# HOLLYWOOD WIEGHTS WITH

**VOLUME V** ISSUE NO. 4

December 1986

## DOWN TO THE WIRE AT HUGHES MARKET; WE GET A LANDMARK CONTRACT PLUS A PROTECTIVE CITY ORDINANCE.

After a series of emergency meetings culminating in a final deadline session that began at 8 A.M. and ended near midnight, negotiators from the Hollywood Heights and Whitley Heights Civic Associations achieved a landmark contract with the developer at 1900 North Highland (the former Hughes Market.)

The contract, also signed by Outpost Estates, was hammered out by three lawyers: Larry Wolfe, representing Hollywood Heights; Karen Newman, representing Whitley, and John F. Soukup, representing Maurice Refoua, owner and developer of the property.

Working with them were President Elliot Johnson of HHA, President Robert Higgins of Whitley, Bonnie Wolfe, Grayce Baldwin and Theo Wilson of HHA, and Judie de Turenne, of Whitley.

Last minute technical and legal problems, which jeopardized what we had envisioned for the former Hughes corner, necessitated the emergency meetings, one of which was attended by Gilda Haas from Councilman Mike Woo's office, who gave us valuable advice. The Councilman also was of great help to the associations.

The negotiations lasted until the night before the project was to be voted on by the City Council, and it was a weary--but satisfied--group that the next morning was able to go before the Council (the contract signed) and give 100% support to Mr. Refoua. The project then received the Council's unanimous approval.

Besides getting a contract which we belive is inprecedented between neighborhood associations and a developer, we also have been given protection by the city in a new ordinance which guarantees what we want at the property.

The city, in other words, can enforce many of the provisions which we obtained in the private contract signed by the associations and Mr. Refoua.

What we accomplished was to ensure that a full service market will occupy 55% of the develop-

ment's square footage (this in both our contract and in the city ordinance), that only certain types of shops occupy the other five stores, with others expressly banned (also in both the contract and the ordinance), that no more than six stores *including* the market be built at the site (again, this is in both the contract and the ordinance.)

Equally important are these provisions in our contract:

- \* We have the right "to review and approve the architectural design of the property prior to the issuance of building permits";
- \* We have "final approval over the choice of operator for the full service market" for 10 years, and "over the choice of the operator of any cafe" for 5 years:
- \* We must receive from the owner the identies of proposed tenants of the other stores "so that the associations may comment" and advise on them.
- \* Any dispute "shall be submitted to binding arbitration by the American Arbitration Assn.";
- \* Parking must be provided at a minimum ratio of 2.888 spaces per 1000 square feet;
- \* If the full service market does not have an on-site butcher, then one of the 5 other stores must be a meat or meat/fish market.

--- By Theo Wilson

# THE CELEBRITY SCENE IN THE HEIGHTS

In past issues of the 'VIEW', we have covered the careers of Hollywood Heights residents who are celebrities. These include: actors Morgan Woodward & Robert Axelrod; entertainer Joyce Bramberg; and magician David Copperfield.

This issue features Spero Pastos, Michael Feinstein. & Tim Street-Porter.

(continued on page 8, column 1)

# HOLLYWOOD HEIGHTS HOLIDAY PARTY

The second annual Hollywood Heights Holiday-Christmas party will be held at the Yamashiro Restaurant, Sunday, Dec. 14 at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$10. The price of admission includes entertainment and light refreshments. No host bar.

Those who attended the party last year consider it one of our best social activities. What could be more plesant than spending a Sunday afternoon with your neighbors at one of Los Angeles' most beautiful restaurants? This year the committee has decided to keep the ticket price at a uniform \$10, so you can invite your friends from outside Hollywood to come as well.

For tickets, send a check to Ed Andrzejczyk, 1936 Hillcrest Road, L.A. Ca. 90068 or call him at 874-2606. Bring your friends, invite your neighbors, take a break from the holiday rush, and get ready to have a swinging good time, Hollywood Style.

# JOYOUS HOLIDAYS AND HAPPINESS IN THE NEW YEAR FROM THE BOARD OF THE HHA

We have survived a year of crises in 1986, and hope that by working together we can be equally successful in 1987, when even greater challenges face all of us.

By great effort and with the help of many, we proved "you can fight City Hall" by saving the Highland-Camrose bungalows and preventing construction there of an apartment building that would have contributed only congestion and traffic problems to our neighborhood.

