



“Plates in Places” Virtual Silent Auction, July 18-25

The Santa Monica Conservancy invites you and your friends to our exciting virtual silent auction, **Plates in Places**, beginning **Sunday, July 18 through Sunday, July 25**. We are delighted to honor Santa Monica’s food legacy and the people and places that enrich our community and its neighborhoods by feeding our stomachs and our souls! This week-long celebration of Santa Monica’s rich and diverse food history will feature special events with local chefs, cookbook authors and artisans. The auction provides the chance to bid on cooking classes, exclusive culinary experiences, specialty foods, wine and more.

Restaurants, bakeries, hotels and food and spirit vendors are the heart of our neighborhoods. They nourish us and serve as gathering

Plates in Places



CELEBRATING SANTA MONICA’S FOOD LEGACY

places for our community. They provide continuity in our neighborhoods, making our city feel like home. Whether you live in Sunset Park, Ocean Park, the Pico Neighborhood, Wilshire/Montana, Mid-City, north of Montana or Downtown, the places you love—both historic and emerging—make your

neighborhood unique.

Help us spread the word by sharing this event with family, friends and neighbors. Participation in the auction is free. Proceeds will provide essential support for the Conservancy’s community programming and tours. Register online at www.smconservancy.org.

New Planned Giving Program Will Secure Our Future

We are proud to announce the establishment of a Planned Giving Program. This new option expands the ways in which your generosity can support the Conservancy’s advocacy and public programs, by leaving an enduring legacy that will ensure stability and growth into the future.

The Conservancy will honor and recognize all those who make commitments by inviting them to join the newly established Legacy Society. An annual luncheon will be held to celebrate Legacy Society members and their generosity. There is no donation minimum to be eligible and all those who make their commitments known to the Conservancy by the end of 2021 will permanently become Founding Members of the Legacy Society.

We are particularly pleased that Tom Cleys, Sherrill Kushner, Kay Pattison and Patty Tann have made their commitments and are Founding Members of the Legacy Society.

Tom Cleys, a founding member of the Conservancy, currently serves as President of the Board. He is a member of the Santa Monica Urban Forest Task Force and was formerly the Vice President, Asset Management of Mesa



Patty Godon-Tann and David Tann.

West Capital.

Sherrill Kushner, a founding member of the Conservancy, helped save the 1897 shotgun house that now serves as our Preservation Resource Center. She is a former Board member and chaired our successful Spirit of Preservation Gala honoring Doris Sosin and Ernest Marquez in 2019. She is a community activist and part-time immigration attorney.

Kay Pattison is an admired and long-time docent for the Conservancy who led the Downtown Walking Tours for many years. She helped launch the annual *Happy Birthday Marion!* event at the Annenberg Community Beach House where she also enriched the training for its docents with her research.

Patty Godon-Tann is a long-time docent and member of our Preservation Resource Center Committee. She has volunteered for many architectural tours and currently also serves as Co-Chair of Plates in Places, our virtual silent auction. She is a former school principal.

We hope that you will consider joining our Legacy Society and remember the Santa Monica Conservancy in your estate plans. Your gift will impact historic preservation for many years to come. If you would like more information or materials about the Planned Giving Program, please contact Tom Cleys at president@smconservancy.org or 310-463-1748. If you have already made a commitment to the Conservancy in your estate plans, please notify President Tom Cleys so that he can include you in all acknowledgements and special events.

2021 Preservation Awards, see center insert

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.*

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Visit the Preservation Resource Center:

2520 2nd St., Santa Monica, CA 90405
Temporarily closed. Visit www.smconservancy.org to sign up for our live virtual tour.

THE NEWSLETTER STAFF

Tom Cleys	Carol Lemlein
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Sherrill Kushner	Jan McElwee
Ruthann Lehrer	Robin Tung

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

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

What a challenging year it has been for all of us. The pandemic has impacted our businesses, schools, local government and all of us personally in one way or another. But as our community becomes vaccinated, we look forward to returning to in-person gatherings and programming this fall.

As the leading voice in preservation, we remain active — pandemic or not. Our advocacy to protect and save our historic places as well as our important educational programs continue to impact and enrich our community. Over the previous months, we have pointed out how City budget cuts have negatively impacted the Landmarks Commission and made the costs of landmarking historic properties prohibitive for all but the wealthiest. During this time, our Advocacy Committee has been working alongside the City to restore the Landmarks Commission and support the City's preservation efforts.

