

Spring 2014



The Glenite

News and Noteworthy Goings-on in the Glen

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Hold the Dates!
for

The Garden Walk
Sunday March 30th
From 12:30-3:00 pm
Meet at LDRCC at 12:30 pm

The Annual Fair
Sunday June 1st
From Noon-5pm
Beverly Glen Place

All Beverly Glen residents are invited to attend the Board Meetings held the 2nd Monday of each month, from 7:30 – 9:00 pm at the LDRCC. Come join in the discussion and let us hear your views and concerns.

www.beverlyglen.org

Holiday Party Filled with Food, Fun and Friendship

by Sharalee Flesche, Social Chair

The evening of the Annual Residents of Beverly Glen holiday party was a chilly one but the warmth of the community prevailed as it was standing room only on Sunday December 8th.

The tables over flowed with generous and delicious food items from what appeared to be just about everyone that attended. I would like to extend a warm thank you to all of you that took the time to attend and participate in the community event.

A special thank you to Vinnie and Emil of Fabrocini's for the pasta platter, Barry and Loretta Coleman of Beverly Glen Deli for the deli platter, Joe of Beverly Glen Market for the platter of sliders and Abe, Lisa and Adam of the Glen market for donating all of the non-alcoholic beverages. The wine tasting table hosted by Steven Foonberg and generously poured by Michelle Vannoy was a big hit and not a drop was left in any bottle.

A highlight of the evening was a performance by our local talents Shayne Warnken and Noah Harris. They toughed out the cold and warmed the air with their beautiful music and holiday songs. They promise to perform again at the 54th Residents of Beverly Glen Annual Fair so

mark your calendars and save the date for June 1st from Noon-5pm.

A very very special thank you to Jadon Friedberg for all of his hard work providing the sound equipment and his technical savvy for our enjoyment of the movies, the music, and all of the entertainment.

In closing I want to thank everyone that came early and stayed late for the set-up and clean up. It takes a lot of work to put on the events big or small. The community participation in Beverly Glen is impressive and it's a

wonderful place to live.

The next event is the Annual Garden Walk on Sunday March 30th from 1pm-3pm. We will meet at the Community Center at 12:30 for lunch. If you would like to showcase your property as an architectural gem or showcase your garden or both please contact me at social@beveryglen.org.

Happy New Year,
Sharalee Flesche



Steven Foonberg shares some holiday spirit with his daughters, Talia (l) and Maya (r) along with Michelle Vannoy.



Jadon Friedberg gets a bit of lovin' from Janine Gershon.

Photos: Sharalee Flesche

Letter from the President

Winter in Los Angeles is so different than places north and east. They look at us and see sunshine, dry, warm air, no snow, and no ice – paradise. We see it a little differently. We are in the middle of a winter with little to no rain. We need water, especially in The Glen. We have hillsides that are dry, trees that are stressed and watering is needed to keep things green. Green does not stop wild fires, but it does not burn as quickly. We have had quite a month here in The Glen. I have learned so much about protected species of trees in Los Angeles. Do you know which ones they are? Oak trees (California Live Oak, Valley Oak, and all other oaks indigenous to California, except Scrub Oak), Western Sycamore, Southern California Black Walnut, and California Bay. These are all protected by the City of Los Angeles in Ordinance 177404. Check out your property so you know which trees are protected. You can read the ordinance at http://cityplanning.lacity.org/Code_Studies/Other/ProtectedTreeOrd.pdf. We have many of these trees in Beverly Glen and they offer people, birds and animals a great benefit. They offer us beauty, shade, fresh air, and so much more. Have you noticed all the yellow ribbons and bows on several trees up and down North Beverly Glen? A valuable group

of people have spent countless hours protecting these trees. We are walking a fine line between protecting the community from Fire and protecting the trees as law requires. Everyone has done an excellent job in this endeavor. I would like to personally thank everyone involved, but especially this group that put their lives aside, through health problems, jobs, and family: Richard Renaldo, Pam Cooke, Jane Curry, Travis Longcore, Ron Rosenblatt, Susan Armenti, Rhoda & Chris Holabird, and I am sure I am missing someone. (forgive me)

The bottom line is we love where we live. We are a community, a neighborhood that is in a canyon, with a traffic corridor street running through it. We want to keep our quality of life protected. We would like peace here in the Glen. Please join with your leaders here and help in any way possible. We are unpaid, caring people from all walks of life. We need you to be part of the team. Membership is inexpensive, events are fun and your time is invaluable!

