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President

John Royce | 997-9094 roycelockart@msn.com

Home Tour Coordinator

Kerrie Weaver | 424-6727 calheights@earthlink.net

Newsletter Editor/Layout

Stacey Morrison newsletter@calheights.org

Newsletter Idea Submission

newsletter@calheights.org

Official CHNA Website

www.calheights.org

The Heights is a bimonthly 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 and keep residents informed of issues affecting California Heights.



Join us! October 11, 2009

Cal Heights Home and Garden Tour Returns!

After a one year hiatus the California Heights Home and Garden Tour returns on Sunday, October 11, 2009. The Home and Garden Tour Committee's request for homes and gardens resulted in an overwhelming response from residents and made the selection process very difficult. Ultimately, five beautiful Spanish Colonial Revival bungalow style homes and three charming yet very different gardens were chosen.

The California Heights Neighborhood Association is also very pleased to host a special presentation by "the bad girl of bungalow writing," Jane Powell (read more on page 4). Renowned restoration consultant and entertaining speaker, Jane has authored six books, most notably *Bungalow Bathrooms* and *Bungalow Kitchens*.

The day will start at 10 am with the presentation by Jane Powell and the tour will follow from 11 am to 4 pm. The little red trolley will once again be out and about picking up guests and shuttling them between the homes and gardens, but why not walk among the trees? Tour guests can stop at the refreshment house for light refreshments, courtesy of local realtor Connie Wildassin and Delius Restaurant, and Jane Powell will be available to sign books and answer questions. Her books will also be available for purchase.

In addition, guests can view a selection of vintage autos from the Long Beach Model T Ford Club at each home and listen to live music playing in the gardens. Several of the homes will also have local home improvement and restoration businesses that will be showcasing their products and talents.

For more information or to purchase tickets visit www.calheights.org. Please note that your name will be added to the will-call list and tickets will not be mailed out to your home.

Interested in a free ticket to the tour? Become a docent (see following article). If interested please contact our volunteer coordinator, Bill Cliatt, at bill.cliatt@yahoo.com or 562.972.2940.

president's message A MESSAGE FROM JOHN ROYCE

I was recently asked by a local reporter what made the Cal Heights Home and Garden Tour special. It's nice to be prompted like that once in a while as it creates an opportunity to take a closer look.

The tour promotes awareness of our historic district designation and allows residents and guests to see how others have massaged their old homes for modern living while preserving the historic character and charm that makes them so special. Many of our homes are not in pristine historic condition, having been altered over the past eighty years, many before the ordinance existed. From quite original to thoughtfully restored, to fully renovated with appropriate nods to the past, the homes on our tours have represented a variety of conditions. Still, all of our selected homes have something to celebrate from an historic perspective. Hopefully this will encourage more of us to embrace the special qualities that exist in our historic neighborhood.

Our association is 100% volunteer driven; we have no annual dues or fees. Thus, equally important are the proceeds the tour raises each year to sustain our activities and special projects that most of you are already aware of, including this newsletter and the website.

Finally, that the tour attracts wonderful volunteers, generous homeowners, a board willing to donate their time, hundreds of guests and quality vendors and sponsors year after year testify to how this tour engages residents and enhances the special sense of community we enjoy in Cal Heights. This year is no exception, including our newest resident volunteers, Docent Coordinator, Bill Cliatt, musicians Andy Morrison and John Phinney, and Bob Krause, resident for more than half a century, who rounded up his Long Beach Model T Club buddies to enhance our tour with their Model T and vintage cars (see Bob in one of his first cars below).

It wouldn't happen if people in our community weren't interested, and that, in itself, is quite special! Thanks to every last one of you.

John Royce

CHNA President



Bob Krause in his 1927 Star as it appeared in February 1938.

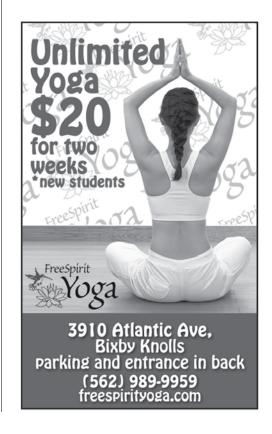
Bob's 1927 Star Station Wagon will be featured on the Home & Garden tour. Join the Cal Heights E-Mailing List!

Enjoy periodic updates on local happenings, meetings and resident alerts.

Request adding your email address at calheights@earthlink.net.

Report lost pets at lostpets@calheights.org.





Home and Garden Tour Docents Needed!

