

SANTA MONICA CONSERVANCY Celebrating Our Architectural Heritage

March 2020 • Vol 18, No 1

Annual Meeting and Awards, May 2

Join the Conservancy for our Annual Meeting and Preservation Awards on Saturday, May 2, from 2-5 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Santa Monica (1260 18th Street). The event will feature an illustrated presentation of the 2020 Preservation Awards, the President's Year in Review and Board elections. Light refreshments will be served after the meeting.

Designed in the 1920s by noted Santa Monica architect John Byers, the Mission Revivalstyle main building contains a functional bell tower, high vaulted ceiling, original exposed beamwork, original wooden pews and inclusive iconography. Classic Saltillo tiles adorn the terraced courtyard, which includes a historic, fully-renovated 1914 Craftsman Bungalow. In Forbes Hall on the second floor, a 32-foot mural depicting more than 400 years of Unitarian and Universalist history, as well as 1960s



Photo: Steve Loeper

and '70s social history was completed by California muralist Ann Thiermann in 1980. Don't miss your chance to celebrate the inspiring people and projects that bring preservation to life in Santa Monica. RSVP at www.smconservancy.org.

New Board Leadership

The Conservancy Board elected new leadership at its retreat in November 2019. The new officers are:

Tom Cleys, President, was the Conservancy's founding President and has served as Treasurer over the last 17 years. He recently retired as Vice President, Asset Management at Mesa West Capital and is now spearheading a vigorous effort to implement the Conservancy's Strategic Plan. He is currently a member of the Santa Monica Urban Forest Task Force and a former Board member of Friends of Sunset Park.

Carol Lemlein, Vice President, served as Conservancy President for the past 12 years.



The Conservancy Board met in the offices of Industry Partners for a day-long retreat facilitated by consultants Jan McElwee and Allison Sampson. Also in attendance were former Board member Kaitlin Drisko, member of the new Development Committee Alec Nedelman and our communications manager Robin Tung. Photo: Carol Lemlein

She is Co-Chair of the Conservancy's Advocacy Committee and will volunteer as acting Executive Director until the position is filled. She chaired the Steering Committee of the 2011 California Preservation Foundation Annual Conference in Santa Monica and was codeveloper of the Conservancy's Downtown Walking Tour.

Liz Coughlin, Treasurer, joined the Board in 2018 as a member of the Conservancy's Communications Committee. She co-founded the real estate brokerage HD Properties, Inc. and was a former digital media executive at Yahoo and Edelman. She also volunteers with Indi-Lab, a dog rescue.

Mario Fonda-Bonardi, AIA, Board Secretary, is the founder of Fonda-Bonardi & Hohman Architects, specializing in residential design, and was the architect for the renovation of the Shotgun House. He is a member and former Chair of the Santa Monica Planning Commission and a former member of the Third Street Historic District Community Participation Committee.

OUR MISSION

The Santa Monica Conservancy is the leading voice for preserving our historic places. We promote understanding of the cultural, social, economic and environmental benefits of historic preservation through education, assistance and advocacy.

JOIN US

The Santa Monica Conservancy exists because of the involvement and generosity of people like you. Become a member today and strengthen our voice for preserving Santa Monica's architectural and cultural heritage. *Membership information is available on p. 7.*

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tom Cleys, *President* Carol Lemlein, *Vice President* Liz Coughlin, *Treasurer* Mario Fonda-Bonardi, AIA, *Secretary* Catherine Conkle Liz Coughlin Nina Fresco David Kaplan Ruthann Lehrer Libby Motika Libby Pachares

Emeritus Board Member: Doris Sosin

CONTACT US

Website: www.smconservancy.org E-mail: info@smconservancy.org

Voicemail: (310) 496-3146

Mail: P.O.Box 653 Santa Monica, CA 90406

Visit the Preservation Resource Center:

2520 2nd St., Santa Monica, CA 90405 Open Wednesday & Friday - Sunday 12 - 3 pm and by appointment

THE NEWSLETTER STAFF

Tom Hofer
Natasha Jivani
Sherrill Kushner
Ruthann Lehrer

Carol Lemlein Libby Pachares Robin Tung

This newsletter is supported in part by a grant from the City of Santa Monica.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

wanted to share with you some exciting news that will help the Conservancy become sustainable for decades to come and to expand its preservation work in the community.

