



WESTWOOD HILLS

# NEWS

WESTWOOD HILLS PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

FALL 2002

## Thank You Harriet!!

### ANNUAL ELECTION MEETING

WEDNESDAY,  
NOVEMBER 6, 2002

7 P.M.

VILLAGE CHURCH OF  
WESTWOOD

343 CHURCH LANE

SPEAKER:  
COUNCILMAN  
JACK WEISS

GUEST OF HONOR:  
HARRIET MILLER

Please plan to attend this important meeting. It's a wonderful chance to meet our new representative on the Los Angeles City Council AND to say thank you to Harriet.

If you've ever passed the corner of Cashmere and Greenfield and seen a woman patiently weeding her garden, you've witnessed the tenacity of Harriet Miller in action. Fortunately for Westwood Hills residents, Harriet has tended our neighborhood with the same patience and tenacity for 25 years.

Members of the Westwood Hills Property Owners Association will have an opportunity to thank Harriet for her remarkable leadership of the organization Nov. 6, at 7 p.m., at the association's Annual Meeting.

Despite the many battles she's fought to protect our neighborhood from the damaging effects of an ever-growing metropolis, Harriet looks back fondly on her quarter century of service. "Being involved with the homeowners association was a very rewarding experience," she says. Until she assumed the presidency in 1976, Harriet had known only her immediate neighbors. "But by being involved I had the opportunity to meet people throughout the neighborhood. No longer was I living in just a house, but in a community of lovely people."

Among the accomplishments that have marked Harriet's tenure as WHPOA president are her participation in the planning processes that led to landmark Westwood Village and North Village Specific Plans and the UCLA Long Range Development Plan; her work with UCLA to facilitate the location of the Southern Regional Library Storage Facility at a location on campus that abutted our neighborhood (instead of a UCLA-planned baseball stadium); and her successful effort to move a methane gas pipe from its planned location beneath



Montana Avenue to underneath the Veterans' Cemetery. "Everyone said it was going to be impossible to get approval from the Federal government," Harriet recalled of the gas pipe relocation, "but it was the easiest thing."

With her ready laugh and charming manner, Harriet makes these enormous triumphs on behalf of our neighborhood look easy. Anyone who's worked as a neighborhood activist knows they are anything but. "It takes alertness on the part of members," she says, noting that it was an attentive Westwood Hills resident who saw the notice that went up out of nowhere about a methane gas pipeline.

Those who've worked with her know Harriet is an effective strategist. "In all the years, I usually went directly to whoever was involved - whether city official, county or state. Because I didn't know any better," she laughs.

These days, Harriet has more time available to devote to her gardening, as well as her other passion: international politics. Certainly any global hotspot would benefit from Harriet's considerable diplomatic and consensus-building skills. Meanwhile, she'll continue to share her experience by serving as a WHPOA board member.

-Debbie Gendel



We spent the summer waiting for two delayed Environmental Impact Reports. One is on Alan Casden's behemoth housing mall, Palazzo Westwood. The other reviews the physical impacts of UCLA's plan to add an undisclosed number of students to the campus enrollment. Both plans have implications for our quality of life in Westwood. Casden's plan ignores the safeguards against traffic-generating inappropriate development agreed to by business, community and university representatives in 1989. UCLA has indicated that it will increase enrollment but has pledged to hold traffic at currently approved levels. We suspect that the delay in the EIR is related to this pledge. In any case, UCLA's ability to develop new facilities is tied to a no new trips agreement with the City of Los Angeles, called the Transportation Mitigation Monitoring Agreement. We will be looking to our new City Councilmember, Jack Weiss, to hold the line on UCLA traffic and to demand that Casden develop within Westwood Village Specific Plan guidelines.

Westwood homeowners organizations also spent time this summer battling other outrageous proposals. One sought to build oversized crypts at Westwood Memorial Park Cemetery adjacent to single-family homes with no set-back from the property line while the other sought to build a 490-foot high apartment tower, later scaled back to 290 feet, on Wilshire Blvd. next to the Westwood Presbyterian Church on property zoned for 72-feet. In our own neighborhood we succeeded in defeating a developer's effort to overbuild an apartment building at Sepulveda and Cashmere.

