

**NORTH PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
JUNE 2018 MEETING NOTES**

**DATE: JUNE 21, 2018**

**TIME: 6:30 PM**

The first part of this meeting was a Business Meeting of the North Park Historical Society (NPHS) Board of Directors, and the second part was the activities discussion for the organization. These notes include updates as of June 25, 2018.

The next meeting will be **THURSDAY July 19, 2018 starting at 6:30 p.m.** in a second floor meeting room at Grace Lutheran Church, 3967 Park Boulevard, corner of Park Boulevard and Lincoln Avenue.

**1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The following members of the NPHS Board of Directors were present:

Steve Hon	Katherine Hon
Jody Surowiec	Paul Spears
George Franck	Michael Thornhill
Sharon Turner	Randy Sappenfield
Judy Ciampoli	Bob Bauer

The following members of the NPHS Board of Directors were absent:

Hilda Yoder	Claudia Watts
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Joining us was a new visitor, Jared. Welcome!

**2. AGENDA REVIEW AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

On display in the meeting room were photo boards showing NPHS accomplishments and the Proclamation from the San Diego County Board of Supervisors that commended NPHS for a decade of fulfilling its mission and declared May 17, 2018 to be "North Park Historical Society Day" throughout the county. These had been on display at the pizza party on May 17. Paesanos did a great job serving us for our 10th Anniversary Party. Steve noted that owner and operator Joe Romano has announced he is considering offers to lease the space to a different restaurateur. Jody related that Joe said he is "done cooking." Many of us will miss this classic restaurant, and we were very happy to have our milestone celebration there.

Steve showed the Explore North Park brochure developed by North Park Main Street that featured four historical photos provided by NPHS (North Park Theatre in 1930, Stevens-Hartley Building in 1953, Georgia Street Bridge in 1949, and Odd Fellows Building during a Toyland Parade in 1958). Our booth space fee for the Festival of the Arts was waived in exchange for the photos.

The latest Pacific Beach Historical Society newsletters were circulated for viewing. The May PastMatters column in *Uptown News* was about Our Lady of Peace. NPHS member Sue Taylor wrote a very nice article about us for North Park News. Thank you, Sue! Scans are at the end of these notes.

The Friends of the Villa Montezuma will have interior tours of the beautiful Villa on August 18 and October 20. They will also do a tour of Mount Hope Cemetery on October 27. Go to the Friends of Villa Montezuma website at [VillaMontezumaMuseum.org](http://VillaMontezumaMuseum.org) for more info.

### **3. MINUTES ACCEPTANCE**

The summary from the May 17, 2018 NPHS 10th Anniversary Pizza Party have been posted on the website.

## **BUSINESS PORTION OF MEETING**

### **4. TREASURER'S REPORT**

The financials for the period of May 18 to June 19, 2018 were sent to Board Members before the meeting. During this period, we received donations totaling \$215 (thank you, Bill, Liz, Randi, and June 10 Dryden tour participants!). Five members renewed and two new members joined for revenue of \$140 from dues. We received \$50 in walking tour fees for the June 10 Dryden walking tour and sold one extra guidebook (net revenue of \$4.64 after tax) . Amazon paid for three North Park history books (revenue of \$30.99). We received one Car Show registration for a total of \$10 and three Car Show sponsorship for \$300 (thank you, Steve, Barons Market, and Observatory/West Coast Tavern!). Arcadia sent us a royalty payment of \$270.35, so our *Images of America: San Diego's North Park* book is still being actively sold at retail stores. Michael noted he has seen it at Barnes and Noble. Total income was \$1,020.98.

Expenses in this time period totaled \$2,183.18, consisting of \$159.20 to Paesanos for the 10th Anniversary Party, \$23.98 for cookies at the party, and \$2,000 to our artist team for preparation of the conceptual design of the Water Tower art installation.

Steve noted he made a brief presentation to the County Board of Supervisors for our 2018-19 grant request. We will find out in early August if we are successful.

