

THE HEIGHTS

CALIFORNIA HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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California Heights Neighborhood news is a bi-monthly publication of the California Heights Neighborhood Association.

All residents are invited to contribute articles and opinions. We reserve the right to edit for clarity and brevity. Opinions expressed are not necessarily shared by all residents nor the editor. Our goal is to provide a voice to our community, keeping residents informed of issues affecting the quality of life in California Heights.

TEN YEARS AND STILL GOING STRONG



HousePortraitbyEllen.com

Sunday, October 1st a typical day in Cal Heights. But this was the day of our tenth anniversary home tour – *Celebrating Ten Years*. The weather was perfect – a slight overcast making it easier for our volunteers and participants to be outdoors.

As the visitors arrived at Mr. Jan's Antique Mall to pick up their tickets and programs they could enjoy a healthy treat from our very own Liz Guerra compliments of Trader Joes. From there the most difficult choice was whether to walk to the homes on the tour or take the red trolley.

Ellen Kirk once again captured the wonderful tour homes with her portraits and contributed to the outstanding program. Our sincerest thanks go to Ellen and the other loyal sponsors, John Reynolds, First Team Real Estate; Louise and Dave Solzman of Delius Restaurant and Wine Bar; Steve Greenup of Mr. Jan's Antique Mall; Tom and Lola Barnes of B&B Hardware; and Long Beach Memorial Medical Center, Miller Children's Hospital. Without their continued support and contributions we would not be able to continue to hold this popular event.

This year there was a mixture of older and more traditional homes. Four of the homes had been showcased on the tour in previous years but restoration and changes to the previously shown homes made them wonderful examples of the pride and love residents have for California Heights. Two traditional homes on the tour that were never previewed before drew high approval from the home tour participants.

Continued on page 4

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Seasons Greetings Neighbors! By the time this newsletter reaches you we will be right smack in the middle of the busiest shopping season of the year. Retailers will be trying to lure you with slick television, print and radio ads that are designed to tug on your emotional heartstrings. They will show you snow, a flickering fireplaces and hot chocolate. They will want you to feel like your missing out if you don't shop till you drop. They will want you to feel guilty (yes, guilty) that you need whatever it is you don't have.

Why am I telling you this? Well, in my profession that's what I do. I work with clients who want their product to stand out from the competition at the retail store. I own a company that designs point of sale displays. You know... the displays at the store that make you want to buy a product on impulse when you weren't planning on purchasing it when you walked in the store. It's the slick graphics, the feature product copy, the bright colors and the pre-designed discounts. All the "hooks" that are designed into a successful campaign to get you to buy. I don't know if you know this, but many of the things you see for sale now were purchased up to two years ago. To give you an example we are working on Halloween Displays for large candy company for the 2008 season. Talk about shelf life.

Ok, I am sure your wondering where I am going with this. Why am I revealing what you already know? Well, in my opinion if you peel off all of the layers of the retail onion what you should end up with is the true meaning of the holiday season. What is it? It's the warm glow you get inside when you give of yourself.

During the next few months the opportunities to give to the less fortunate will also be right in front of you. It's not that charities, religious organizations and other service providers don't need your help year around, but like retailers this is the time of year when they need you the most.

How can I give of myself? Here are some examples that might bring you some warmth inside. Create a gift basket of some basic toiletries and donate them to a shelter. Sponsor a family who cannot afford a thanksgiving or holiday meal. Knit a warm scarf or sweater and give it to a local resident home, go and read to someone in a retirement home. Volunteer in a soup kitchen. Some of the best gifts are those that come from the heart not from the pocket book.

Happy Holidays!

Albert Guerra
CHNA President

Will Shade Come to Orange Avenue?

The Orange Avenue tree planting is still in the works, as long as there is still interest! Last issue we asked for a few residents from Orange Avenue to volunteer to help spread the word to their neighbors. We still need to hear from you. We need volunteers to keep their neighbors informed about our plans, meeting date and tree selection and distribute City of Long Beach Tree Planting Request forms. Send an email to www.calheights.org if you are interested.

Once we know that there is still demand, I'll schedule the date for the planting and start working out the details. The planting will take place on a Saturday in January or February. The earlier we get started, the easier it will be to coordinate schedules with the City of Long Beach and our planting partners at Tree People Los Angeles.

To date, Cal Heights ReLeaf has planted more than two hundred trees. With your help, we can continue to ReLeaf California Heights!

John Royce

Who Let the Dogs Out?

I love walking my dogs. In fact, it's one of the things I love most about living in our neighborhood. It's a great way to meet new friends and keep in touch with the neighbors, enjoy our beautiful weather, and bond with our four legged friends. My dogs like it too, plus, daily walks help reinforce my position as the leader of the pack. Yes, I am a Cesar Milan groupie!

You may have noticed, however, an increasing number of unleashed dogs lately. Whether a pooch has masterfully executed his plan of escape or is on an evening stroll with his dutiful owner, unleashed dogs represent a risk to us all.

The City of Long Beach leash law, Section 6.16.100 reads: Leashes Required on Dogs – When your dog is not confined, it must be on a leash held by a responsible person at all times.

