



Above, Elaine Cohen, Robin Venturelli, Marlene St. Peter, Phillis Dudick, and Ruthann Lehrer toast Marion Davies' birthday on the porch of The Annenberg Community Beach House.

Marion's Birthday Bash a Smash *by Kay Pattison*

Sunday, January 8, was a magical day at the Annenberg Beach house. The Santa Monica Conservancy Docent Council recreated the 1930's, the heyday of the Beach House, in words and music. Docents were bedecked in 1930's era clothes and there was plenty of glamour and glitz and feather hats and megawatt smiles to delight the crowd. Everyone was welcomed in fine style by the elegantly dressed Phillis Dudick and Marlene St. Peter.

As the 250 guests, many wearing their own 1930's costumes, wandered through the rooms of the Guest House they heard Marion's story

as told by Docent Council members.

Robin Venturelli acquainted everyone with Marion's early life in New York City. Elaine Cohen took it from there, relating the stories of the fabulous parties that became a legend in Hollywood. Libby Pachares reminded us that Marion was a talented, highly paid actress and astute businesswoman, wealthy in her own right. She took that money from her investments and gave so freely and happily to friends and co-workers that Marion became known as the most generous woman in Hollywood.

Audree Fowler spoke of Marion's philanthropy *continued on page 3*

Annual Meeting

The Conservancy's 2012 Annual Meeting took place at the historic John Byers-designed Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Santa Monica on the afternoon of January 29. Approximately 100 members and friends attended.

As always, the Preservation Awards were a highlight of the program. Details of the awards are on pages 4 and 5.

The Board of Directors Election resulted in the addition of Chris Gray to the Board (see profile of Chris on p. 3) and the re-election of Bruce Cameron, Tom Cleys, and Mike Deasy to three year terms.

continued on page 5



Board Member Mario Fonda-Bonardi, AIA, describes preparations for rehabilitation of the Shotgun House.

2012 Preservation Awards Pages 4-5

Conservancy Receives 2 Grants

Preservation Resource Center:

The Friends of Heritage Preservation (FOSP) recently awarded the Conservancy a \$7,500 grant toward the rehabilitation of the Shotgun House. FOSP is a small, private association of individuals who seek to promote cultural identity through the preservation of significant endangered artistic and historic works, artifacts and sites. Past grants in the U.S. have been made to Frank Lloyd Wright's Ennis House in Los Angeles and Taos Pueblo in New Mexico.

New Website: Work on a long-awaited

upgrade to the Conservancy's website received a boost in December when the Dudley T. Dougherty Foundation made a \$2,500 grant toward the project's cost. Conservancy member and former Arts Commissioner Mary Patricia Dougherty is a trustee of the Foundation, based in her family home in Beeville, Texas.

The goals of the new website design are 1) to provide an engaging environment communicating a wide range of information about preservation and Conservancy programs and activities and 2) to do so with newer tech-

nology that provides flexibility to add new features and content while lowering the level of technical skill required. A website designer has been selected and implementation is underway.

Our original website, developed by Peter Altschuler, Joel Brand, Nina Fresco, Sherrill Kushner and Pam Vavra, was launched in November 2003. It has served us well, and we especially want to thank Joel, who has continued to manage the website and lead the Communications Committee since he left the Board in 2010.

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
Bruce Cameron
Mike Deasy
Michael W. Folonis, FAIA
Mario Fonda-Bonardi
Nina Fresco
Chris Gray
David Kaplan
Sherrill Kushner
Christyne Lawson
Ruthann Lehrer
Barbara Whitney

Emeritus:

Ken Breisch
Doris Sosin

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

Membership Dues

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

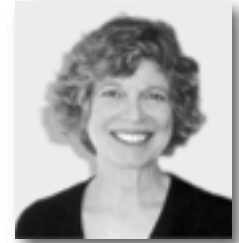
To support the Conservancy at higher levels, or with a business membership, visit our website www.smconservancy.org or call (310) 496-3146.

The News Staff

Alice Allen	Carol Lemlein
Ruthann Lehrer	Nancy O'Neill
Dick Orton	Kay Pattison
Ruth Shari	Barbara Whitney

Message from the President *Carol Lemlein*

As this issue goes to press, the Conservancy's 10th anniversary is approaching. We've accomplished a great deal in 10 years, but there is so much more to do! Here are a few of our current efforts:



Preservation Resource Center at the Shotgun House:

We've been keeping you informed as we have made our way through the City approval process. Board Member and Project Architect Mario Fonda-Bonardi, AIA, is steadfastly chasing down the last details necessary for us to obtain the building permit. Public fundraising for the rehabilitation of the house and the expanded programming to be offered at the Center will begin soon, as will the City's reconstruction of the parking lot adjacent to the Ocean Park Library where the Center will be located.

