



# The Southern Californian

The Historical Society of Southern California Spring/Summer Volume 18 Numbers 1 and 2

## Our New Logo Hotensia Chu Arena

**A**S A LOGO DESIGNER, I try to create images that will speak a thousand words. A logo is a symbol and should embody the qualities of the person, organization, place or product it is designed for. It should convey energy, be it quiet, formal, uplifting, forceful—the essence of the subject. It should also be memorable and recognizable. An effective logo works for many years to come.

When I was asked to design the new logo for HSSC I considered how long the old logo had lived, with slight modifications through its lifetime, the latest made by me for the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The image of the stone Lummis Home is indelible and hard to shake when searching for imagery. After all, HSSC has had its headquarters there for several decades. Yet, with the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary a few years past, it was time for a new logo, a fresh face.

I picked up my sable brush dipped in India ink and let it give shape to my abstract thoughts. At first I saw Mission style archways, bell towers, portals. The feedback I received from Denise Spooner and my friends at HSSC steered me toward other images: the California sun and mountains, the orange groves, the coastline, downtown Los Angeles skyline, books, oak trees and of course, palm trees. I explored typographical arrangements with graceful serif and sans serif fonts dancing within a box to spell out HSSC. Being fond of typography, I found many of these attractive.

In the end, the image selected was of two slender buildings framed by palm trees, with all elements reaching to the sky. During the elimination process someone asked which of all twenty-plus images presented I liked best. In a way they are all my children; therefore, I see each of them full of promise, if given a chance.

The new logo is dressed in colors that represent the vibrancy of southern California's natural landscape: dark olive green and rust orange. The new HSSC logo is ready to have a life of its own.



In May the Historical Society of Southern California moved to the first floor of 65 South Grand Avenue in Pasadena.

## The Move

by Margaret Dickerson

**W**HAT A DAUNTING responsibility—to oversee moving the Historical Society's business office from the Lummis Home where its offices had been since 1965. That was the request Executive Director Denise Spooner gave me in early March.

For many years HSSC staff dreamed of having a modern, efficient office space with heat and air conditioning. Since the new executive director had no office space at all, the reality of moving began to take shape.

After a lot of research and discussion, the Society leased new office space on the Western Justice Center Foundation's campus of nonprofits located at 65 South Grand Avenue in Pasadena.

We contacted moving companies—and decided on Pink Transfer, the same company used by The Huntington. We obtained change of address cards. Some services will continue at the Lummis Home and other services at the new location. Purging nineteen years of files proved to be an emotional roller coaster. We continually discovered memories of people and events as we sorted each file for either moving or storage. Each staff member's numbered boxes lined the rooms of El Alisal.

THE MOVE continued on page 12



# Notes and

**W**HY DO PEOPLE JOIN the Historical Society of Southern California? It may seem self-evident: members of HSSC have a passion for the history of the Southland. But is that the only reason that people join or renew their membership? These questions, and several others, were the primary reasons for the survey we distributed to members several

months ago. In short, we wanted to know more about all of you and how well HSSC is serving your interests. The plain truth is that **you**, our members, are the foundation of the Historical Society of Southern California.



Joined together our individual commitment to the history of southern California is multiplied and so the benefits to us as individuals and to our community. Just think of the hundreds of scholars who benefit from Society programs such as the HSSC/Haynes grants that support researchers charting new pathways into the history of the Southland or the thousands of children who have visited El Alisal through Keeping History Alive. Your membership helps support these programs as well as all the others the Society produces. That fact is of great import not just to us, but to the charitable foundations who serve as our partners in these endeavors.

**I**N ORDER TO FEED YOUR PASSION for history, and so make your membership even more meaningful, the staff and I have been planning new program offerings and making a number of operational changes. In respect to the former, within the next few months you will receive notice of upcoming tours and lectures

that are the direct result of the interest you expressed for such offerings in the survey. How does a tour of a citrus town sound?

**S**OME OF THE OPERATIONAL CHANGES you've probably already noticed, such as the new face of our newsletter and logo. (Don't miss Hortensia Chu's piece included within where she describes the very interesting process through which she arrived at our new logo.) We have also updated our website: [www.socalhistory.org](http://www.socalhistory.org). Staff member Robert Montoya describes that process and the results also within these pages.

