

HOLLYWOOD HEIGHTS VIEW

Vol. IV Issue No. 4

October 1985

ELECTIONS SET FOR NOVEMBER 5!!

Hear ye! Elections for the Hollywood Heights Association Board of Directors will be held November 5 at 8pm at Yamashiro. All paid up members for the '85-'86 season will be eligible to vote. Dues will be accepted at the door, both new memberships and renewals alike. Renewal notices have been sent to all current members. It is preferred that you renew by mail rather than wait until the evening of the meeting. This will speed things along.

Candidates for the 20 seats on the Board are, alphabetically:

Charlotte Abaer*
Robert Axelrod*
Kate Banks
Herb Berlin*
Barbara Betlem*
Irv Bramberg*
Mike Buscemi
Fredricka Cooper
Juliette Cummins*
Sperry Dauterman
Linda Deutsch*
Tom Glover*
Melinda Henderson*
Elliot Johnson*
Ron Max*
Fran Offenhauser
Elisabeth Plumb*
Jamia Riehl
Bob Shafer*
Don Wakefield*
Theo Wilson*
Bonnie Wolfe*
Morgan Woodward*

* Present board member.

On the night of the elections, as per our bylaws, further nominations will be taken from the floor. Qualifications for Board candidacy are: Paid up

membership, an enthusiastic willingness to attend monthly Board meetings and chair or co-chair a committee and/or major HHA project.

Let's see a big turnout on November 5. Everyone! The Hollywood Heights area is truly being listened to at City Hall, in the Mayor's Office and on the Council floor. The coming year will bring major decisions involving you, your property, your safety, your ability to park during Bowl season ... the list goes on.

At the forefront of a strong Association is a strong Board of Directors. Come out and vote November 5!

---By Robert Axelrod,
Chairman Nominating Committee.
Members Grayce Baldwin, Ron Max,
Jamia Riehl, Spiro Pastos.

IMPORTANT!!! VOTE!!!!
IMPORTANT!!! VOTE!!!!

TO: ALL HHA MEMBERS
WHAT: GENERAL MEETING
WHY: TO VOTE FOR HHA
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
WHEN: 8 PM TUESDAY,
NOV.5, 1985
WHERE: YAMASHIRO,
1999 N. SYCAMORE,
ABOVE THE MAGIC CASTLE

LETTER FROM MAYOR TOM BRADLEY

Sept. 13, 1985
Mr. Elliot Johnson
Hollywood Heights Association

Dear Mr. Johnson,

Like you, I am deeply interested in the future of Hollywood. Obviously, I do not have to tell you about the marvelous attributes, vitality and uniqueness of Hollywood. It is my intention, however, to bring City Government even closer to the people and organizations of the Hollywood area. Thus, I am pleased to inform you that I have assigned Mr. Lloyd W. Raikes to serve as my liaison to the Hollywood community.

As an Area Coordinator, Mr. Raikes' duties include handling constituent complaints and problems, as well as working with the community and civic groups to promote community advancement.

Mr. Raikes plans to contact you soon, but I thought I would take this opportunity to inform you of his availability to assist you and your membership in any way he can. Please feel free to contact Mr. Raikes at (213) 485-5114.

I appreciate your involvement and activism in the community, and I commend you and your membership for your many contributions to the City, as well as to Hollywood.

Sincerely,
(Signed)

Tom Bradley
Mayor



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The accomplishments of the HHA continue. Earlier this year we voiced our opposition to the very high densities of our area. At that time the CRA was recommending 130 units per gross acre.

Councilman Mike Woo convened a meeting with both City Planning and the CRA regarding this issue. Woo mandated that the density be lowered from 130 to 80 units per gross acre.

The Highland-Camrose Village issue continues. With neighborhood support we were able to influence the revocation of the demolition permit by Building and Safety. The issue continues

at The Cultural Affairs Commission which is requested to extend the historical designation of the site for 180 days.

From time to time commendations will be given to HHA neighbors. Ms. Edna Malchi Bezalel is commended on her excellent garden which is located on lower Camrose. This garden is a focal point on Camrose.

