



# The Mount Washington Association

Serving the Mount Washington community since 1955.

July 2008

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

## Green On Green

Lynnette Kampe

We just can't get enough!! Councilperson Jose Huizar noticed the work our Beautification Team volunteers have done on Marmion Way over the past few months and offered the help of his staff to coordinate assistance from Clean and Green crews to extend the project into Council District 14!

This is great, not just because we can improve the appearance of Marmion past Avenue 42, the end of the Community Beautification Project area, but also because this too will count toward our required matching contribution for the Project grant. Volunteer hours are valued at \$15 per hour, which adds up quickly when you've got a good group of people – plus it's more fun. Remember to sign in! Ka-ching!

The Clean and Green crews are those hard-working young people with green T-shirts and hard hats that you see working on community improvement projects. They're paid through the Los Angeles Conservation Corps, an amazing non-profit organization that provides work skills and continuing education to at-risk young people. They get some of their funding through the City of Los Angeles, so we can't count their hours as matching, but they sure help us get a lot done. You can see photos from their Russell Kantor Scholarship Awards on their website at [www.lacorps.org](http://www.lacorps.org). I've gone to the presentations of these awards a number of times and always hear amazing stories of lives they're turned around.

July 12<sup>th</sup> will be the first CD 14 work party. It will be a joint event with the Clean and Green crew, Mount Washington Association, Mount Washington Homeowners Alliance, and other community volunteers all working together. This date may have past by the time this newsletter gets to you on paper, but we'll spread the word through other means and hope to get another good turn-out. Meet us at Marmion and Avenue 45 on July 12<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM. We'll plan on picking up litter and clearing weeds just for two hours so that we can quit before it gets hot!

If July 12<sup>th</sup> has already past by the time you read this, don't worry, we'll have another. Councilperson Huizar's staff has requested another Clean and Green crew to assist us again sometime in October or November, and we can pick any location. The only requirement is that it be in CD 14. Any ideas? Moon Canyon? Marmion by the Museum? Please call or email me at [lynnette@pacbell.net](mailto:lynnette@pacbell.net) if you would like to suggest an area that needs some extra help.

## President's Message

Eliot Sekuler

### Local activists, global impacts

While taking a walk on a brisk, sunny afternoon during our recent vacation, my wife, Jain, pointed to a lawn sign displayed in front of a home on a tree-lined street of Santiago, Chile:

*"Parques, si. Tuneles, no."*

"Look, they're community activists," she said.

We were unfamiliar with the controversy, but guessed (correctly, as it turned out) that city officials were weighing a proposal to build a tunnel beneath Santiago's beautiful municipal park (just two blocks away) and that environmentally-

minded neighbors were fighting the encroachment on their greenspace.

The lawn sign's owners, of course, would feel right at home in our neighborhood, where greenspace and our environment are sacred and where lawn signs tend to sprout like mushrooms after an early autumn rain.

*"Parques, si. Tuneles, no"* expressed sentiments complementary to those voiced by members of our Association just a few years back when our community banded together to prevent the destruction of Elyria Canyon. It's the same sentiment that leads many of us to lobby for the creation of an "emerald necklace" in our part of the city, and to support efforts for the revitalization of the Los Angeles River.

The lawn sign in Santiago underscored a truth that's worth noting in this year of national elections and global concerns: the maxim "think globally, act locally" is as relevant as ever.

### General Membership Meeting

Sunday, July 20, 2008, Noon to 2 PM  
Southwest Museum courtyard  
234 Museum Drive

### *Our Annual "Summer Fun" Meeting*

A concert of boleros by Mateo Stoneman, prize-winning cuisine by James Beard Award-nominated chefs Jaime Ramirez and Ramiro Aryizu, plus plenty of activities for families and kids will be featured at the Mount Washington Association's annual "Summer Fun" meeting on Sunday July 20. See the article on page 2 for details.

As always, admission, food and entertainment are free to all Mount Washington residents and our Northeast L.A. neighbors.

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

By taking action in our own communities, we're joining hands with like-minded people the world over to affect our global condition, one tunnel, one park, one street clean-up at a time.

I wish those Santiago activists the best of luck. It's good to be home.

