

Historical Society Home Tours Return!

by Kelly Smith

The Echo Park Historical Society (EPHS) has revived the Historic Echo Park Home Tours, to be held this November. The theme this time is "Eco Echo Park: Urban Sustainable Living," and will feature properties that utilize "gray water systems, solar power, natural light and circulation as ways to reduce dependency on public utilities." Properties that utilize native and drought-tolerant plants, as well as sites with urban farms with livestock and/or crops) will also be highlighted on the tour.

The EPHS is looking for volunteers to help as project coordinators to help research and select homes, as well as schedule site visits to choose those homes.

If you are interested in having your home considered or would like to volunteer for the home tour, send an email to Home Tour Chairperson Holly Hampton at ephs@HistoricEchoPark.org



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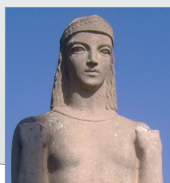
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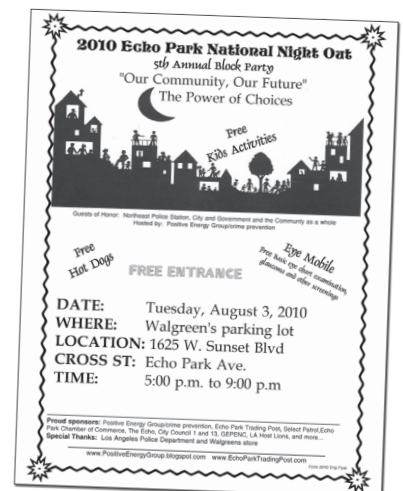
Lady of the Lake's hands disappear

2010 National Night Out in Echo Park

The 5th Annual Echo Park National Night Out block party is on Tuesday, August 3, 2010 at 5:00 pm in the Walgreens Parking Lot.

The free event will host activities for kids, free eye screenings (the Lions Eye Mobile will be present), free hot dogs, and more family-friendly activities.

The event is hosted by the Positive Energy Group. Sponsors include: City Council District 1 and 13, Echo Park Trading Post, Select Patrol, The Echo/Echoplex, El Prado, GEPENC, LA Host Lions, Dodgers and more.



Echo Park Lake Autumn Bird Count

by Judy Raskin

Join your fellow Echo Park bird lovers for a bird count at the lake on Saturday Sept. 25, 2010 at the Boat-house at 9:00 am.

Over the last ten years, Echo Park Lake Birders have identified more than 70 species of birds that call Echo Park their home for all or part of the year. On this walk, we will identify the Lake's autumn residents.

Birds seen at the lake include Mallards, great-tailed grackles, robins, American coots, sparrows, finches, great egrets, black-crowned night herons, green herons, blackbirds, hawks and various gulls and doves. We will surely identify many others.

This is a fun walk, and beginning birders are encouraged to participate. Parents are encouraged to bring their children. And it's free! Binoculars are strongly rec-



ommended, a bird guide too, if you have one.

For more information call (323) 663-6767 or email judycalifornia@yahoo.com

The new EPIA Website

The new EPIA website has launched! Now you can download EPIAn Ways online, any time.

- Get updates on meetings, newsletter publications, and events in Echo Park.
- Learn about EPIA and how to contact us
- Stay connected by knowing instantly when we publish a new edition of the long-standing newsletter, EPIAn Ways.
- View EPIAn Ways archives, now dating back to 2000.

You are more than welcome to contact us with suggestions or questions about the website.



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Masa server gives back through UNTAG

by Manny Ramirez, originally published in the Masa newsletter

Hello guys, it's me Manny, one of the many hard working servers at Masa! If you would have asked me a few months ago how I was going to spend the first half of my summer, I would have had a ready answer for you: "Why watching the World Cup of course!" Now while some of that might still happen (thanks to my TiVo) the real news is that I'll be interning at City Council President Eric Garcetti's field office in Hollywood!

How did this happen? Well, I had the good fortune of serving the Councilman dinner at Masa one night and asked him about any opportunities to help out. Much to my surprise, I was called to interview for an internship with Echo Park Field Deputy, Alejandra Marroquin - and now here I am with two weeks under my belt and I absolutely love it.

When I first found out I had gotten the position, I was told by some of my Masa coworkers to get used to getting coffees, since that's a common belief about internships, but I haven't made a single coffee run yet - in fact, I was given real responsibility up top and was put in charge of recruiting Block Captains for the Councilman's UNTAG program - Uniting Neighborhoods to Abolish Graffiti - what an honor!

