

Preservation Conversation



March 2010

www.MOHPG.org

Volume 18, Number 3

Meeting News

Seminar open to all

■ MOHPG will present a free public seminar to help homeowners learn about the green options for their houses on Saturday, March 27, from 9-11 a.m.

by Sheila McCarthy

MOHPG and the City of Monrovia are joining the conversation about sustainability by offering to the public a free seminar that educates homeowners about what they can do now to make their homes more energy efficient and at the same time save money and reduce greenhouse gases.

The Green Your Home Seminar is being presented by the HartmanBaldwin Design/Build firm of Claremont. All MOHPG members are encouraged to attend and to tell their neighbors about this informative seminar.

Home energy efficiency has moved to the front of the public's consciousness recently. The U.S. Department of Energy and State of California have established goals to reduce the energy consumption of residen-



**SATURDAY
MARCH 27, 2010
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
MONROVIA
COMMUNITY
CENTER**

Graphic: HartmanBaldwin Design/Build

tial homes and are creating new rebates and financial incentives linked to retrofitting homes that are scheduled to be launched over the next few months.

Homeowners will be bombarded with information about whole-house energy audits and retrofits, and the Green Your Home Seminar can help them understand these programs.

The seminar will also cover the global perspective on energy efficiency, the true definitions of green building and sustainability, and the sustainability considerations when remodeling or building.

The Green your Home Seminar will be Saturday, March 27, from 9-11 a.m. at the Monrovia

Community Center, 119 W. Palm Ave. The presentation is free and open to the public. To help make sure there is enough space for all attendees, please RSVP for the seminar by calling (626) 486-0510, or register online at www.HartmanBaldwin.com/gyhs and click on "registration."

The seminar speakers will be Devon Hartman and Bill Judson, LEED-accredited architects from HartmanBaldwin. For three years they have been visiting community groups in the region to educate homeowners on the topics of energy efficiency and green building.

Devon Hartman is an expert in energy efficiency and envi-

ronmentally sound building approaches in the residential and historic restoration sectors. He now consults with several cities in Southern California to create programs that dramatically reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions.

The federal government has a goal to reduce the country's production of carbon dioxide to 1990 levels by the year 2030. California's more accelerated goal is to meet that benchmark by the year 2020. According to Devon Hartman, energy efficiency is the "magic bullet" to reduce greenhouse gases in the United States, and residential homes are one of the most inef-

Please see **Seminar** Page 5

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MOHPG

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P.O. Box 734
Monrovia, CA 91017
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The Monrovia Historic
Preservation Group is entrusted
with Monrovia's heritage through
preservation, education, and
community involvement.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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The MOHPG Board of Directors meets the first Sunday of each month at 10 a.m. All are welcome to attend. Contact MOHPG President Jim Wigton or any Board member for meeting location and more information.

MOHPG is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit California corporation. Donations and membership dues may be tax deductible; please consult your tax adviser.



NEWSLETTER

Editors Sheila McCarthy (626) 358-8825 Kathleen Jolly (626) 301-0733	Staff Jean Andresen Pam Barkas Sylvia Dohnal Larry Marotta Martha Rund
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The MOHPG newsletter committee welcomes article submissions and letters from our members for publication in the newsletter. All submissions are subject to editing.

President's Message

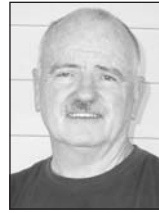
Our historic homes can also be "green"

If you attended one of the three Strategic Planning sessions held by MOHPG back in late 2007 and early 2008, you may recall that one of the directives from those in attendance was to sponsor more workshops for the community that address restoration, preservation and other timely topics. Prior to those meetings, in February 2006, MOHPG sponsored a public workshop at the Community Center on Historic Landmarking (to see the PowerPoint presentation from that day, go to www.mohpg.org and click on "Landmarking Your Home" in the left-hand column).

