

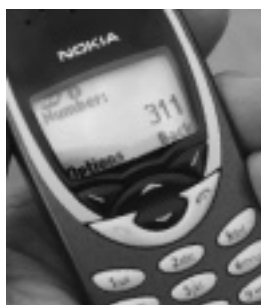
SORO

Newsletter NEWS

ISSUE V Winter 2003
Circulation: 10,000 quarterly

the Newsletter of the
SOUTH ROBERTSON
Neighborhoods Council

BEVERLYWOOD
CADILLAC COUNCIL
CASTLE HEIGHTS
CRESTVIEW
REYNIER VILLAGE
REGENT SQUARE
SORO MERCHANTS (Pico,
La Cienega & S. Robertson
Blvds.)



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

In our last newsletter I ended with the hope that SoRo would be a Certified Neighborhood Council by the next publication. Well we did it! On Tuesday October 13, 2002 SoRo became the 40th Neighborhood Council to be certified by the City of Los Angeles. What now? There is much work to be done. A new board will be elected some time next year, and we must continue our outreach to involve all areas of our diverse community.



Carole Segal

For SoRo to continue to function effectively we must attract members who want to serve on the board and be active and involved. You are a member of SoRo if you live, work, own property, attend school and/or are members of a congregation. The SoRo bylaws state that our purpose is to empower members to revitalize and sustain the economic and social well being of the council. We participate as an advisory board on issues and concerns and in the

governance of the City of Los Angeles. The mission of this Council is to serve as an inclusive open forum for public discussion of issues, needs and concerns of this community.

Our goal in 2003 is to continue our outreach to the community and expand community spirit. This newsletter is one means of outreach, so is our web site www.soro.org. Please take a moment to log on. We would love to get your feedback. You can e-mail us at info@soro.org. Thank you and Happy New Year to everyone.
Carole Segal

One Call to City Hall

by Mel Leventhal

A new breakthrough system to improve accessibility to city services,

3-1-1, provides LA residents, businesses and visitors with quick access to 1,400 non-emergency city services.

Los Angeles' 1,400 city services have a new number: 3-1-1. The new 3-1-1 system allows residents to make "one call to city hall" for information and any non-emergency service. Instead of sorting through more than 800 listings in the phone book or having to know which City department handles a service, residents and businesses now have

one easy number to remember to access city services.

In this initial phase, the people of the City of Los Angeles can call 3-1-1 from wired telephones, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. L.A. customers of Cingular Wireless will soon be able to use their mobile phones to dial 3-1-1 from anywhere in the city.

Calls are answered 24 hours a day by 3-1-1 Ambassadors who are trained to provide specific information or refer calls for service to the correct City agency – for the first time. However, referrals for specific City services are primarily available during regular business hours when the various departments are staffed to

handle the call. City Ambassadors are trained to answer questions in English and Spanish, and 3-1-1 is accessible in more than 150 languages through the use of language translation services. Additionally, the 3-1-1 Call Center is also equipped to serve the hearing impaired.

When referring a call to a city department, 3-1-1 Ambassadors connect the majority of callers to a person – not a voicemail box. For those residents and businesses preferring self-service, the Citywide Services Directory is available on-line at www.lacity.org.

Those calling from a non Cingular Wireless mobile phone, a pay phone

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

Neighborhood Events

Jan 19-Feb 28

"Ironworkers Local 433"
Photographs by S. Dimitrov
A Shenere Veit Gallery
Workmen's Circle
1522 S. Robertson Blvd
Free/Mon-Fri 10-5
& by appointment

Jan 25, 2003

7:30 pm
Concert Choir,
Electronic Music,
Piano & String Concert
Hamilton High School
Academy of Music

Jan 31, 2003

"Castle Heights Goes Broadway!"
Talent Show 2003
For Info: Cathy Glueck
838-8353

February 26, 2003

Council District 10
Candidates Forum
Hamilton High
Auditorium
7 PM – 9 PM

Co Sponsored by SoRo
& The League of
Women Voters

March 15, 2003

Jazz Ensembles
A,B.&C
Vocal Jazz Concert
Hamilton High School
Academy of Music

or callers outside of the City of Los Angeles but within the counties of Los Angeles, Ventura, San Bernardino, Riverside and Orange can call toll free 1-866-4LACITY to reach the 3-1-1 Center.

SORO NEWS

Childcare in SoRo

By Carol Eisner

Editor's note: Space precludes us from listing every childcare facility in SoRo – here are a few popular options in our child-friendly neighborhood.