Again, through hard work and with the help of many, we have won a landmark agreement for a market project to replace the old Hughes market. (See story in this issue.)

Elliot Johson, as president, has devoted seven days a week, every week, to the HHA and its problems. He was always on call, night or day, and spent hundreds of hours on the telephone, in meetings, at City Hall, at conferences and in sessions with other association leaders, like Bob Higgins of Whitley Heights, to resolve this area's many crises.

Those of us who worked with him are grateful for his unstinting efforts and his dedication to the HHA.

His leadership, along with the hard work of the many who joined the fight for a decent neighborhood, contributed to this highly unusual and successful year in the short life of the HHA.

# IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR WHEN...

... Christmas letters start arriving, telling you more than you want to know about the people who send them. VANCE COLVIG, our witty Whitley Heights neighbor, has composed a Christmas letter to end all such missives, and following are excerpts:

## By Vance Colvig

"Happy Holidays! Well, we know you're dying to hear what the Colvigs have been up to in 1986! Through we're getting real old and sick and fight a lot, we keep on plodding along somehow. Life seems pretty dull--until we stop and think of all the friends we have. We don't like most of them. And that perks us up a bit.

"The Social Scene in Hollywood has been just frantic this year! We've attended several Grand Closings of Adult Book Stores (illiteracy in this town is unbelievable).....

"Gini's been taking ballet and working out and is slimmer than ever. If it weren't for her knee-caps she wouldn't have any figure at all. And she's become quite a noted sculptress. Last fall she fashioned a beautiful Nativity scene out of half-chewed Walnettos. It certainly would have won 1st Prize at the Pomona Fair if the ants hadn't gotten to it before the judges did.

"And you'd never recognize our little dog, 'Freebie'! Gini has been going to electrolosis school--and finals were last week.

"Trace (Vance III) is now 37! Oh, they grow up so fast! Already he can wave 'bye bye' and every day he calls 'Gam-ma on the ting-a-ling' (and also a bunch of broads we can't stand.)....But he's still very shy. When company comes a-calling he runs out of the parlor and only occasionally pokes his head in the door. On the end of a stick.

"Breadwinner Vance has been combining his real estate career with being a part-time maitre-de at chili cook-offs.....And Vance has been very busy in Films and TV! Probably because he's the only actor in town who'll still do open-mouth kissing.....

"Hark! Is that the sound of Sleigh Bells we hear? Yes! It's time to gather the family around the hearth and light the pipe bomb! May Santa (rocket) toward your house with a big bag of Happiness and Cheer for the Holidays!..Love from The Colvig Family."

# "FREESTYLE": THE BRIGHT LIVELY HOUSES OF LOS ANGELES

"Photographer/writer Tim Street-Porter has been influential in bringing the work of Los Angeles architects to the attention of the world. He regularly covers new architecture and interiors for the New York Times, House & Garden, Newsweek, the London Sunday Times, and other periodicals in Europe and Japan. He provided the photography for several books--including Frank Gehry and Mid-Century Modern--and is a recipient of the Art Directors of America Award for Architectural Photography."

So reads the biographical note on the cover of a magnificent book, "Freestyle", by Tim Street-Porter, subtitled, "The New Architecture and Interior Design from Los Angeles".

The book is lavishly illustrated in color with more than 240 of Street-Porter's remarkable photographs of Los Angeles homes, including the one which the author/photographer shares with artist Annie Kelly in Hollywood Heights. (They are HHA members.)

"Freestyle" has been described as "a stunning introduction" to the West Coast architects and designers whose work "has redefined the look of contemporary American design", and who are making Los Angeles "America's laboratory for radical design."

Pilar Viladas, of Progressive Architecture magazine, and Paul Goldberger, New York Times architecture critic, wrote the introduction and afterword, respectively, for the book.

Many areas familiar to HHA members have been captured by Street-Porter, including the Hightower and other Hollywood landmarks. The art work of Annie Kelly also can be seen in the interiors of some of the intriguing houses photographed by Street-Porter.

(The HHA "View" has been embellished with Annie Kelly's artwork since its earliest days and we are always grateful.)

---By Theo Wilson

## THE FEDERATION

The Hollywood Heights Association has been a member of the Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations since 1983. The Federation, representing over 200,000 residents, is made up of 50 neighborhood groups like ours, ranging geographically from Mount Washington to Bell Air and in the Valley to Woodland Hills.

