

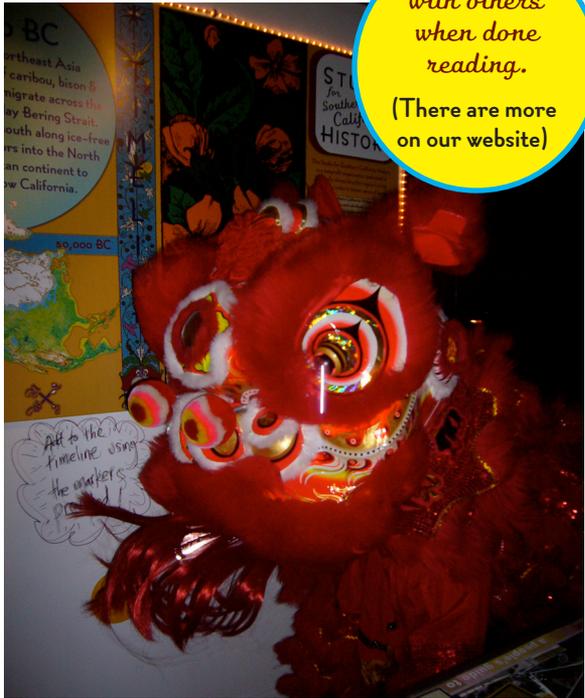
proofs

The
STUDIO
for
Southern
California
HISTORY

The Spring Fling on March 21 was a night of revelry & good vibes including Yushi Yamazaki's Workshop; Lennie Bluett on piano; and Jeff Chan & the Immortals, Gung-Fu Lion Dancers (at right).

4/20/09 issue 7

share
with others
when done
reading.
(There are more
on our website)



Special thanks to David Ida of Fields Piano, Green Street & Hop Li Restaurants, the LA Pizza Kitchen, the Staples Center Foundation, the Dodgers Foundation, the LA County Museum of Art, the Huntington Library & Gardens, Leo Limon, Linda Vallejo & others for their donations. Read page 8 for more.

- In this issue:**
- Local Heroes!*
 - Nuclear Clean-Ups!*
 - Cemetery Tours!*
 - & much, much more!*

The Studio for Southern California History is a non-profit organization whose mission is to critically chronicle & disseminate the region's social history.

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NEWS NOTES

Congratulations Nancy! Former Studio intern turned Program Assistant Nancy Bautista has graduated from UCLA (March 2009), earning a Bachelors degree in Psychology. She plans on working as an educator before returning to graduate school to pursue her medical degree. Way to go, Nancy! We are so proud of you!

Welcome New Board Members! The Studio is pleased to announce three new additions to its Board of Directors: *José Alamillo* is an historian and author of *Making Lemonade Out of Lemons*. He is the Chair of the Department of Chicana/o Studies at California State University Channel Islands. *Alexis Moreno* is a seasoned activist with experience in leading public history programs and organizing young adults into social justice movements. *Chamara Russo* is the Vice President of Marketing at TOWN HALL Los Angeles and a producer of multiple new media projects. Each of these talented individuals brings a specific skill set and enthusiasm to the Studio that is at once infectious and productive. Welcome & thank you for making the Studio a better organization!

Studio Founder to Visit Brown University: *Drs. Anne Valk & Matt Garcia* of Brown University have invited Sharon Sekhon to visit and introduce the Holiday Bowl History Project and the Studio to a group of students and faculty on April 27. Sekhon will also introduce the LA History Archive & is thrilled about this opportunity.

Scholars Assist with the LA History Archive: Four scholars have begun to develop the Lesson Plans for the LA History Archive, the Studio's online resource for Southern California History. *Kristin Hargrove* has assisted with the development of assignment ideas and in determining the state standards and language that each must follow. *Rachael Binning* has begun determining relevant oral history excerpts and indexing oral histories for inclusion into the online database. *Julia Ornelas-Higdon & Monica Pelayo* are developing a lesson plan for grade 10 that includes immigration legislation and neighborhood mapping. All of these efforts will assist both in the online resource and in its textbook counterpart. The LA History Archive is made possible by a generous grant from the Annenberg Foundation which exists to advance the public well-being through improved communication.

Groups Arrange Private Tours at the Studio: On April 4, the Studio co-hosted a walking tour of Chinatown with TOWN HALL Los Angeles that included a light reception at the Studio. In mid April, the Los Angeles Public Defenders Office will visit and in May, a UCLA class focusing on migrant stories. If you are interested in arranging for a private reception and tour with the Studio please call us at 213-229-8890 or e-mail us at thesocalstudio@gmail.com.