## Officers

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Newsletter edited by Scott  
Burleigh (319-3534)

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## The Hillside Federation News

### *Ann Walnum*

The May and June meetings of the Hillside Federation were packed with presentations and action items.

On May 7, Joe Edminston, director of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, swore in newly elected officers and then spoke about the formation of SMMC and its progress in "creating political power for mountain area protection".

Now the challenge is to find a balance between the Los Angeles "intensification" policy and our need for open space, learning to live sensibly with nature. Joe also noted that the Conservancy is meeting brush clearance requirements; for us, this means Elyria Canyon, Rainbow Canyon, and Heidelberg Park.

The progress of the recently passed City "Baseline Mansionalization" Ordinance for flat lands was reported. This is the first of three steps: flat land, then hillside adjacent, then hillside. Hillside Federation President Joan Luchs praised

Ed Reyes for his support and leadership of this legislation.

It was also reported that supervision of billboard companies, especially in the Cahuenga Pass and Ventura Boulevard area, has proven very lax.

On June 4, eulogies to Jill Swift, co-founder of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, and to Robert Nudelman, founder of Hollywood Heritage, were given. Information on the Griffith family's nomination of the whole of Griffith Park to a Historic-Cultural Monument was also given. (Echo Park, MacArthur Park, Banning Park, and Barnsdall Park already have this status.)

At both meetings there were informational presentations and resolutions over the implementation of S.B. 1818 – called the "Densification Ordinance" – which allows builders of low-cost housing the right to build additional units over zoning limitations and to bypass various regulatory steps.

The most useful information to everyone was the announcement that the national "do not call" number – 888-382-1222 – would now also apply to cell phones, which in many cases are charged for incoming calls. The request must be made from the phone that is to be blocked and is good for five years. Note that a cell phone directory will soon be made available to telemarketers.

## Great Food, Music and Kids' Games At MWA's Annual "Summer Fun" Meeting

This year's Summer Fun meeting festivities will take place from noon to 2 PM in the shaded courtyard of the Southwest Museum, 234 Museum Drive.

Mateo Stoneman, a frequent guest on public radio station KPCC's popular "Offramp," has developed a repertoire of classic boleros from the 30's, 40's and 50's. Self-accompanied on an acoustic guitar, his repertoire will be a perfect complement to the cuisine of Chefs Jaime Martin Del Campo and Ramiro Arvizu, recently nominated as "Best Chefs, Pacific" by the James Beard Foundation and hosts of a regular cooking segment on Univision's Channel 34. (The other 2008 Los Angeles James Beard nominees include the chefs of famed high-end restaurants Providence, Sona, and Joe's.)

Chefs Del Campo and Arvizu have been operating the tiny Casita Mexicana in Bell for the past five years and, despite their out-of-the-way location and modestly appointed setting, have drawn a fanatically loyal clientele and rave reviews from major publications. Patrons of Casita Mexicana are treated to traditional Mexican cooking with an emphasis on authentic regional styles and techniques. Rather than blending the regional accents of the cuisine into a standardized menu of "Mexican food," Casita Mexicana glories in the quirks and idiosyncrasies of the very diverse ingredients and tastes specific to Mexico's many regions. And servers often provide a running and very entertaining narrative explaining the origins of each regional dish. Casita

Mexicana serves a little history, some geography, and plenty of local color with its delicious food.

Del Campo and Arvizu will be opening their second restaurant closer to Northeast L.A. (on Rowena Avenue in Silverlake) in just a few months. We hope you'll help us welcome Jamie and Ramiro to the neighborhood as we sample their wonderful cuisine.

In addition to the food and music, the afternoon's program will feature a full slate of kids' activities, including apple bobbing and "Marco Polo."

#### Letters to the Editor

It is such a joy to be fortunate enough to live on Mount Washington, with the birds, animals, trees, snakes, flowers and insects for neighbors. I am quite fascinated by the hawks, doves, bluebirds, hummingbirds, squirrels, mockingbirds, woodpeckers, robins, orioles, canaries, finches, cats, dogs, parrots, ravens, blackbirds, bees, spiders, raccoons and possums. I am in awe of everyone. It is so peaceful and serene; sometimes I think I must be dreaming.