But first, I want to thank Carol Lemlein for her dedication and accomplishments over the last twelve years as President of the Santa Monica Conservancy. Her name has become synonymous with preservation and the Conservancy in Santa Monica. She has worked tirelessly to raise its profile and make the organization more effective.



And I am happy to report that she is not going anywhere, but will serve as acting Executive Director and will continue as an officer of the Board and Co-Chair of the Advocacy Committee. Thank you so much, Carol.

Why Make Changes Now? We are very proud of the Conservancy and its accomplishments over the first 17 years of its existence. We have focused on education, advocacy and supporting historic preservation in the community we love. We offer the community a rich slate of educational opportunities throughout the year and have worked closely with the City to ensure that preservation is engrained in our planning processes and development philosophy. But there is a great deal more we need to do. We must:

- HELP the community better understand the value of preservation and bring more people into our cause to deepen support for saving our architectural heritage,
- INCREASE support and funding from the City for preservation,
- IMPLEMENT educational programs in the schools from elementary to high school, and
- ENSURE that everyone understands that the best way to be sustainable is to restore and reuse existing buildings and not tear them down.

A New Strategic Plan At its recent retreat, the Board determined that now is the time to professionalize the Conservancy, to support its growth and ensure it is prepared to take on stronger advocacy for preservation for decades to come. The Board approved the implementation of a Strategic Plan with five key focus areas: **Leadership**, **Funding**, **Staff**, **Membership** and **Education and Advocacy**.

To implement the Strategic Plan, we will be working to expand the Board to increase our reach and influence in the community, increase our volunteer base to sustain and grow our educational programs, and bolster our advocacy efforts to prevent the loss of key historic properties. And we will be working to hire a paid Executive Director to help us professionalize the organization so it can be here for decades to come.

Most importantly, what can YOU do to help the Conservancy move forward?

- Join or renew your membership and consider becoming a Sustaining Donor with a monthly contribution.
- Volunteer your skills and enrich the Conservancy's programs.
- Be a well-informed ambassador by identifying others who are interested in preservation and inviting them to attend a Conservancy event, become a member, and/or to volunteer.
- Give a Conservancy membership as a gift.

Hangar 6. C

Become a Monthly Member

The Conservancy now offers monthly memberships in addition to our onetime and annual renewals. When you give monthly, you help reduce our environmental impact while protecting and preserving Santa Monica's historic places and sustaining our community programs.

Monthly members receive free admission

to our Annual Holiday Party and discounts to events like our Summer Speaker Series and special architectural tour in the fall. You'll also receive our quarterly newsletter with events, advocacy and preservation issues. Monthly memberships start at \$5 a month and can be cancelled any time. Become a monthly member today at smc.givecloud.co.

VOLUNTEER PROFILE Toby Kaminkow

By Robin Tung

oby Kaminkow first fell in love with Santa Monica after visiting her daughter in 2016. Originally from Boston, MA, she was struck by the natural beauty and culture of the Photo: Richard Orton



city. "The ocean surrounded by mountains, magnificent sunrises and sunsets, watching families play at the edge of the ocean ... need I say more?" Kaminkow notes.

In 2019, she became a docent for the Shotgun House where she delights in meeting visitors of all ages, family types, backgrounds and interests. "It is truly a shared experience, and I feel that I am imparting my knowledge and enthusiasm," she says. In the last year she has even met Owen Wilson and Conan O'Brien while volunteering. "They both proved to be quite interested and very personable," she adds.

Aside from volunteering, Kaminkow is an avid runner who has participated in the Boston Marathon, the New York Marathon and the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, D.C. She previously worked in political campaigns, special elections, fundraisers and national and state conventions. She is the proud mother of two daughters and has two grandchildren.

