



THE NEWS

Pasadena, California

Celebrating 63 years
of community service

Summer 2025

WPRA IN MOTION

CITY IN MOTION

OPEN SPACE/NATURAL RESOURCES

2025 WPRA ANNUAL MEETING

LAND USE/PLANNING

PUBLIC SAFETY

COMMUNITY

2025 annual WPRA meeting: How we can better protect life, property from wildfires

The West Pasadena Residents' Association convened its 2025 annual meeting — its 63rd — on June 5 in the Maranatha High School Student Center. The meeting attracted an audience of nearly 200 city residents and business associates. The program theme was to help residents better protect their life and property from the threat of wildfires.

The main program began with a Presentation of Colors, this year led by the Boy Scout Troop 131 color guard, and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Meeting master of ceremonies Blaine Cavena welcomed special guests to the meeting, including **Pasadena Mayor Victor Gordo**; District 6 Councilmember **Steve Madison**; and PUSD Board of Education District 7 representative **Yarma Velázquez, PhD**.

Other special guests included **Darla Dyson**, representing State Sen. Sasha **Renée Pérez** (D-25); **Justin Chapman**, Council District 6 field representative; and **Miles Kealing**, representing Assemblymember **John Harabedian** (D-41).

Taking care of business

Each year the WPRA Board of Directors recognizes individuals or organizations that have made significant contributions to our community. This year the WPRA presented Community Service awards to retiring WPRA Board member Linda Zinn and the Pasadena Fire Department. (For details about the Fire Department's award, see the accompanying photo.) Linda Zinn's award reflected her 18 years on the Board and service, during most of those years, as Membership chair. WPRA members also elected their 2025-



WPRA Treasurer and evening master of ceremonies Blaine Cavena (right) presents Pasadena Fire Department Deputy Chief Tim Sells with a WPRA Community Service Award for the department's efforts that made a significant difference during and after the Eaton Fire. (Photo by Bob Reiter)

- For more coverage of the WPRA 2025 annual meeting turn to pages 6, 8-12
- To watch annual meeting: <https://youtu.be/kA6cfq6lTKU>
- Answers to the audiences' questions from the annual meeting will appear in the next issue of this newsletter

2026 membership year Board of Directors. (For a listing of board members and officers, see page 2.)



Victor Gordo

Victor Gordo: An optimistic update

Pasadena Mayor Victor Gordo reported that City Council has proposed a balanced \$1.5 billion budget for fiscal year 2025-2026. Pasadena weathered the COVID-19 pandemic better than many cities, said Gordo, "by using federal

relief funds to replenish reserves, rather than create new, unsustainable expenses. As a result, city reserves now exceed pre-pandemic levels."

The Eaton Fire, said Gordo, "underscored the need for increased fire department staffing and new equipment — something the city hasn't addressed since 1976." Also, Gordo pledged to create a year-round brush removal plan, especially for the Arroyo Seco.

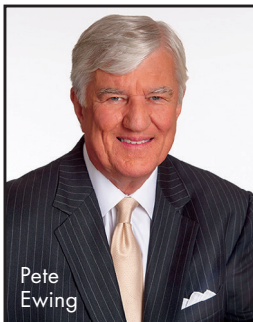
The fire, he said, also impacted the business community negatively. "It's clear that a considerable percentage of their customer

Continued on page 6

A pleasant Sunday morning walk through Ambassador Gardens

By Pete Ewing
President, WPRA

Recently friends visited Dotty and me for a long weekend. As usual, we headed to Ambassador Gardens for a walk. We've been there many, many times, but we discover something new with each visit.



Pete Ewing

We took a short walk to the koi ponds, which is also home to a small turtle family of seven, at last count. The area is well shaded by dense, beautiful, old oak trees.

The path leads us up 10 easy levels to where it ends a pond and statue, "Birds In Flight." This area is between The Grove Plaza condos, and Ross Grove, which comprises several landmark residences of Revival design. This also is the area where the stream, with many, many waterfalls, begins

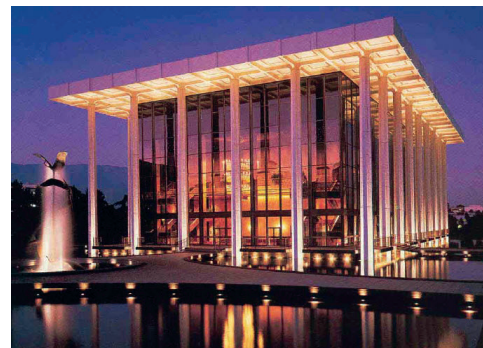
flowing down the hill to end at the Koi Pond. The whole area is awash with the pleasant, gentle sounds of the flowing water.

A side note and shameless plug: Once the sale of the entire west campus was final, the owner proposed to build approximately 927 condo units on the property. The WPRA was deeply involved in the negotiations, and was able to help reduce the number of new condos to about 225, which is what we see today. These new condos have been heralded as one of Pasadena's best development projects.

We then walked to the huge Great Lawn, where children play by the enormous Moreton Bay fig tree, and the Ambassador Auditorium, an impressive structure with a reflecting pond and egret statue.

To the west of the Great Lawn is the Mayfair Mansion, a Tudor Revival design, built in 1903, and the Terrace Villa mansion of Italian design, built in 1924.

Between the two is yet again another stream that begins by Mayfair and winds its way



Ambassador Auditorium is a stunning sight at night. (Image from "Ambassador Auditorium: The making of a cultural legacy," 1994.

down the hill to a pond and shaded rest area beneath the Merritt Mansion, the last of the three mansions on the property and built in 1905.

The WPRA needs you!

Want to make a real difference in your community? By contributing as few as three hours a month you can help the WPRA be more efficient and effective — and no special skills are required. If we've piqued your interest, please send an email to president@wpra.net

2025 - 2026

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president@wpra.net

Vice President, Carlos Javelera
vp@wpra.net

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Mission: Founded in 1962, the West Pasadena Residents' Association is dedicated to maintaining the character of our community and enhancing the quality of life in west Pasadena.

Service area: The WPRA service area is bounded on the north by Colorado Boulevard, on the east by Fair Oaks Avenue and on the south and west by the city limits.



THE NEWS

The News is mailed each quarter to more than 9,000 homes and businesses in the 91105 and 91103 ZIP codes and beyond.

Editor: Chuck Hudson
editor@wpra.net

P. O. Box 50252
Pasadena, CA 91115-0252

Visit our website at wpra.net
Visit our Facebook page at facebook.com/westpasadena

All WPRA activities are funded through membership dues and contributions. The WPRA receives no public funding and has no paid employees. The WPRA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit public benefit corporation. Contributions and donations are fully deductible to the extent permitted by law.

