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# **Newsletter Idea Submission** newsletter@calheights.org

# Alexander Vertikoff, Guest Speaker for the California Heights Home & Garden Tour

By Karen Highberger

It is hard to believe that the first California Heights Home & Garden Tour was held October 19, 1997. Our 16<sup>th</sup> tour will be held Sunday, October 15, 2017.

The Home & Garden Tour was started as a means to promote the neighborhood and the preservation and restoration of our lovely homes. It is the main source of funding for the various projects the Cal Heights Neighborhood Association has done over the years including the Lamppost Restoration Project, Cal Heights Re-leaf, Clean Streets, the bi-monthly newsletter "The Heights" and our two mural projects.

This year the tour features six beautiful homes. The styles include a charming Craftsman Bungalow, a Norman style cottage, a Neo-traditional home and a variety of Spanish Eclectic style homes. All of the homes have wonderful gardens to inspire you. The tour is bike-friendly and bike racks will be provided at all of the homes. The Red Trolley will be running, as usual, to transport attendees between the homes or you can opt to walk the tour and enjoy California Heights.

This year the guest speaker is architectural photographer, Alexander Vertikoff. Mr. Vertikoff is one of the leading photographers in the United States. For over 40 years his iconic images have graced the covers and articles in such magazines as "Architectural Digest", "Sunset" and the "New Your Times", as well as every cover of "American Bungalow" magazine since its inception. He has been the principal architectural and promotional photographer for the J. Paul Getty Trust's Villa and Center, the Gamble House, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and the Skirball Cultural Center to name but a few. He has written over 15 books. The latest is "The Gamble House: Building Paradise in California". He also was the first foreign artist to have a traveling exhibit of his photographs in The People's Republic of China.

The Home & Garden Tour is Sunday, October 15, 2017. Check-in is at 10:30 am and the homes are open from 11 am to 4 pm. Mr. Vertikoff will be speaking at 2 pm in the Hughes Auditorium and admission is included with a ticket purchase. An added bonus is the pop-up Gamble House Book Store that will be at the refreshment area and Mr. Vertikoff will be available for book signing. Tickets are \$20 pre-sale and \$25 the day of the event. Tickets are on sale at http://calheights.org/community-events/home-and-garden-tour/.

For more information, please go to calheights.org or facebook.com/calheights.

### President's Message

By Hugh Little

This is the last reference to the California Heights Home and Garden Tour you will likely see from me before it takes place. On Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup> we are going to have six homes and gardens open to the public, a presentation by a world-class photographer and author, and scores of volunteers working to make this year's tour the capstone achievement it looks to be. The home tour is the major source of funding for the Neighborhood Association. Projects like the Cal Heights Market mural and the lamppost restoration were both completed with revenue generated by previous home tours.

Tickets can be purchased in advance for \$20 at calheights. org/community-events/home-and-garden-tour/, or by mailing a check made out to California Heights Neighborhood Association to 3553 Atlantic Avenue, PMB 350, LB, CA 90807 (checks must be received by 10/1/2017). Tickets will also be available for purchase the day of for \$25 each.

As I mentioned above we have a few notable changes to the tour this year. First, we're going to have six homes and gardens. That's more homes than we've had in some time. There's going to be plenty to see and you're going to want to get started early to see it all. As you might imagine, though, more homes and gardens require more docent-volunteers to make things work. Docents agree to work for one of two shifts and as a thank you, volunteers receive a free ticket to the tour. Currently, we have a special need for docents willing to work the afternoon shift. If you or someone you know is willing to help out, please email hometour@calheights.org.

Alexander Vertikoff is a world-renowned photographer and author, whose photography has been on the cover of every single issue, to date, of American Bungalow. His work has been featured at the Getty, in the New York Times, Architectural Digest, and in 15 books of his own. Our speaker presentation this year will start at 2 pm rather than immediately upon the opening of the tour, and will be at the auditorium of the Hughes Middle School instead of Longfellow Elementary.

More homes. More gardens. Impressive speaker, and much more. Can we count on your support?

