



# The Mount Washington Association

*Serving the Mount Washington community since 1955.*

May 2004

[www.mtwashington.org](http://www.mtwashington.org)

## Woman of the Year

*Natalie Seaman*

General Membership Meeting  
Monday, May 17, 2004, 7:30 PM  
Carlin G. Smith Recreation Center  
511 W. Avenue 46

### ***Emerald Necklace Plans***

Details on page 3.

The Mount Washington Association needs to take special pride in the selection of Carol Jacques as the Woman of the Year for the 45<sup>th</sup> Assembly District. This is an honor that is given each year by Assembly Person Jackie Goldberg to a woman who has served the area with distinction.

While Carol has a long history of political activism, she had stepped out of activities for a few years to focus on her career and raise her

kids. Right at the moment when she retired and her kids reached the legal age, the Mount Washington Association tapped her to be President – and the rest is history!

As Jackie said, “Carol puts what’s best for the community first”, and in her tenure as President of the MWA Carol led by example in “Building Bridges” from Mount Washington throughout the Northeast. But the MWA leadership was just one area in which Carol has played a key role. She is one of the leaders in the Friends of the Southwest Museum Coalition, working tirelessly to retain this jewel in our neighborhood. And while working for our local issues she also has taken on a broader mission to help with the activities of the Northeast Democrats – which affects regional, state and national issues.

In March Carol was presented this award in a formal ceremony on the State Assembly floor, and last week we all celebrated with a party in the northeast. If you did not have a chance to join us, make sure you congratulate Carol when you see her!

## President’s Message

*Natalie Seaman*

As we move into the second quarter of the year, I realize my mantra for the year is going to be “get involved”. And to get us all inspired to become activists, this is certainly the month to tell the story of a man who got involved and took it to the limit – Warren Christensen. Warren, along with many other Mt. Washington Elementary School parents, started a project many years ago to add a multi-purpose room to the school and expand the school library. It was a very worthy cause in a very cramped school and, while a lot of folks contributed to the success of this project, Warren made it his personal mission. He worked very hard on every level to make this happen. He worked strategy, he worked rummage sales, he worked the politicians, and he worked the community. There were times when many of us, including our local representatives, were simply amazed at Warren’s tenacity. But he kept at it, and we now have a ground breaking! Thank you, Warren, and our thanks as well to your able partner Liz Herron, who tracked right along with Warren on this project – and to Denny and Jack Smith, and to all the other Mt. Washington Elementary School parents who worked so hard at making this happen.

There are a lot of other opportunities for all of us to get involved in this community, to get on a mission. I want to suggest a few areas of activity that you may wish to consider.

The Seaview loop is a beautiful scenic walk used by hundreds of residents and visitors to Mt. Washington every week. We have taken it for granted and now it is being threatened by developers. There is already an initiative forming to protect this valuable community asset (and property value enhancer). While many are pursuing potential sources of potential assistance, stay tuned – we may have to rescue this ourselves.



Land Use requires even more vigilance in this community at this time. Mount Washington and Glassell Park have joined together to focus on monitoring the enforcement of the Specific Plan, the Hillside Ordinance, and general development in the hills.

There is a Northeast area-wide Land Use Coalition that is also regularly meeting to strategize for Land Use; contact Liz Herron, our Land Use chair, for meeting information.

Finally, if you have never participated in a community activity, I would like to suggest as a first step that you attend a Mount Washington Association Meeting. The meetings are highly informative and often lead to people getting involved – see you at the meeting!

## ASNC Addresses Important Land Use Issues

*Rob Schraff*

As this newsletter goes to press the ASNC is planning to address two important Mt. Washington land use issues on Monday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The Mount Washington Local issues Committee has met and has supported stakeholders' petition to the ASNC board to support the protection of the Sea View Avenue and Sea View Drive loop through the acquisition and conservation of properties on the slope below the trail. These properties will be added to the existing Bob Schofield Park that has already been dedicated to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority by neighboring property owners. A subcommittee chaired by Jerry Schneider was also formed to pursue this effort and communicate with the city and other appropriate organizations.

The Mt. Washington Local Issues Committee also supported community efforts to not accept development of Red Hawk Canyon as proposed, because of density and negative environmental impacts, and will ask ASNC to send letter to City Planning requiring a full Environmental Impact Report. The Committee also sought the exploration of preservation of the canyon as open space as a remnant parcel of Heidelberg Park, as recommended by a UCLA study.