Most of you know that the California Heights Neighborhood Association hosts an annual home and garden tour. What you might not know is that it takes 100 plus volunteers to make this event happen. While the volunteers assist with a variety of things, the majority participate as docents on the day of the tour. We never seem to have enough! We could really use your help-only a couple hours of your time!

What does a docent do?

It's very easy. Docents act as tour guides for each of the tour's homes and gardens. Docents are assigned to one of the homes and are given a brief "script" describing the architectural features of the house and the changes the house may or may not have gone through over the years. Four to five docents are usually assigned to each home (depending on the size of the home) and each docent works one shift.

Why should you volunteer?

Besides the personal fulfillment you feel from helping your neighborhood, all docents tour the homes for FREE (\$20.00 value). You'll also have the opportunity to learn more about your neighborhood and meet and socialize with your neighbors. It must be fun, since so many of our volunteers return for repeat performances!

Our annual tour has showcased our neighborhood beautifully and our neighborhood has received regional and national attention as a result. Real estate agents often report that people want to move to our neighborhood for the sense of community we share, our historic charm, and our dedication to improving the area, not to mention our great homes. It's one of the reasons that the value of our homes has suffered less than many in our region.

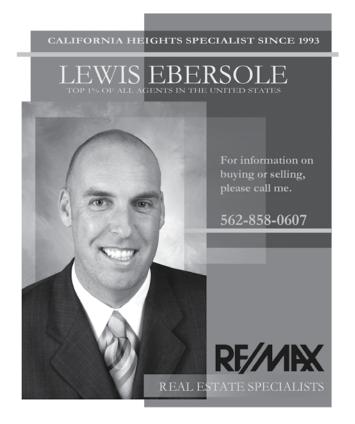
The tour is scheduled for Sunday, October 11th from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. Two docent shifts are available 10:45-1:30 and 1:15-4:00. We also need volunteers for the docent check-in table and various other small tasks. You don't have to live in the neighborhood to be a docent-so ask your friends! Then you can take the tour together. And yes, you can be in the same home-just let us know who you would like to be with.

Thanks so much for your generosity and we look forward to meeting you all. If you are interested in volunteering or have any questions, please call Bill Cliatt at 562-972-2940 or e-mail Bill at Bill.Cliatt@yahoo.com. We look forward to hearing from you!

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Jane Powell to Speak at Home & Garden Tour

CHNA is excited to host author, Jane Powell, for a special speaking engagement prior to the October 11th Home and Garden Tour, at the Longfellow Elementary auditorium at 10 am. Labeled "the bad girl of bungalow writing", Jane Powell is a restoration consultant, house restorer, lecturer, and author of six books, including Bungalow Kitchens, Bungalow Bathrooms, Bungalow Details: Exterior, Bungalow Details: Interior, Bungalow: The Ultimate Arts and Crafts Home, and Linoleum.

As a hands-on restorer, she has brought ten vintage homes back to life and sold them to appreciative buyers, and continues the ongoing restoration of her own home, the 1905 Jesse Matteson house.

She has written for magazines including Old House Journal, Style 1900, and American Bungalow. She writes feature articles for the San Francisco Chronicle magazine, and her opinion pieces have appeared in the Berkeley Daily Planet, the Oakland Tribune, and on oaklandnews.com. She has also appeared on HGTV's Curb Appeal and Food Network's Ultimate Kitchens.

She is a popular and entertaining speaker, and has lectured at conferences including The Grove Park Arts and Crafts Conference, Pasadena's Craftsman Weekend, Seattle's Bungalow Fair, the Restoration and Renovation Conference, and many others. She has also spoken for preservation organizations, neighborhood associations, home builders groups, and historic district organizations across the country, and even at kitchen showrooms and retail businesses. In addition to the talks based on her various books, she speaks on related subjects including historic preservation, development issues, and the built environment.



Jane Powell

Cal Heights Dining Card

As a new twist for the Home and Garden Tour, each tour guest will receive a Cal Heights Dining Card as part of their tour packet when they check in on tour day. Good at a variety of our favorite local restaurants, the card offers unlimited use from October 11 through November 11, 2009. So, if you use it well, you could end up touring the homes and gardens for free while supporting your neighborhood and our local businesses, which need our help more than ever.

Our advertising revenue is an important part of our fundraising effort. We appreciate the help of our participating restaurants, so we ask that you remember to use your card to dine locally and save. It's another way to help enhance the ties that bind our community together.