Who would ever want to leave this garden of paradise! The wind makes the wind chimes sing and the giant eucalyptus tree across the street sway and produce a serene rustling of its leaves and branches. In addition, the birds chatter constantly. But why are these cars, trucks, vans, SUVs and motorcycles always in such a hurry?

Ken Lesser  
Tacoma Avenue

## Draft Minutes of the May 2008 General Membership Meeting

*Pat Griffith*

The meeting was called to order by President Eliot Sekuler. Minutes of the April 17 meeting were approved. Announcements by Jim Ohanesen, Deputy for CD 14, included information about the June 9 reception at the Police Museum to welcome new Northeast Division Captain Bill Murphy and the June 28 Clean up of Marmion Way. Hank Shaeffer announced he had taken on the role of Liaison between the Mount Washington Association and the Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council (ASNC), where he serves as a Mount Washington representative. Issues being discussed at the ASNC's Mount Washington Local Issues Committee meeting include non-permitted construction and the planned Figueroa Clean up on May 31, prior to Lummis Day.

Councilmember Reyes, who represents CD1 including portions of Mount Washington, presented much information about the LA River Revitalization Plan. This plan has arisen out of 7 years of work via the Ad Hoc LA River committee and is to address relief for our park-poor neighborhoods. The Plan is focused on dealing with the spine of the LA River, not the whole watershed.

The master plan will work in five opportunity areas. These areas will maintain flood control but will also add near-term improvements, such as green strips, and will create "destinations" along the river.

The plan now has \$25M pledged by the federal Water Resources Development Act and \$2M from the State Coastal Conservancy. We have already received \$25M for Taylor Yard from the local Prop O funds and \$0.5M from the State Prop 12 for the Elysian Valley Bikeway. The money has allowed Taylor Yard to develop the 40-acre park and will develop the new high school at the North end and new LEED-based housing at the South end. The hardest task was to create a cooperative agreement between the City, the County, and the Army Corporation. The RIO (River Improvement Overlay) is a new planning area that applies to all new public and private projects adjacent to the river.

Councilmember Reyes fielded questions about the Cornfield park, the Arroyo Seco Specific Plan and restoration of the Arroyo, the proposed High Speed Rail line, and efforts to reclaim water.

Dr. William Rutherford, a Professor of Linguistics at USC, is also an expert (and enthusiast) for Early Music, i.e., music from before 1750, when Bach died. His home houses many original or demonstration instruments, including two harpsichords, an organetto, and a pipe organ. He spoke about his recent dedication of his house on San Rafael to the USC Thornton School of Music. The Thornton School has already put on several events at his house, and Mount Washington 6th graders have also toured his house for a quick summary of 500 years of music history! Bill will let us know about any future concerts at his home, so that we can also come.

Michael Alexander spoke about the series of free Grand Performances downtown that begin in June. The website <http://www.grandperformances.org> has the full schedule, and you can hear samples of the music and see clips of the movies and dance performances.

Rosamarie Marquez, the producer of Lummis Day, gave us a quick summary of the many events scheduled for the day, starting with Carlos Guitarlos prior to the Poetry at Lummis House, and ending with Jackson Browne's performance. Food will be available and the day promises something for everyone.

The meeting was adjourned after announcing the Summer Fun meeting on July 20 at the Southwest Museum.

## Public Safety

*Cheri Uno*

### CERT News – from a recent CERT Bulletin

Recently, an email has been circulating again which describes an alternative to the long-established "Drop, Cover, and Hold On" advice (for earthquakes).

The so-called "triangle of life" and some of the other actions recommended in the email are

potentially life threatening, and the credibility of the source of these recommendations has been questioned.

Federal, state, and local emergency management experts in the United States, the Red Cross, and other official preparedness organizations all agree that "Drop, Cover, and Hold On" is the appropriate action to reduce injury and death during earthquakes.

A compilation of rebuttals from many organizations to these alternative recommendations, as well as news articles about the controversy, is online at [www.earthquakecountry.info/dropcoverholdon](http://www.earthquakecountry.info/dropcoverholdon) (on the side bar of that page).

Please do not forward any 'Triangle of Life' emails. Also let your friends, neighbors and organizations know.

