



SANTA MONICA CONSERVANCY NEWS

VOL 6 No 2

ENSURING THAT THE PAST HAS A FUTURE

JUNE 2008



Above: Christopher Isherwood and Don Bachardy on the patio of their home on Adelaide Drive which was included in a painting by their good friend David Hockney.

“CHRIS & DON, A LOVE STORY” by Sherrill Kushner

**AT THE AERO:
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25**

The Santa Monica Conservancy will host its third Aero Theatre screening/fundraiser with the showing of “Chris & Don: A Love Story,” the true-life story of the Santa Monica icons, British writer Christopher Isherwood (whose *Berlin Stories* was the basis for the much-beloved Cabaret) and his partner, the American painter Don Bachardy.

The documentary film covers Isherwood’s years in Weimar-era Germany (the inspiration for his most famous work) to his meeting Bachardy and their three-decade life together wherein each nourished the other in their artistic endeavors. Bachardy’s contemporary remi-

AT THE AERO CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

**BACHARDY RECEPTION:
SUNDAY, JUNE 29**

On Sunday, June 29th, the Conservancy will host an exclusive reception at the extraordinary Santa Monica Canyon home of Don Bachardy on Adelaide Drive. Isherwood and Bachardy first met on the beach in the 1950s.

Their home on Adelaide Drive, nestled in the hillside of Santa Monica Canyon, became the gathering place for artists, writers, musicians, and Hollywood celebrities. Colorful paintings and intriguing portraits fill every space on the walls from the living room to the bedrooms. One corridor, called “Hockney Hall,” is covered with paintings by artist and friend David Hockney. Even in the small tiled kitchen

PARTY WITH BACHARDY CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE

WHITHER ADELAIDE?

By Ruthann Lehrer

Those of you who attended the Santa Monica Conservancy’s May 4th tour on Adelaide Drive have observed the mixture of old and new, historic and modern, that today stands on that street. Tour-goers were invited to visit the interiors of three of the most historic homes on the street, and to note that four of the early historic homes are designated as Santa Monica Landmarks.

The earliest development on Adelaide took place beginning in 1906, shortly after this tract of land was annexed to the city of Santa Monica. Homes were constructed by wealthy and eminent business leaders – Roy Jones, son of the city’s co-founder, Senator John P. Jones; Robert Gillis, owner of the Santa Monica Land and Water Company; Isaac Millbank and Henry Weaver, both powerful captains of industry. The great Craftsman homes of Adelaide belong to this phase of development. With a lull around the First World War years, development resumed in 1919 with the Spanish Colonial Revival home at 316 Adelaide, constructed by Henry M. Gorham, a relative and business associate of Roy Jones, who by then had moved away to Los Angeles. This launched an era of constructing period revival homes, with Spanish Colonial Revival, Italianate/Mediterranean, and French Norman appearing on the street through 1930. Famous local architect John Byers was responsible for two homes on Adelaide...neither of which have survived today.

Today, new construction dots the street, in a variety of architectural styles from neo-Spanish Colonial Revival to International Style to Eclectic. A mix of old and new is typical of urban development everywhere, but the question for the future is, will the historic structures survive? The 1983 city cultural resource survey found that 22 structures on Adelaide could be considered “contributing” structures to a potential historic district...meaning that they retained their historic architectural features from their time of construction. In 2008, it is more difficult to find

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



Some participants on the recent SMC Adelaide Tour enjoy the view on the terrace of the Bishop Conaty House.

THE CONSERVANCY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Our board comes from neighborhoods throughout the city and includes:

Carol Lemlein, President
 Susan McCarthy, Vice President
 David Kaplan, Secretary
 Tom Cleys, Treasurer
 Marcello Vavala, Past President

Joel Brand
 Ken Breisch
 Bruce Cameron
 Mike Deasy
 Michael W. Folonis, FAIA
 Nina Fresco
 Sherrill Kushner
 Ruthann Lehrer
 Nancy O'Neill
 John Zinner

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Individual Membership	\$35
Household Membership	\$45
Low Income Membership	\$15
Sustaining Membership	\$100
Conservancy Supporter	\$250

Those interested in supporting the Conservancy at the highest Patron or Circle levels can learn more by calling our phone number at (310) 496-3146.