## Officers

### *President*

Natalie Seaman (223-0996)

### *1<sup>st</sup> VP (Action)*

Rob Schraff (254-4207)

### *2<sup>nd</sup> VP (Programs)*

Maria Gray (225-4256)

### *3<sup>rd</sup> VP (Membership)*

Pat Griffith (225-8330)

### *4<sup>th</sup> VP (Hospitality)*

Grayson Cook (227-8899)

### *Secretary*

Ed Raspa (223-9934)

### *Treasurer*

Susan Phifer (222-2424)

### *Historian*

Pat Samson (223-4895)

### *Past president*

Carol Jacques (225-0501)

## Directors

Susan Baldwin (227-5597)

David Brunk (223-1533)

Paul Girard (221-7822)

Wendy Legacki (225-1344)

Michelle Lewis (258-6874)

Nancy Lilly (225-7597)

Hank Schaeffer (221-9695)

Ann Walnum (222-8327)

## Committee Chairs

### *Advertising*

David Brunk (223-1533)

### *Child Care, PTA Liaison*

Cheri Hanamoto

### *Communications*

Eliot Sekular (344-9955)

### *Emerald Necklace*

Carol Jacques (225-0501)

### *Finance*

Michelle Lewis (258-6874)

### *Gold Line*

Larry Hoffman (221-5277)

### *Land Use*

Liz Herron (225-5711)

### *Public Safety*

Cheri Uno (222-0410)

### *Public Service*

Rob Schraff (254-4207)

Webmistress: Donnette Thayer

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Burleigh (225-4546)

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The Mt. Washington Local Issues Committee is also asking the ASNC to work with appropriate city agencies and our local city council members to create an Early Notification System to help make the ASNC the conduit to stakeholders for information regarding land usage, including permitting and all other information pertinent to land development. This is a wonderful idea from Eliot Sekular, the Local Issues Committee chair, and could well be the beginning of a very important new tool for monitoring and managing the land use issues that are so important everyone on Mount Washington.

Supporting the Getty Conservation Institute in their efforts to preserve the Siqueiros 1932 mural, "America Tropical," and support for efforts to preserve the Ambassador Hotel will also be considered in the May 3<sup>rd</sup> ASNC meeting.

In its last board meeting the ASNC supported the efforts of the LA32 Neighborhood council to oppose the proposed development on Elephant Hill and decided join the new Northeast LA Open Space Coalition.

Please visit [www.asnc.us](http://www.asnc.us) for up-to-date information on meetings of both the ASNC Board and the Mount Washington Local Issues Committee.

## Southwest Museum News

### *Ann Walnum*

The big news is that the announced March first closing for fumigation did not occur. The Four Centuries of Pueblo Pottery exhibit continues. The annual LAUSD American Indian Student Art exhibit will be shown during the month of May. The Daniel Cervantes Mural on Marmion Way will be dedicated Saturday, July 10. The mural's protective coating, which the Mount Washington Association donated, appears to be doing its job.

## Public Safety Report

### *Cheri Uno*

Northeast Crime Report, from Capt. Aborn We have had 10 homicides so far this year; last year there had only been 5 homicides by this date. Most of the homicides have been in the Highland Park area. Five were very recent and are under investigation. Robbery is down 35% and has been going down for 3 years. We had one stranger rape recently. In general, violent crimes are down 20%.

As usual, Burglary Theft From Vehicles and Grand Theft Auto are up. Hondas and Toyotas are the car models most stolen. Here is what you can do to help prevent these types of crimes:

- Do not leave **anything** in your car.

- Equip your car with an alarm **and** use a Club.
- A kill switch is also helpful to prevent auto theft.
- Keep your car in your locked garage at night.

And here is what the police are doing:

- Increasing the presence of officers on the night watch (when most of these crimes occur).
- Implementing Operation Red Zone.
- Sending officers on bicycles to patrol areas where these crimes are frequent.
- Sending Z cars to hot areas – they just patrol and do not answer calls.
- Having the Narco Task Force hit hard in these areas.
- Using a “bait car” to lure in criminal activity.
- Using high illumination of problem areas.
- Taking more prints.