DAVID REYES HAS BEEN NAMED general manager of Pasadena Water and Power (PWP). Reyes has served the City for 12 years in several key executive roles, including most recently interim PWP general manager, assistant city manager and director of Planning & Community Development. *Source: City of Pasadena*



David Reyes

CITY COUNCIL APPROVED A \$1.87 MILLION CONTRACT that would expand a cantilevered netting system at Brookside Golf Course to protect pedestrians from stray golf balls. The project builds on the success of a 2023 pilot installation that intercepted an estimated 125 golf balls per month. *Source: Pasadena Now*

HOMELESSNESS IN PASADENA INCREASED 4% to 581 identified during the 2025 point-in-time count. The annual count found 342 people living in unsheltered locations on streets or sidewalks, an increase of 21 from 2024's count of 321. *Source: Pasadena Now*

ON APRIL 22, 1875, EARLY SETTLERS adopted the name Pasadena by a majority vote. A number of names were suggested, and three — Granada, Indianola and Pasadena — were put to a vote. The winner was proposed by Thomas B. Elliott, an abolitionist and physician who served at a station of the Underground Railway and is buried locally at the Mountain View Cemetery and Mausoleum, along with his spouse Helen, who was known as the *Mother of Pasadena*. Pasadena" was derived from an Indian name that translated into "Crown of the Valley." *Source: Joe Colletti, M.D., in Pasadena Now*

THE CITY OF PASADENA, PARTNERING WITH THE PASADENA MUSEUM OF HISTORY, celebrated its 139th birthday with a community festival. Pasadena was among the first cities incorporated in what is now Los Angeles County, following only the city of Los Angeles. *Source: Pasadena Now*

PASADENA ARCHITECT ARTHUR HEINEMAN — best known for Craftsman style bungalows in Pasadena, including the Parson House on east California Boulevard (1909-10) and Bowen Court on Villa Street (1910) — came

up with the word "motel" (motor + hotel), and in late 1925 put up a mission-style lodging in San Luis Obispo. *Source: LA Times/Essential California*

PASADENA HAS BEGUN INSTALLING new pay-by-plate parking pay stations throughout the city. The new pay stations do not require parkers to return to their vehicle to display a permit. Instead, parkers enter their license plate number into the pay station; no permit is required. *Source: Pasadena Now*

PASADENA HAS LAUNCHED A SUSTAINABILITY WEBSITE [cityofpasadena.net/sustainability] that serves as a hub for information about the city's sustainability and environmental programs and initiatives. *Source: City of Pasadena*

PASADENA CELEBRATED TWO OF ITS MOST FAVORED SONS— Jackie and Mack Robinson— by unveiling three new commemorative plaques outside the brothers' boyhood home. The plaques also honor the matriarch of the family, Mallie McGriff Robinson, who left Georgia to settle in Pasadena with her five children. *Source: Pasadena Now*

THE CITY OF PASADENA HAS SIGNED A HISTORIC AGREEMENT with the organizers of the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games (LA28) for the Rose Bowl Stadium to host Olympic soccer, including the semifinal and final matches for both men and women. *Source: City of Pasadena*

THE CITY OF PASADENA'S "BUILD IT IN PASADENA" CAMPAIGN launched in February 2025 and spotlights Pasadena as the "ideal place (home) for technological and scientific companies." *Source: City of Pasadena*

THE OLD PASADENA MANAGEMENT DISTRICT HAS LAUNCHED a new marketing campaign: "Together We Shine in Old Pasadena!" The campaign celebrates the unique spirit of Pasadena and Altadena, embracing their residents' resilience. *Source: Old Pasadena Management District*

THE PASADENA TOURNAMENT OF ROSES ASSOCIATION has selected eight high school seniors from the Pasadena Unified School District as 2025 ROSE Scholars. The program awarded \$20,000 to each of the graduating seniors. *Source: Pasadena Now*

ARTCENTER COLLEGE OF DESIGN HAS RECEIVED A \$16.9 MILLION GIFT from the late Trustee Chair Emeritus Judy Webb to "encourage excellence in design for the future by helping needy students with strong creative potential." *Source: Pasadena Now*

THE ROSE BOWL LEGACY FOUNDATION has received a \$3 million gift from long-time community leaders and philanthropists Mickey and Lee Segal. *Source: Rose Bowl Legacy Foundation*

PASADENA WATER AND POWER (PWP) was recently honored with three prestigious distinctions from the American Public Power Association (APPA): Safety Award of Excellence, Excellence in Public Power Communications Award, and a Smart Energy Provider designation. *Source: City of Pasadena*

A TASK FORCE CREATED TO OVERSEE SWEEPING CHANGES to LA County's governance structure held its inaugural meeting in late May. Following voters' passage in November of Measure G, which called for an expansion of the five-member Board of Supervisors to nine, starting in 2032, it also approved the County CEO as an elected position by 2028 and added the positions of County legislative analyst and director of Budget and Management. *Source: Pasadena Now*

CITY COUNCIL HAS URGED PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT (PUSD) to engage more directly with residents regarding its proposed workforce housing project at the former Roosevelt Elementary School site. The current proposal includes 110 rental units — 80 apartments and 30 townhomes — intended for PUSD employees. *Source: Pasadena Now*

PASADENA CITY COLLEGE CELEBRATED the grand opening of its newest and most advanced academic facility with the dedication of the Armen Sarafian Science Building. The 104,139-square-foot building, named in honor of Armen Sarafian, PCC's president from 1965 to 1976, replaces the original building, which was shuttered in 2012 due to seismic safety concerns. *Source: Pasadena Now*

Screened Water Color Painting by Joseph Stoddard

A&FC story starts 25 years ago

By John Howell

CEO, Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy

Twenty-five years ago, four Altadena neighbors, who loved living under sprawling coast live oaks surrounded by chaparral and sage scrub, and admiring local wildlife — bobcats, coyotes, black bears, mountain lions, and too many birds to count — started a community-led conservation movement through a land trust, the Altadena Foothills Conservancy.

By its twelfth year, AFC (now Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy, because we expanded our territory) had protected its 41-acre Rubio Canyon Preserve in Altadena and 8-acre Rosemont Preserve in La Crescenta. That same year we subtly shifted our focus toward wildlife corridors. We saved our

“As we mark our 25th Anniversary, we’re more enthusiastic than ever about making things dramatically better for wildlife.”

third preserve: 13 acres for wildlife to move freely along Millard Canyon’s stream from the San Gabriel Mountains to Hahamongna Watershed Park. Wildlife corridors would come to define us.

In 2013 we turned our sights to the San Rafael Hills. Cottonwood Canyon, 11 acres in continuous ownership since 1885, was about to go on the market. Residents shared ample local sightings of wildlife in the canyon area but wondered how they got there? Studying their movement, we learned that wildlife travels down the Arroyo Seco from Hahamongna, through Devil’s Gate Dam to Cottonwood Canyon, where they find free passage into the San Rafael Hills. The owners chose to conserve this essential corridor property, which became our fourth preserve.

Our next step was perhaps our most ambitious: linking the San Rafael Hills with the Verdugo Mountains and San Gabriels beyond. We named the effort the “Hahamongna to Tujunga Wildlife Corridor.”