Our commitment to ensure that all of the voices in our community are heard and celebrated has been an essential focus in all of the Conservancy's programming. We've added many more digital resources highlighting our Black, LatinX and Asian communities in our e-newsletter as well as our Historic Places Map. We've also focused our popular virtual lecture series, Santa Monica Mosaic, on telling a fuller story of Santa Monica, raising awareness of our Tongva, African American and Japanese cultures and history.

One of our newest projects, the Broadway Initiative, came from the recommendations of our 21st Century Task Force. Spearheaded by Carolyne Edwards and Sherrill Kushner, the Initiative will focus on recognizing the history and contributions of people of color who moved to the Broadway area after being forcibly displaced by the construction of the Civic Center and the freeway. This project continues the story from their first settlement in the Belmar neighborhood.

In May, Preservation Month, with your generous support, we completed a successful fundraising campaign to boost our Preservation Advocacy Fund. The Advocacy Fund is particularly crucial now in order to landmark new properties which don't otherwise have a financial advocate. The Advocacy Fund also empowers us to defend legal challenges that threaten Santa Monica's treasures. (Learn more about our Preservation Advocacy Fund on p. 5.)

And from July 18-25, we are hosting our first-ever virtual silent auction, "Plates in Places." This benefit for the Conservancy will be a week-long celebration of Santa Monica's rich and diverse food legacy with exciting virtual events and specialty auction items for you to bid on. (Details and registration on p. 4.)

This year, we have many more goals to accomplish. We're launching our Planned Giving program, which you can learn more about on p. 1. We're also working to expand our Board and Advisory Council, as well as our membership. And we're preparing to hire a full-time Executive Director by early 2022, which will be pivotal to the growth and impact of the Conservancy. The new Executive Director will help guide us as we expand to serve the broadening needs of our community. This fall, we will be releasing a job description and if you have suggested candidates, please email me at president@smconservancy.org.

We are grateful for your commitment to the Conservancy and will need your continued support now more than ever as our organization grows.

With you on our team, we can strengthen our voice in advocacy and accomplish even more. We deeply appreciate every one of you in helping make the work we do possible.

The best to you and your family and we wish you a continuing healthy future.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Cleys". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'T' and 'C'.

Our Gratitude to Kay Pattison

Moving to a new community to be closer to family, volunteer Kay Pattison leaves an indelible mark on the Santa Monica Conservancy, our residents and visitors. Pattison first enrolled in our docent training for the Downtown Walking Tour in 2007, when she discovered the varied “personalities” of Santa Monica’s buildings and our city’s rich history. For more than a decade, she managed and trained other docents, adding to our educational resources.

She also served as a docent for the Annenberg Community Beach House, the former

home of the late actress Marion Davies. Based on her research at the Academy of Motion Pictures Library, Pattison developed new docent training materials, adding more information about Davies. And she helped launch the annual Happy Birthday, Marion! event at the Beach House, often arriving in costume as Harpo Marx. Additionally, she participated in many Fourth of July parades and lent her



warm and joyful presence to numerous Conservancy events.

“The Conservancy has been pervasive in my life and an intimate part of my being. It gave me something bigger than myself,” Pattison shares. To solidify her long association with the Conservancy she has joined the Conservancy’s Legacy Society as a Founding Member in order to sustain our work in historic preservation into the future.

We thank Kay Pattison for her longstanding and dedicated service, and wish her all the best.

Carolyn & Bill Edwards Receive Black Excellence Community Award

As part of the nationwide celebration of Black History Month every February, the City of Santa Monica hosted its 2nd Annual Black Excellence Community Awards program virtually on February 25, 2021. These awards recognize and honor Black professionals who live or work in Santa Monica for their outstanding leadership and service.

Among those honored were Conservancy Board member Carolyn Edwards and her husband Bill. Carolyn and Bill Edwards have contributed greatly to amassing an

archive on local Black history. They are founders of the Quinn Research Center, an educational resource that promotes the study and research of Black family history and culture in the Santa Monica Bay area. The Center honors the legacy of Carolyn’s uncle, Alfred T. Quinn, a prominent Black educator, community leader and icon of the Santa Monica Bay area in the mid- to late-20th century.

Congratulations to Carolyn and Bill Edwards! We look forward to working with you, especially in our efforts to secure landmark



Carolyn & Bill Edwards. Photo: City of Santa Monica

designation for historic properties of African American importance in the thriving neighborhood of Broadway in Santa Monica.

