LONG BEACH HERITAGE

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Stellar Slate of Award Winners

By Louise Ivers

Jan Van Dijis

Whaley Park Community Building by Powers, Daly & DeRosa

PHOTOS BY LOUISE IVERS

Psychic Temple/American Hotel

On February 25 Long Beach Heritage will hold its annual Awards Banquet at the Queen Mary. The Banquet is our major fund raising effort each year, so be sure to make your reservations soon. In addition to Preservationist of the Year, one special award and seven restoration/rehabilitation awards will be presented at this gala event. All of these individuals and projects were nominated by LBH members and carefully selected for their merit.

A member of the Long Beach Cultural Heritage Commission, locally based general contractor and construction manage Jan Van Dijs, is the Preservationist of the Year. One of Jan's most visible historic restorations is the Ebell Club at the southeast corner of Cerritos Avenue and Third Street, a Spanish Revival building constructed in 1924 and adaptively reused as loft residences. Another highly successful project is the restoration of the Art Theater marquise on East Fourth Street near Cherry Avenue to its 1947 Streamline Moderne appearance. His company recently completed the adaptive reuse of the 1905 Psychic Temple/American Hotel at 224 East Broadway and is presently working on the conversion of the former Southern California Edison building at the northeast corner of Long Beach Boulevard and First Street into lofts. Jan Van Dijs has made a number of significant contributions to the preservation of the urban fabric of Long Beach, particularly in the downtown and East Village areas of the city. He always researches the historical elements of each building he restores and, if they are damaged, meticulously recreates them. His restoration work is of the highest caliber.

Receiving a special award is Gordon Powers, principal of the mid-century architectural firm of Powers, Daly & DeRosa. Based in Long Beach and world renowned for their Googie designs of bowling alleys, they disbanded in 1964. Among their many striking local building are the Whaley Park Community Building of 1956-57; the demolished Java Lanes on Pacific Coast Highway of 1958 with a dramatically soaring entrance and rock facing; the Los Altos Medical Center of 1957; and the First Brethren Church of North Long Beach on Orange Avenue of 1956-58. The firm also designed Mid-Century Modern homes in Long Beach and Lakewood. After the dissolution of Powers, Daly & DeRosa, Gordon designed buildings at the Marina Shopping Center and a new structure for the Seal Beach City Hall. He is retired now and is the only surviving architect from mid-century Long Beach.

Long Beach Heritage will present seven rehabilitation/restoration awards this year to property owners who have completed notable projects involving historic buildings. These include the Psychic Temple, also known as the American Hotel, on Broadway, which was built in 1905 and is one of the oldest remaining commercial structures in Long Beach. It has details typical of the Panel Brick style current in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in the United States. The Psychic Temple was constructed by William Price for his Holy Kiss Society, but was bought in 1908 by Anna Sewell and became the American Hotel. It remained vacant for many years until the new owner restored the exterior and adaptively reused the interior as an advertising office.

237 Long Beach Blvd

Another smaller brick building at 237 Long Beach Boulevard, built in 1908 around the cvsychic Temple, will receive an award. It once housed businesses on the ground floor and dwelling rooms above. This narrow structure

(Continued on page 5)

A Craftsman Educational Event at the Reeve/Townsend House

PHOTO BY STEFFI HANDS

By Steffi Hands

Long Beach Heritage will be hosting an educational event on Sunday April 10 from 1:00-4:00 p.m. at the Reeve/Townsend house on Country Club Drive. The event will feature Ted Wells, speaking on the preservation of the property, and other speakers on Craftsman architecture. The event will also include a tour of the house.

(Continued on page 2)

A Craftsman Educational Event at the Reeve/Townsend House

PHOTOS BY STEFFI HANDS

(Continued from page 1)

The Reeve/Townsend House was built by Greene and Greene in their trademark Craftsman style. The owner and architectural historian, Ted Wells, purchased the house and started renovations in 2004. It was in quite a state of disrepair and since then, Ted has completed a lot of painstaking work re-creating fixtures and furniture that was removed from the house in the 1970s and 1980s. Ted has overseen reproduction of these pieces, remade with the same Craftsman techniques from 100 years ago. He has also continued work on the yard and the original rose garden, which has 12 types of roses grown from original cuttings. Ted's goal as a historian is to help everyone understand the historical context of the time and place of Long Beach, the culture of Southern California, and the people who make it happen. "It is a rare opportunity in historic architecture to see it in process during a restoration and to share this learning experience with others is one of my goals," says Ted.

Long Beach Heritage encourages you to invite friends to this special event.