**T**HE MOST SIGNIFICANT operational change is that depicted on the front page of this newsletter: our move to Pasadena. On Monday, 1 May, a moving truck arrived at El Alisal and loaded up desks, boxes, the microwave and many other treasured office items from "the old rock pile," as HSSC volunteer Julie-Ann Kosakowski lovingly calls the Lummis Home. But the movers did not have far to go, just up the 110 Freeway to Pasadena and our new business offices on the nonprofit campus of the Western Justice Center. Are you familiar with the old Vista del Arroyo Hotel, built in 1903, later turned into a military hospital, a building that now houses the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals in Pasadena? Or perhaps you recall the beautiful Maxwell House just a bit north on the same street? We were fortunate to get space on the ground floor of one of the three Spanish Revival homes that were built between those two beauties.

**S**OME PEOPLE HAVE ASKED, "Does this mean that HSSC has abandoned the Lummis Home?" NO!!! Absolutely not. El Alisal, aka the Lummis Home, has been the headquarters of HSSC since 1965 and it will remain the official headquarters of HSSC. Over many decades HSSC has built a special relationship with the



# Musings

Home, one that we value greatly. As has been the case for some time, we will continue to host docent-led tours for the public Fridays through Sundays from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. If you've never been to El Alisal—that's the way to see it! Furthermore, El Alisal will be the site of a variety of HSSC events and programs including our K-12 educational outreach program, Keeping History Alive through visits to the Lummis Home which brings school children to El Alisal for a day of living history. And who can conceive of the Holiday Open House held anywhere but El Alisal?

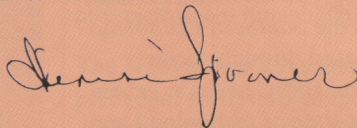
**B**UT IN TERMS OF THE administration of HSSC, it was time to give the old house a long-deserved respite from the wear-and-tear inflicted day-in and day-out by office work. Of course, the house was not built to handle the requirements imposed by a modern, nonprofit operation. For instance, the wiring has long been inadequate for basic office functions, such as telephones, much less computers, fax machines, copiers and the like. We were also short on desk space. Finally, El Alisal is not just a historic home or a museum holding Lummis-era materials, it is an artifact worthy of preservation, from the hardware on the doors to the masonry work, and each piece of wood Lummis shaped—and there are truly countless of those throughout the house: they are all pieces of art and history. In short, moving the administration of the Society from the Lummis Home to space that was built for such activities is good not just for the Society, but for the house, especially. All that said, while we miss "the old rock pile," the HSSC staff is enjoying the new space. We'll be having an open house on Sunday, October 8 which we hope you'll attend, but please stop in and see the new digs anytime. We always enjoy seeing HSSC

members!

**O**THER BUSINESS IN WHICH we've been engaged: History Day L.A., which HSSC's Michele Clark covers elsewhere within the newsletter; our Yard Sale which netted over \$2000—thanks to all of you who donated items and/or came to volunteer; MOTA Day, formally Museums of the Arroyo Day; a record 1,552 visitors came to El Alisal. The biggest hit of the day, according to many visitors, was the children's craft project we sponsored: little rock houses built from milk cartons and cardboard toilet paper tubes which were covered with construction paper and gravel to mimic El Alisal. The kids—and many adults—loved them. Thanks to our volunteer extraordinaire, Julie-Ann Kosakowski, former 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, for this brilliant idea. In fact, it was such a good idea we're exploring ways to turn it into an item we can sell in the newly-evolving book store/gift shop at El Alisal as well as use in other programs aimed at nurturing kids' natural curiosity about the past.

**A**LL OF THESE ACTIVITIES provided terrific opportunities to get reacquainted, or maybe just acquainted, with some of you, HSSC members. Just like the survey, these events are ways for us to get to know each other, to learn what it is about our shared past that is at the heart of your membership in our organization—and to share our passion for it with you.

Ever faithful to the cause of our history,



Denise S. Spooner, Ph.D.

*Executive Director  
Historical Society of Southern California*

*Docents  
keep the  
Lummis  
Home  
open to the  
public  
Friday  
through  
Sunday  
from noon  
to 4pm*



# Check Out Our Website's New Look

**IN ANY FUNCTIONAL**, up-to-date organization that wants to expand its outreach, programs and exposure, a user-friendly, attractive website is essential. Not only does a website display a calendar of upcoming events, a mission statement and a list of publications, it is the main public face of the Historical Society, open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Thus, HSSC has decided to take the wonderfully-planned existing template created by Jon Wilkman, HSSC board member, and give it a more modern, colorful, entirely different look.