Lindly,

Hugh Little, CHNA President









## **Cal Heights Looking Back**

By Frances Stoner

Did you ever want to step back in time and see yourself in a private club with sumptuous red leather booths that gently curve around you. Your waiter would know just how you liked your martini - dry with three olives - and your steak grilled to perfection. It would be a place where everyone knew your name and you knew theirs.

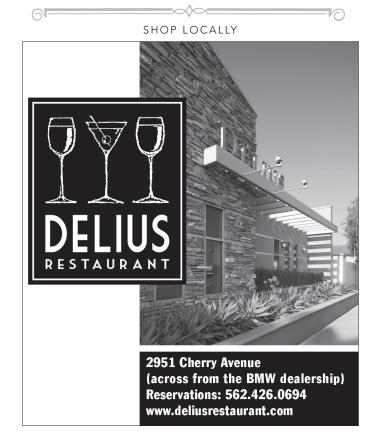
Located right in our neighborhood, tucked away in a residential area on Linden Avenue, you might have never noticed the club at all, but Mick Connor, President of the Board of Directors wants to change that.

The Petroleum Club had its beginnings back in 1954. Created by Lee Foust and C.L. Fowler, the club first met in Ricarts Restaurant on Atlantic. By 1958 the club had built their own place, including an elegant restaurant, grand ballroom, circular bar, meeting room and even a pool.

When oil was king in Long Beach, the club thrived. Membership was high and the club was busy hosting weddings, holiday parties and special events. In 1993 the oil industry faced a crisis when the price of oil dropped. Many Long Beach businesses associated with oil relocated to Bakersfield where new drilling was taking place. As membership declined the club opened its doors to other professions.

Today, members sponsor special nights in the Linden Lounge where the public can attend. They have everything from trivia nights to hosted paint parties where you can create your own masterpiece. I had the opportunity to tour the club with Mick who showed me the fantastic mural of Signal Hill derricks that adorned a wall in the ballroom, the elegant Red Room and great memorabilia of the oil industry. There is even an old style steam room in the basement. Children played in the pool and members enjoyed a quiet moment in the lounge. When I asked Mick what he loved about being a member he mentioned the joy of dining with his wife and family every Friday night. "You walked in and everything was perfect, the staff knew what you wanted and made sure the evening was special." Some of the servers have been with the club for 30 years and the Executive Chef for more than 40. The club offers something for everyone, from summer pool memberships to company memberships.

While the club looks to the future through building membership and adding new programs, I am happy to see they also have honored their past by keeping places like the beautiful Red Room, where you could imagine yourself as part of the 'Mad Men' generation sipping on that perfect martini.







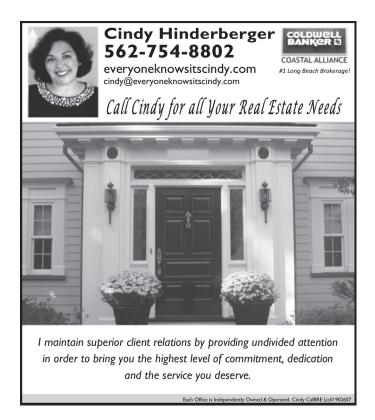
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## Tales of the Departed

By John Royce

As the 20<sup>th</sup> Century dawned, Long Beach attracted those seeking fresh starts, fortune or retirement along the mild, still vast and open Southern California coastal plain. When residents demanded a final resting place closer than far off Los Angeles, Long Beach Municipal (1901) and Sunnyside (1906) cemeteries opened their gates on the gentle, pastoral slope along a dirt trail called Willow. Nearly 18,000 departed souls find eternal rest there. Many, it turns out, have some colorful history to share!

Usually forgotten by the thousands who race past on Willow Street today, for 22 years many of these souls have been remembered by the Historical Society of Long Beach's character-rich presentations of Long Beach history, as told by those who lived it! The annual Historical Cemetery Tour takes place amidst the parched grounds and headstones of Long Beach's oldest modern cemeteries, resting place to some of the city's earliest movers, shakers, dreamers and regular Joes and Janes, including Long Beach's founder William Willmore, who laid out the original town site in 1880. HSLB historians peruse newspapers, documents, and photos in the organization's archives, collect enticing tidbits and stories, then create scripts that local actors dressed in period attire bring to life as theater in the cemetery, sharing stories of riches and woe, love, war, friendship and quarrel, murder, and mayhem.

