

The Alliance Times

The Mt. Washington Homeowners Alliance

The Free Voice of Mt. Washington
Vol. 12, No. 1, January, 2012



"We have it in our power to begin
the world over again." - Thos Paine

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Since 2001

101 MPH Winds hit Mt Washington

by Daniel Marlos

My first indication that November 30 was going to be a windy night was driving home from the GoldLine station in the evening. The car was being buffeted by strong gusts and there were what appeared to be lightning flashes on the horizon, though in retrospect, those were most likely transformers blowing off in the distance. I had had enough experience with Mt Washington winds to take a few precautions, like laying outdoor furniture and potted plants on their sides to prevent them from being knocked over and broken, however, I was not prepared for the record winds that would eventually strike that night.

There were several brief power outages lasting from a few seconds to a few minutes, and since the wind seemed to have no indication of letting up, I stopped trying to reset all the digital clocks in the house after the third time. Sometime around midnight on December 1, I was awakened by a creaking, groaning and splintering sound, and though there was currently no power, I could see that the neighbor's large tree alongside my driveway was no longer towering above the nearby homes. It was too windy to go outside for a closer look, but thanks to an old fashioned, wall-mounted telephone, I was able to call 911 to report the downed tree despite the lack of electricity. The operator asked if it was truly an emergency situation since the call volume was especially heavy, and I indicated that I didn't



MWAH PRESIDENT STAN SOSA'S OWN
VEHICLE WAS NOT SPARED.
PHOTO BY STAN SOSA



FALLEN TREE ON MOUNT WASHINGTON
PHOTOS BY DIANE MEAD

believe the tree hit a home, but I couldn't be certain.

Power was restored in about an hour, and there was a lull in the winds, so I ventured outside to console my neighbor who was distraught over the loss of her beautiful tree. Unlike most downed trees that were uprooted, this tree was twisted by the winds until the trunk, which was close to three feet in diameter, snapped under the pressure. Christine informed me that the house was spared a direct hit but the back door was completely blocked by the downed tree that was filling the entire back yard.

Upon awaking early Thursday morning, I was thankful to have electricity, and it was on the local news that I learned that the highest recorded wind gust in the city was 101 MPH in Mt Washington, recorded shortly after midnight, thanks to our relatively new weather station. I left for work shortly afterwards, especially grateful that there was electricity since the aquariums in the house were heated to a tropical 80° to accommodate the Amazon fish I raise. Driving to the train station that morning,

101 MPH Winds
continued on page 8

President's Message

Stan Sosa

Happy New Year to our community and especially our members. I want to tell you how grateful I am that I was able to serve as part of the presiding body of this wonderful organization, the Mount Washington Homeowners Alliance. I am so grateful that we have a tremendous board that operates from a point of love for our beloved Mount Washington. The same spirit and attitude will be propelling us as an organization into 2012. We can expect a continued fight in protecting our community in preserving our quality of life. We see the evidence of this as in our streets being resurfaced at the end of 2011 and continuing now at the beginning of 2012.

We have many ideas for further improvements and these will take shape after our retreat in early February. This will be led by our new president, Daniel Marlos. So stay tuned.

On January 23, we will have our general membership meeting and our guest will be Supervisor Gloria Molina. We are asking her to address the hot buttons facing us. She will also install our new officers and Board Directors, launching the new officers and directors for a year of service to our community. I urge you to attend and hear what Gloria Molina has to say.

As I finish this year, I am happy to say, that I will be spending more time with my grand kids especially the new baby boy that came in toward the end of the year.

I hope to see you at the meeting.



Mt. Washington Homeowners Alliance General Meeting

Monday, January 23, 2012, 7:00 p.m.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS **by Supervisor Gloria Molina**

Tasty refreshments

Carlin G. Smith Recreation Center
511 W. Avenue 46, Los Angeles, CA 90065

LAND USE REPORT

by Louis Mraz

It's the first of a new year and that means that we go over the wins and losses for our land use committee for the past year. The community is still here and still intact so that must mean we won everything, right? OK, maybe not, Let's review.

