



There's Something for Everyone

California's historic preservation community is coming to your doorstep! The California Preservation Conference (May 15 to 18) is a unique opportunity to participate in activities that are educational and entertaining, and to meet new friends who share your interests.

The program is loaded with special tours, educational workshops, and events exploring preservation and its essential role in sustainability, economic development and community character. You can select individual events that appeal to you most, or immerse yourself by registering for the whole conference. If you volunteer to help out at the conference, you get an inside look as well as some free benefits.

The free plenary session on Monday morning features the new President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Stephanie Meeks. The program takes place at historic Barnum Hall (at Santa Monica High School) and includes the winning entries to the 2011 Youth Film Competition (see information on p7).

Three-Minute Success Stories (Monday night) is traditionally one of the most popular events of the conference, presenting compelling preservation stories with drama, humor and a touch of vaudeville. The stage at the historic Santa Monica Bay Woman's Club will provide an ideal venue.

Special tours created for the conference will showcase the historic, architectural and cultural treasures of Santa Monica and the region. You can explore Modernist architecture in the City and Santa Monica Canyon; tour the Adamson House in Malibu and learn about Malibu tile; explore film locations in the Santa Monica
continued on page 2

Protection for Marquez Cemetery Expanded



Cemetery wall with San Lorenzo Statue, 1937. Courtesy Ernest Marquez Collection

The historic rancho-era Pascual Marquez family cemetery in Santa Monica Canyon will be more visible to the public in the future, thanks to recent decisions made by the City of Los Angeles. Ten years ago, LA granted Historical Cultural Landmark status to the cemetery on San Lorenzo Street, just off of Channel Road.

Unfortunately, the landmark application included only the area of the cemetery located within the 1926 adobe wall commissioned by Santa Monica Land and Water at the time of the subdivision of the Roman Marquez portion of the rancho. A small four foot easement was granted across the land lying between the cemetery wall and San Lorenzo Street (which was named after the wooden statue of San Lorenzo placed in a niche in the adobe wall). In later years, a confirming recognition of this easement involved significant litigation.

Last April, the land in front of the cemetery wall was sold. When the new owners began construction of a house on that land, surviving members of the Marquez family asked the City of Los Angeles to expand the boundaries of the landmark.

continued on page 2

Shotgun House Design Approvals Granted



by Mario Fonda-Bonardi and Sherrill Kushner

Plans for the relocation and rehabilitation of the Shotgun House continue to move forward after another milestone was recently reached. The Landmarks Commission and the Architectural Review Board, meeting jointly, approved our project with the following conditions:

- The house will ultimately be painted a creamy white rather than a "pure" white, which the Landmarks Commission believed was too modern.

- The sign outside the house will be reduced by 25%, while keeping its original style and proportions, in response to a concern by the Architectural Review Board.
- We will add additional landscaping along the west end of the building and the south side of the trash enclosure to soften the appearance.

Overall, every Commissioner and Board member indicated wholehearted support for our project. Next steps include an application to the California Coastal Commission for its approval which should be the last discretionary approval necessary before applying for a City building permit. The last two steps are estimated to take six to nine months.

Given this recent progress, we will be stepping up our fundraising efforts in the next 18 months. You'll be hearing more about this and how you can participate!

Annual Preservation Awards pages 4-5

The Conservancy Board of Directors

Our board comes from neighborhoods throughout the city and includes:

Carol Lemlein, President
John Zinner, Vice-President
Tom Cleys, Treasurer
Susan McCarthy, Secretary
Sarah Bernard
Ken Breisch
Bruce Cameron
Mike Deasy
Michael W. Folonis, FAIA
Mario Fonda-Bonardi
Nina Fresco
David Kaplan
Sherrill Kushner
Cristyne Lawson
Ruthann Lehrer
Barbara Whitney
Doris Sosin, Emeritus

Membership Dues

Individual Membership	\$35
Household Membership	\$45
Low Income Membership	\$15
Sustaining Membership	\$100
Supporting Membership	\$250

To support the Conservancy at higher levels, or with a business membership, call (310) 496-3146.

