

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.

DON'T MISS THE 2007 CAL HEIGHTS HOME & GARDEN TOUR

Eleven Years of Great Historic Homes



TICKETS ON SALE NOW

Come join us for the Eleventh Annual California Heights Home and Garden Tour on Sunday, October 21st, 2007 from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm.

This is your chance to peek inside the charming homes and gardens of historic California Heights. Our tour this year includes a beautiful 1920's Craftsman Bungalow, the former home of past 7th District Councilmember Ray Grabinski, a 1930's Neo-Traditional style home and four Mission Revival style homes.

Tickets are on sale now at **Mr. Jan's Antique Mall**, 1133 E. Wardlow Road, 562-424-9935 and **B & B Hardware**, 929 E. Wardlow Road, 562-490-2269. Ticket order forms are also available on our website at www.calheights.org.

Please note that the day of event tickets will only be available at Mr. Jan's Antique Mall. We are unable to accept credit cards and apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

To tour the homes and gardens, purchase pre-sale tickets for \$20.00 or on the day of the event for \$25.00. Or you can choose to relax in between touring the homes to soothing music while you nosh on a gourmet box lunch at our refreshment house.

Pre-sale tickets with gourmet box lunch are \$30.00 and are only available until October 14, 2007. No lunches will be sold on the day of the tour. Lunches include a turkey sandwich with provolone cheese, lettuce, tomato and red onions, pasta salad, chocolate marble brownie and a beverage.

For more information call CHNA at **562-424-6727** or visit our website at www.calheights.org



VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED!

Docents and general volunteers are always needed! If you are interested in volunteering please contact Kathryn Costantino at **562-981-3671** or calheightshometour@earthlink.net

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I'm pretty sure it's not normal for neighbors to plan vacations together, let alone four couples. But, that's exactly what we did! Since three of us are board members of the neighborhood association and we vanished for ten days in the midst of planning for our October Home Tour, we owe those board members that we abandoned thanks for carrying the load while we were off having fun on an Alaskan cruise.

And fun it was. Despite being connected at the hip for ten days, hiking on a glacier, crammed in a tiny helicopter and a 1950s float plane that didn't inspire confidence, formal meals dressed to the nines and a salmon bake that will forever change what we think of when someone mentions a moose, we're still the best of friends – well, that's just about as remarkable as the extraordinary views, amazing wildlife and pristine beauty of the Alaskan coast!

While we had our own respective cabins, traveling does have a reputation for testing relationships. It can lead to break ups, family feuds and often uncovers hidden eccentricities in our loved ones. Most families are pushed to their limits when traveling together. Yet, we made it unscathed. I like to think it's yet another example of the community we have here, one of the priceless benefits of sharing our lives in this little slice of earth. I never thought I'd be part of such a place, let alone in one of the largest metropolitan areas in the world.

The trip was made even more special since many other friends and acquaintances from our town traveled as well, including the travel agent who planned the whole affair. We shared daily stories of sea otters, spawning salmon, dolphins, humpback whales, brown bears (and a cub) and bald eagles. Together we all witnessed the awe inspiring mass and beauty of the Hubbard Glacier as the fog lifted before our eyes to reveal its impressive grandeur, and we shared the experience of witnessing a pod of Orcas as they schooled salmon to feed in Ketchikan Harbor.

What an extraordinary adventure to share with wonderful neighbors - a very special time that will not be forgotten. In the end, the only thing missing was the rest of our friends back home.

May all of your travels be as satisfying.

Help celebrate our community! Hope to see you at the Home Tour!

John Royce
CHNA President

NEXT COMMUNITY MEETING

LEARN ABOUT RESTORING ORIGINAL WINDOWS!

Join us at the November 8th Community Meeting. Scott Goldfarb of Window Restoration and Repair will explain the possibilities for restoring your original windows. Properly cared for original wood windows can last for 200 years or more, and can be made more energy efficient with modern touches. If you can, repair rather than replace. You will help secure the historic qualities of your home while saving loads of cash. The presentation will begin after brief community updates.