Hollywood Forever Cemetery: A Review by Rosa Mazon



When we look at the way a society or city lived during a certain era, we are usually referring to the time of one's life spent while actually alive. But looking at the way a culture deals with death and how they honor their loved ones once they die, is also an integral part of the 'way they live' and important to history as well.

Too often, people associate cemeteries with morbidity and sadness. To visit or even take the time to learn about local cemeteries seems odd and disturbing to most. Cemeteries that have been around for seventy years or more are often overlooked as a unorthodox way of discovering interesting, hidden facts about a region, the people and the different cultures that comprise the area. Visiting a cemetery is similar to visiting a historic monument (the cemetery is on the National Register for Historic Sites), museum, and local family all at once.

In Los Angeles, people were buried in the missions at San Gabriel and San Fernando during the Spanish era, then mostly at La Placita during the Mexican era. Sources differ, but it is safe to say that the first non-denominational cemetery was Evergreen, founded in 1877 and the first Catholic one was Calvary, founded in 1844. Today there are many cemeteries to serve the ever-increasing population of Los Angeles County. In 1899, Hollywood Memorial Cemetery (now Hollywood Forever) was founded by I. N. Van Nuys and Colonel Isaac Lankershim. At that time, they did not want to be buried there themselves, since only the "riff-raff" of Hollywood were buried there. They are buried at Evergreen. This article is continued on page 10.



The Aerospace Cancer Museum of Education (ACME), Los Angeles, opened on May 9th, 2008 as a center where community members can learn about the Santa Susana Field Laboratory and the historic clean-up initiatives to take place as recently directed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger brought forth by Senator Sheila Kuehl and Assemblymember Julia Brownley. ACME will take part in the 2009 celebration of Earth Day in the City of Calabasas and has won numerous environmental awards for its efforts. Founded by William Preston Bowling and Christina Walsh, ACME is an organization fighting for all of our rights in ensuring a safe and comprehensive clean-up. In early 2009 the Studio joined ACME with Jailhouse Productions in creating a guide for their efforts that highlights the agencies and individuals involved including NASA, Boeing & Rocketdyne. We are proud to report that this guide has been distributed throughout Calabasas, Chatsworth & Lake Manor--areas directly affected by the Santa Susana Research Facility--which still operates today. If you are interested in learning more, please visit www.acmela.org or cleanuprocketdyne.org, a website full of data on Rocketdyne's history. ACMELA is located at
23350 Lake Manor Drive
Chatsworth, California 91311
818-712-6903

**Did
you know the
nation's 3rd largest
nuclear melt-down
occured in 1959 in the
mountains just northwest of
Los Angeles? Did you also
know that it STILL hasn't
been cleaned up???**

PROFILES IN COURAGE: OZIE GONZAQUE

Our "Profiles in Courage" series highlights individuals from the Studio's oral history collection. Excerpts of oral histories will be on the LA History Archive at www.lahistoryarchive.org. If you know someone the Studio should include as part of its oral history program, please contact us or refer them to the Studio.



When one enters Ozie Gonzaque's beautiful home in Watts, one cannot tell what color the walls are because they are covered with awards, proclamations and formal acknowledgements from city and state leaders, all attesting to Mrs. Gonzaque's commitment to her community. A beautiful woman who is always impeccably dressed, she is a fierce force to be reckoned with should you be unlucky enough to be an obstacle in her path. But she is also the kindest and most sincere person you may be lucky enough to meet. It is such contradictions that make her a charismatic and effective leader.

Born in Louisiana during the Great Depression, Ozie migrated to Watts in 1947 and bought the house that she still lives in. She describes her childhood in Louisiana as one in which her father taught her about self-respect through evoking fear and her multiracial neighborhood was more class than race-conscious. Her first job in Los Angeles was at the Club Alabam on Central Avenue as a waitress where she met everyone in the West Coast jazz scene (with a record collection that reflects this history). While working at the Club Alabam she became friends with a Los Angeles beat police man named Tom Bradley, for whom she would eventually campaign for Mayor of Los Angeles.

Mrs. Gonzaque's long career includes different aspects of community organizing, from serving as a civilian raider for the Los Angeles Police Department to her most recent position as Commissioner of the Los Angeles Housing Authority, a position from which she retired in 2003. She served as a volunteer for the Bureau of Consumer Affairs and the Juvenile Justice Center. After the 1965 Watts Riots, Ozie worked with the McCone Commission to identify and ameliorate problems like police harassment that fueled the riots and caused the death of a relative. Story continued on page 11.