The News Staff

Alice Allen	Margaret Bach
Sherrill Kushner	Ruthann Lehrer
Nancy O'Neill	Dick Orton
Kay Pattison	Barbara Whitney

How to Contact The Santa Monica Conservancy

Phone: (310) 496-3146, leave a message.

Website: www.smconservancy.org

E-mail: info@smconservancy.org

Mail: Santa Monica Conservancy
P.O.Box 653
Santa Monica, CA 90406

Message from the President *Carol Lemlein*

As you read this issue, I think you will agree that preservation in Santa Monica is off to a great start for 2011.

Nevertheless, much important preservation work happens behind the scenes, and it's not always easy to give people the credit they deserve. In particular, Mario Fonda-Bonardi and Ken Kutcher have contributed countless hours helping the Shotgun House make its way through the many rigorous approval processes required before construction can commence.

Another excellent example can be found in outgoing Board member Nancy O'Neill. Nancy has provided generous financial support for Conservancy activities and has always been there when we needed her, whether it was at a check-in desk or putting her professional skills to work on a research project. We will miss her company on the Board, but are delighted that she will remain an active volunteer. Thank you, Nancy!

I'd also like to thank former Board member Joel Brand for his continued leadership of our Communications Committee and his valuable support of our website and email system. With Joel's help, we've established a more identifiable image for the Conservancy with the new logo and tagline and finally completed the transition to a new email system driven directly from our membership database – enhancing our visibility in the community and our ability to keep you informed.

Finally, I'd like to welcome our newest Board member, Cristyne Lawson. You may not be acquainted with her yet, but Susan Cloke's profile on the opposite page provides an excellent introduction.

As always, your membership, your contributions and your active participation are what continue to strengthen the Santa Monica Conservancy's ability to fulfill its mission. We thank you - and hope that you will consider increasing that commitment in whatever ways you can.

Carol



"Preservation" continued from page 1

Mountains; or discover Santa Monica's beach culture. And many more! The tours will take place on Sunday May 15 and on Wednesday May 18.

Workshop sessions will be held Monday afternoon May 16 and all day Tuesday and Wednesday, May 17 and 18, providing a wide range of educational opportunities developed around the theme of "Preservation on the Edge". Wednesday's session will focus on the complexity of planning and creating the Annenberg Community Beach House. You may

never again have a chance to hear so much accumulated knowledge and experience right here in Santa Monica!

Headquarters for the Conference, the Fairmont Miramar Hotel, is a great place to hang out, with exhibitors showcasing preservation-related products, a bookstore, and a silent auction.

Conference details and forms for registration and volunteering are available at the California Preservation Foundation website: www.californiapreservation.org.

"Marquez" continued from page 1

With support from the Cultural Heritage Commission, Los Angeles City Councilman Bill Rosendahl, members of the Marquez/Reyes Rancho descendants' family, local and state historic societies, and friends and neighbors, an agreement was reached with land owners Fred Marcus and Davida Rochlin. Marcus and Rochlin would sell the northern portion of their lot for less than market value and donate the balance of the value of the land to the non-profit La Senora Research Institute; cemetery supporters are now planning their fundraising efforts.

Supporters envision replacing the current wooden fence with a more appropriate iron fence that will allow the public to see the

cemetery wall with its niche containing the statue of San Lorenzo. "They will remain visible forever to the public from the street" said Ernesto Marquez, great great-grandson of Francisco Marquez and Ysidro Reyes, who were jointly granted the 1839 Mexican Land Grant Rancho Boca de Santa Monica.