See you at one of our monthly meetings (2nd Monday at 7:30 p.m.) or at the Garden Walk!

Tensie Palmer
President, ROBG

The Glenite

Founded 1953

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Please submit articles and notices to:
glenite@beverlyglen.org (electronic versions only please!)

Glenite Summer 2014 deadline:

Submissions needed by April 15, 2014



BEL AIR BEVERLY CREST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (BABCNC)

by Ramin Kolahi, Neighborhood Council Rep.

September, October, November,
December 2013
& January 2014 Meetings

The former Four Oaks Restaurant has been closed for many years. Though the property has a Zoning Variance granted in 2005, RoBG believes many of those provisions (in particular continued operations of the restaurant) are in violation and thus require a public hearing process so that the public can review the proposed operation plans as they impact traffic, parking, noise and in particular across from our Community Center and our cherished Playgroup preschool. Working with the folks at Councilman Koretz's office, we were able to track some letters and information about the new owners and their plea to maintain the variance in place. At issue is if the ownership allowed necessary licenses to expire, thereby abandoning the variance granted use of a restaurant. The current owners do not believe there is a need for community input, but we continue to work with the Council office. LED Conversion Program - It was brought to the Board's attention that the City plans to replace all street lights with LEDs for energy savings. While the Board supports the idea, it suggested the alternative option of LEDs with a better light spectrum that will allow us to have more visually pleasing lights in the canyons without the need for bright, cold lights.

Operation NC Blitz - Last year, RoBG (with the help of its active residents) was able to

get more than its fair share of pothole repairs, thanks to all of those who took time to fill out the forms.

Emergency Preparedness Committee - The BABCNC's Emergency Preparedness/Public Safety Committee is going strong coming up on its first year of holding regular meetings. Besides staying in touch with LAFD and LAPD, the committee has set up an emergency phone system to communicate to Board members so that we can communicate to you! Speaking of which, you can sign up for a County run program called SNAP, especially good for elderly and others, snap.lacounty.gov. Check out what the committee is up to by going to babnc.org.

Transit Motion - BABCNC approved a motion calling on Metro to prioritize the San Fernando Valley Connector as a transit project and not a bus project. We approved Measure R some years ago and are seeing much needed transit improvements in LA (Expo Line, Orange Line etc.). However, Metro seems to have completely ignored the most congested and trafficked highway segment in the nation, 405 from 101 to 10 (yes its true, even Metro acknowledges it). Why does it matter to the Glen? As the City grows and people need to commute from the basin to the valley, how will they get there? Yes, via the Glen, unless we provide an alternative (transit, not buses) that can handle that volume! But in the horse-trading Metro did some years back, it seems that funding carpool lanes, that will do nothing for traffic, was more important than plans that would actually help alleviate traffic. Keep an eye out; we may need to really impress it upon Metro!

By-Laws - BABCNC is still revising its by-laws. Per prior updates, the Board count has been reduced. At issue is how board members are elected/selected from the public. The Board

is supportive of more open transparency but disagree with City about holding elections. The last time we did that, three people voted on two positions. RoBG and other associations do get good turnout at their annual meetings; so we are trying to convince the City to use those powerful processes.

Contact babnc@beverlyglen.org with any questions...

