



Smoke Signal



CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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(818)-882-5614 www.historicalsocieties.net

Co-Presidents: Andre & Linda van der Valk

Editor : Keith Watts

MAY, 2007

CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Our Garden Festival was a great success. Bea Berman again made sure the weather was great, a little warm, but great. She had offered to convert if the weather was good but I think we will let her off the hook. Bea again has headed up a Garden Festival which to this day has made us the most money. We believe the net is about \$4,500, which has come at a good time because the cottage needs some new water piping. Not only was the Festival a success, but if it were not for the generosity of so many others we would not be able to have that kind of return. Our expenses are approximately \$200; the rest is all donations. Everything from the bake sale, white elephant, plant sale, porta potties, and the food in the tea and the snack bar are donated.

The hours spent baking and getting the plants and the gardens to look like they do is all done by CHS volunteers. There are too many to name, but you know who you are and I hope that everyone knows how much they are appreciated by Andre and myself. Hope to see everyone at the next meeting; the program will be great.

Linda and Andre

PROGRAMS UPDATE

....Bea Berman, Chairman

I hope everyone enjoyed our April program about the Santa Ynez Museum and I want to thank Fred Samuel for presenting such an interesting program. I also want to thank Liz Hartman for her great brownies and pie; I appreciate her helping.

Our May program will include installation of officers for 2007-2008, and will also feature Joe Herrington, who is a Western Tradition Storyteller and Cowboy Poet. Please join us and tell your friends. Remember, the date is May 15th at 7:00 p.m., the Homestead Acre.

Well, another Garden Festival is over and we can recuperate for awhile. The event was a huge success and I owe it all to the people who helped make it possible. I owe so many thanks

Chatsworth Historical Society
Board of Directors 2005-2007

Co-Presidents.....	Linda & Andre van der Valk	882-3661
Programs, Ways & Means.....	Bea Berman	341-5449
Membership.....	Keith Watts	341-4489
Treasurer.....	Lillian Schepler	341-2697
Rec. Secretary.....	Elaine Campbell	341-4954
Smoke Signal.....	Keith Watts	341-4489
Museum Curator.....	Virginia Watson	341-3053
Cottage Curator.....	Betty Summers	341-2714
Hospitality.....	Committee	
Garden Directors.....	Jim & Betty Summers	341-2714
Director-at-Large.....	Ruth Grant	882-3992
Permanent Member.....	Lila Schepler	341 3447

so please forgive me if I leave someone out; it is not intentional. The Duchess Tea was fantastic, and the food excellent. The food was made by our members and I want to thank Jelena Csanyi for manning the kitchen and handling everything with the tea. Liz Hartman was a great help to her and my daughter Adrienne and granddaughter Jessica. It ran so smoothly that we had no complaints.

Elaine Campbell and her daughter Janice made a lot of money at the white elephant booth. Betty and Jim Summers took care of the plant sale along with Janine Bergez, and Chatsworth Nursery brought us beautiful rose bushes to sell. Can't forget Loretta and Rod Sandavol for their great bake sale goods. Lillian Schepler took care of the information booth as well as making her famous lemon cakes for the tea.

Virginia Watson handled a lot of our publicity and gave great tours of the museum. Lila Schepler and Beverly King took care of the tours in the cottage. We were lucky to have Ann and Ray Vincent - Ray helping with much needed parking and Ann teaching calligraphy as well as doing a lot of computer work for us. Christian Lutz from the Recreation Center spent the whole day helping with parking and wherever we needed him. Irene Nalbandian and Ingrid Lindstrom were great at the gate My son-in-law Gary was doing hot dogs, my daughter Randi was selling tea tickets, as well as making tuna and egg salad sandwiches.

As always, Chatsworth Dance Centre provided the entertainment and Hannah Ahlstead brought us the Veterans Quilts and DWP gave us information and give-aways. I always save my thanks to two special people who do so much and are my sounding board. They are a tremendous help to me and the Society and I could not do the

chairing without them. I'm a great program chairman because I have all these wonderful people to work with. I hope we can continue for a long time. Linda and Andre, thank you so much.

I also want to thank the Garden Clubs for coming out and supporting the Garden Festival.

A "DISTINCTION IN TEACHING"

.....Virginia Watson

Word was received that CHS member Heather Watts, daughter of our Smoke Signal editor, Keith Watts and the late Sheila Watts, is being honored at Harvard University in Cambridge, MA for her outstanding work as a visiting lecturer and faculty member.

Watts is married to Damian Woetzel, current New York City Ballet Principal Dancer, and last year taught an academic class at Harvard on the work of George Balanchine, founder of the NYCB. This year she is teaching the first ballet course offered for full credit at Harvard University..

A retired principal dancer with the New York City Ballet, Watts began dancing at an early age at the Rozanne Ballet Center in Chatsworth. She also studied with Natalia Claire of North Hollywood.

Growing up locally, Watts attended Chatsworth Park Elementary School, Columbus Junior High and Chatsworth High School, along with her two brothers and a younger sister. At 13, Watts won a Ford Foundation scholarship to study summers with the School of American Ballet, the official school of the NYCB. When she was only 17 years old, she was invited to be a member of the New York City Ballet by Balanchine himself. She went on to dance solo many of Balanchine's creations and with most

of the well-known male principal dancers. One of the outstanding events in her career was dancing with Mikail Baryshnikov at The White House at the request of President and Mrs. Carter with her parents in attendance.

