



The Mount Washington Association

Serving the Mount Washington community since 1955.

May 2008

www.mtwashington.org

Groundbreaking Ceremony for Central High School #13

Pat Griffith

Please join our community at 10 AM on June 11 in welcoming the new high school at Taylor Yard, which will serve our Mount Washington children. This high school will be near the corner of Division and San Fernando Road and is scheduled to serve about 2,300 students in five small learning communities that include classrooms, science labs, and academy administration. School facilities shared by the small learning communities will include performing arts classrooms, a library, a multi-purpose room, two gymnasiums, food service and lunch shelter, central administration, playfields, and surface parking.

The school is now scheduled to open in September, 2011, and will relieve overcrowding at Eagle Rock, Franklin, and Marshall High Schools, hopefully allowing those schools to return to a traditional calendar. If you would like more information, please call Community Outreach at 213-893-6800.

President's Message

Eliot Sekuler

Building community with shovels and guitars

I can't recall a busier time in my life, and my frenetically overbooked schedule mirrors, to some extent, all the activity that seems to swirl around Mount Washington at this time of year. A quick check of our weekend calendar shows an auction for the elementary school, the ongoing Marmion Way Beautification Project, Lummis Day planning, the Cypress Park Cinco de Mayo Parade, and more, so very much more than we can all possibly absorb.

As tiring as all these activities are, they're truly cause for celebration. We live in a place where many of us share the fundamental belief that there's value in the concept of community, that a coherent worldview begins with an appreciation of all that is truly local: our neighbors, our

schools, our streets and our hillsides. More than in most parts of our city, we share a belief that we're better off for taking an active part in our community rather than observing it passively.

So it's spring in Mount Washington. Time to dust off an item for the school auction, grab some gloves and help Lynette Kampe pull weeds on Marmion Way or help Paula Sirola or Al Winn with their stairway and their Jessica Triangle over in the five points area. Time to roll up our sleeves. We live in a wonderfully dynamic

community and it's ours to shape.

And don't forget Lummis Day on Sunday, June 1.

Lummis Day Celebration

Eliot Sekuler

Jackson Browne, a former Highland Park resident whose family helped found L.A.'s first arts colony in the area over a century ago, will return to Northeast Los Angeles on June 1 to perform at the community's signature arts and music event with a free concert appearance at this year's Lummis Day Festival. It will be Browne's first public performance in Northeast L.A. since he

rose to world-wide prominence as a singer and songwriter over three decades ago.

The third annual Lummis Day: The Festival of Northeast Los Angeles, will take place Sunday, June 1, and will celebrate the diverse cultures and history of the L.A.'s Arroyo neighborhoods with music, dance, poetry and art events – all free and open to the public – at Lummis Home, Sycamore Grove Park, and the Casa de Adobe.

New features for 2008 include the use of Casa de Adobe as an art exhibition space, produced by NELAarts Brian Mallman and the Autry National Center's Pam Hannah with the participation of Northeast L.A. galleries including the famed Judson Studios. Also new is a kid-friendly entertainment "family stage," to feature the Poets and Players Little Theater, the We Tell Stories storytelling troupe and "Puppets Tramp Across the Continent," a presentation by Carol Colin and Ted Waltz re-telling Charles Lummis' 1884-85 walk from Cincinnati to Los

General Membership Meeting

Monday, May 19, 2008, 7:30 PM

Jack and Denny Smith Community Center
Mount Washington School
3981 San Rafael Drive

River Revitalization, Rutherford Home, and More

At the next Mount Washington Association meeting we will hear from:

- Councilmember Ed Reyes on the Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan and the state of our community.
- Dr. William Rutherford on early music, his bequest to The USC Thornton School of Music, and a new cultural landmark for our neighborhood.
- Michael Alexander on this year's Grand Performances schedule of free concerts.

All this, plus a preview of Lummis Day. Refreshments will be served, and all are welcome.