The tour has become the most important fundraiser in support of the HSLB's non-profit mission to collect, preserve and present the diverse history or our Long Beach community. The event fees paid by the HSLB also represent precious income for Sunnyside Cemetery, a rich cultural resource suffering from years of financial struggles and the destructive toll of our recent drought. Still, this dusty old place entices visitors to wander and wonder amongst its time worn monuments and markers, imagining the lives and characters who shaped our city.

The 22<sup>nd</sup> tour takes place Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 9 am to 3 pm. Find complete info and tickets at hslb.org, at the HSLB gallery, 4260 Atlantic Avenue or by calling 562.424.2220.





# **Home & Garden Tour Sneak Peek**

Images by Tom Underhill

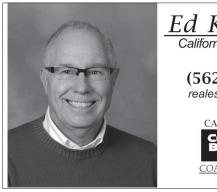






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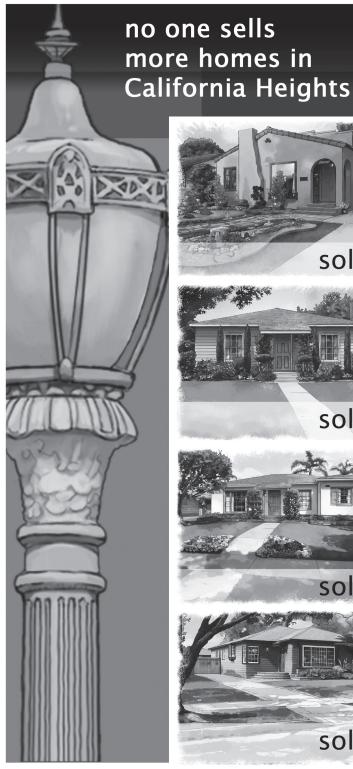
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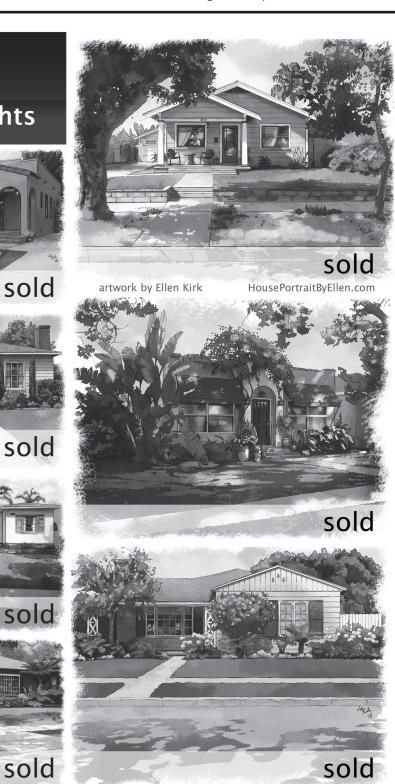
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# **Community Police Academy**

By Stacey Morrison



I had no idea what it would be like to be shot at while doing my job, or how difficult it would be breaking up a domestic violence situation, or how quickly someone can raise a hammer and hit you over the head. Fortunately, I still don't have an actual idea of any of these situations, but because I attended the Community Police

Academy I have a much greater understanding.

The Community Police Academy is a full day of interactive training where Long Beach residents learn from several LBPD members and role-play with actual Police Officers in acting out various scenarios based on actual calls.

The Community Police Academy is a result of a 2014 Task Force investigation, directed by President Obama, to look into a number of serious incidents between law enforcement and the communities they serve and protect. The Task Force was to identify best practices and make recommendations to the President on how policing practices can promote effective crime reduction while building public trust. The Task Force created the Six Pillars of Policing which are 1. Building Trust and Legitimacy, 2. Policy and Oversight, 3. Technology and Social Media, 4. Community Policing and Crime Reduction, 5. Training and Education, and 6. Officer Wellness and Safety.