Violent crimes are still the first priority of the officers; crimes against property have lower priority, especially when resources are stretched. The best help for the officers/LAPD is to get information from the public to solve crimes. **Always report anything suspicious and/or get a license number.**

Fires, Fires and More Fires Yes, the fire season is here again. Please clear your lots ASAP. If there are any lots in the vicinity of your home that are not cleared, please report them to the LAFD or call 311 to report. Let's keep Mt. Washington safe from fires. There has already been one arsonist setting 5 fires in the Northeast area this season.

Neighborhood Watch Neighborhood Watch Programs are very effective against crime. If you are interesting in a Neighborhood Watch meeting, please contact Public Safety Chair at (323) 222-0410 or [ctuno@pacbell.net](mailto:ctuno@pacbell.net)

New Phone Numbers for Senior Lead Officers (SLOs) The Mount Washington area has two SLOs. They are Officer Rangel at (213) 793-0713 and Officer Cooper at (213) 793-0761. Officer Cooper covers the Northeast section of Mt. Washington – east of San Rafael, Moon and Crane. Please contact your SLO to follow up on any crimes reported or quality of life issues for your area.

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS CAR? The Northeast Station is looking for an early 90's black Thunderbird with black tinted windows. If you see this car, report it immediately to Northeast LAPD at (213) 485-2563. If you have seen this car in the past or know where its owner may be, please contact Officer Cooper with that information. This is a person of interest to the police in connection with burglaries in our area.

The semi-annual Basic Car Meeting will be held on June 10, 2004, at 6PM, at the Los Angeles Police Department Museum on York Blvd. Meet your Senior Lead Officers for the Mt. Washington Area. See the museum, if you haven't already seen it.

Police Appreciation Day is June 23, 2004. Please place blue ribbons in the front of your business or home.

August 3, 2004 will be National Night Out – location to be determined. Contact Officer Rita Vallejo, (213) 485-2548, for further information.

## May General Membership Meeting

*Maria Gray*

At our May General Membership meeting the Mount Washington Association will learn a bit more about plans for the Emerald Necklace effort; we hope that City Council member Ed Reyes will be able to join us, to give us the City's perspective on this ambitious project.

Also, Bob Walters, newly elected MWA director Bob Walters has resigned for personnel reasons. There will be a vote at the May meeting on his replacement, Julie Nagesh.

Looking forward to seeing you at 7.30pm, May 17th at the Carlin G. Smith Center.

## Draft Minutes of the March General Membership Meeting

*Ed Raspa*

The Mount Washington Association met on March 15, 2004 at the Carlin G. Smith Recreation Center located at 511 West Avenue 46 in Los Angeles, California.

Due to the absence of President Natalie Seaman, 1st Vice President Rob Schraff chaired the meeting in accordance with the Bylaws. Since a quorum was present, he called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Hospitality VP Grayson Cooke announced that Assembly member Jackie Goldberg has designated Past President Carol Jacques as the 45<sup>th</sup> Assembly District's Woman of the Year. Past President Jacques spoke briefly about the honor and her subsequent experience in Sacramento.

Those present approved the minutes of January 2004 membership meeting without correction.

As chair of the ad-hoc committee on the Emerald Necklace, Past President Jacques informed the membership of various efforts on both the state and local level to secure funding for open space in Northeast Los Angeles.

Motion (Nagesh): **That the Mount Washington Association write a letter as suggested by Carol Jacques in support of the disbursement of funds from the Murray-Hayden Urban Parks Program as approved in Proposition 40 to secure parkland in Northeast Los Angeles.** Motion passed by voice vote.

Vice President Schraff introduced Director Ann Walnum who announced that longtime member Denise Smith was seriously ill and requested that members sign a get-well card for Ms. Smith.

Vice President Schraff introduced Program VP Maria Gray who, along with Bill Rumble, Grayson Cook, and Chet Brewer, read selections from the works of Jack Smith.

Vice President Schraff introduced 14<sup>th</sup> District Council member Antonio Villaraigosa who presented a City Council resolution commending the 2004 MWA Board. The council member, who again resides in Mount Washington, announced two events: a Q&A session on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and an Open House on April 17<sup>th</sup>. The council member answered questions from the membership for a short period.