Celebrating Marion Davies and the Beach House

By Libby Pachares

he ninth annual Happy Birthday, Marion! event was held on Sunday, January 26 at the Annenberg Community Beach House. The Conservancy Docent Council and Beach House manager Nan Friedman produced an exceptional celebration this year to commemorate the 10-year anniversary of the Beach House opening to the public.

Guests were transported back to the 1920s and '30s, when Davies threw legendary parties at the Beach House, with music by Danny Meyer and the L.A. Love Band, dancers from Arthur Murray Santa Monica Dance Studio and magic by Tom Frank. A craft station where guests could create bow ties or flapperstyle headbands to accessorize their outfits and a photo booth also added to the party fun.

Docents created a lively atmosphere by dressing as figures from the era. William Randolph Hearst (Michael Burton) warmly greeted guests upon arrival and for the first time, Marion Davies (Robin Venturelli) made



Photo: Jason Abraham

a surprise appearance, graciously thanking party guests for attending her birthday bash. "Celebrity" interviews were conducted by America's first movie columnist Louella Parsons (Moonie Fishburn), with Jean Harlow (Carolyn Coughlin-Grimm), Mary Pickford (Phillis Dudick), Will Rogers (Alan Cohn) and Barbara Stanwyck (Elaine Cohen).

Capping off party festivities were a cakewalk, bubbly toast to Marion and a group photo, as well as a special message from Wallis Annenberg thanking the Conservancy and its docents for all they have done to bring the Beach House history to life.

In addition to our docents, we thank Marion Davies biographer Lara Fowler who shared home movies from Davies' and Hearst's European travels, film historians Marc Wanamaker and Michael Yakaitis for their participation as well as Elaina Friedrichsen who introduced the 1933 Davies film Peg o' My Heart. Our appreciation also to Gail Burton and fashion illustration artist Terri Radenbaugh who attended the party and sketched partygoers in their vintage attire. Thanks also to Fred Deni of Back on the Beach Cafe.

Wallis Annenberg Celebrates the Conservancy

or the Happy Birthday, Marion! event at the Annenberg Community Beach House on January 26, Wallis Annenberg, President and Chairwoman of the Board of The Annenberg Foundation, sent a personal message honoring the Conservancy's work. A grant from her foundation was instrumental in transforming the site into the Annenberg Community Beach House, which opened to the public in April 2009.

"[We] mark the hard-to-believe tenth anniversary of the Annenberg Community Beach House—as well as the 123rd birthday of Marion Davies, whose marvelous home now hosts this gathering ...

This glorious stretch of eternity once known as the Gold Coast is one of a kind.

It's no wonder that Marion and William Randolph Hearst once rubbed swimsuits here with everyone from Charlie Chap-



lin to Greta Wallis Annenberg. Photo: The Garbo. It's a Annenberg Foundation rich part of Hollywood history.

As a young girl, some years later, my own family cherished our time here, when it was the Sand and Sea Club ... That's why it was so important to me to open it up to the world, for everyone to enjoy. And that is why

I am so deeply grateful to the Santa Monica Conservancy- for making this cause your concern, and for working so hard to make this Beach House belong to all Angelenos. Without your incredibly devoted docents, and your tireless volunteers, so much precious California history would be lost. Without your caring and commitment, this beachfront would lose its beating heart ...

Marion was right about this: in all your efforts to preserve our landmarks and share our storied history, the Santa Monica Conservancy is an innovator, not an imitator-which means it's the best example I can think of.

Thank you for all you do-and here's to our next decade of partnership at the Community Beach House."

Native Plant Garden Tour

The Theodore Payne Native Plant Garden Tour will take place on Saturday and Sunday, March 28 and 29, 10 am - 5 pm. This unique two-day, self-guided journey takes guests through the Los Angeles region's most beautiful and inspiring home landscapes. The garden at our Preservation Resource Center (2520 2nd Street) will be featured on Saturday, March 28. Designed by Cassy Aoyagi of FormLA Landscaping, our petite coastal palette contains 100% native plants like Island Snapdragon, California Fuchsia and Coyote Mint as well as a bioswale that clears runoff water to the ocean.

