# SANTA MONICA CONSERVANCY **ENSURING THAT THE PAST HAS A FUTURE** SEPTEMBER 2009 VOL 7 NO 3

## **UNIQUE HOME CHOSEN FOR SEPT 12 SALON**



A sample of the delights on display at the King/Knop residence during the exclusive reception.

by Ruthann Lehrer

The Santa Monica Conservancy salons have provided an opportunity to experience some of the most interesting homes and homeowners in our city. This year's salon takes place in the magical home of Zalman King and Patricia Knop, on Saturday, September 12, from 4 to 6 PM. Elegant hors d'ouevres and wine will be served.

Patricia Knop, an artist and writer, in partnership with her husband Zalman King, writer and director, has spent decades collecting unusual cast-off architectural artifacts and recasting them as part of their domestic interiors. Many artifacts date from the early 1900s, consistent with the period of the house, but others are older and all are creatively

LANDMARKS BUS TOUR



2-5 PM DETAILS ON PAGE 3

transformed into an amazing visual experience.

Upon entering, you will be met by a stunning carved wood figurehead from a ship's bow. The figurehead, consisting of an angel's head with wings, forms the back of a luxurious couch. Sculptures created by Ms. Knop are adjacent to a large-scale stained glass landscape triptych from a demolished Greene and Greene house. Tiffany stained glass windows overlook a menagerie of carousel animals. Victorian tiles salvaged from a building facade in London have

been recycled into the fireplace, a tabletop, and stair risers. The owners have assembled a collection of antique religious statues and paintings from Central and South America.

The King/Knop home was featured a few years ago in the Los Angeles Times. "The whole crazy beauty of Knop and King's house is that it is an ingeniously devised refuge for all manner of the discarded and unwanted," notes reporter Barbara King SALON, CONTINUED ON THE BOTTOM OF PAGE 5

### FALL OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 3-5 PM

John and Donna Heidt, owners of the c. 1900 Victorian Cottage at 2219 Ocean Avenue, will hold an open house for Santa Monica Conservancy members on



Sunday, November 15, 2009 from 3 – 5 PM.

Learn how community action spearheaded by the Save the Cottage group helped preserve this window on the past, the only remaining Victorian on Ocean Avenue visible from the beach. Hear how the Heidts worked to make an abandoned, deteriorated house into a charming beach cottage, preserving historic features such as the scenic stained glass window over the mottled Tropico-tile fireplace.

#### Details

- Members \$25, nonmembers \$30.
- Watch for an invitation in the mail and our website posting.
- Space is limited; early reservations advised.

## 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 Joel Brand Ken Breisch Bruce Cameron Mike Deasy Michael W. Folonis, FAIA Nina Fresco David Kaplan Sherrill Kushner Ruthann Lehrer Nancy O'Neill

### **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		

levels, or with a business membership, call (310) 496-3146.

### THE NEWS STAFF

Alice Allen	Margaret Bach
Nina Fresco	Sherrill Kushner
Ruthann Lehrer	Nancy O'Neill
Dick Orton	Judy Parsons
Marcello Vavala	Susan Zinner

HOW TO CONTACT THE SANTA MONICA CONSERVANCY Phone us at (310) 496-3146 .and leave a message. Website www.smconservancy.org.

E-mail info@smconservancy.org Mail address: Santa Monica Conservancy P.O.Box 653, Santa Monica, CA 90406

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

#### Carol Lemlein



I am delighted to announce that the Conservancy was recently one of 19 local arts and cultural organizations to receive grants through the city's Community Access and Participation (CAP) Grants Program. A first for the Conservancy, the grant will help fund development of a guided

walking tour of Palisades Park for the Spring of 2010. The tour will cover the rich history of the park, as well as the landmark structures on the east side of Ocean Avenue, and once developed, could be offered annually.

The successful grant proposal was developed by a team including board members Nina Fresco, Ruthann Lehrer and Nancy O'Neill. It would not have been possible without countless hours of effort by Treasurer Tom Cleys, who reworked two years of financial data to the format required for the California Cultural Data Project, a new requirement of many local and statewide cultural funding programs.

This is one of several initiatives planned to expand our educational programming. If you have ideas for programs and/or you would like to join our Program Committee, please leave a message at 310-496-3146 or send email to info@smconservancy.org.



**P.S.** You'll notice a few changes in this month's newsletter – part of an ongoing effort to allow us to better communicate our activities and to recognize our supporters.

