

SORO

Newsletter NEWS

ISSUE VI Spring 2003
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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.)



"Antique Row on
Robertson" pg. 2

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

If you are receiving this newsletter for the first time, our outreach is succeeding. We are making a concerted effort to improve our outreach to you, the community we represent. We are currently working hard on your behalf in many areas. On April 6, 2003, several SoRo board members attended the Congress of Neighborhoods 2003, organized by the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment or DONE. The theme for the day was "Teamwork L.A." A thousand members from neighborhood councils from all over the city attended. All the city agencies were present too. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet and personally connect with city departments and neighborhood

groups. Thirty-six workshops were offered on such varied topics as; Organizing 101, Land Use (Beginning and Advanced) Community Policing, Emergency Preparedness, How to Get Things Done, The Brown Act Basics and Grants to name a few. It was a very rewarding day, filled with valuable information and important contacts.



Carole Segal

The purpose of "Teamwork L.A." is to encourage and promote city workers to be proactive in problem solving while working closely with communities and other city departments to identify and implement efficient solutions for neighborhood problems. This spirit was evident at the Congress of Neighborhoods 2003.

Our job as a Neighborhood Council is to be aware of what is going on at City Hall. We do that by previewing council, commission and department agendas on a daily basis to look for issues that pertain to our neighborhoods and by staying in touch with our city department representatives and council offices.

I urge you to attend our Neighborhood Council meetings and encourage your neighbors, local business owners, teachers and religious leaders to support us and to participate. Please stay informed and commit yourself to taking an active role in the success of the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council.

- Carole Segal

Sunday, June 8th

IT'S A SORO WORLD A RAINBOW OF MUSIC AND DANCE Festival

SoRo, The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council, will hold its' 6th Annual Festival on Sunday, June 8th, from 11 am - 4 pm. Robertson Blvd. will be closed from Pico to Airdrome to allow festival activities to be car free and to insure easy access for pedestrians. Admission to the Festival is free. This year the Festival's theme is "It's a SoRo World - A Rainbow of Music and Dance" geared for all ages. This Multi-Cultural Festival will celebrate the

diversity of SoRo through music, food, dance and much more:

- **Foods** from Haifa (Kosher), Bertha's Tamales, St. Marks' Coptic Church Caterers and Le Petit Jardin will tantalize your taste buds.
- **Learn to Tango** and other dances on our dance floor and enjoy live musical entertainment throughout the day.
- **Camp SoRo** for kids will keep your children busy all day long with crafts and games.
- **Shop** at local vendors on the Boulevard

Our sponsors include The Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs as well as both Council District 5 and



Council District 10. If you would like to be a sponsor or participate in any way (pre-festival, set-up the day of the festival, work at the festival and/or tear down post-festival day) please contact Terry Schonwald, Chair, SoRo Festival at crestview@usa.com. We'll be happy to hear from you whatever your involvement. We look forward to seeing all our SoRo neighbor's on June 8th!



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

June 14, 2003

7:30 PM
Gala 2003
AN ACADEMY OF
MUSIC CELEBRATION
N J Pattiz Concert Hall
Hamilton High School
Call 559-9468 for tickets

June 28, 2003

8:00 PM
UNCLE RUTHIE BUELL IN
A VERY ADULT CONCERT
Workmen's Circle
1522 S. Robertson Blvd
Call 552-2007 for info

July - August, 2003

"RICK FLORES -
LABOR ARTIST"
A Shenere Velt Gallery
1522 S. Robertson Blvd.
Mon-Fri 10-5



**Have a great garden and
want to share your secrets?**
In our next issue we will
interview SoRo gardeners
who want to talk about
their experiences and
share helpful hints.
Email eisnerpr@aol.com

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handmade Belgian tapestries, some of which are 200 years old. He also sells old violins and 50's American guitars, great old paintings, statues, lamps and decorative items. Even the film studios have discovered

Antiques Plus. Says the owner, "Once I saw one of my coat racks in a movie!"

I thought I was lost on Larchmont when I wandered into **Annabelle Antiques** at 2608 S. Robertson, a charming

haven with rare china from France, books, American, English and French furniture alongside country pine. Clothes, vintage jewelry and architectural gems like doors and old windows, quilts and depression era glass are available as well as appraisal services, prop rentals and estate sale management. According to manager Stephen Fields, "New furniture depreciates over time. But antique furniture has residual value and beauty."

When I walked into **Westside Moods** at 2731 S. Robertson Blvd. I was suddenly transported into a world of Old European elegance. Owner Athena Howard, a professional interior decorator for over 20 years who studied at UCLA, wanted to know what made me tick so she could help find just the



right item for my home. "I have worked in many beautiful homes in Los Angeles" says the owner and adds "I'm interested in the archetype of furniture and symphony of proportion, scale and of course, function." She deals in some of the finest 19th and early 20th century furniture in the area and carries sophisticated accessories and decorative art, oil and watercolors.