## **ACTIVITIES PORTION OF MEETING**

### **5. WATER TOWER PUBLIC ART PROJECT**

As summarized in the May 17, 2018 meeting notes, the NPHS Board considered via email the question of moving forward with implementing a Design Development Agreement with the selected artist team after receiving supplementary information and answers to questions posed at the April 19 meeting. Nine Board members approved moving forward, one abstained, and no Board members objected. Therefore, the Agreement was sent to the Artist Team for their review and signature.

The Agreement was signed and the check for the initial payment of \$2,000 was written and given to the artist team. Upon approval of the design by NPHS, the artist team will receive a second payment of \$1,000. Their conceptual design is due five months from May 16, 2018, which is about mid-October. The NPHS-approved design will be submitted to the City for consideration of being mounted on the fencing as a 5-year loan, and if the City's review is favorable, this design will be used to raise funds for the final design (plans and specifications), manufacture, installation, and maintenance.

## 6. POSSIBLE PROJECT: PAULY'S ADDITION HISTORIC DISTRICT PROPOSAL

The current Chair of the City of San Diego Historical Resources Board (HRB) asked Steve and Katherine if NPHS could provide information about the potential for the historical subdivision of Pauly's Addition qualifying as a historic district. Pauly's Addition extends from Alabama Street on the west to Arizona Street on the east between University Avenue on the north and Upas Street on the south. Subdivision Map #65 was filed on April 1, 1873, making Pauly's Addition the oldest filed subdivision map in North Park. There are a number of individually significant designated homes in the neighborhood and many houses that could qualify as contributing to a historic district.

Paul, George, Judy, Jared and Katherine are interested in doing research and developing a response to the HRB Chairman. Paul will take the lead in organizing how to record field reconnaissance of this 20-block area. George will review the City's historical surveys to see what they said, if anything, about Pauly's Addition.



*These homes in Pauly's Addition are both designated by the City of San Diego as individually significant historic resources.*

## 7. WALKING TOURS UPDATE

As a result of Westways Magazine mentioning North Park as a day trip destination and walking tours by NPHS as a potential activity, we have been getting phone calls and emails requesting tours. Steve updated the website description to clarify that we conduct tours "on demand" by private arrangement with interested parties, including educational groups. Steve and Katherine (with other helpers as needed) are comfortable taking small groups on the Dryden Historic District tour during the summer. We have three tours set up at this time in June and July.

**Update:** There were six attentive and engaged people on a tour on June 23. Tours in June and July have been arranged for a small group coming from Vista for a day in North Park, and for a family who has just purchased a house in the Dryden District.

## 8. UPCOMING COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

The annual events NPHS is participating in or organizing include the following:

- North Park Car Show: Saturday, September 8, 2018, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Balboa Tennis Club is hosting us in their parking lot at Morley Field. We will have traffic police staff on-site for the entire duration of the show, and we will end at 1:00 p.m., which is an hour earlier than in previous years. **Update:** We already have 14 cars and 4 cash sponsors! North Park Trophy and Award has

agreed to produce trophies again. A7D will print the poster, which will be designed again by Johnathan Harrison of JH Designs, who prepared that great poster last year. We are in the process of getting the portapotties arranged through United Site Services. Steve noted that the weekend after Labor Day continues to be a good time to use the parking lot at Balboa Tennis Club as it is right in between major tennis tournaments and big cross country races.

- Presentation at meeting on Thursday, September 20, 2018. At the September NPHS meeting, historian Alex Bevil will present his paper entitled "A Neighborhood in Flames: The 40th Anniversary of the Crash of Flight 182 in North Park." His paper is based on the extensive research he has done about the crash that devastated the area at Dwight and Nile streets 40 years ago. A press release to the Union Tribune for this presentation was suggested as this is a major milestone for this tragic but important event in San Diego history.
- Toyland Parade: December 1, 2018. We expect the parade to be held the first Saturday in December like last year. More later.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be **THURSDAY July 19, 2018 starting at 6:30 p.m.** in a second floor meeting room at Grace Lutheran Church, 3967 Park Boulevard, corner of Park Boulevard and Lincoln Avenue.

