



# ADVOCACY AND PRESERVATION



Photo by Karin Bugge

*A construction fence went up before 16 little houses were demolished.*

## Letter from the Chairman

# Crawford Avenue Blues

**F**or more than 12 years, I've been commuting on my bike on a route that takes me up Crawford Avenue, a street that runs just one block between Alameda and Calaveras and allows me to avoid Lake while pedaling up the hill. It is a pleasant street of modest homes from the 20s and 30s and, sort of unusual for Altadena, sidewalks and street trees line both sides. Each house is different, surely constructed by various builders over the years – bungalows, Tudorish half-timbers and Mediterranean revivals – small, sweet homes.

Recently a cyclone fence appeared, enclosing all 16 houses on the west side of the street. This land, adjacent to the old Scripps Home for the Aged, will become part of MonteCedro, a retirement community for this century.

Even though I had long known that these homes had been purchased by Scripps and that demolition was coming, seeing that fence go up was a stab in my heart. These are more than houses; they embody a portion of our collective

memory. Each one has framed so many human lives, provided the stage for so many events, the very timbers of these structures are imbued with the stories of people living and passed, of families, of loves and tragedies, the ups and downs of lives through time.

The foreman in charge of the site expressed sincere regret. He said they'd tried to work it every which way to save some of the houses to use as offices or residences, but bringing them up to code just didn't pencil out. He's certainly right; current building codes would require such extensive rebuilding that any structure saved would essentially be a different house. Habitat for Humanity was about to come in and strip useable doors and fixtures, but they won't take much, as even perfectly good windows don't usually meet current codes unless they are double-glazed replacements. These houses could not be built today.

*continued on next page*

What is lost? Sixteen attractive and perfectly serviceable living units are gone, but far more, a significant piece of our history is being erased. I am not opposed to MonteCedro, though I had reservations about the loss of Scripps Home's charitable mission when it was proposed. Altadena Heritage did not oppose its demolition; by the time its old buildings were torn down, the facility was an obsolete mish-mash of remodels and tacky add-ons. No one voiced opposition when the plans were first presented to the community, not even the elderly residents who were to be moved out of Altadena to a facility in Alhambra (though, not surprisingly, some neighbors expressed second thoughts when demolition began). We are happy that MonteCedro retained and rented out the houses until this project – delayed since 2008 – was finally ready to break ground.

We dare to hope that the MonteCedro buildings will be at least as attractive as the renderings we were shown years ago, and that this addition to our town will fuel economic renewal; the influx of residents, their visitors, and the MonteCedro staff can support shops and restaurants on sad old Lake Avenue—which would benefit us all. Altadena Heritage was founded as a preservation organization, we seek to educate people to the value of our architectural heritage, and we will continue to fight for the preservation of our historic neighborhoods. Sometimes we lose a few, but our mission remains: to preserve the old and to advocate for a better Altadena. Saddened, we still choose to see the loss of the Crawford homes in a positive light. **AH**  
—Mark Goldschmidt,  
Chairman

## Altadena Heritage supports Altadena Community Garden

**T**he Altadena Community Garden (ACG) Corner Revitalization Project has launched a capital campaign to raise \$14,000 to complete a planting project on the corner of Lincoln Ave. and Palm St. The three formal planting areas will be divided into California natives, cactus and succulents, and drought-tolerant Mediterranean plants. The attractively designed new planting will provide ideas for those wishing to create water-conserving

landscapes at home. In addition, the plants will be a draw for beneficial insects and pollinators, aiding the vegetable growers inside the ACG. "Altadena Heritage is pleased to donate \$500 to this project which will beautify this prominent corner and inspire local gardeners," says Altadena Heritage Chair Mark Goldschmidt. Anyone wishing to support the garden should contact (626) 470-7482 or visit [www.altadenacommunitygarden.com](http://www.altadenacommunitygarden.com). **AH**



Corner of Lincoln and Palm about to become more beautiful.

Photos by Debbi K. Swanson Patrick

# Altadena Heritage throws huge party for Altadena's 125th birthday

**O**n Nov. 3, 2012, Altadena Heritage led the way in throwing the biggest party Altadena has ever seen — our 125th birthday! Altadena Historical Society, Supervisor Michael Antonovich's office, the County Department of Parks and Recreation, 60 sponsoring businesses and community organizations, and more than 60 volunteers all pitched in to help. Heritage Board member Michele Zack headed the committee that produced an affair to remember. Historical displays, an art show, fabulous food (most of it donated by local restaurants and bakeries and some homemade), music by The Bohemians, and dancing combined to attract more than 700 people. Our big birthday was commemorated in a beautiful



booklet designed by Hugo Arteaga, Heritage Board member, with cover art donated by Altadena artist and long-time Heritage member Lynne McDaniel. Commemorative booklets may be obtained from Altadena Heritage or Historical Society while supplies last. Contact [altadenaheritage@earthlink.net](mailto:altadenaheritage@earthlink.net) for more information. **AH**

*Ben McGinty curated the art show.*



*Partiers noshed and frolicked*

*Photos by Debbi K. Swanson Patrick*

## GOLDEN POPPY AWARDS AND PARTY—SUNDAY, JUNE 9, 2013

Every year, our board searches the four corners of the Altadena globe for especially pleasing front yards and parkways. Of particular interest are gardens that use water wisely -- we love lawn removal or reduction, design features, drought tolerant plant selection, or edible landscapes. If there's an Altadena front yard or parkway design that you find especially delightful, send us an email; make sure to include the street address. We'll walk by, take some photos, and add your location of choice to our pool of Golden Poppy Award possibilities.