Most antiques stores closed Monday; open 11-6 most days.

ANTIQUE ROW ON ROBERTSON

By Carol Eisner

Looking for that perfect vintage doorknob from the 1940's? With over 10,000 items at **Antiques Plus**, located at 2739 S. Robertson, I found deco knobs, Persian carpets and thousands of knickknacks. Owner Alex Yermian, who specializes in restoration and who studied architecture, explains he became an antique dealer because of his appreciation for buildings and monuments. He is particularly proud of his



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SIGNAL SYNCHRONIZATION FOR S. ROBERTSON BLVD

By Mel Leventhal



The department of transportation is studying an adaptive control system (ATCS) in order to move

more cars on Robertson Blvd without affecting local use of the street. The study will evaluate how much additional capacity is generated by having ATCS. If implemented, the system would be located at key intersections between the Santa Monica Freeway and Pico Blvd. The developer of Constellation Place in Century City paid \$1.9 million to the city to implement ATCS.

For more information regarding this study contact Pauline Chan at PChan@dot.lacity.org. SoRo and other west side neighborhood councils will be meeting soon to discuss a draft traffic management plan. To be notified by e mail of meetings, subscribe to our announcement list at www.soro.org.

CANDIDATES FORUM



On February 26, 2003, SoRo and the League of Women Voters co-sponsored a candidates forum at Hamilton High for the 10th district city council seat to be vacated by Nate Holden due to term limits. The election resulted in a run off between Martin Ludlow and Deron Williams to be held in May.

SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD INFO LINE

With the upcoming start of construction on the Santa Monica Boulevard Transit Parkway Project, some inconvenience is inevitable. For information about the project, or to report complaints, a 24-hour hotline is available.

THE NUMBER IS (800) 913-8777
Website: www.smbldv.org.

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SORO NEWS

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS FOR LOCAL HOME- LAND SECURITY

From the Weiss Wire:

Recognizing that federal support for local homeland security is essential, Councilmember Jack Weiss applauded Congress' April 14th passage of a measure sponsored by Senator Diane Feinstein to provide \$109 million to resolve gaps in emergency communications as part of the \$80 billion supplemental war and homeland security appropriation. This federal legislation will provide funds for "interoperability" technology to allow emergency personnel to communicate with each other.

"In an emergency, police and fire commanders typically play an elaborate game of "telephone" to relay crucial messages to officers at the scene – and during a terrorist attack there is no time for game playing", said Weiss. "This funding will help close a crucial hole in our emergency response capabilities by allowing our first responders to communicate with each other in real time in a crisis."

"This funding will go directly to first responders and will mean faster responses, better coordination between agencies, and lives saved," said Feinstein.

The federal funds will provide grants to first responder agencies to purchase needed equipment that could include radios, wide-band receivers, computers and related support equipment. In Los Angeles, four portable interconnector systems could be purchased for a total of \$1.2 million to connect first responders throughout the city.



SoRo Trees Get Worm Treatment

By Christel Wilson

This spring, SIMPLY WORMS used worm castings (a.k.a. "worm poop or black gold") to organically feed the 77 Chitalpa trees that were planted along South Robertson Blvd by SoRo. Worm castings are also known to work as a bug repellent because the enzyme chitinase in worm castings, when built up in numbers, will make the plant's nectar taste bad to bugs. The

immune system of plants fed organically with worm castings will be strengthened and those healthy plants will taste better, be brighter in color and more fragrant. A worm tea is made from worm castings and is applied as a liquid plant food or sprayed right on the plant.

For more information call SIMPLY WORMS at (310) 398-1214 or stop by Many Paws on S. Robertson Blvd to purchase a bag of worm castings for your own garden.

Action Committees

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Be an important part of your community & revitalize SORO. Contact a group leader today

SORO Merchant Assoc:

Work to stimulate and improve local business climate
Chair: Malcolm Brown
BrownInsurance@sbc-global.net

Newsletter Committee:

Plan, write, illustrate, edit and distribute newsletter
Chair: Terry Delvoye
delves@earthlink.net

LANI:

(L.A. Neighborhood Initiative)

Plans & oversees street-scape improvements
Chair: Claire Bowin
risleybc@pacbell.netkc6d xq@hotmail.com

Safety Committee:

Work with city departments and Residents to improve safety in SORO area
Chair: Allan Graf
aggregate@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 and Traffic:

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

Call (310) 839-7639
For more information

SORO BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

■ THE WORKMAN'S CIRCLE/ARBITER RING FOR JEWISH CULTURE
1525 S. Robertson
310/552-2007 Email:circle@circlesocal.org

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■ MALCOLM BROWN INSURANCE
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