Prepared by



Katherine Hon  
Secretary, North Park Historical Society

# A look at Our Lady of Peace

## PastMatters Katherine Hon

The Academy of Our Lady of Peace (OLP), now situated in University Heights, began in Alonzo Horton's New Town in a rented house located at Second and G Streets. The school opened on May 10, 1882. OLP beat San Diego High School — which opened as the Russ School on August 15, 1882 — for the honor of being San Diego's oldest high school by three months.

An early San Diego pioneer, Father Antonio Dominic Ubach had been petitioning the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet since 1870 to establish a local school. This congregation was founded in Le Puy, France in 1650 and re-founded as a U.S. congregation in Carondelet, Missouri in 1836. The arrival of four Sisters of St. Joseph in San Diego on the steamship Ancon on April 18, 1882 marked the success of his appeals.

The school, which began with 28 female and two male students, was named the Academy of Our Lady of Peace by Reverend Mother Agatha Guthrie of the Carondelet, Missouri Congregation.

Dr. Melinda Blade,

OLP Director of Mission Integration and Historian, discusses the spiritual and philosophical foundation of OLP being the Constitution of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet.

On the school's website, she writes that the congregation is dedicated to "the practice of all the spiritual and corporal works of mercy of which a woman is capable and which will benefit the ... dear neighbor."

The school moved to a new building at the southwest corner of Third and A Streets in 1887 and continued to prosper. San Diego Union's Sept. 1 issue hailed the beginning of a new school year at the Academy "with a number of new students, including ... three of ex-Governor Ryerson's nieces from Lower California."

"This is the ninth year of this institution, which the Sisters of St. Joseph have made one of the most valuable educational centers of the city and county ... the commencement exercises in June are always accompanied with a display of art, music, needlework and examination papers that have never been excelled by any similar exhibition given in San Diego," according to the article.

In 1890, the boarding and day school was still co-ed; there was a separate school inside the grounds for boys. Later in the 1890s, however, it became a women-only school.

As the "Roaring '20s" dawned, San Diego — and the school — experienced a growth spurt. Under the

leadership of Sister St. Catherine Beavers, who had returned in 1923 as the Superior, the Sisters began searching for an appropriate property to be their new location.

On Jan. 25, 1924, they acquired an estate in University Heights overlooking Mission Valley at Copley Avenue and Oregon Street.

The estate, known as "Villa Montemar" contained two large houses, an observatory, a pool and gardens built in 1917 for the Van Druff family.

Winfield Scott Van Druff and his elder son Ross Ellio were originally from Pennsylvania and worked as geologists. They also were interested in astronomy and intended to conduct research in the observatory outfitted with a powerful telescope ordered from the East Coast.

The Italian Renaissance buildings on the estate were designed by Frank Phillips Allen, Jr. He had served as Director of Works for the 1915-1916 Panama-California Exposition, as well as the engineer on

construction of the Cabrillo Bridge and Botanical Gardens Building in Balboa Park.

Although the structures that now constitute OLP's Carondelet, St. Catherine's and St. Cecelia's buildings were completed in August 1917, it is not clear if the Van Druffs lived at the estate for any length of time.

see PastMatters, pg 18



The Villa Montemar estate was still under construction in 1916, but the large houses and observatory are clearly seen. (Photos courtesy of Academy of Our Lady of Peace)



This aerial photo from about 1925 shows how the Villa Montemar estate was located to obtain unobstructed views of Mission Valley and beyond. (Photo courtesy of Academy of Our Lady of Peace)

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## PASTMATTERS

City directories list Ross with his wife Mayme at 4775 Hamilton Street in University Heights from 1916 until 1924, when they moved to Mission Hills. Winfield and his wife Matilda are listed at 2625 Adams Ave. in 1916, then at 4931 Uvada Place, just east of the estate site, from 1918 until 1921. Winfield died in Pennsylvania in 1922.