As of today, our holdings have increased to six preserves and 18 properties, largely to protect wildlife passage routes. This work has just begun.



Our vision of urban conservation continues to evolve. We’ve been giving away milkweed since 2021 to help the dramatically depleted monarch butterfly population rebound. Many WPRM members now delight in discovering monarch caterpillars in their yards. This is the first step toward enhancing biodiversity within our own neighborhoods.

As we mark our 25th Anniversary, we’re more enthusiastic than ever about making things dramatically better for wildlife.

Visit arroyosfoothills.org for more information about our projects, events, and to donate to our mission.

THE CITY’S PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT IS DEVELOPING a new urban forestry approach that will prioritize native tree species and target plantings in the city’s hottest areas. The revised strategy, effective in the city’s 2025-2026 fiscal year, intends to make the tree canopy more resilient to climate change, while addressing urban heat islands. The plan also calls for increasing annual tree plantings to 600 from the historical norm of 400 trees. Source: *City of Pasadena*

A MAY 21 FIRE DESTROYED Arlington Garden’s storage shed and volunteer hub. The shed contained tools, equipment, supplies, physical records, a rain cistern, and even an irrigation control system. The park will remain closed for the time being. Source: *Arlington Garden*

CITY WATERING RULES (Level 2 Water Supply Shortage Plan) are permitted up to

two days a week through October. Even-numbered addresses may water on Mondays and Thursdays, while odd-numbered addresses may water on Tuesdays and Fridays. All outdoor watering must be done before 9 a.m. or after 6 p.m., with exceptions for hand-watering, tree health, and other water conserving methods, such as low-flow drip irrigation systems. Source: *City of Pasadena*

USING AN ARRAY OF SENSORS SET UP ACROSS A SWATH OF CENTRAL L.A., researchers from USC’s Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences tracked CO₂ emissions during an 18-month period. Over the course of a year, the study found that trees absorbed up to 60% of those emissions on average during daytime — significantly more than expected. Source: *LA Times*

CITING UNSTABLE HILLSIDES, DESTROYED INFRASTRUCTURE, and fragile regrowth

following the Eaton Fire, LA County and U.S. Forest Service officials have closed Eaton Canyon Natural Area indefinitely — at least through the end of this year. The closure affects both hiking and equestrian trails throughout the fire-damaged areas. Source: *Pasadena Now*

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT HAS RELEASED A DRAFT environmental impact report for “Pure Water Southern California,” a major water recycling program in partnership with the LA County Sanitation District. The program proposes to purify and reuse cleaned wastewater that is currently discharged to the ocean. At full capacity, the program is expected to produce enough water to meet the needs of 1.5 million people as early as 2033. Source: *The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California*

The "Beautiful Tree"

Tree of the quarter: Cape chestnut

Calodendrum capense (Cape chestnut)

Origin: Equatorial highlands of Kenya and South Africa
Family: Rutaceae

By Emina Darakjy
President, California Urban Forests Council

The *Calodendrum capense*, aka Cape chestnut, is a small- to medium-size, slow-growing tree with a dense rounded canopy reaching a height of 20 to 50 feet and spreading 25 to 40 feet wide.

This tree is considered an evergreen. It produces lots of shade, but can shed its leaves briefly in colder weather. The trunk is smooth, and light to dark grey. The leaves are oval, glossy dark green, simple, but not serrated, turning yellow in the fall. When crushed the leaves release a lemon/pine scent.

In the late spring to early summer, the crown and all its leaves are completely covered with clusters of delicate pink to lilac flowers, each having five petals with thin filaments that protrude from the center of the flowers.

In the fall, and after all the blooms are gone, five-lobed capsules appear on the tree. They are green with a warty surface that turns brown before opening like a flower, exposing small black seeds. An oil, known as Yangu oil, can be extracted from these seeds and is used in many skin and hair products throughout Africa.

The Cape chestnut does better in full sun and prefers moist, but well drained soil. The roots of this tree are not aggressive, making it a good candidate for a street tree, and is not prone to any pests or diseases.

If you are looking for a tree to add a spectacular focal point to any garden or park, look no further than the Cape chestnut.

In Greek the word *Kalos* means "beautiful," and the word "dendron" means a "tree." Thusly, a "beautiful tree." "Capense" refers to the South African "cape," in Latin.

Emina Darakjy is also chair of the Pasadena Beautiful Tree Program and engaged with other tree organizations, including California Re-Leaf, the Arbor Day Foundation and American Forests. She is also a past president of Pasadena Beautiful and Street Tree Seminar, Inc.



In the late spring to early summer the crown and all its leaves are completely covered with clusters of delicate pink to lilac flowers.

2025 WPRA annual meeting ...

Continued from front page

base is now, at least temporarily, gone. This amounts to less revenue, while rent, labor, and operating expenses continue to rise. "I encourage all to shop and dine locally," said Gordo.



Steve Madison: We need to be better prepared for disasters
District 6 Councilmember Steve Madison expressed his agreement with the mayor's sentiments.

Steve Madison

"I know we can convince our Council colleagues to put more resources into public safety and fire," said Madison. "Our Police Department is down some 20 officers from where it was 30 years ago." Policing, he said, "has not become less complex or less challenging since then. If anything, it's more challenging."

"Also," said Madison, "our Fire Department doesn't just need personnel. It needs capital investment." On a more positive note, Madison said that the Eaton Fire in January proved that the city has tremendous resources, in terms of our people and places, like the Rose Bowl Stadium, which was converted – overnight -- into a command center for first-responders. In fact, he said, "I'd like to see us have a permanent fire department headquarters and training center in Pasadena, possibly at the Rose Bowl."

In closing, Madison noted that August will mark the third anniversary of when Caltrans ceded to the city the 50+ acres that comprise the 710 stub. "It's time to move forward to deliver to the city's residents and businesses economic benefits, additional housing, and more jobs," he said.

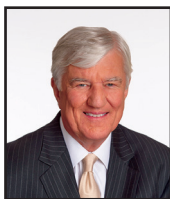


Yarma Velázquez, PhD

Yarma Velázquez: PASD strives to recover from Eaton Fire
"June 5 marks the happiest day of the year – the last day of school," said Dr. Yarma Velázquez, the west Pasadena District 7 representative on the

Pasadena Unified School Board. "Across PASD, we celebrated with joy, parties and a few tears," she added.

She noted that earlier on that day the graduating class at John Muir High School paused to recognize fellow students and staff affected by the Eaton wildfire, many of whom lost their home. "The impact of that wildfire has been significant," she said, "but thanks to 'our strong partnership with the city, PASD has been able to reopen schools safely and invest resources to clean and test all campuses – not just those near the fires.'"



Pete Ewing

Pete Ewing: Time to get moving on the 710 project

Second term WPRA President Pete Ewing agreed with Councilmember Madison's declaration that it was time to start making progress in the 710 stub project. "From the WPRA's perspective," said Ewing, "the pace of progress has been too slow."