Mary Lea & Bill Carroll have generously agreed to host our annual event in the garden of their beautiful home, built by the engineer for the Mt. Lowe Railway, David Macpherson circa 1907.



*Photo by Mark Goldschmidt*

# Old Marengo Park clean-up and beautification

**J**n late March, Altadena Heritage Board members Mark Goldschmidt, David Mosher, Nancy Romero, Michele Zack and John Zoraster removed weeds and an outbreak of prickly Russian thistles, and spread mulch to control weeds and retain moisture. Passers-by may notice a wonderful show of California poppies now in the park, as well as blooming redbud trees.

The park anchors and enhances the new adjacent Woodbury Median Project, which uses a similar tree palette of California oaks and redbuds, along with native grasses. Thanks in part to Altadena Heritage members who wrote to Supervisor Michael Antonovich, approximately 65 new trees have also been planted by the County on Woodbury west of Lake Ave., which will grow into a lovely southern boundary for Altadena in about five years.

Old Marengo Park was developed as a joint project of the Altadena Watershed Committee, the Arroyos and



*Heritage Board member John Zoraster, right, cleans up park on southwest corner of Woodbury Road and Marengo Avenue.*



Photos by Michele Zack

Foothills Conservancy, and Altadena Heritage. The park, which is now unirrigated, provides a colorful, shady refuge, as well as a habitat for birds and insects. Altadena Heritage does regular park maintenance, and last summer shared the expense of tree-trimming with the Arroyos and Foothills Conservancy. Anyone interested in joining our Park Maintenance Team, please contact us at [altadenaheritage@earthlink.net](mailto:altadenaheritage@earthlink.net). **AH**

## In Memoriam

James Edward DeLong, AIA, Taliesin Fellow, architect of more than 100 beautiful homes in the Los Angeles area, passed away April 10 at 92.

Jim DeLong was a long-time supporter of Altadena Heritage and was instrumental in organizing its 2003 Modern Home Tour.

He began his 5-decade career in 1947 under Frank Lloyd Wright at Taliesin and was deeply influenced by Wright's design philosophy. In 2011, his contribution to the region's architectural legacy was acknowledged with the LA Conservancy's Modern Masters Award.

Jim designed serene, elegant and welcoming homes which are cherished by their owners. His first Mt. Washington-area houses are designated LA Historic Landmarks. The Altadena house he designed for his parents in 1950 was featured on the cover of House Beautiful magazine.

In his designs, his spirit will live on.

— Thomas Stahl



# Huntington Ranch hosts private tour for members

**A**t the beginning of March, Altadena Heritage enjoyed a private tour of the Huntington Ranch, guided by manager Scott Kleinrock and arranged by Garden Chair Vivien Fortunasa. The Ranch is a new demonstration project sited on the grounds of the Huntington Library and Garden dedicated to experimenting with urban agriculture. About 20 members learned what works best in the smallscale food growing situations that most of us experience in our own backyards. This was part of the Altadena: Heritage of Abundance series, the first event conducted outside our borders. **AH**



Photos by Mark Goldschmidt



Scott Kleinrock, Altadenan who manages the Huntington Ranch, provided behind-the-scenes tour to members of this 10-acre experiment in urban agriculture.



# Holiday celebration wraps up a successful year

**M**ore than 100 Altadena Heritage members gathered at the home of Jim and Holly Fraser for a memorable holiday celebration in December. The story of the Fraser home, now on North Holliston in Altadena, began in Pasadena around the turn of the century when it was built on Colorado Blvd. and Oakland Ave. The Swans, of Swan cake flour fame, commissioned this early example of the Greene brothers' work, designed before they were in full Craftsman mode. It contains many Victorian elements, and had a third floor before being moved to Altadena in 1925 and remodeled by Henry Greene. Members enjoyed learning about the home's long and checkered history from Jim Fraser, along with a groaning board of home-made food provided by board members.

Altadena Heritage's holiday celebration is an annual free event for members only. To join online, visit us at [altadenaheritage.com](http://altadenaheritage.com). **AH**



Left: Danny Garland, Cal Smith, and Rover Singer, center Hosts Holly and Jim Fraser, right, board member Peggy Sue Davis and husband Bradley Thompson. Behind them are Vickie Laidig and board member David Mosher. Cellist Tara Atkinson.

Photos by Debbi K. Swanson Patrick



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May 2013

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 PRESERVATION

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Follow us on



**Save the Date:**  
 Sunday, June 9th,  
 don't miss our  
**Garden Party  
 and Golden Poppy**  
 garden awards celebration



Altadena Town Council  
 Election Day  
 is June 8, 2013  
AltadenaElection.org

PDF version of this newsletter available on our website: [altadenaheritage.com](http://altadenaheritage.com)

BOARD MEMEBERS

- Mark Goldschmidt, *Chairman (ex officio)*
- John Zoraster, *Vice chair, budgets*
- Mabel Duncan, *Recording secretary*
- David Mosher, *Executive secretary*
- Debbi Swanson Patrick, *Treasurer*
- Hugo Arteaga
- Richard Benson
- Karin Bugge
- Gail Casburn
- Richard Davies
- Peggy Sue Davis
- Vivien Fortunaso
- Clary Kooshian
- Nancy Romero
- Adele Shakal
- Matt-dell Tufenkian
- Michele Zack
- Alan Zorthian

BECOME A MEMBER

Choose one:

- New member    Renewing member

Type of membership:

- \$25: Individual    \$35: Household    \$15: Full-time student  
 \$15: Senior individual (65 and over)    \$100: Patron

Are you interested in volunteering?

- Yes! Contact me.    Not at this time.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to **Altadena Heritage** and mail to:

**Altadena Heritage**  
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