

**NORTH PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MAY 2024 MEETING SUMMARY**

DATE: MAY 16, 2024

TIME: 6:00 PM

These notes summarize information that was presented at the May 16, 2024 Business Meeting of the North Park Historical Society (NPHS) Board of Directors, and the activities discussion for the organization. These notes include updates as of May 17, 2024. Board Members Steve, Katherine, Jody, Allison, Claudia, Paul, George, and Michael attended. Member Kit and guest Fernando, a student with the New School of Architecture and Design, also joined us. Welcome!

All future public meetings scheduled for the **third THURSDAYS of the month starting at 6:00 p.m. WILL BE** held in a meeting room at Grace Lutheran Church. In addition, we continue to provide information to all who contact us with questions about North Park history and document those communications in our monthly meeting notes. **Our next meeting will be June 20.**

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

We hope all our members and friends are staying safe and healthy.

2. AGENDA REVIEW AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The latest Pacific Beach Historical Society newsletter was shown.

3. MINUTES ACCEPTANCE

The meeting notes from the April 18, 2024 meeting have been posted on the website.

BUSINESS PORTION OF MEETING

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

The financials for this meeting are for April 18 to May 15, 2024 and were sent to Board members on May 15, 2024. In this time period, there was no income. Expenses in this time period totaled \$25 for filing the Statement of Information with the California Secretary of State.

All state and federal organizational reports for the 2023 fiscal year have been filed. NPHS is current on all required state and federal filings.

ACTIVITIES PORTION OF MEETING

5. SIGNS FOR DRYDEN DISTRICT

Since 2021, NPHS has been pursuing signs for the North Park Dryden Historic District. Three of the four anticipated signs have been installed. The newest sign is on the east side of Pershing Avenue just north of Upas Street.

6. WALKING TOURS AND OTHER NPHS EVENTS

Morley Field Walking Tour We will conduct an advertised tour of Morley Field on Saturday, **June 22**. We will not charge admission, but ask for donations. We will put up our canopy in the park, and have several helpers stay there to answer questions while the tour group(s) proceed. Steve and Claudia will conduct the tours, with Bob and Allison showing photos. Sharon, Katherine, George and Jody have confirmed they also can help. Steve will ask Balboa Tennis Club to put a notice in their newsletter. The flyer has been finalized and posted on Facebook. See the last page of these notes. Jody has several paper copies and will ask if we can put the

flyer up at the pool and the library. Katherine will place some around the neighborhood in early June.

Other Walking Tours We are still considering conducting an advertised tour of a focused part of the Burlingame Historic District for the general public later this year.

Verbatim Pop-Up Book Fair in the Mini-Park Verbatim Books is planning a Pop-Up Book Fair on Saturday, June 29 from 10 am to 5 pm featuring 15 selected book and craft vendors. North Park Historical Society is one of the fortunate few! Come to the Mini-Park behind the Observatory (North Park Theatre) next month and look for our canopy.

7. SLIDE AND PHOTO SCANNING PROJECT

We are in the process of scanning slides and notebooks with photos and notes from the Covington Family and other sources. Stuart Hartley, a professional photographer, has volunteered to help. As a start, he has borrowed the set of color slides of a 1950s Toyland Parade donated by Joe Schloss, paper pages of Dryden District house information compiled by Donald Covington, and a large photo of the groundbreaking for Beth Jacob Synagogue on 30th Street in 1950 (see below). The synagogue building has been replaced by an apartment complex and YMCA resource center, but most of the homes across the street and the Water Tower in the background remain.



8. COMMUNITY COORDINATION AND ACTIVITIES

In May 2024, we responded to requests for information (and received interesting information) and participated in community activities as summarized below.

1. Michael M., who owns a Spanish Revival house on Mississippi Street on our Pauly's Addition tour, was curious about when he can celebrate his home's centennial, and who were some of the first owners. The Spanish Revival house was built in 1926, and the person who pulled the building permit was the first owner, Edward E. Currier, with a

builder, A.G. Mossholder. Edward Currier was a house painter and owned the house until about 1946. The second owner was Louis Gruenbaum, who was born in Nuremberg, Germany, and fortuitously came to the U.S. in 1939. He lived with his wife, Erna (who died in 1961), and second wife, Elizabeth, at one of the two houses on the property until his death in 1996, so for about 50 years. We found his naturalization application (below) on Ancestry.com, as well as his entry paperwork upon arriving at Ellis Island, New York, on December 2, 1939.

39

ORIGINAL
(To be retained by clerk)

No. 97439

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DECLARATION OF INTENTION

(Invalid for all purposes seven years after the date hereof)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

ss: In the DISTRICT Court
of THE UNITED STATES at LOS ANGELES

I, **LUDWIG GRUENBAUM**
now residing at **908 S. Normandie Ave., Los Angeles, Los Angeles, Calif.**
occupation **welder, "Little Turna"** Age **33** years, do declare on oath that my personal description is:
Sex **male**, color **White**, complexion **fair**, color of eyes **gray**
color of hair **black-gray**, height **5** feet **7 1/2** inches; weight **161** pounds; visible distinctive marks
None
race **Hebrew**; nationality **German**
I was born in **Munich, Germany** on **Nov. 22, 1901**
I am **not** married. The name of my wife or husband is **Ernestina** (widow)
we were married on **Oct. 23, 1929** at **Augsburg, Germany**
she or he was born at **Munich, Germany** on **Dec. 19, 1902**
I entered the United States at **New York, N.Y.** on **Dec. 2, 1939** for permanent residence therein, and now resides at **Los Angeles, Calif.** I have **no** children, and the name, date and place of birth, and place of residence of each of said children are as follows:

I have **not** heretofore made a declaration of intention: Number _____, OB _____
at _____
my last foreign residence was **Augsburg, Germany**
I emigrated to the United States of America from **Rotterdam, Holland**
under the name of **LUDWIG GRUENBAUM** on the vessel **"ROTTERDAM"** at **New York, N.Y.** on **Dec. 2, 1939**

I will, before being admitted to citizenship, renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, and particularly, by name, to the prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty of which I may be at the time of admission a citizen or subject; I am not an anarchist; I am not a polygamist nor a believer in the practice of polygamy; and it is my intention in good faith to become a citizen of the United States of America and to reside permanently therein; and I certify that the photograph affixed to the duplicate and triplicate hereof is a likeness of me.