After purchasing the property, the Sisters spent three years having new buildings designed and constructed in an Italian Renaissance style to stay consistent with the architecture of the existing buildings. San Diego Union's

May 22, 1927 issue featured seven photographs of the new facilities and lauded the site as "perhaps the most beautiful girls academy in the United States."

Vince Heald and Beck Ellman Heald, contributors to the article, noted that OLP "continues to shape the most confident, intellectual, well-rounded leaders in our region."

"As a woman of faith, woman of heart, woman of courage and woman of excellence, an OLP student is provided opportunities to put her faith into action and become a transformative agent of change in our world," they said.

—Katherine Hon is the secretary of the North Park Historical Society. Reach her at [info@northparkhistory.org](mailto:info@northparkhistory.org) or 619-294-8990.



All the buildings in this 1926 photo still stand. The building to the left is Carondelet Hall, which houses administrative offices and the Computer Lab. The observatory building was converted to classroom space and offices. The student library is to the right of the observatory.



## HISTORY DOWN THE STREET



Eight NPHS Board members assisted in a guided walking tour of the Dryden Historical District in 2015. Left to right, Katherine Hon, Claudia Watts, Randy Sappenfield, George Franck, Sharon Turner, Steve Hon, Michael Thornhill, and Jody Surowiec. (Courtesy of NPHS)



NPHS Vice-President George Franck (right) led 40 fascinated participants on a walking tour of the Burlingame neighborhood in 2011. (Courtesy of NPHS)



The walking Water Tower is always the star of the NPHS entry in the Toyland Parade. (Courtesy of NPHS)

By Susan Taylor

"History cannot give us a program for the future, but it can show us a fuller understanding of ourselves and of our common humanity, so that we can better foresee the future." Robert Penn Warren

We residents of North Park can learn about this neighborhood's homes, businesses, and institutions by becoming familiar with the North Park Historical Society.

Formerly the North Park Community Association's Historical Committee started in 1988, it purposed itself with "increasing people's awareness of the history that surrounds them in North Park and promoting "the preservation of North Park history." This, according to the NPHS webpage; the non-profit organization continues to help people pridefully have a sense of community.

After the Historical Committee's successful publication in 2007 of *North Park: A San Diego Urban Village 1896-1946*, the founding 1? members were ready to join the ranks of other historical societies in the city. NPHS also reprinted a document on Burlingame, organized annual car shows, participated in numerous community festivals street fairs, and the annual Toyland Parade, wrote articles in this newspaper and *Uptown News*. Another important outreach has been to go into schools and speak to students.

One significant project was the designation of the North Park Dryden District, approved by the City's Historical Resources Board in 2011. The Dryden District is a charming area consisting of six blocks along 28th Street and Pershing Avenue between Upas Avenue and Landis Street. The NPHS routinely con-

ducts walking tours here among the unique homes, many of which are marked by brass plaques indicating who lived there and when the house was built.

After persistent research and work, the prominent green North Park Water Tower was recognized as a California Resource in 2013. The Tower is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Currently, the Society is awaiting the placement of the Registry plaque and an impressive art installation. These will ensure that the Water Tower has an informative and enhanced appeal to passers-by.

The North Park Historical Society has provided other gifts to the community such as its "virtual library," rich with information about 900 early building permits.

Readers might want to pick up a copy of the illustrative publication

San Diego's North Park-An Images of America Book, available in the SD History Center's bookstore and at Paras New Stand on 30th St.

In May, the North Park Historical Society will be celebrating its 10th Anniversary. Its own history includes receipt of several awards from Save Our Heritage Organization and the Historical Resources Board.

NPHS can look back on a decade of accomplishment, advocacy, education, and civic pride. Thanks to a few dedicated people, our community can go back in time to when the Palisades Roller Rink thrilled families, J.C. Penney sold Girl Scout uniforms, and Woolworths was a real five and dime store.

Happy Anniversary, North Park Historical Society and keep up the great work!