Mayor Bradley has informed us that he appointed Mr. Lloyd Raikes as his Area Coordinator of Hollywood. Mr. Raikes' duties include handling constituent complaints as well as working on community issues with us. He can be reached at 485-5114.

--- by Elliot Johnson

OUR HILL LOSES A BELOVED PIONEER

Alma Spendlove Conrady, whose husband built the first houses constructed on Glencoe Way more than 65 years ago, has died at age 90. She was a member of the Hollywood Heights Association since it was formed, and with her daughter and grandson, Evelyn and Dennis Inzalaco, made up the only three generation membership in the HHA.

Until recently Mrs. Conrady was able to attend our neighborhood block parties. She was one of our most beloved residents and was able to recall many events and details of life on our hill over nearly seven decades.

Born in Kansas, Mrs. Conrady came to California in 1911, and three years later, on her 19th birthday, married Henry Conrady, a builder. She became involved in his construction of three buildings on Glencoe Way, including the one at 2064 where she lived with her daughter until her death September 30, and another on Yeager Place.

--By Nita Thomas

THE HHA has lost another good member, Guyla Toth of Broadview Terrace, who died of cancer. Her husband, Alex, in a letter enclosing a check with his dues, wrote, "Guyla attended the meetings for both of us, thus you all knew what a sweet, happy, and wonderful woman she was..."

HOLLYWOOD HEIGHTS AREA
FEATURED IN LA MAGAZINE

Titled "The Urban Soul of Hollywood" and subtitled "...a Walking Tour You Won't Believe", an illustrated 10 page article about the HHA neighborhood was published in the Sept. 1985 issue of Los Angeles Magazine.

Since the article appeared, many groups of tourists have been seen hiking through the area or driving by, following the maps that are part of the feature.

The article, written by Robert Pierson, includes many color photographs by Richard Sullivan and five maps by Earth Surface Graphics.

Architectural writers also have come here as a result of the article, including one from a Norwegian magazine who verified there were errors in some of the descriptions, such as 2039-41 Glencoe Way, which is NOT "a subdued Pueblo revival residence" but an Ibizan (from the island of Ibiza, off Spain) Cubist house. Also, the house at 2051 Glencoe Way is NOT "a mock Italian Renaissance Villa" but a Spanish Mediterranean, in keeping with planning of this area by the architects hired by the developer, H.J. Whitley.

We thank the magazine for this detailed presentation of an area deservedly described as one of the most intriguing and interesting in the entire city.

THAT BLOODY BLINKING LIGHT
AT THE END OF THE
BUREAUCRATIC TUNNEL

Is the traffic light at Camrose and Highland a chronic malfunctioner or is its intermittent blinking (caution for Highland, stop for Camrose) part of some misguided exercise in traffic engineering?

These are the questions still unanswered in the wake of our most recent outbreak of blink-ingitis --on the Bowl finale weekend of September 14.

As a writer/reporter, I figured it would be a snap to get a simple explanation for why this light keeps acting up and why it takes nearly 24 hours, as it did on the 14th, to get it fixed.

In the Naked City, there are no simple answers in traffic control.

Robert Takasaki, the man in charge of this area's Office of Transportation wasn't much on specifics but he has a fine grasp of generalities.

There are over 4,000 traffic signals in Los Angeles, said Takasaki -- we would have guessed 10 times that -- and on any given weekend the department has only a skeleton crew of four to cover the entire 464-square mile city. First priority in repairs goes to signals that are totally out, not blinking. Blinking can be set off automatically if the signal control box monitor (a man with white gloves who lives inside the control box -- only kidding, friends) detects a malfunction, such as green in both directions.

"All machines eventually break down," Takasaki explained, and in L.A. it's possible for upwards of a hundred traffic lights to go out at one time, particularly on rainy days. (The 14th was sunny and clear.)

I conceded the general premise -- that other lights could also be out -- but did Takasaki know if that was the case in this instance? Did Takasaki actually know what was wrong with the Highland/Camrose signal and what took priority on the 14th?