So it is appropriate that our March 2010 program is another public seminar. This time the topic is home energy efficiency. MOHPG is sponsoring the Green Your Home Seminar with the City of Monrovia, and the seminar presenters are Devon Hartman and Bill Judson from the HartmanBaldwin Design/Build firm of Claremont. The Green Your Home Seminar will provide information for owners of older homes (or any homes, for that matter) on ways we each can reduce our home's carbon footprint and save money in the process. This is an issue of growing importance in our world as we recognize the consequences of consuming our natural resources and the increasing costs of energy. The seminar will be held Saturday, March 27, 9-11 a.m. at the Community Center and it is free and open to the public. If you can make it, you should attend this important seminar. Complete details are available on the front page of this newsletter and in the flier insert.

L.A. Heritage Day

On Sunday, April 11, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., MOHPG will have a booth at the third annual Los Angeles Heritage Day, being held at Heritage Square Museum just off the Pasadena (110) Freeway. If the location sounds familiar, it should — MOHPG toured the Heritage Square



Jim Wigton

Museum in June 2008. Over 100 heritage groups will have a presence there with a chance to inform the public about their preservation efforts and activities, and MOHPG will be afforded the opportunity to share what we have accomplished over the past 30 years. A few members are needed to interact with the public by manning a booth at this event. If you are interested, contact me (626-599-8187) for more information.

New password

In next month's newsletter you will find an insert with a new password to the members-only section of the MOHPG website. Unless you have renewed your membership for 2010, this newsletter (March 2010) will be the last you will receive. Our strength as an organization increases directly as the size of our membership grows. To renew you have only to visit the Online Store on our website and use either PayPal or download the membership renewal form if you wish to pay by check. A new password will be issued every year about this time.

Mural discovery

A collection of 15 murals painted in the 1960s has been discovered in the basement of the Monrovia Historical Museum. According to Steve Baker, the murals were painted for the U.S. National Bank, which was located at the southeast corner of Foothill Boulevard and Myrtle Avenue. When that corner was redeveloped, the murals were removed and given to the museum. MOHPG hopes to lend its assistance in finding an appropriate place where the murals can be displayed. The murals range in size from a couple of feet long to over 10 feet long.

I'll see you at the Green Your Home Seminar on March 27!

Jim Wigton
MOHPG President

Membership information

MOHPG's yearly membership dues are \$25 for a household, \$20 for an individual and \$15 for a senior (65 years and older). When you pay for four years of membership you get the fifth year free.

MOHPG also accepts gift memberships

and general donations. Send a check with your name, address, phone number(s) and e-mail address to: **MOHPG, P.O. Box 734, Monrovia, CA 91017**. You may pay with a credit card by visiting our website — www.mohpg.org — and clicking on the "Online Store" link.

Board Report

Lapsed members have last chance to renew

by Kathleen Jolly

At the Board of Directors' meeting on Feb. 7, 2010, Karen Young reported that there are 161 current members. The Board discussed how to encourage the remaining 66 members who have not yet renewed to do so. For those who do not renew their memberships, the March newsletter will be the last they receive.

Green Your Home Seminar

Sheila McCarthy reported on the Green Your Home Seminar, which is set for Saturday, March 27, from 9-11 a.m. at the Monrovia Community Center and is MOHPG's program for March. The seminar will address how homeowners can make their houses more energy efficient, and it is free and open to the public. Ways to generate awareness and interest in the seminar were discussed, and a

budget for advertising and related expenses was approved by the Board.

April program

MOHPG's April meeting will be a return visit to Bruce and Kathy Carter's cabin in Chantry Flat in the Angeles National Forest. MOHPG members visited the cabin last year in April. Since then, the cabin has had some renovations. Kathy Carter said Saturday, April 17, is the preferred date to have this program. Board members discussed carpooling to the Chantry Flat trail head, as was done last year.

Tour update

Sylvia Dohnal and Jim Wigton gave a tour update. Five houses, the Historical Museum and one garden have been confirmed for the 2010 Mother's Day Home Tour. Four of the houses are on Highland Place, the fifth is a Victorian — Mills View — on Melrose

Avenue, and the garden is on Hillcrest. All homes are within walking distance of each other. Ticket prices will remain the same as last year, as will the use of sticky mats and wristbands.

In new business, the Board voted to pay the \$25 fee to have a table at the Los Angeles Heritage Day event at Heritage Square Museum on Sunday, April 11. The event is from 11-4 p.m., and preservation groups from all over the region will participate.

The next meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for Sunday, March 7, at 10 a.m. All Board meetings are open to anyone who wishes to attend. Contact Jim Wigton for the location.