THE NEWS STAFF

Alice Allen Dick Orton
 Ruthann Lehrer Nina Fresco
 Sherrill Kushner Judy Parsons

HOW TO CONTACT THE SANTA MONICA CONSERVANCY

Phone us at
(310) 496-3146
 -and leave a message

Website www.smconservancy.org

E-mail info@smconservancy.org

Mail address: Santa Monica Conservancy
 P.O. Box 653 Santa Monica, CA 90046



Approved at the January Meeting

MISSION STATEMENT FOR THE SANTA MONICA CONSERVANCY

The Santa Monica Conservancy works to promote widespread understanding and appreciation of the cultural, social, economic and environmental benefits of historic preservation. Through educational programs, assistance and advocacy, the Conservancy reinforces the importance of preserving the historic resources of Santa Monica's unique urban landscape.

MEET THE PRESIDENT by Judy Parsons



Carol Lemlein didn't actually run for president of the Santa Monica Conservancy. "It was more like I was drafted." Carol was approached by several board members inquiring if she would be interested in the presidency. She was.

As president, Carol has a mission. "I see 2008 beginning a major transition from a successful start-up group to an organization capable of even greater impact on the community. Last year, the board defined strategies to achieve our mission,

including growing the membership base, championing historic preservation as a sustainable practice, working with the city of Santa Monica to develop improved incentives for preservation, and renovating the shotgun house as a preservation resource center. These are my marching orders" she laughed.

As she began her term as president, Carol wanted to acknowledge others who volunteer their time to the Conservancy. "I want to thank Marcello Vavala, Past President and Mike Deasy, former Vice President for their leadership. I am very grateful to them and to all the Board members who continue to serve for all the hard work and untold hours they devote to helping the Conservancy make an impact in historic preservation in Santa Monica."

During her three years with the Conservancy, Carol was elected to the board in 2007, and served as secretary. She has been an active member of the program committee and co-founder of the popular downtown walking tour.

A profile on Carol appeared in the July 2006 issue of this newsletter.

CITY PHOTO QUIZ



DO YOU KNOW WHERE THIS WAS?

This is a little corner of Santa Monica in the mid 1960s and though there are some buildings remaining from those days, the scene looks very different today. Do you know where this was? See page 7 for the same view today.

Christopher
IsherwoodDon
Bachardy
AT THE AERO CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

niscences are artfully interspersed with archival footage, rare home movies (with glimpses of famous pals W.H. Auden, Igor Stravinsky and Tennessee Williams) and reenactments. With Isherwood's status as an out-and-proud gay maverick, and Bachardy's eventual artistic triumph away from the considerable shadow of his life partner, *Chris & Don: A*

Love Story is above all a joyful celebration of a most extraordinary couple. The Conservancy will present the film at the Aero Theatre on Wednesday, June 25 at 7:30 p.m. Bachardy and the documentary filmmakers, Guido Santi and Tina Mascara, will answer questions following the film.

Built by the Donald Douglas Company in

BACHARDY RECEPTION CONTINUED FROM PG. 1

there hangs a 1954 self-portrait by Tennessee Williams, the only one in existence, a gift from the writer.

Built in 1925 by Frank Bundy, an early Santa Monica real estate developer, the house overlooks the canyon and beyond to the ocean. Bachardy continues to live there (Isherwood died in 1986). Eventually the house will serve as a writers' retreat, to be run by the Christopher Isherwood Foundation, inspired by the legendary talent that lived there.

More details will follow in a special mailing about these events.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

for the screening of "*Chris & Don: A Love Story*" on Wednesday June 25 and the exclusive reception on Sunday, June 29.

1939, the Aero Theatre was originally opened as a continuous 24-hour movie theater for aircraft workers who worked in shifts around the clock. After a brief closing, the Aero reopened in January, 2005 by the American Cinematheque after a \$1 million dollar restoration which saved some original features of the interior and exterior.