Each garden on the tour is a personal expression of place, created in harmony with Southern California's climate, soil, natural vegetation, and native wildlife. Key features will include butterfly and songbird habitats, edible plants, aromatics and more. Guests can meet garden owners and designers at each site. Knowledgeable docents will also be on hand to answer questions about native plants, garden design and wildlife habitat. Half of the sites will be open on Saturday and the other half on Sunday. Admission is \$25-40 with advance

Holiday Party Highlights

By Robin Tung

Thank you to all who joined us for our Annual Holiday Party! We enjoyed celebrating the season with you at the landmark Bundy House. We hope you delighted in the architecture and fascinating history of the residence, live music, delicious refreshments and company of our neighbors and friends.

Our gratitude to our gracious hosts Meredith Stiehm and Tom Smuts. Thank you also to Mel's Drive-In, Ingo's Tasty Diner, the L.A. Love Band and Rich Schmitt Photography. Our appreciation to Tom Cleys, Phyllis Conkle, Steve Loeper, Libby Motika, Libby Pachares, the Conservancy Board and our wonderful volunteers who made the event a success:

Diane Citron Anne Conkle Catherine Conkle Phillis Dudick Michael Fleet Dwight Flowers Rachael Gross Mary Ann Hays Ursula Kress Diane Locklear Diane Miller Eric Natwig Ruth Shari



Our coastal garden at the Preservation Resource Center. Photo: FormLA Landscaping

purchase pricing available before March 14. To purchase tickets or learn more about the event, please visit www.nativeplantgardentour.org.

The Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers & Native Plants is a nonprofit organization that re-wilds Southern California by bringing native plants back into our cities, creating habitat that supports local ecosystems, and helping people embrace our shared natural heritage.



Donna Smith, Patty Godon-Tann, Mary Marlow, Mark Kreher and David Tann celebrate the holidays. Photo: Rich Schmitt Photography

In Memory of Architect Ray Kappe

By Sherrill Kushner

Whith great sadness we report that visionary architect and pioneer of green building, Ray Kappe, passed away in November. Kappe and his wife Shelly opened their home in Rustic Canyon to the Conservancy in 2012 for our fall salon.

Known worldwide, Kappe was a driving force in Southern Californian architecture during his 60-year career, co-founding the innovative Southern California Institute of Architecture (SCI-ARC) in Santa Monica, its original campus, in 1972. In collaboration with LivingHomes, Kappe designed a pre-fabricated house in Santa Monica that became the first residence to receive the U.S. Green Building Council's highest rating. The Conservancy held a salon at this residence in 2017.

Kappe's architecture continues to draw recognition today and his drawings and models can be viewed at the Getty Center. Kappe is survived by his wife, daughter and two sons.

Brick by Brick: A History of Local Brick Manufacturing

Sourced from California Bricks

t the turn of the twentieth century, with A the establishment of the Los Angeles Aqueduct and electric railway along with a rise in jobs created by Hollywood, aviation and manufacturing, Los Angeles experienced a building boom. With only 102,000 residents in the early 1900s, the city grew to 1.2 million by 1929.

In 1904, the founder of the Los Angeles Pressed Brick Company created a merger with the Sunset Brick and Tile Company in Santa Monica because of the superior quality of its clay and products. The Santa Monica brickvard, on 55 acres of clay land at the northeast corner of Cloverfield Boulevard and Michigan Avenue, became "Plant No. 2" of the Los Angeles Pressed Brick Company. A power shovel mined the red-burning clay which was then hauled to the plant in cars operated by



The Bradbury Building in downtown Los Angeles features tan pressed bricks supplied by the Los Angeles Pressed Brick Company. Photo: Library of Congress

an endless cable hoist.

