



# The Mount Washington Association

*Serving the Mount Washington community since 1955.*

March 2004

[www.mtwashington.org](http://www.mtwashington.org)

## The Denny and Jack Smith Library and Community Center

*Scott Folsom*

General Membership Meeting  
Monday, March 15, 2004, 7:30 PM  
Carlin G. Smith Recreation Center  
511 W. Avenue 46

### ***A Jack Smith Celebration***

Details on page 3.

At long last, the Los Angeles Unified School District is building a new multipurpose room and school library at Mount Washington School through the efforts of the community begun by Denny and Jack Smith. The newly convened Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council has resolved to support the Mount Washington community and join in its petition to the Board of Education of the Los Angeles Unified School District to name the new building *The Denny and Jack Smith Library & Community Center*, to memorialize and honor Denny and Jack Smith for their generous contributions to the education of Los

Angeles schoolchildren and to the enrichment of the culture of the communities of the Arroyo Seco and all of Los Angeles.

## President's Message

*Natalie Seaman*

After living in Mount Washington and North East Los Angeles for almost 20 years – and loving it, treasuring the history of the arroyo, the great open spaces and the funkiness of the neighborhoods – I find myself in a position to raise consciousness about the changes that are coming. The growth in the city of Los Angeles is rapidly coming our way. We all need to be aware and work to preserve what we love and take every opportunity to make it better.

At every meeting I go to in the community someone inevitably drops the name of Frederick Law Olmsted, a planner who laid out a comprehensive park, recreation, open space and circulation plan for the city of Los Angeles back in the 1930s. This vision for parks and open space has been expanded by many activists in the arroyo communities to include our important monuments – the Southwest Museum, the Case de Adobe, the Lummis House, to name just a few. I like the way this has all been described as an “Emerald Necklace” ringing the Northeast. Every month something is happening that is a part of this vision. Current activities include:

- Project to save the hill known as Flat Top, a wonderful piece of open space in the Mount Washington viewed right across the freeway in Montecito Heights, that local residents and People for Parks are working to save.
- Project to save Walnut Canyon: Glassell Park residents need our help in preserving this significant grove of one of our native plants.
- Coalition of the Friends of the Southwest Museum: the entire activist community in the Northeast is working to assure that we do not lose this jewel.

My challenge is for all of us to spend some time at meetings and hearings and get our voices heard on these key quality-of-life initiatives. You can find out about these events by reviewing our calendar, checking out the bulletin board at the elementary school, subscribing to the ASNCA alert mailings, or visiting the Event Calendar of the Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council at [www.asnc.us](http://www.asnc.us).

Of course, for those of us who live in Mount Washington, this is the heart of the Northeast – and the muse for our



neighborhood was the local journalist Jack Smith. Spring is the time that we have designated to honor Jack, a man who shared the charm and character of Mount Washington with the entire City through his newspaper column and many wonderful books. Jack Smith lived and wrote about this neighborhood through the 60s, 70s, and 80s and preserved for all of us a great sense of this place.

Come to the March MWA meeting and enjoy hearing Jack's stories read by some of the members. Also, join us on April 18th for the Jack and Denise Smith Walk to honor Jack's love of Mount Washington.

Look forward to seeing you all in the neighborhood!

## Thanks For a Job Well Done

*Natalie Seaman*

The Mount Washington Association is run by volunteers, people who do a lot of work for free. Several of these folks are leaving the Board after years and years of dedication and hard work – and we should all take a moment to say thanks when we see them!

So thanks to:

Judy Call, who has taken on every possible position that would require the most amount of work on her part. It must be something in her karma – but Judy served as the Hospitality VP, lugging refreshments all over Mount Washington in her tiny sports car, and then took on the role of Treasurer, a tedious task at best. While she was doing all this she led the Board and fund raising activities of Good Shepherd Home – the largest shelter for homeless women in the City of Los Angeles – as a volunteer. And if that was not enough, she gave countless hours of time to the development of the Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council. Judy, thanks for all the years of contributions.