Robertson Child Care Robertson Recreation Center

1641 Preuss Rd.
310/202-4565
Meena Irani, Director
Adjacent to the

Robertson Recreation Center, licensed by the Dept. of Social Service, State of California under Title 22, this childcare center offers a comprehensive program for kids ages 5-12. Open from 6:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. If the child is enrolled at one of the elementary schools – Canfield, Shenandoah, or Crescent Heights – they can be driven by van from the Robertson Center to the school and be picked up again. 45 children are currently enrolled; after-school programs include arts and crafts, basketball and other sports. Homework is a priority done from 3:45 – 4:30 p.m. The teaching staff must have 12 units in child develop-

ment; and there are two assistant directors who are child care associates. Cost is \$45.00 per week from 2:30 – 6:30 p.m. Kindergarten is \$55.00 per week. Call office for full-time and transportation fees.

Preschool Collaborative ****NEW**** Castle Heights Elementary School

9755 Cattaraugus Avenue
Contact: Marianna Roberts, Principal
(310) 839-4528
For Children Age 4 by December 2

Just designated this year as part of the LAUSD/State of California Preschool Collaborative with a waiting list already, Castle Heights Elementary School has

been chosen as a preschool site for children who are age 4 by December 2. This is a one-year program that precedes kindergarten where the child learns developmental play, oral language, reading readiness, beginning phonics. Focus is on development of oral language. If you live in Castle Heights' attendance area, call to be put on the list ASAP as they are in the process of creating another list for 2003-04; check for school boundaries by calling the office. Two of the teachers are special education professionals and one is a general education teacher. Forty spaces in all. Funded by the state. Students generally will matriculate into

Castle Heights' kindergarten. "We're raising our own babies," says Marianna Roberts, Principal.

Note: Shenandoah Street School also has been designated a Collaborative Preschool Site.

Gan Chabad The Garden School/Gan Israel Pre-School.

Nettie Lerner, Director
1952 S. Robertson Blvd.
(310)280-0195

Believe it or not, this school's been around for more than 10 years on Pico Boulevard, but now as the reinvented new Garden School funded by the State of California, it merged two years ago and became Gan Chabad

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(Hebrew for "Garden School.") Accredited and licensed through the Bureau of Jewish Education under the auspices of Chabad Lubavitch, the Garden School's approach to learning through "acquiring wisdom, understanding and knowledge at each child's level. This is an essential component," says Nettie Lerner, Director, and says that early childhood education is the basis for future learning. "We are committed to personal growth not only to children, but to staff as well and offer a challenging and stimulating environment. We function as role models for children and parents."

Current enrollment stands at 120 children;

can take 135. The Garden School is a non profit, non-discriminatory educational institution and equal opportunity employer. Children range in age 2-5 and teachers are qualified instructors in early education.

NEW!!!!

Starting with our next issue, the SoRo newsletter will include a directory of business and professional services listed by category. Listing is open to all who work, reside, own a business or practice a profession within the SoRo neighborhood council district. The cost to participate in the directory will be \$50 per year for 2 issues. The directory will also be

Part 2
By Jonathan Friedman

The new districts for the L.A. City Council and the L.A. Unified School Board took effect on July 1, 2002. While the changes for the City Council were modest in our area, the changes for the School Board were

available on SoRo's website www.soro.org. Monies raised from participating advertisers will be used to help publish and distribute 10,000 copies of this newsletter. For more info or to be listed please contact :Mel Leventhal at melshar@att.net

REDISTRICTING




quite dramatic.

Under the new lines, SORO continues to be represented by both the 5th and 10th City Council districts. There were no changes within SORO itself for either district. The 5th district acquired the part of Cheviot Hills west of Motor Ave and a chunk of Westwood (from Beverly Glen to the 405 freeway). The 5th district also saw dramatic changes in its Valley lines. The changes in the 10th district were more modest. On its western end, the 10th acquired an area between Palms Blvd. and the Culver City line (south of the 10 freeway). The changes in the School Board lines

were more comprehensive: all of SORO (and Cheviot Hills, Palms and a piece of Westwood) is now the northwest corner of the 1st district, represented by Genethia Hayes. The bulk of that area had been in the 4th district, represented by Marlene Canter. The 1st district also includes all of South Central and parts of Mid-City and Hancock Park.