How does UNTAG work? We go out into the commu-

nity and recruit Block Captains - dedicated members of the community like you - who monitor and report graffiti to the city's 3-1-1 with the location of the graffiti, the color of the paint and the color of the background. City crews should then be out to remove the graffiti within 48 hours. If the graffiti is still there after this timeframe, the Block Captain calls the field office so that we can follow up on it.

To combat repeat taggers, Block Captains also monitor graffiti over a designated area. A wall, a city block, the route to your child's school, are all great examples of areas where a Block Captain can make a difference. So far, UNTAG's efforts have helped reduce graffiti

district-wide by 85%!

The annual cost of graffiti removal to the city of Los Angeles is 7.5 million dollars. We all wish we could spend this money on things like more after-school programs, but graffiti removal is important to maintaining a healthy community. Graffiti is more than just a nuisance, it can lead to real violence. If taggers see that their "efforts" are not staying up very long, they will eventually give up. Just look around our neighborhood here. Those of you who were around in the 90's might remember that

(Continued on page 5)



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Central City Action Committee updates

By Gloria Sohacki

Summer has arrived and so have the kids. We are enlightened by the many new faces of kids who found their way to CCAC. Practically all of the new kids are the same age and are looking forward to high school in the fall, and it appears that two or three will be starting their secondary education at the new high school on Sunset and Grand Avenues. Two of the kids, Stephanie and Jennifer, only have to roll across the street so I know they will never have a problem with being late for school.

Unlike last year when we employed 30 kids for the summer we will not have funding for this type of project. We will however, from our numerous rummage sales, be able to give each youth a stipend for working in August. Our fearless leader, Maryanne, has planned a summer of fun.

Already we have taken the kids to Hansen Dam, movies, hiking and the museums. Even though the kids

work at rummage sales they are required to pay a small amount for each trip. We want the kids to know that it is not a free ride. A rummage sale was held the first week of summer vacation and it appears as if we need to have another one as funds are depleting quickly.

The last week of July everyone is going camping up at Silver wood. No, I am not a happy camper. I do not go. For some of the kids it may be the first time they have ever been away from home over night. It is interesting as I see parents of the new kids come to the center in the mornings. I wondered why the mothers were just sitting down watching their kids and then I realized that not only was it a first time for the kids to be going someplace alone but it was a first time for the parents to see their children going somewhere rather than school.

An artist/muralist/teacher named Armando Cepeda arrived at the center where he spent a whole day in-

(Continued on page 10)

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Lady of the Lake statue vandalized... again

by Kelly Smith

The Echo Park Lake statue, Lady of the Lake or Nuestra Reina de Los Angeles, is now missing both hands probably due to vandalism. Residents noticed the problem as far back as the Lotus Festival.

Repaired as recently of May 2009, the statue may not get its needed repairs soon. GEPENC President Jose Sigala commented on an Eastsider LA online article, writing:

"Given the city's budget financial crisis, I am not sure where the funding many come from to repair the lady of the Lake.

"I am not sure what the cost may be to replace the statue's hands but I would like to commit to work with other community members in identifying and raising the funds to restore her hands.

"I will ask to see if any of the funding that is dedicated to the rehabilitation of the lake may be used to assist in



repairing the statue."

The EPIA will be taking action on the matter to get the iconic statue repaired as soon as possible

Experiencing UNTAG

(Continued from page 3)

Echo Park had more graffiti and more crime. These statistics go hand in hand and both are down.

Having been brought up to speed on UNTAG, I was ready to dive in recruiting new Block Captains. Contacting school Principals and Parent-Teacher groups seemed like a good place to start since these people were already committed to improving their community. It was exciting to call the schools on behalf of the Councilman and representing such an important program. At first I was a little uncertain, but I quickly got the hang of it, and have since given three successful UNTAG presentations along with one of the Field Deputies! It turns out that many of the skills I need to be good server (presentation, confidence, thinking on my feet, listening) have greatly helped me out with the recruitment drive!

Go to WWW.UNTAGLA.COM for more info - or just ask me about it next time you're at Masa!