"Whether you own or rent or sleep out in a tent, you have a voice in the Mount Washington Association."

Angeles using puppets, props and backdrops made by children and adults attending last year's festival.

Lummis Day performers – all with roots in Northeast Los Angeles – will include nationally and regionally celebrated artists performing in Spanish, English and Tagalog. In addition to Jackson Browne, other artists set to perform include the famed Culture Clash; Boyle

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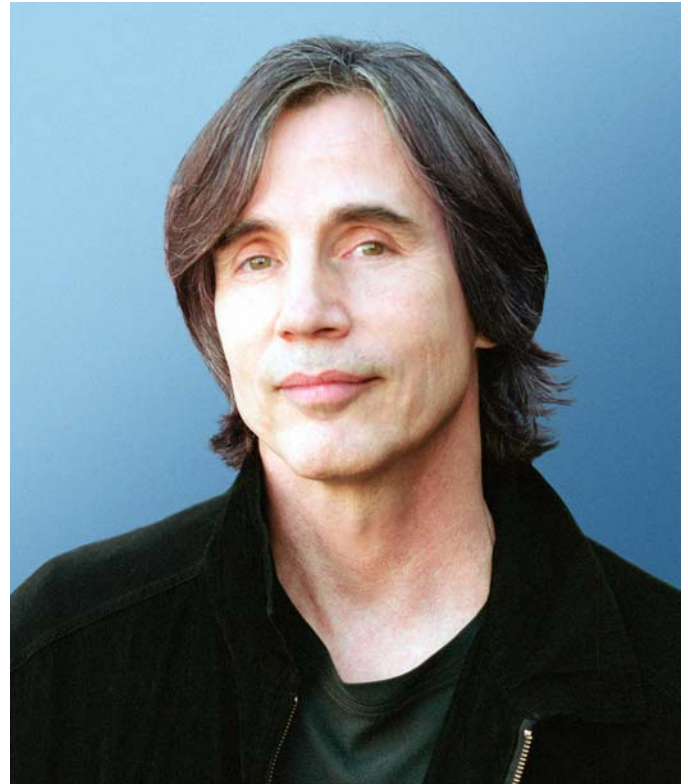
Heights' Cava, who perform Latin-powered jazz tinged with Peruvian, Cumbia, Salsa, Son and Ska beats; Atwater's the Chapin Sisters, known for exquisite vocal harmonies; L.A.'s renowned Mariachi Divas; Highland Park's indie-spirited band Artichoke; the mysterious Arroyo Seco All Star Team; plus dance groups Kultura Phillipine Folk Arts, ballet Coe, the Cypress Park Folkloric group and more.

The morning event at Lummis Home will begin at 10:30 AM. The Sycamore Grove concerts, dance, puppet and storytelling performances will begin at 12:30 PM. And art exhibits will be open at Casa de Adobe beginning at 1:00 PM.

At the morning Lummis Home event, poets Steve Kowit, Liz Gonzalez and Cathie Sandstrom will read following a musical introduction by L.A. guitar legend Carlos Guitarios.

The shows will be moderated by Los Angeles television and radio personalities from the Festival's media sponsors, KMEX

Univision 34, KTTV Fox 11 and public radio station KPFK 90.7.



Jackson Browne will perform at Lummis Day Festival.

The 3rd Annual Lummis Day Festival will be presented by the Annenberg Foundation and the Autry National Center. The Mount Washington Association, a founding sponsor of the Festival, continues to play an active role, along with the Department of Recreation and Parks, the Arroyo Seco, Eagle Rock, Greater Cypress Park and Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Councils, KMEX Univision 34, KTTV Fox 11, public radio station KPFK 90.7, the Arroyo Seco Journal, Poets & Writers, Inc, SIPA, the North Figueroa Association, Ed Reyes and Los Angeles City Council Districts 1, Jose Huizar and City Council District 14, State Assemblyman Anthony Portantino, the Highland Park Heritage Trust, and the Los Angeles Arts Commission.

