

# SORO

# Newsletter NEWSletter

ISSUE III FALL 2001  
Circulation: 10,000 quarterly

the Newsletter of the  
SOUTH ROBERTSON  
Neighborhoods Council

BEVERLYWOOD  
CASTLE HEIGHTS  
CRESTVIEW  
REYNIER VILLAGE  
REGENT SQUARE  
SoRo MERCHANTS  
& SURROUNDING AREA

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## A MESSAGE FROM SUSAN BURSK

### "CHANGE"

Webster's Dictionary defines change as "to make different; alter; modify; to put (something) in place of another." As a noun change means "a passing from one form or place to a different one." However you use the word change, we know that it means things will never be the same as they were before.

Our world changed on September 11, 2001 and yet, it's essential that we continue doing what we need to do to take care of our ourselves, our families, our loved ones, our friends. We need to continue to do those things that bring us joy, give us a sense of accomplishment, and make

us feel that we can make a difference and hopefully make things better.

I personally have also experienced change in these last couple of months. As a volunteer in our community for a number of years, I have been privileged to have served as the first President of the South Robertson (SoRo) Neighborhoods Council for the past, almost, 4 years. My change is that I have stepped down as President to pursue similar interests in a more direct manner. I have accepted a position as Chief Field Deputy for our new City Councilmember Jack Weiss and am working out of the West Los Angeles field office.

The SoRo Neighborhoods Council is in good stead with Carole Segal serving

as President Pro-tem until we have elections in the first quarter of next year, 2002.

I can't begin to express my gratitude and appreciation to my fellow volunteers who I've worked with, laughed with, and



Susan Bursk

complained with for these past years.

Although I might not be writing agendas, or leading meetings in the same

capacity, my interest in and love for our community will continue. Thank you for your support, your dedication and your unyielding time. It's been great! I look forward to working with each of you in representing both the Council office and the community.

### 5th District Elects New Councilman

In a stunning upset, first-time candidate Jack Weiss defeated veteran state legislator, Tom Hayden to win the 5th City Council race by 369 votes out of a total of 53,167 votes cast. Even more striking was the difference between election-day votes and absentee ballots. On election day, Hayden won by a 52.6% to 47.4% margin. But Weiss won the absentee ballots in a landslide, 59.1% to 40.9%, providing him with his victory margin.

Weiss was endorsed by several community leaders in the SoRo area who were impressed by his dedication to local concerns, his intelligence and sterling integrity. A career Federal prosecutor, he was born and raised in the 5th district. He has already displayed excellent judgement by hiring our own SoRo President, Susan Bursk, as one of his field deputies. SoRo looks forward to a very productive relationship with our new council member. Congratulations, Jack!

—By Jonathan Friedman

A work by SoRo artist, Barbara Mendes, has been selected as the signature piece of an exhibition at the American Jewish Museum in Pittsburgh. Barbara created the SoRo merchant map. For more information, contact her at BARBARAMENDES@aol.com



Fulfill your need to read at our very own local library--Robertson Branch Library--located at 1719 S. Robertson Blvd. Home to a wide variety of books and services, including two reading clubs. In addition to the books you'll also find DVDs, videos and music CDs. The library also has internet computers and word processors for patrons use. For more information call 310-840-2147



OUR WEB SITE: We're on-line, with our very own site. Log on to this constantly improving site to find out what's going on in SoRo and to communicate with each other.



to reach us

PHONE/FAX:

310-839-7639

WEBSITE:

www.soro.org

SoRo Board Meetings

2nd Wednesday of every month  
Hamilton High Library 6:30 PM

### SoRo Town Hall Community Meeting

Wed., Nov. 7, 2001 7-9 pm  
Social Mixer 6:30-7 pm  
Hamilton High School Cafeteria  
2955 S. Robertson Blvd.

Meet New 5th district Councilman Jack Weiss

Special presentation by Senator Kevin Murray

Free Parking - Refreshments

Join Us for an Interesting and Informative Evening

Meet Your Neighbors and Learn How to Get Involved

### neighborhood events

#### November 2

Hamilton High School Football Final Home Game  
Hamilton Yankees against University High School  
3 pm - Hamilton High School Athletic Field

#### November 7

SoRo Community Meeting  
Hamilton High School Cafeteria  
2955 S. Robertson Blvd  
7-9 p.m.

#### November 11

A Shener Velt Gallery  
1525 S. Robertson Blvd.  
Opening Reception for "Gavurin Plus"  
4-6 p.m.