Others in WHPOA have been hard at work, too. I especially want to thank LeAnne Schwartz, whose catering company L.A. Spice will be our hosts at the Annual Meeting on November 6, and Nicole Brzeski and her Disaster Preparedness Committee who are working on a plan to assist our neighborhood in becoming disaster ready. Please email Nicole at nmf@aol.com if you have a few hours to give to this cause. And then stand by, for the EIR shoes should be dropping soon.

Carole Magnuson, President

## PALAZZO WESTWOOD PROJECT UPDATE

This massive, illegal project is still working its way through the city process. A revised Draft Environmental Impact Report is scheduled to be recirculated by the City, which said the report may be issued in the next four to eight weeks. In the meantime, billionaire developer Alan Casden, who was brought into this project by the site's previous developer, Ira Smedra, has demolished the buildings on the west side of Glendon Ave. Such demolition work was illegally undertaken because the Environmental Impact Report for the project has not yet been approved by the city. When we became aware of the demolition activity, our association joined with other Westwood associations in requesting that the City issue a "stop work" order. The City failed to act, nor has it yet responded to the written objection letters that were filed at the time.

In deposition testimony filed earlier this year in Los Angeles Superior Court, Alan Casden stated under penalty of perjury that he could get his money out of this property by building a one-story (50,000-square-foot to 58,000-square-foot) grocery store. In fact, this was his fallback strategy if the city did not approve his massive project. His economically feasible fallback project is approximately 10% the size of the project he actually proposed to build in the initial Draft EIR – and is well within the legal limits under the Westwood Village Specific Plan. In light of the developer's own sworn testimony, there is no reason why he cannot feasibly develop this site with a project that is within the law.

-Terry Tegnazian

### Nominations for Board of Directors

WHPOA is served by a Board of Directors who are elected each year at the Annual meetings from a slate proposed by a nominating committee. The Board at its first meeting of the year chooses officers of the Association. Directors serve staggered two-year terms. **Members nominated for 2003 are:** Margot Barron, CPA (Tavistock); Barbara Dobkin (Tilden); Karen Fields (Dalkeith); Debra Gendel (Cashmere); Carole Magnuson (Ophir); Deborah Nussbaum (Cashmere Terrace); Susan Polep (Barlocck); LeAnne Schwartz (Glenroy). **Directors who will be serving the second year of their two-year terms are:** Aphrodite Banks (Veteran); Irving Gertz (Veteran); Leona Heritage (Denslow); Wayne Hodges (Thurston); Martin Kaplan (Sunset); Bayard Maybank (Bronwood); Alvin Milder (Greenfield); and Harriet Miller (Cashmere).

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

### PARKING ADDED

UCLA has installed a paved and fenced temporary parking lot for UCLA hospital construction workers on the formerly landscaped northeast corner of Gayley and LeConte. According to Diana Brueggemann, landscaping will be restored when the hospital is finished. Some construction workers will continue to park off-site, but the project needed to park others on campus in order to save money.

### CONSTRUCTION ON SUNSET BLVD

To reduce traffic congestion associated with development of the new the IM Field Parking Structure south of Sunset Blvd. between Westwood Plaza and Bellagio, UCLA will add left and right-hand turning capacity at the intersection of Bellagio and Sunset. The work, which begins in October will widen the right turn pocket on the south side Sunset Boulevard west of Bellagio by two feet and will widen the south side Sunset east of Bellagio by four feet. The project will take four to six weeks.

### 405 EXPANSION MOVES FORWARD

CalTrans is developing alternative proposals for adding capacity to the 405 through Sepulveda Pass south to National Blvd. The simplest and cheapest would add a single northbound lane using CalTrans right of way. However, CalTrans also has other incentives to develop the 405 to a greater capacity and to provide for alternative transit in freeway right of way. Federal money is essential to this program and unless the Federal government relaxes its standards for funding, CalTrans may propose more drastic widening on both sides of the

Freeway and closure of the Montana Avenue and Moraga Drive off-ramps as well as changes to Wilshire Blvd. and Sunset Blvd. CalTrans has promised to meet with homeowner organizations regarding its plans. Information about meetings and other developments regarding this project is available at a special CalTrans website [www.move405.info](http://www.move405.info). This site includes an e-mail feature that allows you to email you thoughts to CalTrans. We encourage you to log on at this site and to let CalTrans know what you think.