SILENT AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED

Long Beach Heritage is looking for donations of items to be offered at our Silent Auction during the Annual Awards Benefit on February 25. This is an opportunity for you to show your support of Long Beach Heritage and to promote your business or your favorite hair salon or restaurant. We also welcome donations of small antique items and monetary contributions. All donors' names will be included on the display boards, as well as in the Auction Recap which will be distributed to Benefit attendees. Donations are tax deductible.

Please mail gift certificates with completed forms before January 31 to: Mary Ellen Mitchell, 2424 Ostrom Avenue, Long Beach CA 90815. Bring larger items to Mary Ellen's house or ask her to pick them up.
Call Mary Ellen at (626) 353-5765 or email her at LBHAuction@aol.com if you need further information.

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Wilson Students Tackle Collaborative Parks Survey

PHOTO BY RYAN DOWGIEWICZ

By Ryan Dowgiewicz

Armed with cell phone cameras and a keen eye for architectural style, a dozen Wilson High School Architecture Club members set out on an archival adventure and educational milestone. The survey is a collaborative effort involving Wilson High School, Long Beach City Staff, and Long Beach Heritage. Led by Wilson Architecture Club President, Ryan Dowgiewicz, the survey will provide a photographic record of the buildings in 37 Long Beach parks. It will document information about the significant architectural details of the structures. The impressive architectural details of the Houghton Park Clubhouse, which was recently threatened, inspired Ryan to approach the city about preserving such structures.

Key players involved in this venture have provided critical information and have donated their time to help ensure that this project is a success. Project participants include Jeffrey Jackson, Wilson High School Architecture and Technology teacher, who provided support and guidance to the club members. Our new City Planner, Alejando Plascencia, trained the students to photograph and document essential information about each building. Meredith Reynolds, Parks Development Officer, and her staff worked diligently to provide the students with a detailed list of parks that contain structures. Long Beach Heritage members will make available any information that may help in completing the survey.

A survey of structures within Long Beach parks is long overdue. The goal for this school year is to enter the photographic survey into the city's archives in June 2016. Also, the architecture students will present the survey at the end-of-the-year Wilson Architecture Show. A public exhibit downtown of photographs from the survey was also discussed. Ultimately, the survey can be utilized to provide information that is vital in protecting the historic fabric woven into our city's landscape for generations to come. It may also inspire a few Wilson Architecture Students to become the next Frank Gehry.

Workshop for LB Heritage Members

Have you ever wondered about the history of a particular building? Have you ever wished to get together more often with other LB Heritage members? Join a small group on Saturday, January 30. Maureen Neeley will provide instruction about how to conduct on-line research about the history of a property and then attendees will have an opportunity to practice doing so.

The workshop will take place at the Bembridge House from 2:00-5:00 p.m. A $5 donation is asked of LB Heritage members ($10 donation for any non-member guests). You need to bring your own laptop.

You are invited to bring an address you wish to learn more about, but we will also ask you to help us research properties that could be potential landmarks throughout Long Beach. Learn a new skill AND help save a building important to our heritage.

We have to cap attendance at 10 participants due to space and internet limitations so please RSVP to Jacqueline Case: 562 833-2523 bembridgehome@gmail.com.

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Volunteer Spotlight: Elisa Trujillo

By Chris Hogan

When she first walked by the house at 953 Park Circle and saw Mrs. Bembridge outside, Elisa knew the property should have a rose garden in the front. In her mind's eye, she could see how it would complement the home. Years later, the Bembridge House is known for its glorious gardens, due to Elisa's tireless efforts!

Originally from Redondo Beach, Elisa Trujillo moved to Long Beach in 1981 and always lived in the Willmore City (Drake Park) neighborhood here. Her work as a researcher for a gerontology study and lecturer for the state of California brought her to the area. She and her partner, August Bussi, have renovated their 1905 cottage and created a period English rose garden in the front of the house.

At a rose show in 2007, Elisa met Linda Renner, who asked her to help with the Bembridge House garden. Elisa said she "jumped at the chance" to work! Having already done lots of research for her own home, Elisa proposed a front rose garden (where the Victorians would have put it) and created a landscape design. She and August planned the three raised beds, arbors, and walkways. Then with the help of Linda, August, and a small group of dedicated volunteers, the team dug up over 60 rose bushes, donated by friends and neighbors, to replant at the Bembridge House. Additional donations included English roses from David Austin and bags of soil from Kellogg's. "The wonderful thing is the fact that it's been a cooperative effort."

"I learned to garden at my father's knee," says Elisa. Her father served in World War II intelligence and was taught Japanese. At the end of the war, he was sent to Pacific islands to save lives after the Japanese evacuated the area. When he returned to civilian life, he settled in Southern California and the grateful Japanese families here taught him gardening.

Elisa has been the Bembridge volunteer head gardener for many years. During Bembridge House tours, Elisa works as a garden docent. She also served on the House Operating Committee and she continues to decorate for Victorian Christmas.