The future of the website is an exciting and fluid one. We hope the website can become a place for members to gather and discuss historical issues; a place of essential southern California information, as well as a space for visitors and Angelenos alike to find entertaining and vibrant activities in the Los Angeles and southern California area. HSSC intends to have blog spaces and bulletin boards where members can meet, greet, and deal with past, recent and ongoing issues in our community. Up to now, the means through which HSSC connected with our members has been primarily through letters, our newsletter, invitations and our *Quarterly*. We hope the website will become a continually-updated space that acts as an ongoing conversation between our organization and our members.

The website will also slowly begin to integrate portions of our regular publications: the *Southern California Quarterly*, and our newsletter, *The Southern Californian*. We have already begun to place indexes on the website, and perhaps, in the future, you will be able to obtain the entire *Quarterly* and newsletter contents with the click of an icon. We also intend to publish companion articles on the website, such as Brett Arena's article on the Daughters of Charity to accompany Helene Demesteere's recent article on "The French in Los Angeles."

E-commerce will also slowly emerge onto the website so that memberships, publications, Lummis Home merchandise, and the *Southern California Quarterly* may be purchased through secure, automatic electronic means. HSSC hopes to extend both feet into the present state of technology and look further into the future to meet the needs of a tech-savvy society. Through this website the Historical Society hopes to expand its membership and its visibility and finally, to become a more effective worldwide resource.

by Robert Montoya

Be sure

to go to

[www.socalhistory.org](http://www.socalhistory.org)

to see what's

happenin'

at HSSC

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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The Lummis Home is open  
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Group Tours  
Fridays by appointment



## Highlights of History Day

**O**N MARCH 25, 2006, the Historical Society of Southern California participated in History Day L.A. on the beautiful campus of Azusa Pacific University. For the first time in a number of years the Society joined with the Los Angeles County Office of Education and other supporting organizations to help with the countywide scholastic competition that puts students in virtual touch with the past. The theme of this year's event was "Taking a Stand in History: People, Ideas, Events."

History Day L.A. is part of a national program that encourages students in grades 4 to 12 to prepare exhibits, papers, websites, performances, and documentary presentations on a historical theme. Projects were judged by community members and social science professionals, all of whom received training in the process.

Winners from History Day L.A. in the Elementary, Junior, and Senior categories competed at the California History Day in Sacramento, May 11-14, 2006. In June, state winners in Junior and Senior categories then traveled to the University of Maryland to participate in National History Day.

Many parents, teachers and friends dropped by the all-day event to observe the students' exhibits and the related events: historical re-enactors and their demonstrations, colonial dancing, the Ben Franklin printing press, and a large mural which was prepared by students during the day. A huge crowd gathered for the awards ceremony at the day's end to cheer on the competitors and congratulate the winners.



Members of the Lummis Family, left to right: Jamie Lummis, Pat Walker, Jim and Marley Lummis, Suzanne Lummis, Bonnie Lummis, Charlotte Stuart.

Background on the Lummis family: Jim and Suzanne are brother and sister. Doug Lummis and Charlotte (Lummis) Stuart were Keith and Dorothy's (Keith's first wife) children and Jim and Suzanne's half-siblings. Jim is married to Marley and their daughters are Jamie and Bonnie. Pat Walker is Jordan's daughter.

## HSSC Helps to Celebrate Highland Park Area's First Annual Lummis Day Event

**O**N SUNDAY, JUNE 4, musical, visual, culinary and literary artists of Los Angeles joined together to stage the first annual "Lummis Day," a celebration of the diverse culture and rich history of Northeast Los Angeles.

Since Charles Lummis helped establish the arroyo area as the first artist's colony and cultural center, it was fitting to have the day begin at his home with a poetry reading led by his great-granddaughter, Suzanne, an acclaimed poet in her own right.

The poetry reading and reception were followed by a quarter-mile trek along the Arroyo Seco riverbed to Sycamore Grove Park in celebration of Lummis' trek to Los Angeles from Ohio in 1884. Huge puppets created by members of the Arroyo Arts Collective's puppetry workshop led the colorful procession.