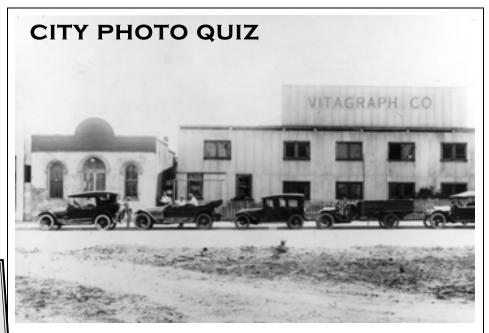
As always, we'd be pleased to hear your comments.

#### MARCELLO VAVALA TO LEAVE BOARD by Carol Lemlein

We are sorry to announce that Marcello Vavala has resigned from the Board of Directors. Marcello's contributions as a Board member have included a year each as Secretary and as President, and since then as Advocacy chair. amount of time I'm able to commit to the Santa Monica Conservancy is no longer what it should be for a member of the board. The past  $3^{1/2}$  years have been a very valuable experience. I look forward to working on the upcoming Landmarks Bus Tour and on other projects as I have time."

Marcello's resignation noted that his work as Preservation Associate at the Los Angeles Conservancy has been very demanding. "The

We all thank Marcello for his service as a Board member – he will be greatly missed.



Marc Wanamaker of the Bison Archives sent us this wonderful picture of early Santa Monica. Do you know where this is? See the answer on page 6.

### VOLUNTEER PROFILE SARAH BARNARD + SMC = A PERFECT FIT by Judy Parsons



Photo provided by Sarah Barnard

"I love Santa Monica's sense of history and community, and I've always had a deep affection for structures with soul," says Sarah Barnard.

The daughter of a master craftsman who restores antiques, Sarah became interested in architecture and preservation at an early age. She fondly remembers growing up in a house that once was the first library in Torrance. "I loved the front portion of our house because it was preserved with the original woodwork from the library." Today her parents live a block away in a charming 1912 arts and crafts bungalow and Sarah calls Venice her home.

"I'm most passionate about preserving architecture for everyone's future enjoyment. If we lose track of where we've come from, I don't think I'll want to know where we're going. I'm trying to spread the word about the Conservancy's programs to young people via the page I've created on Facebook."

It was 2007 when Sarah first learned about the Conservancy through its website. "I called Carol (Lemlein) immediately and asked if she needed help. My first action was to join the Walking Tour committee."

Most recently Sarah chaired the very successful Landscapes Tour. "Visitors truly enjoyed the tour's garden variety and commended the docents' knowledge and enthusiasm. I really appreciated Ruthann's (Lehrer) direction and Dick's (Orton) support on the program, printing and site signs. It was win win all the way."

With her creative interests and family background, it seems natural that Sarah would become an interior designer and LEED Accredited Professional. She welcomes the restoration of period structures along with the renovation of contemporary buildings. Some of her recent projects include a sprawling 1916 Spanish Revival estate, a penthouse on Ocean Avenue and the offices of National Geographic Entertainment.

Thanks Sarah, for checking out our website. And thanks for spreading the word.

### BUS TOUR SUNDAY, OCT. 4, 2PM

Tour Begins at the Department of Motor Vehicles parking lot at 2:00 PM. Marcello Vavala will provide historical context and commentary. No building interiors are included. Make reservations on line at www.smconservancy.org or use the tear-off form in the flyer mailed to members. Mail checks to the:

Santa Monica Conservancy, P. O. Box 653, Santa Monica, CA 90406-0653.

#### Tickets are:

- \$30 Members
- \$35 Non-Members
- \$45 Tour ticket and new membership

## HISTORIC EVENING OUTLOOK ONLINE SOON by Nancy O'Neil



The Evening Outlook around the turn of the last century. Photo courtesy of the Santa Monica Public Library Image Archives.

The Santa Monica Evening Outlook, chronicler of Bay area news for 123 years, is staging a comeback on the Santa Monica Public Library website. Wright Rix, Principal Librarian for Reference Services, says the Library is digitizing its Outlook microfilm and will make newspapers from 1875 to 1913 available this fall. Rix says the long term goal is making the entire collection, 1875-1998, available online.

The process entails scanning every page into a digital format so the newspaper may be viewed and shared over the Internet. A separate optical character recognition (OCR) file is created for each digital scan so users can use keyword to search articles. The result is an online version of the newspaper that can be browsed, searched, and read anytime, anywhere, from any computer with Internet access.

Users enter words or phrases to retrieve a list of issues with pages where the search word(s) appear. Clicking on an issue displays the newspaper page with the search words highlighted. Users may also browse through and read the newspaper without entering any search words to retrieve a replica of the original page.