In her typically modest way, Elisa states, "How often does a backyard gardener have the opportunity to design and landscape a national historic treasure?" Thank you, Elisa, for your countless hours of volunteer service.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR LBH WALKING TOURS

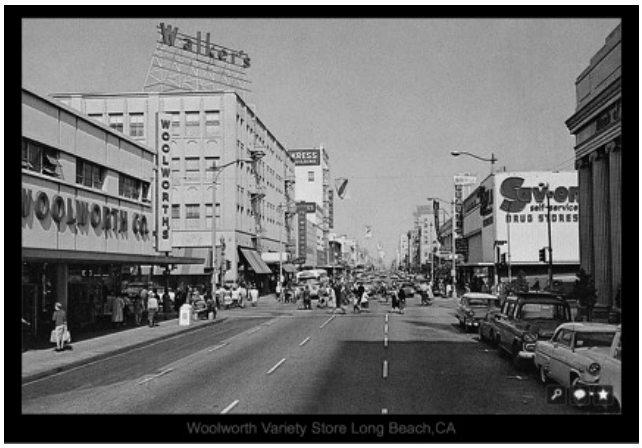
Docenting for a LBH Walking Tour can be great fun and pleasant exercise on a Saturday morning. You will meet people who share an interest in architecture and history, as well as spread your enthusiasm for the topic and help create interest in Long Beach. The Walking Tours introduce the public to the buildings and history of our city, increase awareness of our organization, and help grow our membership.

You can commit to leading a tour once or twice a month or you can choose to limit your participation to once a quarter. You can also choose to lead just one of the tours. We have detailed scripts for three different two hour tours. Contact Chris Hogan: (562) 712-1890 or chris@johnson-hogan.net.

Save the Date!

New North Pine Walking Tour

February 6, 2016 at 9:30AM



Our new "North Pine Walking Tour" will launch on Saturday, February 6! In addition to celebrating successful restoration projects such as Kress Lofts, Walker Lofts, Famous Department Store, York Temple Lofts, Press-Telegram, and Meeker- Baker buildings, it will highlight the charm of some of our earliest extant commercial structures along the Pine Avenue corridor between 4th and 8th Streets and touch on additional adaptive reuse projects such as the Professional Building and Vault 350.

This tour will begin at 9:30 a.m. at the entrance to the courtyard between the Meeker-Baker and Press-Telegram buildings on the east side of 600 block of Pine Avenue. The management of the Meeker-Baker building and Temple Lofts have graciously given us permission to bring our groups into the their beautiful lobbies.

Stellar Slate of Award Winners

(Continued from page 1)

also displays characteristics of the Panel Brick style, which have been carefully restored. A restaurant occupies the first floor and the upper floor is opened up into a single space catering to special events.

An award will be presented for the rehabilitation of the Ray Vines Chrysler-Plymouth Agency on Willow Street. It was designed in 1963 by Paul B. Clayton, whose office was located in Downey. Distinguished by its twin Googie style projecting and pointed roofs, the Ray Vines exterior has been preserved, along with the large geometric sign in front of the building that can be seen from two major thoroughfares. The owners retained the terrazzo floor of the lobby in the restaurant that now occupies this space.

Mrs. Chapman's Angel Food Donuts on 7th Street opened in 1958 with an iconic giant fiberglass donut atop the shop, designed by John Duffy, a local architect. Although the building has been demolished, the donut has been saved and restored by the present occupant, Dunkin Donuts. Now repurposed with chocolate icing and a liberal application of sugar sprinkles, the donut will receive a restoration award this year and will attract a new generation of commuters as they travel down 7th Street on their way to breakfast.

A beautifully restored house by world renowned architect Richard Neutra , one of a pair next to each other in Park Estates, was constructed in 1952-53 for Olan Hafley. The home displays Neutra's signature Modern style that he began developing in the twenties

in Los Angeles. All remodeled elements are returned to their former appearance with the help of original plans and old photographs and the Hafley house is once again a pristine example of Neutra's work.

A wonderful Mid-Century Modern residence on Lonna Linda Drive will receive a restoration award. It was built by the local firm of Killingsworth, Brady & Smith in 1956-58 for Dr. Sidney Wasserman. In 1976 a family room and bedroom were added to the rear of the house. The current owners have restored the living room and bedrooms and opened the kitchen up into the dining room, giving this striking home a much needed rehabilitation.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE IVERS

Another house by Killingsworth, Brady & Smith at 3501 East Ocean Boulevard has been restored to its original appearance. It was built as a display residence for a twelve story skyscraper to be called Marina Tower, which was projected for the northwest corner of Ocean Boulevard and Paloma Avenue in 1958. However, local residents objected to the plan and Marina Tower was never built. The display residence was going to be moved after the tower was constructed, but it remained in place. After consulting original drawings and photographs, the present owners have done an excellent restoration of the house, which has an unobstructed ocean view through walls of sliding glass doors.