Kathleen Jolly is MOHPG Vice President and Newsletter Co-Editor. She has been a member since 2000.

Tour Report

Leaders begin to prep for tour

by Sylvia Dohnal

The first meeting of the 2010 Mother's Day Home Tour Committee was well represented on Sunday, Feb. 21. Four homes on Highland Place and one on Melrose Avenue have been selected for this year's offerings. New on view is a native garden, which is water-wise and stocked with native beauties. The Historical Museum on Lemon Avenue will also be open on tour day. We have a good selection of home styles and are once again offering a concentrated, walkable tour, which is most appealing to tour-goers.

The tour will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Ticket prices will be the same as last year. Tickets will be available for purchase at Monrovia Bakery, Paint 'n' Play, and the Chamber of Commerce. They are also for sale at our website, www.MOHPG.org, and starting April 2, at the MOHPG table at the Friday Night Family Festival. Anyone wishing to help with the tour in any capacity can contact Sylvia Dohnal at (626) 448-5824 or Jim Wigton at (626) 599-8187. Any craft or business vendors that want to set

up a booth at the tour can contact Jim Wigton.

This year, Diane Radu is in charge of docents; it is estimated that 60-100 docents will be needed for the tour. Jean Andresen is in charge of procuring ads for the tour brochure; the deadline for turning in artwork and checks is March 15. Katie Gunderson-Watson and John Watson will handle pre-tour ticket sales. Charlotte Schamadan and Kathleen Fresquez will handle day-of-tour ticket sales. Hal Leavens is responsible for the tour's promotional banners, and Robb Stewart will arrange for the appearance of antique cars on the tour street. Lee Schamadan is producing the tour brochure, and Jim Wigton is handling the tour publicity. The mailing party to mail out tour fliers to approximately 4,000 people on the tour mailing list is set for March 28. Donna Baker will provide refreshments at one of the tour houses, most likely Mills View on Melrose. Larry Marotta will be the official tour photographer. Gloria Crudgington will be the liaison for the Junior Docents. Walt Shelly will sell tour tickets



Photo: Sheila McCarthy

Quick Quiz

- 1) The house at 200 E. Lime Ave., pictured above, was once home to the Monrovia Chapter of the American Red Cross and it is now located across from City Hall. Where was it located originally?
- 2) Which home on North Melrose Avenue features remnants of the original Mills View garden, including a birdbath and plantings such as Phoenix palms and a Moreton Bay Fig?
- 3) What is unique about the home at 517 S. Ivy Ave.?

Answers on Page 5

and MOHPG merchandise and promote the tour at the Friday Night Family Festival for the six weeks leading up to the tour. Jim Wigton will produce name badges for all the tour helpers. Jim Constantian will provide music with his vintage phonographs. The

food vendor will be The Market Grill. The Tour Appreciation Dinner will be the night before the tour, May 8, from 6-9 p.m. at the Community Center.

Sylvia Dohnal is Tour Chair and has been an MOHPG member since 1982.

Celebrating Monrovia's black history

The Historical Museum was buzzing with excitement on Feb. 14 as those who attended the Monrovia Black History Exhibit and Art Show talked and shared photos and information about their families, many of them descendants of the city's first settlers. Among those present were descendants of John and Julian Fisher, John Adams and LeRoy Criss. Some family members traveled from far afield to return to the town where they grew up to visit old friends and share memories. Many attendees brought photos and other artifacts from their family archives to help the museum start building a collection documenting Monrovia's early black community.

The John Adams family was one of 15 black families who were paid by Lucky Baldwin to relocate from the South and East to work on his ranch. John Adams and his family settled in Monrovia in 1886, and the other families settled in nearby cities. John Fisher came to work on Baldwin's ranch in 1900, and he settled with his wife and son, Julian, in Monrovia in 1909. Julian raised 11 children in Mon-

rovia and became one of the leading citizens of the community. LeRoy Criss was part of the large Adams family dynasty; he went on to serve in WWII as a Tuskegee Airman.