In April the Planning Department pronounced a whole new Planning Department to guide and direct the City into the 21st Century. Without fixing their guiding hand on the 20th. Hearings were postponed from early December to mid January. We said we would keep you informed. There was no real change other than the Planning Department FINALLY got around to sending us reports of upcoming hearing concerning the North East LA area. We must note that most of them were new antennas in the Atwater or Silverlake areas or on site beer and wine sales in proposed new restraints in similar areas.

In March I reported on the ongoing adventures of the proposed Condos at Avenue 45 and Marmion Way. We especially looked at the problems of access on to Avenue 43. After a hearing the Planning Department decided that it is not now and never shall be a problem. Tell your lawyer about it if you get in the inevitable accident there.

We also found out about a new multi-family housing development on Avenue 50 at Terrace 49. The proposal is to be a retirement facility for the Coptic Church over on El Paso and would have reduced parking for the retired persons.

In on going and continuing news, the sorta-constructed house on Bunnell was still sorta constructed and would be up for sale to developers as a foreclosed property.

A proposed cell phone tower and switching facility above the Southwest Museum was sought by the Autry but after significant opposition

LAND USE *continued on page 3*

Congratulations

Mount Washington Homeowners Alliance

Beginning 2001 and continuing to this day, the Mount Washington Homeowners Alliance has played an important role in preserving and enhancing the unique quality of life in this special community. Today, on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of its founding and on behalf of the City of Los Angeles and Council District 1, I congratulate the Mount Washington Homeowners Alliance for this decade of service and leadership. Thank you, and may the Mount Washington Homeowners Alliance continue to thrive and benefit Mount Washington for many years to come.

Dated October, 2, 2011, signed by Jose Huizar,
Councilmember 14th District.



KAI NEWKIRK, RIGHT, PRESENTS COUNCILMAN HUIZAR'S CERTIFICATE OF CONGRATULATIONS TO MWAH OFFICERS SUSANNE BRODY, CHRIS HOWARD, RUTH MEHRINGER, AND MONIQUE GAUDRY, PRESIDENT STAN SOSA ASKED THE FOUR TO RECEIVE THE CERTIFICATE IN APPRECIATION OF THEIR WORK ORGANIZING THE 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY PARTY.

LAND USE

continued from page 2

from the Friends of the SW Museum and our board it was deferred.

In May everything was still progressing at maximum bureaucratic speed. with the Coptic church proposal tentatively set for six months to permit issuance. As a licensed architect I should have said. "Ha!" but I didn't. So I will now. HA!

June 11, 2011 was the date for the City's hearing on the 6 unit condo. Project at Avenue 45 and Marmion. We presented our case for the parking entrance and pointed out that the City's investigation of the intersection neglected to notice the Gold Line crossing and Avenue 45 down to Figueroa. This revelation apparently made them mad and they decided to go with their first (and only) idea.

The Coptic Church project was without any news.

The ten year project at 4750/54/58 Glenalbyn was deep in retaining wall excavation to support the street. He was operating without benefit of a permit since he hadn't bothered with permits since 2000 and a lawsuit let him continue without permit to finish the wall. The city will probably hold up any future permits. We have to wait another decade to see if that solved anything.

I also announced that the Planning Department was, after 90 years, going to "simplify" the planning code and clean out all those messy things like Specific Plans, etc. This is still a work in progress.

The Burnell project(s) have been mostly bought by the county and Conservancy and will become an extension and hill top access to Elyria Canyon Park, The condo and apartment projects are smoothly grinding along, the SW Museum cell phone project was dropped, hundreds of on-site beer and wine places outside of our purview have been announced and most (probably due to tax reasons) have been approved.

Beautification News

by Daniel Marlos

Regular Beautification Committee work parties in November and December were interrupted by holiday weekends that fell during our scheduled fourth Sunday of the month routine, so regular sessions were cancelled. A special work party was scheduled for the winter solstice on December 21, and five volunteers showed up to plant walnut seedlings that were germinated in the nursery the previous spring.

Approximately three dozens of walnut seedlings were put in the ground in various areas of Elyria Canyon Park near the red barn. Care needs to be taken when removing the seedling from the specially designed tall pots in order to prevent the taproot from being disturbed. There hasn't been any precipitation since the young trees were planted, so the Beautification Committee will need to make plans to pe-

riodically water the tender young plants to better ensure their survival.