### DWP GIVEAWAY

DWP will deliver up to seven 6-foot trees free of charge to customers who participate in tree planting workshops scheduled for UCLA on October 12. For information about these and other workshops in our area, call (800) 473-3652 or visit [www.GreenLA.com](http://www.GreenLA.com). Planting trees is a wonderful way to enhance your property values and help the environment.

### NEW TREES FOR MONTANA AVE

One of the saddest events of this summer was removal of more than 50 large and beautiful 70-year-old eucalyptus trees from Montana and Gayley Avenues by the City. Most of these trees were victims of the red gum lerp psyllid, an insect that has killed and damaged eucalyptus trees throughout Southern California. Our trees were priceless and can't be duplicated, but City has promised to replace the trees with 15-gallon to 24-inch *Tristania conferta*, or Brisbane Box, a relative of the eucalyptus that grows moderately fast to 40 to 60 feet. The tree is not susceptible to insect damage. Planting is to begin this fall.

## Letter

**Richard Murrow**, who died August 29 at age 89, was the last original resident on Ophir Drive. He and Maxine built their home in 1939, spending \$13,500 for the house and lot. The transplanted Kansans raised four sons, dozens of tropical fish in a pond, and a garden Luther Burbank would envy. Maxine died in 1985.

In addition to growing exotic plants and orchids, he was an excellent pianist who composed dozens of beautiful songs. He also worked with playwright William Inge, collaborating on a silent film.

Dick retired from the Rand Corporation in 1972, but he had also worked for the Boeing and Douglas aircraft companies and Howard Hughes. He was one of the designers of the wooden "Spruce Goose," the largest plane ever built. In his spare time he created that infernal "drinking" bird -- the one that endlessly dips its beak into a glass of water.

Dick was a kind neighbor who let our young sons (now grown) swim in his pool before ours was built. Ironically, during a home reception following interment, his sons Richard (Hank), William (Rol), Philip, and Greg let our 10-year-old grandson and his 9-year-old friend swim in the large pool, too.

Ophir Drive's patriarch has moved on, but his offspring are carrying on the nice neighbor policy.

-Don A. Norman





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## WHPOA Welcomes New Members

Please let us know about new neighbors so that we can invite them to join our Association. Or suggest they call our new message line at (310) 472-8914 for membership information. It's a pleasure to welcome these new neighbors who have joined since July: **Kursad and Zarina Kiziloglu**; **Damon and Heidi Borosteel**; and **Judith Summers Brown** (Bentley); **Eric Israel and Craig Christena**; and **Jeffrey Lustgarten and Andrea Barnow** (Bronwood); **Victoria Killough, Steven and Asa Tucker**; and **Marvin Gelfand and Frieda Rapport** (Cashmere); **Allison and Bill Butler** (Dalkeith); **Peter and Heather Felix** (Denslow); and **Wendy Herzog and Stephen Rohde** (Montana). We'd also like to welcome **Ilyas Unit**, son of Kursad and Zarina Kiziloglu, born March 14, 2001 and **Rachel and Hannah**, daughters of Eric Israel and Craig Christena, born June 22, 2001

## We Need Your E-Mail Address

WHPOA's email network is the the fastest way for neighbors to share information about neighborhood issues and to receive updates of important information, including security alerts and traffic warnings. In addition to urgent messages that affect family and property, members get and give referrals for services such as electricians, landscapers, and housesitters, find lost pets and their owners, and more. . One key to our success is that we insure that our members **never get spammed**. The WHPOA e-mail network is unlisted and access is restricted to members who must be approved by the moderators . In addition, moderators must approve all messages and only members may view files and archived messages. Most important, members email addresses are visible only to the moderators. Our network web address is <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/westwoodhills>. join, just **email your name, street address, telephone number and email address** to our moderators, Carole Magnuson and Terry Tegnazian, at: [westwoodhills-owner@yahoogroups.com](mailto:westwoodhills-owner@yahoogroups.com).