According to Rix, the initial digitization of 25,000 pages was funded by a Library Services Technology Act (LSTA) grant. The Friends of the Santa Monica Public Library pledged ongoing support to continue the digitization. "With support from our Friends' group, we will digitize an additional 6,250 pages over the next year, but this is an expensive, long term project for which additional funding will be needed," said Rix.

## DOWNTOWN DOCENTS MEET THE NICEST FOLKS



Downtown Walking Tour docents Thomasine Rogas (top left) and Kay Pattion (top right) often hear stories of Shirley Temple as tour participants share their memories.

#### by Kay Pattison

Our Downtown Walking Tour program is now in its third year. We have had visitors from Santa Monica and the L.A. area, of course, but also visitors from many of the 50 States and Canada, as well as Wales, Ireland, France, Switzerland, Sweden, Germany, Monaco, Israel, New Zealand, Australia and Russia.

We have been sharing stories about our gem of a city and also learning from some of our tour goers. There was a man who at eight years of age, had visited the REX gambling ship so many times with his mother (she was devoted to the ship's slot machines), that he became the crew's mascot and had the run of the ship.

There has been more than one visitor who had sighted child star Shirley Temple shopping at Henshey's or having an ice cream at the Owl Rexall with her mother. They recall that her mother strongly advised people to keep their distance and "don't touch Shirley's curls." A couple on one tour turned out to be the next door neighbors of the now 80+ Mrs. Shirley Temple Black and we told them to tell Mrs. Black that she is remembered fondly here in Santa Monica. They offered to give her our "hellos" the next time they speak over their backyard clotheslines.

Our Downtown Walking Tour docents are friendly, bright, articulate and humorous tour leaders. We are proud of their role as Ambassadors of Good Will for the Conservancy and the City of Santa Monica. See for yourself by taking one of our Saturday morning tours. Details are at our website: www.smconservancy.org.

## SANTA MONICA LANDSCAPES: A GARDEN TOUR



#### By Sarah Barnard

On Sunday May 31st, nearly 300 Conservancy members and friends toured 12 unique residential sites during our first ever "Santa Monica Landscapes" self-guided garden tour. The event showcased gardens representing the distinct neighborhoods of Santa Monica and included inspiring garden art collections, eco-sensitive gardens and the personal gardens of some of our most renowned landscape architects and designers.



Tour goers set off from the meeting place at Yahoo Center.



Louis Plachowski shared gardening and landscaping secrets with tourgoers.

The homeowners who graciously shared their gardens were:

Tom Cleys	Sue Beinkowski &
Mary Ann &	Wang Lee
Tom Hays	Dale Newman
Ellen Hoffs	Bridget Walsh &
Daryl Hosta	Louis Plachowski
Pat Knop &	Nancy Power
Zalman King	Julie Sommer
Wendy & Marty Katz	Judith Spector

## ANNENBERG DOCENT PROGRAM



Docents Clare Ellinger (left) leading a tour and George Ptucha (right) describing the Beach House pool deck.

#### by Ruthann Lehrer

Docent tours at the Annenberg Community Beach House, provided by Santa Monica Conservancy volunteers, are attracting hundreds of visitors daily. Our dedicated cadre of approximately 65 docents have been enjoying their encounters with enthusiastic visitors, and have been learning from many of their stories.

A recent visitor was Douglas Badt, who lived in the Guest House while he was the manager of the Sand and Sea Club. His children recalled sliding down the stair banisters and searching

Special thanks to the event committee and volunteer docents who worked hard to make the event organized, educational and fun!

**Committee:** Sarah Barnard, Phyllis Conkle, Dwight Flowers, Mary Ann Hays, Ruthann Lehrer, Dick Orton and Ruth Shari.



Docent Megan Berry greeted visitors.

for secret rooms that they believed were there (they weren't). A family group consisting of several generations of Marion Davies' descendants recently visited, accompanied by city staff. One docent recounted a visit by a couple who had gotten married nearly 50 years ago at what was then Ocean House, and brought some of their wedding photos taken on the steps. Many visitors remember the derelict, boarded up condition of the Guest House, and stop in to admire its glorious restoration. Two policemen came by, recalling that the Guest House, heavily damaged in the 1994 Northridge earthquake, was used for SWAT training and K9 units.

We are privileged to live in a place where the generosity of the Annenberg Foundation merged with the vision of the city's Cultural and Community Services staff and the talents of Fred Fisher and Partners architects. The result of this combined effort is a public beach club that blends restoration of historic elements with attractive new facilities.