FALL FUNDRAISER SEPTEMBER 21 By Ruthann Lehrer

We are privileged to invite our members to attend an exclusive fund-raising event, a tour and reception at artist Miriam Wosk's beautiful home and studio on Adelaide Drive. Originally built in 1926 as a traditional Mediterranean house, it was remodeled in 2000, by award-winning architect Steven Ehrlich. Renovations and additions include the artist's studio, a spacious light-filled work room where you can see the work in progress. The interiors have been transformed into a captivating artistic environment by the owner including mosaic fireplaces, colorful glass and Art Deco chandeliers, sculptural furniture, black and white photography and unique ceramic collectables.

Paintings created by Ms. Wosk and many other artists, will make visiting this home a very special experience at this rarely open private venue. On the patio, bright Bauer pots and brilliant mercury glass balls in the cactus and succulent garden set the stage for the colorful and artistic world inside. This is the perfect follow-up to the recent tour of Adelaide Drive's architecture and history. An invitation will be mailed soon for the September 21 event.



Marion Wosk's home/studio blend traditional Mediterranean with a spacious, light-filled modern studio addition.

Miriam Wosk is a mixed media painter and collage artist, known for her vibrant multi-layered works encrusted with glitter, jewels, vintage papers and natural objects. She began her career as an illustrator in New York, where she designed the spreads and covers of popular

magazines and the New York Times Sunday Magazine. She has been creating and showing art in Los Angeles for 30 years. View her work on her website:

<http://www.miriamwosk.com/>

SUMMER MEANS DIVERSITY IN PRESERVATION EVENTS



Great Homes of Long Beach
Sunday June 8, 2008
Noon to 5:00 pm

Long Beach Heritage
P. O. Box 92521
Long Beach, CA 90809.

(562) 493-7019

The Great Homes of Long Beach tour is the perfect way to spend a Sunday afternoon. The tour begins with our docents describing the significance of each home and how the neighborhood has evolved in the area. Along the way you will get to stroll through a variety of gardens and grounds and enjoy a sip of lemonade under a shady tree. See website for ticket information

<http://www.lbheritage.org>



"Volstead Act Repealed!" Celebration and Picnic
Saturday, June 21,
1 p.m

Heritage Square Museum
3800 Homer Street
Los Angeles, California 90031

(323) 225-2700

Mark the 75th Anniversary of the end of Prohibition with 1930's-style festivity. Bring your picnic and blanket, dress in your daytime Deco finest and celebrate the beginning of summer on the gorgeous grounds of Heritage Square. Dancing to live music provided by the Bilgewater Rats, prizes for picnic presentation, and other surprises are part of the celebration. Ticket prices include membership in sponsoring organizations.

<http://www.heritagesquare.org>



Living History Day at El Presidio de Santa Barbara
State Historic Park
Saturday, June 28, 11:00 am to 2:00 pm

Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation
El Presidio de Santa Barbara State Historic Park
123 East Canon Perdido St., Santa Barbara, CA

(805) 965-0093

Watch history come to life at El Presidio de Santa Barbara as the Trust presents the first Presidio Pastimes of the year! Meet the fort's uniformed soldiers, cook delicious tortillas and learn about early California food, help with archaeology, mix adobe mud, watch a blacksmith practice his trade, and enjoy Early California craft demonstrations.

Free

<http://www.sbtph.org>

TWO LECTURES BRING NEW UNDERSTANDING TO OUR COMMUNITY.



ABOVE, INKWELL BEACH LECTURE:

Rick Blocker and Andrea Kabwasa stand in front of an surfing poster from the Black Surfing Association displayed at a lecture on African Americans and the Beach, co-sponsored by the Conservancy and the Calvary Baptist Church in March. Blocker and Kabwasa are members of the Black Surfing Association. Seventy-five people, including local history buffs and surfing enthusiasts, attended the February 24 lecture, coordinated and researched by historian Alison Jefferson. Film-maker Portia Scott-Hicks also presented portions of the lecture.