"But we're excited by the city's creation of a new standing committee," said Ewing, "that will address mobility and land use in the stub, about which the WPRA has some history." The WPRA engaged in a seminal 710 project 10 years ago through the Connecting Pasadena Project (CPP). More than 200 city residents, led by several recognized

planning and traffic experts, participated in this charette to create several prospective development paths for the stub.

"For 60 years," said Ewing, "residents and businesses in west Pasadena suffered from both occupied and unoccupied – but generally poorly maintained – houses. We believe that both mobility and land use are critical building blocks, topics about which residents of west Pasadena are well familiar."

Thanks, where it's due

Master of Ceremonies Blaine Cavena thanked those who contributed to making the meeting a success, starting with Maranatha High School, for welcoming the WPRA to once again use its facilities for the meeting, and Pasadena Media for recording the event and making it available to the world. (See the link on the front page, to view the meeting.)

Cavena also cited several WPRA board members for helping to create the evening's program. These included meeting co-chairs Carlos Javelera and Lee Wallace. Additionally, he applauded the noteworthy efforts made by board members Lynne Sullivan, Joan Hearst, Susan Kinney, Chuck Hudson, and President Pete Ewing. Cavena saved his final display of gratitude for all those in the audience and at home who care deeply enough about their city to help support the WPRA's mission on their behalf.



It was approaching standing room only at the 2025 WPRA annual meeting, which focused on how residents can better protect life and property from the very real risk of wildfires. WPRA members also elected their 2025-2026 fiscal year Board of Directors. (For a listing of board members and officers, see page 2.) (Photo by Bob Reiter)

A preservation perspective

Restoration at two historic buildings will increase inventory of affordable housing

By Sue Mossman

Former Pasadena Heritage executive director

Worries about historic buildings in Pasadena are a constant in my world, so it's great to find good news such as the news that two century-old buildings providing very affordable housing are being restored and improved today.

Green Hotel Apartments

The Green Hotel Apartments were the last portion of the grand Hotel Green resort built at the turn of the last century. The apartments face Green Street between Raymond and Fair Oaks avenues. This 1904 addition is a more simplified design, but was blended nicely with the ornate Castle Green (now privately owned condominiums). Designed by architect Frederick Lewis Roehrig, as was the Castle Green, this last addition was much less extravagant than the Castle.

The original Green Hotel (long since demolished) was located on the east side of Raymond Ave. It boasted a train depot right at its doorstep — Pasadena's first train station from the 1880s, which was replaced in about 1930 by the Santa Fe Depot a bit further south. The hotel was expanded north to Green St, and then, with tourism booming, Col. Green added another major building across Raymond Ave. with a foot bridge connecting it to the original hotel, well above street level. A portion of that bridge remains

and is a dramatic feature of the building we know today as the Castle Green.

The Green Hotel Apartments incorporated, on its west end, the existing Wooster Block. (In the 1800s, large commercial buildings were often called "blocks".) The Wooster Block, with its massive Richardsonian Romanesque arches, occupied the corner of Green St. and Fair Oaks Ave. and was melded into the new construction.

For decades, the Green Hotel Apartments have been separately owned and managed as a single-room occupancy (SRO) residential facility for very low-income seniors. Goldrich Kest owned the building for more than 30 years, but recently sold it to Community Preservation Partners. Much needed exterior restoration is now in progress as are upgrades to the building systems and individual units. Adaptation of the ground floor spaces will provide for more communal uses. A large formal ballroom, reception area, offices and a kitchen once occupied much of the first floor.

Driving by today, one sees only the scaffolding and shrouded exterior while the building is undergoing restoration. When completed, I hope we'll see this National



Sue Mossman

Register historic building looking refreshed and offering much improved living spaces for its residents.

Centennial Place

Another National Register building is the former YMCA, part of the Civic Center Historic District. Facing Marengo and extending east toward City Hall, the building has been known as Centennial Place since it was sold by the YMCA more than twenty years ago.

Owned and managed by Abode, an affordable housing non-profit, Centennial Place has served as very low-income housing, reflecting the building's YMCA history. There is some commercial space on the first floor facing Marengo, a gym, and a moth-balled swimming pool in the basement all done in Batchelder tile. (It has long been a dream of mine to see that swimming pool restored!)

The configuration of the single-room units with shared bathroom facilities has been difficult to manage, and the building has been in need of upgrades and rehabilitation for years. The City's Housing Department was instrumental in securing grant funds for the major upgrades now underway within the building. It's my understanding that Centennial Place will also now be designed for seniors.

THE HITS JUST KEEP ON COMING ... from Sacramento and Bay Area State Sen. Scott Wiener, who has introduced two new bills — SB 79 and SB 607 — earlier this year:

- **SB 79** (Abundant & Affordable Homes Near Transit Act) as filed proposes to increase housing density of up to seven stories within a half mile of public transit stops. In Pasadena, this rule would include Gold/A Line stations, Metro's Bus Rapid Transit stops between North Hollywood and Pasadena, and Pasadena Transit bus stops. The bill

would also permit new construction in residential, commercial, and light industrial zones — even where multi-family housing is currently not allowed. *Source: Pasadena Heritage*

- **SB 607** proposed three new California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) rules that amended two existing rules. While being promoted as a housing reform, this bill is part of a broader push to streamline development. In late May SB 607 passed out of the Senate Appropriations

Committee, which amended and deleted original substantive content, replacing it with "intent" language that signaled the need for continued legislative discussions around CEQA reform. The bill as filed would have exempted rezonings from CEQA review, if the project aligned with an approved housing element, and shut the public out of the CEQA review and comment process. *Sources: Coastal Environmental Rights Foundation, Miller Starr Regalia, and Vanguard News Group*

'Meet and Greet' serves up friendship, insight

While the theme for the WPRA annual meeting program changes every year, one tradition -- the "Meet & Greet" -- remains unchanged. During this segment attendees have the opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new ones, while snacking on sweet-baked treats from Rachel's Kitchen.

Equally important, it's also an opportunity for leading community organizations to share information about the good works they do and causes they support. This year we gratefully welcomed the following 25 exhibitors. (The **red** letters on this page, relate to the letters on the photos on page 9.)