**Plan to Attend Our Next
Community Meeting
7:00 p.m.
Thursday, November 8th
The Petroleum Club
3636 Linden Avenue**

TEEN DOCENT PROGRAM AT THE RANCHO

Rancho Los Cerritos is once again offering training for teen docents. From October 18th through June 12th, teens spend each Thursday (except school holidays) from 4-6 p.m. training to conduct youth tours of the Rancho site and provide interactive Rancho Adventures to Scouts, Campfire Girls, boys and girls clubs and home-schoolers. They also assist with major event planning and preparation and curatorial projects. This wonderful experience fulfills required learning service credits for graduation and provides the teens with the opportunity to explore careers in education and museum related occupations, develop public speaking skills, and build their resumes before they even leave secondary school.

For more information on this extraordinary opportunity, please contact Rancho Los Cerritos at 562-570-1755.

ReLeaf Fall Event Schedule

Some of you noticed that your trees were visited during the summer. Planting gives way to maintenance during the hot season, so ReLeaf dedicated time to attending to some of our young trees in the neighborhood. You may have found trimmings and tree stakes left on your parkways – we just don't have the ability to remove and dispose of it all.

For the following events, please bring good gloves, wear sturdy shoes, prepare to get dirty and share in the satisfaction and camaraderie as we green our community for us and future generations. Volunteers are the cornerstone of our efforts. Please join in!

CHNA ReLeaf Gardenia Ave Tree Care – Sat Oct 27, 9am to 12pm

Gather near Bixby and Gardenia with our Tree People partners to care for the trees from our first ReLeaf tree planting. Volunteers learn to remove stakes, perform light pruning and clear turf away from the base of the young trees. Some of these trees really need our help. We will get to as many trees as possible by noon. **We ask residents who can't volunteer to please place your trash can near your parkway and make a garden hose available.**

Longfellow/Hughes Tree Planting – Sat Oct 27, 9am to 1pm

Join dedicated neighborhood moms who organized and secured a grant for a major planting. CHNA ReLeaf assisted in choosing large trees for the campus to shade some of the large expanses of blacktop, bungalows and the areas surrounding the playing fields. Contact Kathy Procopio at 989-0970 for more info.

Atlantic Ave Tree Planting – Sat Nov 10, 9am to 1pm

The Bixby Knolls Business Improvement Association, with help of Cal Heights ReLeaf and Tree People LA, will sponsor their first tree planting on the 3300 block of Atlantic, between the 405 and Wardlow Road. Desperately in need of improvement, this strip will welcome thirty-four new trees to brighten up the southern entrance to our area. We will gather at the corner of 33rd and Atlantic Avenue near the El Torito.

Not only do trees beautify, they increase property values, mitigate air pollution and runoff, reduce ambient air temperatures, lower home cooling costs and generate the oxygen we all need to survive. Together we will continue to ReLeaf Cal Heights & Bixby Knolls!

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DOCENTS STILL NEEDED FOR HOME & GARDEN TOUR

We are getting ready for the 2007 Cal Heights Home Tour!

Each year the California Heights Neighborhood Association hosts an annual home and garden tour. It's success depends upon you! It takes 100 plus volunteers to make this event happen. While volunteers assist with a variety of tasks, the majority are needed as docents on the day of the tour. Our biggest challenge is having enough docent volunteers. We could use your help -- it requires only two and a half hours of your time!

What does a docent do?

Volunteering as a docent is not a complicated task. A docent is assigned to a specific location in a home or a garden. Each docent acts as a guide in their assigned area using a script describing the architectural features of the home. Four to five docents are placed in each home depending upon its size. Each shift lasts for two and a half hours. A docent works one shift.

Why should you volunteer?