Festivities in the park included restaurants offering "A Taste of the Arroyo," artwork from the many galleries of Northeast Los Angeles, and multi-cultural performances by local and internationally-prominent musicians and dancers.

The festival was a resounding success and hopefully will create a precedent for future cooperative efforts among Northeast Los Angeles neighborhood community groups.

Photos and text by Michele Clark



# Blüthner and the S

SOME SAY there is only one fine concert piano. And it isn't necessarily a Steinway. Jerome Kern may have been one of them. Kern transformed music history when, in 1927, he composed America's first musical with a serious plot—*Show Boat*.

However, Helga, Kyril, Serge and Vanya Kasimoff—mother and sons—who own and operate the Kasimoff-Blüthner Piano Co. on Larchmont Boulevard in Los Angeles, diplomatically say: Music lovers should be exposed to all of the great concert pianos—including Steinway.

Kern studied music in New York and Heidelberg. And perhaps it was while he was in Europe that he was first exposed to a Blüthner piano. Composers as diverse as Claude Debussy and Andrew Lloyd Webber bought Blüthners. When recording, the Beatles were accompanied by a Blüthner. And acclaimed cellist Yo-Yo Ma rehearsed with a Blüthner at the Kasimoff's Larchmont store when he was in Los Angeles.

Both Blüthner and Steinway were established in 1853. Steinway built its factory in New York, while Blüthner was established in Leipzig, Germany—the city known by classical musicians as the “true center of music.” Both are renowned. But Blüthner has its own unique action producing “the most beautiful singing tone,” said pianist Arthur Rubinstein in his autobiography, *My Many Years*.

The lyrical tone is produced by two structural treatments. One is a specially constructed sound board that picks up more of the lower harmonics when vibrating while at the same time amplifying the sound. Another device exclusive to Blüthner is the placement of the fourth string of the treble section. The string is attached to the bridge but is not struck by the hammers. It then vibrates in sympathy with the other three struck strings, producing a warm romantic sound—just right for Kern's romantic music like his compositions “All the Things You Are,” “Smoke Gets in Your Eyes” and from *Show Boat*, “Ol' Man River.”

So why is Blüthner a name rarely recognized by most people in the United States? The answer lies in history. Two world wars took their toll. Before World War I, Blüthner was the leading piano-maker in Europe producing 3,000 pianos a year, over half for export. First, World War I disrupted the market for pianos. Then, during World War II, the factory was bombed. After the war, the Blüthner family was encouraged to continue building pianos by the Russians who occupied East Germany and needed concert grand pianos for the Mother Country. Despite small production, the Blüthners maintained quality. It has only been within the last several years that political and economic changes have allowed the company to expand and build a new factory.

In the meantime, Steinway prospered in the United States. The company was adept at getting its name into the concert halls and before the public. Public taste for a hard-edged loud sound also played a part in Steinway's popularity. Steinways suited the sound



Top: Kyril Kasimoff at the 1860 Blüthner piano made for the Kasimoffs acquired the piano, they sent it to the Blüthner factory where it received a French polish, new strings, hammers and dampers. After years, that was all that was needed.” She adds, “The piano was in perfect condition.”  
Bottom: Closeup of the elaborate sheet music panel on the piano.

of American 1950s be-bop music. Now the piano is played in a different way and the soft mellow, romantic sound is becoming more available to both classical and jazz musicians. They call the Blüthner the “singer's piano.” But the piano's affinity for melding with other instruments, is especially suited to chamber music.

Kern's piano now sits in the Kasimoff's show room. It was the piano Mary Martin, Broadway's first Peter Pan,

## Check out Larchmont Village

This issue of The Southern Californian continues our series of articles presenting local spots in Southern California that are unique. This time the focus is on Larchmont Village in Los Angeles where we found the most remarkable piano shop.

by Carole Dougherty  
Carole Dougherty is  
editor of The Southern  
Californian.



# e Kasimoffs



Left: Helga Kasimoff with her husband, Bill, founded the Kasimoff-Blüthner Piano Co., located first on Lake Avenue in Pasadena and now on Larchmont Boulevard in Los Angeles.

Helga hand-wrote a letter to the Dr. Rudolph Blüthner in 1963 asking to represent the family in Los Angeles. While her husband was born in Los Angeles, Helga was born in Hanover, Germany and knew the protocol for addressing the illustrious Blüthner family. Helga believes her husband's talent as a piano restorer and piano tuner and her role as a religious education teacher persuaded Dr. Blüthner to grant their wish.

sheet after sheet of unpublished music. She sang, he played. "We had a great time," she wrote in her biography.

