



Altadena Heritage
730 E. Altadena Dr.
Altadena, CA 91001
altadenaheritage.com

September 2013



ADVOCACY AND
PRESERVATION

September 2013

PDF version of this newsletter available on our website: 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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Altadena, CA 91001



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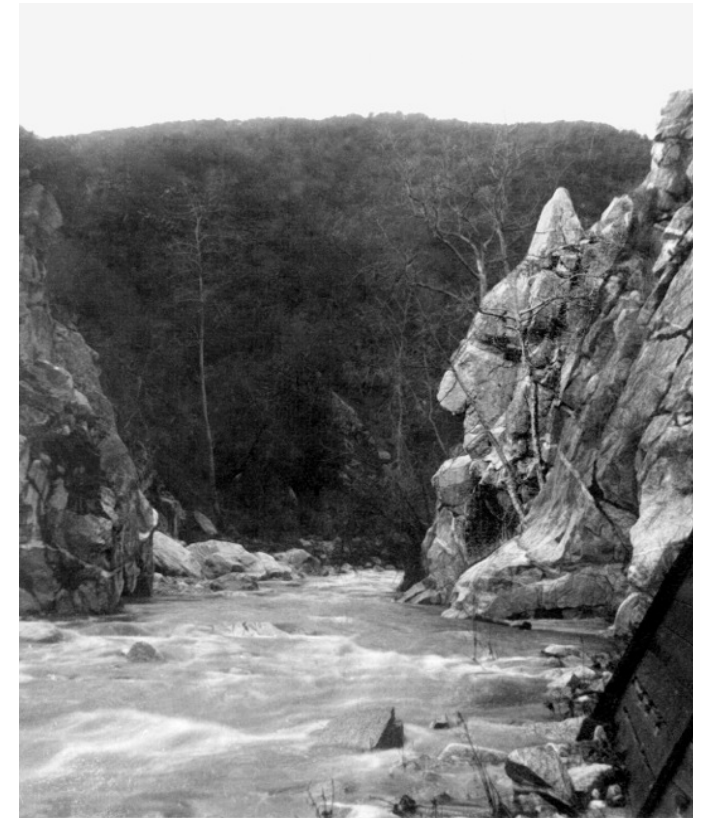
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Altadena's Water Future: Devil's in the Details

Altadena Heritage will hold a special public forum to demystify issues and answer questions swirling around water supply, water quality, and future compliance with federal Clean Water Act. Who will pay for it, for example? We will meet Sept. 23 at 7 pm at Altadena Community Center, 730 E. Altadena Drive.

Our panel includes important water people: Chris Stone, LA County's Water Resource Manager; Rich Atwater, Chairman of Foothills Municipal Water District (FMWD); and Tim Brick of the Arroyo Seco Foundation and former chairman of Metropolitan Water District. Local water purveyors are also invited, and most will send representatives.

We'd like people to understand local opportunities for management: capture, recharge, and treatment, and to clarify who does what in Altadena, including oversight of public works projects. There is interest in



Early 20th Century image of Devil's Gate, south of present day dam

reducing street width on steep north-south roads via the county's "street diet" program to increase recharge with landscaping and curb cuts to channel storm water runoff into front yards, or to larger open spaces such as Mountain View Cemetery.

The evening will provide a unique opportunity, with people from several jurisdictions in in same room at the same time, to get your water questions answered. **AH**

SAVE THE DATES

Altadena's Water Future

Monday, September 23, 2013
7 p.m.

Altadena Community Center
730 E. Altadena Dr.



Altadena Heritage Area Dedication

Altadena Equestrian Block

Saturday, October 19, 2013
2 – 4 p.m.

Altadena Stables
3064 Ridgeview Dr.



HOLIDAY EVENT/ MEMBER MEETING

Saturday, December 8, 2013
3 – 6 p.m.

Venue: TBA



AH doing great; actively seeking leaders

Dear Altadena Heritage Members,

It's been a busy year for us. Still high from the amazing party we threw in November for **Altadena's 125th Birthday**, we started with a tour of the urban agriculture research station at the Huntington, followed by a lecture by Arboretum director Frank McDonough, "**Killer Bugs**" threatening Altadena's trees, and in June we held our famous **Garden Party & Golden Poppy Garden Awards**. Hold on... three more big ones are coming.

On September 23rd we will host a "water summit" at the Community Center, **Altadena's Water Future**, where we'll hear predictions and opinions on Altadena's water security, and how compliance with the Clean Water Act may impact—and provide opportunities for—Altadena. Believe me: our speakers are some heavy hitters and there's plenty of controversy to go around; you won't want to miss this! Event will be taped for TV.

Every few years, we discover one of the many special enclaves in our town and say "**AHA! – an Altadena Heritage Area.**" On October 19th we celebrate our seventh AHA! the Altadena Equestrian Block, with an afternoon street party on Ridgeview Drive (and Altadena Stables. Please join us and connect with our horsey past and present.