I swear (affirm) that the statements I have made and the intentions I have expressed in this declaration of intention subscribed by me are true to the best of my knowledge and belief: So help me God.

Ludwig Gruenbaum
Subscribed and sworn to before me in the form of oath shown above in the office of the Clerk of said Court, at **Los Angeles, Calif.** this **23rd** day of **February**, anno Domini, 19**40** Certification No. **83-8063** From the Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization showing the lawful entry of the declarant for permanent residence on the date stated above, has been received by me. The photograph affixed to the duplicate and triplicate hereof is a likeness of the declarant.

R. B. Zimmerman, Clerk U. S. District Court
Clerk of the **Southern District of California** Court.

By *M. J. Davis*
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE

14-5023

No. 430639

(DO NOT ATTACH PHOTOGRAPH TO THIS COPY OF DECLARATION)

- Marlena with Southern Environmental in Pasadena emailed to ask, "I am reaching out to see if it is possible that you have a copy of the designation report prepared for the University Heights Water Storage and Pumping Station on El Cajon Blvd in North Park. I found through the City of San Diego Historical Resources Board that the report for the designation was authored by Alex Bevil and submitted by the North Park Historical Society. I am currently doing research on a water tower in another part of Southern California and am hoping to find resources that may be helpful to understanding the context of early twentieth century municipal water storage. I also thought the report may serve as a helpful precedent for successful water tower designation." We sent her the following link on our website to the full nomination report.

Water-tower-district-13000417-final-nomination-signed.pdf (northparkhistory.org)

3. The City HRB will consider the nomination for designation of 3545 Mississippi Street on May 23. NPHS provided a letter of support for designation of this 1922 Craftsman home built by Master Builder Alexander Schreiber, which is a highlight on our Pauly's Addition tour. The designation has been put on the consent calendar, and staff are recommending designation.

9. NPHS WATER TOWER USED IN TOYLAND PARADE

Our valued member, Victor, who portrayed the dancing water tower in past Toyland Parades, has been storing the water tower "costume" in his garage. Member Ed O. said he would like to explore some ideas about making it collapsible, and if it can, he might be able to store it in his attic space. We will coordinate in June. George and Paul both noted their vehicles could transport the water tower when needed.



Sharon contacted Victor to see if he would like to appear at the June 22 Morley Field Walking Tour to encourage people to come to our canopy, and he is willing.

10. PAYMENT FOR NPHS MEMBERSHIP

Steve added a heading below our website banner to "Become a Member," which goes to a separate page where the form can be downloaded. We have activated Venmo for people to use for membership dues, and it has tested out as working. Our @ is northparkhistorical. We have modified the membership form to note that people can pay via Venmo. We got a new member household this month, and they provided the form via email and paid via Venmo! The revenue will show in next month's financials.

11. CITY OF SAN DIEGO PROPOSED CHANGES TO POLICIES

You can use the following link on the Planning Department webpage to sign up to get updates with the city's info about the review process and timeline:

[Preservation and Progress | City of San Diego Official Website](#)

You can also request notifications of other city meetings, like the HRB, through this site.

12. PLAQUE FOR WATER TOWER

Coordination with City Public Utilities Department staff regarding the feasibility of placing the plaque in a boulder or some kind of low wall next to the two-story building at the Water Tower site is pending completion of the city's construction activities at the site.

13. FUTURE MEETINGS

All future public meetings scheduled for the **third THURSDAYS of the month starting at 6:00 p.m.** in a meeting room at Grace Lutheran Church **WILL OCCUR in 2024**, and we are still providing information to all who contact us with questions about North Park history. Our next meeting will be on **June 20**.

Prepared by

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Katherine Hon".

Katherine Hon
Secretary, North Park Historical Society

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR JUNE 22 MORLEY FIELD WALKING TOUR EVENT FLYER

NORTH PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MORLEY FIELD
WALKING TOUR
SATURDAY
JUNE 22, 2024
10:00 & 10:30
**MEET BY THE POOL AT
MORLEY FIELD**
ON TEXAS STREET SOUTH OF UPAS
LOTS OF FREE PARKING!



Join us for a guided walking tour highlighting the history of Morley Field: the east side of Balboa Park and the site of many sports activities including swimming, cycling, archery, tennis, frisbee golf, pétanque and baseball.

COST: A donation of your choice would be appreciated.

**NO ADVANCED REGISTRATION NEEDED
LOOK FOR OUR CANOPY BY THE POOL**

**Walk is 1 mile & 1 hour
Tour groups leave at 10:00 am
and 10:30 am.**



Learn all about
Tennis star Maureen
Connolly Brinker, Little
League coach Joe Schloss,
namesake John Morley, the
pool, velodrome, landfill (!)
and much more.

FOR INFO, CONTACT
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