For more info including parking and schedules, visit www.lummisday.org.

Public Safety

Cheri Uno

A New Captain For Northeast Station

Capt. III William A. Murphy has been with the LAPD since June 1988 when he started as a patrol officer in Harbor Area. In 1993 Murphy was appointed to Sergeant and assigned to Rampart Patrol Division. In 1998 he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant and assigned to be Watch Commander in Hollenbeck Area. In March 2000 he was appointed to Lieutenant II. His promotion to Captain I was in April 2005 when he

became the Commanding Officer for 77th Street Area Patrol. In April 2006 he became Captain III.

Capt. Murphy has a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Massachusetts at Boston and a Masters of Public Administration degree from California State University at Long Beach. He is an adjunct professor in the Extended Education Programs at the University of California, Los Angeles, and the California State University at Los Angeles. Capt. Murphy is an expert in training development and leadership, has been in charge of Professional Development for the LAPD, and has served on many California Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) committees. A complete biography of Captain Murphy can be found at lapdonline.org.

Crime Stats for Northeast Area

Well, guess what? BTFV (Burglary Theft From Vehicle) is UP and is still the biggest problem for the NE Area. This year to date, Northeast Area has had 591 incidents. Please take these simple precautions to protect yourself:

- Permanently mark your property with your personal identification. (Do not use your Social Security number! Last four digits of driver's license is OK.)
- Use some type of anti-theft device, such as alarm system or steering wheel locking device (CLUB) – yes, they do deter break-ins and thefts.
- Always write down, somewhere, the serial numbers of your electronic equipment, MP-3 players, cell phones, and computers.
- Park in well-lit and busy locations. Always be aware

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of the surroundings and suspicious people loitering in the area when parking and leaving your car.

- Lock your doors, roll up the windows and secure the trunk or hatch back!
- Never leave valuables in your vehicle in plain sight. Especially, NEVER LEAVE YOUR GPS or its cradle in plain sight. This is the number one item thieves are currently taking.

Burglaries are also increasing. Usually this crime increases over the summer months because people leave windows unlocked while they are at work or gone in the evenings. Please keep all your doors and windows locked when you are not at home. Motion lights on the outside of the building help prevent people from casing your location for a burglary. Also, keep anything that is easily removed from the outside of your property indoors in a locked building; several people have been having items removed from decks, porches and driveways. If you are a victim of a burglary, REPORT IT! Also, report any suspicious activity you see in your neighborhood. Recently, two burglary rings were caught in NE Area from reports of suspicious activity in neighborhoods – YES, NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH WORKS!

Neighborhood Watch on Museum Drive

Museum Drive is starting their summer Neighborhood Watch Walks again. The walks start at the Southwest Museum on the first Monday of every month at 6 PM. They walk up Museum Drive together to develop community cohesiveness and communication. You can

join this NW group or start one of your own in your area. They have started a Yahoo Group, if you would like more information. This is an excellent way to get your neighborhood working together to keep out crime.

Fires, Fires, and more Fires

As you can tell from the fires in the Santa Anita Canyon and San Jacinto this early in the year, we are going to have a bad year for fires. Most of the grass in our area that grew strong and thick from all the winter rains has already turned yellow and is ready for a bad, hot, fast fire. I have had reports about motorcycle riders in both Moon and Elyria Canyons – please call 911 if you see this happening. A fire started by a spark from a motorcycle could be devastating to Mount Washington. Please call 911 if you see any suspicious activity – people smoking, using matches or lighters for any reason – in these open canyons or vacant lots. Also, if you see lots not cleared of brush, report them at [lafdrush@lacity.org](mailto:lafdbrush@lacity.org) or call (818) 374-1111. LAFD starts their first inspections the first week of May. Let us keep our neighborhood free from fires this year.