- Allied Disaster and Defense
- Allied Restoration
- Arlington Garden
- Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy **A**
- ArtCenter College of Design **D**
- California Department of Insurance
- Firewise Community San Raphael Hills
- Firewise USA
- Friends In Deed **J**
- Keep Pasadena Moving
- One Arroyo Foundation
- Pasadena Parks, Recreation and Community Services
- Pasadena 100 **L**

- Pasadena Beautiful **I**
- Pasadena Fire Department **C**
- Pasadena Heritage
- Pasadena Senior Center **B**
- Pasadena Sister Cities
- Pasadena Public Works **F**

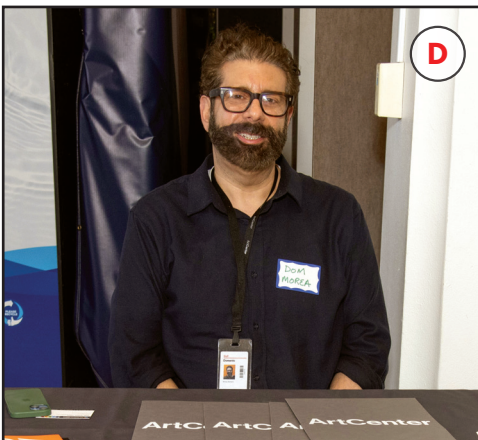
- Pasadena Museum of History
- Pasadena Water and Power **E & G**
- Rose Bowl Stadium **H**
- San Rafael/Linda Vista branch libraries
- Stewards of the Arroyo Seco
- Union Station Homeless Services **K**



Claire Bogaard, community activist and spouse of former Pasadena Mayor Bill Bogaard, checks-in for the 2025 WPRA annual meeting. Greeting her are WPRA board members Lynne Sullivan (left) and Susan Kinney (right), and Lisa Beck. (Photo by Bob Reiter)



The main program began with a Presentation of Colors, this year led by the Boy Scout Troop 131 color guard, and the Pledge of Allegiance. (Photo by Bob Reiter)



All photos by Bob Reiter



The main annual meeting program panel included (left to right): **J. Lopez**, executive director, California Wildfire Mitigation Program Authority; keynote speaker **Julia Juarez**, deputy insurance commissioner, California Department of Insurance; and three panel presenters — **O.P. Almaraz**, CEO, of Allied Restoration Services; **Beth Burnam**, regional coordinator, Firewise California; and **Daniel Rossman**, executive director, One Arroyo Foundation. (Photo by Bob Reiter)

Wildfire prevention is the key, starts with you

The idea behind the annual WPRA meeting's main program theme emerged from the ashes of the January wakeup-call residents and businesses received. What once seemed unlikely was suddenly all too real: The Eaton Fire destroyed nearly 10,000 structures on 14,000 acres in Altadena and, to a lesser degree, Pasadena. The fire also resulted in 18 deaths, all but one in Altadena.

To acknowledge the risk and opportunities, the annual meeting focused on what residents can do to reduce the risk of wildfires by better protecting life and property.

J. Lopez: Moderator focuses on conversations

In his capacity as program moderator, J. Lopez, executive director, California Wildfire Mitigation Program Authority, and member of California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, invited the audience to consider the hypothetical John and Betty.

Whatever their age, your mission is to recommend that they 'harden' their home. Likely responses are 'What's that?' or 'How do we do that?' or 'Where do we start?'" Fortunately, to make these conversations easier the State Department of Insurance is developing a report that will help educate the public about the key concepts of home hardening."

Lopez then turned the dais over to the evening's keynote speaker **Julia Juarez**, deputy insurance commissioner, California Department of Insurance, and the three panel presenters: **O.P. Almaraz**, CEO, of Allied Restoration Services; **Beth Burnam**, regional coordinator, Firewise California;



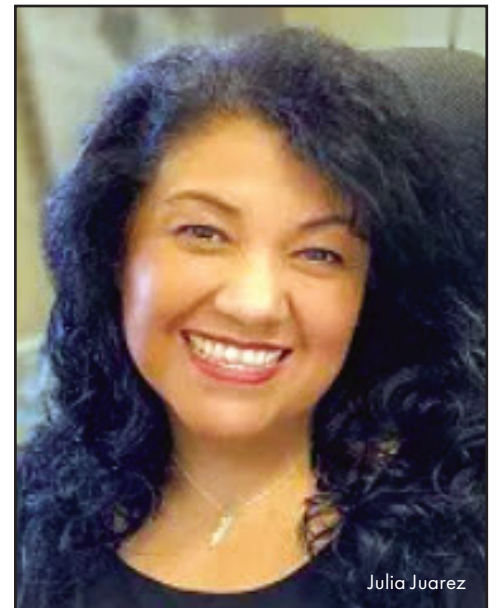
and **Daniel Rossman**, executive director, One Arroyo Foundation

Julia Juarez: Wrestling with insurance challenges

Juarez opened with some sobering facts related to the Eaton Fire. The State has received about 28,000 claims and insurance companies have already paid out more than \$12 billion. "There is still much more work to be done," she said.

A part of her message to homeowners is that whether their home was damaged or lost in a fire, insurance companies are "not permitted to drop your coverage in any way, shape or form."

Fraud has also emerged. The Department of Insurance -- alongside about 300 officers and local sworn police officers -- are working locally with the victims of the fire



to prevent fraud. "If you are contacted by someone with a pitch that sounds fishy" or is too good to be true let us know."

She acknowledged that California is in the middle of an insurance crisis. "Ultimately, what this means is that of the more than 100 insurance companies operating in California, the top 12 do about 85% of the business, and some insurers have paused selling new policies while they ask for rate increases," she said.

Further than that, she said the Fair Access to Insurance Requirements (FAIR) Plan, which serves as the insurer of last resort, now covers about 4% in the entire market. The plan was created to serve property owners for a short period of time while they sought permanent insurance. Also, the plan covers only fire; no other perils, she said.

Continued on page 11

The good news, when it comes to home hardening, is that it only takes about eight homes to create a Firesafe community, she said. "And once you meet the Firesafe requirements, you can go back to your insurance company for continued coverage or a premium discount."

In 2019 the FAIR Plan offered coverage of up to \$3 million, which for some properties was not enough. Fortunately, the current coverage limit has risen since then to \$20 million. "Also," she said, "under new rules insurance companies must tell you what your *wildfire risk score* is and why." A detailed report supporting the company's declaration must also be made available to homeowners.

The bottom line is "if you are having any type of issues with an insurance company, the department can serve as your consumer advocate," she said.

O.P. Almaras: Prevention is the key; it starts at home

"Have you ever faced the fear of wondering if your home will survive a wildfire? That was my reality during the Blue Ridge Fire near Chino Hills in 2020. This experience inspired me to partner with Capt. Rick Snyder, a 30-year fire service veteran, to develop a program that helps homeowners prepare for wildfire threats, aligning with insurance industry standards."

As we all know, wildfires are now a constant risk in California. Sadly, Almaras said, "we can't rely solely on fire departments for protection. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1710 recommends three fire trucks and 15 firefighters per house fire — an impossible standard during major wildfires. Suppression alone isn't enough; prevention is key, and it starts at home."

There are three main ways your home can ignite during a wildfire:

- Direct flame contact
- Radiant heat (the invisible, powerful heat you feel near a campfire)
- Ember attacks (burning debris carried by wind)

Research from the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety (IBHS) concludes that simple changes can make a big difference. For example, he said, "replacing



O.P. Almaras

wood fences with metal, removing bark mulch within 5 feet of your home, and installing ember-resistant attic vents can significantly reduce risk." He added that the first 5 feet around a home are the most vulnerable, "so keep this area clear of flammable vegetation," he said.