Our bylaws mandate we hold a **Members Meeting** once a year to nominate and elect Board candidates. We disguise this business as a party, with Christmas tree, marvelous food, and generous libations in one of Altadena's many amazing

homes. We are actively seeking a venue, and we've set a target date of Sunday, December 8th. Members only!

With all this good stuff to announce, let me introduce a little sadness. Our unincorporated community needs organizations like Heritage, but no one has stepped up to lead. We have no city government – and maybe that's good – but it means we have to advocate for ourselves, to lobby for the community we want, and to work with others in a positive way. The County folk don't want to hear our squabbles.

Altadena Heritage reaches out to educate and enlighten, to address ongoing issues, and to connect us to our historical roots. A 501 (c) 3 non-profit is a marvelous vehicle to advocate for positive things, which AH has been doing for 30 years (including pre-incorporation years). Over the past seven, we've seen membership grow, we have an imaginative Board and sound financials. Most important, we have respect and influence within the community, and the Supervisor's ear.

Yet our organization is in crisis. It is time for a new generation to take the helm, I've been on the board way too long, as have other stalwarts. It's a good gig! No pay, requires some energy, and it satisfies a need so many of us have to give back. So, if you harbor a desire to help build community in a cooperative atmosphere, with an imaginative, free-wheeling group, please consider joining our Board. With new blood and energy, Heritage can keep on enriching our lives in Altadena. —*Mark Goldschmidt, Chairman*



Photo by Peggy Sue Davis

Annual Golden Poppy Awards – Altadena Heritage celebrated our community's gardens and gardeners at the lovely home of Mary Lea and Bill Carroll on June 9th. About 70 members sipped wine and snacked as winners told stories of heroic transformation of outdoor spaces that make Altadena's neighborhoods more beautiful. Visit altadenaheritage.com to see 2013 Golden Poppy Winners.



Photo by Debbi K. Swanson Patrick

Thank You, Rosa

Rosa Johnson, long time Altadenan and Altadena Heritage member and supporter, died August 31, a day after she turned 103. Rosa loved our community and was very much loved in return. She was active in so many organizations here, probably beginning with Theater Americana in the 1940s and 50s. She was lively on the local scene until very recently. At Altadena's 125th birthday party last November she noted that it was VERY rare to attend a birthday party for anyone or thing older than she was.

AHA? Uh-huh! AH Designates a New Altadena Heritage Area

Horse owner, rider, or just casual admirer? Then join us Saturday, October 19th, when Altadena Heritage celebrates our rich equestrian past and present, by designating the acreage around Ridgeview Drive and Mariposa an Altadena Heritage Area.

The "Altadena Equestrian Block" party will be held at Altadena Stables, from 2-4pm. An Altadena fixture since at least 1921, perhaps as early as 1911, the Stables, like so much of Altadena, has gone through a series of incarnations -- from opulence to decay to restoration, and reinvention.

Owned by Desdy Baggott, Altadena Stables is surrounded by other horse properties and well-known local riders, including Priscilla Benson and Marrietta Kruell.

So bring the kids and join the fun. We'll have a neighborly celebration; with riding demonstrations, light refreshments, informal panels, and more. You'll make new friends, including some with long faces who can stand on their own four feet. **AH**



Horse drawing by Joseph Dawley

\$1000 Grant Lets Water Flow at Old Marengo Park!

Altadena Heritage would like to gratefully acknowledge a grant of \$1000 from the City of Pasadena to pay for water at Old Marengo Park, an Altadena Heritage Area (AHA) dedicated in 2012. Heritage partnered with Altadena Foothills Conservancy, now Arroyos and Foothills Conservancy, and the County of Los Angeles, in creating the pocket park at the southwest corner of Woodbury Road and Marengo Avenue in 2006. We have maintained it for several years.

The City of Pasadena helped out in the park's building phase by installing a water hook-up to help establish native trees and plants there. The park, like many areas of Altadena, is served water by PWP. AFC had the water turned off over a year ago, however, and because of the very dry winter, trees and plants were suffering. PWP Director Phyllis Currie responded graciously and immediately with support when we sought help turning the water back on. We will continue to maintain the park and renew some of its plantings in the fall, and now we can deep water a couple times a year in drought years. We could sure use help. Please contact us at altadenaheritage@earthlink.net to get involved with this project that has brought beauty, shade, and habitat to a corner of Altadena most people do not realize is part of our community. **AH**



Photo by Michele Zack



Holiday Party December 8th, 3-6 pm — Hold the Date!

Details to come on our annual general meeting, board election, and holiday gathering. We urgently need volunteers to keep Altadena Heritage going! Please consider helping — as board member, archives volunteer, Old Marengo gardener, or event planner/worker. You will receive election materials and invitation in November. Please contact altadenaheritage@earthlink.com to get conversation going about how you can help! **AH**