He did not.

For that, I then called the Senior Traffic Maintenance Foreman, Don Benjamin. Benjamin could shed no light on the specifics regarding the 14th either. It would take a month for the time sheet records for that date to get back from the outside microfilm service, he explained.

Benjamin confirmed that malfunctioning could set a light to automatic blinking, but noted it was "more usual" for traffic control officers to do that. "I could question their judgement," he added, referring to any possible signal readjustment on Camrose and Highland.

I then called the Traffic Control Department, Parking Intersection Control and spoke with Charles Deveraux, head of the Traffic Signal Section. Whoever had informed me officers had access to the traffic signal control box was mistaken. They didn't even have keys to them.

And we still don't have a straight answer about our light. But rest assured, neighbors, we're going to get to the blinking bottom of this.

-- Jonathan Miller

IS GIDEON CRAZY?
JOIN THE PROTEST!

At the request of the HHA Board, Herb Berlin sent this letter to the owner of Crazy Gideon's, the eye-sore that has replaced Lee's Drugs at the corner of Hollywood and Highland. All residents are urged to send a similar letter to Mr. Kotzer, with copies to Mr. Bill Welsh of the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce and Councilman Mike Woo.

To: Mr. Gideon Kotzer, 13999 South Western Avenue, Gardena, 90247.

Dear Mr. Kotzer:

At a time when everyone who lives in or near Hollywood is making an effort to upgrade the area, your store has been erected, defeating the purpose of so many people.

I'm writing to you in the hopes that you may decide to do something for the community in which your profits are derived.

What goes on inside the store -- rude salespeople, etc. -- is your concern. But the exterior, the crude colors, the banners, the paraphernalia, in no way reflect what we who live here are trying to portray.

Also, Mr. Kotzer, since you've boarded up the windows on the Highland side of the store, you probably ignore the fact that the sidewalk there is trash-filled at all times. At least when it was Lee Drug, the owners saw to it that their surrounding sidewalk was kept clean.

With the newly-remodeled Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel soon to open a block away, and with a prestigious bank building across the street, it would seem that you would make some effort to assist in the beautification of Hollywood Boulevard.

Our request is that you repaint the outer walls of the store and remove the offensive banners and junk from outside.

We who live nearby are your potential customers, Mr. Kotzer. I say potential because as long as you totally ignore our wishes for a better Hollywood, we will be able to find other places to shop. How about a little cooperation?

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THE HIGHLAND-CAMROSE BUNGALOWS

On September 24, we met the threat to our bungalows' preservation at a Building and Safety Commission Hearing. This hearing was held to determine whether the Jan Development Company could hold onto its demolition permits.

With strong opposition voiced by Elliot Johnson, HHA President; Brian Moore, President of the Federation of Hillside and Canyon Homeowners Association; Ron Max, Theo Wilson, both boardmembers of the HHA; and lawyer Mark Brown, representing the City Attorney, the appeal was denied.

What this means is that even if all obstacles to the demolition of the village are removed, the developer still cannot proceed with demolition until a lengthy Environmental Impact Report is completed by the developer.

On October 2, we went before the Cultural Heritage Commission for what we thought only was to show the progress we had made towards the purchase of the village from the developer. Real estate deals take time, but we had made great gains in that direction. Even though we are still protected by the city's preservation laws, the commission indicated it would not continue opposition to the developer's plans if we were to show up at the October 16 meeting without a definite offer to buy the property. Until now, the Commission had opposed the destruction of the Village for any reason. So once again, the integrity of our neighborhood is threatened.

I wish to take this opportunity to ask you all to write strong letters of support for the preservation of the Village to the Cultural Heritage Commission, Room #1500, City Hall, LA, 90012.

We are in a "now or never", "live or die" situation. The only way our neighborhood and our peaceful way of life, free of ugly developments, unrestricted impacting traffic, etc. (not to forget about the preservation of an important historical landmark) can survive is with total community support. Please act now before it is too late!