Action VP Rob Schraff announced that the Board had sent a letter to the LAUSD Board supporting the naming of the Mount Washington Elementary School Multi-purpose Building after long-time members Jack and Denise Smith. Member Warren Christensen announced that the District had scheduled a ceremonial groundbreaking for April 16<sup>th</sup>; the actual groundbreaking will take place in Fall 2004. Action VP Schraff then spoke about the proposed City budget cuts to the Cultural Affairs and Environmental Affairs departments.

Motion (Brunk): **That the Mount Washington Association write a letter to the Mayor, with copies to the Council, supporting continued funding for both the Cultural Affairs and Environmental Affairs departments.** Motion passed by voice vote.

Motion (Jacques): **That the Mount Washington Association supports the concept that funding for the restoration of the Olvera Street mural be placed in a lock box.** Motion passed by voice vote.

Membership VP Pat Griffith reported that the level of membership was high; however she encouraged the members to inform their neighbors about the Association.



Treasurer Susan Phifer informed the membership that the Association accounts (checking and CD) totaled approximately \$27,000. Finance Committee member Ed Raspa reviewed the budget published in the March newsletter.

Motion (Raspa): **That the membership adopts the 2004 budget recommendation of the Board.** Motion passed by voice vote.

Director Walnum requested volunteers for Jack & Denise Smith Walk on April 18<sup>th</sup>, the Cinco de Mayo parade, and the May 16<sup>th</sup> Museums of the Arroyo Day.

Motion (Walnum): **That the Mount Washington Association participates in the Glassel Park/Cypress Park Cinco de Mayo Fair.** Motion passed by voice vote.

Land Use Chair Liz Herron announced that the next meeting of the Land Use Committee would take place on March 22<sup>nd</sup> at President Seaman's house.

Public Safety Chair Cheri Uno announced that Northeast LAPD Captain Kyle Jackson had switched positions with LAPD Captain Morris Smith. She also reported that Elyria Canyon has a new Park Ranger, Jewel Johnson. In addition, she informed the membership that the restoration of the Olancha mural was complete.

Member Lynnette Kampe announced that Nor description of each.

A panel from the newly completed Olancha mural.

Day events, giving a brief

Since there was no new business, Vice Presic

ction at 9:30 PM.

## Museums of the Arroyo Day

The 15th annual *Museums of the Arroyo Day* event will be held this year on May 16, when five museums located along the Arroyo Seco in Los Angeles and Pasadena open their doors from 11 AM to 5 PM with free admission to the public.

The theme of MOTA this year will be "Literary Los Angeles." MOTA visitors will be able to meet local authors, have books signed, and check out the latest in historical fiction and non-fiction; kids can enjoy regional storytellers, compete in craft contests, and meet literary characters from the past. At the Gamble House, for example, Kathleen Thorne Thompson will read from and sign her new book, *Greene & Greene for Kids*, which is to be published this coming fall. Regional items from Mexico and Central America, including masks, sculpture, weavings, pottery, basketry, carvings, paintings and santos will be on display and for sale at the Southwest Museum. Also, artwork by children from neighborhood schools will be featured at selected museums.

<b>MOUNT WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION</b>				
Name(s) _____				
Address _____				
City, State, Zip Code _____			Phone _____	
Email _____			Fax _____	
<i>Please check one:</i> ? New membership    ? Renew membership				
Please circle Membership Category and Contribution Level below:				
Basic:	Single	\$15	Family/Couple	\$25
Supporting:	\$35			
Business/Professional:	\$50			
Benefactor:	\$100			
Patron:	\$250			
All renewals due at start of calendar year.				
Your cancelled check is your receipt. Please make check payable to :				
<b>MOUNT WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION</b>				
Your name and address shall be kept confidential and shall not be given to other organizations.				
• <i>Membership (Single, Family or Senior) is open to adults who either reside or own property on Mount Washington. Membership includes the right to vote and hold office.</i>				
• <i>Associate membership is open to any adult who resides outside of the Mount Washington community. Associate members may not vote or hold office.</i>				

The five participating museums – the Gamble House, Heritage Square Museum, Lummis Home and Garden, the Pasadena Museum of History, and the Southwest Museum – will be connected by free, continuous shuttle service on two routes. One route will run between Pasadena and Highland Park with stops at the Pasadena Museum of History (across the street from The Gamble House) and the Lummis Home and Garden. The other will shuttle guests back and forth between Lummis Home and Garden, Southwest Museum and Heritage Square.