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EPIAmail@yahoo.com for info



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Echo Park Community Calendar

Event	Date	Location	Comments
EPIA Meetings	Every 1st Thursday 7:00 pm	Williams Hall at Barlow Hospital, 2000 Stadium Way	Email EPIA to get monthly reminders of meetings and to be on email list.
EPIA Steering Committee	Every 2nd Monday 7:15 pm	Email EPIAmail@yahoo.com for location	Take an active part in EPIA. Join the Steering Committee.
EPIA Neighborhood Issues Committee	Every 3rd Wednesday 7:00 pm	Williams Hall at Barlow Hospital, 2000 Stadium Way	
Community Safety Meeting (EPSA)	Every 3rd Wednesday 2:00 pm	GEPENC Community room 2011 W. Sunset Blvd.	Hosted by EPSA. Call (323) 860- 9914 for meeting location.
Citizens Committee to Save Elysian Park	Every 1st Wednesday 7:00 pm	Williams Hall at Barlow Hospital, 2000 Stadium Way	Call (213) 666-9651 for meeting location
Echo Park Chamber of Commerce	Every 3rd Thursday 7:00 pm	Taix Restaurant.	Call (213) 630-3032 for further information.
Greater Echo Park Elysian Neighborhood Council Meeting	Every 4th Tuesday 7:00 pm	GEPNEC Community room 2011 W. Sunset Blvd.	Call (213) 250-3400 for info or visit www.GEPENC.org
Edendale Library Friends Society (ELFS)	Every 2nd Wednesday 7:00 pm	Edendale Library Community room 2011 W. Sunset Blvd.	Find out how you can help your neighborhood's branch.
Positive Energy Group of Echo Park and Silver Lake Area	4th Wednesday 6:00 - 7:00 pm	Edendale Library Community room 2011 W. Sunset Blvd.	For info: www.positiveenergygroup.blogspot.com
EP Farmers Market	Every Friday 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm	parking lot #663 - half a block south of Sunset Boulevard (323) 463-3171 x13	
Edendale Book Club	Every 3rd Monday 6:30 pm	Edendale Library Community room 2011 W. Sunset Blvd.	

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 Police Non-Emergency 1-877-275-5273
 LAPD Air Support Division 213-485-2600

RAMPART DIVISION

Division Desk 213-484-3400 ext 1
 Vice Unit 213-485-4080
 Division Watch Commander 213-485-4062
 Senior Lead Officer Ford 213-793-0775
 Community Relations 213-484-3400 ext 2
 China Town Sub-Station 213-621-2344

NORTHEAST DIVISION

Division Desk 213-485-2563
 Northeast Report Unit 213-485-2563
 Senior Lead Officer Bobby Hill 213-793-0760
 Senior Lead Officer Al Polehonki 213-793-0763
 Detectives 213-485-2566
 Community Relations 213-485-2548
 Gang Detail 213-847-4263

CLEAN-UP

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 Cars Parked in Yards 1-888-524-2845
 Hazardous Waste Disposal Info 1-800-988-6942
 Storm Drains..... 213-485-5391
 Trash & Bulky Item Pick Up..... 1-800-773-2489
 LAFD Brush Clearance 818-374-1111

CITIZEN COMPLAINTS

Department Building & Safety 1-888-524-2845
 Department of Health..... 1-800-427-8700
 Department of Transportation 213-580-1177
 Department of Water & Power 1-800-342-5397
 Parking Enforcement 311
 Loose/Stray Animals/Barking Dogs 888-452-7381
 Legal Aid Client Referral..... 1-800-399-4529
 Operation Bright Lights..... 311
 Street Lighting Repairs..... 311

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Report Graffiti/Free Paint..... 311
 Copies of Crime & Traffic Reports 213-485-4193
 Dodger's Neighborhood Focus 323-224-2636
 Dodger's Community Affairs 323-224-1435
 North Central Animal Shelter 213-847-1416
 Elysian Park Ranger 323-913-4688
 Health Information..... 211
 Los Angeles City Information 311
 Neighborhood Prosecutor Program 213-847-8045

POLITICAL

1st District Ed Reyes 213-485-3451
 13th District Eric Garcetti..... 323-957-4500
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 Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard. 213-628-9230
 State Senator Gil Cedillo..... 213-612-9566
 Assemblyperson Kevin de Leon 323-225-4545
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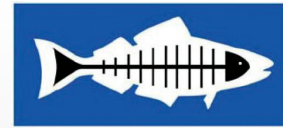
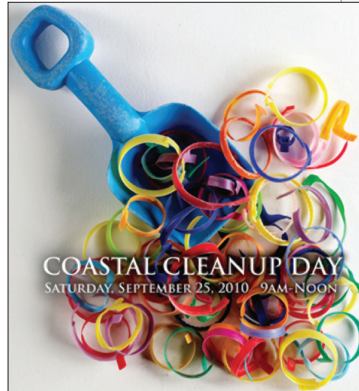
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California Coastal Clean Up Day 2010

It's officially summertime! We've all enjoyed the beautiful Southern California weather here in Echo Park this time of year, especially in the cool shade at the Echo Park Lake. So why not give back to places like the Lake and participate in the California Coastal Clean Up Day this September?