Educational Programs: In addition to our ongoing Downtown Walking Tour, the Anenberg Community Beach House docent program, and the tour of Landmark homes planned for June 3, we are developing a hands-on curriculum for elementary school students. The program, created by Board member Nina Fresco, working with SMMUSD educators and administrators, will use the evolution of the Third Street Historic District to help students develop an appreciation for how building styles change over time and reflect the story of a community and its residents.

LUCE Implementation: Members of the Board, Advocacy, and Government Affairs Committees have been working to ensure that the commitment to preservation as a core community value outlined in the LUCE is fully implemented. They are working on the development of both protections and incentives in the new Zoning Ordinance, and in the Downtown and Bergamot Area Specific Plans, as well as the community benefits to be associated with new development agreements.

New website: As you will read elsewhere in this newsletter, work on our new website is underway – another step in our plan to improve outreach to the larger community as well as communications with you, our members and supporters.

I'd like to thank our Board and Committee members working on these projects, and invite you to participate as volunteers and financial supporters. You can send us a note at info@smconservancy.org or contact me directly at lemlein@aol.com.

Carol

Researching the Downtown Specific Plan



Advocacy Committee members Tom Cleys, Mike Salazar, Nelson White and David Kaplan walked every block of the Downtown Specific Plan area to review buildings identified in the Historic Resource Inventory as potential landmarks and/or contributors to a historic district.



Downtown Walking Tour Docent Thomasine Rogas conducted a special tour for members of the City's Downtown Specific Plan team. L to R: Thomasine, Liz Bar-El, Senior Planner, Travis Page, Associate Planner, and Francie Stephan, Manager of Strategic and Transportation Planning.

Volunteer Profile:

Chris Gray, New Board Member, Measures Up *by Susan McCarthy*

Chris Gray grew up in Brighton, England (another beach town with a famous pleasure pier) so he has felt right at home in Santa Monica for the past fifteen years. He is the Conservancy's newest Board member and he brings to our work both an enthusiasm for this city and the benefits of a long career in preservation.

Chris didn't start out with an intention to enter the field. After obtaining his Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors certification, he traveled in America and then returned to England to job hunt. That led to a twenty year career with English Heritage, the British government agency that is responsible for over 400 historic places--from ruined abbeys to

Regency houses, and from Hadrian's Wall to Dover Castle. What Chris provided was survey documentation of those sites, employing the latest technology to learn more about the structures and to ensure that a careful record was made of their attributes.

An offer from the Getty Conservation Institute brought Chris back to America in the 1990's and he now heads the West Coast office of GB Geotechnics USA, Inc., an international firm that is an industry leader in non-destructive examination of structures. He is the incoming President of the Association for Preservation Technology, West Coast Chapter, and he teaches high-tech survey methods at the USC School of Architecture's Historic



Preservation Program.

Chris' children attended SMASH, and he is interested in the Conservancy's effort to introduce an engaging, hands-on preservation curriculum for local elementary students.

Marion Davies Birthday Party!



Top Left: Pauline Wagner at Marion's Birthday; Center: Robin Venturrelli; Bottom: Docent Council and volunteers in their 30s inspired finery.

"Marion", continued from page 1

thropy and her establishment of the Marion Davies Children's Clinic in West L.A. at age 26 and her funding of the much larger Marion Davies Children's Clinic at the UCLA Medical Center. Finally, guests heard the story of the enduring love between Marion and W.R. Hearst, courtesy of Kay Pattison.

Festivities included the film "The Patsy," highlighting Marion's comedic talents; a photo booth where attendees could don costume props for a photograph (they can be seen at www.facebook.com/annenbergbeachhouse), period music, and refreshments.

At the end of the day there was a toast to Marion including one from 101-year-old Pauline Wagner, a film actress in the 30's who knew and admired Marion. Pauline, who was invited to the celebration by docent Michelle Schrupp,

remarked that "Marion Davies never knew a stranger." Everyone joined in a loud and hearty Happy Birthday song that ended this day of recognition and tribute to Marion Davies, whose star shines brightly still.