Several unseasonal fall rain storms have created a moist environment, and invasive plants, including milk thistle, are beginning to sprout, so future winter



VOLUNTEERS PLANTED WALNUT SEEDLINGS IN ELYRIA CANYON PARK ON DECEMBER 21: KATHY DONAHUE, CLARE MARTER KENYON, JULIAN DONAHUE, DANIEL MARLOS

work parties will need to concentrate on weed eradication to ensure that invasive plants don't crowd out native species that have to compete for precious moisture.

The committee has spent considerable time researching appropriate plants for the butterfly garden that is being planned for the meadow near the red barn. The Los Angeles chapter of the North American Butterfly Association generously provided funding for a garden to attract butterflies to Elyria Canyon Park. The funding will be used to purchase native species that are consistent with the native ecosystems and actual work on the garden is scheduled to begin in January to take advantage of winter precipitation. Please see the accompanying article on the butterfly garden.

Finally, the Beautification Committee still needs volunteers to help plant and weed in Elyria Canyon Park on the fourth Sunday of the month from 9:30 to 11:30 at the Red Barn. Future planting dates are January 22 and February 26, 2012. Please come out and help maintain our treasured open space parks in Mt Washington.

Heritage Square Museum Approved as Historic Cultural Monument New Designation will protect the Museum's Architectural History for Future Generations

Heritage Square Museum has been approved as a Historic Cultural Monument for the City of Los Angeles. The City Council approved 12 to 0 and passed the nomination of the museum on December 16. As an important cultural resource for the community, the designation as a Historic Cultural Landmark will protect the museum and secure the integrity of the site that will ensure the museum's ability to protect its architectural and historical accuracy.

"This is a momentous occasion in the history of the museum and to have it approved during the holiday season is a great gift for all lovers of the Heritage Square Museum," said Jessica Maria

Alicea-Covarrubias, executive director of the Heritage Square Museum. "Many thanks to the Los Angeles City Council for recognizing the museum's cultural significance to the city of Los Angeles, and to our former board member Mitzi March Mogul who was instrumental throughout the nominating process."

"Heritage Square Museum is an important historical jewel to the city of Los Angeles and to the residents of my district where the museum is located," said Councilmember Ed P. Reyes. "With the museum now a historic cultural monument, the L.A. City Council has recognized how important the museum is to the city. I applaud the council and

congratulate Heritage Square Museum on this wonderful achievement."

The formal dedication, which should include new signage around the museum and surrounding areas, will take place sometime in 2012. The City of Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Ordinance, enacted in 1962, has made possible the designation of buildings and sites as individual local landmarks, called "Historic-Cultural Monuments" in Los Angeles. The City currently has over 1000 Historic-Cultural monuments, providing official recognition and protection for Los Angeles' most significant and cherished historic resources.

The Mourning Cloak

By Daniel Marlos

Mourning Cloak is a somber name for this harbinger of spring, a large, velvety mahogany butterfly with blue-spotted wings that appear to be trimmed in creamy lace. The Mourning Cloak ranges across most of the northern hemisphere in both the new and old worlds including England where it is known as the Camberwell Beauty.

Butterflies are generally associated with sunny spring and summer days, but some species, including the Mourning Cloak, hibernate through the winter. In areas with cold and snowy winters they are able to survive freezing conditions by hibernating in hollow trees and other protected places. Mourning Cloaks are

often seen gliding over the snow on warm and sunny winter days when they soak up the warmth of the feeble winter rays by spreading their dark wings and angling them toward the sun, a behavior that has nothing to do with the common name anglewing that refers to the angular edges of the wings on the Mourning Cloak and its relatives, the Tortoiseshells and Commas.

After the cold weather, hurricane force winds and winter solstice this past December, I observed my first Mourning Cloak of the season sunning itself on the wood pile in the front yard of my home near the entrance of Elyria Canyon Park. Alas, by the time I grabbed the camera, it had shut its wings and it was no longer displaying the saturated colors of its dorsal surface, however, it is easy to see in the closed wing photograph I managed to take why it is so well camouflaged against dried leaves.