--By Ron Max

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RECOMMENDED BY IRV BRANBERG

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Jamia Riehl, coordinator of block captains, is setting up a "telephone tree" to streamline communications with the HHA membership. Each volunteer will be given a small list of residents to telephone when it is necessary to get a message out to the community. Please call 874-8727 to volunteer.

Also, the VIEW staff is in need of help with the typing and layout of this newsletter. If you can do word processing or layouts, please call Theo Wilson at 874-2934.

PLANT ON PREMISES

ALTERATIONS
MEN & WOMEN

CLEANER'S LAND

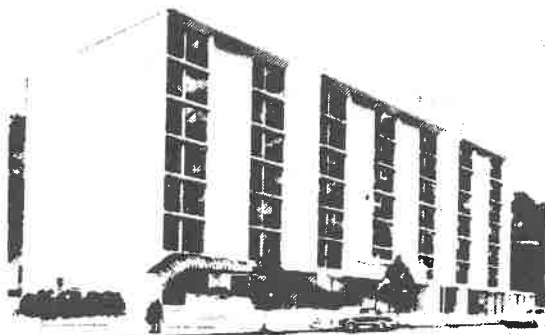
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GUEST COLUMN
by Brian Moore

Although many people aren't aware of it, this is the third time in the past few years a group has tried to come up with a plan for Hollywood. The earlier attempts came from the Hollywood Revitalization Committee and the Specific Plan Study Group. Both failed. Now, the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) is taking a stab at it.

The northern boundary of the CRA project is Franklin Avenue. To the east of Highland Avenue, the middle of the street marks the boundary. To the west of Highland, the back line of the first lot to the north of Franklin is the boundary. To the south, as far as one lot north of Hollywood Boulevard.

This was to be, as the CRA staff and many special interest groups envisioned it, the heavy density residential core of the new Hollywood. A density of 130 units per gross acre was the rule in the past. Community, homeowner and resident interests opposed this very high density on the grounds of impending gridlock.

A density designation of 80 units per gross acre with bonus building points up to 110 units were recommended by the community. It was voted down as restrictive to developers.

At the invitation of Hollywood citizens, Mr. Calvin Hamilton, Community Planning Director, spoke with a crowd of concerned citizens on August 22. Mr. Hamilton then began a series of meetings with CRA officials, notably administrator Mr. Ed Helfeld. Councilman Michael Woo was host at two of these meetings.

Mr. Woo has decided that the City Planning concept of 80 units per gross acre east of Highland and 60 units west of Highland is the district's proper density.

We wish to thank Councilman Woo for his progressive, well reasoned decision.

After a year of battling over density I feel no great joy that we have thus far prevailed. I feel only bone-weary relief that we have people in government like Calvin Hamilton and Councilman Woo, who will listen to the community.