By 1905, the Santa Monica plant was capable of furnishing 40,000 bricks daily. That year, the plant was awarded a contract to supply 9 million sewer bricks for portions of the Los Angeles outfall sewer project. By 1928 the

Conan O'Brien Visits the Shotgun House!

ur Preservation Resource Center began its life as a vacation cottage in Ocean Park in 1897. The last intact shotgun house of its kind in Santa Monica, the three-room house offers a window into our city's history. Today, it is an excellent example of adaptive reuse, serving as our Preservation Resource Center (2520 2nd Street), which welcomes and educates nearly 1,800 residents and visitors from around the globe each year.

Want to learn how to research your home's history? Fascinated by local architecture? Interested in finding out more about landmarking and preservation incentives? The Center offers free help and information as well as docent-led tours of the Shogtun House. We also have an intricate Victorian-era model home and puzzles, books and coloring for children.



TV personality Conan O'Brien stopped by the Resource Center with Conservancy Board member Carol Lemlein and docent Richard Orton. Photo: Toby Kaminkow

We are open on Wednesday and Friday-Sunday from 12 -3 pm. You never know who else might stop by!

plant grew to contain elevators and conveyors, employing about 60 workers who produced thousands of tiles per day. Ten kilns were used to fire roofing, tiles in a variety of styles as well as sewer pipe and bricks embossed with "S.M.B.Co."

Bricks from the Santa Monica plant were used for nearly all paved streets in Los Angeles from 1907 to 1910. Spanish roofing tiles were sent to Central California for missions and residences, and even to Anheuser Busch Brewing Company in San Francisco and Portland, Oregon, on lumber ships. The Fraternal Order of Eagles Hall at 1627 Abbot Kinney Boulevard in Venice features side walls made of this common brick with a front façade of red rug brick, noted for its scored and ruffled texture.

Gladding McBean and Company took over the Los Angeles Pressed Brick Company in 1926, and by 1954, the Santa Monica plant closed and was reported as a refuse disposal for the company. The pit was filled a few years later, and in 1990, The Water Garden, an office complex with a man-made lake and garden, was developed on the site.

Conservancy Achieves Challenge Grant

hanks to our preservation community and generous donors, the Santa Monica Conservancy exceeded the \$15,000 fundraising challenge! We raised a total of \$17,980 between November 1 and December 31, 2019, and received an additional \$5,000 from anonymous donors, totaling \$22,980 to support our community programs and protect our architectural heritage.

We are deeply grateful to our donors and their impact on historic preservation!

7 Key Books for Your Preservation Bookshelf

By Ken Breisch, Associate Professor, Heritage Conservation Program at the University of Southern California

here are now dozens of texts available in the field of Historic Preservation (Heritage Conservation). Listed below is a small group of important books (ordered by year of publication) that can get you started towards establishing a basic understanding of its history, fundamental philosophies and legal frameworks-as well as some provocative thoughts on where it might be headed:

Historic Preservation: An Introduction to Its

History, Principles, and Practice (3rd ed.) by Norman Tyler and Ilene R. Tyler (W.W. Norton & Company, 2018).

The Past and Future City: How Historic Preservation Is Reviving America's Communities by Carol Meeks and Kevin Murphy (National Trust for Historic Preservation, 2016).

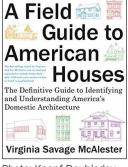
Why Preservation Matters by Max Page (Yale University Press, 2016).

A Field Guide to American Houses by Virginia Savage McAlester (Knopf, 2013).

Place, Race, and Story: Essays on the Past and Future of Historic Preservation by Ned Kaufman (Routledge, 2009).

The History and Theory of Preservation in America (3rd ed.) by William Murtaugh (John Wiley and Sons, 2006).

Giving Preservation a History: Histories of Historic Preservation in the Photo: Knopf Doubleday United States by



Randall F. Mason and Max Page (Routledge, 2004).