Jerry Schneider, the green guy of the hill, who has served on the Board off and on for so many years – it would take a historian to get the exact number. He is off the Board this year, focusing on his new role as at-large representative for Environment issues on the Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council. Jerry has represented the MWA and our community in every fight for open space and protection of the environment in at least the last decade. But the amazing thing about Jerry is that he also finds time to create trails in Debs Park, lead clean-ups in Elyria Canyon, and coordinate activities such as the Jack Smith Walk. And while doing all this he built a new home that is a model of environmental sanity for us all.

## Officers

### *President*

Natalie Seaman (223-0996)

### *1<sup>st</sup> VP (Action)*

Rob Schraff (254-4207)

### *2<sup>nd</sup> VP (Programs)*

Maria Gray (225-4256)

### *3<sup>rd</sup> VP (Membership)*

Pat Griffith (225-8330)

### *4<sup>th</sup> VP (Hospitality)*

Grayson Cook (227-8899)

### *Secretary*

Ed Raspa (223-9934)

### *Treasurer*

Susan Phifer (222-2424)

### *Historian*

Pat Samson (223-4895)

### *Past president*

Carol Jacques (225-0501)

## Directors

Susan Baldwin (227-5597)

David Brunk (223-1533)

Paul Girard (221-7822)

Wendy Legacki (225-1344)

Michelle Lewis (258-6874)

Nancy Lilly (225-7597)

Hank Schaeffer (221-9695)

Ann Walnum (222-8327)

## Committee Chairs

### *Advertising*

David Brunk (223-1533)

### *Child Care, PTA Liaison*

Cheri Hanamoto

### *Communications*

Eliot Sekular (344-9955)

### *Emerald Necklace*

Carol Jacques (225-0501)

### *Finance*

Michelle Lewis (258-6874)

### *Gold Line*

Larry Hoffman (221-5277)

### *Land Use*

Liz Herron (225-5711)

### *Public Safety*

Cheri Uno (222-0410)

### *Public Service*

Rob Schraff (254-4207)

Webmistress: Donnette Thayer

(877-581-0833)

Newsletter edited by Scott

Burleigh (225-4546)

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Ron Johnson, a local businessman whom we tapped to serve as our Treasurer. He hails from Mount Washington West and served two years in this position – again, putting in tedious hours and providing insight on the happenings in his neck of the woods. Thanks, Ron, for the great service you have given us.

Scott Folsom, who served MWA as a Director and provided excellent information to the Board relating to Child Care issues. Scott's focus continues to be education, and he is now serving as at-large representative for Education and Youth on the Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council.

All told, this community has had the benefit of thousands of hours of service from these folks, and we are grateful.

## ASNC Hits the Ground Running

### *Rob Schraff*

In little more than a month, the Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council has met three times, once in special session, and addressed a number of issues important to Mt. Washington and the other communities that make up our neighborhood council.

Of perhaps most immediate interest to Mt. Washington, the ASNC board offered up to \$2,000 to support a neighborhood matching grant prepared by the PTA to expand the amphitheater at Mt. Washington Elementary School. The ASNC also officially supported the naming of the new library and multipurpose room at the elementary school after Denny and Jack Smith.

The ASNC has also joined the Friends of the Southwest Museum Coalition and has appointed Louis Quirarte as its representative to the coalition. It seems we are again at a critical juncture in efforts to keep vital parts of the collection here in Mt. Washington as well as keeping the Mt. Washington Campus as an important public asset to our communities, and the ASNC is ready to play whatever supportive role is required to achieve these important goals. Gold Line noise issues, of ongoing concern to all the nearby communities, are also being monitored. The ASNC is closely following the efforts of South Pasadena in this area, and may pursue independent action as events merit.

The efforts of nearby Glassell Park to preserve Walnut Canyon as open space were also supported by the ASNC, both because of the Canyon's merits as natural park space accessible to many by public transportation and also because this area, along Division Street, is in the viewscape of many in both Mt. Washington and Glassell Park. The ASNC has also supported similar efforts by grassroots organizations in Montecito Heights to preserve the area known as Flat Top through the good offices of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.

