



## Hollywoodland Homeowners Association Spring 2020

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The corona virus has left the world upside down and that disposition certainly affects all of Hollywoodland, tract 6450. We encourage you to keep informed and follow suggested government advisements. You can keep current on the virus stats by viewing the county health site : <http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/locations.htm> which is updated daily at noon. We are in the Hollywood Hills region 136.

To date many of our planned events have been postponed, but when this is all over your special events committee will be inviting members to a French style outdoor picnic on dirt Mulholland. We will set up long winding tables and share, food, drink and celebrate our wonderful unique space and offer toasts to our good health.

H O L L Y W O O D L A N D

### 2020 HHA BOARD

Hollywoodlanders, thank you for turning out for our annual meeting and caring enough to vote.

Congratulations to all the new 2020 HHA Board members: Jeanne Clark, Nancy Girten, James Mykytenko, Jeff Swofford, Diana Knoll, Jannine McDonald, and Christine O'Brien

A special thanks to Tara Stephenson, Alexa Williams and Alexandra Kerr who ended their terms in 2020. Tara and Alexa served as President and Vice President, respectively, for four years, contributing countless hours by being key administrators for our organization. A huge thank you. We are also grateful to Board members and Officers Nancy Girten and Jeanne Clark for returning and being willing to take on the time consuming, detailed roles of Secretary and Treasurer, respectively.

Other returning Board Members are Crosby Doe, Ryan Lapine, Doug Tornquist, Nancy Fareed and Sara-jane Schwartz.

Can't commit to be a board member, not enough time, but still want to contribute? Here are some areas that we could use periodic assistance with:

- Editing: newsletters, email blasts, letters
- Legal overview: documents, contracts, insurance policies, by-laws, easements
- Government communication: developing articles, researching, following up with key departments, writing requests for information
- Trademark: monitor uses of the configured Hollywoodland sign, submit ideas for creating products
- Media development: develop an HHA press kit, fine tune existing new resident welcome packet, monitor social media sources
- Real estate relations: develop an ongoing list of properties sold and for sale, contact and share specific plan with listing agents, organize a meet and greet with real estate agents, HHA, City Planning, CD4 and the Cultural Heritage Department.
- Emergency preparedness



## OUR PARK RANGERS NEED YOUR HELP

Our Park Rangers are requesting that you send in a brief email to the city. While you're at home it will only take a few minutes of your time. The link is below.

Park Rangers are some of the most versatile highly trained peace officers in the City. This training includes the use of firearms, but they presently are not allowed to carry them. The Rangers want the wording in Los Angeles Municipal Code 63.41 amended so they will be able to carry firearms while on duty in order to protect themselves and others. The current scarce number of Rangers is being reduced even more by some of them who leave to become police officers following their extensive training. Some Rangers fear for their own safety as locations that are deep within parks on and off trails can be difficult for LAPD to quickly reach. This change would greatly reduce these problems.

Because of our extremely unique location and vulnerability, Hollywoodland has an extraordinarily close, daily relationship with the Los Angeles City Park Rangers. We value them, the important work that they do and consider them to be outstanding representatives of City government at its best. Care and protection of the open space through the Park Rangers is essential for the city, environment, our homes and the land. This is precisely why we are advocating the LAMC be changed so Rangers be allowed to carry firearms.

Support for this change is widespread. On March 10th the HHA board unanimously passed a motion to allow Rangers to carry fire arms. Our neighborhood council, HUNC, and many City officials are also in favor of this practice that is already commonplace in many other locations throughout the country. There does seem to be at least one hold out amidst the widespread City and public support for this amendment---Councilman Ryu. This amendment will soon be coming before the full City Council for a vote.

When the Rangers ask for our help we think it is important to give them our very strong support. Please send in a brief email to this link, and state that you are in support of this amendment to allow Los Angeles City Park Rangers to carry firearms while on duty.

<https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=20-0190>

Towards the top of the page it has the Council File Number 20-0190. To the right of this you will see three icons. Click on the one farthest to the right in order to submit public comment. It's very easy.