[from Linda Underwood for [www.cert-la.com](http://www.cert-la.com)]

e-Policing on [LAPDonline.org](http://LAPDonline.org)

Have you seen the Crime Maps feature of the LAPDonline website? Go to the "Crime Maps" section from the home page. You will see a prompt to type in an address. You can search areas (i.e., 1, 3, 5 miles) around this location for various days or weeks and see what crimes have recently occurred, or you can search previous dates. This can give you a more accurate idea of the crimes in your area – instead of relying on rumor and illusion.

#### Reporting Crimes

Recently I received an email about crimes that had occurred in Mount Washington several months before. The police never received reports of these crimes. If crimes are not reported, there is very little chance that

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the perpetrator can be arrested and you can expect the crimes to end. By not reporting crimes, you are part of the problem not part of the solution. You should never think that nothing is done with your report – that is never the case.

SLO Falconer's Report for Mount Washington, from his weekly report:

"Just because we usually have no crimes to report, we should not become complacent about our persons and our property. Make sure your security lighting is functioning, windows and doors are secure. The biggest crime trend of late is vehicle break-ins prompted by folks leaving GPS devices visible in the windows and iPods on the console. Please keep a record of your property, such as photos and serial numbers in case you are victimized. Our detectives have twice as much work to do when they recover property and have to track down the rightful owner."

#### Fires, Fires, and more Fires

Again, this will be a bad year for fires.

Recently after the fire on Kite Hill, someone asked me "How do I report a fire?" Please call 911. Especially if you smell or see smoke, call 911 and report your location (address) and the direction in which you see the smoke. Don't think someone else will do it. You do not need an exact location – they can send a helicopter over to get the exact location and sent out the fire department as soon as possible. Minutes can save lives and homes.

#### SurfwisE Screening

Local Director Doug Pray was on hand to discuss his most recent documentary, *SurfwisE*, which was shown at a free screening last week by the Arroyo Seco

Neighborhood Council in the Jack and Denny Smith Multi Purpose Room at Mount Washington Elementary school.

This documentary has been both a critical and commercial success since it was released in May this year. Directed by Mount Washington resident Doug Pray, *Surfwise* explores the life of surfer Dorian "Doc" Paskowitz, his wife Juliette, and their family. Their nine children were all home-schooled and were raised in a small camper on the beach, where they surfed and had to adhere to a strict diet and lifestyle.

The New York Times describes Doug Pray's work as follows:

Mr. Pray, a filmmaker with a thing for youth subcultures (his earlier films include "Hype!," about the Seattle music scene), has an easygoing, accessible, silky-smooth style.

The evening began with a reception and free dinner, followed by the screening, then Q&A after the film.

## What Can The ASNC Do For You?

*Hank Schaeffer*

The truth is, a lot of people who live on Mount Washington have never even heard of the Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council (ASNC). And a lot more people may have heard of it, but don't really know what it is.

How can I be so sure of this? Because as of the last general election (November 2007) only a dismal 3.8 % of Mount Washington residents were registered as ASNC stakeholders (459 out of 12,000) – and out of those, only a third managed to vote!

So maybe we should start at the beginning and ask "What is a neighborhood council?"

Dissatisfaction with the responsiveness of city government in Los Angeles has a long and storied history. This is not surprising, as there are no political subdivisions and the place is enormous. Take Mount Washington, for example. The community is currently divided between the First and Fourteenth City Council Districts. Between them, these two districts cover nearly 37 square miles (the City of San Francisco covers only 10 square miles more) and they have a population of close to half a million – more than the state capitol of Sacramento. If you're wondering why City Council offices tend to be unresponsive, imagine what would happen if the City of Sacramento (or San Francisco) had an administrative staff of 48. Yet the fact is, each City Council District is allotted about half that number.

Understandably, frustration with City Hall has periodically boiled over into secessionist movements. The Valley tried to secede in the 1940s and 1950s; Westwood wanted out in the early 1960s. In 1964, a City Council committee recommended charter reform to establish a borough system, but the full Council failed to act on it. Several years later, the Reining Commission, appointed after the Watts riots, recommended the establishment of Neighborhood Associations with

elected boards. Once again, nothing happened. Through the 1970s and 1980s, as Proposition 13 cut local revenues, the quality of public services declined further. Finally, in the aftermath of the 1992 riots, a confluence of factors – City Hall gridlock, a renewed Valley secession movement, and Mayor Riordan's struggle to increase his power against an entrenched City Council – finally came together to produce some measure of reform.