California now approves grants for home hardening, and IBHS offers a "Wildfire Prepared" certificate for homes that meet its standards. "This can help with insurance and peace of mind. Every home is unique, so consider a wildfire assessment to identify specific vulnerabilities. You can do much of this work yourself or hire professionals," he said.

Beth Burnam: Preparedness isn't a one-time effort; it's year-round

Beth Burnam has been a community organizer in wildfire preparedness for 15 years. After retiring from business, she moved to Topanga Canyon and recognized the urgent need to organize her community to be wildfire-ready. Today, her focus is in Mono and Inyo counties, as a volunteer Firewise USA® Regional Wildfire Coordinator. "My team and I do this out of passion — to help communities become better prepared," she said.

"One of the best ways to increase resilience is through organizing as a Firewise USA community," said Beth. "Wildfire preparedness starts with personal responsibility, but community effort makes the biggest impact. The process can be overwhelming alone, but with the right tools



Beth Burnam

and local support, it becomes manageable and sustainable."

She stressed that wildfire preparedness isn't a one-time effort; it's year-round. "I learned this firsthand," Beth said. "My first experience with wildfire was the 1961 Bel Air Fire when I was 5. It burned 6,000 acres and destroyed nearly 500 homes. Today's wildfires are larger and more destructive — 15 of California's 20 worst have occurred in just the last decade."

Despite our state's vast firefighting resources — including aircraft, strike teams, and hotshots — "we continue to see devastating results. We can't just rely on response. Prevention is the key activity to discourage fires from igniting and burning homes," she said, "and that starts with us."

Firewise USA offers a simple, four-step approach:

1. Organize your community: Map your area, form a committee, and count the homes involved.
2. Create a plan: Conduct a wildfire risk assessment and develop a three-year action plan.
3. Take action: Invest time in home hardening and brush clearing.
4. Report your progress to Firewise.

This isn't an enforcement program; it's educational. And it's designed for everyone, even if you're starting from zero knowledge.

Continued on page 12

PASADENA HERITAGE'S SIGNATURE BIENNIAL COMMUNITY CELEBRATION, the Colorado Street Bridge Party, returns on Saturday, July 19, from 6 - 11:30 p.m. The bridge will be closed to traffic. All are invited to support historic preservation and enjoy a fabulous summer evening on the world-famous historic span over the Arroyo Seco. Expect live music, dancing, vintage cars, kids' activities, and festive food and beverages galore. For more information, visit Pasadenaheritage.org. The WPRA is a proud sponsor. (Photo by Camille Stemmons, courtesy of Pasadena Heritage)



Wildfire prevention is ...

Continued from page 11

Wildfire resilience starts with us — our choices, our preparation, and our community.

Daniel Rossman: You can help protect the Arroyo from wildfires

Pasadena resident Daniel Rossman, executive director of the One Arroyo Foundation, has more than 20 years of conservation experience, most recently with The Wilderness Society. He has a deep personal connection to the Arroyo Seco, and now leads the effort to preserve, restore, and celebrate this unique urban wilderness.

Fire readiness has become a critical focus for the foundation. "One Arroyo supports brush clearance efforts and is exploring innovative fire mitigation strategies such as a potential pilot program using goats to reduce flammable vegetation in steep, hard-to-reach areas."

The One Arroyo Foundation was born from the Arroyo Advisory Group, led by

former Mayor Bill Bogaard and the late Doug Kranwinkle. Inspired by models like New York's Central Park Conservancy, the foundation supports Pasadena's vision for the Arroyo through a public-private partnership. "With aging infrastructure and growing climate challenges," he said, "the city needs partners to help realize the ambitious Arroyo Seco Master Plan."

The foundation raises funds and prepares projects, while the city handles implementation.

Recently, the foundation completed trail improvements in the Lower Arroyo and Devil's Gate areas. It continues to advance projects from the City's Capital Improvement Plan, including work on trails and historic features like the amphitheater at Lower Brookside Park.

"Volunteers play a key role" says Rossman. Community cleanups, education initiatives, and hands-on projects help steward the Arroyo. Rossman emphasizes the importance of partnerships and invites the public to



Daniel Rossman

get involved — by donating, becoming a member, or volunteering.

"We can't do it alone," says Rossman. "The Arroyo is a treasure, and it will take all of us to protect it."

OPINION

Bridge barrier designs are under construction

By Dave Bise
Treasurer, Public Safety chair

There hasn't been much to report since the last Public Safety Committee meeting on July 17, 2024, when the Colorado Bridge Project was discussed as an informational item. Internal work, however, has continued to advance design options and prepare for the next phase of public engagement. The city believes it's still on track to bring the discussion back to the public by the end of summer.

A bridge stakeholder meeting took place last October with representatives from Apex Architecture, Public Works, Fire and Police departments, Pasadena Heritage, Didi Hirsch, and Councilmember Madison's office. The Design Commission and the Historic Preservation Commissions were not included in the meeting.

It's curious to this writer, who has been following this story for many years, as to why the city continues to push two design options that few seem to want and will change the look of this historic structure. Their own public survey results showed that most people are not in favor of a permanent vertical barrier and wish other solutions to be considered. Alternative measures have been discussed, but so far none are being seriously considered by City staff due to complexity, cost or other factors.

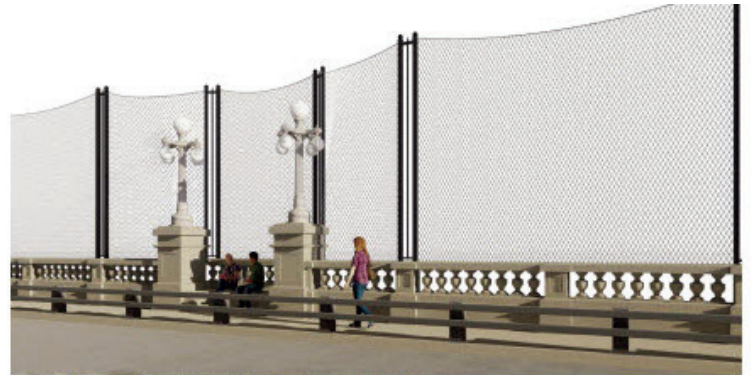
Two full-size mockups of the final two designs (one featuring vertical netting and one with pickets) have been designed and engineered to help evaluate safety and design options. The city received proposals for materials and labor, finalized contracts, and placed all necessary orders. Materials were delivered, and construction is expected to be completed by early July.

Once materials are delivered, the mockups will be constructed at the City's Fire Training Facility and evaluated based on key criteria such as climbability, accessibility for first responders, durability, ease of maintenance, and overall appearance. This will also give the stakeholder group a better sense of scale and visual impact, and also avoids the operational and safety challenges of installing temporary structures on the bridge itself. This will help inform staff recommendations moving forward. Public Works engineering will await the decision to install mock-ups after they are presented to the Public Safety Committee.