In Memory of Julia Bogany

The Conservancy is saddened by the passing of Julia Bogany, an educator and cultural advocate for the Gabrieleno-Tongva community. For over 30 years, she worked to preserve, revive and increase visibility for the Tongva language and culture through trainings, workshops and her volunteer work. She taught college classes on native culture, history and women’s issues at Scripps, Pomona and other colleges. She also trained and consulted with teachers and school boards to re-

visit their curriculum to reflect a more accurate history of California and California tribes. She believed in advocating for and empowering youth in order to improve the lives of future generations.



Photo: Indigenous Wellness Circle

In addition, Bogany served on many committees and boards, including as President of the Kuruvanga Springs, a representative for

the California tribes on Route 66 and a member of the California Native American College Board.

The Conservancy was honored to have Bogany as a member of its 21st Century Task Force, which worked to identify the most important issues on the horizon in Santa Monica, ranging from education, government, housing and sustainability to social justice and more. With deep respect, we honor Julia Bogany’s service and extend our condolences to her family and all who knew her.

WE THANK OUR LEADERSHIP CIRCLE MEMBERS

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Annual Meeting & Preservation Awards

The Conservancy’s Annual Meeting and Preservation Awards was held virtually on May 16. The Conservancy offered a year in review as well as updates on our advocacy and programs. The election of the Board was held and Vice President and Interim Executive Director Carol Lemlein and David Kaplan were re-elected to two-year terms. President Tom Cleys and Treasurer Liz Coughlin were re-elected to three-year terms. And newly appointed Board members Carolyn Edwards and Amanda Seward were

elected to three-year terms.

The 2021 Preservation Award winners, which are described in the insert of this newsletter, were honored in an illustrated presentation. The Awards Committee was chaired by David Kaplan and included Margarita Jerabek, Ruthann Lehrer and Carol Lemlein. Our gratitude to Tom Cleys and Adina Bernheimer for their help in making this event a success. Please visit www.smconservancy.org for the illustrated presentation.

Santa Monica Mosaic: The Pico Neighborhood on June 9

By Steve Loeper

Like many organizations, the Conservancy went virtual during the COVID pandemic, led by the Program Committee's popular *Santa Monica Mosaic* webinar series. Its second season concludes with **The Pico Neighborhood on Wednesday, June 9 from 5 to 6 p.m.** The illustrated presentation will focus on the historic presence of Mexicans in the city's Pico Neighborhood.

Born of the nation's racial reckoning last summer and inspired by the 1930s mosaic tiles at the entrance of Santa Monica City Hall, the *Mosaic* series is dedicated to the preservation of the city's diverse historic cultures. Guest speakers have included representatives of the Tongva, African American, Rancho, Japanese American and Jewish communities.

On June 9, Santa Monica College history professor Jaime Cruz, who grew up in the Pico Neighborhood, will take us through the various chapters of the district's evolution during the last century. Once a thriving multi-ethnic community formed by racist zoning practices of the time, the Pico Neighborhood became steadily less diverse in the



A section of the "History of the Pico Neighborhood" mural, completed in 1983. Photo: Saul Rubin

decades following World War II as urban redevelopment forced out families who could no longer afford to live there. Illustrated by current and vintage imagery, the lecture will be followed by questions from the audience.

Santa Monica Mosaic is produced by Steve Loeper and moderated by Libby Motika, both co-chairs of the Program Committee.

Content contributors include Motika, Phillis Dudick and Libby Pachares. Allyson Knight is the technical director and production assistance comes from Diane Citron, Catherine Conkle, Phyllis Conkle and Diane Locklear.

To register for the June 9 webinar, please visit www.smconservancy.org. The lecture is free for members and \$10 for the general public.

Support Our Preservation Advocacy Fund!

Every year in May, preservation groups across the country celebrate Preservation Month through events that celebrate historic places and demonstrate the social and economic benefits of historic preservation.

In this pandemic year, the Conservancy held its Annual Meeting virtually on May 16 and honored outstanding historic preservation work in Santa Monica through our Annual Preservation Awards, which can be viewed in the center insert. . . . a lot has been accomplished to celebrate!

We hope you will support our preservation work by making a donation to our Preservation Advocacy Fund. Our historic places are under siege due to intense development pressures, a voracious real estate market and new legal challenges. The demands of defending our City's historic resources have increased dramatically. When our cherished historic resources are threatened, we turn to our Preservation Advocacy Fund to pay for required services as well as legal consultations and filings.