The idea – enshrined in the City Charter amendments of 1999 – was to establish a citywide system of neighborhood councils with advisory capacity and elected boards. A new Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) was created to support and encourage the neighborhood councils. At the same time, a system of five regional planning commissions was put in place with power to decide land use cases at a local level. This package of reform measures passed by a substantial margin, receiving over 60% of the vote.

After a time-consuming, unwieldy and somewhat contentious process, the Arroyo Seco Neighborhood

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Council was finally certified by the City of Los Angeles on October 2, 2002 as the local neighborhood council representing Mount Washington and four other small communities in Northeast Los Angeles that share similar concerns and/or resources. The ASNC communities are Mount Washington (roughly from Marmion Way to Division), Sycamore Grove (the commercial corridor along Figueroa), Montecito Heights (roughly from the 110 Freeway over to Lincoln Heights), Monterey Hills (the largest condo residential area in Northeast LA), and Hermon (east of the Arroyo, opposite Highland Park). A map of the exact boundaries can be found online at [http://www.asnc.us/Elections-2007/StreetFinder\\_map.pdf](http://www.asnc.us/Elections-2007/StreetFinder_map.pdf).

Okay, so now we know: ASNC is the local neighborhood council representing Mount Washington. But what does it do? You can really boil the functions down to two.

First, it gets your needs and concerns in front of local officials. Let's be clear. We're not talking about anything grandiose. We're talking about everyday problems you have living in the City of Los Angeles, from construction issues to street signs to trash trucks that seem to dump as much as they pick up. Our Local Issues Committee meets at the Mount Washington Elementary School 7-9 PM, on the second Wednesday of every month. Ordinarily, there are representatives from the 1st and 14th District Council Offices at the meeting. If you have something you'd like to talk about, all you have to do is show up. Certainly there is no guarantee you will see prompt action, but unless you can pick up the phone and talk to your dear personal friend at the local City Council Office, trust me, this is the best way to get something done.

The second function is financial assistance with local community projects. The ASNC has an annual budget of \$50,000 which can be used to assist with local community projects. Okay, I admit, in the context of the population and area the ASNC represents, this is a laughable amount – and it also has to cover administrative costs! Worse, the requirements for funding projects are unwieldy and bureaucratic. Nevertheless, working in concert with other community organizations such as the MWA, the Homeowners' Alliance, Friends of the Mount Washington School, and Northeast Trees, we have been able to accomplish a surprising amount. Some of the projects we have helped fund to date have included.

- Lummi Day
- Marmion Way Cleanup and Tree Planting Project
- Mt. Washington Elementary School amphitheater
- Jack & Denny Smith Library & Community Center
- Tree plantings throughout the community
- Clean up and trail maintenance in Elyria Canyon
- Carlin G. Smith Recreation Center activities
- Pedestrian benches along Jack Smith hiking route

- Repair and landscaping of public stairways in the Five Points area
- Support for the annual August Mt. Washington meeting at Cleland Bi-centennial Park
- Improvements for student crossings at Mt. Washington Elementary School
- Memorial benches in Elyria Canyon Park to honor our long-time activists who have passed away

So if you have a project that would be of benefit to the Mt. Washington community, get in touch with us. Who knows? Maybe we can help. Your local ASNC representatives are:

Zara Scoville ('07-'08)

323 / 309-8838

zarats@sbcglobal.net

Paula Sirola ('07-'08)

323 / 340-8478

paulasirola@yahoo.com

Hank Shaeffer ('08-'09)

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hwshaeffer@roadrunner.com

Ann Walnum ('08-'09)

323 / 222-8327

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To register as a stakeholder, or to learn more, visit us online at: [www.asnc.us](http://www.asnc.us).

## Southwest Museum Programs

July – September 2008

**All events are free.**

### Main Museum Events

Every Saturday in July and August, from 12 Noon to 2 PM on the Library Patio: *Art Classes* with Heriberto Luna. Learn to draw with pencil, ink and charcoal, using the Southwest Museum grounds as subject and inspiration!

