



# Silver Lake Improvement Association *News!*

Issue No. 25

P.O. Box 291274 • Los Angeles, California 90029 • (213) 413-4221

October 1994

*The goals of the Silver Lake Improvement Association are the creation and maintenance of a clean and safe environment, and the betterment of our youth.*

## Calendar of Events

**Saturday, Oct. 29, 1 PM-6 PM**

**1st Annual Halloween Carnival**

Rose Scharlin Cooperative Preschool,

12414 Lakeview Ave., Silver Lake

Admission: Adults \$5, Children \$3

*For info: (213) 661-1319*

**Wednesday, Nov. 2, 7-9 PM**

**Earthquake Preparedness Course**

7 Consecutive Wed. Nights, Same Time.

Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Dr.

*For info: Dr. Cheryl Revkin, 665-1281*

**Saturday, Nov. 5, 11 AM**

**Commemoration of *The Music Box* Steps**

923-935 Vendome St., Across from

Del Monte Park

*For info: Vincent Brook, 663-7641*

**Tuesday, November 15, 4 PM**

**Sunset Business Watch Meeting**

2825 Sunset Blvd., in Sunlake Plaza

Shopping Center

*For info: Barbara Dakin, 413-4221*

**Saturday, Nov. 19, 9 AM-4 PM**

**Rummage Sale Fundraiser for Silver**

**Lake Nursery School**

Thrifty Drug Store Parking Lot

1433 Glendale Blvd.

*For info: Robin McEleney, 664-3959*

**Sunday, Nov. 20, 1 PM**

**Grand Opening of LAPD Community Outpost**

2825 Sunset Blvd., in Sunlake Plaza

Shopping Center

*For info: Barbara Dakin, 413-4221*

## "HATS OFF" TO "THE MUSIC BOX" STEPS

by Vincent Brook

The big day has arrived.

The famed staircase between 923 and 935 Vendome St., site of Laurel & Hardy's 1932 Oscar-winning short, *The Music Box*, finally will be honored with a commemorative plaque. Etched in black marble, the graffiti-proof plaque will be placed atop a concrete pedestal at the base of the Steps. The unveiling, co-sponsored by Hollywood Heritage, the Silent Society, the Society of Operating Cameramen and SLIA, will be held on Saturday, Nov. 5, at 11 AM.

The date of the long-awaited event was chosen with care. The first movie to incorporate the Steps, another Laurel & Hardy short called *Hats Off*, was released on Nov. 5, 1927. A washing machine rather than a piano served as the comedy team's foil on that occasion.

On this occasion, Stan Laurel's daughter Lois Laurel hopefully will join in the fun. Also expected to appear are Stan & Ollie impersonators Jim MacGeorge & Chuck McCann, L&H biographer Dick Bann, *LA Times* reporter and Steps authority Larry Gordon, Councilmember Jackie Goldberg (who once lived next door to the steps), and more.

The ceremony will be taped for a possible future excerpt on KCET's *Visiting with Huell Howser*. Howser's show, a delightful local magazine series often dealing with movie lore or community achievement, was *made* for this event. The convergence of Hollywood history and neighborhood involvement at the base of the Steps is truly amazing. The Steps have drawn film buffs and tourists from around the world for decades; 5 1/2 years ago, quite coincidentally, the spot became the cornerstone of SLIA's clean-up and beautification efforts.

The area surrounding the Steps had deteriorated into a graffiti and drug-infested cesspool by 1989, when a group of concerned citizens led by Barbara Dakin formed SLIA to deal with the situation. The area has been made liveable again thanks to SLIA's involvement, and the organization has expanded to confront a wider range of issues, but Vendome St. between Sunset and Marathon remains a primary focus. SLIA's quarterly trash and graffiti clean-ups have met at Del Monte Park across from the Steps for years.

Let's have our largest turnout ever on Saturday, Nov. 5, when we join all of Los Angeles in taking our *Hats Off* to Laurel & Hardy and *The Music Box* Steps!