Our Advocacy Fund has become all the more important this year with the City budget cuts, and the dramatic increase in fees for historic designation. Landmarks Commission review of demolition permits for

properties over 40 years old has been eliminated, and as a result, the Conservancy has taken on the role as the City's primary defender of threatened properties with historic or cultural significance. The nonprofit fee waiver has also been eliminated, so the Conservancy must pay \$861 for any designation application, plus the City's fee for a professional consultant report of around \$5,000. If the nomination is triggered by an active demolition application, the Conservancy must pay the filing fee and the demo applicant pays for the consultant report – but our cost may still go up.

The result? As we work to improve social equity in the historic preservation program and use it to recognize the history of our marginalized communities, the increased fees place designation out of reach for all but the wealthiest property owners. For example, we have been working with the members of the Philomathean Literary Arts and Charity Club, founded by five African American women in 1921, to designate their clubhouse as a Santa Monica Landmark, recognizing their 100-year history of philanthropy in the local community. Fees related to this designation are expected to cost nearly \$6000, and

this is just the first of several properties we are evaluating that commemorate the African American community here.

Stand with us to defend and protect our historic places for our future generations. Your financial contribution to our Advocacy Fund demonstrates our shared commitment to recognize *all* the stories of Santa Monica's diverse heritage as they are represented in our built environment. Historic preservation is truly a shared community value, embodying the stories of people and places that are unique and irreplaceable.

Visit www.smconservancy.org to make a donation today!

Donate Your Used Car

We make donating your car easy! Our donation partner, CARS, will handle everything from the free pick-up and donation receipt to answering all of your questions. Call 855-500-7433 or visit careasy.org/nonprofit/Santa-Monica-Conservancy to fill out an online donation form. Your donation will support the Santa Monica Conservancy's advocacy and public programs. Thank you!

New Historic Belmar Park Now Open

by Sherrill Kushner

Santa Monica's new Historic Belmar Park was opened on February 28 at 1855 Main Street. The park commemorates an area where African American families and entrepreneurs settled after migrating from southern states to escape the worst of racist anti-black restrictions during the Jim Crow era (1900–1960s). Seeking employment, good climate, health, beautiful landscapes and a more liberated lifestyle, African Americans thrived in the neighborhood until the 1950s, when it was decimated to accommodate the new Santa Monica Civic Center campus.

The new public space includes a multi-purpose sports field as well as historical interpretive signs along a walking path and an artwork entitled *A Resurrection in Four Stanzas*.

The artwork and interpretive panels, known collectively as the Belmar History + Art, were designed by social practice artist April Banks in collaboration with author and



Photo: April Banks

historian Dr. Alison Rose Jefferson. The civic project honors the former neighborhood and those who lived there with a sculpture in the form of a shotgun house, reminiscent of the early 20th century homes in the Belmar

neighborhood.

To learn more about the history of the Belmar neighborhood as well as the Belmar History + Art project, visit <https://www.santamonica.gov/arts/belmar>.



Columbus and Lucy Cheney (left) and others celebrate the opening of the new road in Topanga in 1898. Photo: Topanga Historical Society / Los Angeles Public Library

Topanga Beach: A History, 1820s to 1920s

At its peak, Lower Topanga was a beach community of about 300 people who lived on the border between Topanga, Malibu, Pacific Palisades, and Santa Monica. Yet, none of these towns ever wrote its history, and as a result, what happened at this nexus was mostly known through legends, especially after State Parks bought the land and evicted the last residents in 2006.

Topanga Beach: A History, 1820s to 1920s by Pablo Capra, archivist for the Topanga Historical Society and a former Lower

Topanga resident, will reshape how we think about not only Lower Topanga, but the surrounding towns as well. Rescuing life stories from archives and rare interviews, Capra shows how this community, which seemed expendable, had a heartbeat and was, in some ways, the soul of those other towns. Learn about the Native Americans of Topanga Beach, Rancho Boca de Santa Monica, Cooper's Camp, rodeos, early surfers and more. Copies are available at brasstackspress.com.

Live Virtual Group Tours: 1897 Shotgun House

Our live virtual tour leads you through the last intact shotgun house in Santa Monica. Built in 1897, this little house is remarkable for its sheer tenacity, surviving the passage of time and three relocations. Look behind the walls and the floor to reveal the original materials and discover what life in Santa Monica was like in the early 1900s. Our friendly and knowledgeable docents will guide you through the three board-and-batten rooms and answer any questions you might have.

The free tours are 45 minutes and held via Zoom. Make your reservation today at www.smconservancy.org!