TRAFFIC

By Lawrence Imel, Traffic Committee Chair

Over the past several weeks, the traffic committee has received several e-mails from residents expressing their concerns about various traffic-related issues in the Glen. It appears that, with each passing week, more and more residents are reaching their tolerance for the many perils that naturally stem from the heavy volume of traffic in the Glen. We have all experienced commuters traveling at excessive speeds, running red lights, crossing the double yellow line to pass those driving within the speed limit and the traffic congestion caused by sanitation trucks picking up trash during the morning rush hour.

I have heard some people claim that the traffic-related issues that we cope with on a daily basis "come with the territory" when you choose to live in the Glen. I'm not buying it and it doesn't appear that you are either. In the many e-mails that I have received, I am pleased that many of you have presented ideas to alleviate our traffic issues which include, but are not limited to:

- The installation of additional and larger speed limit signs;
- The installation of a radar sign that flashes the speed of commuters and

Continued on p. 4

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Continued from p.3

- posts the maximum speed limit;
- The installation of additional controlled intersections; and
- The rescheduling of trash pick-up outside of peak traffic times.

These ideas all have merit. The reality, however, is that most of these measures require money and all of them require the attention and cooperation of various municipal agencies, such as the Department of Transportation and the Department of Sanitation. We need to rally together as a community and coordinate our efforts to call the attention of local government officials to get the traffic alleviating measures that we need and deserve. Presently, we do not have a viable forum for discussing these issues. There are simply too many other important topics which take place at the monthly ROBG Board meetings to dedicate those meetings solely to traffic-related issues. For this reason, I will soon be calling a residents meeting to discuss prioritization of the traffic-alleviating measures that we would like to see implemented in the Glen and the best, most practical, manner in which to achieve those items. The meeting will be held at the Les and Dorothy Rivers Recreation Center on a date which will be posted on the ROBG website, so stay tuned.

The other indispensable component to rectifying the dangerous traffic conditions in the Glen is the involvement of law enforcement. I encourage you to express your concerns about the need for additional traffic enforcement in the Glen to West Traffic Division Commanding Officer, Rolando Solano, at 27647@lapd.lacity.org and West Traffic Division Sergeant Christopher Kunz at 26315@lapd.lacity.org. You are also welcome to attend the monthly LAPD West Bureau Traffic Committee meetings, the dates and times of which are posted on the ROBG website, to express your concerns about traffic in our area with the police officers who are responsible for patrolling in our community.

In the meantime, please continue to send me your e-mails regarding traffic accidents in the Glen. I am keeping my own log of all traffic-related incidents so that I can present them to the LAPD West Traffic Division officers responsible for our area as evidence that we need more patrols and police presence in our neighborhood. You can send your reports to me at traffic@beverlyglen.org. Thank you in advance for your time and effort to make the Glen a safe and enjoyable place to live.

HILLSIDE FEDERATION UPDATE — SPRING 2014

by Stephen Benson

1819 Laurel Canyon – Hillside Cleanup <<UPDATE>>

The project is going forward and happening. What this means to us is that more people will be diverted away from Laurel Cyn and surely be using other canyons. The Project will involve thousands of truckloads of dirt removal from the hillside at/near that address for several months. I am unsure about how and where they will be staging the equipment and trucks to make this project happen, but it will undoubtedly affect us with an increase in traffic.

Harvard Westlake Proposed "Parking Lot" Expansion / Curtis School Expansion

There have been no updates about these projects. We expect a final EIR for the Harvard Westlake project in late summer or fall of this year. The Curtis School project has, for all practical purposes, been sent back to the drawing board.

Request for community Support: Brush Helmets for LAFD Firefighters

The LAFD has reached out to the Hillside Federation and requested that we share some information about a special "bush helmet" that the department does not have the budget to purchase or provide. This helmet is very lightweight and is much easier for the firefighters to wear when fighting outdoor and hillside fires. The standard helmet is very heavy and designed to protect the firefighters from falling material beams and debris, but when fighting a fire outdoors in the brush that helmet makes doing their job and protecting our hillside homes much more difficult. The Fire Dept has a website set up to receive donations if you are interested in helping: <http://supportlafd.org/about/donate/?vsmaid=187&vcid=88>

For more information on these items or any other hillside item, please feel free to visit the Hillside Federation Website, HillsideFederation.org, or email me directly at Hillside@beverlyglen.org.