Following the evaluation period, staff will prepare a report with findings and recommendations to share with the Historic Preservation and Design Commissions, and, ultimately, the Public Safety Committee later this summer.



METAL PICKETS



VERTICAL WEBMESH

PASADENA FIRE CHIEF CHAD AUGUSTIN UNVEILED AN AMBITIOUS 10-year expansion plan that could cost up to \$200 million over 10 years and require voter approval, citing critical staffing shortages exposed during January's devastating Eaton Fire. The plan includes a 1-2 year plan of adding a second battalion chief, a 2-5 year plan of adding a ninth fire engine and seventh rescue ambulance, and a 5-10 year plan for a ninth fire station and third ladder truck. *Source: Pasadena Now*

A STATE ENTITY HAS CLEARED THE LAST OF NINE fire-impacted public water systems

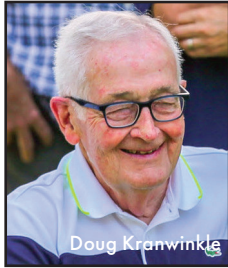
to resume delivering safe, clean drinking water to customers. The Las Flores Water Company in Altadena lifted its notice — the last remaining do-not-drink/do-not-boil advisory for a fire-impacted system. *Source: Pasadena Now*

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS has adopted the Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water, a strategy to ensure Southern California has a reliable supply of water amid hotter temperatures, more extreme droughts, less snowpack and rising sea levels. *Source: Metropolitan Water District of*

Southern California

IN 2017 THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS VOTED to use flood control systems along the San Gabriel and Rio Hondo watersheds to create a network of community greenways. That plan also intends to repurpose unused or underutilized rights-of-way within flood control channels, while providing space for new pocket parks, street crossing and safety improvements, and a stormwater infrastructure. *Source: Urbanize/Los Angeles*

Doug Kranwinkle, a nearly 60-year resident of Pasadena, passed away recently at age 85. Born in Elgin, Illinois, in 1940, Kranwinkle graduated from Northwestern University and University of Michigan Law School. He clerked for Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren in 1967, and shortly after moved to Pasadena to join Munger, Tolles, Hills and Rickershauser, for which he became a partner. In 2000, he became general counsel at Univision. In Pasadena, he co-chaired the Arroyo Advisory Group, which led to the formation of the One Arroyo Foundation. Kranwinkle also served as president of the Rose Bowl Operating Company Board of Directors and was a member of the Steering Committee for the Rose Bowl Institute. *Source: City of Pasadena*



Ann Erdman, a former City of Pasadena director of Public Affairs and Public Information Officer, has died at age 74. She served the City in these roles from 1991 to 2012. Previously, Erdman spent more than five years as the spokesperson for the city of Palm Springs, and before that built an advertising and public relations practice in the private sector. *Source: Pasadena Now*

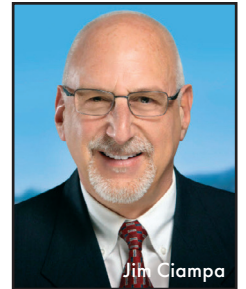


Khanh Russo will be the next president and CEO of Pasadena Community Foundation, following the retirement of Jennifer DeVoll. Khanh currently serves as vice



president of Policy and Innovation at the San Francisco Foundation. Also, PCF reported that it had awarded \$1.3 million from its Eaton Fire Relief & Recovery Fund to mitigate some of the most serious issues impacting childcare centers and providers, as well as the families and children. *Source: Pasadena Now*

JIM CIAMPA, A PARTNER at local law firm Lagerlof, LLP, was appointed to the Pasadena Tournament of Roses' Executive Committee and chosen to serve as the association's president in 2032 and 2033. Ciampa, who has volunteered with the Tournament of Roses since 1996, will eventually oversee the 144th Rose Parade and 119th Rose Bowl Game. *Source: Pasadena Now*



Getting better with age! PSC celebrates 65 years

Innovative. Unwavering. Empowering. These are just a few of the words many Pasadena area residents use to describe the Pasadena Senior Center (PSC), which is celebrating 65 years of service to older adults through programs, classes, and social connection.

Formed in 1960 the PSC has continually evolved. But the PSC is more than just a senior center. It is also a lifeline for thousands of people who rely on it to enrich their lives and help keep them healthy and happy.

The PSC focuses on **health and wellness** programs that promote mobility, strength and independence; on the **arts, learning**



and enrichment to foster creativity, cultural engagement and social interaction; **special events and clubs** to foster joy and community; and **social services** that address food insecurity, mental health needs and other related needs.

What's more, the PSC is light on its feet and quite flexible for its 65 years! In the immediate aftermath of the devastating Eaton Fire, the PSC went into action. It connected with impacted citizens by serving as a lifeline for the whole community. It also awarded scholarships to more than 50 Altadena seniors, who lost the Altadena Senior Center in the fire, and offered health screenings and recovery assistance, including free air filters, food and water.

Now, it's time to celebrate all the PSC has achieved in the past 65 years. On **Oct. 19** the Center is marking its 65th birthday by hosting a special dinner to honor two of the Center's long-time volunteers:

- **Kathy Eastwood R.N.** has partnered for more than 12 years with PSC by enhancing



wellness and education for older adults, as well as leading health screenings and talks, chair yoga and a diabetes empowerment series.

- **Laura Mosqueda, M.D.**, is a professor of family medicine and geriatrics, and a widely-respected authority on care of older adults, with a particular focus on prevention of elder abuse. She has served on PSC's advisory council for more than 12 years.

The PSC invites you to join the celebration and become a sponsor for our October 19 celebration event. Sponsors receive tickets, name recognition and acknowledgment and more, and will help ensure that the PSC continues its vital services for older community members for the next 65 years.

For more information and to become a sponsor, contact Mary Avila or Pam Kaye at (626) 795-4331.