- Personal fulfillment from being involved in your neighborhood
- The opportunity to learn more about your neighborhood
- A chance to meet and socialize with your neighbors
- Home and Garden Tour volunteers tour the homes for FREE
- Being a docent is fun

Volunteer a few hours of your time and support your neighborhood, the California Heights Neighborhood Association and the Annual Home and Garden Tour.

The home and garden tour is scheduled for Sunday, October 21, 2007 from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. Two docent shifts are available 11:00-1:30 and 1:30-4:00. If you are interested in volunteering or have any questions, please call Kathy Costantino at 562-981-3671 or e-mail Kathy at calheightshometour@earthlink.net or you can contact Candice Risley at 424-6487 email MWRIZZ@aol.com

We look forward to hearing from you!

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PRESALE TICKETS \$20.00
DAY OF THE EVENT \$25.00

If Available

PRESALE TICKETS W/DELIUS BOX LUNCH

No lunches will be sold after October 14th or during the event

\$30.00

We request all visitors wear flat, soft sole shoes only.
 No photography of homes allowed.
 In the event of rain, ticket purchase becomes a donation.
 For more information:
 Call CHNA (562) 424-6727 or visit www.calheights.org

Each Delius box lunch contains:
 Turkey sandwich with provolone cheese, lettuce, tomato and red onions
 Homemade slaw
 Chocolate marble brownie
 Carbonated drink or bottle water

CALIFORNIA HEIGHTS HOME TOUR ORDER FORM

Reserve your tickets early. Ticket sales will be limited.

BOX LUNCHES AVAILABLE THROUGH PRESALE ONLY.

Number of tickets _____ @\$20.00 (presale) = \$ _____

Tickets w/box lunch _____ @\$30.00 (presale only) = \$ _____

Please make checks payable to:

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ECO TIP FOR A HEALTHIER PLANET

Refuse plastic bags! Americans go through 380 billion ubiquitous plastic bags each year, costing retailers \$4 billion. The typical plastic bag is used for only a few minutes yet can take hundreds of years to degrade.

Less than one percent are recycled. Sadly, an estimated 100 million of them are lost in the wind annually, where they mar the landscape, clog gutters, sewers, storm drains and contribute to flooding. They float on the world's seas where they are swallowed by whales, kill turtles and entangle birds. On a recent trip to Idaho, we could clearly tell when we approached an urban area; several miles before seeing any signs of a town the landscape began to fill with plastic bags. East of Las Vegas, for twenty miles the sparse desert landscape was literally covered by these nasty urban tumbleweeds!

How can you help? Bring a reusable bag to the market when you shop and refuse the bag for smaller items. Do you really need a bag for you pack of gum? Not only will we reduce the number of these items entering the waste stream, we will eliminate tons of carbon emissions emitted during the manufacturing process, as well as the energy and water needed to produce them. Besides, oil is increasingly expensive. Why waste it on such a needless product?

MORE RECYCLING ADDED

Did you know that the City of Long Beach has expanded its recycling collection to include plastics numbered 5 through 7? Now you can pretty much put all of your plastic packaging and containers in your recycle bin. This is great news! It allows us to recycle many of the most common plastic containers used for packaging food, including those clear to-go containers from you favorite restaurant, reducing further what we toss into our garbage cans.

The main exception is Styrofoam. It is still not accepted – just one more good reason to reject the use of this form of plastic. Ask your local businesses to switch to alternatives wherever possible.

Wondering about paper or plastic? It's easier than ever to dismiss them both with the multitude of reusable bags offered by grocers at nominal cost. Imagine the trees we can save and how about a windy day or a drive along the freeway without the little white parachutes marring the scene.