Clean Streets Don't Step over it - Pick it up

While we've been at it for more than a year, Cal Heights Clean Streets is now an official CHNA project. As a test run, Clean Streets has been meeting for the past six weeks each Thursday at 8:30 am. On a rotating schedule, we scour a section of the main thoroughfares and adjacent parking lots that surround our neighborhood for litter, trash, and illegal signs. While we are not a regulatory body, we've already had great success working with area business operators to address problem sites.

CHNA thanks our board member, Stacey Morrison, for championing this effort. In fact, I was proud to nominate her for a Community Impact Award, which was presented to her by our City Prosecutor, Tom Reeves, at the last Bixby Knolls Clean Sweep with the Bixby Knolls Business Improvement Association.

If you have an occasional Thursday morning free and would like to join us, you can check the location schedule at calheights.org and click on "Clean Streets."

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Mid City Studio Tour

They're at it again. The 2009 Mid City Studio Tour showcases twenty local artists who've invited the masses to tour their secret spaces where they dream, create and discover their way through their artistic process. Half of the studios are in Cal Heights, Bixby, and Wrigley, so you won't have to go far, and, it's free!

The two-day, self guided tour, sponsored by It's A Grind, City of Long Beach and Long Beach Arts Council, takes place on Saturday and Sunday October 3-4, 11 am to 5 pm. Go to www.midcitystudiotour.com, where you'll find a list of artists, the diverse array of art to be showcased, a downloadable map and more information about this wonderful weekend event. Or call 427-5078, or inquire at info@midcitystudiotour.com.

Neighborhood Watch Update

CHNA is glad to report that several Neighborhood Watch groups have taken their first steps recently in Cal Heights. Many thanks for those of you who have heeded the call or have maintained your watches over the years. Why wait until after you've been victimized? Be proactive, not reactive. Start yours now. Call Lisa at LBPD at 570.7229. Her contact info is always listed on the "Community Contacts" page at calheights.org. Lisa likes to be busy, so give her a call. There's no better way to get to know more of your neighbors. The more we know each other, the better we can recognize what is out of the ordinary and report it effectively.

Fresh and Easy Market

A Fresh and Easy Market could find its way to our neighborhood. Preliminary talks are underway to locate a store at the defunct Drive Time location at 33rd and Atlantic, a site that has been neglected by Palmer Motors Trust, who owns the property. CHNA volunteers have cleaned up accumulated trash for the past year there, and in July the Bixby Knolls Business Improvement Association and Cal Heights residents worked together to clear the property of weeds and garbage. The site is key to an attractive entrance to our community, so we look forward to progress with this site, whether or not it works out for Fresh and Easy.

Child Friendly and Open for Business

If you haven't noticed yet, we have some relatively new kid friendly shops that opened on the Atlantic corridor. Averyboo Arts Creativity Center, 3908 Atlantic, Pixie Toys/Vangie Ogg Photography, 3930 Atlantic, and Eat Play Grow, 4228 Atlantic, are worth checking out, all owned and operated by local moms.

Please don't post on the post!

Report lost pets to lostpets@calheights.org.

Special Events Locations in our Backyard

Have no fear, plan your party here! Think you have to go outside the area to host a special event? Not so fast! Facilities exist right here in our own backyard. Elise's Tea Room, 3924 Atlantic Avenue, 424-2134, has recently added their beautiful Blue Room, which can host weddings, parties and business receptions. The venerable Petroleum Club, 3636 Linden Avenue, 427-7966, has been hosting events for decades, with facilities from meeting rooms to the Grand Ball Room. And finally, the Historical Society of Long Beach, 4260 Atlantic Avenue, announced a new venture to rent its crisp, clean gallery with moveable walls for special events and receptions. Since the HSLB is not supported with public funding, it offers a way for the organization to sustain its mission. For more information, contact Laura Bergersen at 439-5855.

Community Meeting Recap

More than forty people turned out for our quarterly community meeting at the Petroleum Club in August. The evening featured LBPD north division commander, Billy Quach, detectives David Fritz and David DeMasi, and Officer Marlene Arrona, who briefed the attendees on the rise in area crimes of opportunity, even in the face of overall crime reductions which were recently at twenty year lows. We learned what we can do to limit our chances of being victimized, including forming Neighborhood Watches.

Councilmember Tonia Reyes Uranga led a very informative and eye opening account of her recent efforts to limit the proliferation of area medical marijuana dispensaries, which were legalized by a statewide voter initiative, but left local governments with no legal parameters to regulate them. "We have laws in place which prevent liquor stores and bars from setting up near schools, but not marijuana dispensaries." She also noted that other food vendors need permits and health department oversight, but again, not the dispensaries. Whatever one's opinion of their existence, it looks like they are here to stay, so the plan is to give them an opportunity to register themselves with the city and agree to abide by determined regulations, a plan supported by professional operators who don't like the bad reputation they earn when others offer less than professional services. Those establishments that fail to register can then be dealt with accordingly. *

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Close-Ups and Glimpses

Over 250 Cal Heights and Los Cerritos residents showed up for the Summer Ice Cream Social at Rancho Los Cerritos.