BELOW, MALIBU TILE LECTURE:

Christi Walden, collector of California tile and member of the Board of Directors of the Adamson House/ Malibu Lagoon Museum presented an illustrated talk on Malibu tile and the Rindge family at the March 9 lecture at the Embassy Hotel.



SILENTS — FROM SILENT MOVIES TO SUMMER SCHOOL



Short Course in Historic Preservation
Monday, July 14 - Wednesday, July 30

USC School of Architecture
Watt Hall, Suite 204
Los Angeles, California 90089-0291

(213) 821-2168 (Serena Elliott)

This program offers fifteen days of classes with noted experts from Southern California and the United States. Taken together the courses act as a general introduction to the field of historic preservation. This course has been designed for students, design professionals, community leaders, established preservationists, planners and developers seeking to place their practice within a contemporary context. See website for fee information.

<http://arch.usc.edu/Programs/SummerPrograms/HistoricPreservation>



Celebration on the Colorado Street Bridge
Saturday, July 19, 2008,
6:00 to 11:00 PM

Pasadena Heritage
651 South Saint John Avenue
Pasadena, California 91105-2913

(626) 441-6333

On December 13, 1993, the Colorado Street Bridge was dedicated anew and reopened to traffic. A proud Pasadena crowd turnout out to walk, drive, bicycle, horseback ride, skate and push tots in strollers across the bridge. The celebration of its rehabilitation continues with Pasadena Heritage's annual summer extravaganza on the beloved span. This year the community will turn out by the thousands on July 19 to celebrate the past and the future of the Colorado Street Bridge.

<http://www.pasadenaheritage.org>



Silents Under the Stars
Sunday, July 20 8:00 p.m. and
August 19 7:30 p.m.

Silent Society of Hollywood Heritage and
National Park Service
Paramount Ranch
Cornell Road • Agoura Hills, CA
(323) 874-4005 (Hollywood Heritage)
or (805) 370-2300 (National Park Service)

Screening of silent movies with live musical accompaniment.
July 20 - *Hula* (1927) starring Clara Bow and Clive Brook.
August 19 - *Love 'Em And Leave 'Em* (1926) starring Evelyn Brent, Louise Brooks and Lawrence Gray.
Tickets are \$6.00 for adults, \$5.00 for members of Hollywood Heritage, Children under twelve are \$3.00, under three free

<http://www.hollywoodheritage.org/silents/silents.html>

WELCOME TO NEW SMC MEMBERS

NEW MEMBERS IN 2007

(Since September)

Marjorie Annapav
Leah and Sam Fischer
Jack and Eleanor Jaye
Nancy Morse
Ilca and Charles Moskos
Edda Spielmann and Pat Nicholson
Mark E. Pollack
Charlotte Volter

NEW MEMBERS IN 2008

Michello Baham
Sarah Barnard
Barbara Beezy
Laurence Boag
Anthony Carr
Richard and Kathleen Cleys
Phyllis Colman
Phyllis and John Conkle
Sandra Ferrari Disner
Wendy Dunn
Les Firestein
Louise Fulton
Izabela Gawronska
Michael Gordon
Beverly and Raymond Gosnell

Hugh Gottfried
Maralee Grantham
Pam and Bruce Henstell
Amy Katch
Martin Katz
Mark Kushner
Sally Lamb
Patricia Moran
Dave Nordling
Rodney Punt
Melinda Roney
Susan Rose
Candra Docherty and Mike Russ
Nicholas Schneble
Karl Schober
Mona Simpson
John Strozdas
Sasha and John Talbert
Kathie Sheldon and Steve Tarzynski
Dr. Diane de la Vega
Kay Ward
Sandra Weiner

THANK YOU

“ADELAIDE DRIVE: ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORY” MAY 4, 2008

Most sincere gratitude to the homeowners whose generosity in opening their homes to appreciative visitors made the tour a memorable event:

Mary Ann and Tom Hays, Mona Simpson, Dr. Artie Southam and Dr. Bezie Daly.



Special thanks to the Program Sponsors whose contribution helped us to present this new educational program and make the event successful:

Deasy/Penner & Partners, Home As Art; and Keller Williams Realty Westside.