This law is intended to protect dogs of all sizes, breeds and temperaments, as well as humans, especially the miniature versions we call children. It allows us the freedom to walk our wonderful neighborhood without fear of dog bites or altercations between dogs, which can lead to costly medical and vet bills or dreaded and all too common litigation. Keeping dogs properly leashed or confined may also prevent their being lost, hit by a car, or picked up by Animal Control. Long Beach Animal Control holds licensed dogs for fifteen days; unlucky unlicensed dogs have only six. Sadly, we all know what happens when those holding periods expire. Yikes!

The good news is that all of these unfortunate situations can be avoided by properly leashing and confining your dog at all times. Together as neighbors and responsible pet owners, we can make Cal Heights a safer place to walk. Thanks!

Aundrea Gomez



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The Interior Life

Kevin Doherty

On the small Indonesian island of Bali, everyone it seems makes handcrafted objects. For the Balinese, creative expression is considered essential to the pursuit of a healthy life. The beautiful folk art that they create has a deep personal meaning and plays a vital role in their religious festivals. Traditional Balinese homes are cozy, rustic bungalows designed with soaring ceilings and expansive porches beautifully handcrafted in bamboo and thatch. After the festivals many of the art objects become part of their home décor reflecting their personal and spiritual identity.

Around the turn of the 20th century, Arts and Crafts practitioners in America embarked on an evolution of thought and practice that celebrated creativity and intellectual pursuits. Like the Balinese, they began creating objects of personal significance to grace the interiors and exteriors of their bungalows. “High mindedness and simple living” was their motto and the writings of Emerson and Whitman inspired values of self-reliance and rugged individualism. The furnishings and decorative objects that they created transcended style and celebrated a common attitude toward life and living. The naturalist movement in America infused the Arts and Crafts movement, particularly in Southern California, with great vitality resulting in a plethora of stylistically diverse decorative objects and furnishings exulting nature and the intrinsic beauty of natural materials.

Through our world travels, Penelope and I have discovered many cultures that decorate their dwellings with handcrafted furnishings and objects that reflect their relationship to one another and to their environment. Universal and timeless in appeal, I have come to view these as global expressions of the Arts and Crafts spirit. Perhaps, then, it is the earthy quality in certain furnishings rather than any particular style or period that defines their suitability to American bungalows. It may be that design choices which convey our affinity with nature are how the notion of a Craftsman interior actually gathers meaning.

PERSONALIZATION

As a designer, I take special delight in the experience of an interior that is highly personal and conveys the uniqueness of the homeowner. My wife and I personalize our bungalow interior through careful choices and placement of furnishings that we created and others that we found on our world travels. Each piece carries with it a rich story and fond memory. So, who are you? And how will you create an interior that becomes personally meaningful to you? The means are close at hand!

PREPARATION

Begin with your journal by listing the rooms in your home, their function, measurements and availability of natural light. Less truly is more when it comes to interior design so resolve to maintain a spacious and uncluttered appearance wherever possible. Purchase a few of those sumptuous coffee table books relating to vintage homes that showcase the interiors and exteriors. I particularly like the diverse Rizzoli series on

interior style titled by country. You'll find these and others at Rizzoli's Books in South Coast Plaza, or Henesy and Ingles in Santa Monica. Proceed slowly to take a few months to review the books. Tour the Gamble House in Pasadena, the Lummis Home in LA, and the Will Rogers Estate in Pacific Palisades. Remember to bring your journal and camera to record anything that gives you an idea for your interior to be!

FARE FORWARD

When you feel adequately prepared articulate your overall design concept. Embark on interior decoration methodically one room at a time but have a general idea of the interior as a whole when you begin to insure unity once it is finished. When shopping for big items remember to measure the available space and record it in your journal in order to avoid purchasing items that are too big or heavy for a modest sized room.

ECLECTIC BLISS

Creating an eclectic interior opens up a wide range of effects and stylistic choices. In small boutiques and museum stores look for rustic chests, carved tables and folksy leather seated chairs from Mexico or investigate Santa Fe style furniture offering similar aesthetics. Supplement these with regional pottery and hand loomed textiles from Guatemala and Indonesia for use as hangings, table runners and bedspreads.

The British and Dutch colonial influence on Asian artisans of the 19th Century brought about many earthy interpretations of European furniture styles. Thailand and Indonesia export a variety of sturdy teak tables and chairs, with comfortable cane seats. These blend surprisingly well with Mission, Shaker, Chinese, Scandinavian and Spanish furniture styles, all of which are perfectly at home in a Craftsman, Spanish Colonial, Victorian or Neo-transitional home.

In the late 19th Century, America developed a growing love affair with all things Japanese and Chinese. Arts and Crafts designers such as Charles Greene created sublime tables and chairs showing Chinese influence. For affordable alternatives to signed craftsman pieces seek out antique Chinese furniture. Blend these items with Japanese and Korean Tansu chests available at Asian boutiques. Contrast heavier wooden furniture with an occasional rattan piece. If you have hardwood floors, complete the decorative scheme with oriental rugs or Kilims from Turkey and Iran. Then keep window coverings simple with Osnaberg cotton, lace curtains or wooden blinds. Create a warm nighttime ambience with Mica lamps combined with Japanese paper lanterns or rustic Western style lamps.