ON POLICE-COMMUNITY RELATIONS—Four members of a citizens advisory council reporting to Police Chief Thad Brown. From the left are George Warthen Jr., Mrs. Ozie Gonzaque, Chief Brown, the R. B. Harwick and Ben Peery. Council serves the 77th St. Division

1967 clipping on the McCone Commission from Gonzaque's scrapbook.

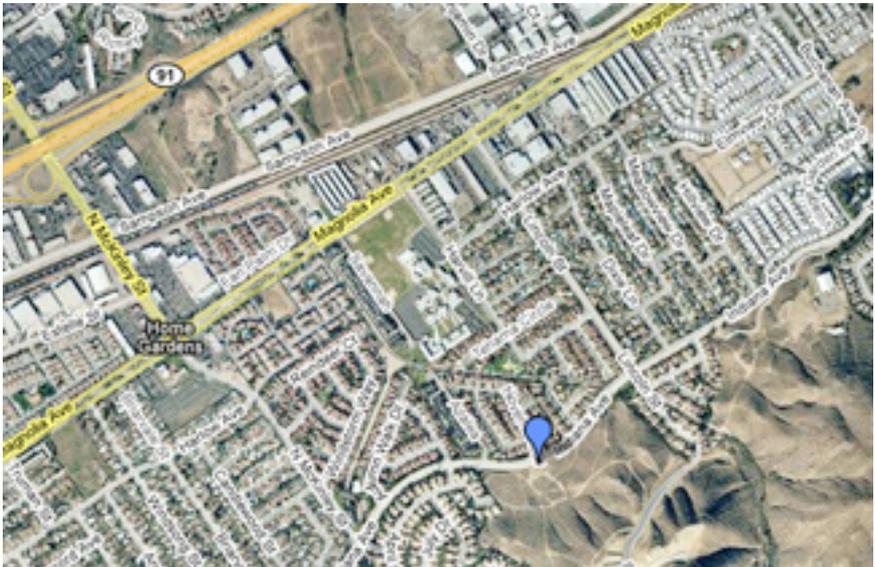
The Sherman Indian School Cemetery: A Self-Guided Tour

This cemetery was established for the students from the Sherman Indian School, formerly the Perris Indian School, which was the first off reservation

Indian boarding school in California. The Perris Indian School was established in 1892 and moved to its Riverside location in 1901. The school's enrollment is made up of Southern California Indian children from Tule River Agency to San Diego County. Tribes represented include Navajo, Hp, Karok, Wylachi and others. The cemetery was used between 1904 and 1955.

At least 66 students who died at the Sherman Indian School are buried here. Because of Bureau policies, students did not return home for several years, many died at school and were buried in the school cemetery. Students ranged in age from 5 years old to early 20s. There were epidemics like typhoid, Spanish influenza and meningitis; childhood diseases and accidents at the farm and the main school campus resulted in the deaths of several students. Many of the students were orphaned or their homelands were too far to reach in time for burial. A few adults are also buried here including the remains of an adult Indian discovered during construction work on the 5 FWY.

Local archaeologist **Jean Keller** drove by it and assumed it was a pet cemetery before discovering it was connected to the Sherman Institute, the subject of her eventual book **Empty Beds**.



Location: the intersection of November and Indiana Streets in Riverside. Take the 91 FWY East to the McKinley Street Exit, turn right at N. McKinley Street (.7 miles), turn left at Indiana Street (.3 miles). The Cemetery is on the right. The cemetery is accessible at all times and surrounded by a subdivision. Thanks to Google maps for this satellite shot.



In 2000 the Friends of the Sherman Indian Museum formed a non-profit organization to perpetuate the history and culture of the school, including preserving the cemetery. In 2002 the Sherman Indian Museum reinstated the Indian ritual of observing May 3 as a day to honor ancestors



by decorating their graves with flowers, known as Flower Day. In 2005 a troop of Boy Scouts worked to get 80 new headstones and Professor Ben Easley, a welding professor from Mt. San Antonio College had his class create a 16 foot designated steel archway.



Recent ground penetrating radar surveys revealed many graves outside of the cemetery fence line. The Sherman Indian Museum has started **The Names of Sherman Project**, which will document every person buried in this cemetery. According to Lorene Sisquoc:



"By listing the actual names, home towns and tribes of students, the project attempts to recover the "humanness" lost in the hundreds of rosters, numbers and statistics. These names represent real people who came from real homes, with real hopes, dreams and disappointments. They just happened to live in a time when other real people in positions of power believed the best solution to a changing American culture was to gather these children together into a military boarding school, to change them, Americanize them, train them to become citizens within the culture in power. It seems that our countries leaders chose to ignore one thing: these children already had a culture. They already were American."