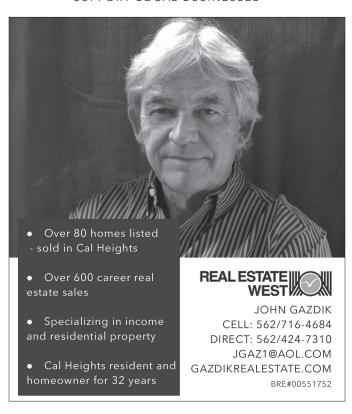
The Academy is made possible through a \$600,000 grant from The Board of State and Community Corrections. Anyone 18 or older can apply, unless there are outstanding warrants or felony convictions. Applications are being accepted now for training days held on October 7, 2017.

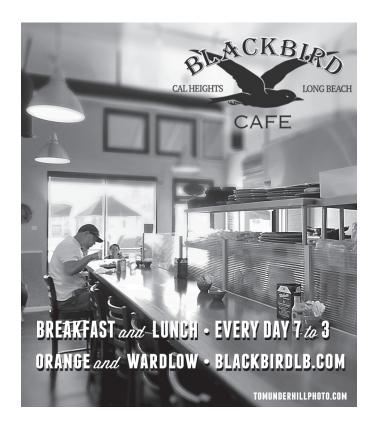
To watch an informative video or fill out an application go to www.longbeach.gov/police/about-the-lbpd/volunteer-opportunities/. 😝

### See something, say something.

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### At Your Local Library

I hope everyone had a very nice and enjoyable summer. We wrapped-up our Summer Reading Program in August. We hope you had a chance to join the fun. The attendance at our special programs was phenomenal. A big thanks to all the teen volunteers who gave up some of their summer leisure time to come to the library to sign children, teens, and adults up for Summer Reading and give out weekly prizes. We couldn't have done it without you!

Our Game of Thrones Book Club was well received and our Library Aide, Carl, has been asked to continue. So, by popular demand we are announcing our Fantasy Bookclub for Fall here at Dana. Each month Dana will be reading a book in the fantasy or horror genre. The bookclub will meet the last Saturday of each month from 1 pm - 2 pm. The book selected for September is American Gods by Neil Gaiman.

If fantasy is not your thing, come and join the bookclub that meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month at 10 am. This month's book selection is Small Great Things by Jodi Picoult.

Now that school is back in session, our Teen Café is back in session, too. Join Mr. Carl in the community room Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm for movies, karaoke, crafts and more! Tweens and teens ages 9-17 welcome.

This month is National Library Cards Sign-up month. See what the library has planned on our website or come on in and pose for a selfie with props provided courtesy of the library.

Silke Kinoshita Senior Librarian, DANA Neighborhood Library 3680 Atlantic Ave., (562) 570-1042 🚓

### Save the date!

November 4<sup>th</sup> is the second annual alley cleanup of 2017.

Meet at the corner of Gundry and 37th. From 9:30 to 11:30 am, we will clean as many alleys as we can from Orange to Cherry

More details at facebook.com/calheights.



From the 7th
By Roberto Uranga

I hope everyone is ready to transition to fall. Tuesday, September 6, 2017, City Council passed the City of Long Beach's Fiscal Year 2018 Proposed Budget. This budget, thanks in part to the contract with Metro and voter approval of Measure A, continues to be the largest pub-

lic infrastructure investment plan in a generation. Below are some samples of what's in the budget:

- 40 new positions in the Police Department
- 13 new positions in the Fire Department
- 2 additional clean teams to improve city cleanliness
- \$100,000 to the Department of Health and Human Services for community health and STD/ HIV prevention outreach
- \$125,000 in increased funding of our Proactive Homeless Initiative
- \$80,000 for continued Language Access Program Implementation
- \$110,000 to support the establishment of the Office of Aging
- \$1,000,000 toward the new Neighborhood Safe Streets Initiative
- \$4,300,000 to support the fourth back-to-back Police Academy with a maximized number of recruits
- \$750,000 allotted for safety camera network modernization and expansion
- Adding 28 full-time equivalent Metro Blue Line enforcement positions
- \$192,000 to support Be S.A.F.E. programming during the summer at parks
- \$50,000 to enhance Animal Care Services
- Thanks to Measure A funds, \$2,670,000 will repair residential streets through slurry and pavement sealing, while an additional \$1,800,000 will pave dirt alleys across the city.