After Dark Programs, at the City Parks and Recreation Centers

This program helps keep kids off the streets in the evenings, Wednesday thru Saturdays, during the summer months. This is part of gang prevention in our city and area. The program needs donations to keep it going. If you would like to help, contact the Mayor's Office of Gang Reduction and Youth Development at (213) 473-7796.

Draft Minutes of the March 2008 General Membership Meeting

Pat Griffith

President Eliot Sekuler introduced Donna Wong, our LA City Neighborhood Prosecutor. Donna provided information about the Gang Injunction area in the Drew/Estara project. She also noted the past meetings concerning the recent shootings in Cypress Park and the Drew/Estara area, including a March 8 Public Safety and City Services Outreach event and a March 15 Glassell Park Public Safety Summit with Garcetti and Bratton. She also gave us information about the Nuisance Abatement program and the work done through both Building and Safety and the City Attorney's office to close down the satellite house at 3304 Drew St. Other programs from the City Attorney's office include Operation Bright Future, an anti-truancy program, and a First Chance program which will host the 2008 Northeast Youth Job Fair on May 10, 2008, from 10 AM to 1 PM at the Glassell Park Community and Senior Center at 3750 Verdugo Road. Donna can be reached at (213) 847-8045, donna.wong@lacity.org

Sue Hodson, who is curator of the Jack Smith exhibit "Smith on Wry" at the Huntington Gardens, spoke about the exhibit and played a short video of Jack Smith, taken during a talk he had given at the Arrowhead Public

Library. She also charmingly conveyed her enthusiasm in curating the exhibit.

Following Sue was Al Martinez of the *Los Angeles Times*. Al rarely gives public talks, but his fondness for Jack Smith brought him to our Association meeting. He explained how he and Jack lived 'parallel lives' at the *Times*. They both had long marriages with strong women, who featured in both of their columns. Both lived in little islands of serenity – Jack in Mount Washington and Al in Topanga Canyon. Both wrote articles that could not be pigeonholed. Al remembered Jack as always the gentleman, who had welcomed him to the *Times* when Al arrived from San Francisco. As a summary, Al read the article he wrote after learning that Jack Smith had died.

(N.B.: Al also wrote an article, appearing a few days later in the *Times*, about getting lost leaving the Mount Washington Association meeting.)

After the presentations, there were announcements about the coming trip to see the Jack Smith exhibit at the Huntington Library and the coming Jack Smith walk, as

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well as information about the Lummis Day fundraiser and the event itself.

Carol Jacques accepted a motion to adjourn at 9 PM.

Councilmember Ed Reyes Remarks

Councilmember Ed Reyes will address the May 19 general membership meeting of the Mount Washington Association to present updates on the Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan, a 20-50 year blueprint to implement revitalization of the Los Angeles River by providing improved natural habitat, water quality and flood protection, as well as recreation, open space amenities and economic development opportunities.

As chairman of the City Council's Ad Hoc Committee on the Los Angeles River, Councilmember Reyes is a principal architect of the plan, which grew from a collaborative, community-driven process that involved the participation of thousands of Los Angeles residents.

A key element of the plan is its proposed creation of a new park consisting of a continuous greenbelt along a 32-mile stretch of the Los Angeles River from Canoga Park to Boyle Heights.

Ed Reyes, who lives in Mount Washington with his wife, Martha, and their four children, is the only City Councilmember with a City Planning degree (he holds a masters degree from the UCLA Graduate School of Architecture and Urban Planning). He has served on the Los Angeles City Council since April 2001.

Rutherford Home Bequest

Long-time Mount Washington resident Dr. William Rutherford has made a bequest of his San Rafael Drive home and musical instrument collection to the University

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of Southern California (USC) in support of the Early Music Program at the Flora L. Thornton School of Music.



In a statement released by USC, the school said "We are extremely moved by his generosity and appreciate his tremendous commitment to our faculty, staff and students."