Curb Address Painter

Please be advised that the man canvassing the neighborhood painting curb addresses is not affiliated with CHNA. He fashioned his own template to resemble ours. Our curb painting service is on hiatus awaiting volunteers. Use his services at your own risk. If you are dissatisfied or he fails to paint your curb after you've paid him, please do not contact CHNA.

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Greening Atlantic Avenue

The next Atlantic Avenue planting gets underway on Saturday, November 21st. The final stretch of Atlantic between the 405 and San Antonio Road to be planted joins the efforts of the Bixby Knolls BIA, Cal Heights ReLeaf, Tree People Los Angeles and local Boy Scout, Greg Reilly, who will earn his Eagle Scout rank. Thirty four crape myrtle 'Muscogee' trees, the same trees Cal Heights ReLeaf planted in front of Patricia's this past spring and the same trees that grace the front of the Dana Library, another CHNA project, will establish some welcome green from 34th Street to Bixby Road. Contractor RJ Noble generously donated the concrete cuts!

First Friday October 2 - Early Halloween!

CheckoutFirstFridayLongBeach.comasthedatenears. After the very successful August and September events, how about some early Halloween fun! Welcome the lengthening autumn evenings with live music, food, fun, art, theater and more, all just a short walk away.

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No Butts About It!



While cigarette butts may seem small, they are a major problem at our local beaches and in the ocean. They are the single biggest pollutant in California.

Cigarette butts discarded onto sidewalks and streets eventually make their way into storm

drains that lead directly to the ocean; causing harm to wildlife and water quality. Cigarette butts have been found in fish, seal and whale bellies. These toxic pieces of trash are increasingly littering our parks, streets and beaches. Over 1.6 million pieces of cigarette butt litter were retrieved from U.S. beaches last year. To make matters worse, improperly discarded cigarette butts have caused wild fires in California.







Thursdays: 8:30 am litter pick up - see calheights.org click on Clean Streets.

Thursdays: Farmer's Market - 3 to 6:30 pm (Atlantic at 45^{th})

Saturdays: Strollers Walking Group - 7:30 am at our local Atlantic Avenue It's a Grind

See all calendar events at calheights.org, click on Calendar!

- **O9/13 Belly Dance Sunday 9/13, 9/20 & 9/27** at Free Spirit Yoga. Visit freespirityoga.com for more details.
- **O9/20 Long Beach Triathlon** a fundraising event for the CARE Program. More info. call 714-978-1528.
- 10/02 First Friday- firstfridaylongbeach.com for details.
- 10/03 Mid City Tour- free self guided art tour. 20 diverse local artists invite you in visit their studios. For more deatils visit www.midcitystudiotour.com.
- 10/11 Cal Heights Home & Garden Tour- Tickets are \$20 (\$25 day of). Purchase your ticket at calheights.org.
- 10/25 Historical Society LB- 14th Annual Cemetery Tour
- 10/27 Tea with the Hathaway Sisters- Rancho Los Cerritos
 Join the four Hathaway sisters for tea and conversation.
 Learn how three of the women married into the Bixby
 family, and the roles all experienced as women living
 in second half of the 19th century. 562-570-1755.



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

7th District Council - Tonia Reyes-Uranga 570-6139 email: district7@longbeach.gov

8th District Council - Rae Gabelich 570-1326 email: district8@longbeach.gov

54th District Assembly member- Bonnie Lowenthal 495-2915 web: democrats.assembly.ca.gov/ members/a54

Airport Noise **570-2665** / **570-2600**

California Heights Neighborhood Association **424-6727**

California Heights ReLeaf **997-9094**

Dana Branch Library **570-1042**

Fire Department **570-2500**

Graffiti Paint-Out **570-2773**

Garage Sale Hotline **570-YARD** (**9273**)

Long Beach Building Department **570-6651**

Long Beach Animal Control **570-PETS (7387)**

Neighborhood Preservation Officer **570-6864**

Parkway Tree Trimming/Removal **570-2755**

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

Police North Substation (Non-Emergency) **570-9800**

Rancho Los Cerritos **570-1755**

Senior Check-In 570-7212

Street Potholes **570-3259**

Tree Trimming **570-2700**