Lastly, please save the date for this year's Seventh District Aquarium Night on Wednesday, October 25, 2017 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the Aquarium of the Pacific. This is a great, family-friendly event. To RSVP, please contact our office at 562-570-7777 or email at district7@long beach.gov.

Please sign up for my newsletter by sending an email to district?@longbeach.gov to stay informed about community news and upcoming events. (562) 570-7777



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# IN THE KNOW'LLS What's New? What's Happening?

by Blair Cohn, Executive Director BKBIA

October, and the leaves are stripped bare of all they wear..." or, "Through the trees comes autumn with its serenade..." Whatever song you pick fall is here in The Knolls. USC football season is in full swing and some of you may be out having your first pumpkin latte, pumpkin butter, pumpkin muffins, or pumpkin ice cream.

I hope you are gearing up for Beach Streets on Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>. Reminder: "Beach Streets opens streets up for walking, bicycling, and socializing by temporarily closing thoroughfares to automobile traffic." You will get to take to the streets by foot, bike, skate, or even wagon.

The route will go from Wardlow and Orange to Atlantic Avenue all the way north to Artesia Avenue and will be programmed with live entertainment and fun features of all kinds. It could literally take you all day to stop and enjoy all the programming from one end to the other which is a great challenge to have!

This will be an amazing day and you will get to discover things like you never have been able to before. We are putting all the details together, but rest assured you will experience live music of many styles, dancers, street yoga, farmers market, food trucks, street performers, organizations of all kinds, and tons of kid-friendly activities.

October is Arts Month and we'll have a fully loaded First Fridays for you plus some beautification projects in the works. At the time of this writing we are pursuing the possibility of painting the oil tanks on Long Beach Boulevard just south of Phil Trani's restau-

rant. Also, look for another huge mural to be painted along the southern wall of 3745 Long Beach Boulevard (across from Steelcraft).

The next important date is Saturday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, also known as Small Business Saturday. This is the national event promoting the support of your small businesses following Black Friday. Our retailers always need your help and this is the special day for you to get out and do some holiday shopping in your neighborhood. Stay tuned for our Bixby Knolls Bingo game where you can win prizes.

One quick safety note: The BKBIA hires CSI Patrol Service (a Bixby Knolls business) to patrol our district. If you see any issues around such as graffiti, litter, illegally dumped items, or abandoned vehicles, do not hesitate to call the CSI dispatch number to report it. You can reach them at (562) 981-8988.

Do I dare remind you of our Annual BKBIA Holiday Party set for Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 7pm, at the Long Beach Petroleum Club? I guess I just did.

And as always, please get out and support YOUR local businesses every day. The district thrives when you are out shopping, dining, and using services right here in the Bixby Knolls area. And for that we thank you!

Fight on and I will see you in the neighborhood, Blair &



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6:30 to 7:30 pm Wardlow & Lemon

Thursdays: Clean Streets Litter pickup - 8 am at Wardlow & Lime

**Saturdays:** Strollers Walking Group - 7:30 am at our local Atlantic

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First Friday of each Month: firstfridayslongbeach.com

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**Roberto Uranga, 7th District Council** 570-7777 email: district7@longbeach.gov

Al Austin, 8th District Council

570-1326 email: district8@longbeach.gov

**Patrick O'Donnell, 70th Assembly District** 562-495-2915

**Ricardo Lara, State Senate 33rd District** 562-256-7921

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

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

**Building Department** 570-6651

California Heights ReLeaf 997-9094

**Code Enforcement**Monday thru Friday: 570-2633
Saturday: 570-0000
www.lbcode.org

Community Watch North Division 570-9825 or 570-9827

**Dana Branch Library** 570-1042

Fire Department 570-2500

**Graffiti Paint-Out** 570-2773

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

**Neighborhood Preservation Information** 570-6194

**Parkway Tree Trimming** 570-2700

**Police Department Dispatch** 435-6711 or Emergency 911

**Police North Substation Information** 570-9800

Senior Check-In 570-7212

**Special Garbage Pickup (2 free per year)** 570-2876

**Street Potholes** 570-3259