Ernesto Marquez said, "The extended Marquez/Reyes family is overwhelmed with gratitude for all of our friends, cemetery neighbors, and supporters who sent letters and good wishes, and who made the trek to downtown LA to testify on our behalf. Please know that the Marquez/Reyes family has grown by the hundreds in the space of a year [because] all of you are now family and part of the history of the Rancho Boca de Santa Monica."

*Volunteer Profile:***Santa Monica Native Daughter Cristyne Lawson** *by Susan Cloke*

We welcome our new Conservancy Board Member, Cristyne Lawson, the recently retired Dean of the School of Dance at CalArts.

“CalArts decided artists were the best people to run schools. They felt you had to have done it in order to teach it,” stated Lawson, whose dance resume is impressive. “I knew I wanted to be a dancer the day my grandmother took me to Lincoln (Reed) Park for a dance class with a

Ruth St. Denis trained teacher,” remembered Lawson. She went on to study at Juilliard and to dance with the Juilliard Company. Her career included touring with the Martha Graham Company, dancing on Broadway with Alvin Ailey, and touring Europe with the Modern Jazz Quartet. It was in Europe that she met her husband, Graham Smith, an Australian architect and dancer. They were married 19 years, and have two children.

Cristyne Lawson’s mother, Bernice Stout Lawson, grew up in Santa Monica and was a musician. Her father, Hilliard Lawson, was the first black Santa Monica City Council member. The family originally moved to Santa Monica in 1908 when her great-grandmother, Ary Shaw McReynolds, her grandmother, Mary McReynolds Stout, and her grandfather, Rev. Stout, moved into a house next to the CME Church on Fourth Street.

Thinking about her childhood, Lawson said, “I felt there was no place I would rather be. My friends and relatives all lived within easy walking distance. I had a bicycle and could go everywhere in the City. Can you imagine how wonderful it was to have the beach coming right up to the grass? And the Samohi Campus was so open and beautiful.”

Lawson remembers childhood hours spent in the garden of her great aunt’s house on Bay Street near the CME Church. It is now Lawson’s home. “I’m really happy to be back in Santa Monica. I’ve been all over the world, but I love Santa Monica. I hope people will pay attention to our history. I know the City will change, but I hope not too much.”

Become a Docent Do you enjoy meeting people and learning about history, architecture and culture? If so, consider becoming a docent for the Conservancy’s Downtown Walking Tours or for the Annenberg Community Beach House.

Annenberg Community Beach House Tours



Beach House docent George Ptucha in action.

Training for the the Beach House docents starts with three lectures on Saturday afternoons, March 12, 26 and April 9. On-site training follows, and after practice sessions, new docents will be ready to lead tours of this award-winning site, a piece of Hollywood history in Santa Monica. Docents will learn about three remarkable individuals – William Randolph Hearst, actress Marion Davies, and architect Julia Morgan - in the context of our beach culture and the evolution of the site from a private estate to a public beach club. In return, docents are asked to work a minimum of six hours per month.

Lectures: People and History of the Beach House

The lectures will be held at the Ken Edwards Center, 1527 4th St., from 2 – 4 PM:

March 12:

- Historian Marc Wanamaker on Hollywood’s Gold Coast
- Author Cari Beauchamp on William Randolph Hearst

March 26:

- Documentary filmmaker Elaina Archer on “The True Story of Marion Davies.”
- Docent Kay Pattison on W.R. Hearst and Marion Davies

April 9:

- Christy McAvoy, from the Historic Resources Group, on the historic structure
- John Berley, from Frederick Fisher Partners, on the rehabilitation and new construction

The lectures are also open to the public.

Downtown Santa Monica Walking Tours



Winston Chappell brings Santa Monica history to life.

The Downtown Walking Tours are given every Saturday morning from 10 AM to noon.

Now entering its fifth year, this tour covers the history and evolution of Santa Monica, from its beginnings as a Wild West town to the sophisticated urban community of today – in just two hours and seven blocks! Docent training is individualized and ongoing.