Many thanks to the docents who helped make the event such a success: Robert Baxter, Fran Lyness, Jeff Burt, Phyllis Bernard, Maureen Murphy, Evelyn Maggiore, Susan Freeman, Marie Hadji, Cheryl Mollicone, Patty Godon-Tann, Helly Langen, Cindy Winthrop, Maria Sirotti, Moonie Fishburn, Mary Moran, Sarah BenHagi, Kathi Tomkins, Alan Cohen, Joyce Rosenblum, Jean Hasselquist.

We especially thank our partner, the City of Santa Monica, for their support of the docent program and in particular Nan Friedman, Manager of the Annenberg Community Beach House.

Oceanhouse Remembered



Abby Sher, a recent Guest House visitor, sent this family photo to docent Kathi Tomkins. She recalled visiting Oceanhouse around 1950 with her brothers Ron and Merritt Sher, who are shown swimming in the pool.

Note the position of the stairs. One stair on the pool house is placed in the same position as on the mansion.

Also, look at the beautiful curved volute handrails on the pool ladder, the same as at Hearst Castle.

2012 Preservation Awards

“Preservation is frequently an ongoing process representing dedication and investment over many years,” said Carol Lemlein, President of the Conservancy Board. “We are delighted to showcase these accomplishments, some of which began a decade or more before the Conservancy’s founding in 2002”



Ernie Marquez

President’s Award

The President’s Award was presented to local historian **Ernie Marquez** for his commitment to the preservation of Santa Monica’s early history and that of the families of the Rancho Boca de Santa Monica. Marquez is the author of several books on Santa Monica history including *Santa Monica Beach, a Collector’s Pictorial History* and the recently published *Noir Afloat* about the gambling ships of Santa Monica Bay.



Carol Lemlein and Barbara Stinchfield

Outstanding Service Award

Barbara Stinchfield received the Conservancy’s Outstanding Service Award for her recognition of the value of Santa Monica’s heritage as Director of Community and Cultural Services of the City of Santa Monica. Stinchfield’s leadership in balancing preservation values and other stakeholder interests has resulted in outstanding projects. These include the Annenberg Community Beach House, the strategic plan for Palisades Park as a landmark, the renovation of Miles Playhouse, the Urban Forest Task Force, and the preservation and adaptive reuse of the 1890s Shotgun House, now slated to become a Preservation Resource Center operated by the Conservancy.



Builder’s Exchange Building

Restoration Awards

The Conservancy gave a Restoration Award to architect **William Dale Brantley** and the **C. Belle Grischow Trust** for their restoration of Builders Exchange Building at 1501 – 1509 4th Street. Brantley led the restoration of the building after the 1994 earthquake and the Grischow Trust has demonstrated a significant commitment to maintaining and enhancing the building. This Spanish Colonial Revival building, at the southeast corner of 4th and Broadway, is widely noted for its beautiful “Churrigueresque” ornamentation.

Vincent Landay and Cheryl Clark, owners of 2450 25th Street, also received a Restoration Award. The 1907 American Foursquare Style home, in danger of demolition, was

Holiday Party!



The Conservancy extends its thanks to everyone who gave so much time, hard work and good spirit to the annual Holiday Party at the Pier Carousel. It took a village to make this party -- of course benefited by Phyllis Conkle’s inspired leadership --- but the results were worth it. Everyone had a great time!

- Alice Allen
- Kate Bransfield
- Bruce Cameron
- Ann Conkle
- Catherine Conkle
- Phyllis Conkle
- Dwight Flowers
- Mario Fonda-Bernardi and Sylvia Gentile
- David Kaplan
- Ursula Kress
- Sherrill Kushner
- Ruthann and Bob Lehrer
- Carol Lemlein and Eric Natwig
- Diane Locklear
- Thomasine Rogas
- Ruth Shari
- Gigi Smith



Far Left: Phyllis Bernard waving from carousel; Above Left: Dwight Flowers and Laurie Brenner; Above Right: Alec Nedelman and Libby Pachares, with Board Member Mario Fonda-Bonardi and Sylvia Gentile; Below, A tableful of Holiday goodies.



The 2012 Preservation Awards recognized individuals, building owners and businesses for their exemplary contributions to the preservation of Santa Monica's architectural and cultural heritage. The honorees were recognized at the Conservancy's Annual Meeting at the historic John Byers-designed Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Santa Monica.

moved from its original location at 1140 7th Street to Sunset Park. After their extraordinary



2450 25th Street

initial effort to relocate and sensitively restore the home, the owners have continued their commitment to the protection of its architectural integrity.