After Kern died in Los Angeles in 1945, his daughter inherited the piano and gave it to her son, Steve Shaw. Steve's father was Artie Shaw, the celebrated clarinetist and band leader. Recently Steve put the Kasimoffs in charge of restoring the piano.

Near the Kern piano sits a Steinway trade-in. Kyril, on occasion, will demonstrate the difference in sound between the two pianos. It is clear Kyril is part teacher, part historian and part restorer. But the historian is Helga. Ask her about a piano—any piano—and she can tell you its history, its pros and cons, and its dollar and cultural value.

When Helga saw an ad in the Los Angeles Times advertising a piano for sale, she suspected a very special Blüthner. A Los Angeles decorator bought the piano in England and shipped it to Los Angeles in 1984 only to find the piano was too long for the her space. Helga did some research and learned the piano, which had a Biedermeier case of burl walnut and an intricate carved sheet music panel, was ordered by the king of Saxony in 1860 as a gift for a royal British family. Now that piano, too, is in the showroom next to Kern's.

You never know what other fine piano you'll see or what wonderful bit of history you'll pick up from Helga and Kyril. They—along with their pianos—are two of L.A.'s treasures. The Kasimoff-Blüthner Piano Co. at 337 North Larchmont is just doors south of Dawson's Bookshop.



piano made for the king of Saxony. After the Blüthner factory in Leipzig, Germany where makers and damper felt. Helga says, "After all these ds, "The piano belongs in a museum. music panel on the piano.

Now the pendulum is swinging the antianic sounds of a Blüthner are classical and popular musicians. Some o." But the Blüthner, because of its uments, is also beautifully suited for

off's showroom. This is the same rst Peter Pan, sat on as Kern pulled out

## There's More in Larchmont



If you visit the Kasimoffs, you'll want to stay and explore Larchmont Village. You'll find most of the charming commercial part of Larchmont Village between Beverly Boulevard and 1st Street on Larchmont Boulevard. It is often compared to a Main Street of a small American town—but with palm trees.

North of the Kasimoff piano showroom is a book collector's favorite, Dawson's Bookshop, 535 N. Larchmont Boulevard. Dawson's specializes in rare and fine-printed books and is open by appointment only. Call Michael Dawson at (323) 469-2186.

The Larchmont Chronicle offices are located across the street from Dawson's. Anyone who watches the television series "Monk" may experience déjà-vu. Many episodes were shot here, in front of and near this building.

Silent film fans may want to know many of the Keystone Kop films were shot all along the stretch of Larchmont between Beverly Boulevard and 1st Street. The Three Stooges also filmed an episode at a drug store, 111 North Larchmont, now the site of CottageAntiques and Washington Mutual.

The alley in "The Fugitive" television series is across the street next to Spirituali, 120 N. Larchmont. The photo above is just to the north of the alley.

Today many entertainment people—including actors, directors and producers—enjoy Larchmont Village. In fact, nearby Paramount Pictures provides a shuttle service to make a trip to Larchmont convenient for its employees.

See page 8 for more in Larchmont Village.

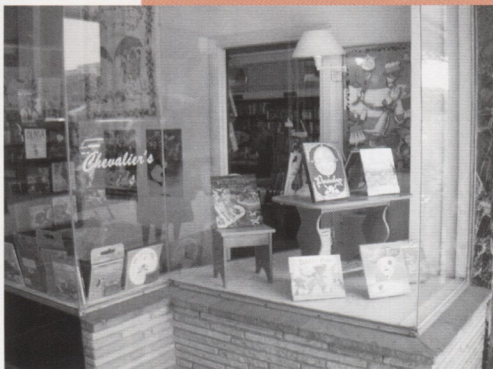


## More on Larchmont Village

### GETTING THERE:

101 Freeway. Exit Melrose Ave. Go west past Paramount Studios. Turn left on Larchmont Blvd. Or—10 Freeway. Exit La Brea Ave. Go north to 3rd St. Turn right. Turn left on Larchmont Blvd.

There is parking in public lots for about \$4 a day. If you are lucky you may find metered parking. You can park free on nearby residential streets, but check parking restrictions to avoid a ticket.