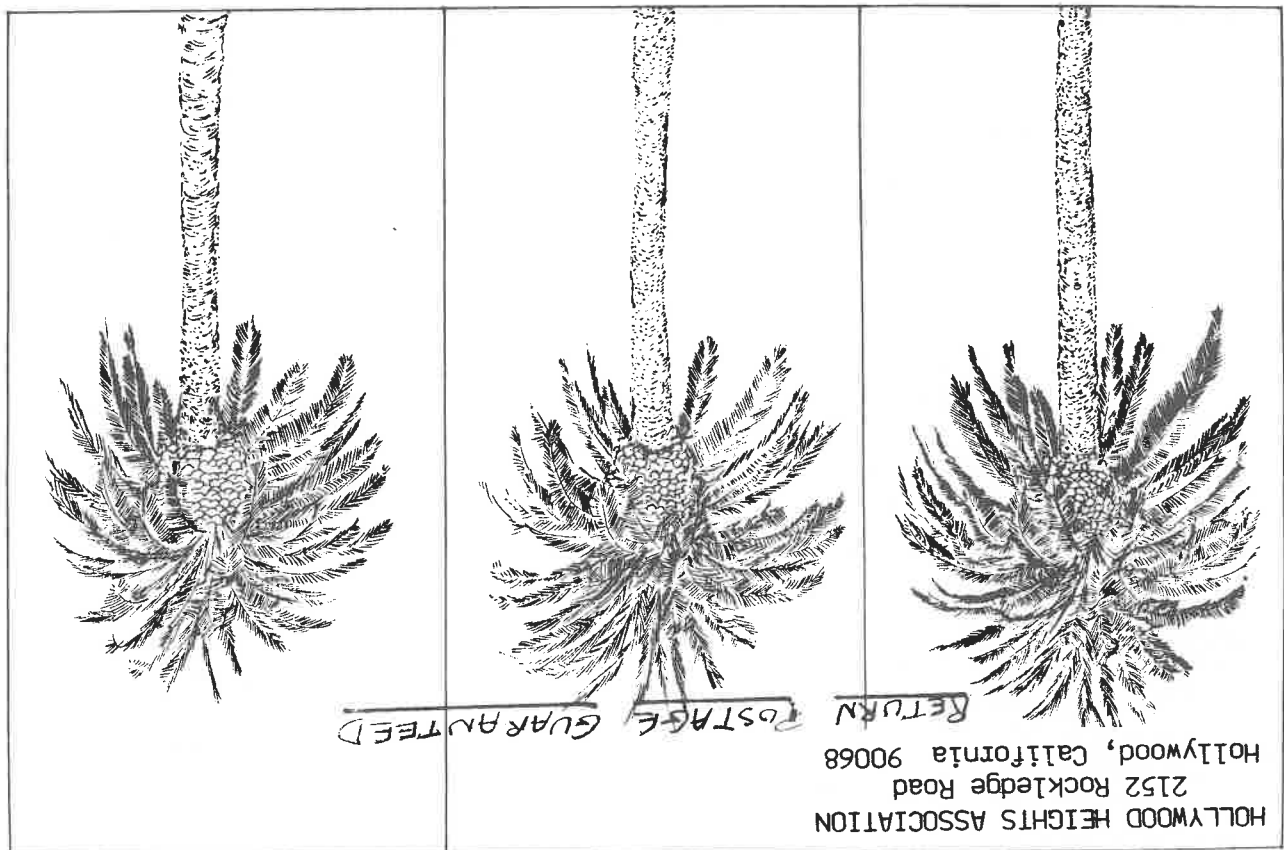
Most of all, my admiration and thanks goes to those of you who have involved yourselves in this ongoing battle to preserve our beautiful city.

Councilman Woo has named these new members to the CRA Project Area Committee: Marsha Kwallwasser, a resident of the Outpost and Vice President of the Center for Law in the Public Interest; Ted Kitos, aide to West Hollywood Councilman Stephen Schulte; Paul Verdier, member of the Hollywood Arts Council; and Osheen Keshishian, editor of the Armenian Observer.

(Brian Moore is President of the 200,000 member Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations, former ~~appointed~~ President of Whitley Heights and a former member of the CRA Project Area Committee.)


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CAHUENGA PASS COALITION

HHA has joined the newly-formed Cahuenga Pass Coalition. Barbara Betlem will represent the HHA on the Coalition. The Board has voted to pay the \$75 yearly dues.

The purpose of the Coalition is to support "beneficial" zoning changes and growth, and to oppose any developments that would increase traffic, decrease public parking, or otherwise have an adverse impact on the existing communities or entities in this area.

The area served by the Coalition is limited to the communities within the region bounded by Riverside Drive on the north, Franklin Avenue on the south, Argyle Avenue on the east, and Vineland and/or Runyan Canyon on the west.

COMING UP!

In our next edition of VIEW, we plan to bring you:

- * An interview with Mike Woo.
- * A list of the new Board of Directors and new officers.
- * The second part of the crime prevention series written by Alice Kawan with information supplied by Grayce Baldwin from interviews with police and Westec.
- * A list of the HHA block captains, and an article by Jamia Riehl on the duties, activities and goals of the block captains.
- * Updates on the Highland-Camrose Bungalow Village, and on the work of the HHA to keep our neighborhood beautiful.