The Sovereign

Stewardship Awards

Susan Connally received a Stewardship Award for her exceptional dedication as owner of the Charmont and The Sovereign, two of Santa Monica's most iconic apartment buildings. Connally was recognized for her continuing efforts in the repair, renovation, maintenance and enhancement of these 1929 Spanish Colonial Revival-style buildings, designated as City Landmarks and listed on both the National and California Registers of Historic Places.



Busy Bee Hardware

A Stewardship Award was also given to **Don Kidson**, owner of Busy Bee Hardware

at 1521 Santa Monica Blvd, one of Santa Monica's oldest commercial establishments. Kidson has maintained the authentic, historic character of the vintage hardware store, affirming its continuing role and relevance Santa Monica in the 21st century.



Phyllis Conkle on the right with her daughter Ann

Outstanding Volunteer Service Award

Phyllis Conkle received the 2012 Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service as the creator of the Conservancy's receptions and parties in historic places. She has dazzled Conservancy members and friends with events that are beautifully and gracefully executed, with every detail of the refreshments, décor and logistics carefully thought through.

Congratulations!

Anyone who joined or renewed their membership between October 15 and November 15 was eligible for a special drawing: Here are the winners:

\$60 Gift Certificate to Pizza Antica
Wes Hough

\$50 Gift Certificate to Border Grill
Karen Cove

\$50 Gift Certificate to The Misfit
Frank Schweitzer and Joyce Mendlin

\$40 Gift Certificate to Back on Broadway
Eileen Kawas

Thank you to our generous restaurant donors and to our members for their ongoing support.

"Annual Meeting", continued from page 1

President Carol Lemlein gave an overview of 2011 and a preview of upcoming events in 2012. Mario Fonda-Bonardi gave a brief update on the Preservation Resource Center at the Shotgun House.

Many people contributed to the success of the Annual Meeting:

The Nominating Committee for the Board of Directors: Board Members David Kaplan, Susan McCarthy (Chair) and John Zinner; and Conservancy members Phyllis Conkle and Julia Denholm; **Preservation Awards Committee:** Michael Folonis (Chair), Margaret Bach, Mike Deasy, David Kaplan, Ruthann Lehrer, Carol Lemlein, John Zinner, who made arrangements to use the Church; **Program Committee:** Sherrill Kushner (giving Phyllis the day off in honor of her award), assisted by Ursula Kress, Ruthann Lehrer, Diane Locklear and Nancy O'Neill



Remembering Zalman King

Producer, director and screenwriter Zalman King passed away in early February. He and his wife Patricia Louisiana Knop (*both shown above*) opened their home to the Conservancy twice, participating in the 2009 Landscapes Tour and later hosting a fundraising Salon. We send our deepest sympathies to Pat and her family.

Preserving Main Street *by Ruth Shari*



Paris 1900 on Main Street

The Landmarks Commission recently voted to designate the historically viable structures located at 2701-2705 Main Street as a City Landmark in the first of what could be a series of designations of buildings deemed contributors to a potential Main Street historic district.

The one-story commercial vernacular brick buildings (c.1916-1922) display Spanish Revival elements and a notable corner storefront. Particularly distinctive is 2703 Main Street which since 1985 has housed a vintage clothing store named Paris 1900. The current facade was modeled after an Art Nouveau flower shop on the Rue Royale in Brussels, Belgium (1895). Allegedly one of only two handcrafted Art Nouveau storefronts in the United States---the other sits on

Harvard Square---ours was built by hand by local artisans Parke Meek and Roger Johnson in 1981. Parke Meek was a principal craftsman in the Charles Eames workshop where he did furniture design, exhibition installations and films for the Eames Office.

Upon reviewing the City's recently updated Historic Resources Inventory according to the California Historical Resources Status Code classification system, at least five other structures or groups of buildings on Main Street appear to be contributors to a potential historic district. Stay tuned for more on Main Street's preservation-worthy buildings in the next year or two.

Preservation Gains Ground. In response to public concern about the loss of such iconic buildings as Pickfair, the Friars Club and John Lautner's Shusett House, the City of Beverly Hills has adopted an historic preservation ordinance. The City Council voted unanimously on January 10, 2012 to approve new rules for the demolition of structures 45 years old (Santa Monica's threshold is 40 years) and designed by a City-recognized architect. Also approved was the establishment of a landmark designation process and a 5-member Cultural Heritage Commission.

2501 Second Street *by Ruthann Lehrer*



of its neighborhood, and it is a good representative of a historical architectural style. After extensive discussion, the Council found that the Landmarks Commission assessment was substantiated by the evidence.