Echo Park Trash Abatement Program and the Central City Action Committee are collaborating under the direction of Heal the Bay for the fourth annual California Coastal Cleanup Day in Echo Park.

The yearly event takes place on Saturday, September 25, 2010, and everyone needs your help. Two years ago, volunteers picked up 5,017 cigarette butts that weight five pounds – so we definitely need the cleanup.



Heal the Bay

Saturday, September 25, 2010

751 Park Avenue

(by Glendale and Park Avenue just north of the lotus bed).

Time:

8:00 am - 8:45 am: Registration

9:00 am - 11:00 am: Clean up around Lake and adjacent area

11:00 am - Noon: Trash Count and snack lunch

You can register online at

www.healthebay.org/volunteer/ccd/2010

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New activities planned for Spiraling Orchard

by Nancy Zuniga, Associate Director of ACLA

Spiraling Orchard has been dormant for a while, but it has not been forgotten! We are very excited about the community members making things kick up again in Temple-Beaudry. Below is a list of the purposed new activity to start in August 2010 at Spiraling Orchard located at 1246 W Court St., Los Angeles, CA 90026.

We will be hosting Local artist, Timoi and her Graffiti Club for Youth throughout Summer 2010.

Ayumi "SANO" Chisolm has just joined ACLA staff through a DCAAIR grant and will be teaching a weekly visual art/drawing workshop. The workshop utilizes elements of classical drawing methods with contemporary elements of Hiphop style graffiti art for at-risk youth and young adults. It has two sections: the first section starts in September and ends mid-November, and the second starts in January and ends in the beginning of May 2011.



We hope to join these two groups along with artist Shiro from Japan in a collaborative one-day mural project on August 7, 2010 on the corner of Temple

(Continued on page 11)

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Bungalow court declared city landmark

from the Echo Park Historical Society

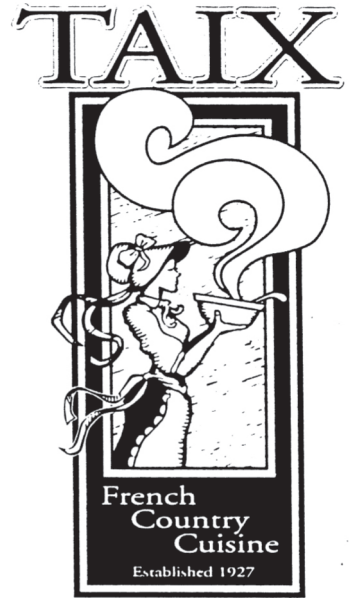
The Lento Brick Court on Sunset Boulevard Elysian Park has been declared a historic-cultural monument by the City of Los Angeles.

The 1928 complex built by an Italian immigrant and hat maker was nominated by the Echo Park Historical Society as a "rare example of a mixed use complex of commercial store fronts and a residential hillside bungalow court."



The Lento Brick Court, located in the 1200 block of Sunset Boulevard, is one of several hillside bungalow courts found on both sides of Sunset Boulevard between Elysian Park Avenue and Marion Street. This type of courtyard housing was popular among builders and residents during the early part of the 20th Century. In Echo Park, the builders of these bungalow courts adapted their developments to the hilly terrain, creating terraces of tiny homes that climbed the steep hills.

Historian Charlie Fisher researched the property and filed the landmark nomination on behalf of the EPHS.



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Patton Alianza Coalition

by Margarita Fernandez

Temple Street is a heavily traveled street in the southern edge of Echo Park. It brings drivers from downtown up a long and winding street that curves as it reaches the corner of Patton Street, an area lined with trees, craftsman homes, apartment buildings, and a state building. The setting denotes a quiet and cozy street, but it is really a dangerous intersection and has been for many years.