FIRST FRIDAY FIRST

Like many, Friday night is the time to cool my heels after a busy work week. Last Friday felt that way after returning to work after my summer vacation. Like many, the "First Friday" neighborhood event is something I wanted to attend but the evening came and went and I never got around to it...Finally, I made plans with friends to attend my first "First Friday" and I am so glad I "got around to it". The First Friday celebration is a great way to participate in our neighborhood community. Within an easy walk you are right in the thick of things... restaurants' where you can enjoy a scrumptious meal, sip your favorite beverage, and be entertained with live music. It's a chance to visit neighborhood businesses you may pass on your way to Vons or Trader Joe's but never took the time to stop.

Pleading guilty, it was my first visit to Shore Books. What a delightful and friendly place with books on topics that would capture many interests. In addition, authors' were present to share their stories and sign purchased books... yes, this is in our neighborhood!

Strolling down Atlantic Avenue we stopped in the new home of the Historical Society of Long Beach, still in its infancy, the volunteers greeted us to share their vision. Wow, this is in our neighborhood!

Next stop was Richard Goad Theater and a chance to hear about upcoming plays and view vintage posters plus a personal vow to attend. Strolling down further we stop in Sweet Treasures Home to check out their stylish display of home décor and gift items. What a wonderful addition to our neighborhood. No mall shopping needed to choose that perfect birthday or wedding gift.

Last stop was the lively and colorful Chroma Glass, where the owner shared her knowledge of stained glass, glass fusion and art. What a wonderful blend of art and sense of community. It was a fun evening catching up with friends, making new acquaintances and best of all its in our own backyard. The next "First Friday" will be October 5th. Please go out and experience for yourself...you'll be glad you did.

For more info visit firstfridayslongbeach.com

Carol Choate

CAL HEIGHTS CURB PAINTING



With great summer weather, this is the perfect time for the Cal Heights Neighborhood Association to repaint street numbers. A few years ago Cal Heights resident Steve Ortiz conceived, launched, and executed the **Cal Heights Curb Painting Project**. Many residents have ordered the painting and their curbs look great. If you're waiting for yours to be done, don't worry, we have CHNA volunteers to fill your orders. Curbs will be painted white with black numbers and CH lamppost. If you would like your curb painted, please fill out this form and send with a \$15.00 check to:

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 3553-A Atlantic Avenue #350
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 All proceeds go to CHNA projects

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Address (house 1) _____

Address (house 2) _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

\$ _____ check included (\$15, \$30, \$45)
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THE INTERIOR LIFE

CALIFORNIA SPANISH!

By Kevin Doherty

In the summer of '52 my parents came out west as so many did in those days lured by the prospect of jobs, family life and a the promise of home ownership on a tree lined street under the warm California sun. Dad was eligible for the G.I. bill and because of it he and my Mom were able to purchase a cozy Spanish bungalow located at 8712 Ashcroft Avenue in West Hollywood. My twin brother and I were born the following year and with my older brother and sister our boisterous family of six spent many happy hours in and around that charming little echo of Spain. I carry fond memories of my experiences in that home and can't help but feel that in some way it contributed to my love of architecture and my career choice to become a historic consultant and designer. Spanish architecture is found in abundance throughout Southern California and a good thing it is! How is it that all things Spanish became so identified with the California frame of mind? What role did the Franciscan Missions play in the development of California's residential and commercial architectural landscape? Why did Mediterranean style homes become so popular in the late 19th and early 20th century and what explains our continuing love affair with Spanish architecture and decor?

SPAIN TAKES CHARGE

In an historical nutshell, Spain needed to sure up her holdings in California during the 1700's and so the king sent over a sizable military presence and also a cadre of Franciscan missionaries headed up by Father Junipero Serra. The king ordered his missionaries to convert the natives and build a series of missionary outposts spanning the north-south length of his territory. That they did, creating 21 missions in all built of adobe brick using experimental workmanship and simplified design. The results were nothing short of amazing in both form and function especially given the fact that none of the monks or laborers was professional artisans much less trained architects. In the early 1800's Mexico went to war with Spain for the land and won at which point the Spanish were sent packing. Around mid-century the U.S. went to war with Mexico as was our "Manifest Destiny" securing the territory for the United States. The missions became secularized, eventually abandoned and ultimately fell into a long state of disrepair. What followed was an