#### November 29,30, Dec 1,6,7,8

"Babes In Arms" Fall Musical  
Hamilton High School,  
2955 S. Robertson Blvd.  
Academy of Music  
Pattiz Auditorium  
For Info: 559-9468

#### December 5

"An Evening with Ray Bradbur y"  
Pattiz Auditorium, 7 p.m.  
Hamilton High School,  
2955 S Robertson Blvd.  
For Info: 559-9468

#### December 8

Yale Strom and Klazzj Khaneke concert "From Boyle Heights to Birodbidzhan and Back"  
7-9:30 p.m.  
The Workmen's Circle,  
1525 S. Robertson  
For Info: 552-2007

# SORO NEWS

## Canfield Avenue Elementary School

Test scores are up. Enrollment is soaring and fundraising on the rise at this relatively small and creative school nestled among the trees.

They say it takes a village, and maybe it takes a SORO village to change a Los Angeles Unified public school. Take Canfield Avenue Elementary (pre K thru Grade 5), located at 9233 Airdrome Street, for example. A relative-

ly small elementary school with approximately 400 students, Canfield, along with several others, is now one of the most popular elementary schools for SORO residents. "The test scores have gone up significantly and the neighborhood is coming back," says Robyn Ritter Simon, one of the founding four original "Beverlywood Moms" who emerged with three other moms who decided to take back their neighborhood school.

Back in 1995 these moms, who also included Theresa Grossman, Nicole Gorak and Denise Neumann, all wondered the same thing; why weren't neighborhood residents sending their kids to this charming school where you could actually walk your kids instead of tak-

ing them clear across the city for a decent education?

Thanks to several grants including the Anne and Kirk Douglas Foundation, Fox Studios, and the 4H Clubs, Canfield's green and playground was redone and a beautiful garden is in the process of being enlarged to 5000 square feet. Denise Neumann, says the garden, along with their association with the 4H Club, will engage the children to learn about nutrition, composting and recycling. While the Booster Club is raising much needed funds for improvement and additional educational services for the children, the popular Spring Musical is a great place where the neighborhood can support the school.

Original sets are built and costumes sewed. It is an enormous undertaking where the whole neighborhood can participate.

Designs have been drawn by a generous architect for Canfield's new library, part of the school's huge push for literacy and language. "While the District says there should be 4 books to every child, Canfield's goal is to have 10," says Ritter Simon.

Call the school for more information and speak directly with the school's principal to find out about upcoming enrollment dates and school tours. Many seniors are volunteering at Canfield, too. To find out about these kinds of volunteer opportunities call the school at (310) 552-2525.

-by Carol Eisner

## Robertson Revitalization update

Thanks to State Senator Kevin Murray's support, we will be receiving an additional \$150,000 grant to improve pedestrian safety.

Robertson Boulevard property owners were invited to a dinner meeting in July to discuss lighting improvements. They will eventually be asked to vote their approval in a balloting organized by the city's Bureau of Street Lighting.

The new bus shelters and stamped asphalt crosswalks for Robertson Boulevard are in the approval process.  
-by Julia Maher

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## SoRo ROAD SHOW

The 4th SoRo festival took place on June 3, 2001. South Robertson Blvd between Cattaraugus and Beverlywood Streets was the place to hear music, visit booths, eat, shop, get a free appraisal, pet animals, go on rides, do crafts, admire classic cars and motorcycles and mingle with old and new friends.



Soon to be elected Mayor James Hahn with members of the California Dance Center during the SoRo Road Show Festival.



## Changes in SoRo

Real Estate Values in the SoRo area have risen to new heights this year and with talks of recession looming around the corner no one knows how this will effect property values in our area. Although a return to the boom-like conditions of the 1999-2000 tech rally is unlikely, California's economy hopefully will continue to out perform the nation.

After 25 years in the same location, "The Little House of Nude Furniture" is closing it's doors forever. Opened in 1976 by Pat Hillegas and Barbara Reel, the same owner/operator team today, "The Little House of Nude Furniture" flourished and fluttered with the turns of the economy and now you can get discounts of 50% and more throughout this going out of business

sale. So go see the bargains at 2361 South Robertson Boulevard and say goodbye.



Walgreens Drug store at the corner of Pico and Robertson Boulevards has received approval to be open 24 hours. They are now hiring for the extended shifts and expect to be 24 hour operational by mid-October.

-By Suzanne Laff, Beitler Commercial Realty

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# SORO NEWS



## THEATRE GROUP STUDIO MOVES TO SOUTH ROBERTSON

Theatre Group Studio, an equity waver theatre and acting school, recently opened at 2635 South Robertson Boulevard. A new theatre, yes. But not offbeat. Under the artistic direction of Lorinne Vozoff, this theatre and learning studio are offspring of a classical acting tradition, "The Method" first formalized by the Russian master, Stanislavski.

Audiences were offered a first taste of this approach when "An Evening of One Acts" launched the theatre in June and July. All four one-acts were written and directed by Vozoff who also appeared in three of the pieces. With only 25 seats available, Vozoff's company of actors, played to mostly full houses.