Both the 1st School Board seat and the 10th Council seat are up for election in 2003. While Genethia Hayes is currently expected to run for reelection, Councilman Holden will be forced out of office by term limits.

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 1525 S. Robertson Blvd.
 310 552-2007

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 Yiddish Classes - Choruses - Shabes Dinners
 Dance Classes - Literary Events - Concerts

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 See What's Here for You!

SORO NEWS

The Best Kept Secret

by Terry Ring Schonwald

The Best Kept Secret in SoRo is The Music Academy at Hamilton High School now going into its 16th year and currently headed by Dr. Carolee Bogue. Considered one of the best performing arts high schools in all of Los Angeles with a long waiting list hoping to get in, the school attracts talented students from all over the city who aspire to be professional actors, classical and jazz performers, dancers, instrumentalists, and singers.

The Jazz Ensemble won first place in last year's Winter High School Invitational and has been invited back to the Monterey Jazz Festival Sept. 20 and 21st, according to Carol Turley, head administrator at the Music Academy.

The Vocal Jazz Group has again been invited to perform at The Jazz Convention which last year was held in Long Beach and this year in Toronto, Canada.

Those of you who have attended in the past know how "professional" the Music Academy's musicals are. In fact, last year's leading lady, Megan Campbell, who was the lead in the two musicals has gone on to be the understudy for "Millie" in the Broadway hit "Thoroughly Modern Millie" in New York City. Ms. Turley informed me Boston Conservatory, where Megan was headed after Hamilton, is still holding a spot for her!

call (310) 559-9468 for further details.

In Memoriam James Doolin



By Estelle Tuvman

I want to tell you a little bit about my neighbor, friend, extraordinary artist and human being, James Doolin. Jim died recently at the age of 70. With his untimely passing we lost an outstanding commentator and communicator of every day life in urban S. California.

Doolin is known for his powerful urban landscapes - glorious sweeping vistas of freeway systems, Santa Monica Place, Las Vegas and the deserts of Southern California among others. A master of color and composition, his paintings were gorgeous yet also had a sense of impending doom. A collection of recent work was exhibited two years ago at the Koplín Gallery in West Hollywood. Christopher Knight, art critic of the LA Times, praised Doolin's "gift for endowing the everyday with a sense of estrangement" and named him as one of L.A.'s icons.

painting is "Psychic" Again it's on S. Robertson after a rain. The street is slick with a stormy scarlet sky breaking over a blank billboard above the psychic shop. Very spooky and beautiful at the same time, it evokes mystery and emotion.

If you haven't had the chance to see Jim's work, I urge you to take a ride downtown to the MTA Gateway building (right behind Union Station). The four murals (three in the lobby and the fourth on the balcony) tell the story of an early sleepy L. A. flanked by swirling, undulating freeways forecasting how L A will transform itself. The mural on the balcony is an aerial view of L A today at twilight. Lights are just turning on in the houses and the freeways are full. The sleepy town has gone

through a metamorphosis and become a huge megalopolis. Doolin, the man, was someone who possessed great character, integrity and honesty. He responded to his fellow man with great humanity and kindness. Whenever I was in his presence, I knew he was "the real thing". Very unpretentious, he served as a keen observer of life around him. No illusions yet always with a great sense of humor. He was a wonderful neighbor who cared about his environment, his family and society at large and this was reflected in his art. It's not often that someone with all those gifts combined in one package comes along. He will be missed. He is survived by his wife Lauren Richardson and daughter Eve.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

to distribute the SoRo newsletter.
Call 310/839-7639 to sign up.

Action Committees

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

Call (310) 839-7639 For more information

SORO Merchant Assoc:
Work to stimulate and improve local business climate
Chair: Malcolm Brown
mbrown4988@aol.com

Newsletter Committee:
Plan, write, illustrate, edit and distribute newsletter
Chair: Terry Delvoe
delves@earthlink.com

LANI: (L.A. Neighborhood Initiative)
Plans & oversees streetscape improvements
Chair: Claire Bowin
risley@pacbell.net

Safety Committee:
Work with city departments and residents to improve

safety in SORO area
Chair: Allan Graf
aggreat@aol.com

Website Committee:
Update, maintain, contribute to SORO's cyber link
Chair: Paul Levy
levyphoto@aol.com

Tree Committee:
Help care for and plant trees in SORO area
Chair: Julia Maher
juliamaher@aol.com

Land Use & Traffic:
Work with city departments on zoning and traffic flow issues
Chair: Carole Segal
kc6dxq@hotmail.com