Long Beach Heritage has nominated a stellar and diverse group of individuals and buildings to receive awards at the 2016 Banquet. This event will include outstanding visuals and brief informative presentations, as well as a silent auction of desirable items. We hope to see you on the Queen Mary on February 25.

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Bembridge News

PHOTO BY MARK PERRY

By Chris Hogan

The fall season was once again busy for the Bembridge House. During the last few months, the House hosted its barbecue, a tea party, various tours and meetings, as well a story-telling session for neighborhood children. Of course, hours of decorating by scores of volunteers in November led to our Victorian Christmas Event and many more tours.

The most frenzied times at the House, though, were the days of filming. First, Time Warner Cable used the Bembridge House as the backdrop for a new commercial. With some 60 technicians, crew members, and actors in, out, and around the property, it truly was a crazy couple of days. Amazingly, the art and production design people were able to transform the home into a truly awful, and even frightening, bed & breakfast-type hotel you'd never want to stay in. Watch for the Time Warner Cable advertisement sometime in early 2016. Immediately after the commercial finished, a team of graduate students from the USC Film School began filming using the Bembridge House as the setting for their senior thesis film project. In this production, the House "played itself "and looked beautiful! The project was several long days of work, but always interesting. The best part for me was spending time with so many gifted young people.

This Bembridge House column is not all cheery news, however. Sadly, the exterior of the homesite suffered an attack of vandalism recently. We are very grateful for the continued cooperation of the police in the investigation and protection of the House.

The Bembridge House also acknowledges other City of Long Beach employees who have been extremely helpful this year. The Film Office deserves kudos for expediting the permits. We also appreciate the efforts of Cheryl B., Susan P., and Eric B., who changed the street-cleaning schedule for a luncheon at the House. And a huge thank you to Yolanda A., who kindly sets up "Parking/No Parking" zones for all of our special events.

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Bembridge House's "BBQ & Band" Was a Blast!

PHOTO BY CHRIS HOGAN

By Chris Hogan

In October, the Bembridge House held its second fall barbecue party, "BBQ & Band", and what a success it was! The weather cooperated (no scorching heat or sticky humidity) and it was a beautiful autumn evening in Pepper Tree Court. Again, Dearmore Catering served mouth-wateringly delicious BBQ foods. The chicken was especially delectable and the snacks and dessert, cake with fresh berries, were tasty, too.

But it wasn't the "eats" that made the night so memorable – it was the music. The locally-renowned Scarlett and Dr. Bob Finney Jazz Group wowed the crowd with their sultry sound. Everyone sat back and enjoyed listening to Scarlett's exquisite singing and the excellent musical accompaniment of the band. Such a grand repertoire the group has - they performed songs and standards ranging from jazz to pop from the 1920s to today.

The event couldn't have happened without the help of so many people. First and foremost, of course, Bob and Scarlett Finney and their bandmates deserve a big thank you for performing that evening. The volunteers and committee members worked tirelessly to plan, prepare for, and put on the party – kudos to you all. We also appreciate our photographer, Ken, who took some fabulous photos to remember the night. And another extra-special thank you goes to Julie who organized the incredible "Dine-Shop-Play in Downtown Long Beach" (an overwhelming number of gift cards and coupons) prize package in the opportunity drawing.

Membership Report : December 2015

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Calendar

LBH Board	January 25th
LBH Executive Committee	February 22nd
Awards Benefit	February 25th
LBH Board	March 28th
Jennie Reeve House Salon	April 10th
Gardens of the First District	April TBA
Great Homes	June 5th
Santa Anita Concert	July 23rd

Walking Tours

Flrsst North Pine Tour on Feb 6th at 9:30am
East Village on the 2nd Saturday at 10:00 a.m.
Downtown on the 3rd Saturday at 9:00 a.m.
Willmore City on the 4th Saturday at 9:30 a.m.
Bembridge Tours—Every Tuesday and the 4th Saturday at 1:30 and 2:30 p,m.

Long Beach Heritage

Newsletter Editor: Louise Ivers
Layout: Kellie Sherrill
P.O. Box 92521, Long Beach, CA 90809
Telephone: (562) 493-7019
Email: preservation@lbheritage.org
Website: www.lbheritage.org

LBH Membership

Long Beach Heritage is a non-profit education and advocacy group promoting public knowledge and preservation of significant historic and architectural resources, neighborhoods and the cultural heritage of Long Beach. Dues are due on May 1st each year.

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City _____ Zip _____

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- ❑ Call me with information on how I can participate in LBH as a volunteer
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- ❑ Heritage Friend $ 60
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