Fényes, Lummis champion documentation of native Californian dwellings

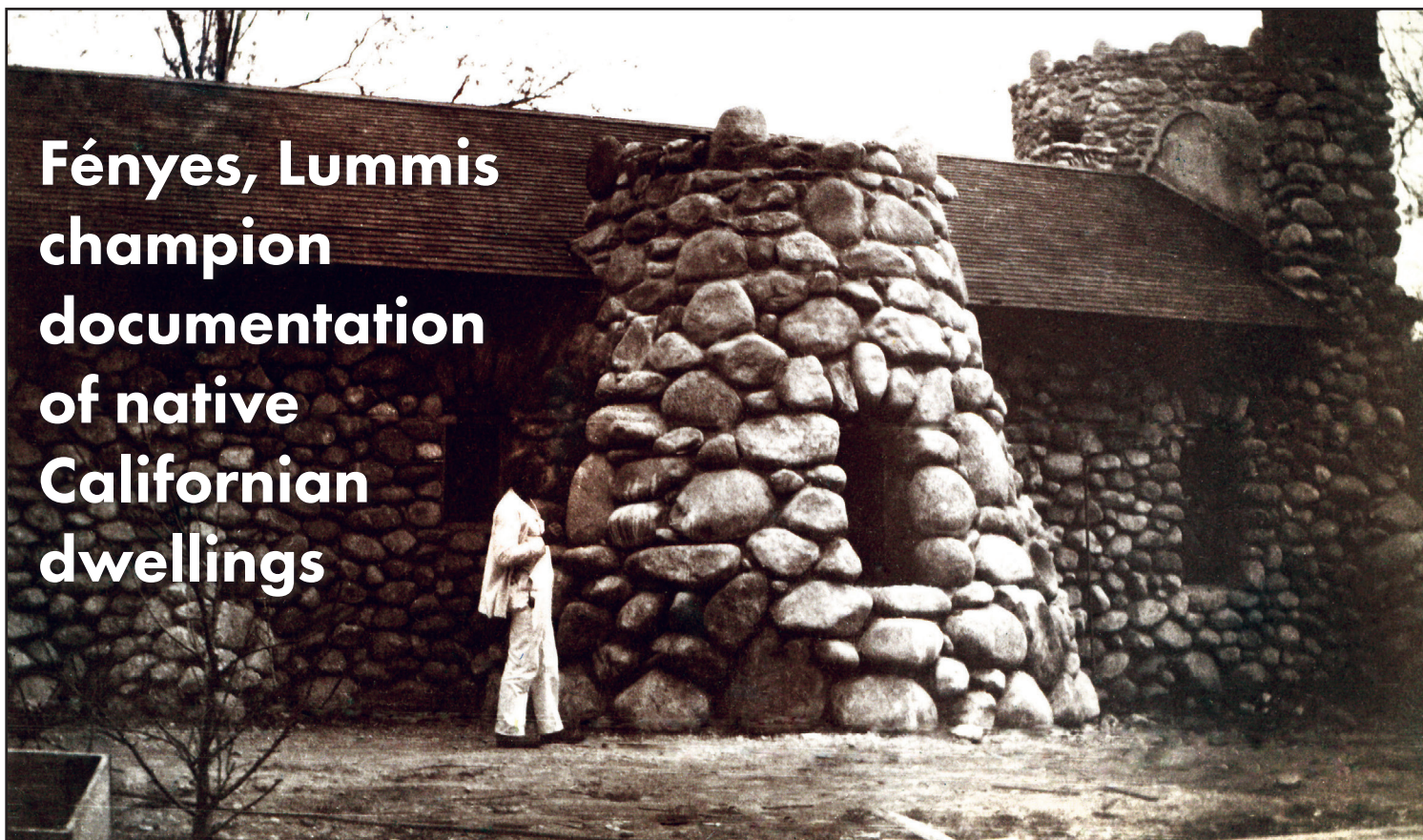


Photo taken by Eva Scott Fényes of Charles Fletcher Lummis at El Alisal. She captioned it: "Mr. Lummis still building his home" in May 1904. (Courtesy of the archives at Pasadena Museum of History; Fényes-Curtin-Paloheimo Collection, FCP.40.1.78a)

By Christian Rodriguez
Visitor Services and Outreach Manager
Pasadena Museum of History

As the curator of El Alisal, the historic home of Charles Fletcher Lummis, and in my new role at the Pasadena Museum of History, located on the former estate of Eva Scott Fényes, I find myself at a unique intersection of two visionary figures who helped shape the cultural identity of the Southwest.

In preparing for a presentation I gave in April 2023 at the PMH, I delved deeply into the correspondence between Lummis and Fényes. These letters offer insight into their personal ambitions and reveal Fényes as a quiet yet influential figure in preservation and cultural documentation — especially in relation to California's historic architecture.

When Eva Fényes arrived in Pasadena in 1896, she sought not just winter sunshine, but a permanent home for her family and a space to reinvent her intellectual and creative life. She approached California and the Southwest not just as picturesque

curiosities, but as a region of deep historical significance. A reading list noted in her journals shortly after her arrival included "A Century of Dishonor" by Helen Hunt Jackson and "A Land of Poco Tiempo" by Charles Lummis — a book she described as "brilliant."

Fényes and Lummis soon began corresponding regularly. She gave substantial financial support to his causes, especially the Southwest Museum, of which she was a founding member. But while Lummis is often credited with influencing her interest in the region, their letters show that she frequently initiated her own research, contributing sketches and materials to the museum.

In a letter dated September 18, 1916, she writes:
"My dear Mr. Lummis, may I ask for a few minutes of your valuable time and for a little information from your full store? Recently, while working over my little sketches of 'Adobes,' -the thought struck me that a collection of Indian Californian dwellings -- primitive ones Has this ever, to your knowledge, been done before? If not, can

you recommend any particular authorities? If only somebody had illustrated Indian huts & cabins as did the artists of your treasures, the works on mining and oranges!"

Two days later, Lummis wrote sincerely and succinctly in his journal, "Fényes is full of fine ideas for the museum."

It is especially notable that, at a time when mainstream preservation efforts in California focused almost exclusively on Spanish Colonial and Mission-era architecture, Eva Fényes was already championing the documentation of Native Californian dwellings, advancing a broader and more inclusive approach to architectural preservation and archival practice.



Charles Fletcher Lummis (Photo courtesy of the Lummis Legacy League)



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Pasadena

Mayor Victor Gordo
vgordo@cityofpasadena.net

City Manager Miguel Márquez
migueldmarquez@cityofpasadena.net

Police Chief Eugene Harris
eharris@cityofpasadena.net

Fire Chief Chad Augustin
caugustin@cityofpasadena.net

City Clerk Mark Jomsky
mjomsky@cityofpasadena.net

City Council

Tyron Hampton, Council District 1
thampton@cityofpasadena.net

Rick Cole, Council District 2
rcole@cityofpasadena.net

Justin Jones, Council District 3
justinjones@cityofpasadena.net

Gene Masuda, Council District 4
gmaseda@cityofpasadena.net

Jessica Rivas, Council District 5
and Vice Mayor
jrivas@cityofpasadena.net

Steve Madison, Council District 6
smadison@cityofpasadena.net

Jason Lyon, Council District 7
jlyon@cityofpasadena.net

Los Angeles County

LA County Supervisor Kathryn Barger
(District 5): Kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov

California

Governor Gavin Newsom
gov.ca.gov/contact/

Senator Sasha Renée Pérez (D-25):
senator.perez@senate.ca.gov

Assemblymember John Harabedian (D-41):
assemblymember.harabedian@assembly.ca.gov

United States

President Donald J. Trump
president@whitehouse.gov

Vice President JD Vance
vice.president@whitehouse.gov

Senator Adam Schiff
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padilla.senate.gov/contact/contact-form

Representative Judy Chu (D-28):
chu.house.gov/contact

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