MOHPG members made a good showing at the event, which was organized by Jimmy O'Balles and sponsored by the

Monrovia-Duarte Black Alumni Association. Attending the event was Monrovia Mayor Mary Ann Lutz, Council members Clarence Shaw and Becky Shevlin, and former Mayor Robert Bartlett. Museum Curator Mark Still and his wife, Peggy, were on hand to welcome guests and offer refreshments. Artists who showed their works included Rosalind McGary, Ron Husband, Dominique Moody, Clarence Stubblefield, John Parker, and Marcus A. Collins. There was a special display honoring

Tuskegee Airman LeRoy Criss, who was proud to have "never lost a bomber" during his military career. Photo boards also displayed early pictures of community members and events, particularly from local churches.

— Sylvia Dohnal and Sheila McCarthy



Photo: Sheila McCarthy
Cassie Criss, middle, and Renee Criss, right, receive an exhibit poster that features a picture of their father, Tuskegee Airman LeRoy Criss. With them is Carolyn West, a great granddaughter of John Adams.



Photos: Pam Barkas
Above, MOHPG members and others mingle in the courtyard of the Historical Museum during the Black History Exhibit and Art Show. Below, mixed media artist Dominique Moody shows one of her art pieces, which contains photos and memorabilia of her grandmother.



KGEM talk show host Ralph Walker introduces descendants of John Adams, from left, Thelma Adams King, Carolyn West, Cassie Criss, Renee Criss, Sylvia Brister, Patrice Brown and Eunice Adams Brisbaine.

MOHPG Tour Brochure Advertising Rates

If you have a business and would like to place an ad in this year's Mother's Day Home Tour brochure, here are the pertinent facts:

Last year we printed 1,000 tour brochures for tour-goers. The ad prices were reduced last year and remain so this year.

Ad prices:

Full Page	\$250	Make checks payable to
Half Page	\$100	MOHPG and mail to:
Quarter Page	\$50	MOHPG
Business Card Size	\$25	P.O. Box 734
		Monrovia, CA 91017

Deadline: Artwork and checks are due no later than **March 15, 2010.** Call Jim Wigton (626) 599-8187 for details.

Area Home Tours, etc.

- **March 4-7, Ridgecrest and Trona:** Conference of California Historical Societies Spring Symposium, californiahistorian.com
- **March 28, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Pasadena:** Spring Home Tour "Buff & Hensman — The Art of Modernism," pasadenaheritage.org, (626) 441-6333
- **April 3, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Pomona:** Old Home Restoration Workshop, pomonaheritage.org
- **April 11, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Los Angeles:** Los Angeles Heritage Day at Heritage Square Museum, laheritagealliance.org
- **April 25, Pasadena:** Bungalow Heaven Home Tour, bungalowheaven.org
- **May 12-15, Grass Valley and Nevada City:** California Preservation Conference "The Sierra Nevada: Preserving a Sense of Place," californiapreservation.org, (415) 495-0349

Two more homes given Historic Landmark status

by Jean Andresen

Monrovia's Historic Preservation Commission met Oct. 28, 2009, and recommended approval of two more Historic Landmarks for Monrovia, which the City Council subsequently awarded.

The first house is Historic Landmark No. 109 and is located at 338 Highland Place. This home is owned by Lynne Burns and David Norinsky. The house was designed by Herbert J. Gerhardt and built for Frank E. Wood in 1926. The contractor of record was Victor R. Bush, who also was the general contractor for the Municipal Plunge and Bathhouse (Historic Landmark No. 67). This house represents one of Monrovia's few examples of Pueblo Revival architecture. Typical of this style, the front entry is not covered by a porch. Other Pueblo Revival architectural details include an exterior staircase leading from the second story to the roof, ceramic vigas, and rough hewn lintels above the doors and windows.

This historic landmark was awarded out of number sequence because the paperwork for the first residential applicant for No. 109 was not completed and so the number was given to 338 Highland Place.



Photo: Sheila McCarthy

Historical Landmark No. 109 is a Pueblo Revival style home built in 1926 and designed by Herbert J. Gerhardt and built for Frank E. Wood.