The Federation was founded in 1952 by ten neighborhood groups for the purpose of preserv-

ing the unique quality of life we hillside and canyon dwellers cherish.

Proposition U, the slow-growth, lower density proposal that passed overwhwlmingly last month was sponsored by Irma Dobbyn of the Federation.

The Federation works consistently to reduce density in the Hill areas. The Fabian Tract, for example, originally scheduled construction of 67 homes. Through long range work by members of the group this number has been reduced to 26 units. And half the original area, or 32 acres, will become part of the Santa Monica Mountain Conservancy.

The Federation watches over such diverse problems as the Los Angeles Pipeline; toxic waste disposal; the Clean Water Act; the growing concern over the size of the Hollywood Center Project, which will bring over 28,000 new car trips per day into the Franklin-Highland area.

---By Herb Berlin. (Berlin is Hollywood Heights' Representative to the Federation)

# On Camrose Drive By ANNIE KELLY



# THE MAGIC OF MICHAEL FEINSTEIN RETURNS TO HOLLYWOOD



MICHAEL FEINSTEIN: Homecoming for singer-pianist

For those of us who were his friends and neighbors when he lived here on Los Altos Place from 1979 to 1984, Michael Feinstein's rise to stardom is no surprise. However, Michael has now taken the rest of the world by storm. At 29, Michael has both dined and performed at the WHITE HOUSE for the first families of the U.S. & Monaco.

November 11-29th, Michael enchanted SRO audiences at the gloriously refurbished CINEGRILL at the HOLLYWOOD ROOSEVELT HOTEL. Listen to what has been said by leading critics throughout the country:

"The opportunity to see a brilliant new talent the moment it explodes into public consciousness is not an everyday event..." L.A. TIMES

"In his impressive opening night performance (at the Oak Room of the Algonquin hotel in New York) Mr. Feinstein revived a saloon-style piano-man tradition that, in spite of the best efforts of Bobby Short and Steve Ross, has languished in recent years, encrusted with out-moded society airs." NEW YORK TIMES

"Feinstein, who spent six years with Ira Gershwin cataloging his music, seems to know every other songwriter with equal familiarity, and his repertoire is sure to unearth arcane gems for even the most dedicated showtune buffs." WOMEN'S WEAR DAILY

"...Cabaret's Bright Young Star..."
NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE

And these are words from Michael that reveal so much of his soul:

"Music affects people more than they realize. I always perform with the intention of reaching the hearts of people, of creating some sort of harmony in their lives."

If you missed Michael at the Cinegrill and you're not planning to be at the Algonquin in New York or the Ritz-Carlton in Washington where he is making return engagements, then stay tuned to the tube where Michael will make a cameo appearance in the N.B.C./T.V. movie, *The Two Mrs. Grenvilles* during the February sweeps. OR be at THE HOLLYWOOD BOWL JULY 17 & 18 when Michael guests with the Los Angeles Philharmonic to observe the 50th anniversary of the death of George Gershwin. Michael's performance debut of the RHAPSODY IN BLUE will occur at that time.

--- by Grayce Baldwin

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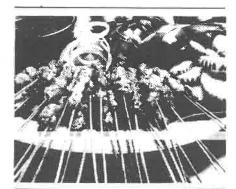
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# INTERVIEW WITH SPERO PASTOS AUTHOR OF LATEST HOLLYWOOD HIT BIO

#### "PIN-UP: THE TRAGEDY OF BETTY GRABLE"

This project was begun in 1981 after Spero Pastos realized that nothing had been written about the idol of millions of men during World War II. Since Harry James wouldn't cooperate, it was necessary to shelve the project until his death in 1984 whereupon Spero received assistance of a daughter, Jessica James and sister, Marjorie Arnold. Further research at the archives of the Motion Picture Academy and the Lincoln Center Library of Theater Arts, personal interviews with friends and associates, and photo hunts through the Beckmen Museum and Associated Press files produced a book that was published by G.P. Putnam's Sons in 1986.

Colorful accounts of the actress' life from friends Carol Burnett, Jerry Herman, Robert Wagner, Anne Baxter, Alice Faye, and designers Travilla, Charles LeMaire and the skill of the author piqued the interests of producers Howard Koch and Marvin Davis. Film rights have been purchased by Koch and Davis' indie production arm, Aries Prod. with distribution by Paramount Pictures. At present negotiations are underway with Fay Kanin to write the screenplay.