*For more info, call Vincent Brook: 663-7641.*

### NEWSLETTER CREDITS

*Editor: Vincent Brook • Printing: Daveco • Advertising: Vincent Brook • Writers: Vincent Brook, Barbara Dakin • Desktop Publishing: Jerome Sander*

## PATROL UPDATE

### A Change of Course

As mentioned in our last Update, the patrol situation has shifted recently and SLIA has been forced to shift with it.

AMSEC, the private security company we had been supporting, is fading from the scene due to reduced membership brought on largely by competition from another company, **Select Patrol**. While we're sad to see AMSEC go, **Select** appears to be a formidable replacement.

Through excellent promotion and an enticing \$15/month rate, **Select** has boosted its membership in Silver Lake to close to 300 people in less than a year. **Select**, therefore, already provides 7 day/week, 6 hours/night dedicated patrol, as well as two random passbys during the day and two patrol officers on duty Friday through Sunday nights.

**Select** is a small company but they're obviously trying extra hard. Their co-owner, Eric Smith, was raised in Silver Lake and they just moved their main offices here, to 2920 Sunset Blvd. next door to the Silver Lake Lounge.

For these reasons, SLIA's executive board recommends that our members and other interested parties seriously consider signing up with **Select**. SLIA President Barbara Dakin, Security Team Leader Vincent Brook and many others have made the switch and been pleased.

**Select** is offering the first 90 days' service free of charge, plus an additional month free for each subscriber you sign up, so how can you go wrong?\*

To sign up with **Select**, call 213/255-9213.

*\*If you do cancel service with AMSEC, be sure to do so in writing, either to them or Protection One, to whom AMSEC's remaining accounts are being assigned.*

## GRAND OPENING FOR LAPD OUTPOST

Plans are underway for the official opening of the Los Angeles Police Department's Silver Lake Community Outpost, to be held on Sunday, Nov. 20, at 1 PM, at the outpost's new location: 2825 Sunset Blvd., in the Sunlake Plaza shopping center. Both Rampart Police Area Captain Nick Salicos and Northeast Area Captain Dan Schatz are confirmed to attend the ribbon-cutting ceremonies.

The outpost has been in operation by Rampart and Northeast police officers since Oct. 14. This was the culmination of a community-wide drive that began when residents Rose and Joe Radogna contacted Sunlake Plaza owners Kent Hagan and Don Hankey about the possibility of turning part of the shopping center into a police outpost. The owners agreed, and with the approval of the area's police captains, the enthusiastic support of SLIA, and the combined efforts of Sunlake Plaza Manager Bill Wiley, Senior Lead Officers Bob Arcos and Joe Writer, and numerous local residents and business owners, the dream of our own neighborhood police substation became a reality (see *Kudos* for individual contributions).

Further financial support is needed to defray ongoing electricity and phone expenses. Donations should be made payable to the Silver Lake Improvement Association, stipulating that the monies are for the outpost. All donations are tax-exempt. Mark Nov. 20 on your calendar and be sure to attend this momentous event.

*For more info, call Barbara Dakin: 413-4221.*

## NEW MURAL FLOWS "UNDER THE BRIDGE"

A mural named after the Red Hot Chili Peppers' song *Under the Bridge* is taking shape under the Sunset Bridge along Silver Lake Blvd. Ernesto de la Loza, member of the Los Angeles Mural Conservancy, will render the mural which, like the song on which it's based, has an anti-drug message. The project is expected to be completed by Dec. 1.

As with *Los Angelitos de la Musica* and the many murals overseen by Annie Sperling and the Sunset Junction Neighborhood Alliance, the actual painting of *Under the Bridge* will be assisted by local teenagers.

The Lucky Nun Gallery, located on 1712 Silver Lake Blvd., has organized the *Under the Bridge* project. Seed money was provided by Lucky Nun owner and former lead singer of Concrete Blonde, Johnette Napolitano. Additional financial contributions are being sought. Self-Help Graphics, a non-profit arts organization, is acting as fiscal receiver.