Historic Landmark No. 126, located at 303 N. Magnolia Ave., is owned by Cheryl Caputi and Scott Langer. This home is significant in that it is the first time the city has reviewed a Historic Landmark application for a structure built after 1940. This ranch-style home was designed and built in 1949 by Eseael Lightfoot for his family. There is no evidence that he had any architectural or construction experience. The ranch-style house originated in California in the mid-1930s, slowly gained in popularity in the 1940s, and became the dom-



Photo: Cheryl Caputi and Scott Langer

Historic Landmark No. 126 is a ranch-style house designed and built in 1949 by Eseael Lightfoot for his family.

inant style in the 1950s and '60s. The design is typically single story with a very low horizontal profile and asymmetrical in design and shape.

Should you want to learn more about the process for getting your house landmarked by the city, you can contact the Historic Preservation Commission staff at City Hall or visit www.moHPG.org and click on "Landmarking Your Home."

Jean Andresen is a former MOHPG Board member and has been a home tour house captain and docent chair. Jean has been a member since 1998.



Photo: Sheila McCarthy

Answers to Quick Quiz

- 1) The house was built by Gilbert Tillapaugh and was originally located at the northwest corner of Linwood and Primrose avenues. It was moved in 1979 to make way for a redevelopment project.
- 2) The home is at 320 N. Melrose Ave., and it was once owned by Granite Savings Bank President Arthur F. Graf, who designed and built it in 1925.
- 3) The house at 517 S. Ivy Ave., pictured above, was built in 1897 and is Monrovia's lone example of the Greek Revival style, which was very popular in the eastern and southern United States up until the time of the Civil War.

— Sylvia Dohnal

Seminar, from Page 1

efficient consumers of energy.

Most of the energy used in a home goes to its heating and cooling system, and it is cheaper to reduce a home's energy use than generate more energy for it to consume. For this reason, homes are considered the first line of attack in meeting the state and federal goals.

According to Devon Hartman, "preservation advocates and building science are at the center of sustainability" because they promote the protection of resources and the values of longevity, durability and restoration.

He said that the idea of "green building" is a complicated discussion about what it means to be sustainable, and that the current model of "green" is not sustainable.

The City of Monrovia is co-sponsoring this seminar with MOHPG to continue its demonstrated commitment to sustainabil-

"Preservation advocates and building science are at the center of sustainability."



Devon Hartman, HartmanBaldwin Design/Build

ity in the community. The city's new library and park is its first LEED-rated facility (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), and it has received a LEED Silver certification.

The city has also established a GREEN Grant program to help residents with limited incomes pay for energy efficiency home improvements.

Sheila McCarthy is Newsletter Editor and has been an MOHPG member since 2006.



P.O. Box 734
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 (626) 599-8187
 www.MOHPG.org

Address Correction Requested

Calendar

of MOHPG and community events

March

- 2 Tuesday City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m., 415 S. Ivy Ave.
- 7 Sunday **MOHPG Board meeting, 10 a.m. All are welcome. Contact President Jim Wigton at (626) 599-8187 for location.**
- 10 Wednesday Planning Commission meeting, 7:30 p.m., 415 S. Ivy Ave.
- 16 Tuesday City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m., 415 S. Ivy Ave.
- 24 Wednesday Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 p.m., 415 S. Ivy Ave.
- 27 Saturday **MOHPG event: Green Your Home Seminar, 9-11 a.m., Community Center, 119 W. Palm Ave. See page 1 for more information.**

April

- 6 Tuesday City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m., 415 S. Ivy Ave.
- 11 Sunday **MOHPG event: Los Angeles Heritage Day at Heritage Square Museum, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., laheritagealliance.org**
- 14 Wednesday Planning Commission meeting, 7:30 p.m., 415 S. Ivy Ave.
- 17 Saturday **MOHPG event: Revisit Bruce and Kathy Carter's rustic cabin in Chantry Flat, Angeles National Forest. Details in next newsletter.**
- 18 Sunday **MOHPG Board meeting, 10 a.m. All are welcome. Contact President Jim Wigton at (626) 599-8187 for location.**
- 20 Tuesday City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m., 415 S. Ivy Ave.
- 28 Wednesday Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 p.m., 415 S. Ivy Ave.



Some of the equipment used in home performance audits include blower doors to determine air leakage and infrared cameras to show areas of heat and air infiltration.

On the Cover

What it takes to 'go green'

MOHPG is presenting a free seminar to the public about home energy efficiency and sustainability called the Green Your Home Seminar on March 27. Find out how to save money and reduce greenhouse gases. **Read all about it on Page 1.**