Visit the Sherman Indian Museum for more information: 9010 Magnolia Avenue, Riverside, CA 92503 tel: 951 276-6719

www.shermanindianmuseum.org

A Spring Fling Surprises & Wows All:

A Review by Nancy Bautista

A Spring Fling was a complete success! The Studio's annual fundraiser began with Yushi Yamazaki's Djiridu Workshop in which kids, adolescents, and adults used everyday recyclables adorned with feathers, glitter, cloth, and other goodies to create musical instruments. The intricate Djiridus were later used for a JAM Session where everybody rocked out!

Legendary Lennie Bluett followed the energetic Djiridu concert and as always, Mr. Bluett delivered his eloquent musical style (at 90!). In between piano sets, the guests gathered in the "never-before-seen" back office to enjoy gooey pizza, healthy salad, and other delicious hors d'oeuvres. Studio volunteers were then honored and each glamorous superstar helper received a certificate of appreciation.





The big surprise of the night was unraveled as two Chinese dragons paraded into the Studio feeding from the hands of all guests. A shy offering of lettuce and the happy acceptance of the vegetables by the dragons ensued. The anxiously awaited raffle ended the night with great giveaways, from Dodger tickets to L.A. themed books to beautiful Chicana/o art, the lucky winners left smiling.



Thanks to the hard work of everyone involved and the generous contributions from all attendees and community members, the Studio was able to successfully generate more money than last year's event. We look forward to next year's Spring Fling to continue breaking records. See you there!



Hollywood Forever Review continued from page 3. This cemetery is well-known for its early Hollywood history. An array of fascinating legends and stars fill up the spacious landscape. Numerous people and organizations conjugate at this nostalgic cemetery for tours, ceremonies, picnics, and events, to feel a glimpse of the glitz and glamour of 'old Hollywood.' But beyond the big names such as Rudolph Valentino and Douglas Fairbanks, are pioneers, movers and shakers who helped build early Hollywood, the motion picture industry and Los Angeles. Some tombs will be more familiar or interesting than others to Angelenos, but all weave the fabric of a very interesting town.

Despite the many well-known names, the cemetery was not just for the rich and famous during its early years. There are many unknown names on family tombs and plaques. Most are Anglo names, but some are Spanish. There is no need to wonder whether some of the Miles' or Copes are white or black; the cemetery was segregated well into the 1950s. The graves resemble personal taste or economic class—some are simply markers in the ground, while others are huge, solid blocks designed for a whole family. Some individuals built elaborate Romanesque crypts with the family name at the entrance. There is also a beautiful mausoleum, with ivory statues and stained glass windows, for both the famous and ordinary.

Most people visit though, for the rich history of Los Angeles. The founders of the Los Angeles Times rest with their wives in this cemetery. Harrison Gray Otis resides with his poet wife Eliza under a huge obelisk monument. The first bells at the entrance of the cemetery were installed by the Otis'. Otis was also a Civil War veteran and had the first swimming pool in the Valley, in Tarzana. Their daughter Marion lies behind them, with husband Harry Chandler, Harrison's business partner, under their own (smaller) monument. Within a few steps rests the memorial to the victims of the anti-union bombing at the Los Angeles Times Building in 1910. The dedication took place on November 15, 1911.

Griffith Jenkins Griffith, known for his donation of Griffith Park and the Griffith Observatory, rests here as well. Like Otis, Griffith is memorialized under an obelisk monument. It is not definite which tower is taller. Griffith gave a lot to the city of Los Angeles, but unfortunately little gratitude to his wife. He married into her wealthy family and feared his share of the millions he would one day inherit would be taken from him. He accused his wife of conspiracy with the Pope, and tried to kill her. He shot her in the eye, but she survived. Griffith was allegedly the most hated man in Hollywood at the time and had only twelve people at his funeral.

Another sad story, but with a happier ending involves the great actress Hattie Mc Daniel. One of the few successful African-American actresses of early Hollywood, Mc Daniel desired to be buried in Hollywood Memorial Park, but was denied due to segregation laws in 1952. She was buried in Angelus Rosedale. In 1999, a cenotaph was placed to honor her life and career at Hollywood Forever, while her body remained in its final resting place. Hattie was known for playing maids and "mammy" and won an Academy Award for her role in "Gone with the Wind" in 1939. At the awards show, she and her husband had to sit in the back of the theater. She was known for saying she would rather get paid to play a maid than to actually be one.