Landmarks Commission Report

by Ruthann Lehrer and Carol Lemlein,
Advocacy Co-Chairs

Responsibilities of the Landmarks Commission have been greatly reduced under the current City budget. As this newsletter goes to press, the Commission will have met only six times during more than a year since the COVID shutdown. The virtual meeting format for the Landmarks Commission does not allow for public testimony on agenda items, only written comments. The Conservancy has voiced its objections to this undemocratic procedure which the City has justified due to budget constraints.

The Commission no longer reviews demolition permits for properties more than 40 years old and it is up to the public to submit applications for designation, based on a list of active demolition applications published monthly. During that time, the Conservancy has submitted two demo-related applications, for 2401 22nd Street in Sunset Park, and for 2408 2nd Street, which is down the street



401 Ocean Avenue. Photo: Mark Tabit

from our Preservation Resource Center.

Two applications for Structure of Merit designations submitted by the Conservancy have been approved: 1626 California Avenue and 124 Hart Street in the South Beach Neighborhood, both nominated before the increase in designation fees. In both cases the Commission overruled negative reports from City staff as well as the City's preservation consultant.

Certificate of Appropriateness applications have been approved for four important preservation projects. The Weyse House at 401

Ocean is being renovated as a duplex, requiring complex navigation to blend preserving its character-defining features with necessary functional and code-related changes. The Craftsman Bungalow at 9 Vicente Terrace is being extensively renovated, with some innovative changes approved. The Rapp Saloon is also being renovated and restored as part of an expansion plan at Hostelling International, which adds more units to this popular location. Finally, Nikkei Hall at 1413 Michigan Avenue will be restored and adaptively reused when incorporated into a new 4-story supportive housing project.

Four Mills Act Contracts, all for multifamily properties, were recommended by the Commission and given final approval by Council:

- 608 San Vicente Boulevard
- 2546 3rd Street
- 2518 4th Street
- 423 Ocean Avenue

Finally, Ruth Shari termed out as the Commission's real estate licensee and Jodi Summers was appointed to the position.

Samohi Advocacy Results in New Policy

by Ruthann Lehrer

When the Conservancy joined the fight to save Samohi's History Building in October 2020, it was the first time we had engaged with an institution responsible for numerous historic resources that is not subject to our City's Landmarks Commission. The building was slated for demolition as part of a massive redevelopment and renovation of the campus this year. The Conservancy raised community support to examine the possibility of rehabilitating and modernizing the historic buildings rather than demolish them. Sadly, the School Board and staff were immovable on the History Building issue, as a replacement project had previously been approved, funds were on hand and an environmental review completed.

However, a grassroots petition initiated by Esther Hickman to save the building, posted online at www.change.org, has garnered almost 6,000 signatures and numerous letters to the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School Board. This issue also caught the attention of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, including a report of it in its spring issue of *Preservation Magazine*.

The Conservancy has pursued a parallel goal: advocate for new historic preservation policies and procedures that will apply dis-

trict-wide to all school campuses. Working together on the language and specifications with School District staff, Board Policy 7113, the district's first historical resources policy and administrative regulation, was passed in February. The new policy will guide the District through a multi-step process when considering facilities projects and modernization at all campuses in Santa Monica and Malibu.

To follow up, the District initiated a request for proposal for historic preservation professional consultants to implement historic resource assessments for Franklin, Grant, McKinley and Roosevelt Elementary Schools, as well as John Adams and Lincoln Middle Schools in Santa Monica, and Webster and



Santa Monica High School circa 1940.
Photo: Santa Monica Public Library

Malibu Elementary Schools in Malibu. Once that information is completed and shared with the public, it remains to be seen just how respect for historic resources will be integrated with future campus renovations. The Conservancy will closely monitor this process as it

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Stay updated on the latest advocacy, upcoming events and more!





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PLATES IN PLACES

Celebrating Santa Monica’s Food Legacy

**VIRTUAL SILENT AUCTION
JULY 18 – 25**

Bid on cooking classes, culinary experiences, specialty foods, wines and more!



Details and tickets at www.smconservancy.org.

**SANTA MONICA MOSAIC:
THE PICO NEIGHBORHOOD
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, 5 – 6 PM**

VIRTUAL PRESENTATION

Discover the history of the city’s most culturally diverse neighborhood with Santa Monica College history professor Jaime Cruz.

Details and tickets at www.smconservancy.org.

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Strengthen our voice and protect Santa Monica’s historic places!

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