BEVERLY GLEN PLAYGROUP

By Julie Kolahi

Remaining tour dates for this year:
2014

Thursday, March 20

Thursday, April 10

Thursday, May 15

Please note:

- All tours occur on Thursdays
- All tours begin at 9:45AM
- Children are not allowed to attend tours

You may also RSVP to 310.470.0992, leaving your name and phone number.

Tours are subject to cancellation when it rains. Please check in or check your email prior to coming.

SAVE WATER AND OUR TREES AND GARDENS

By Rhoda Holabird

A typical Los Angeles household uses about 160 gallons of water per day.

With a gray water system, homeowners could re-use much of this water to irrigate plants and trees within their property, saving up to 22,000 gallons a year. Water from laundry, hand-washing sinks and showers are acceptable gray water sources in the City of Los Angeles.

The irrigation systems are to be set up to run by gravity into drainage fields or mulched areas. The main concerns are to prevent gray

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water from emptying into our storm drains or to pool on the surface. "Gray water" is clearly differentiated from "black water" and "recycled water" in the information from the city.

The Bureau of Sanitation provides an descriptive and thorough application form on it's website. Google: LADBS P/PC 2011-012

FIRE DEPARTMENT'S TREE CANOPY REMOVAL PROJECT

By Travis Longcore and Catherine Rich

Over the holidays, one of us (TL) received an email from the tree contractor who had trimmed the trees in Beverly Glen for the Fire Department in early 2012. He said that the Fire Department had a new Inspector who was requiring "more work" in Beverly Glen. Our response was that this needed to be presented to the residents and the Neighborhood Council. Despite repeated attempts to get more information, including calls to the Fire Department, none was forthcoming. It was an inauspicious beginning to a project that would see major removal of heritage trees and tree canopy on Beverly Glen before community action and political intervention slowed the damage.

The Fire Department's "Tree Canopy Removal Project" appears to have had its genesis in 2010, when then-Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa took a flyover of the City with the Fire Chief, who insisted that the canyon roads were not safe because of overgrown tree canopy. But rather than proposing to bring the roads up to City code of 14 feet vertical clearance for a minimum of 20 feet width to accommodate fire fighting apparatus, the Fire Department sought to removal all of the tree canopy over main canyon roads, in their words, trimming "from curb to sky." In late 2011, and with no public input or expert oversight regarding actual fire safety needs, the project started in Laurel Canyon and was met with dismay by many residents. The tree contractors proceeded to Benedict Canyon in early 2012, where residents objected so strenuously (and engaged in civil disobedience) that the Inspector at the time realized that he needed to have some flexibility. When the project came to Beverly Glen soon thereafter, Travis worked with the Inspector and contractor to keep the native Coast Live Oak and California Sycamore canopy and ensure that the project only raised the clearance to 14 feet as required by law. We thought they were done.

In January of this year, however, after the initial email to Travis but before any information was made available, the project came again to Beverly Glen, starting at Mulholland. Rather than informing the community or coming to Residents of Beverly Glen as was done in 2012, the contractor worked quickly to remove all canopy that extended out past the curb. As the contractors moved down the canyon, the trimmers literally cut mature oak trees in half and removed others. The new Inspector and his boss were not interested in the community's opinion and insisted that they were just following orders, claiming that clearing from curb to sky was required by law, and providing a range of explanations for the project, including that the State made them do it, that Beverly Glen would be an escape route in case of an earthquake, and that clearance was needed for aerial surveillance during an emergency. Above all, they claimed the project was absolutely mandated by law. This, as it turns out, was not factual.

