



# Smoke Signal

CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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President & Editor: Sheila Watts  
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## EDITORIAL

This issue of the Smoke Signal is late because of awaiting the results of the nominating Committee's slate of officers for the upcoming year. Unfortunately, despite several meetings, the Committee has been unable to fill the slate of officers. Therefore members of the Society are again requested to participate on the executive board. Everyone seems to be busy these days, but lets keep the Society rolling!

Keith Watts is chairman of the nominating committee (341-4489) and the other members are Bill Schepler (341-3447), Betty Summers (341-2741) and John Thorpe (882-3572.) Please contact a member of the committee if you will accept a nomination for a position on the Executive Board.

Sheila Watts, Editor

ZENA THORPE will be the speaker at the birthday meeting on Tuesday, March 19. We'll meet at the museum at 7:30 p.m., and will have the usual interesting evening with a birthday cake courtesy of Hughes market, and a social hour following the program. Zena is an internationally renowned quilter having won numerous honors and prizes for her prowess with a needle as well as her artistic ability. She will be making a tour of the British Isles this summer giving slide/lectures at various cities.

Please join us for a most happy evening as we celebrate Chatsworth's 108th birthday. Please come and bring a friend.

## DOCENT DOINGS FROM DONNA

The next open house at the Acre is Sunday, March 3rd. Team two will be on duty: Lillian Schepler, Sheila Watts, Bea Berman and Sylvia Oates.

The Pioneer Church is now open on the first Sunday of each month also from 1 to 4 p.m. The Society's docents will assist the members of St. Mary the Virgin with staffing the church open house. At the February open house, John Thorpe gave tours that included viewing the movie of the moving of the church in 1963.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT:

I wish to thank the people who came to help at the recent pruning and clean-up morning. We accomplished quite a bit. Under the leadership of Candy Craig in the garden and with Betty Summers supervising in the cottage we moved speedily along. Candy has fewer roses to prune and the cottage is really sparkling.

Congratulations to the Chatsworth Women's Club. This week the club will hold a Jubilee luncheon at the Odyssey Restaurant in Granada Hills to celebrate the 75th birthday

of its founding. The year was 1921 and it was a totally different Chatsworth than we know today. It remains a unique town and in the skit to be pantomimed by club members, the history of those decades of service reflect the changes that have occurred - from a farming community to a bustling suburb and industrial park. Virginia Watson wrote the script with the help of two other club members and the three of them will narrate.

The club has reason to celebrate, having provided volunteer services of thousands of hours.

Hope to see you at the meeting in March.

Sheila

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CONGRATULATIONS also to Randi and Gary Bercow on the birth of a lovely little daughter on January 24. Jessica Haley weighed in at 7 lbs.6oz and she is the granddaughter of Bea and Marshall Berman.

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#### NEWS ITEMS

The Watts's home was enlivened for two weeks this month when daughter Jennifer, husband Mitch and baby granddaughter Savannah visited from New York.

Lila Schepler trained and served as a docent for the Smithsonian exhibit while it was here at the Convention Center. What a very nice project to be associated with. Thanks Lila.

WELCOME BACK to the newly refurbished Angels Flight (b.1901). While its current site is a short distance from its original home, it looks remarkably like it did in 1969 when the Community Redevelopment Agency removed the train and track. However, the agency stored them very carefully and artisans and technicians were able to reconstruct them. Very modern methods of securing the train for the trips up and down the hill are used. It's really

nice to know that people are still preserving historical artifacts.

When Zena decided on a lecture tour she had to have photographs of the quilts she was using taken by a professional photographer. Zena kindly arranged for the Centennial Quilt to be photographed at the same time with the idea of having postcards made. We are looking forward to having them to sell. The nicest part of this story is that Ruth Grant paid for the photograph to spare the Society the expense. Thanks from all of us, Ruth.

BEA BERMAN is already at work on the Garden Festival on April 28. Patterned on last year's event, we hope to feature the successful High Tea as the refreshment for the day. Of course, this all depends on willing helpers so keep this in mind - and also remember that the White Elephant and Plant booths would appreciate your donations. The White elephant items must be new or near-new.

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ANOTHER APPEAL. Candy has reported that a number of the roses in the original bed, across from the front door of the cottage, are deteriorating and need to be replaced. We would love to have people help buy the replacements - possibly to honor a newborn or as a memorial for a loved one. Most roses cost about \$15 so please keep us in mind when an occasion arises. The writer is just about to donate one honoring Savannah - I hope there's a rose by that name!

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#### COMING EVENTS

March 19 Chatsworth's 108th Birthday Party and General Meeting at the museum.

Sunday, April 28 Annual Garden Festival, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.