

Westwood Hills Property Owners Association 50th Anniversary Annual Meeting

honoring

* Our residents of 50 years or more *

* Our volunteers *

* Our neighborhood *

Westwood Hills has a rich history. Today our community is the home of many professionals—especially doctors, lawyers, scientists, bankers, information technology, and university staff and faculty. Others among our members are in entertainment and music. This continues a pattern established in the past, when many well-known people were residents of our community.


Among scientists and businessmen there were Sy Ramo and Tom Jones. Architects who lived here included Paul Williams and Allen Siple. Among musicians there were composer Eric Ziesl, conductor Mehli Mehta and singers Amelita Galli-Curci (the most famous coloratura at the Metropolitan Opera in the 1920's) and Dorothy Kirsten. Among dancers there were Marge and Gower Champion. Among movie and TV personalities, there were Robert Sterling, Carroll O'Connor, Leonard Nimoy, Michael Warren, Robert Redford, John Landis, Michael Bay, David Schwimmer, Martin Landau, David and Jerry Zucker, Dick Van Patten, Bob and Pat Crane, Patty Duke and John Astin, Terry Moore, Rhonda Fleming, Tippi Hedron, Peggy Lee, Rita Hayworth, Eva Gabor and Marilyn Monroe. Marilyn Monroe's first marriage took place in the home of attorney Chester Howells on Bentley Ave. *(by Harriet Miller)*

More than 40 of our Westwood Hills Homes are owned by residents of 50 years or more. Our President Emerita Harriet Miller tells us who they are and adds some memories on pages two and three of this brochure. Many of our 607 homes were designed in the 1930's and 1940's by architects whose work has become part of Southern California's architectural history. Two of our best-known architects, Paul Williams and Allen Siple, lived in homes that they designed in our neighborhood. Board Members Bill Gubin and Carole Magnuson have prepared a slide show of these homes that will be showing during the reception following the meeting program. Page four includes a capsule history of the Westwood Hills Property Owners Association during the 50 years since its founding in 1958. We only regret that space does not allow us to list the name of every one of the hundreds of volunteers who have worked with WHPOA to serve the neighborhood during these 50 years, giving generously of their time and sometimes their treasure in the cause of being a good neighbor and making a good neighborhood. Hats off to them and to the many who will answer the call to neighborhood service during the next 50 years.

Our Golden Year Homeowners

Our former president **Harriet Miller** spent many hours this summer compiling this list of homeowners who have lived in Westwood Hills for 50 years or more. She provides the following report:

“In 1957, the year before our homeowner association was formed, a child was born who is still living here. **David Wallenstein**, who is now a doctor at UCLA, moved back to his childhood home several years ago. When David was growing up there were several other children in our neighborhood who are still living here. **Harriet Hailparn Soares, Arlene Papel Slater, Beth Graysen Devermont** and **Kenton Horacek** all moved here in the early 1950’s. Dr. Horacek has the distinction of having lived in three homes in our neighborhood. He grew up on Greenfield. Then as an adult he has owned two other homes here -- certainly a good testimonial for the desirability of living here! Also the fact that **Lynn Spencer** is still living here since 1947, **Jack Mattison** since 1942 and **Jean Bartel Hogue** since 1937 attest to their love of our community. Jack’s parents wanted a home convenient to the skating rink where Jack, a championship skater, practiced, and Jean’s parents built their home in Westwood Hills so that Jean, who was crowned Miss America in 1943, would be close to UCLA when she became college age....All of these people have given me glowing accounts of the pleasure of growing up here, and I believe that today’s children will have equally happy memories of their lives in our community. The fact that 37 other homes have the same owners after half a century certainly attests to the stability and desirability of our community, and so does the fact that four generations of a family have lived here: the Brauns on Cashmere, the Borns on Tilden and now **Tracey Born Fitzgerald** and her children in her grandparents’ home.”



A-G

John and Talma Barnett (S. Bentley)

Dr. Nathan and Coe Barshop (Sunset)

Jean Bartel (Thurston):

“I remember riding my bike down Sepulveda Blvd. to Uni High and walking to UCLA. Sepulveda was a small street. In the winter, poinsettias bloomed at Sunset and Sepulveda.”

Dr. Ralph and Helen Beasom (Ophir)

Maryanne and Charles Carlton (Cashmere)

Virginia Clark (Cashmere)

Eugene and Charlotte Davis (Tilden)

Beth Devermont (Montana)

The Hon. Lawrence E. Drumm (Bronwood)

Ruth Epstein (Denslow)

Van Foster (Bronwood)

Melvin Frankenstein (Barlock)

Irving and Dorothy Gertz (Veteran)

Doris Gillick (S. Bentley)

Dr. Orville J. Golub (Veteran)

H-R

Samuel and Ruth Halper (S. Glenroy)

Ruth Helfman (Bronwood):

“My husband and I bought our double lot for \$9,500 in 1954. Our home, which was finished in 1956, was designed by William Overbeck, a young architect who had worked with Quincy Jones. William had lived in Westwood Hills as a child but later moved...”