*To make a donation, contact Holly Eichinger at 666-6825.*

## BUSINESS WATCH UPDATE

by Barbara Dakin

On Oct. 11, over 25 business owners, area residents and police officers gathered in the back room of Cafe Tropical on Sunset Blvd. at Parkman. The meeting was held to discuss with Det. Mary Holquin of the LAPD Administrative Vice Unit and District Administrator Jane Hernandez of Alcohol/Beverage Control (ABC) how to reduce the number of locations serving alcoholic beverages in the area. A short strip of Sunset Blvd. between Descanso Dr. and Occidental Blvd. currently has nine locations where alcohol is available for purchase.

Det. Holquin and Ms. Hernandez of ABC made clear that citizen complaints are key to addressing the situation. The most effective means for getting nuisance establishments closed down, they said, is for residents or business owners to observe and keep a detailed log of all illegal activities occurring in or around a given establishment.

These citizen reports, along with violations cited by VICE or other police units, are then presented to the Zoning Administrator, with a request that the offending establishment's alcoholic beverage license be suspended or revoked. Det. Holquin provided all those in attendance with Citizen Declaration forms that can be used to document all violations.

Those that have already been noted include drug activity, prostitution, loitering, drinking, excessive noise and trash. Ms. Hernandez added the heartening news that ABC is currently investigating three of the problem locations, two of which are already on probation.

The meeting closed with more good news: the upcoming opening of our community LAPD Outpost (see accompanying article)! The next Business Watch meeting will be held at the Outpost, 2825 Sunset Blvd., on Tuesday, November 15 at 4 PM.

*For info on the meeting, or on how to help with the revitalization of Sunset Blvd., call Barbara Dakin at 413-4221.*

# COMMUNITY JAMBOREE FETES SLIA, ET AL

Over 100 SLIA members and special guests celebrated our organization's 5th Anniversary on Oct. 2 on the grounds of the Reiyukai America Association. A sumptuous potluck lunch was followed by a program featuring music, poetry, and award presentations.

Janet Lim, Field Deputy for Congressman Xavier Becerra, presented the first award to SLIA for its exemplary efforts toward bettering the community. Lisa Sarno, Field Rep. for Councilmember Jackie Goldberg, gave SLIA a stunning City of Los Angeles commendation, listing in detail our many contributions. All eight SLIA board members then received individual Certificates of Appreciation from Lisa for their "dedication to improving the quality of life in the 13th Council District." Members Iliana Santana and Mike Garcia received certificates from Lisa, also, for helping curb drug activity along Sunset Blvd.

SLIA reciprocated by giving Lisa our own Certificate of Appreciation for her efforts on behalf of the Association and the neighborhood.

Other SLIA Certificates of Appreciation, as well as special gift certificates to local restaurants, nurseries or beauty salons (see *Kudos*), went to Senior Lead Officers Bob Arcos and Joe Writer, Gustavo Bahena and Pete Lassen of L.A. Conservation Corps' Tree

Planting Program, member David Bermudez, Deborah Gross of the Back Door Bakery, Rampart Community Relations Officer Webster Wong and the Reiyukai America Association. Members Aurelia Alos, Don Button and Jerome Sander; L.A. Conservation Corps' Clean and Green- Region 2; and Operation Clean Sweep also received SLIA awards.

Entertainment was provided by banjo picker/troubadour Charlie Cox's sing-alongs, poet/playwright/actress Sunja Ackerman's moving original poem (see *Silver Echo*), and young Diana Dakin's (age 12) stirring ballad.

Perhaps the day's highlight was surprise gifts showered lovingly on Emcee and SLIA President Barbara Dakin, without whom there would have been no *first* SLIA anniversary, much less a resounding 5th! The gifts were a watch with the SLIA logo on it and a lovely "peace lily."

The event closed with the cutting of a magnificent cake, prepared by the Back Door Bakery, with the yummy inscription: "To SLIA - for 5 Great Years...and many more to come!"

## Personal Spotlight

### DENNIS FRAHMANN

Dennis Frahmann and his partner Robert Tieman first moved to the Silver Lake area in 1986. Attracted by the hillside views and the neighborhood's diversity, they built a new house at 905 Hyperion Ave. in 1989.