We, along with others in ROBG, involved Councilmember Koretz's office and the Inspector agreed to present the project to the Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council. But there he simply invoked the Oakland fire of 1991 as a rationale for removing all tree canopy over Beverly Glen and other hillside boulevards (never mind that the Oakland hills were dominated by exotic and highly flammable Eucalyptus trees, while the canopy over Beverly Glen is mainly native Coast Live Oaks and California Sycamores). After being contacted by Mayor Garcetti's office, the Fire Captain and his supervisor agreed to a hastily convened meeting at Fire Station 71 the following Monday (January 27) where about 20 Beverly Glen and Benedict Canyon residents attended. Little progress was made there either, but residents began to hear more about the project and concern was growing. By that Thursday a group of 40 residents, convened by Richard Renaldo, met with the tree contractor at the community center. By Friday morning, the Fire Department had changed the trimming order to clearing 14 feet vertically from curb to curb. But even this new standard, which goes well beyond the 20 feet width of clearance required by code, put many heritage trees at risk and a group of residents walked Beverly Glen over the weekend to put yellow ribbons around trees of particular importance to the canyon.

On Monday February 3, residents tried to save the large Sycamores at the corner of Caribou Lane, but were unsuccessful because they did not provide 14 feet clearance at the curb, even though the road had over 30 feet width of sufficient clearance. We tried to talk reasonably with the Fire Department, but they called the LAPD on a group of us, including a mother with her toddler, which seemed unnecessary to say the least. The Council office had been called and was coming to the site but the Fire Department would not wait for the staff person to arrive and instead removed the trees with a police guard. By the next day, apparently prompted by some intervention by the Mayor's office, the Fire Department had agreed not to do further removals of native trees (the Oaks and Sycamores) — which are protected under City law (and such protection is encouraged under State law) — but it is unclear if they will be back to remove them in the future. Community engagement will remain critical.

It became obvious through the course of this experience and a significant amount of research that the Tree Canopy Removal Project did not have its basis in the Fire Code. Although the Fire Department had started with the standard of clearing to the sky from curb to curb, we were able to show that in fact no State or City code required this, which was confirmed by the LAFD Research Unit itself. Rather, our ongoing review of City documents indicates that it was probably funded under a State and/or federal emergency preparedness grant, wherein the canopy removal was part of some evacuation plan or homeland security measure. The problem with this is that a major discretionary project is being implemented in the hillside neighborhoods without any accountability in terms of public input, environmental review, or transparency. The project also raises significant issues of due process, in that trees originating on private property were cut by the City without first allowing the owner to investigate or remedy any alleged violation of the Fire Code. Perhaps the City did this because owning a tree with canopy over the street is not a violation of the Fire Code, and the City was removing canopy as a completely discretionary action.



IN THE KITCHEN WITH DIANE

by Diane LaFleur

Preserved Lemons

This is a Moroccan style recipe that uses kosher salt to pickle lemons. It is a very simple recipe, but takes about 5 weeks to have the final outcome. I just love the flavor and they are good in so many dishes.

INGREDIENTS

6 large lemons, well scrubbed and cut into quarters

(Look for unblemished, firm lemons that feel heavy for their size and have no tinges of green, which indicates that they're under-ripe. Lemons with a thick skin are best for this recipe. Avoid very pale lemons, as they are older, and will contain less juice).

1/2 cup kosher salt (more or less)

Sterilized quart canning jar with lid (I sterilize the jar by placing it and the lid in a cold oven. Turn on the oven to 325. When it reaches 325 take out and cool).

Place about 2-3 Tbsp of salt in the bottom of the sterilized jar. One by one add a few lemon pieces and then more salt until all of the lemons and salt fit tightly into the jar. Push down. Cover with more salt and push down again. The juice will start to come out of the lemons.

Seal the jar and let sit on your kitchen counter overnight. The next day open the jar and push in a few more lemon pieces and add in a final layer of salt on top. Now, let this stay on your kitchen counter for about 5-6 weeks. Over time the rind of the lemon becomes very soft and the salt begins to turn into a beautiful syrup.