THE SUBLIME AND THE PICTURESQUE

The point at which the Franciscan missions lay in ruins was, ironically enough, the very point at which they began to garner an astonishing degree of interest among the eastern establishment. Lured by romanticized railroad company promotions, writers such as Helen Hunt Jackson and artists such as John Gaylen Howard made train trips out west to visit the missions and were duly impressed. Drawing upon the size, mass and visual appeal of these structures, they began to conjure up a mythology depicting the missions as sublime and picturesque. Their romantic writings and sketches, published in Harpers Weekly magazine among others, were eventually supplemented with Howard's conceptual residential sketches in the Mission style. This gained the attention of wealthy easterners and a variety of entrepreneurs who could see that there was plenty of money to be made. Publicity of an historic tone ensued and quickly turned into rampant promotion of all things Mission. Catapulted by the land boom of the 1880's the Mission craze got underway with scores of Americans riding the rails to California in search of the new frontier, Franciscan Missions, and, of course, that little piece of land on which a Mission style bungalow was promised by savvy land speculators and builders who were lying in wait. EBB and FLOW After a twenty year run, popular interest in Mission Revival homes began to wane. Around 1905, a new aesthetic emerged in the form of the Arts and Crafts Movement and accompanying lifestyle. Through the efforts of Gustav Stickley, the California Bungalow became the architectural embodiment of Arts and Crafts ideals. Interestingly, Mission Revival architectural elements found their way into Craftsman Bungalow vernacular and the word "Mission" was often used to categorize furniture styles of Stickley and others. Hundreds of shingled or clapboard homes were built and bought by a second wave of westward bound Americans seeking their pot of gold at the end of the rainbow in Southern California. The heyday of the bungalow was relatively short lived and by the late 1920's Spain's architectural heritage was once again back in fashion.

SPANISH COLONIALS

In the second wave of the Spanish architectural revival during the late 1920's and early 30's, architects looked to Spain rather than to the missions for inspiration. The old towns of Seville, Cordoba and Granados provided many examples of buildings whose elements were beautifully synthesized in the hands of architects such as Wallace Neff and Sylvanus Marsdon who were based in Pasadena. In a flurry of building, simple but artistic working mans Spanish style bungalows sprang up and were eagerly embraced in nearly every town from

Continued on page 11

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DON & HAROLD'S AWARDED

The Heights advertiser Don & Harold's Automotive recently received a notable achievement – they scored a perfect 100 from the Automobile Club of Southern California's customer satisfaction rating system.

I met owners Don and Ken years ago after we acquired a classic 1968 Mustang. We purchased the car from the 92 year old original owner who recommended them as trusted mechanics. At the time they operated in the city of Paramount at a Firestone store. In short order, the guys became part of our upkeep and restoration efforts with the Mustang, or Buttercup, as Genevieve affectionately called her.

I often took the bus home from Paramount after I dropped the car off with them. So, I was very happy when Don announced that they were giving up their Firestone digs for a new independent venture in Long Beach. They had found an old well established place called Don and Harold's "on a street called Wardlow, between Long Beach Boulevard and Atlantic, if I remember right," he said.

Of course, I couldn't have been happier then and I'm so happy now to congratulate them on their recognition. Here's to many more successful years, Don and Ken!

John Royce



Christmas Candlelight Tours return to Rancho Los Cerritos for the holidays

Return to Christmas 1878 as the Bixby family encounters "Unexpected Guests for the Holidays," a living history Experience.

Reservations accepted starting November 1.

For more info call 570-1755

CALIFORNIA SPANISH

San Diego to Santa Barbara. The style lent itself equally well to commercial application as can be seen for example in the Los Angeles Union Station or the Santa Barbara Courthouse.