Southwest Society presents "Cultural Elevations: Get High on Culture!" Wednesday nights this summer.

July 2, 6:30 to 9 PM: Music by Jack Wilson, Jr. and Modulators

July 9, 7:45 to 9 PM: Native Cinema presentation *Ramona Band of Cahuilla Indians* and *Miss Navajo*

July 16, 6:30 to 9 PM: Native Performances – Ben Hale (Navajo) and Rodney Howard (Maricopa) with Intertribal Dancers

July 23, 7:45 to 9 PM: World Cinema presentation *Plagues and Pleasures on the Salton Sea* (USA)

July 30, 7:30 to 9 PM: Improv Extra – Improv Theatre sketch comedy

August 6, 6:30 to 9 PM: Music by Unpopable and Seasons

August 13, 7 to 9 PM: Native Cinema presentation *Crazy Ind'n and Imprint*

August 20, 6:30 to 9 PM: Native Performances – Journeys to the Past, storytelling

August 27, 7:15 to 9 PM: World Cinema presentation *Whale Rider* (New Zealand)

#### A View from the Braun Lecture Series

Saturday, July 19, 1 to 2 PM: "A Sampling of Conservation Treatments from the Southwest Museum Collection" presented by Angie McGrew, Associate Conservator

Saturday, August 23, 1 to 2 PM: "West as Home" presented by Carolyn Brucken, Associate Curator for Western Women's History

Saturday, September 20, 1 to 2 PM: "Cogged Stones of Early California" presented by Paul Apodaca, Ph.D., Professor at Chapman College and Southwest Museum Lecturer in Residence

#### Store Events

Saturday, July 12, 7 to 10 PM: NELA Second Saturday Gallery Night. Artist: Pola Lopez

Saturday and Sunday, August 2 and 3, 12 Noon to 5 PM: Waddell Trunk Show and Sale of Native Jewelry and more!

Saturday, August 9, 7 to 10 PM: NELA Second Saturday Gallery Night. Artist: Chris Maya

Saturday, September 13, 7 to 10 PM: NELA Second Saturday Gallery Night. Artists: Mount Washington Plein Air Painters

## CERT Training Class

The Quarterly Division Trainings provide either new CERT-related training topics or review existing CERT topics to increase the "Ready Responsiveness" of our CERT teams.

We offer one topic, three times, in three different locations in Los Angeles (once in each of our City Fire Divisions) over a 3-month period. That way, CERT members have three different opportunities to attend the training in three different locations.

Training will be either conducted by LAFD members of the CERT Unit or by qualified specialists on the subject matter. Quarterly Division Trainings are open to all CERT graduates regardless of affiliation.

This quarter's topic is Triage.

Sign up at <http://www.cert-la.com/quarterly-trainings.htm>

Los Angeles CERT members must submit completed CERT Volunteer Enrollment Forms prior to the event, unless you already have one on file. CERT members from other agencies must submit copies of their CERT IDs or CERT certificates prior to the event.

Fax all paperwork to 818-804-5302.

Division 1 Class

Monday, August 4, 7pm-9pm

Frank Hotchkin Memorial Training Center

Room 205

1700 North Stadium Way

Los Angeles 90012

## Restaurant Review: Señor Fish Revisited

*Eliot Sekuler*

We were almost as far from L.A. as you can get, sailing aboard a wood-hulled Indonesian schooner through the remote Komodo Islands, and I was exchanging pleasantries with a fellow scuba diver, an Australian from Melbourne. The place I lived, I said, was a neighborhood called Mount Washington, a couple of miles north of downtown, off the 110 Freeway. The Aussie wasn't overly familiar with L.A., but he lit up with recognition. "North Figueroa Street," he smiled. "You live near Señor Fish!"

The Señor Fish of international renown no longer occupies the meager space of its beginnings on Figueroa Street, but has morphed into a mini-chain; there's one downtown, another in Pasadena and one in Alhambra, but the operators of the original Figueroa operation migrated to a craftsman home on Eagle Rock Boulevard three years ago, and in the new space, patrons can choose to eat their fish tacos alfresco or indoors. And those fish tacos may still be the best in the city, maybe the best anywhere.