SELF DISCOVERY

When all is said and done there remains as many ways to create an eclectic interior as there are designers and the only right way is the one that becomes personally meaningful to you. By approaching interior design in an eclectic fashion you will experience the Arts and Crafts tradition in its fullest sense as an expression of innovation and experimentation. The rewards for your efforts will be many and far reaching as you experience a deeper sense of place and arrive at a profound sense of your home.



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STILL GOING STRONG

Continued from page 1

There was a new location this year for the refreshment house – what a fabulous yard and wonderful location for home tour goes to sit and relax while enjoying some cookies and lemonade provided by Donna Minor of Hallmark Escrow or a delicious lunch prepared by Delius Restaurant the experience completed by a live musician.

THANK YOU! To every homeowner for opening their home's and garden's to the five hundred plus home tour participants. Without you this fabulous event would not be possible.

On the way to the refreshment house you could stop at the Cal Heights truck stationed on Brayton Avenue and check information of past and ongoing projects and other community related information.

The annual home tour funds the publication of the newsletter "The Heights" and ongoing neighborhood projects including lamppost restoration, curb number painting, the information kiosks and tree planting.

Keep checking our website www.calheights.org for information on next year's tour. If you are interested in participating in the 2007 home tour please contact us at 562-424-6727 or calheights@earthlink.net.

Kathryn Costantino



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MANY THANKS

The 2006 Home Tour was a great success. Our success would not be possible without the 70 plus volunteers, most from our very own Cal Heights, who make time in their busy schedules to participate year after year. Each year there are both new and familiar faces. The Cal Heights Neighborhood Association would like to extend their gratitude to each and every volunteer. Your commitment and dedication continue to make this community one of the best in the west!

Art Abril
 Gabby & Juan Carlos Aguirre
 Marion Bates
 Dan Berger
 Kaye & Brian Bielski
 Allen Brackett
 Zina Bak-Boychuk
 Josie & Maria Boyer
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VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Tom Barnes is one of the most active citizens in our neighborhood. He happens to be one of the owners of B&B Hardware on Wardlow & California, and is quite invested in our neighborhood. Tom has been in the neighborhood since June 2003.

He has been known to paint out graffiti and showcase a model hardware store specializing in items such as vintage hardware. His pride is keeping his store a model store by keeping the area clear of trash and making sure his property is hosed down and clean.

At the community meeting this past July, Tom noticed how warm it was inside the antique mall. Being the good citizen Tom is known to be, off he went to retrieve his cooler filled with ice, sodas, and water. He made over twenty people happy that particular evening.

He is also a good neighbor to the other businesses on Wardlow. Banana Berry's front glass window was shattered so Tom being the good neighbor he is, cleaned up the broken shards of glass from the sidewalk. Tom is also helping to revitalize Wardlow Avenue and is very busy with many 7th District functions.

Thank you Tom. We are lucky to have you as part of the neighborhood.

Ilana Brackett

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California Heights Releaf
426-3407

Dana Branch Library
570-1042

Rancho Los Cerritos
570-1755

Long Beach Building Department
570-6651

Long Beach Animal Control
570-PETS (7387)

Airport Noise
570-2678 / 570-2600

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570-4126 (press 4)

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Tonia Reyes-Uranga
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570-6139
district7@ci.long-beach.ca.us

Rae Gabelich
8th District Councilmember
570-1326
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Jan Ostashay
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City of Long Beach Website
www.ci.long-beach.ca.us

Long Beach Recycles Website
www.longbeach-recycles.org

Long Beach Unified School District
www.lbusd.k12.ca.us/index.asp

Official CHNA Website
www.calheights.org

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

DECEMBER

- 1st Christmas Candlelight Tours, Rancho Los Cerritos, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., info 570-1755 or www.rancholoscerritos.org
- 2nd Belmont Shore Christmas Parade, 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., info 570-5333 or www.belmontshore.org
- 3rd Snow in Bixby Knolls, 11:00-4:00, Atlantic Avenue, info 595-0081
- 9th Daisy Lane Parade, between Willow and PCH, Starts at 5:00 p.m., info 570-4461
- 10th Christmas Open House, Rancho Los Cerritos, 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., info 570-1755 or www.rancholoscerritos.org
- 16th Naples Christmas Boat Parade, Naples Canal, Starts at Dusk, info 570-5333 or www.naplesca.org

JANUARY

- 11th Monthly CHNA Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
Now at Dana Branch Library, 3680 Atlantic Avenue,
(Corner of Atlantic & 37th)
Info 997-8888 or www.calheights.org

Get involved in the community

If you would like to include information for future newsletters, please forward articles, photos or suggestions to calheightsnews@aol.com by the following dates. Thank you to all that have responded.

Flyer Distribution

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June 16
August 18
September 22
November 17

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