Dr. Rutherford will discuss his bequest, his collection of early musical instruments and potential uses for this new cultural and educational resource at the Association's May 19 meeting.

Museums of the Arroyo Day

Ann Walnum

On Sunday, May 18, from 11 AM to 5 PM, the Gamble House, Pasadena Museum of History, Los Angeles Police Museum, and our nearby Lummis House, Southwest Museum, and Heritage Square are featuring

free admission, activities, displays and refreshments. Free shuttles and parking are available. Thanks to the many local residents who have assisted with the shuttle service in past years and will do so again this year.

Marmion Way Beautification Kickoff

Lynnette Kampe

A huge turn-out of enthusiastic volunteers did an amazing job of cleaning up the parkway above Marmion Way just north of Figueroa on Saturday, April 5th.

Nearly 50 volunteers donned their gloves and picked up tools to clear trash and weeds from this blighted entrance to our community, in an event that brought together members of the Mount Washington Association, Mount Washington Homeowners Alliance, Self-Realization Fellowship, and friends from the broader local Arroyo community.



Discovering a hidden stone wall.

By the time the morning was over, a double line of trash bags ran from phone pole to phone pole and a feeling of satisfaction ran from volunteer to volunteer.

Project organizer Jerry Schneider planned a variety of tasks that gave everyone something they could do. Bob and Bruna Tribble tempted volunteers with homemade lemonade and cookies. Gloria Schneider greeted volunteers and made sure that they signed in. Remember, this project is funded by a Community Beautification Matching Fund grant: every volunteer sign-in counted as \$45 towards matching the grant monies for this 3-hour event!

The best moment came just before we quit work at noon, when a portion of a forgotten arroyo stone wall, believed to date from the 1930's, was discovered by Liz Herron. We hope to uncover a larger portion of the wall in the following month's clean-ups, which will be held from 9 AM to noon on the first Saturday of each month.

To join the Marmion Way Beautification Team, contact Jerry Schneider at (323) 225-2748 or just show up the first Saturday of each month. Everyone is welcome.

Jack Smith Trail Walk

Ann Walnum

We have honored Jack and Denise Smith with an annual four mile hillside walk since Jack's death in 1996. There were fifty attendees and eight dogs this year. Half the walkers were from outside Mount Washington, including Hermon Dog Park members. Thanks to our guides and lemonade and water dispensers.

Grand Performances Summer 2008 Season Set

Michael Alexander

As summer quickly approaches, many on Mount Washington gear up to head to California Plaza for its annual hosting of the Grand Performances series of free outdoor music, dance, theatre and film presentations.

For over 20 years, people have been planning their Friday and Saturday nights around the June to October schedule (a few Sundays are thrown in as well) and picnics on the Plaza before the performances are a common sight. Grand Performances offers something for just about every artistic taste and most of the performances are appropriate for the entire family. (Each year, a few with mature themes are included and audiences are advised to check the website to determine if these are right for them.)



"Miles from India" kicks off the season on June 1 at 8 PM with a number of Miles Davis' performing colleagues joining with some of India's leading musicians in a tribute to this iconic jazz master. Other highlights of the season include a film tribute to "The Wrecking Crew" (June 29), LA's first look at Nigerian super-star Seun Kuti (June 20), Mexico's Delfos Danza Contemporanea (July 25 & 26), India's Jaipur Kawa Brass Band (August 8), our own daKAH Hip Hop Orchestra (August 23), two nights of films from Mexico's Golden Age (including one featuring Cantinflas on September 21), two Sundays dedicated to puppetry (June 29 and July 20), a repeat visit by LA's Mladi Chamber Orchestra (August 9), and much more in a season totaling close to 48 performances.

The film series includes a look into the history of gangs in Los Angeles (presented in collaboration with the Los

Angeles Film Festival on June 28) and the film "The World According to Sesame Street" (August 15).