I have seen more Mourning Cloaks in recent years in and near Elyria Canyon Park, perhaps because this native butterfly's native larval food source, Pacific Willow, *Salix lasiandra*, is being augmented with the cultivation of Chinese elm in gardens and along roadways. Both trees can be found within the park. Having a food source for caterpillars is one of

the most critical environmental factors for attracting butterflies to a location, and any serious gardener who wants to encourage butterflies needs to be aware of foliage producing plants as well as nectar producing plants. There really aren't many flowers that interest adult Mourning Cloaks which prefer sugary sweet tree sap and rotting fruit to flowers, so the broken limbs of so many trees in the neighborhood after the November 30/December 1 winds should support a robust Mourning Cloak population this year.

Mourning Cloak Caterpillars are black and spiny with red spots along their backs. Younger caterpillars live and feed communally in a web, and as they grow larger, they strike out on their own until they are ready to metamorphose into a chrysalis. The caterpillars often travel a considerable distance to find an appropriate site to transform into a stationary chrysalis, and in urban areas, they frequently seek out the eaves of homes for the pupation location. The adults are relatively long lived as butterflies go, and adults that emerge in the summer sometimes go dormant during the hot and dry summer months, a process known as estivation. Because the adults are able to go into a dormant phase during both hot and cold weather, they increase their life expectancies, making them among the longest-lived of butterflies. Be sure to keep an eye out for Mourning Cloaks on warm winter days at a time when other butterflies are noticeably absent.



PHOTO BY DANIEL MARLOS

Mount Washington Homeowners Alliance Membership Application

- ⇒ Single: \$15
- ⇒ Family / Couple: \$25
- ⇒ Sponsor: \$35
- ⇒ Senior: \$10 (each)
- ⇒ Benefactor: \$100

Name(s) _____

Address _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

I am ⇒ OWNER ⇒ RENTER ⇒ RENEWING MEMBER ⇒ NEW MEMBER

Yes, I'm interested in advertising my business or service in the MWAH Newsletter.

Memberships are valid for one calendar year, beginning in January. Member voting privileges are restricted to homeowners. Please make check payable to the Mount Washington Homeowners Alliance. Mail application with check to MWAH, P. O. Box 65855, LOS ANGELES, CA 90065

The Mount Washington Butterfly Garden: A Progress Report

by Julian P. Donahue

Armed with a generous grant from the erstwhile Los Angeles Chapter of the North American Butterfly Association (NABA), the MWAHA Beautification Committee is making rapid progress towards creating a butterfly garden in Elyria Canyon Park.

While the butterflies in much of North America are now in hibernation mode, butterflies can be seen flitting about Mt. Washington on any warm sunny day, winter or summer--and the first week of January has been undeniably warm! Yesterday, in my own yard, I saw no fewer than four kinds of butterflies: three native species (a Mourning Cloak, a Monarch, and several Cloudless Sulphurs laying eggs on my Flowery Senna); plus some Cabbage Butterflies, a European species that has invaded North America. On top of that I discovered at least a dozen fat Monarch caterpillars busily devouring the leaves of my Blood Flower, a colorful ornamental milkweed native to tropical America.

Although some butterflies are on the wing in the winter, they are most abundant during the long sunny days of summer. And now, during our rainy winter season, is the time to put seeds and plants in the ground to provide food for future generations of butterflies in the coming year.

While most of the plants in my own personal butterfly garden are "exotic" (non-native) species known to be good butterfly plants, the selection of plants for the Elyria Butterfly Garden is constrained by the desire to plant and encourage only native plants while discouraging and eliminating alien and weedy species, even though some of those might be used by butterflies.

A well-balanced butterfly garden consists of plants in two main categories: foodplants for the caterpillars and nectar sources for the adult butterflies; some plants, like California Buckwheat and milkweeds, are dual-purpose and provide nourishment for both caterpillars



MONARCH LARVAE
PHOTO BY JULIAN DONAHUE

and adults.