The residents of Hermon have been working for more than a year to establish a dog park. After carefully weighing the pros and cons of this effort, the ASNC board voted to support this already funded park, which has widespread support in the Hermon community.

In what may well have the most long-term impact on our environment and community, the ASNC co-sponsored the presentation of the Draft Corridor Master Plan study for the Arroyo Seco Parkway. This is the beginning of a focused effort at restoring parkland and the original historic fabric of the parkway. It has the potential of not only changing our view of the parkway but also transforming the perceptions of the communities all along the arroyo. In a related effort, Councilman Reyes' office will be presenting the Gold Line linkages study, addressing access to the parkway and related nearby street, parking, lighting and other infrastructure issues, at the next ASNC meeting on March 22 at 7:00 PM at Ramona Hall. Be there, and make sure your voice is heard as many of these issues that will affect our community for decades are addressed.

## March General Membership Meeting

*Maria Gray*

At our March General Membership meeting the Mount Washington Association will once again be honoring Jack Smith and his connection to our community. Many of us first heard of Mount Washington through Jack's columns in the Los Angeles Times. Whether he was telling us about wildlife in his back garden, the local school, or new neighbors just moved in, he always made it sound as if Mount Washington was a wonderful place to live. Those of us who are fortunate enough to live here know this is true, so join us March 15th to celebrate Jack Smith's writings and spend time with your neighbors. Looking forward to seeing you at 7.30pm, March 15th at the Carlin G. Smith Center.

## Draft Minutes of the January General Membership Meeting at SW Museum

*Ed Raspa*

Outgoing President Carol Jacques called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM. General member Bill Rumble addressed the importance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. since the Association was meeting on Dr. King's seventy-fifth birthday.

President Jacques spoke briefly about the events and accomplishments of the past year, paying particular attention to possible loss of the Southwest Museum from our community. She presented the elected officers and directors for 2004 MWA Board to the membership. President Jacques then introduced 1<sup>st</sup> District Council member and Mount Washington resident Ed Reyes, who gave the oath of office to the new Board.

Those present approved the minutes of November 2003 membership meeting without correction.

Newly installed President Natalie Seaman introduced long-time Northeast LA resident Louis Quirarte, who gave an historical perspective to the relationship between the Arroyo and Debs Park.

President Seaman introduced Membership VP Pat Griffith, who informed the membership of the background to support the following motion:

Motion (Griffith): **That the Mount Washington Association supports the development of the Historical Parkway and Emerald Necklace concepts as well as related efforts in the Northeast area.** Motion passed by voice vote.

President Seaman announced that Past President Carol Jacques would chair an ad hoc committee to report to the membership and the Board on progress of those efforts.

Motion (Walnum): **That the Mount Washington Association appropriate \$250 for anti-graffiti materials to protect the newly installed mural on Marmion Way.** Motion passed by voice vote.

Due to the lateness of the hour, President Seaman announced that committee reports would be deferred to the March membership meeting. However, she did permit members to make time-sensitive announcements.

Program VP Maria Gray that Cheri Uno had won the Brownie Bake-off contest. Board member David Brunk reminded members to send letters to support the Montecito Heights Improvement Association's opposition to the development of "Flat Top". Cheri Uno reminded members of a LAPD Town Hall that would take place on January 21<sup>st</sup> at 6 PM at Magnolia Elementary School.

Since there was no new business, President Seaman adjourned the meeting without objection at 9:15 PM.

## Budget for Fiscal Year 2004

*Ed Raspa for the Finance Committee*

The MWA Board recommends that the membership approve the following budget for the fiscal year 2004. Given the space limitations of the newsletter, the Finance Committee has summarized the budget for this article. The detailed budget is available on the MWA website ([www.mtwashington.org](http://www.mtwashington.org)). Copies of the detailed budget will available at the membership meeting.