The house, designed by Venice-based architect Andrew Duncan, harkens back to the spirit and style of Richard Neutra, who designed many of the architecturally breakthrough houses built in the area in the '30s and '40s. Being located on Hyperion has special significance to Robert, who is the archivist for the Walt Disney Company. The original Disney studios were located on Hyperion about 1 1/2 miles east (now the site of Mayfair Market).

Dennis, a graduate of the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, manages marketing communications for the Printing Systems Division of Xerox, headquartered in El Segundo. Before moving to California to work for Xerox, Dennis had designed multi-media training programs in Minneapolis and served as the entertainment editor and restaurant reviewer for *Mpls. St. Paul Magazine*.

SLIA has taken ample advantage of Dennis' varied talents. Dennis attended the very first SLIA organizational meeting in 1989 and has been involved ever since. He designed flyers for our first event, helped create the original SLIA newsletter, and wrote our first grant proposal, resulting in city funding for graffiti paint-outs in the area.

More recently, Dennis' writing skills were well-used on behalf of the

Hyperion Neighborhood Watch, for which Dennis is a block captain.

Just before the Earthquake, the *Los Angeles Times* and TreePeople announced a program called Campaign Green Streets. L.A. residents were asked to imagine how planting trees might help rebuild the city and to write a 100-word essay on their dreams. Dennis decided to dream. With the Hyperion Neighborhood Watch's inspiration and support, he entered the competition.

Sure enough, Dennis' entry was one of five from throughout the city selected as winning entries! In August, awards were handed out at a ceremony at the TreePeople headquarters on Mulholland Drive. A spokesman for *Geo*, one of the event's sponsors, quoted a line from Dennis' essay to describe why it was a winner: "Instead of banding together by the fear of crime, it would be nice to come together to create something beautiful—a solid line of trees running the entire length of the neighborhood."

The prize includes training, support and up to \$2000 in financial assistance for Hyperion Neighborhood Watch to make their tree planting project a reality. Dennis will be seeking help from all SLIA members when it comes time for the actual planting, currently set for early 1995.

If you reap what you sow, Dennis deserves bundles of support from SLIA and the whole community.



# A MESSAGE FROM JACKIE GOLDBERG

Congratulations to SLIA for 5 1/2 years of dedicated commitment to the community! Your efforts in the areas of beautification, crime reduction and community education have improved the quality of life for all Silver Lake residents. It was with great pleasure that my office was able to allocate funds to assist SLIA with its recent clean-up and beautification efforts.

I would also like to take this opportunity to mention some projects my office has been working diligently on for the past months.

In August we facilitated a meeting with the owner of the Regency Manor on Descanso Dr. and Mr. Acevedo, Program Analyst of the State Health & Welfare Dept. of Social Services, to try to resolve some of the neighborhood's concerns. It was recommended that the owner add two additional staff members to provide better supervision and that further client reviews be administered. To date, two additional caretakers have been hired and four clients have been removed from the home.

Many buildings in the 13th District were damaged by the January quake. We have been working with Building & Safety (BAS) and the owners of these buildings to aid the rehabilitation of their properties. In some instances, specifically along Descanso, my office has worked with BAS to secure and board up abandoned buildings. We will continue to maintain contact with BAS to ensure that these damaged properties don't become areas of potential criminal activity. If you are aware of a location you feel needs investigating, please contact Lisa Sarno or Linda Ortiz at my Silver Lake field office, (213) 913-4693.

As you may know, a portion of Silver Lake Recreation Center has

been used by dog owners since the late '70s to walk and exercise their dogs unleashed. In June my office was contacted by numerous constituents requesting that we investigate the possibility of creating an official "Dog Park." Because we received some opposition to this idea, I decided to hold a community meeting to deal with the issue.

The meeting was held at the Rec Center on August 24. Both sides were given the opportunity to voice their opinions. The vast majority of the people in attendance were in favor of creating some type of Dog Park, either official or informal, along with a set of rules and regulations for its operation. I agreed that a one-year pilot program be instituted and that a mid-year evaluation process be established to monitor and assess the program's success.