Thanks to Bob Posek for providing booties.



Many volunteers worked diligently to develop the event and to help tour participants. A complete list of all those volunteers will appear in the next edition of the newsletter.

LANDMARKS COMMISSION REPORT:

FOUR NEW LANDMARKS LISTED by Nina Fresco



The Edwin Building 312 Wilshire.

The Landmarks Commission has recently added four exciting new landmarks to our list.

The Edwin Building 312 Wilshire

The Edwin Building is another stunning example of fine Spanish Colonial Revival architecture by a renowned architect, Paul R. Williams. The two-story commercial building is adorned with elaborate Churrigueresque

ornamentation. Churrigueresque refers to a Baroque phase of Spanish Colonial Revival architecture that is richly decorated with sculptural floral ornament, interwoven with other decorative images and flourishes. It is named after a Spanish family named Churriguera who developed this style, which also became popular in Mexico.

The building retains all its steel framed casement windows even on the secondary elevation. Only the storefront system has been altered but it is sufficiently compatible not to detract from the grace of the design. Originally, there were three recessed store entries.

Craftsman Bungalow Cottage

929 Lincoln

The 1916 craftsman style bungalow at 929 Lincoln Boulevard is an especially fine example of a simple vernacular bungalow. The house was one of the first on its street which is part of the original Town of Santa Monica. The fine, original craftsman style front door is set back from a clinker brick front knee wall. The alternating width clap board siding gives the home additional texture and interest.

Little is known of builder Joseph J. Rowe, who also built a very fine craftsman home at 426 Palisades Avenue, but it is apparent that he was a master builder, aware of all the latest innovations and ideas of the day.

Drescher Building 3030 Nebraska

The Drescher Building at 3030 Nebraska, in the heart of Santa Monica's industrial district, was the original SCI-Arc campus. SCI-Arc, founded in 1972 by Ray Kappe was an

LANDMARKS CONTINUED ON PG. 7

SMC BOARD MEMBER

MICHAEL FOLONIS HONORED by Sherrill Kushner



Michael Folonis, noted Santa Monica Architect.

Michael Folonis, SMC Board member and Chair of the city's Architectural Review Board has been elected by the National Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) to

its prestigious College of Fellows. The honor -- given to less than 2,000 of the more than 80,000 AIA members -- recognizes architects who have made notable contributions to the advancement of their profession, according to the AIA. Fellowship is one of the highest honors the AIA can bestow upon a member.

A Santa Monica resident since 1972, Folonis established his Santa Monica Architectural firm, Michael W. Folonis, AIA and Associates in 1983. The firm is experienced in residential, mixed use, commercial and restoration projects.

Folonis, whose work has been published nationally and internationally, has received numerous awards for his work from the California and Los Angeles chapters of the American Institute of Architects and Sunset Magazine. In 2007 he received a design award from the Los Angeles Chapter of the AIA for the Ocean Park Housing project in Santa Monica.

He received a Bachelor of Architecture Degree from the Southern California Institute

ADELAIDE TOUR



A tour begins at the "Roy Jones" house on Adelaide



Mike Deasy boards the bus for the Adelaide Tour

LANDMARKS CONTINUED FROM PG. 6

alternative learning environment to traditional architecture training, receiving numerous awards for both the school itself and its founder. Today, SCI-Arc has relocated but this site is where it all began.

John Drescher who owned the property and built the building was an influential person in Santa Monica for the contribution of a complex of buildings that attracted a bohemian arts community. He was also respected for his generous patronage in the Santa Monica community including gifts to the Kiwanis Club, Santa Monica College, Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and more.

The building at 3030 Nebraska was built in 1951 of steel frame construction with concrete exterior walls and stucco sheathing. It embodies a mid-century Bauhaus style of industrial architecture both simple and attractive with its continuous band of second story windows.

The Zimmers House 2101 La Mesa

A rare and pristine example of Mexican Colonial Revival style adobe architecture from the 1920s, the Zimmers house was built by renowned Santa Monica architect John Byers. Byers is well known for his artisan built adobes in which old world crafts and traditions were

used to build homes that suited the needs of a newer era.