## H O L L Y W O O D L A N D

### JOE SALIACIES

After more than 40 years working for Los Angeles Parks and Recreation Department, General Manager Joe Saliacies retired. Your Hollywoodland board members joined the RAP Commission, his department colleagues and his wife to bid him farewell in his retirement. Joe always took our calls, met with us and tried to help us protect Hollywoodland and the Hollywoodland Gifted Park. His wisdom within the department, his listening skills and his patience will be missed.



## A REALLY TRUE CHICKEN STORY

BY FAYE LINDA WACHS

After a few years break from backyard chickens, we were able to acquire the descendants of our original flock. Chicken Isabel came to our coop with her two sisters. The largest, Chiccoletta truly showed homicidal tendencies and spent most of her time terrorizing Isabel. Flore, the third sister, was too timid to protest. Chicoletta forced poor Isabel to spend most of her time hiding in the coop. She also tried to pull out all her feathers. Isabel knew she couldn't live like this, and not knowing that her keepers were already discussing exchanging Chicoletta for a less homicidal bird, she decided to make a break for freedom. Taking on a very surprised Zorro (cattledog/corgi mix), she escaped out the back of the coop, while we were cleaning it. She went over the fence and found a giant cactus on Rodgerton and set up residence. For two months, she lived in the center of the cactus. She would come into the yard and visited most of my neighbors. But she eluded capture. She was seen pecking our neighbor's dogs and in multiple yards. I tried to catch her, using methods found online, that also involved me having to explain to neighbors that the crazy lady under the sheet was just trying to catch a chicken. Eventually we just accepted that she was happy and let her be, leaving out food and water. One day, I saw a lot of feathers in Griffith Park that looked like hers, and was fearful, but fortunately someone sent me a picture of her later that day, so I knew she was still out there! In the meantime, we exchanged the sociopathic Chicoletta and the suffering from Stockholm syndrome, Flore, for 4 babies, that we hand fed and put in the coop. These four are super chill chickens and are very friendly and social. My theory is, Isabel saw them and realized she could live with these sweet girls. So on August 15, which happens to be my spouse's birthday, she sauntered into the house- went through the spa and entry way and all the way into the living room to present herself. Unfortunately, I have always specifically told the dog (Zorro aka Don Diego de la Vega), his entire job is to keep animals out of the house, so he attacked. (Can't blame the dog, a chicken walked into the living room....). The other dog (Briggs), just sat and watched the entire show. She seemed vaguely exasperated that her nap was interrupted. Zorro and Isabel briefly fought, and Isabel ended up under the entertainment console, seemingly expired. However, after more careful examination, she appeared to be alive, but not well. An hour later, she was fine, minus a few feathers. After a few hours, we introduced her to the flock in the coop. Though she clearly shows signs of past trauma, she is quickly coming to tolerate and even seemingly like, her new flock. A hero for troubled times, she remains a symbol of freedom and courage for the downtrodden and oppressed. Here's to Isabel - a chicken who crossed the road to live life on her terms.

H O L L Y W O O D L A N D

## THOUGHTS ON THE 2007 GRIFFITH PARK BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

How ridiculous for this study to assume that Hollywoodland residential, surrounded by identified habitat areas 39L, 39I and 39B of the Hollywoodland Gifted Park would not have linkages through it! Does the wild-life have an innate ability to bypass the entirety of Hollywoodland residential when traversing from one habitat area to another?

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## EVENTS UPDATE

We are sad to report that the "Safer at Home" order in effect requires our Annual Easter Egg Hunt in the Village be cancelled.

In addition, the membership drive at the Beachwood Village planned for April 18th will be postponed due to current conditions. It was to be held in conjunction with a food drive benefiting the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank sponsored by two of our local Hollywoodland Realtors.

In the meantime, new membership or renewals can be handled via our website, [www.hollywoodland.org](http://www.hollywoodland.org). Just look under "HHA Membership" for details.

H O L L Y W O O D L A N D

## 75TH YEAR CELEBRATION

On Sunday, October 20 the Hollywoodland community held a 75th year celebration honoring the Sherman Company's gift of 444 acres to the city of Los Angeles. This acreage, the largest single donation (other than the Griffith land ) was part of the original Hollywoodland tract ( 6450). It surrounds 3 sides of Hollywoodland residential, covering 85% of its perimeter, including the Main Communication tower at the top of Mt. Lee, the former Hollywoodland sign, the western border to the Lake Hollywood Reservoir and the eastern border beyond the Bronson Caves to Western Ave. The celebration invited Angelenos to share their inspirations and expressions associated with the Hollywoodland open-space. Submissions were categorized and judged by Peter Desberg, Hope Anderson and Susie Karasic. The three categories included: visual 2, 3 D (drawing painting, collage, sculpture), written words (poems, prose, essays story telling, historical artifacts and images) and/or video, photography. Prizes were given in each category and attendees selected the Best Of Show.