If you have not yet visited this beautiful place, don't waste any more time while the weather is still nice. The docents offer a tour of the Marion Davies Guest House plus the site at 11 AM and 1 PM on weekdays, with an additional 3 PM tour on weekends. However, visitors are welcome to tour the Guest House on their own anytime that the building is open. The city presents a program of free cultural events on Tuesday evenings at 6:30; the Guest House is staffed with docents one hour prior to the cultural program.

Check the website, www.beachhouse. smgov.net, for the fall schedule. Group tours are available by reservation only; call the city at 310-458-4904.

For more information about having your

garden on the next tour in May, 2011, please



Docents: Ansley Allen, Elena Allen, Farrokh Allen, Garland Allen, Rocki Amador, Bonnie Mae Barnard, Julie Berger, Megan Berry, Monika Bialas, Kevin Cahill, Katherine Conkle, Rosemary Connelly, Margi Falk, Margaret Gascoigne, Joy Gibson, Louise Hernandez, Ellen Holden, Dorothy Jewell, Keith Kurman, Diane Locklear, Meryl Maler, Shoshana Maler, Corrinna Massiet, Louise Massiet, Mary Moran, April Newman, Nancy O'Neil, Rachel Pasterino, Kay Pattison, Derek Penfield, Christine Pesis, John Petersen, Joan Picciano, Carrie Poindexter, Thomasine Rogas, Marisol Saens, Stephanie Speights, Michele Sperazz, Caprice Walker and Lillian White.

#### SALON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

contact sarah@sarahbernard.com

in the Times article (May 20, 2003). "It is part cathedral, part fairy tale illustration, part museum, part fun house, part Hollywood set, part Jungian subconscious made boldly, baldly conscious."

The Conservancy thanks the talented creators/owners who generously permitted us access to their unique home. Tickets for this fundraiser are \$150 for members, \$175 for nonmembers. Members who join, upgrade or renew with a donation of \$1,000 will receive two complimentary tickets to the Salon. Reservation deadline is September 8. Checks may be mailed to Santa Monica Conservancy, P.O. Box 653, Santa Monica 90405, or use our website, www.smconservancy.org.

Reservations will be held at the door.

## LANDMARKS COMMISSION REPORT by Margaret Bach

#### DESIGNATION OVERTUNED 301 OCEAN AVENUE

On June 9, the Santa Monica City Council, on a 4-2 vote, overturned the landmark designation of 301 Ocean Avenue. The appeal, filed by the property owner, Trammel Crow, challenged the designation approved by the Landmarks Commission earlier in the year based on its association with Clo Hoover. She was the City's first female mayor and prominent community figure.

The City Council upheld the appeal, agreeing with the staff report that "the nexus or relationship between Hoover's contributions and the 47-unit apartment complex is not strong enough to warrant designation. Therefore, designating the apartment complex is not an appropriate way to recognize Mayor Hoover's leadership."

#### QUONSET HUT

The landmark Quonset Hut at 829 Broadway will become the centerpiece of a new mixed-use project at the corner of Lincoln and Broadway, to be named "The Quonset." At its April meeting, the Commission approved a Certificate of Appropriateness for the rehab of this modest WWII-era structure as a cafe, incorporating the historic building into the new development. This project is a splendid example of the power of landmarking and how an unassuming yet significant historic structure can gain new life and meaning for the community. Without landmark status, the quonset hut would likely have been overlooked in the rush to development.

#### MILBANK HOUSE



The landmark Isaac Milbank House, a splendid 1911 Craftsman home at 236 Adelaide Drive, will be undergoing a significant, careful restoration and rehabilitation by its new owner. In May, the Commission approved a Certificate of Appropriateness for this extensive work.

#### SANTA MONICA PIER

Several Certificates of Appropriateness have been issued: for the historic points of interest plaques, fourteen in all, to be installed as

#### CITY PHOTO QUIZ ANSWER



In 1913, Vitagraph Studios set up shop on Second Street and the building we know as The Rapp Saloon was a part of their complex. Today the landmark building is the part of the International Youth Hostel next door.



### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Ken Askew	Barbara Ir
David and Suzanne Buckholtz	Betty Klev
David Card	Pat Knop a
John Ellis	Wang Le
Laurie Groehler	George M
Celeste Healy	Sally Hibb
Ellen Hoffs	Gretchen
Linda Holloway	Jade Nee
Judy Hopkins	Dale Nev
Daryl Hosta	Robin O'(

Barbara Inatsugu Betty Klevan Pat Knop and Zalman King Wang Lee and Sue Bienkowski George Minardos Sally Hibbard and Mike Moody Gretchen Moore Jade Neely Dale Newman Robin O'Connell Louis Plachowski and Bridget Walsh Nancy Power Susan Ryza Frank Schweitzer Kathy Solomon Julie and Mel Sommer Kathleen Sonnert Judith Spector Sophia Wright part of the Pier Centennial Celebration; for a retractable shade structure over the bumper car area; and finally – and potentially the most delicious – for a new ice cream parlor which will occupy the front corner of the carousel building.



#### WALKING TOUR OF VENICE'S SPIRITUAL LANDMARKS

September 12, 2009 Venice Historical Society (310) 967-5170 www.veniceofamerica.org

#### LIVING HISTORY Tour at Angelus Rosedale Cemetary

September 26, 2009 West Adams Heritage Association (323) 735-9242 www.westadamsheritage.org

#### 18th Annual Craftsman Weekend

October 16-18, 2009 Pasadena Heritage (626) 441-6333 pasadenaheritage.org

#### L.A. AS SUBJECT 4TH Annual Archives Bazaar

October 17, 2009 L.A. as Subject and USC Libraries www.usc.edu/libraries/archives/arc/ lasubject/index.html

#### HALLOWEEN AND MOURNING MOVIE NIGHT

October 24, 2009, 7:30 PM Heritage Square Musuem (323) 225-2700 www.heritagesquare.org

# SANTA MONICA CONSERVANCY

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#### CONSERVANCY ON PARADE

Above: Lining up for the Third Annual 4th of July Parade: (left to right) Eric Natwig, Bruce Cameron, Joel Brand, Carol Lemlein, Kay Pattison (partially hidden), Oscar Vizcarra and Thomasine Rogas

Left: Thomasine Rogas waves to the cowd





SMC HONORED BY LOS ANGELES CONSERVANCY

At the Los Angeles Conservancy's annual meeting, the Santa Monica Conservancy was honored "for fostering public awareness and appreciation of Santa Monica's unique cultural and architectural legacy." The Certificate of Appreciation also recognized our educational programs, docent-led tours, advocacy efforts and "the preservation and adaptive reuse of the Shotgun House as a preservation resource center."

SMC President Carol Lemlein observed, "It is an honor to receive this award from an organization considered a leader in preservation, and one we have always regarded as a role model." Accepting the award with Carol were, left to right: David Kaplan, Marcello Vavala, and Tom Cleys. Photo credit: Los Angeles Conservancy

P.O. Box 653 SANTA MONICA, CA 90406-0653

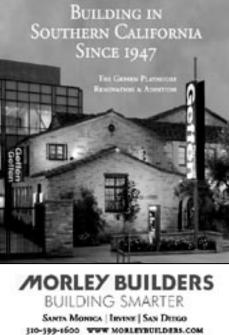
We are especially pleased to acknowledge the generosity of members renewing at the Patron, Benefactor, Supporting and Sustaining levels:

PATRON: \$1000 Nancy O'Neill Rolfe Wyer and Doris Sosin BENEFACTOR: \$500 - \$999 Kristina Deutsch and	Timothy Kittleson and Michael Donaldson Pam Popelka Paula Savett Carole and Sid Meltzner	Katharine King Kenneth L. Kutcher La Senora Research Institute Christy and Stephen McAvoy Ralph Mechur Isabelle Mizrahi
Joel Brand Judy Keller and Ken Breisch Tom Cleys Mike Deasy Rob and Nina Fresco David and Barbara Kaplan Sherrill Kushner Ruthann and Robert Lehrer Carol Lemlein and Eric Natwig Susan and Kevin McCarthy Eileen Harris Norton Marcello Vavala John and Susan Zinner	SUSTAINING: \$100 - \$249 Margaret Bach John Berley Karen Cove Candra Docherty Clare and James Ellinger Mario and Sylvia Fonda-Bonardi Audree Fowler Victor and Diane Fresco Hugh Gottfried Amy Green Whitney Green	Natalie Morris Michele Nasatir Joe A. Newman Kay Pattison Myra and Earl Pomerantz Robert Posek Rodney Punt Thomasine Rogas Dan and Gretchen Rush Shane Salley Robert Sevy Pamela Singleton
SUPPORTING: \$250 - \$499 Thomas Chatham Claudia Fishler Thomas and Mary Ann Hays	Adamm Gritlefeld Jill Baldauf and Steve Grossman Janet Levin and Frank Gruber	Becky Upchurch Marilyn Wexler Lydia Woodward Irving and Esther Zabin

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