Georgina Avenue. Photo: Ruthann Lehrer

Landmarks Commission Report

By Ruthann Lehrer and Carol Lemlein, Advocacy Co-Chairs

he Landmarks Commission voted in November 2019 to designate the residence at 1531 Georgina Avenue as a landmark. Built in 1942, it is one of two known residences in Santa Monica designed by pioneering female architect Edla Muir. During her teenage years, Muir worked for John Byers, a Santa Monica architect renowned for developing the Spanish Colonial Revival style and for reviving adobe construction. Self-taught like Byers, Muir rose from clerical assistant to working on projects and becoming a fully licensed architect and a partner at Byer's firm in 1934. The residence on Georgina Avenue was built just as Muir was setting up her independent architectural firm. The house reflects Monterey Revival design, consistent with her association with Byers, and is listed on the City's Historic Resources Inventory. Muir's later work evolved to mid-century modern ranch style homes and was highly respected by her peers.

The house was reviewed by the Landmarks Commission as a requested demolition permit. City staff and the City's historic preservation consultant report recommended against designation on the basis that the residence did not reflect Muir's mature mid-century modern style. The Santa Monica Conservancy strongly endorsed designation because denying the importance of Muir's early work and tutelage under John Byers seemed arbitrary. The Commission agreed with our position. The applicant has filed an appeal to the designation, which is scheduled for a City Council hearing in March.

In December 2019, approval was granted to a development project on the site of the designated deodar cedar tree at 918 5th Street. Because the entire parcel was designated and the tree is protected, deviations from normal code requirements allowed the architect some advantages in his design of a new three-story condominium. Such incentives, available in Santa Monica, serve to compensate property owners who are developing their site but constrained by the presence of designated landmarks. The Major Modifications approved by the Planning Commission include increasing the building height to 36 feet (consistent with adjacent buildings on the street), and building three rather than two stories with additional parcel coverage.

Two downtown projects were also reviewed last December: the iconic Rapp Saloon at 1438 2nd Street will be renovated as part of an expansion project at Hosteling International; and the former J.C. Penny Building at Wilshire Boulevard and the Promenade will be remodeled in a manner respectful of the original Streamline Moderne style. Finally, the rehabilitation of the historic Julia Morgan-designed pool at the Annenberg Community Beach House was approved. The tiles have deteriorated and some marble on the deck need to be replaced in kind.

A WARM WELCOME TO **OUR NEW MEMBERS!**

Emily Agnew Stephen Anaya Justina Baskauskas Anne Cartegnie John De Neufville Lisa Eddy Lloyd Edens Brent Enright Michael Felber Heide Franke Stefanie Gerard Jorv Hansen Mary Ellen Jensen Marina Kalika Tatiana Khmilinina Judith Keller

Shoshana Maler Anni Michaelsen Teri & Michael Muttera Tim & Christina Noonan Lisa Pearl Cynthia Perez-Brown Lisa and Roger Plotkin Diana Rothschild Gloria Stuntebeck Matt Tager Suzanne van de Velde Ally Walker Landgraf Kathy Wang Nancy Wilding Paul Williger

2020 SPRING PRESERVATION EVENTS

TOUR

Stahl House WEDNESDAYS, FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS - HOURS VARY

Step inside this 1960s modernist-style home in West Hollywood with its panoramic view. Designed by architect Pierre Koenig, Case Study House No. 22 is one of the most famous residences in our city.

Stahl House (208) 429-1058 www.stahlhouse.com

TOUR + PANEL

Children of the '70s: Preservation on the Rise

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 1:00 - 3:30 PM

Explore 1970s architecture on a tour of the landmark main building at Pasadena's ArtCenter College of Design. After the tour, a panel of leaders in preservation will discuss how the era shaped the preservation movement.

Los Angeles Conservancy (213) 623-2489

www.laconservancy.org

EXHIBIT

On the Road & Broken Dreams **TUESDAYS - SUNDAYS, HOURS VARY THROUGH MARCH 29**

View Suong Yangcheron's photorealistic paintings depicting road trips and joy rides evoking California movie scenes from the 1930s to the '50s. Chris Fraticelli's broken and reassembled figurines and statuary comment on societal customs and institutions.