Here’s How You Can Get Involved

Applications for the Beach House docent program are due by March 8 and available at www.smconservancy.org,

If you are interested in volunteering for the Downtown Walking Tours, contact the docent coordinator at dwt@smconservancy.org.

For more information about the tour docent program, contact info@smconservancy.org or call 310-496-3146.

2011 Preservation Awards

The Santa Monica Conservancy presented its 2011 Preservation Awards at



The Restoration Award

Myra and Earl Pomerantz
2424 Fourth Street

The award was presented for exemplary restoration of their circa-1911 Craftsman bungalow, known as the landmark John and Anna George House. This project pioneered a growing appreciation for historic preservation in Ocean Park in the early 1980s.



Rehabilitation Award

American Commercial Equities LLC
310-312 Wilshire Boulevard

The owners of the historic Edwin Building were recognized for preserving and rehabilitating a small-scale jewel of a commercial building designed by renowned architect Paul Williams in 1928. The building was designated as a city landmark in 2008. The award was accepted by DJ Chomyk on behalf of American Commercial Equities.



Renovation Award

Sam Simon
Case Study House #20

This landmark of mid-Century design, designed by Richard Neutra in 1948, had deteriorated significantly over the years. Thanks to Mr. Simon, who rescued and renewed it, the home continues to make an important contribution to the city's architectural heritage.



Annual Meeting

by Barbara Whitney

The Church in Ocean Park served as an appropriate venue for the Conservancy's 2011 Annual Meeting on the afternoon of January 23. The historic building, very much an active part of the Ocean Park and Main Street neighborhood for many years, opened its doors to a turnout of nearly 100 members. Reverend Janet McKeithen of the Church in Ocean Park welcomed the group, and a history of the building, researched and written by Karen Corso-Plitt, was available to attendees.

Highlights of the program included the Preservation Awards. "It is very gratifying to see the efforts of so many people giving our architectural heritage new life," said President Carol Lemlein. "By recognizing these accomplishments, the Santa Monica Conservancy holds up these projects as good examples of how historic preservation can contribute to Santa Monica's vitality and attractiveness."

The Board of Directors election resulted in the addition of Cristyne Lawson to the Board (see her Volunteer Profile on page 3), and the re-election of David Kaplan, Sherrill Kushner, Carol Lemlein, and John Zinner to additional three year terms.

President Carol Lemlein then gave an overview of the Conservancy's accomplishments in 2010 and a preview of upcoming issues and events in 2011. (See page 1 for an update on the Shotgun House.) Author and historian Jeffrey Stanton concluded the program with a slideshow of over 100 historic images of the various early twentieth century "pleasure piers" in Ocean Park.



Guest speaker Jeffrey Stanton

the Conservancy's Annual Meeting in the historic Church in Ocean Park on January 23, 2011.



Adaptive Reuse Award

Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Santa Monica
Craftsman Bungalow
The Church was recognized for converting a 1914 bungalow into classrooms and a meeting space for its congregation, choosing preservation and adaptive reuse over demolition and new construction. The Church, located at 1260 18th Street, is also architecturally valuable, having been designed by local architect John Byers in the 1920s. The award was presented to the Rev. Rebecca Benefiel Bijur, Alison Kendall and Keith Ludowitz.

Stewardship Award

Deborah Levin
Hollister Court on Fourth Street
Ms. Levin was recognized for her dedication and leadership in preserving a dozen Craftsman bungalows grouped as a courtyard complex and designated as a city landmark. Since Ms. Levin purchased one of the bungalows 17 years ago, she has worked to save the homes from demolition, protected them from inappropriate remodeling, and provided guidance to other property owners in respectful rehabilitation of the homes.

Outstanding Volunteer Service

In addition to the Preservation Awards, the Conservancy recognized seven individuals for their exemplary volunteer efforts in regularly leading the Conservancy's Saturday morning downtown walking tours. They are: Julie Berger, Winston Chappell, Dorothy Jewel, Kay Pattison, Jerome Robinson, Thomasine Rogas, and Rita Schneir. The popular tour has been in operation since the spring of 2007.