These are just some of the stories that comprise the rich experience when visiting Hollywood Forever. Many other well-known people reside in the park. Charlie Chaplin's mother Mildred; Iron Eyes Cody (son of Italian immigrants); F.W. Blanchard, the first president of the Hollywood Bowl; Carl "Alfalfa" Switzer and Darla Hood, of the "Our Gang" films; William A. Clarke, founder of the Los Angeles Philharmonic; Marion Davies, mistress of William Randolph Hearst and socialite; Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel; Charles E. Toberman, who built the Roosevelt Hotel and Graumann's Chinese Theater; Jayne Mansfield; Mel Blanc; Harry Cohn, founder of Columbia Pictures, John T. Gower, a Hollywood 'pioneer'; Cecil B. De Mille; and Harvey Henderson Wilcox, founder of Hollywood. There are also many who are relatively unknown, but who participated in the early years of the city and have equally fascinating legends to their credit. Carl Morgan Bigsby is credited for the postcards that fall out when you open magazines; Cornelius Cole, a Civil War hero and friend of President Lincoln who lived to be 102 years old; Karl Dane, who was a successful silent film star but due to a thick Danish accent, never made the transition to "talkies"(he became a hot dog vendor outside of MGM studios and shot himself); and Ann Sheridan, a strong actress who's remains were unmarked for decades until a fan dedicated a tomb for her at Hollywood Forever.

There are numerous other stories, legends and people that add to the cemeteries' eternal appeal to Los Angelenos: actors and actresses filled with hope and talent but who never made it to the top, but still deserve recognition for their role in early Hollywood; pioneers and founders who gave vision and inspiration to the city we know today; and the hundreds of residents who ventured to the city to make a life during its early days.

Of the new individuals, there are many Russian families (both Jewish and Orthodox), Latino families, and Armenian families. Some of the Russian tombs are magnificent, made with beautiful, black marble with sketches of couples who stayed together for over fifty years. Some graves resemble small gardens, with little fences, colorful pinwheels, pictures, and flowers. In another fifty years, people will visit the cemetery to learn a little bit about Los Angeles in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. In the cemetery, past and present live together; all classes and cultures, all languages and religions live in eternal peace.

Profiles in Courage continued from page 5. She is quick to note her husband Roy Gonzaque and his support. Roy Gonzaque was a Los Angeles Police Officer and unconditionally supported Ozie in all of her activist efforts. She is proud of her children who have continued her legacy of public service through volunteerism. Her daughter Barbara Stanton is spearheading the Wattstar Theatre and Education Center, a development in the Watts/Willowbrook communities that hopes to open the first movie theater in Watts since the Watts Riots, over 44 years ago. It is Ozie Gonzaque's example and her work that we salute in this issue of proofs for it inspires us to work harder. Ozie reminds us that life is a journey to be enjoyed every step of the way. To do so as an activist means to take moments to recognize joy & your own work. Thank you, Ozie, for that you do and have done for LA.

The TOP TEN
Reasons to
Join the Studio's
Membership Program:

10. Exclusive invitations to receptions, walking tours, exhibit openings, special symposia, workshops & film screenings;
9. An annual subscription to the Studio newsletter PROOFS.
8. One Studio T-shirt with logo and "Because my history matters" emblazoned across the back (\$10 value);
7. One set of four LA History Collectors Cards (\$5 value);
6. One A People's Guide to LA (a \$10 value);
5. A Sneak-Peak at upcoming Studio programming like the LA History Archive;
4. A 10% discount on all Studio products like T-shirts, LA History Playing Cards & Collector Cards;
3. Access to local public history and a place that wants your voice added to the record;
 2. FREE red licorice at the Studio;
1. Peace of mind that you are supporting an institution that seeks to preserve our past.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

| | |
|------------------|---------|
| Student..... | \$25 |
| Individual..... | \$55 |
| Family..... | \$75 |
| Friend..... | \$100 |
| Institution..... | \$250 |
| Supporting..... | \$500 |
| Benefactor..... | \$1,000 |

*denotes yearly membership fee

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(available online at www.socalstudio.org)
Come to the Studio, mail in your order with a check, or visit our website to make your purchase. Note: shipped items have a \$6 shipping & handling charge added.

- Studio Membership;
 - LA History Playing Cards (\$20/deck)
 - T-Shirts (\$10)
 - 2009 Guide to LA History (\$10)
 - LA History Collector Cards (\$5/set)
- New! A set of four of the LA History Playing Cards (the Aces, of course!) featuring Califia, Felipe de Neve, Harrison Gray Otis & Ruben Salazar.

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Hours: W-Sunday and by appointment
Be sure to call ahead as our hours are irregular due to off-site projects.