The next step was to get approval from the Dept. of Rec & Parks Commission Board. The Board met at Griffith Park Ranger Station on Oct. 19, listened to citizens' views on the issue and unanimously approved the pilot program.

My goal is to ensure that the community be included in the process of making this project work. While I am committed to the community's desire to establish such a project, the future of a permanent Dog Park depends on the community's commitment to keeping it a safe, clean and accessible recreation area for everyone who wishes to use it.

It is through cooperative efforts of my office with organizations such as SLIA and the community at large that we can all work towards continued community improvement and "Neighborhood Pride."



## COMMUNITY MEETINGS DISCUSS SILVER LAKE PARK

A standing room only crowd of over 200 people attended consecutive Community Meetings sponsored by 13th District Councilmember Jackie Goldberg on August 24 at the Silver Lake Recreation Center. The back-to-back meetings were intended to gather community opinion on two issues: what, if anything, to do with the Silver Lake Rec Center building; and whether or not to create an official Dog Park (see *A Message from Jackie Goldberg*, above, for a discussion of the Dog Park issue).

At the evening's first meeting, community members heard arguments from representatives of residents on both sides of the Rec Center question: the one wanting the old building remodeled, the other wanting it to stay the same. Next, a building program outlining contents and configurations for a moderately expanded community center to replace the current 3,600 square-foot facility was presented by the Silver Lake Rec Center Advisory Council (SLRCAC). Councilmember Goldberg permitted everyone in the audience the opportunity to express his or her opinion. After the discussion, a show of hands indicated a majority in favor of a new community center - provided it does not exceed the 5,000 square-foot limit proposed by SLRCAC, and that it is designed to be well-integrated with the architecture of Silver Lake. Anyone interested in participating in the design process with architects from the Dept. of Rec & Parks was asked to sign a roster, and suggestions for preliminary sketches for the project were

offered. These forthcoming sketches will be reviewed by residents at future community meetings and revised as per public consensus.

If you would like to participate in the Rec Center project or be added to the project's mailing list, contact Jackie Goldberg's field office at 3525 Sunset Blvd., L.A. 90026 (213-913-4693). To voice comments or make suggestions, you may also call the Silver Lake Residents Association Hotline at 213-661-6465.

*(The above was excerpted and edited, with permission, from an article by Jan SooHoo in the Silver Lake Residents Association's September newsletter.)*

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, PRETTY PLEASE!

Our last request met with zilch. We take that as an aberration that will soon be rectified. This is your paper. Prove it! Send letters to: Vincent Brook, 3119 Berkeley Ave., LA 90026. *(Selection is subject to editor's discretion)*

## THE SILVER ECHO

THE MEMORY OF THE BIG CITY SOFTENS  
IN THE SILVER IMAGE OF THE LAKE  
WHERE A BIRD SWIMS SOFTLY OVER THE WATER

WE GAZE AT THE GENTLE RIPPLES  
AND COME HOME  
TO OUR SACRED BEGINNINGS

THERE ARE NO HARD LINES  
NO CONCRETE FORCE  
NO TIGHT SPACES  
NO LOUD SIRENS FORETELLING DEATH,  
NO CHANGING LIGHTS AND LANES  
NO GUNS FIRING INTO THE NIGHT  
FINDING ITS WAY TO THE END.

JUST THE SWEET SERENITY  
OF A MIRRORING SUNSET.  
BRINGING US HOME TO THE LIGHT WITHIN US.

THE SILVER LAKE REFLECTING THE TREES,  
THE CHANGING SKY, THE WIND  
AND THE FULL LIGHT OF THE MOON.

THERE ARE MOMENTS WHEN YOU FLY  
OVER THE COOLNESS OF THE LAKE  
LEAVING THE LIGHT MEMORY OF YOU.