Prizes for visual 2 and 3 D works were shared with Brian Burchfield, "Cactus on Durand" (oil painting) and Anne Mansour "The Hills of Hollywood" (oil painting).

Written words, historical artifacts, storytelling award went to Soren Kerk for her poetry books and selections.

The video, photography, audio, music category prize was shared between Sarajane Schwartz with her video titled: "Paradise Lost, The Next Paradise, a Plea for Help" and George Abbott Clark for his video "Hollywood Wild Life", a compilation of animal images filmed at his hillside residence between 2018-2019. He also won Best of Show.

The recreated Hollywoodland Orchestra, headed by Doug Tornquist played tunes from the 1940's. Dinner was underwritten by Mike Fahim, the new owner of the Beachwood Café, with a festive celebration cake provided by The Committee to Save the Hollywoodland Specific Plan. Other sponsors included, Beachwood Market, Beachwood Cleaners, Hollywoodland Realty, Hope Anderson Productions and Compass.

## WILDLIFE SURVEY

The City of Los Angeles has developed a wildlife component within the Planning Department. They need input from the citizens to understand and document the needs of communities such as tract 6450 which border designated Sensitive Ecological Area areas. Please take a few minutes to review and participate in this survey. You can find the survey link at [hollywoodland.org](http://hollywoodland.org).

## BEACHWOOD GATE LEGAL BATTLE ENDS

The Friends of Griffith Park (FoGP) is a nonprofit group whose purpose is to advocate for the entirety of the Park. If you are on their mailing list you would have received the Winter 2019-20 newsletter – “The Griffith Reporter”. In it Gerry Hans, Los Feliz resident and FoGP board member, wrote a confusing article (by the above title) regarding the challenges to the court ordered closure of the Beachwood Gate.

For clarification, the Beachwood Gate, used to access the Hollyridge Trail to the Hollywood Sign, was closed to pedestrians by Rec and Parks to comply with a final court order dated March 13, 2017. In the lawsuit *Sunset Ranch Hollywood Stables v. City of Los Angeles*, the City was found to have “unduly and unreasonably” interfered with Sunset Ranch’s use of their easement. The solution to prevent interference with the easement was to (1) limit pedestrian access by closing the Beachwood Gate and (2) redirect traffic to Canyon Drive, an established, viable alternative entrance to access the Hollyridge Trail. Furthermore, during the course of the proceedings, the City of Los Angeles acknowledged that the Beachwood Gate was never an established entrance to Griffith Park.

Instead of acknowledging the facts presented in the court’s decision, which redirects visitors to a safe, established, legal entrance with a parking lot, Friends of Griffith Park sought to oppose the court’s decision with a series of lawsuits. Friends of Griffith Park and their attorneys, Mitchell Tsai and Mike Gatto embarrassingly asked the judge to look through 3000 pages of irrelevant “evidence” in the hope of finding something in their favor. Their arguments showed a persistent misunderstanding of the court order and the broad rights of Rec and Parks to manage the park. After spending approx. \$54,000 on legal fees in 2018 alone, they were defeated ---each time, including at the Appeals Court level. All of which clearly demonstrates the error of their assertions regarding access at the end of Beachwood. Also, if this money was donated to Friends of Griffith Park with the intent of protecting the Park, but was instead squandered for what appears to be the selfish purpose of protecting the private interests of certain members of FoGP, one can only question what other motivations are at work.

### H O L L Y W O O D L A N D

## SAFER AT HOME READING PICK

Hollywoodland has always been home to many creatives - actors, musicians, artists and writers. Today we spotlight long-time resident, Maryvonne Fent who's recently self-published a book on Amazon called the "The 35¢ Dowry". A literary fiction, the story starts in 1960 Paris and follows the life of Minouche, a young girl who falls in love with a polish student about to leave Paris to study in India. She must give up everything she knows to find a way to join him there to save their love and reach for a brighter future. Immerse yourself in the coming of age adventure that spans the streets of Paris to the exotic subcontinent of India. Now more than ever, couldn't we all use a delightful distraction?