Projected Revenue:

Membership	\$8,000
Advertising	\$2,500
CD Transfer	\$4,648
Other	<u>\$1,425</u>
Total Revenue	\$16,583

Projected Expenses:

Action Committee	\$2,175
Program Committee	\$ 200
Membership Committee	\$ 600
Hospitality Committee	\$1,285
Communications Committee	\$3,540
Beautification Committee	\$1,913
Child Care Committee	\$2,000
Public Safety	\$ 50
Blue Line Committee	\$2,830
Miscellaneous Expenses	<u>\$1,900</u>
Total Expenses	\$16,583

Please note that the Board has presented a balanced budget for the membership's approval. The Board has accomplished this by authorizing a one-time disbursement from our Certificate of Deposit. This has been done to offset a temporary loss of revenue while maintaining a level of commitment to the community projects that is commensurate with previous years.

## Used Book Sales

Ann Walnum

On Saturday, March 20, from 10 AM to 5 PM, the Southwest Museum will hold its annual book sale and silent auction. On Saturday, March 27, from 10 AM to 2 PM, there will be a book sale at Cypress Park library (Cypress and Roseview). The public is welcome to both events, which will offer donated, withdrawn, and duplicate books and periodicals. The Museum's Silent Auction will have special items for collectors.

## Membership Report

Pat Griffith

If you haven't already renewed your membership in the Mt. Washington Association, please take this opportunity to send in your renewal form and check. And thanks to the many of you who have already renewed.

We are also launching our Spring Membership Drive, which is taking place over the next few months. Our major way to communicate with members is via our newsletter and meetings. We want to make sure that other Mt. Washingtonians also know about the Association, so we will be reaching out through our newsletter to other households and at public meetings. Please help us by letting your friends and neighbors know about the MWA and encourage them also to join.

Finally, we plan on sending meeting notices and special notices via email (no more than once a month). If you would like to receive MWA email notices, please send your email address to [patgriffit@earthlink.net](mailto:patgriffit@earthlink.net).

<b>MOUNT WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION</b>				
Name(s) _____				
Address _____				
City, State, Zip Code _____			Phone _____	
Email _____			Fax _____	
<i>Please check one:</i> ? New membership    ? Renew membership				
Please circle Membership Category and Contribution Level below:				
Basic:	Single	\$15	Family/Couple	\$25    Senior \$12    Associate \$15
Supporting:	\$35			
Business/Professional:	\$50			
Benefactor:	\$100			
Patron:	\$250			
All renewals due at start of calendar year.				
Your cancelled check is your receipt. Please make check payable to :				
MOUNT WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION				
Your name and address shall be kept confidential and shall not be given to other organizations.				
• Membership (Single, Family or Senior) is open to adults who either reside or own property on Mount Washington. Membership includes the right to vote and hold office.				
• Associate membership is open to any adult who resides outside of the Mount Washington community. Associate members may not vote or hold office.				

## Public Safety Report

Cheri Uno

Captain Jackson Will Be Missed. Captain Kyle Jackson has been the Northeast Area Commanding Officer for about

the past 4 years. During this time, Capt. Jackson has implemented several programs; The Problem Solving Unit, The Volunteer Surveillance Team, Operation Red Zone, and Neighbor To Neighbor to name a few. These innovative programs have helped to keep our neighborhood safe. **Currently, the Northeast Area is one of the top three safest areas throughout the City of Los Angeles.** Captain Jackson is going to the Southwest Area to be their Commanding Officer. We will be receiving Captain Morris Smith from the Southwest. If you would like to learn more about Captain Smith, you can look up his resume at the [www.lapd.org](http://www.lapd.org) website.

Crime Still Down but Auto Theft Increasing. Part I crimes are down by 10.1% for the past year, but Grand Theft Auto (GTA) is up by 3.5% so far this year. This is the type of crime that can be prevented. Think about installing a "kill switch", especially if you have to leave your car in unsecured parking during the day or night. The other area where the Northeast area has had an increase in crime is in Child and Spousal Abuse. If you know someone in this type of situation, please help them to seek counseling and report this to the authorities.

Operation Red Zone. One of the newest programs to be implemented in the Northeast Area by Captain Jackson is Operation Red Zone. Operation Red Zone is a coalition of undercover Police Officers, Detectives, and community members working in partnership to identify and quickly arrest criminal violators in communities. The idea is to increase public safety. Although this program has only been in operation a few weeks, it has been very successful in deterring crime throughout the Northeast Area.