The Zimmers house features hand applied plaster over traditionally formed adobe bricks. The thick walls have deeply inset windows and the low-pitched roof is covered with red-clay tile. Byers was not only interested in the hand crafted materials for which he employed his own artisans trained in the old ways in Mexico, but also in the economy of design that characterized old adobes. There are no purely ornamental beams or non-functional elements in the construction of the Zimmers house. Every part serves its function in a simple, elegant manner.

The property is also associated with Samuel G. McClure, owner and publisher of the Santa Monica Outlook, our town's most prominent paper of the day. Mr. McClure's son, Robert McClure, was also a civic leader in Santa Monica serving on the State Highway Commission. He is considered "father of the Santa Monica Freeway" and the McClure tunnel that connects the 10 freeway to PCH bears his name.

ADELAIDE TOUR CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

that sense of historical unity and cohesion that characterizes a historic district along the length of Adelaide Drive.

"Adelaide Drive: Architecture and History" featured historic homes located between Ocean Avenue and Fourth Street, where many of the original homes have not only survived, but thrived. Some of them have undergone major rehabilitation after suffering tremendous damage in the 1994 Northridge earthquake. They

stand proudly today, their historic architecture restored and resonating. Four of the homes in this area are protected from demolition through designation as Santa Monica Landmarks, and have taken advantage of the property tax abatement available to landmark properties through the state's Mills Act program. These homes provide a vivid demonstration that historic preservation provides significant benefits to property owners as well as to the community. We can hope that others will follow their example.

VOLUNTEER PROFILE

SUSAN MCCARTHY

by Judy Parsons



Susan McCarthy's name should sound familiar. Yes, she is the new vice president of the Santa Monica Conservancy, but she is also a retired Santa Monica City Manager. Appointed in 1999 after serving as assistant manager for several years, she retired in 2005.

She is looking forward to her new "unofficial" position. "During the years I spent in city government, I met and admired many of the Conservancy's board members. As individuals with diverse interests and occupations, they approach preservation issues from a variety of viewpoints. That makes for spirited debate and results, both of which I enjoy.

Susan is already prioritizing. She hopes to help the conservancy establish an operating endowment to ensure that our important education and advocacy work is sustained over time. "I'm also looking forward to seeing the shotgun house become a preservation resource center for the community and want to be a part of achieving that."

For the past 35 years or so, Susan has been involved in Santa Monica. "The best thing about our city is its edgy blend of sophistication and small town values."

In 1985, she took a "break from Santa Monica" and traveled 15 miles east to USC to earn her master's degree at the Annenberg School of Communication. For a short time she worked in public relations and development with the Natural History Museum Foundation in Exposition Park.

Would you believe, Susan is a transplant from the east coast? "I grew up in a post civil war farmhouse in the Virginia suburbs of Washington DC. Sadly it's now a part of Route 66 and the West Falls Church Metro Station."

ANSWER TO PHOTO QUIZ



Ocean Park. The little neighborhood that disappeared was replaced with 2 high-rise apartment buildings and a 9-hole golf course, which was itself later replaced with Sea Colony Condominiums.



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P.O. Box 653 SANTA MONICA, CA 90406-0653

THANK YOU TO DOCENTS WHO LED DOWNTOWN WALKING TOURS DURING OUR FIRST YEAR!



Led 26 or More Tours

Kay Pattison

Rita Schneir

Led 10 or more Tours

Carol Agate

Julie Berger

Winston Chappell

Other Tour Leaders

Barbara Clare

Joy Gibson

Linda and Robert Hensley

Ruthann Lehrer

Carol Lemlein

Meighan Maguire

Margarete May

Thomasine Rogas

Jai Taylor

Marcello Vavala

Kimberly Varney

Wendy Wolstoncroft

The Santa Monica Conservancy thanks the Bayside District, Hosteling International and the Santa Monica Convention and Visitors Bureau for their ongoing support of the Downtown Walking Tour.

Winston Chappell starts another group on the Downtown Walking Tour at the Santa Monica Youth Hostle.