Our selection of plants for Elyria Canyon is, of course, based on the kinds of butterflies that are known to occur on Mt. Washington--it would be fruitless to propagate plants for butterflies that don't occur here. Bear in mind that not only are butterflies excellent botanists [see Alliance Times 6(6): 8-9, Nov. 2006], but their caterpillars usually only feed on only one kind of plant or closely-related plants; the larvae of Cabbage Butterflies, for example, only feed on



BACCHARIS SALICIFOLIA; MULE-FAT
© 2008 KEIR MORSE



LUPINUS LONGIFOLIUS;
LONGLEAF BUSH LUPINE
© 2005 BRENT MILLER



ASCLEPIAS ERIOCARPA; INDIAN
MILKWEED
© 2011 ROBERT A. HAMILTON

ENCELIA CALIFORNICA; BUSH
SUNFLOWER
© 2005 RICHARD ZMASEK



plants in the mustard family, which includes cabbage.

The larval hostplants we have selected, and the target species that feed on them, are: Deerweed (Funereal Skipper, possibly some species of Blues), Stinging and Western Stinging Nettles (Red Admiral), Arroyo and Longleaf Bush Lupines (Painted Lady and potentially some Blues), Hollyleaf Cherry (Pale Swallowtail), Western Sycamore (Western Tiger Swallowtail), Coast Live Oak (California Sister, hairstreaks), and Pacific Willow (Mourning Cloak, Western Tiger Swallowtail).

The native plants chosen as nectar sources are Mule Fat, Coast Bush Sunflower, and Western Verbena.

Plants that serve as both larval foodplants **and** adult nectar sources are: Indian and Narrow-leafed Milkweeds, California and Long-stemmed Buckwheats, and Cudweed.

Home gardeners hoping to attract more butterflies can choose plants from those listed above, but they are not constrained by the “no exotic species” rule that prevails in Elyria Canyon Park. Personal



BLOOD FLOWER (*ASCLEPIAS CURASSAVICA*)
PHOTO BY JULIAN DONAHUE

experience is best: if a certain plant attracts butterflies in your yard, then more of it will most likely attract even more butterflies. But don't forget that butterflies come from caterpillars, and they have to have food too!

The four top butterfly plants in my own

yard? Blood Flower (*Asclepias curassavica*), a beautiful red-flowered milkweed favored by caterpillars of the Monarch butterfly; Flowery Senna (*Senna didymobotrya*), a sprawling shrub native to East Africa, with candles of bright yellow flowers throughout most of the year that match the color of the Cloudless Sulphur butterflies that lay eggs on it; *Lantana montevidensis* (= *Lantana sellowiana*), a ground cover with rosy lilac flowers that are butterfly magnets. Other species of lantana, especially *L. camara*, are good nectar sources, but can be coarse and unruly--avoid the yellow and white-flowered varieties and hybrids--while pretty to look at, they don't attract butterflies; and Cape Plumbago (*Plumbago capensis*), covered with adults and caterpillars of the Marine Blue butterfly most of the year, but this sprawling blue-flowered shrub



FLOWERY SENNA (*SENNA DIDYMOBOTRYA*)
PHOTO BY JULIAN DONAHUE

can become very large and invasive and I've had to kill it back--but worth considering for large bare patches where you want to establish some permanent green and blue.

101 MPH Winds continued from front page

I was amazed at the downed fences, walls and trees and the amounts of debris littering the streets and yards everywhere I looked.

Since Thursday is a very long workday and there was power in Hollywood, I didn't realize until my return at 11 PM to the GoldLine station near the Southwest Museum that the streetlights were out. I had a sinking feeling driving up the darkened hill that I might arrive home to aquaria full of cold, dead fish. The first thing I did in the dark was light the gas stove with a match and heat up some of the aquarium water to bring the temperature back to an acceptable range, a task I performed several times over the 36 hours I was without electricity, and thankfully, all of my fish survived. Power was eventually restored at about 7 PM on Friday evening, and though 36 hours seems like a long time without power, I learned that others in Mt. Washington were without power for nearly 52 hours, though that pales to the five and six days experienced by some residents in Altadena and surrounding areas.