Operation Red Zone operates in all neighborhoods throughout the Northeast Area, at all hours of the day. You may not see them but they are out there. Recently, during one four-hour period, Operation Red Zone arrested and cited 29 criminal violators in the Highland Park community. If you have any questions regarding this new program, contact the Northeast Area Community Relations Office at (213) 485-2648.

Neighbor to Neighbor. The Northeast Community-Police Advisory Board and Mayor Hahn's Office of Operations and Eastside Area Coordinator, Lupe Franco-Butler, have partnered to offer a new program, called "Neighbor To Neighbor", to the communities of the Northeast Area Division. This new program targets quality of life in specific areas of the Northeast Area where crime is high.

The first phase of the program is a "Community Fair" held in a location at the center of the targeted neighborhood. Representatives from the city services provide materials and information about services that may be of help to the community. We also have entertainment and sometimes have food available, depending on the resources of that area.

In the second phase, the C-PAB members, staff from Mayor Hahn's Office, Council Office Staff, and the Senior Lead Officers representing the area go door-to-door passing out city services information to the community members. At the same time, we ask the community members if they would also like to walk with us and introduce us to their neighbors – or meet their neighbors if they don't know them.

In the third phase of the program, we return to the same area 3 or 4 weeks later with a community clean-up.

The main goal of this program is to get the neighbors out of their houses and talking to one another about the problems of their community. At the same time, we give them information and contacts for solving their neighborhood problems. This is an effort to build a community that knows there are other neighbors out there that also care about the conditions of their neighborhood and want make things better.

We have gone to two neighborhoods so far and plan to go to many more in the coming year. If you have any questions regarding this program or the Northeast Area Community-Police Advisory Board, please contact your C-PAB Representative Cheri Uno at (323) 222-0410.

Olancha Mural Report. The mural is all done except for one panel that will go up as soon as we don't have a rain storm in the seven-day forecast. I'm hoping we could have an opening event once the mural is done. Anyone wanting to help with the opening event, please contact Cheri Uno at (323) 222-0410.

## Jack and Denise Smith Walk

*Ann Walnum*

This year the Walk will be held on Sunday, April 18. The looped trail is about four miles long, starting from the Southwest Museum tunnel entrance. The steep part is uphill on Crane. At the top, Sea View and San Rafael are relatively flat. Mount Washington Drive and Canyon Vista are downhill, and the return on Marmion Way is flat. You are welcome to hike any portion of the trail. There will be two groups, one starting the hike at 9 AM and the other starting at 9:30. There will be a water stop at Mount Washington School. Watch for our posters and trail signs before the event.

## Marmion Way Mural Progress

*Ann Walnum*

Artist Daniel Cervantes is grateful for the Mount Washington Association's donation of protective coating for his Marmion Way mural below the Southwest Museum. The coating has worked very well. He is waiting for drier weather to complete the remaining panels.

## Land Use Report

*Liz Herron*

The hills of Mt. Washington and Glassell Park are ripe for development. There are still affordable parcels of land in these areas, and real estate values have increased enough to compensate for the development difficulties these parcels often pose. As we all know, the infrastructure improvements are inadequate in these historic hillside areas – particularly the roads. As these parcels are built out, the required road improvements and other infrastructure improvements are provided per parcel, but the increased traffic and demand for parking on these narrow streets remain a problem.

It is increasingly important that the land use committees of the neighborhood counsels and the neighborhood associations work together to advise public policy in the development of these parcels. Since most of the developments now proposed are on existing lots and no discretionary proceedings are a part of the process, public resources (not developer resources) will need to be tapped to address public safety hazards that currently exist and will only get worse.

A joint land use meeting of interested parties in Mount Washington, Glassell Park, and our neighboring hillside communities will be held at Natalie Seaman's home on Monday, March 22, at 7:30 PM to discuss land use policy for our hillside communities. If you are interested in attending please call Liz Herron (Mt. Washington Land Use Chair) at (323) 225-5711 or send email to [Lizherron@aol.com](mailto:Lizherron@aol.com).