Sylvia Hirschfield (Bronwood)

Lilyan B. Holdsberg (S. Bentley)
Dr. Kenton and Chery Horacek (Denslow)
Eleanor Howard (Veteran)
Charles and Barbara Kierulff (S. Bentley)
James B. and Edith Large (Sunset):

"We built our home in 1958 on a lot next door to a home designed by Alfred Gilman, purchased in 1942 by my husband's parents, Bruce and Grace Large."

Henny Lucoff (Bronwood)
Jack Mattison (Homedale)
Helen Mekjian (Montana)
Susan Milford (S. Bentley)
John and Annabelle Powell (Cashmere)
Jane Quint (Levering)
Betty Reynolds (Dalkeith):

...her parents built her house on property purchased for \$200 in 1929...

S-Z

Dr. Richard and Roberta Simon (Greenfield)
Arlene Slater (Cashmere Terrace):

"I was raised in the house I live in on Cashmere Terrace from age 5 on and took over owning the house when I was about 28 years old. Since I'm the big 'six-OH!' ...that's a loooong time. I remember Westwood Village when it really was a village...only the Fox and Bruin theatres....You could always get a good place in line at the theatres because you knew someone up close in the line. Bullocks and Fedway were the stores we shopped in and Desmond's was there as well...a good deli that I forget the name of, and the Hamlet and pizza place (was it Mario's?) were the places to eat. Fedway had a juke box up on the third floor which was a great place to meet up with your friends. I guess this makes me an old timer...but it seems like yesterday! I moved to Cashmere Terrace in 1952. I also remember the Texaco gas station on the corner for years, the Hawaiian Hut next to the gas station where you could get ice cream cones, and a bigger Sepulveda before there was the 405. I remember the ice cream man with the music playing and the Helms bakery truck with its special tooting coming down the street. I feel very young...I have no idea why I can remember all these things!"

Frank and Bette Smith (Ophir)
Harriet Soares (S. Bentley):

"My family moved into Westwood Hills in 1952 -- 459 S. Bentley Ave, and I attended Emerson and University High. After I graduated from college (1963) and graduate school (1965), I lived on my own in New York, and then Los Angeles. My parents continued to live in the family home. After my mother died in 1971, my father remarried. He moved out in 1976, when I moved into the house with my family. I raised both my children there. I am currently in a duplex in Brentwood Glen while my house undergoes major repairs and reconstruction. (The foundation was failing and the house was tilting.) I hope I will move back in by the end of the year."

Mollie R. Sokolove (Denslow)
Alex and Anne-Marie Spataru (Levering)
Lynne Spencer (Barlock)
Robert A. Spencer (Greenfield)
Ann Jeffries Sterling (S. Bentley)
Adolphe Tischler (Greenfield)
Sylvia Trust (Veteran)
David Wallenstein (S. Glenroy):

"My parents bought the house where I live in 1956, about 6 months before I was born. I grew up here. After my parents passed away, I purchased my brother's part of the house and moved back. The house has been in our family for 52 years."

Harriet Werner (Tavistock)



1958

- Newly organized Westwood Hills Property Owners Association successfully opposes a city plan to tax Westwood Hills residents to widen Montana Ave. in order to accommodate traffic exiting from the new 405 Freeway then under construction. Stanley Brown is the founding president.

1960s

- Westwood Hills Property Owners Association joins other neighborhood associations to oppose the Beverly Hills Freeway “red route” which threatened homes in the Sunset/Thurston/Glenroy area. George Hamilton is president.

1970's

- Association forces UCLA to abandon plans for parking lot and baseball stadium at Veteran and Montana; UCLA agrees to restrict use of land east of Veteran Ave. Association facilitates renewal of CC&Rs. Harriet Miller becomes president in 1976 and serves for 25 years.

1980s

- Effort to obtain freeway soundwall on east side of 405 south of Montana succeeds. UCLA yields to WHPOA demand for a Long Range Development Plan to chart campus growth. Community plan amended to prevent upzoning of apartments on Veteran Ave. and widening of Veteran Ave. between Strathmore Ave. and Montana Ave. Getty Oil Company agrees to change route of pipeline proposed for Montana Ave. New land use plans adopted for Westwood Village and North Village. Permit parking district established. VA land sale opposed.

1990s

- UCLA is on the move and developers have their sights on Westwood Village. WHPOA joins community fight for reasonable growth plans for both. Developers seek changes in new plans to allow massive development near Bullocks but fall to community opposition. Association seeks traffic calming measures from LADOT.

2000s

- Association organizes successful “Stop the Off-Ramp” petition drive in response to Caltrans proposal to build a freeway off-ramp that would take homes and dump 405 traffic directly onto Montana Ave at Glenroy. Email network launched. Neighborhood Watch Program becomes a prototype for Westside programs. Long period of opposition to Caltrans plans to widen 405 through Sepulveda Pass saves private property and wins mitigations in key areas. Plans to add one million square feet of building at Veteran and Wilshire and commercial use of Veterans Administration Property opposed. Association celebrates 50th Anniversary!!*

* WHPOA thanks our 50th Anniversary Sponsors: W Hotel, Los Angeles – Westwood; Larry Young, Prudential California Realty; Whole Foods Market • Westwood. Parking provided by CB Richard Ellis.