Grand Performances is a non-profit organization and, like most other organizations that offer services for free, is always seeking support for its activities. A special reserved seating area is set aside for donors, offering great views of the artists on stage.

Season brochures are sent to all who request them by calling (213) 687-2159 or who request them by visiting the website at www.GrandPerformances.org. The director of Grand Performances is Michael Alexander, who loves seeing his neighbors at the shows.

Hillside Federation News

Ann Walnum

Although discussion of the Los Angeles City implementation of S.B. 1818 (density bonuses to encourage low-cost housing) has occupied several recent Hillside Federation meetings (see MWA Newsletter, March 2008), many other issues have also been explored:

- The MTA 2008 Long Range Transit Plan, which includes freeways, carpool lanes, transit, and pedestrian and bicycle amenities.
- The Las Lomas mega-project near Santa Clarita, which ground to a halt on revelations that the developer misrepresented how much of the project area he actually owned.
- The I-405 widening project and its potential effects on adjacent residential and Getty Museum areas.
- Amending homeowner preferred parking districts near busy commercial districts to allow overflow parking on residential streets.

Southwest Museum News

The National Register of Historic Places has elevated the status of the Southwest Museum of the American Indian to "national significance" on its official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation, clearing the way for an application for Save America's Treasures funding for the building's rehabilitation and for other federal-level assistance.

The National Register's initial listing of the Southwest Museum in 2004 as a site with "state significance," was based on the role of Charles Lummis and the museum he created in the growth of Los Angeles and the Southern California region. The change in status follows recognition of the museum's major contribution in the advancement of archaeological and Native American studies in the U.S. during the first part of the 20th century.

Announcement of the elevation of the Museum's status on the National Register came as the Southwest Society began a year-long observance of the centennial of the Southwest Museum's founding. A Centennial Lecture Series, titled "A View From the Braun," will feature guest

speakers each month; a Southwest Summer Nights program will bring music, poetry and film to the Museum during July and August; and several programs will be staged in support of the community's third annual Lummis Day Festival.

Though closed weekdays while undergoing extensive rehabilitation work, building repairs and collections conservation, the museum remains open to the public weekends from noon to 5 PM and features a variety of

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programs.

Members of The Southwest Society, including Native American tribal leaders, Southern California elected officials and community activists, have expressed thanks to the National Register and are supporting the Autry National Center's application for Save America's Treasures funding.

The Southwest Society is dedicated to supporting the revitalization and sustenance of the Southwest Museum of the American Indian and the Casa de Adobe. The Society will work with the Autry National Center to further a shared vision for the re-establishment and enhancement of these historic resources as premiere cultural destinations for Angelenos, visitors and scholars.

Coming up...

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|---------|--|
| May 14 | <i>ASNC Mount Washington Local Issues Committee meeting</i> at Mount Washington School. 7 PM. |
| May 17 | <i>Habitat restoration</i> in Elyria Canyon Park. Meet at the Red Barn to help collect seeds of native grasses and flowers for propagation next fall. To RSVP, call (323) 221-1782 or email lynette@pacbell.net . 9 AM to noon. |
| May 18 | <i>Museums of the Arroyo Day</i> , locations at www.museumsofthearroyo.com . 11 AM to 5 PM. |
| May 19 | <i>Mount Washington Association General Meeting</i> at Mount Washington School. 7:30 PM. |
| June 1 | <i>Lummis Day: the Festival of Northeast Los Angeles</i> . From 10:30 AM. |
| June 2 | <i>Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council meeting</i> at Ramona Hall. 7 PM. |
| June 7 | <i>Marmion Way Beautification Team</i> – the good work continues! Meet at Marmion and Figueroa. Contact Jerry at (323) 225-2748 for more information. 9 AM to noon. |
| June 11 | <i>Groundbreaking</i> for new Central High School #13 at Taylor Yard. 10 AM. |

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