LANDIS GENERAL STORE, located at 138-142 N. Larchmont Blvd. sells a wide assortment of items. This is the place to find a huge selection of stationery and writing tools. For children there are stuffed toys and sticker books galore.

CHEVALIER'S BOOKS complements DAWSON'S BOOKSHOP, a book store dedicated to collectors, located north of Beverly Blvd. Find Chevalier's at 126 N. Larchmont. Enjoy the section set aside for children. Have a question about a book? The owners are readers and ready to help.

FLICKA, at 204 N. Larchmont, is the store for grandparents looking for gifts. Besides high-priced children's clothing, there are also some bargains—especially during sale weeks. Look for *Flapdoodles'* T-shirts and pajamas. Check in at Halloween for a wonderful selection of costumes. Grandma will find gifts of antique dolls at JEAN'S ACCENTS, 128 1/2 Larchmont.

By now you may be ready for lunch. Try VILLAGE PIZZERIA, 131 North Larchmont. Or for a more upscale French meal, try CAFE DU VILLAGE, 139 1/2 North Larchmont, or for Italian try, LA LUNA RISTORANTE, 113 North Larchmont, or LA BOTTEGA MARINO, 203 North Larchmont. For Greek, try LE PETIT GREEK, 127 North Larchmont and for Caribbean try PRADO, 244 North Larchmont.

## What our Members Want . . .

Our  
members  
want  
tours  
and they  
want  
interactive  
programs

EARLIER THIS YEAR you may have been one of the nearly 30 percent of the membership of HSSC to return our very first membership survey. The survey was intended to learn directly from our constituency how pleased they were with our organization, as well as how we can further meet your needs. In addition, we were eager to also find out exactly who our members are and who we needed to reach out to to ensure a broad-based, diverse, strong future for the Society. Indeed, with the help of those who took the five minutes to return the form, we now have a good idea of how to revamp, reenergize and fulfill the requests of Historical Society members.

At first glance it was clear that HSSC needed to reach out to the younger generation, since 80 percent of our membership is 58 years old or older. By doing so, HSSC can ensure a strong future membership as well as infuse its programs with the energy and opinion of those demographic groups. Our Keeping History Alive program certainly fulfills one section of this age group. Future membership categories will slowly emerge to cater to specific age-groups with similar interests. For instance, we have just begun a Future Historians group, which is open to 5-12 year-olds. We bring them to the Lummis Home, work on crafts and learn about our area's history. Watch for more such membership categories.

It also seems that members want tours and they want interactive programs. Thus, as Executive Director Denise Spooner mentions, these

programs are in the works to bring the Society's members closer to each other in the interest of fun, learning and exploration. Ever consider a trip abroad as a membership program? About 50 percent of you do. Who knows, maybe membership with the Historical Society will take you to far-off lands, not only in a book, but on a planned tour. This is what our members want, so this is what—as a public organization—we should strive for.

We are happy to see that nearly all of our members are truly excited and pleased with their membership in HSSC so far. In fact, we now have a large cache of volunteers that we can turn to, to help extend the mission of the Historical Society in very tangible ways within the community. We cannot thank each of our current volunteers enough for their help, time and dedication to the cause of history.

Finally, we found that our largest group of members are *not* scholars or professors, genealogists or researchers, but in fact, are plain ol' history buffs from professions all across the board that enjoy learning and taking part in the history of the Southland. HSSC hopes that the future of our organization remains as strong and vibrant as it has been for so long. We urge our members to let us know how we're doing and how we can make your membership more valuable and important so that we can continue to be a strong force in the dissemination and publication of our local history.

by Robert Montoya



## by Julie-Ann Kosakowski

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A stylized, high-contrast black and white logo. It features a whole lemon in the background, partially obscured by a lemon slice in the foreground. The slice is cut horizontally, showing segments and seeds. Two leaves are attached to the lemons. The design is minimalist and graphic.

THESE PARTICULAR THREE LITTLE trees, however, came all the way across the country to California to live with Eliza in Riverside. It was a hard, hard journey. They took a tiresome,

**A FEW YEARS LATER**, one of the two first little trees was dug out of the earth and taken away. It was planted at the Mission Inn in downtown Riverside, when the president of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt, was in town. The

ORANGE continued on page 10



## Three Little Orange Trees

Continued from page 9

little tree got lots of attention there. For a long time, that little tree did just fine, and grew quite well, but after twenty years it got sick, and a bit later it died.