HISTORY, POETRY, ROMANCE!

Of all the architectural styles that prevailed during the late 19th early 20th century Romantic Revival Movement, the Spanish style remained the most popular. It seemed perfectly suited to the geography and climate of Southern California and its gentle lines facilitated application in a variety of settings and uses. It had an historic appeal and a lineage traceable to the Franciscan Missions proclaimed to be California's architectural archetype. It appealed to our sense of romance and sentimentality while at the same time satisfying our practical living needs. That modest Spanish colonial bungalow of ours in West Hollywood radiated history, romance, and poetry; attributes that captured my heart as a little boy, undoubtedly an experience shared by many of you and hopefully one that will be cherished by future generations for a long, long time to come. VIVA LA SPAIN!

Kevin Doherty will be a featured columnist in upcoming "The Heights" issues.

HISTORIC HOME PLAQUES AVAILABLE AT B&B HARDWARE



In 1999, the California Heights Neighborhood Association was recognized by the Cultural Heritage Commission for its innovative leadership in promoting the historic district through its newsletter, house plaques and home tour.

The house plaque program was started in 1997 as a way for historic homeowners to show their pride in owning a historic district home. The house plaque is currently displayed on over 200 Cal Heights homes.

Show your pride in owning a historic district home. Order yours today at B & B Hardware, 929 E. Wardlow Road, (562) 490-2669 for a one time cost of \$95.00 plus tax, shipping and handling.

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DON'T MISS IT
Cal Heights Home & Garden Tour
Sunday, October 21, 2007

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

THURSDAYS

Farmer's Market, Bixby Knolls, Thursday Nights, 3 to 6:30 p.m.,
Atlantic Avenue at 45th Place, Near CVS and Post Office

SEPTEMBER

30th Last Living History Tour at Rancho Los Cerritos,
Call 570-1755 for ticket info

OCTOBER

20th Children's Haunted Garden at Rancho Los Cerritos,
10:00 am to Noon, Children grades 1-5, \$5 admission,
Call 570-1755 for ticket info

21st 11th Annual Cal Heights Home & Garden Tour,
11:00 am - 4:00 p.m.

27th CHNA ReLeaf Gardenia Ave Tree Care, 9:00am to Noon

27th Longfellow/Hughes Tree Planting, 9:00 am to 1:00pm

NOVEMBER

2nd First Fridays on Atlantic Avenue, near Carson St,
5:00 pm to 9:00 pm

8th Bi-Monthly CHNA Community Meeting, 7:00 pm,
Topic: Window Restoration & Repair with Scott Goldfarb
The Petroleum Club, 3636 Linden Avenue

10th Atlantic Ave Tree Planting – Sat Nov 10, 9am to 1pm

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

November 17

Deadline for Articles, etc.

November 3

Serving the Community for Generations



WGA
Associates
Real Estate
WGAREalEstate.com
3530 Atlantic Ave #100



Come in ... Let's Talk!

Make the Dream a Reality!

(562) **824-4846**

Connie Wildasinn
Broker - Owner

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Police Department (Emergency-on Cell Phone)
435-6711

Police North Substation (Non-Emergency)
570-9800

Fire Department
570-2500

California Heights Neighborhood Assoc.
424-6727

California Heights ReLeaf
997-9094

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
570-2665 / 570-2600

Code Enforcement
570-CODE (2633)

Graffiti Paint-Out
570-2773

Garage Sale Hotline
570-YARD (9273)

Noise Control
570-4126 (press 4)

Parkway Tree Trimming/Removal
570-2755

Street Potholes
570-3259

Tonia Reyes-Uranga
7th District Councilmember
570-6139
district7@longbeach.gov

Rae Gabelich
8th District Councilmember
570-1326
district8@longbeach.gov

Jan Ostashay
Neighborhood Preservation Officer
570-6864

City of Long Beach Website
www.longbeach.gov

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