She has been a contributing editor of *Vanity Fair* magazine covering arts and culture, and she has won awards from *Dance Magazine*, the New York Public Library Lions of the Performing Arts Award and various state awards for education. She also serves on the Artistic Committee for the Kennedy Center Honors. Heather resides in New York City and commutes for Harvard classes.

In our Historical Society, Heather is known for her talents and accomplishments, but especially for her love of roses. This month we received another donation from her and a characteristically cheerful note saying, "Happy Garden Festival." The money is used to keep up our roses at the Acre.

As a child she lived near our Homestead Acre and her parents are founding members of our society. She and her brothers and sister attended many of our early historical society events. Heather and brother Kevin were allowed to stay home from school the day our first project, the moving of the Pioneer Church got underway. And a picture of them watching the old frame building moving out on its way up to Oakwood Memorial Park is in our collection.

Our Centennial Quilt has a ballerina quilted into one corner. Creator of the quilt was Ruth Grant, one of our members, who led a group of 11 quilters in the stitching. She was working on the quilt when she was traveling in Denmark and attended the ballet in Copenhagen. To her surprise it was Heather Watts dancing there, so far from home. When Ruth returned home she made a fabric ballerina and it was placed on the commissioned quilt. Members of the society decided that it was appropriate to stand for all the young people of Chatsworth who have gone on to

fame and fortune. When our docents tell the story of the quilt, they often tell the story of the Chatsworth Ballerina.

MEMBER NEWS.....Virginia Watson

Recently Donna and Mike Afflerbach stopped in Chatsworth for a short visit. They are still members of our Society but several years ago they sold their house and bought a motor home and have been traveling all over the United States and Mexico. One of the things they especially enjoy doing is comparing the architecture of the various state houses in the different location across America.

Their visit was very short, but they will be staying more often in the Southern California area because their daughter and her husband will be moving to the San Diego area soon and they will hopefully be able to come for some of our events. The big news is that they have a new grandchild--a little girl.

In the meantime they stay in touch through email.

CCCC AWARDS. The Chatsworth Community Coordinating Council will hold the Annual Installation of Officers and the Presentation of Citizens of the Year Awards on Friday, May 18th at the Encino Glen, 16821 Burbank Boulevard, Encino.

This year the CHS has nominated three people to be honored with Certificates for their volunteer work in the community and especially for the CHS. They are: Marilyn Frump, Don Pendleton and Christian Lutz. Marilyn is a long-time member of our society who was a docent and who continues to do telephoning for our executive board meeting. Don Pendleton is a newer member of our society and has been diligently working in our gardens. Christian Lutz is the Program Director

at Chatsworth Park South and he helps us with a lot of problems and volunteers at our big events. He recently worked long and hard at our Garden Festival, first in the parking lot and later selling hot dogs and drinks.

We are fortunate to have so many volunteer workers. Our Chatsworth Historical Society is an all-volunteer organization and our success is a tribute to the many volunteers who keep up the house and gardens, provide guided tours and do clerical work for the museum, spend untold hours working on our special events, donate food or merchandise, and attend our meetings. We are also grateful for the businesses who donate or give discounts to our society and to the people who support our fund raisers.

HONORED SCHOLAR

Jessica Bercow has been accepted to be an honored scholar in the Junior National Young Leaders Conference to be held in Washington, D. C., from August 4 to August 9, 2007. Together with other young leaders across the United States, Jessica will study the tradition of leadership in America while developing her own leadership skills. Students will examine in detail past leaders of our country in workshops, hand-on exercises, and site experiences, working together to develop action plans that affect change within their own home and communities. Chosen for both academic performance and community leadership, Jessica is the daughter of Randi and Gary Bercow, members of our society.

She is also the granddaughter of long -time CHS members Bea and Marshall Berman. A 6th grade student at Lawrence Middle school, Jessica is 11 years old and enjoys soccer. She has been attending events at The Homestead Acre since she was a baby, and more recently has been following the family tradition of volunteering. She has always helped her grandmother, our longtime vice president and fund-raiser extraordinaire, with her projects and last year served in her own capacity as a volunteer at the tea.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

June 9, SummerFest 2007 - Free family and community event presented by the Chatsworth Business District with Live Music, Kids Crafts, Special Demonstrations & Exhibits, Silversmiths, Horseshoeing ,Horses, Dance and other attractions. Prize for Best Costume of the Day.

Chatsworth Train Depot, 11 :00 a.m.-2:00 p.m,

Saturdays June 9, 16 and 23. Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training presented free at St. Stephen's Church, 20121 on Devonshire St., near Winnetka Ave.

Be prepared if disaster strikes. Learn how to help yourself and others by taking this 17-hour course on 3 Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For further information, check the web site for the Chatsworth Neighborhood Council: chatsworthcouncil.org.

GARDEN FESTIVAL VIGNETTES - 2007



ENTRANCE TO THE TEA HOUSE

Afternoon Tea servings were enjoyed by delighted patrons.



DANCERS IN THE PARK!

Polynesian dances were enjoyed by a Standing-Room-only crowd.



PLANTS AND FLOWERS FOR SALE!

Many plants and flowers were sold to wannabe gardeners. Roses were depleted at the time of this photo.