Many neighborhood residents who had restored similar homes attended the meeting and spoke in support. Council members voting to affirm the designation were Richard Bloom, Gleam Davis, Kevin McKeown and Bobby Shriver.

In a January 24 appeal hearing before City Council, the Landmarks Commission designation of a circa-1900 late Victorian cottage at 2501 2nd Street was upheld by a 4-3 vote. The cottage has been vacant for some time and suffers from years of neglect, but its architectural features which include unique diamond-paned window sashes (now boarded up) are intact. The Commission had previously found that the house met three criteria: it was significant in representing the first wave of permanent residential development in Ocean Park; its corner location makes it a prominent feature

Spring Preservation Events

Millard Sheets: A Legacy of Art and Architecture

Sunday, March 18, 2012,
11:30 am. to 4:00 pm.

Los Angeles Conservancy
213-623-2489
www.laconservancy.org

Palisades History on Digital: Historical Interviews from 1970 to the Present

Monday, March 19, 2012, 7:00 pm.
Pacific Palisades Historical Society
www.pacificpalisadeshistory.org

Arcadia Bandini: Benefactress of Santa Monica:

A Conversation with Ricardo Bandini
Thursday, March 22, 7:00 pm.
Santa Monica Bay Women's Club
310-395-1308
www.history.smbwc.org

Spring Home Tour: American Modern: USC Style and Beyond

Sunday, March 25, 2012,
9:00 am to 4:00 pm.
Pasadena Heritage
626-441-6333
www.pasadenaheritage.org

Explore the Neighborhood of Greene & Greene

Saturday, April 14, 10:00 am.
The Gamble House
626-793-3334 ext. 16
gamblehs@usc.edu

We'll Be There, Will You?

Visit the Santa Monica Conservancy booth at

LA Heritage Day 2012

Sunday, April 29th from 10am to 4pm.
El Pueblo Historic Monument

AND

2012 Santa Monica Festival

Saturday, May 19th from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm
Clover Park, 2600 Ocean Park Blvd.

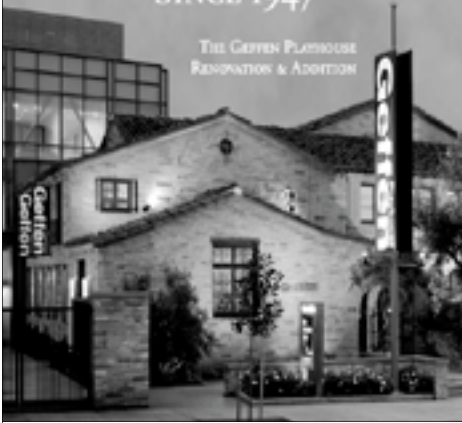
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- Virginia Clark
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- Dale Newman and Paul Martella
- Bryan Oakes
- Elaine Polachek
- Mike Salazar and Louis D'Elia*
- Summer Wedertz

* Sustaining Level or Higher

Business Members

- Adamm's Stained Glass
- Behnisch Architekten
- Bourget Bros. Building Materials
- Pamela Burton & Company
- Chattell Architecture, Planning & Preservation, Inc.
- Mike Deasy, Deasy Penner & Partners *
- Downtown Santa Monica *
- David Forbes Hibbert, AIA
- Daniel Scott Johnson, Merrill Lynch
- Merrihew's Sunset Gardens
- George Minardos, Minardos Group *
- Morley Builders *
- Jennifer Morton, Blue Plate/Blue Plate Oysterette
- Mary Ann Powell, Pacific Park
- Spectra Company
- Margarita Wuellner, Ph. D., PCR Services

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 \$100 Sustaining \$2500 Patron
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 \$500 Business Sponsor
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Save the Date!

Living in a Landmark Saturday, June 3rd, 2012

- A tour of some of Santa Monica's most historic homes and
 - A very special reception in an award-winning home
- Watch your e-mail or mailbox for details



Above: John Byers' Zimmers House, a Santa Monica City Landmark, received an award from the Conservancy in 2010 for restoration and renovations that updated the home for contemporary use.

Docents needed for the tour! To volunteer...

Send a note to
info@smconservancy.org
or call 310-496-3146
and leave a message

Do we have your e-mail address?

E-mail is a timely and cost-effective way to keep you up-to-date on events and preservation issues. If you have not been getting our email announcements, please send a short message with your current contact information to:

rsvp@smconservancy.org

We will do our best to keep you informed, and we promise not to stuff your e-mail box!