California Heritage Museum (310) 392-8537

www.californiaheritagemuseum.org

TOUR

Orange Heights Neighborhood SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 9:00 - 11:00 AM

Orange Heights includes 85 contributing historic homes as well as original orange trees from the area's orchards. Discover the work of master builder D.M. Renton, who also constructed the Casino Ballroom on Catalina Island.

Pasadena Heritage (626) 441-6333

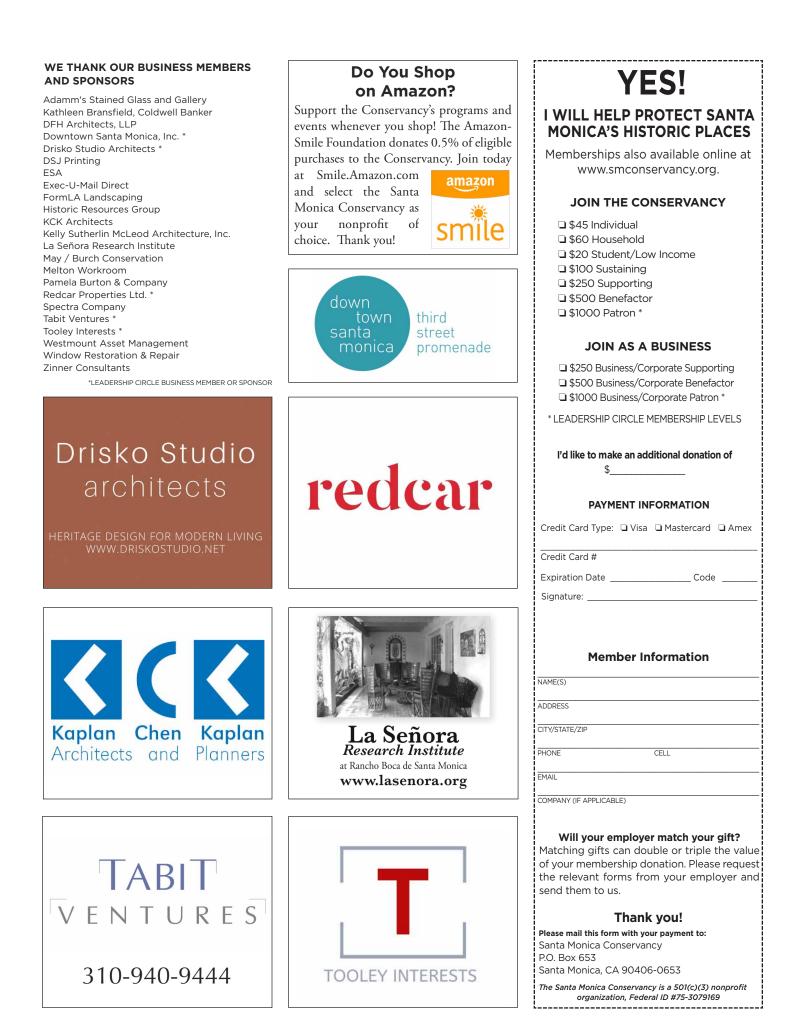
www.pasadenaheritage.org

BALL

Avalon Ball, Catalina

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 6:00 - 10:00 PM Spend a magical evening dancing to Big Band music from the 1920s and '30s as you delight in Art Deco opulence at the restored Avalon Casino Ballroom on Catalina Island.

Art Deco Society of Los Angeles (626) 441-6333 www.adsla.org





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Photo: Judy Raffel

ANNUAL MEETING & AWARDS

SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2-5 PM

Unitarian Universalist Community Church

1260 18th Street, Santa Monica

Award Presentation Year in Review Board Elections

RSVP at www.smconservancy.org



Photo: The Theodore Payne Foundation

NATIVE PLANT GARDEN TOUR

MARCH 28 & 29, 11 AM - 5 PM

Santa Monica & Los Angeles

Visit our coastal garden on March 28 Preservation Resource Center 2520 2nd Street, Santa Monica

Tickets at www.nativeplantgardentour.org

DOWNTOWN WALKING TOUR SATURDAYS AT 10 AM

1436 2nd Street, Santa Monica Reservations at smc.givecloud.co