LIKE THIS LAKE YOU ARE YOUR OWN WONDER  
BEAUTY AND LIFE TOGETHER WEDDED  
INTO THE BLISS OF YOUR GREAT POWER

YOUR SILVER ECHO  
RELEASES THE HATE  
THE STEEL BARRIER  
THAT CLOSES OUT LIFE  
AND THE EVIL  
THAT DESTROYS  
AND DENIES FREEDOM

REMEMBER AS YOU PASS THE LAKE  
YOU ARE REFLECTING  
THE SILVER ECHO OF YOU

(c) Sunja Svensen

## KUDOS

To the volunteers who organized and staffed SLIA's booth at the Sunset Junction Street Fair: Organizers: **Vincent Brook** and **Dennis Frahmann**; Staffers: **Alde & Dave Bermudez**, **Karen Brook**, **Mike Garcia**, **Craig Gilmore**, **Genelle Le Vin**, **Yvon Lincoln**, **Dori Moore**, **Lewis Offut**, **Giovanna Rebagliatti**, **Iliana Santana** and **Robert Tieman**.

To the residents and businesses that helped make the Community Jamboree such a smash. Residents: **Vincent Brook**, **Barbara Dakin**, **Tom Davidson** and **Susan Martin**, **Fred Elmes** and **Nancy Israel**, **Ruth Faydich**, **Genelle Le Vin**, **Doris Lowry**, **Glen and Liz Prosor**, **Cheryl, Darrel and Jeffery Schori**, and **Jerry Sider**. Food Donators: **Hughes**, **Mayfair, PM, Trader Joe's Markets**. Gift Certificates: **El Conquistador**, **La Belle Epoque**, **Misto's**, **Netty's**, **Sabor's Restaurants**; **Sunset Nursery**; and **L.A. Nails**.

To the generous contributors to the LAPD Silver Lake Community Outpost. Financial support: **Dave Bermudez**, **Mike Bermudez**, **Ruth Faydich**, **Craig Gilmore**, **Liz Prosor**, **Jose Roque** (owner of Roque Body Shop), **Ed Schwartz** (owner of Silver Lake Lounge), and the **Silver Lake Residents Association**. Materials/labco: **A & M Refrigeration** (air-conditioning repair), **Lettie Benevidez** of the Mayor's office (desks, chairs, tables, file cabinets and a large blackboard), **Joel Friedman** and **Jeff Gertsman** of Monarch Services Group (carpeting), **Betty Hall** (coffee pot), **Officer Gary Hernandez** (made sign atop the building and did lettering on the window), **Senior Lead Officer Joe Writer** (refrigerator).

To the 3,000 people from the Rampart Area, 150 from Silver Lake, who helped make LAPD's Operation Sparkle a gleaming success. Those groups from our area that shone the brightest: **Clean & Green**, **Hope in Youth**, **John Marshall High School Close-up Club**, **L.A. Candidates Assistance Program**, **Mountain View Neighborhood Watch**, **Reiyukai America Association's Youth Action Group**, **Rosemont Elementary School**, **Silver Lake Residents Association**, **Sunset-Alvarado Improvement Association**, **Sunset Junction Neighborhood Alliance**. Glowing individuals: **Craig Gilmore** (SLIA's chief organizer for the event); Select Patrol's **Eric Smith**; and old Mr. Reliable, **SLO Joe Writer**.

### BECOME A MEMBER

Support the  
**Silver Lake Improvement Association**

Members receive a quarterly newsletter and personal invitations to all Association-sponsored events.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Renewing? \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:  
SLIA, PO Box 291274  
Los Angeles, CA 90029

Only \$10 Annual Membership Fee.  
Extra contributions are appreciated!  
Cut out this coupon and return with payment.

### Welcome To **THE CHAPEL OF ST. FRANCIS**

(Anglican/Episcopal)

#### SUNDAY SERVICES:

Holy Eucharist Rite I, 8 a.m.

Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10 a.m.

Bible Study and Discussion, 9-9:50 a.m.

3621 Brunswick, Arwater Village

Church Office Phone: (213) 663-2063 • Vicar's Home Phone: (213) 660-2675

The Right Reverend Frederick H. Borsch, Bishop

The Reverend Toni Stuart, Vicar