Parking will be available in Pasadena at Avery Dennison on Walnut (near the Pasadena Museum of History) and on surrounding streets. In Highland Park, parking will be on Carlota Street (near Lummis Home and Garden), at the Heritage Square and Southwest Museum parking lots, and on surrounding streets.

Additional parking this year will be available at the Heritage Square Gold Line station parking lot.

For more information, call (213) 740-8687 or visit

[www.museumsofthearroyo.com](http://www.museumsofthearroyo.com).

## Membership Report

*Pat Griffith*

So far this year, we have added nineteen new memberships (approximately 30 members) to the membership roll since November 1<sup>st</sup>. Don't forget to tell your neighbors about the Association!

The membership committee needs volunteers for its various activities. If you're interested in stuffing newsletters, contacting current and/or potential members, or working on other outreach activities, please contact me. I hope to hear from you soon.

## Honoring Jack and Denise Smith

*Ann Walnum*

The Jack Smith readings at the March general meeting of the Mount Washington Association rekindled our appreciation for Jack's wide range of subjects, including his pride in Mount Washington. Then all in one week of April, the 12<sup>th</sup> through the 18<sup>th</sup>, we lost Denise, gained the Jack and Denny Smith Library and Community Center, and honored the Smiths with our annual Jack Smith Trail walk. Almost one hundred walkers participated, thirty of whom came from other areas. Thanks to our guides: Susie Hansen, Mark Kampe, Jerry Schneider, and Natalie Seaman. Other helpers were Susan Baldwin, Merry Bridges, Paul Evleth, Carol Jacques, Lynnette Kampe, and Eliot Sekuler.

Memorial donations to the Jack and Denny Smith Fund for Literacy may be sent to California Community Foundation, 445 South Figueroa Street, Los Angeles, CA 90071.

## A Principled, Involved Life: Meet Florence Griffen

*Ann Walnum*

Florence Sumire Griffen, our Mount Washington neighbor of many years, first in a Rome Drive cottage and now on San Rafael across from Heidelberg Park, has lived a life of courage, conviction, and tenacity. Her mother, a Tokyo first grade teacher and artist, and her father, a Tokyo rice farmer, gave their family of seven the examples of reading, discussion, and artistic expression along with hard work.

On February 19, 1942, 120,000 Japanese and Japanese Americans were torn away from their homes. Florence's home, a Central California labor camp and vineyard rented for decades by her father, had only recently been purchased by her American-born brothers. But it was soon to be lost, because relocation camp wages of \$16 per month were not enough to cover the mortgage.

These sad memories are not forgotten, but there are other memories alongside. Florence and her sisters received college aid from religious groups. Her degree launched a career in hospital, public health, Peace Corps, and school nursing.

Her Peace Corps service with then husband Bob, an entomologist, began in Ecuador and ended in Thailand. Their Thai daughter, Mali, now a graduate research librarian, began her family life backpacking with "Flo" and Bob across Burma, India, Iran, Turkey, Greece, Italy, France, and England. Public health work in Hawaii followed.

Upon returning to Los Angeles, Flo launched into work with the Sierra Club Population Committee, the Sage Methodist Church, and the Northeast Democratic Club, which continues now despite illness and orthopedic surgery. She

attended the 1994 United Nations Conference on Population and Development in Cairo and the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995. She learned Japanese and traveled to Japan three times to recapture family ties and culture.

**Coming up...**

May 12	ASNC Mount Washington Local Issues Committee meeting. 7 PM at Carlin G. Smith.
May 16	<i>Museums of the Arroyo Day.</i> 11 AM to 5 PM.
May 17	Mount Washington Association <i>General Membership meeting.</i> 7:30 PM at Carlin G. Smith.
May 24	<i>Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council meeting.</i> 7 PM at Ramona Hall.
June 10	LAPD <i>Basic Car meeting.</i> 6 PM at the Los Angeles Police Department Museum on York.
June 23	<i>Police Appreciation Day.</i>
August 3	<i>National Night Out</i> against crime.

She remains concerned about population stabilization and its connection to environmental safety. As her father said: "Religion and Politics – they're fascinating – better than a horse race."