**THEN THERE WAS ONLY ONE** of the three first little orange trees left to give the sweet, juicy, belly-button-bottomed oranges. The people of Riverside took very, very good care of that tree, even after Eliza got old and couldn't water it any more. They had moved it to its own special spot where two important avenues, Magnolia and Arlington, came together. There everyone could see the tree, which was not so little nor so young any more. The city of Riverside was growing, and all the people loved their special orange tree.

**THE TREE GOT TO BE EIGHTY**, ninety, one hundred years old, and it was still producing the wonderful oranges. It grew to be one hundred-ten, then one hundred twenty, one hundred thirty.

**NOW IT IS ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-THREE** years old, and still standing in its place of honor in Riverside where everyone can see it. It is still growing and it is still giving the sweetest, juiciest, most easy-to-peel, belly-button-bottomed oranges in the whole world.



Julie-Ann Kosakowski is a retired elementary school teacher. She produces children's material for the Historical Society and conducts school tours of the Lummi Home. Her talent is boundless. Julie-Ann does research, writes, develops puzzles for the Kids Page in this newsletter, and when necessary, dabbles in photography as the photo of the bowl of oranges above confirms. Julie-Ann lives with her husband of 43 years, Tom, and her son, Daniel, in Pasadena.

## SMUDGE POTS IN THE ORANGE GROVES

Orange growers used to put heaters in their groves to keep the trees warm enough so the fruit wouldn't freeze.

A frozen orange is a dried-out, not-very-tasty orange! These heaters burned lots of smokey fuel, including old tires. Some people thought the smoke, or smudge, would help keep the fruit warm. The bad thing was that the black smoke from these smudge pots got everywhere, even into people's noses and lungs. So, by 1970, the growers had discovered new ways to keep the orange trees warm, and no one uses smudge-making heaters any more.

**ORCHARD OR GROVE?** We usually say "apple orchard" and we usually say "orange grove," so what is the difference between an orchard and a grove? Really, there is no difference. The words are synonyms. It just seems to some people that it sounds nice the way we usually say it, but "grove of apple trees" and "orange orchard" are also perfectly correct.

Resource:

1950s brochure advising growers on the use of smudge pots



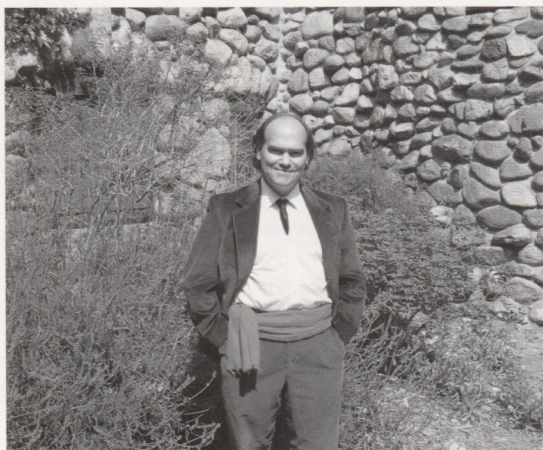
## Museums of the Arroyo Day

**IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE** that HSSC has participated in so many Museums of the Arroyo Days, but this year marked our seventeenth annual MOTA Day event at the Lummis Home.

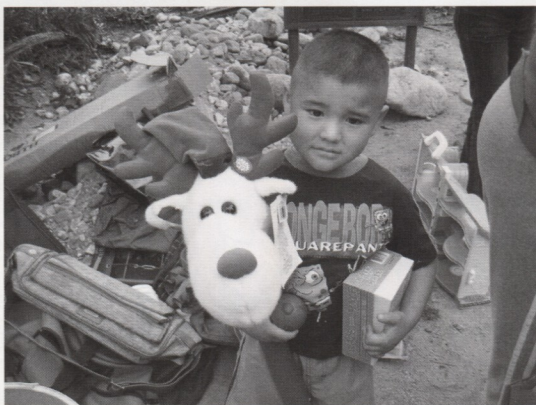
In addition to great food, festive balloons, displays of children's art, performances by Dan Lewis as Charles Lummis and folksingers Gigi and Mike, we also offered crafts for children: miniature rock houses just like "El Alisal." The crafts table was bustling all afternoon with young and old alike assembling the tiny arroyo-rock buildings.