On page 4:

1. Michael Folonis presents award to DJ Chomyk. 2. Sam Simon acknowledges his award. 3. Alison Kendall, Rev. Rebecca Benefiel Bijur and Keith Ludowitz. 4. Ruthann Lehrer and Deborah Levin. 5. 2011 Award recipients, Julie Berger, Winston Chappell, DJ Chomyk, Alison Kendall, Deborah Levin, Keith Ludowitz, Sam Simon, Kay Pattison, Thomasine Rogas, Dorothy Jewell.

Restoration: historically authentic work to bring a building back to its original condition.

Renovation: includes remodeling and renewing, mixing modern design with work on the historic building.

Rehabilitation: a broad term meaning bringing a building back into service, and for historic buildings, doesn't require strict restoration, but rather conformance with the standards set by the Secretary of the Interior.



Rev. Janet McKeithen of the Church in Ocean Park



Volunteers Thomasine Rogas, Phyllis Conkle and Mary Ann Hays



Conservancy President, Carol Lemlein



Interior of the Church in Ocean Park

Thanks for assistance with meeting preparations go to...

Phyllis Conkle, Mary Ann Hays, Ruthann and Bob Lehrer, Thomasine Rogas, Susan McCarthy, Sherrill Kushner, Sarah Barnard, Nancy O'Neill, Tom Cleys, Bruce Cameron, Diane Locklear, and Barbara Whitney.



Landmarks Commission Report

A Star is Born

by Margaret Bach

Santa Monica has its newest landmark -- the grand home at 2009 La Mesa Drive, designed by renowned Southern California architect Elmer Grey. The 1926 house is a notable example of Period Revival architecture that combines the Tudor Revival and English Cottage styles, an unusual combination in a large-scale home.

The house features a steeply pitched gabled roof, decorative half-timbering, narrow windows with multi-pane glazing, and massive chimneys. It is one of two homes in Santa Monica designed by Grey, the other being the Gillis House at 406 Adelaide Drive, which is also a landmark. Grey was a prolific architect known for his design of the Beverly Hills Hotel, the Pasadena Playhouse, and the Bel-Air Bay Club among many others.

Originally built for A. N. Kemp, a banker, the house is mostly associated with the actress and singer Katherine Grayson, who purchased it in 1945 at the young age of 23 and resided there until her death in 2010.

The home was one of the first to be built on La Mesa Drive after the street opened in 1923 as the centerpiece of the Canyon Vista Tract, developed by the Santa Monica Land and Water Company. It joins three other designated Santa Monica Landmarks along the street: the Zimmer House at 2101, designed and built by John Byers in 1924; John Byers Third Residence at 2034, built in 1929; and the Neimeyer/Strick House at 1911, designed by famed Brazilian architect Oscar Neimeyer in 1964. 2009 La Mesa Drive has recently been purchased by a new owner who is planning a renovation of the house and grounds.



Top of the page: Historic rendering, Los Angeles Times, October 4, 1925, from the Consultant's report by PCR Services. Above: 2009 La Mesa Drive

Upcoming Preservation Events

Tour of Hughes Aircraft, Playa Vista

Sunday, March 20, 2011
Los Angeles Conservancy
213-623-2489
www.laconservancy.org

May Day at the Bembridge House

Saturday, April 30, 2011
Long Beach Heritage
562-493-7019
www.lbheritage.org

Joseph Eichler Lecture and Home Tour

Friday and Saturday,
May 13 and 14, 2011
Gamble House
626-793-3334
Website:
www.gamblehouse.org/events

Happy Birthday Pasadena - Celebrating 125 Years

Saturday, June 11, 2011
Pasadena Museum of History
626-577-1660
www.pasadenahistory.org

Holiday Party Afterglow

Twinkling lights, the smell of warm chili, and the music of the Santa Monica High School Chamber Orchestra greeted members at the annual Holiday Party. This year's setting, the Santa Monica Bay Women's Club, will also be one of the venues for the California Preservation Conference in May.