Several weeks after the record winds, I am still picking up roof shingles and tiny branches that are littering my yard. Other than some minor damage to the tin roof of the front porch, I was relatively unscathed, but this was a good lesson in the need for disaster preparedness and keeping flashlights, water and other necessities handy should there be any interruption in public services

A COMMON DECEMBER SIGHT ON
MOUNT WASHINGTON
PHOTO BY LOUIS MRAZ



Kingbird Conundrum

or Why It's a Mistake to go Walking without Binoculars

by Julian P. Donahue

The two birds flew back and forth between the trees and utility wires, backlit in the bright sun. We listened in vain for any telltale vocalizations. One of us thought that the outer tail feathers were white, while the other thought that the tip of the tail was white. We knew that they were some kind of kingbird, but which one? There were two serious possibilities. Fall migration was still going on, so they could have been Western Kingbirds on their way south (only a very rare few remain for the winter). Or they could have been Cassin's Kingbirds, which usually spend the winter closer to the coast.

On October 12 last year Kathy and I took advantage of our glorious fall weather to walk to Kite Hill, the exposed ridge at the east end of West Avenue 37 with a marvelous panoramic view from Griffith Park and the Taylor Yards all the way around past downtown Los Angeles to the San Gabriel Mountains. Common Ravens and Red-tailed Hawks were soaring and playing in the thermals, where crowds of people used to gather to fly kites and model airplanes. Those fun days are now gone. Kite Hill became a nocturnal gathering place for drinking and partying, disturbing the neighbors and leaving behind mounds of unsightly trash for residents to clean up. The neighbors retaliated against the inconsiderate visitors by having the street through Kite Hill posted as a no stopping zone.

Kite Hill has produced some bird surprises in the past, most notably a small flock of Western Meadowlarks--a first record for Mt. Washington and notable enough to be published in the "Birds of the Season" column of Los Angeles Audubon's *Western Tanager*. So we were considerably excited when we spotted the kingbirds--either one would be a new bird to the "official" list of Mt. Washington birds that I maintain. We had made the mistake of going on this walk without our binoculars, so



WESTERN KINGBIRD, COURTESY
[HTTP://BOEHMAEH.BLOGSPOT.COM](http://BOEHMAEH.BLOGSPOT.COM)

we had to rely on our unaided eyes to try and figure out which kingbird we were looking at. They were perching on wires, a favorite behavior for Western Kingbirds, but Cassin's Kingbirds can also do that. Considering the date, it could have been either species. They were silent, which is unfortunate: each species has a distinctive call, and we would have been able to identify them from call alone. And I have already mentioned our differing opinions about the tail pattern.

We hurriedly walked home, where I gathered up my spotting 'scope, binoculars, field guide, and "ears" (a device that lowers the frequency of high-pitched sounds to my hearing level) and drove back to Kite Hill. The birds had vanished. I was 95% sure that they had been Western Kingbirds, but that's not good enough to make it onto the Mt. Washington bird list. The birds would have to remain a mystery, to be added to our list of birds when we have a definitive view. It's easy to observe and enjoy birds, but knowing exactly what you're looking at is often a difficult challenge; sometimes an unidentified bird remains just that, a UFO.

Footnote: five days later Kathy excit-

edly called me from the Smart and Final parking lot in Highland Park, saying that if I wanted to see a couple of kingbirds I'd better hustle on down. And hustle I did, with optical equipment in tow. One of the birds hung around long enough to give us a chance to study it at length: we heard the bird call once and flash his white outer tail feathers once. Western Kingbird! Was this the same pair of birds we'd seen on Kite Hill? No way to know.

Postscript: On December 30, Jeff Chapman reported seeing a Cassin's Kingbird at the Audubon Center in Debs Park, just across the Arroyo Seco from Mt. Washington. So keep your eyes peeled--this would be a new record for Mt. Washington.

Audubon Center at Debs Park Saturday Calendar

Family Nature Walk

Sat, February 4, Sat, March 3, 10am – 11am Come on an exploration hike in beautiful Debs Park! English and Spanish speakers welcome.

Women's Fitness Hike/Caminata de Salud Para Mujeres

Saturday, 9:00 am, Jan 21, 2012 Ladies: Get movin' with Maria from Azteca Training Center. She will lead a moderate hike. Bring water, wear work-out/hiking shoes. Free child care for ages 4 and up will be provided.