The Studio offers classes in beginning through advanced acting, taught either by Ms. Vozoff or her assistant, Tom Simmons. For more information call: 310/839-9771

The first Cadillac Avenue block party was held on Saturday, August 4, 2001. It was sponsored and coordinated by LAPD, Nate Holden's council district 10's office and SoRo. (Orlando Bonner, Jack Weiss & son, Susan Bursk)



## The Robertson Branch Library

Did you realize there was a public library in your neighborhood? You didn't? Well, on the huge front panel of the building at 1719 S. Robertson Blvd. (near Airdrome) there is no large sign stating LIBRARY. Instead, there are many quotations about reading. And many types of reading take place at our branch.

There are the browsers, especially in the new book section. We have scholars

doing research, parents looking for books to read with their children. You may sit comfortably and scan through popular magazines and newspapers.

If you can't find a certain book, our reference clerks will try to locate it in our city system. We have librarians who specialize in programs for children and teens. There are also "grandparents" who volunteer to read to groups of tots weekly.

Books in Farsi, Hebrew, and Spanish are also on

our shelves. But we're not just limited to books. How about tapes of books, DVD's videos, music CD's, internet computers and word processors? We offer computer classes and an on-line investor class. Like all libraries, the Robertson branch has a copying machine.

You can buy bargains in the Used Book Room near the reference desk and we have used book sales twice a year.

We currently have two book clubs. The American Writers Series based on the videos and book titles from C-SPAN is one. They meet on the third Wednesday at 6:30 PM, chaired by our senior librarian, Cheryl Collins. The other is the Robertson Readers; the book for discussion is

selected by the group and is chaired by Maureen Woods on the second Tuesday at 6:30 PM.

Friends of Robertson Branch Library meet the first Wednesday of every month, alternating afternoons with evenings. This group makes decisions about special events which in the past has included speakers such as L A Times columnists Sandy Banks and Al Martinez, authors Mary Batten and Harold Lax as well as Olympian Rafer Johnson. We are currently forming a committee to select art for our community room. All organizations improve through new ideas; bring us yours!—Anne Gross, Co-president, Friends of the Robertson Branch Library, 310/840-2147

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** to distribute the SoRo newsletter. Special thanks to local realtor Barbara Fiedler for her assistance. Call 310/839-7639 to sign up.

## BRIDAL BARGAINS

"Tamara's Bridal Gowns & Accessories", 1540 S. Robertson Blvd., opened in 1993 by the Praw family, focuses on a large selection at a fair price. There are 1000 national designer gowns from size 4 to 44 on site. Dresses are discounted whether ordered or "off the rack". There is a fully computerized inventory & computerized magazine listings.

Average prices for bridal gowns: \$399-\$800, bridesmaids' from \$110-\$250. Also, a full room of accessories from veils to shoes to undergarments to complete the ensemble. For more info, call Jackie or Harold (310) 276-1992 or [www.tamarasbridal.com](http://www.tamarasbridal.com). Another great shopping resource in our very own neighborhood!  
—Terry Ring Schonwald

## Action Committees

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!** Be an important part of your community & revitalize SoRo. Contact a group leader or call today

**SORO Merchant Assoc:**  
Work to stimulate and improve local business climate  
**Chair: Malcolm Brown**  
[mbrown4988@aol.com](mailto:mbrown4988@aol.com)

**SORO Festival Committee:**  
Plan and Host Annual Festival held on Robertson Blvd.  
**Chair: Susan Bursk**  
[sbursk@mediaone.net](mailto:sbursk@mediaone.net)

**Newsletter Committee:**  
Plan, write, illustrate, distribute quarterly communicate  
**Chair: Tony Fox**  
[tfox0034@earthlink.net](mailto:tfox0034@earthlink.net)  
**Co-Chair: Terry Delvoye**  
[delves@loop.com](mailto:delves@loop.com)

**Safety Committee:**  
Work with city departments and residents to improve safety in SORO area  
**Chair: Allan Graf**  
[aggreat@aol.com](mailto:aggreat@aol.com)

**Website Committee:**  
Update, maintain, contribute to SORO's cyber link  
**Chair: Paul Levy**  
[levyphoto@aol.com](mailto:levyphoto@aol.com)

**Tree Committee:**  
Help care for and plant trees in SORO area  
**Chair: Julia Maher**  
[juliamaher@aol.com](mailto:juliamaher@aol.com)

**Land Use & Traffic:**  
Work with city departments on zoning and traffic flow issues  
**Chair: Carole Segal**  
[kc6dxq@hotmail.com](mailto:kc6dxq@hotmail.com)

**Business Outreach Committee:**  
Help in efforts to bring new vital businesses into area  
**Chair: Claire Bowin**  
[bowincline@earthlink.net](mailto:bowincline@earthlink.net)

Call (310) 839-7639 For more information