Señor Fish's offerings extend well beyond the realm of tacos. Their fish plates (usually a choice of orange roughy, tilapia, or snapper) are always fresh, nicely grilled and come with generous helpings of beans, rice, salad and tortillas, a very hearty meal for a reasonable \$10.95 tab. Almost as famous as their fish tacos are their scallop burritos, an enormous roll of plump scallops buffered with rice and beans, easily a complete meal for \$6.95 (for an extra \$1, they'll grill the scallops. It's a dollar well spent). A ceviche tostada is a bargain at \$3.50, piled high with marinated fish that will make your mouth pucker pleasantly. Though not their specialty, their carnitas and pastor burritos are above average (and are priced at only \$5.95) and a garden salad, complete with mandarin orange sections, will feed two people healthily for \$4.50.

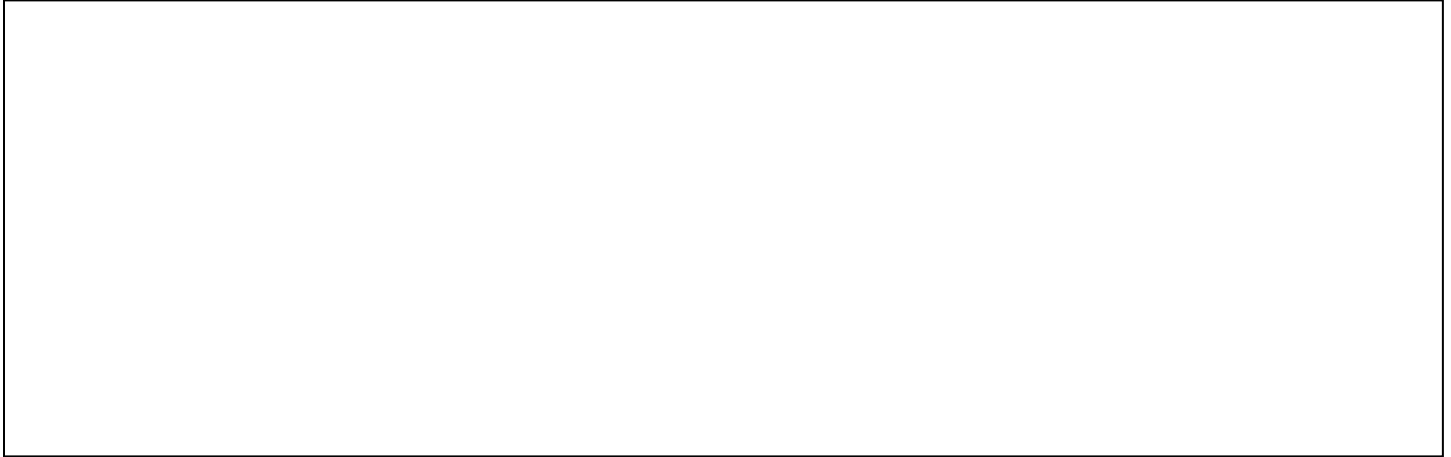
A few words must be said about their salsas. Long before every Pollo Loco and Poquito Mas was offering salsa bars, a major attraction at Señor Fish was – and remains – their buffet of hot red, green and smoky chipotle salsas, relishes and deadly pickled jalapeños. There is a price to be paid the next morning, of course, but for those who love their food spicy, it's a small price to pay.

My favorite dish at Señor Fish is the bouillabaise-like Caldo de Siete Mares, the famous "seven seas stew," an ubiquitous item on Southern California mariscos

restaurant menus but rarely done with the generosity of portion and freshness of ingredients as featured at Señor Fish. Chock full of seafood, with big legs of succulent king crab, clams, scallops, shrimp and fish, it's a seafood feast in a bowl. At \$13.95, the "Seven Seas" stew is the priciest item on the menu but well worth the cost. A word of warning, though: eating this dish can be

a messy proposition, so consider wearing a bib or an old shirt or you'll be likely to be wearing a splattered memento of your dining experience.

Señor Fish is located at 4803 Eagle Rock Boulevard in Eagle Rock. Open seven days from 11:00 AM.



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