Old Time String Band Jam Session

Sat, January 28, February 25, 1pm – 4pm Listen and dance to local area musicians strum Southern Appalachian style fiddle and banjo tunes. Bring your own instrument to join in on the fun!

Solar System Hands-on Training Maintenance & Design

Sat, February 18, 9am – 3pm Class price: \$20.00 Please bring sack lunch to eat at site. Call Wade Webb for more information at 888 786 9322 or email wadesolarwebb@aol.com www.solarwebb.com

Audubon Center at Debs Park 4700 North Griffin Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90031 (323) 221-2255

MOUNT WASHINGTON HOMEOWNERS ALLIANCE
Draft MINUTES of the GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
NOVEMBER 14, 2011, CARLIN G. SMITH RECREATION CENTER

President Stan Sosa called the meeting to order at 7:05PM.

The MINUTES of the September 12th General Membership meeting were unanimously approved as reported in the November issue of the newsletter.

The TREASURER reported the current checkbook balance as \$3,485.07.

The SLATE of CANDIDATES for Officer and Director positions for the 2012 Board as proposed by the Nominating Committee and as published in the November newsletter was presented to the membership. President Sosa opened the floor for any additional nominations. As there were no nominations from the floor, the slate of candidates was approved by acclamation. Ruth Mehringer read the list of candidates and asked those in attendance to stand for acknowledgement.

The “NOB HILL HAUS”: Frank Pasker of the husband and wife architect and design team of Pasker and Leipert gave a slide presentation and expansive explanation of their Mt. Washington home. The couple has been recognized by the City for “outstanding creativity in sustainable design”. The house is accredited by Build it Green, a California nonprofit that seeks to drive government policy and stimulate consumer interest in green housing. The house was open to the public in April as part of an L. A. area Green Home Tour and was the subject of a feature article in the L. A. Times in June.

Mr. Pasker’s basic minimalist design philosophy is augmented by conserving two scarce resources: power and water. Reduction of power usage is accomplished by reducing heat gain and generating power on site. High density insulation, light colors, high performance glazing, recycled glass, five inch thick walls, roof overhangs, a “rainscreen façade”, ceiling fans and cross ventilation all contribute to a natural cooling system. Power is generated on site by solar roof panels and a solar water heater. Water usage is reduced through a sophisticated gray water system that distributes waste water through gravity based underground perforated pipes from the laundry, bathroom tub, shower and sinks. Outdoor water needs are further supplemented by a 1,500 gallon underground cistern that stores rainwater funneled from the roof. The house has one of the highest water savings scores in California and is Green Point rated. Landscape is fruit trees and succulents only, no grass.

Aaron Thomas, urban forest manager for North East Trees, followed with a water conservation presentation focused on RAIN GARDENS and STORMWATER MANAGEMENT. Mr. Thomas cited a program sponsored by the LADWP that works to integrate the planning of drinking water, storm water runoff and waste water reuse in the face of population increase that will affect future water supplies. He defined a watershed as an area of land where all the water that is under it or drains off of it goes to a common place. Ways to protect and preserve the L. A. basin watershed are redirection of both runoff and sources of contamination, installation of rain gardens using native and drought tolerant plants, reduction of irrigation and collection of rainwater into rain barrels or cisterns. He provided handouts supplied by North East Trees.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS: Between the two presentations Kai Newkirk, Field Rep for Councilmember Huizar, presented a City of Los Angeles certificate of congratulation and appreciation to the MSHA on the tenth anniversary of its founding.

Clare spoke of the black walnut replenishment program and brought young plants for members to take home. She will email “how to care for” instructions. Daniel gave an update on the success of the Tree of Heaven eradication program in Elyria Canyon Park.

The meeting was topped off with pumpkin/caramel cupcakes and apple cake with cream cheese baked by Susanne Brody. Adjournment was at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Ruth Mehringer, Secretary

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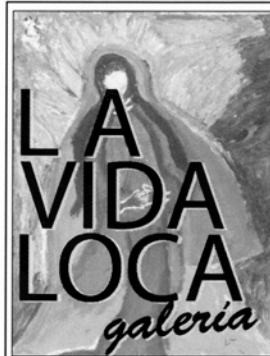
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