Available on Amazon in paperback or Kindle.



## IN MEMORIAM

### HARRY A. WILLIAMS

SEPTEMBER 29, 1921 - MARCH 2, 2020

Harry Williams, a patriarch of Hollywoodland and Beachwood Village, has died. His association with the area began in 1925 when his father and two uncles built the first building that would become Beachwood Village's commercial area.

Born in Los Angeles, Harry and his parents, Alex Williams and Kaliopé Linardos, lived above their grocery store, Linardos Brothers Market, at Sunset and Gordon in Hollywood. Harry's parents and two uncles, all immigrants from Greece, went into the grocery business early with the underlying thought that they would always eat, even in tough times.

When the family built their commercial building in Hollywoodland, Harry was four years old. The family bought a house on Curson Avenue, where Kaliopé and Alex had two more sons, George and Dino. All three brothers would attend Gardner Elementary, Bancroft and Fairfax High. The family would establish Beachwood Market in Hollywoodland in 1933.

From the earliest age, Harry showed a high level of dexterity. His mother called him "golden hands." During WW2, he proved so useful at a local aircraft factory, the government classified him an essential worker and he was not drafted. After the war, the army shipped him to Japan, near Okinawa, for the Occupation, where Harry became immersed in Japanese woodcraft and returned home with a love for Japanese jointing.

For a job, he fell into the path of least resistance and went into his family's grocery business where he served as a butcher at the Beachwood Market for over thirty-five years. He also took over ownership of the business from his father and uncles in partnership with the Papalexis brothers, Bill and Jim.

A most likable and interesting person, Harry's friendship with John Lautner brought the architect to design the new Beachwood Market, in a building that the family purchased next door to the old store. At the same time, Harry asked Lautner to design a home for him in Hollywoodland where he and his wife Pauline would raise a family starting in 1952.

In 1962, his wife Pauline would die suddenly in their home, leaving Harry with two children to raise, a daughter and a son. He married Martha (Pegi) who became stepmother to his children and brought a son to the family. That marriage lasted over fifty years. Two decades later, Harry's son Paul was tragically killed in a helicopter accident. Harry never lost his equanimity, always living in the present, taking his blows quietly and moving on.

Not long after his son's death, Harry sold his interest in the Beachwood Market. He remained as a landlord in partnership with his two brothers and cousin, Nick Linardos. That's when his life really blossomed. In his workshop under his home on Ledgewood Drive, Harry showed an aptitude for every medium. His watercolors show a high skill. When brother Dino got into stained glass, Harry tried his hand and created two windows that he incorporated into his home. He worked in metal and had a forge and anvil in his shop. He collected rocks and polished them. He made soap, rendering fat he got from the market. But mostly he worked with wood. He loved wood.

His shop became a social hub. Everyone knew they could drop in and chat while Harry worked. Children who grew up in the neighborhood returned as adults to see him regularly. Neighbors could bring things they needed repaired and he would do it promptly and expertly for free. He was generous in sharing the creations he unceasingly produced including wooden toys and mechanical boxes. Many of us have treasured Uncle Harry items in our homes. For decades, when passing by the Ledgewood house, you could see him, shop door open, sitting at his worktable, engrossed in a project.

He also traveled with Martha making Greece a regular destination. When Dino's wife died in 1995, Harry took Dino to Greece to visit family. Harry regularly communicated with them with calls and letters. Of the three brothers, Harry read, wrote, and spoke Greek fluently.

With his brother Dino, he did all the maintenance work on the buildings in Beachwood Village. Leaking plumbing, leaking roofs, termite control all found Harry with this tool boxes making repairs. Looking around Beachwood Village, you'll see his work. The carved signs are his. With his two brothers' assistance, he built the granite planters in the plaza. He repaired a damaged historic wall in Hollywoodland so well no one can tell the difference between his work and the original stone masons.

He loved dogs, always having one or more as pets. And he carved replicas of some. Blaze was a standout, rescued in Toluca Lake as a stray male protecting his newborn puppies. Harry carved a live-size wooden statue of Blaze that he playfully placed in a window by his front door, peeking through the vertical blinds.