Volunteers

Phyllis Conkle
Mary Ann Hays
Kitty Bartholomew
Becky Upchurch
Tom Cleys
Sarah Barnard
Eric Natwig
Dwight Flowers
Alice Allen
Martha Gruft

In-Kind Donors

Boulangerie
Bite Bar and Bakery
Marmalade Cafe

And from SMBWC

Darlene Bahr
Virginia Lennon
Laurel Czer

Holiday Party Sponsors

helped us offset the costs of the party, supporting the Conservancy and helping to support the efforts of the Santa Monica Bay Woman's Club to maintain their historic building:

Mary Patricia Dougherty
Tom and Mary Ann Hays
Cristyne Lawson
Carol Lemlein and Eric Natwig
Doris Sosin and Rolfe Wyer
Elizabeth Markovitch

Student Film Competition

Attention middle and high school preservationists and film makers!

The California Preservation Conference will include a short film competition for students. Each film should explore preservation and tie in with the Conference theme "Preservation on the Edge." The conference will address such themes as Community Character, Innovative Practices in Preservation, Economic Development, Sustainability and Future Trends in Preservation.

First prize is \$300. Each film will be evaluated for creativity and artistic merit, content and subject matter, method or equipment used for the project, use of buildings or landscapes, and whether the project is an individual or group effort. Entries will be judged by the California Preservation Foundation and the Young Preservationists. Films can be no more than six minutes long, must be original student work and must comply with You

Tube™ Community Guidelines. The deadline for submissions is 5:00 pm, April 1, 2011.

Each project must be posted on YouTube (www.youtube.com) and submitted directly to the California Preservation Foundation. Students may register on-line by submitting an official entry form to: CPFeducation@californiapreservation.org and mailing a copy of their project in DVD format to the California Preservation Foundation, 5 Third Street, Suite 424, San Francisco, CA 94013. CDs and tape format will not be accepted; DVDs will not be returned.

Details are available at the California Preservation Foundation www.californiapreservation.org. YouTube Community Guidelines are posted at www.youtube.com/community_guidelines.

March 2010 New Members

- A. M. Allen
- Josh Borris
- Kevin Flick and J. Brewer
- Patricia Dougherty
- Nalia Elfarrá
- Suzette Tabor Gordon
- Frances Kent *
- Harvey Kern
- Sharon Killbride
- Cristyne Lawson
- Eileen Leary
- Ernie Marjoram
- Caryn Marshall
- Karen and Irwin Plitt
- Dan and Jessica Rice
- Nels Stemm
- Tracy Stillwater
- Colleen McAndrews Wood and Robert Wood
- Gary Zembow and Marcy Lebovitz

* Sustaining Level or Higher

March 2010 Business Members

- Adamm's Stained Glass *
- Bayside District*
- Kate Bransfield, Coldwell Banker
- Pamela Burton & Company
- Chattel Architecture, Planning & Preservation, Inc.
- deasy/penner & partners*
- David Forbes Hibbert, AIA
- Morley Builders *
- Eric Natwig, New West Partners
- Mary Ann Powell, Pacific Park
- Spectra Company
- Margarita Wuellner, Ph. D., PCR Services

* Sponsor Member or higher

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Save the Date!
**Landscapes
of Santa Monica**
May 1, 2011 1-5 pm
Back by popular demand
The tour will be very eclectic

- A rose garden
- A sustainable garden
- A landmark tree

Watch our website for details

PRESERVATION ON THE EDGE

**Be part of the California
Preservation Conference
May 15th to 18th**

We need volunteers for

- Registration
- Education sessions
- Tours
- Special events
- Technical support

*Details and applications at
www.californiapreservation.org*