After 5-6 weeks, try one of the lemons. Cut a small piece (these really go a long way), rinse. Use just the rind and white part. Chop into small pieces and add to steamed carrots with olive oil and parsley. Really good in salads of any kind. Sprinkle on chicken before baking. Add a little fresh garlic and olive oil and mix with cooked beats. You can store these in the refrigerator for up to 6 months.



Pictured L to R: Tina Campbell (Mary Mary), Carla Smith, Yvette Pye (Life Worth Saving Founder), Congresswoman Maxine Waters (CA-43), Jane Padgett, Catherine M. Dang, M.D., Erica Campbell (Mary Mary), John Scott (of Twin Tappers Sean & John) and seated is Marilyn Jackson.

Jane Padgett Honored by "Life Worth Saving"

On January 11, 2014, the first annual "Life Worth Saving" event took place at The Century Community Charter School in Inglewood, and our very own Jane Padgett was one of the three honorees. "A Life Worth Saving" was founded and organized by Yvette Pye, a three-time cancer warrior and survivor, and is designed to reach urban, primarily African American, women undergoing cancer treatment to provide financial, educational and emotional support. According to Jane, this group, not reached by Susan G. Komen for the Cure, consists of "women who are so busy working two or three jobs while taking care of their families that they often don't have any time left over to take care of themselves or get mammograms and pap smears. Besides being busy, there is also the fear of cancer and the legitimate and very real fear of the cost for cancer treatments! And while being treated for cancer, trying to take care of work and family is overwhelming! The dollar amount is staggering, but the emotional cost of cancer to an entire family can be devastating!"

Jane was nominated for this award by her social worker at Cedar Sinai and was selected as an honoree not only because she has had two women's cancers and has had a very long and hard fight, but because of her positive attitude and outreach to others. Jane is a fighter who never gives up on herself while actively encouraging others to fight on, get second opinions, and reach out for help. Two other cancer warriors, Carla Smith and Marilyn Jackson, were also honored along with Jane. All have stage IV women's cancers and have had serious and long fights, but all are still winning and inspiring others to win as well.

When asked about the award, Jane said, "I provide other cancer patients with emotional support, driving, you name it . . . but I am nothing next to Yvette; she is an amazing energy force! What a woman, I am so proud to know her and my other amazing sister

warriors, Carla and Marilyn, also serious warriors who help others immensely besides trying to take care of their own families. Incredible!"

Along with a "Life Worth Saving Breast Cancer Warrior" award, Jane was honored with a certificate of recognition from Steven C. Bradford assembly member for our (62th) district along with a City of Los Angeles commendation by Zev Yaroslavsky, Supervisor of our (3rd) county district. All "warriors" were also presented with a Certificate of Special Recognition by Maxine Waters, Member of Congress for the 43rd District, California. A special award was also given to the keynote speaker for the event, Dr. Catherine M. Dang, Associate Director of the Wasserman Breast Cancer Risk Reduction Program and a surgeon in the Department of Surgery and the Saul and Joyce Brandman Breast Center at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. Dr. Dang spoke about cancer and bravery. Congresswoman Maxine Waters, our representative to Congress, presented the multiple awards and the certificates of recognition to the warriors. She also spoke about raising awareness of cancer and how wonderful it is that now, with Obamacare in effect, people can no longer be denied insurance if they have cancer or another preexisting condition!

The Master of Ceremonies were the popular gospel-singing duo Mary-Mary, otherwise known as sisters Erica and Tina Campbell, whose hit song breakout was "Shackles (Praise You)". The invocation was done by Pastor Lonnie McNamee from the Do-Right Christian Church which, according to Jane, also provided "very nice young men who gently escorted [the honorees] to the stage."

The event, which included performances by professional singers and tap dancers along with a silent auction and, of course, plenty of food, was a huge success with a sell-out crowd of hundreds. You can find out more about this group at www.lifeworthsaving.org.

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___ Family Membership - \$35.00 a year

___ Silver Sycamore - \$50.00 donation

___ Golden Oak - \$100.00 donation

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Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

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