Spero was born and raised in Chicago and attended Northwestern U., U.S.C. and A.F.I. A former actor and singer, he performed with the famed SECOND CITY in Chicago and then moved on to New York, appearing both on & off Broadway. A road company of "OH DAD POOR DAD" brought Spero to Southern California in 1970. This was the fulfilment of a childhood fantasy. . . to live amongst the collective genius of the West Coast film colony.

Spero Pastos teaches Special Education courses at Manual Arts High School and has owned his home in Hollywood Heights for nine years. His book is available and selling in bookstores across America. BRAVO SPERO!!

--- By Grayce Baldwin

#### DOGS POISONED

The VIEW was notified on December 1 that two dogs on lower Sycamore have been poisoned. The poison was inserted in miniature pecan pies, of the type sold in convenience stores, and left in areas the dogs were known to travel. Both were quiet animals, beloved by their owners. Keep an eye on your dogs and cats. And if you see any one suspicious in your area notify the Hollywood Police Department immediately.



SPERO PASTOS: Author of Betty Grable bio.

## **BIG BASH ON GLENCOE**

The Glencoe Way annual costume block party was more fun than ever this year, and was written up in the Los Angeles Times by columnist Marylouise Oates (On The Circuit).

Sixty years of Hollywood film-making was the theme, and the street was decorated with stars, lights, old movie posters and streamers, and there was music for dancing.

Hundreds of guests appeared in costumes representing every era from the 20s to the 80s, and dined on a wide range of foods from California rolls to chicken a la Goldpenny.

Among those who attended were actress Estelle Getty (of Golden Girls and Torch Song Trilogy), Councilman Mike Woo and his then fiancee (they have since married), Hollywood Police Capt. Robert Taylor and his wife, Det. Don Tabak of the Hollywood Division, and friends from Outpost Estates and Whitley Civic Association.

# FILMING IN THE HOLLYWOOD HEIGHTS

In the past several years the Hollywood filmmaking industry has been moving further and further from home. Production companies have found it less costly to film in locations outside of California and it appeared that Hollywood would no longer be the film capital of the world. However, a movie was made recently, right in our own back yards.

Cannon Productions used a home on Pinehurst for a new comedy staring Michael Caine, Sally Field and Steve Guttenberg. The film, "Surrender", a light-hearted story of a man (Caine) who has been "stung" in community property settlements more than once and now tells the ladies he dates that he is poor, also stars Peter Boyle and Louise Lasser.

When I asked Christy Frankenheimer, the location manager, why this house was chosen, she said that Sally Field, who is playing an artist, would live in this kind of house. It is up 64 steps, has an open area inside and a spectatular view. The 64 steps were used as a running gag in the film, with visitors panting when they finally reach the top. The steps also caused some difficulty for the crew in getting equipment up to the location.

The residents of the house being used for filming, and the house next door which is used for dressing rooms, had to leave during production.

Some Hollywood Heights residents were used as extras in the film, including a dog and its owner who happened to be watching the filming when the director needed a dog. When I spoke to Miss Frankenheimer she told me they would be filming a scene that evening involving a party and that if the neighbors came to complain about the noise they would just put them in the scene.

Although it can cause traffic and noise problems when a film crew is in our area, we must admit it's a little bit exciting when we see the Hollywood Heights on screen. And with so many HHA residents involved in the entertainment industry it's good to know there is filming being done in the Hollywood community.

--- By Alice Kawan

### **CELEBRITY SCENE**

(continued from page 1)

In the future, look for news on the careers of more celebrity residents: actor/director Bill Duke; actresses Lauren Hutton and Michele Marsh; comediennes Edie McClurg and Cathy Cahn; editors Suzanne Petit and Richard Lightstone; choreographers Jackie and Bill Landrum; Art Director Cate Bangs; and costumer Ann Windsor.

--- by Grayce Baldwin

## **ANIMAL LOVERS?**

At present our household is without a pet. Since the demise of Gatsby, our parakeet, we've had no animal to lavish our attention on. But we've gotten to know the neighbors' pets on a first name basis. We can play with them, pet them, watch them romp in the street and never have to feed, deflea, bathe or board them.