More than 1,550 guests visited the Lummis Home on this lovely first Sunday in May, the most we have ever had attend a MOTA Day event.

Photos and text by Michele Clark



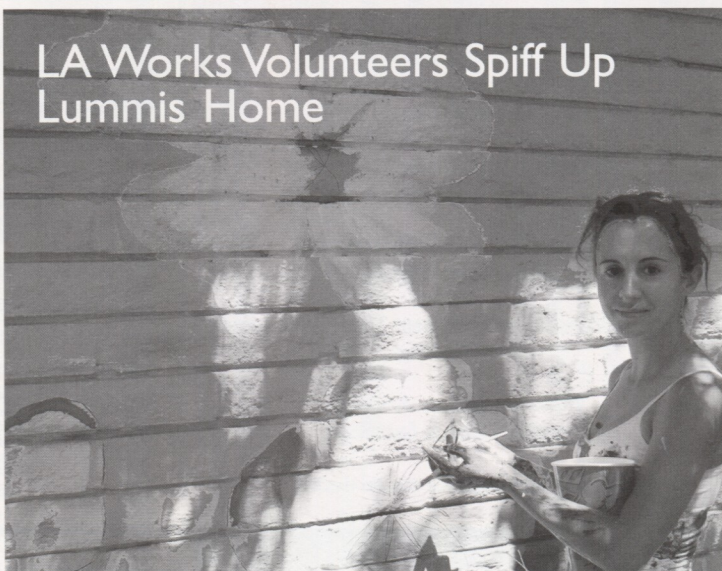
Dan Lewis, professor of history at Cal Poly Pomona, portrayed Charles Lummis during MOTA Day.



## Yard Sale: A Success

One youthful yard sale customer went home with a book and a jolly reindeer.

## LA Works Volunteers Spiff Up Lummis Home



Artist Scarlett Lacey paints a floral mural on the wall of the public restroom in the Lummis Garden. LA Works is comprised of citizens who volunteer to work on projects throughout the Los Angeles area. The volunteers also painted flowers on the garden benches, and repainted the Lummis sign on Ave. 43 and the main gate at the entrance.

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## Pop... Fizz...

On Saturday, May 13, 2006, at a cocktail party at Dawson's Bookshop in Larchmont Village in Los Angeles, the Historical Society honored several authors and historians for their contributions to history. The honorees were:

### DONALD H. PFLUEGER LOCAL HISTORY AWARD

Steve Erie  
Douglas Flamming  
Michele Zack  
Jared Orsi  
Eric Avila

### NORMAN NEUERBURG AWARD

Alan K. Brown

### DOYCE B. NUNIS JR. AWARD

Mary A. Van Balgooy

### CARL I. WHEAT AND FRANK WHEAT AWARD

Stephen Aron

### MARTIN RIDGE AWARD

Douglas Cazaux Sackman

See our webpage for more details.

## THE MOVE continued from page 1

In addition to the actual move, several HSSC programs were taking place within two weeks of the May 1st move: a Yard Sale, MOTA Day and the Champagne Awards Fête. Just when you thought you could do no more, more was being asked. I have never worked so hard in my nineteen years with HSSC as I did for those several weeks.

At 8:30 a.m. on May 1st the dream came true. The moving truck arrived. We watched in a daze while men loaded desks, file cabinets, computers, the photocopy machine and box after box of Historical Society material onto the truck. Our empty offices seemed much larger now when they were empty.

The moving truck arrived in Pasadena just as we were placing a diagram of the office space showing office numbers coordinating with box numbers. Within 90 minutes everything was deposited in its proper place.

Then the fun began as we, quietly but purposely, organized our individual offices.

Although we locked the gate on Avenue 43 with fond memories on May 1st, our relationship with the Lummis Home remains strong—it is still the headquarters of the Historical Society. Docents continue to keep it open to the public Friday through Sunday from 12 noon to 4:00 p.m. HSSC programs continue to take place there especially Keeping History Alive.

## Remember VROMAN'S Gives Back

REGISTER AS A SUPPORTER of HSSC and VROMAN'S Bookstore will give back one percent of your purchases directly to the Historical Society. At the time of purchase make sure to let the cashier know you want to support HSSC.

VROMAN'S Bookstore, a Pasadena landmark founded in 1894, has long been an active location for author events, lectures, book discussions, workshops, and, with its vast book selection, a book browser's dream.

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