Harry loved plants, fastidiously maintaining the yards around his home. The juniper trees in the front were sculptural works of art. He raised orchids for a time in a greenhouse he built in the backyard and then switched interest to staghorn ferns

During retirement, Harry volunteered at the Page Museum at La Brea Tar Pits where he started cleaning fossils discovered on the site. He soon advanced to assembling fossil pieces into whole animals (his long experience at the Beachwood Market gave him knowledge of animal parts.) When he retired from the museum, the staff, now his friends, saluted his outstanding achievement.

As a nonagenarian, he laid flagstones in his front and back yards and then painted the exterior of his house. When we did holiday lights in the village, you could not stop him climbing into the trees.

He served as a model of moderation and a regular schedule. He'd skip hors d'oeuvres to wait for the meal; he rarely had second helpings. He had a shot of brandy every night before retiring, got nine hours of sleep, and did calisthenics on rising. A lifetime smoker, he was never without his beloved pipe and lived to 98. He kept active nearly every waking moment even after he was moved from his home of over sixty years to a small board and care house in Van Nuys where he died.

He was a simple man, but very, very deep. Harry never lost his sense of humor or his playfulness. He wasn't just my uncle but a loved companion and playmate. If you gave Harry a bag of lemons, he wouldn't just make lemonade, he'd grow you a lemon orchard.

Not long after his death, I had a dream about him. He was on the opposite side of a door frame, no walls just a door frame. The lintel of the door was broken, one half higher than the other. He stood on a ladder with his back to it, facing the doorway and me. He wore his standard outfit, white v-neck t-shirt and faded jeans. He had on his glasses and held his pipe in his mouth. With a hammer in his right hand, he struck three assured blows that brought the lintel together seamlessly. I then noticed the back of my father holding the ladder steady for him. All is well. Catch you later, Unc.

G.P. Williams



## BEACHWOOD HEAVEN

By Soren Kerk

If you're up in the morning  
Before daylight  
And you've slept deeply in HOLLYWOODLAND  
Throughout the night  
You are lucky, for when out the window you look  
You see artwork that rivals the canvas, the book!  
You see artwork to overpower poems and more –  
Artwork that dwarfs both the dance and the score!  
The sky that's above our canyon entire  
Is lit by the Fresnel God uses as fire  
It's all the way down there and up, up above  
A dome filled with a mixture pf pink, blue and love.

Sure, we like all our streets and adore our bushes.  
(We like Belden and Beachwood, Linforth and Durand.)  
We love the curve, the steps, the doorways, that wall.  
We love Spring and of course Winter  
And Summer and Fall.  
But beyond all these and above us all  
Is the sky overhead with its expanse and cover  
That is Beachwood's heaven, Beachwood's lover.

Thank you, God, for giving us this blessed canyon  
Where each neighbor's a friend, each friend a companion.

*Soren has lived in HOLLYWOODLAND since right before the January 1995 earthquake, at which time residents nicely showed their community spirit. After 9/11 she left the corporate world into which she had been swallowed and became a free agent -- free to write poems and songs any old which way. She won top prize in last year's HHA Creativity Celebration and stood in the sun amidst oil paintings and other offerings reading poems to people who came up to her one by one. She likes to write custom poems: poems for your anniversary, your cat, your dog, your grandchild, your new haircut, your new porch.*

### H O L L Y W O O D L A N D

Hollywoodland Homeowners Association Board\_HHA: [info@hollywoodland.com](mailto:info@hollywoodland.com)

Christine O'Brien, *President*, Crosby Doe, *Vice-President*, Jeanne Clark *Treasurer*, Nancy Girten *Secretary*,

Diana Knoll, Ryan Lupine, Jannine MacDonald, James Mykytenko, Nancy Fareed Moreno, Sarajane Schwartz, Jeff Swofford, Douglas Tornquist

Councilmember: [david.ryu@lacity.org](mailto:david.ryu@lacity.org)

Senior Field Deputy: [rachel.fox@lacity.org](mailto:rachel.fox@lacity.org)

LAPD Senior Lead Officer: [40988@lapd.online](mailto:40988@lapd.online) (Heather Mata)

Park Rangers: 323-644-6661