## Thanks From NMHC

*Kathryn Sampson, Northeast Mental Health Clinic*

I have worked at the Northeast Mental Health Center for nearly two years. It is a great place to work, and one of the finest aspects here is the sense of community we enjoy. The Mount Washington Association richly contributes to that community.

My favorite is that each Christmas has been highlighted by the warm generosity of the Mount Washington Association to the clients of our clinic. This display begins early with a request from the MWA that we present the gender, age, size, and gift preferences of family members. Even though we know our clients, this makes us view them differently. Instead of "How can this problem be solved?" the question becomes "What will give joy?"

After the wish list has been submitted, a day arrives in December when wonderful volunteers troop into the clinic laden with all types of goodies. Everything is labeled. Everything has been chosen with care. The spirit of Christmas shines.

### Coming up...

March 16	Mount Washington Association <i>general membership meeting</i> at Carlin G. Smith Recreation Center. 7:30 PM.
March 20	Annual <i>book sale</i> and <i>silent auction</i> at the Southwest Museum. 10 AM to 5 PM.
March 22	Hillside communities <i>joint land use meeting</i> at Natalie Seaman's house. 7:30 PM.
March 22	Next meeting of the <i>Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council</i> , at Ramona Hall. 7 PM.
March 27	<i>Book sale</i> at Cypress Park library (Cypress and Roseview). 10 AM to 2 PM.
April 18	The <i>Jack and Denise Smith Walk</i> , starting at the Southwest Museum. Groups begin the walk at 9 AM and 9:30 AM.
May 16	<i>Museums of the Arroyo Day</i> . 11 AM to 5 PM. [Details in the next MWA newsletter.]

All of the families that I submitted gift lists for were deeply touched. One couple with young children said they would not have been able to give their children anything and had tears in their eyes at receiving such nice gifts from "people who know nothing about us." Another older woman said "There are kind people still."

Kindness spreads. The MWA bought sweat suits for the parents of one family. The wife had saved all year and had previously bought her husband a sweat suit. At first she thought "Now he will have two." But then she saw an elderly homeless man and felt so grateful for what she had, so aware of her blessings, that she gave him one of the warm sweat suits. She told me "I thanked God there were enough for two."

Thank you, members of the Mount Washington Association, for the tangible gifts and for the gifts of the heart.

## Sri Damayata

*David Brunk*

The MWA honors the life achievements of Sri Dayamata, the President of Self Realization Fellowship for approximately 50 years. She took her vows as a nun at age 17 and has dedicated her entire life to the work of SRF as defined by its founder Paramhansa Yogananda. While guiding this work and training the disciples she has over the years transcribed from her shorthand all the words of Yogananda as he spoke publicly and privately for over 20 years. This has produced numerous books and articles in his name and several books under her own name. Sri Dayamata reached the age of 91 on January 31st and still directs the daily activities of the world wide church.

## Meet Your Neighbors and Get Fit at the Same Time

*Maria Gray*

Ladies, in case you haven't noticed, we have a new gym on Figueroa. It's called "Curves for Women" and is owned by Diane Grigsby. Prior to opening her Curves Gym, Diane was a massage therapist at a day spa in Beverly Hills. Diane has always wanted to own her own business, so Curves is her dream come true. She picked the Figueroa location as it is close to many communities familiar to her from the "Stairway Walks in Los Angeles" book.

Women of all ages and fitness ranges have been joining the gym, and it's fun to see a new community developing there. The concept behind Curves is to provide a com-fortable place for women to exercise in a short amount of time, because most women's lives are so hectic these days. The program is designed to take 30 minutes, three times a week, with aerobic exercise recommended on the other days. So this really is a great addition to the walking that many of us on Mount Washington do.

Curves is located at 4319 North Figueroa Street, close to Avenue 45. Call Diane for an appointment, at (323) 224-0044, or just stop by. The gym's opening hours are:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 6 AM – 12:30 PM, 3 PM – 8 PM  
Tuesday, Thursday: 8 AM– 12:30 PM, 3 PM– 7:30 PM

Saturday mornings: 8:30 AM – 11:30 AM