much earlier, especially through judicious yard sale shopping. What about "Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Toy Scouts"? Volunteers? Suggestions? Call (323) 222-8327.

Then and Now

Pat Samson

First, this finishes our survey of local history from the **late 1980s**:

Construction began in May 1988 on the new \$2 million Holy Virgin Mary Coptic Orthodox Church building at 4900 Cleland Avenue.

An organizational meeting for the Mount Washington Baby Sitting Cooperative was held on June 25, 1988.

A room and board program for as many as 21 prison parolees was opened in August 1988 in a bungalow court on the corner of Marmion Way and Avenue 43, in violation of city zoning regulations. It was closed in early 1989.

A local Certified Farmers Market was opened on Friday, July 21, 1989, in Sycamore Park at the 4600 block of Figueroa Street. The market was discontinued after several years because of the low volume of neighborhood customers.

A number of Mount Washington residents began participating in the Recycling Implementation Plan (R.I.P.) in the summer of 1989.

In remembrance: Mary Given Jones, a long time Mount Washington resident and an able MWA secretary for many years, died on October 19, 1985, from a lymphoma form of cancer. Her cheerful, alert, and intelligent dedication to our Association is gratefully remembered.

Mount Washington residents were saddened in early 1989 by the news of the murder of Noel Patrick Quinn, the 36-year old son of Noel and Helen Quinn, who had lived in the community for more than 30 years at that time.

Services were held on April 24, 1989, for Yumi Okubo Taukahira, the 33-year old daughter of Chobo Okubo. Yumi passed away on April 19, three and one-half days after giving birth to her son Kyle.

Now we delve back into our local history another five years. Here is what was happening in Mount Washington in the **early 1980s**:

Some things never seem to change. The top item at the February 1980 MWA meeting was the need for more public services from the Police Department, the Lot Cleaning Division of the Department of Public Works, and the Street Maintenance Bureau.

Other issues do get resolved. The Newsletter for that month also reported that the Carlin G. Smith Recreation Center basketball court lights were not connected; the water sprinklers had not been reconnected; and there had been three Directors and one CEATA Recreation Leader in charge of the Center within the past six months! Here's a success story – the Center is running smoothly now.

Another MWA victory! A new 184-unit, two-story condominium development to be situated below the cul-de-sac on Elyria Drive was first proposed by developer Marty Weiss in November 1980. As we all know, after many years of dedicated work by the Association and others, the area is now parkland owned by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.

Our beloved Jack Smith, Los Angeles Times columnist and Mount Washington resident, was the guest speaker at the November 1980 MWA meeting.

The Northeast Division of the Los Angeles Police Department reported these crime statistics for 1980: total number of crimes 709; burglary 357; auto theft 91; burglary and theft from automobiles 115; murder 3; rape 2, aggravated assault 57; other 84.

In May 1981, sixty Mount Washington Elementary School students participated in the Sixth Annual Young Authors' Conference sponsored by Area 7 of the Los Angeles City School District. Garret Schulze, second grade, and Alan Gornick, fifth grade, were given special recognition as outstanding young authors.

Treasurer Dee Shaddock reported that the MWA bank balance on December 7, 1981 was \$479.02.

In May 1982 Mount Washington residents voted overwhelmingly against a proposed mountain fire district. The plan, sought by the fire department, was dropped.

The median price of an existing single-family home in the community in May 1982 was \$119,000.

On June 3, 1982, Mount Washington Elementary School hosted a reception to honor Mr. Ernest Erdell for his 31 years of dedicated services to children of the Los Angeles Unified School District. Twenty of those outstanding years were spent at the local school.

In September 1982 developers proposed to build 14 to 16 townhomes (RD6 zoning) in the San Rafael Canyon

near Moon and Sea View Lane. This development plan had a new twist. The developers were willing to donate 3.6 acres to the Mount Washington Association and build on only one acre. In January 1984 residents were concerned about a travel trailer parked on a vacant lot at this location. These issues are gone but, as the current fence in the area testifies, development is not forgotten.

The Southwest Museum held its "Celebration '82" on October 2, 1982, to mark the reopening of the newly renovated Plains Indian Hall and the Prehistoric Painted Pottery exhibition.

A Gala Haunted House and Halloween Dance was held at Carlin G. Smith on October 30, 1982.

Mount Washington People: Arthur Flannigan Saint-Aubin

Julie Nagesh

Arthur Flannigan Saint-Aubin may possibly be the calmest person I've ever met, the kind of person I can relax and chat with for hours and then wonder where the time went. He has lived on Mt. Washington for several years and is a professor of French Culture and Literature at Occidental College.

Professor Saint-Aubin is originally from the island of Martinique in the Caribbean. His mother tongue was French, but when he was nine his family moved to the United States. Little Arthur picked up English so quickly that within a couple of months his parents were taking him to job interviews to translate for them.

Arthur became a professional translator as an adult, reaching the pinnacle of his profession when he did simultaneous translating for the United Nations. The pressure for accuracy in that position is enormous, and Arthur soon discovered that mastery of both languages was not enough. One day he was translating for a U.S. senator from the south who used the expression "doing the hokey-pokey". That one threw Arthur. He got through it by deducing the meaning from the context, but he felt later that to be truly effective in that job one needs to be bi-cultural and to have been raised in two countries at once. He let the position go, but during his interpreting career he had also translated at the L.A. Olympics; this led to his present position at Oxy.

Arthur now lives on our hill with two large gray mops. They jump and wiggle, so they must be dogs. They don't seem to have eyes or ears, but you can hear heavy breathing under the shaggy mounds of fluff. Arthur and his mops will be moving soon, though, to a beautiful condo in Old Pasadena where Professor Saint-Aubin plans to "walk the talk" for ecology by selling his car and commuting to Oxy on the Gold Line. We'll miss them, and we wish them well.

Coming up...

Jan. 26 Ruskin Art Club *art show* "In Praise of Hands" at 800 S. Plymouth Blvd., Los Angeles. For information please call Lucy Kuns at 323-755-3530. Noon to 5 PM.