There's Dandy the shy cat who won't come too near unless my daughter is feeding her while her masters are away. Fuzzy, a 17 year old Calico cat thinks she belongs to us, as well as everyone else on the street. She likes to lie on her back and have her stomach rubbed and she tries to purr and meow, although with advancing years she sounds more like Linda Blair in The Exorcist. Maggie, the black mutt, is friendliest of all. She loves to visit, never barks, and seems to always have a smile on her face. She often meets Emma, a pedigreed pooch on the street and runs circles around her while Emma, with a bit of an aristocrartic air, abides this intrusion with a ho-hum.

Then there are the dogs we haven't gotten to know because they're the watch dogs who bark when someone comes near their property. We respect this and even appreciate that they may scare off any would-be burglars.

One recent night however, we were awakened by two dogs barking continually for 15 or 20 minutes. I looked at the clock. It was 4 a.m. My husband and I got up and looked outside to see what was going on but could see no burglar, no fire, nothing to elicit the on-going disturbance. The barking finally stopped but I was awake for the duration.

While we appreciate the necessity of watch dogs or barking dogs, we only ask that after a few barks it's appropriate for their masters to quiet them or allow them into their homes so we neighbors can go back to sleep. I won't name names but some of us really need our beauty sleep.

So yes, we're animal lovers. But we're also peace and quiet lovers. We hope this hint will be taken with the good will we intended.

Maybe later I'll write on the subject of DOWPS (Dog Owners Without Pooper-Scoopers.)

---By Alice Kawan

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## AN APPRECIATION

LINDA WRIGHT, who spent hundreds of hours processing the copy for our recent issues of VIEW, has moved away from our neighborhood---and we wish her joy and good luck in her new home. But oh, how we will miss her!

Despite the overwhelming amount of copy she had to process, usually very late at night after putting in a full day at her job and many hours after work at her college courses, Linda never complained, and never refused.

As we all have discovered, it is always the people with the heaviest schedules and the most pressing demands on their time who are the most willing to work in a good cause.

When Linda left, we lost more than a skilfull processor. We lost the ideal good neighbor and HHA member, that rare person who always can be relied on, who gives up precious leisure time to get a job done without kvetching, and does so without seeking praise or recognition.

Linda really made a priceless contribution to all of us when she lived here. She donated her time and her skill to this neighborhood, and she did it cheerfully. We thank her and sure wish we had more like her.

---By Theo Wilson

# JOIN THE HOLLYWOOD HEIGHTS ASSOCIATION!

For \$10 A YEAR (less than 20 cents a week!) you'll be supporting the only association dedicated solely to *your* neighborhood, *your* problems, *your* needs and desires. It is the association that represents you in the fight to keep this neighborhood clean, beautiful and a delightful place to live.

As an HHA member you'll receive;

The HHA newsletter, VIEW, delivered to your door, bringing you up to date on all things important to this neighborhood and giving you a voice in neighborhood affairs....

The HHA auto sticker that assures you access through traffic during the Bowl Season....

The satisfaction of knowing that for only pennies a week you are supporting an organization of volunteers who donate their time and their skills to protect, to preserve and to embellish the place where you live.

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTED**

These are the board members elected by paidup HHA members at a general meeting conducted Nov. 11, 1986 at Yamashiro's Skylight Room:

Tom Glover Edward J. Andrzejczyk Ron Gunderson Robert Axelrod Mark Hoffman Cate Bands Steve Bangs Elliot Johnson Larry Becker Frances Offenhauser Trudy Oppitz Herbert Berlin Elisabeth Plumb Barbara Betlem Don Wakefield Irv Bramberg Fredrica Cooper Theo Wilson Bonnie Wolfe Linda Deutsch

The new board will meet on Tuesday, December 9, to elect officers: president, vice president, treasurer, recording secretary, corresponding secretary.

### **HHA HONORED**

An unexpected highlight of our general meeting last month was the presentation of a plaque from our Councilman, Mike Woo, honoring the Hollywood Heights Association.

It was brought by Woo's chief deputy, Larry Kaplan. (Our councilman was out of the city on his honeymoon.)

The large handsome wooden plaque, bearing the seal of the City of Los Angeles, carries this inscription in brass:

"Hollywood Heights Association

"In recognition of your outstanding contributions to the Hollywood Heights Community.

"November 11, 1986 Michael K. Woo Councilman 15th District"

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