On the afternoon of Friday July 16, 2010, a pedestrian was struck as she was crossing the street at the corner of Patton Street and taken to the hospital. The concerns felt by the residents in the area have led to the creation of the Patton Alianza Coalition, a neighborhood group to meet and discuss the accident.

The group has contacted the Council Office of CD-1 and the Department of Transportation, and will be working with the staff to mitigate the issues at this corner and other issues in the immediate area. The residents can no longer be silent regarding this intersection, as there is growing concern that the next time it might be a child.

Echo Park Real Estate Trends for June and July

By Darren Hubert

Echo Park sales for the months of June and July (source: TheMls.com)

- Sold properties: 21
- Single family homes: 12 at \$180,000 to \$727,000
- Median price: \$410,241
- Condos: 2 at \$320,000 to \$323,000
- Median price: \$321,500
- Income property: 7 at \$285,000 to \$635,000
- Median price of \$468,000

Sales Trends: Inventory in Echo Park is low. There is a long list of properties with foreclosure filings but there are very few available for sale. The volume of short sale activity has risen but there is no guarantee that any short sale will close unless it is pre-approved by the bank. The key to determining whether to participate in the short sale process, from a buying or selling perspective, is to determine the likelihood of it closing prior to entering the process.

Buyer Trends: There has been a noticeable dip in overall homebuyer activity since the expiration of the federal tax credit incentive in April. First time home buyer activity peaked in March and has tapered off since then. The percentage of first time homebuyers has dropped from 48% in March to 42% in June. A healthy home buying market requires a strong pool of first time home buyers. Inventory is expected to increase over the next few months and with rates at all time lows, there will be good buying opportunities.

Home Ownership: The U.S. Homeownership rate has fallen to its lowest level since 1999. Data released by the Census Bureau on 7/27/10 shows that the U.S. homeownership rate dropped to 66.9 percent during the second quarter of this year. With many homeowners becoming renters, landlords are experiencing a surge in rental activity. In the first half of this year there were more apartments rented than all of 2009. The north east area that we live in, offers one of the best purchase price-to-rent ratios in the city along with some of the most unique multi-unit buying opportunities.

Activities at Spiraling Orchard

(Continued from page 9)

and Bixel.

Fall 2010 will also be the return of Lisa Nuñez's Food Justice & Culture workshops for elementary school aged kids.

We also expect to dedicate the mural that Spiraling kids along with families from all over California have been painting for almost a year under lead artist Wencslao Quiroz, located on Court & Bixel, in Fall 2010.

We are available to host your collective's events, for youth bands to practice, or to host your workshops.

For more information about any of the above we can be reached at ACLA213@gmail.com or 323 .474.6905

CCAC updates: A few things planned for summer

(Continued from page 4)

structing kids/parents and me how to create a portable mural in 4 hours. Armando is a professional artist who has taught in schools all over the country. We had parents and brothers and sisters attending this workshop. I was delighted to participate. Armando printed a mural and transferred the image on to a grid which was divided into 64 8X8 squares. Each of us received two 8X8 squares and a small piece of paper folded in quarters. We then used a pencil to sketch a portion of the grid onto the square.

After our drawings were finished we painted the squares. It is interesting how each of us see a different color when we look at the same picture. On the back of the squares we wrote the number of the square so when we put them together they were in proper order. Besides learning about drawing and mixing colors, Armando entertained us with stories, riddles and small taco fortune cookies called Directos. This was one of the most enjoyable projects I have participated in at

CCAC. There was a calming quiet with intense concentration as each of us worked as quick as we could in order to finish our squares.

The final touches were completed by our older kids along with the artist. So now we have a beautiful mural that is portable. I encourage all of you to stop by and see what coordination, teamwork, and pride can make a difference in the lives of our kids.

Along with having fun Maryanne has started a reading program. We have lots of books and realize the kids need to sharpen their skills so Maryanne's family is donating money for each book read and reported over the summer. Some of the kids already have books assigned for required reading during summer vacation.

If anyone has rummage to be picked up from their house, give Sam a call and he can schedule a pick-up.

By the way, there has been another sighting of Captain Rollo!!!! I believe he is looking for my lost Furbies!

We need your help

This year we had donations from printers, other community groups and residents that has allowed us to continue to produce our newsletter. Due to the cost of printing we run a deficit with each newsletter produced. This is not something that the EPIA can sustain for a long period of time if donations stop coming in. Therefore we are attempting to raise funds for continued support of the newsletter.

Thank you in advance for your Support.

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