ILLMORE CITY ENTERPRIS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WILLMORE CITY HERITAGE ASSOCIATION





Amy, Malta and Paloma FAREWELL BUT NOT GOODBYE By Amy Peters

This past month was the last month of my tenure on the Willmore City Heritage Association board. It has been a great privilege to represent this community as a board member, vice-president, and lastly as the president of this amazing organization over the past 4 years.

I have come to learn a lot about working with the vast city resources out there available to those who have the bravery to dream

Farewell continued on page 4

# APRIL MEETING

Date:	Tuesday, April 17t
Time:	7:00 p.m.
Place:	Drake Park

Join us as we welcome one of our favorite people, Stan Poe, as he presents a slide show and lecture about the beginnings of the Willmore City/Drake Park Historic District. You know who he is, you know you love him—so come join us!!!

NOTE: Due to budget cuts, the Code Enforcement Meeting is now scheduled for every THREE MONTHS (June, Sept and Dec), instead of monthly.

# JERGINS TRUST PILLAR PROGRESS

The WCHA is thrilled to report that the restoration and cleanup of the historic elements from the Jergins Trust Building have been completed. Thanks to a generous grant from The Long Beaqch Navy Memorial Heritage Association, these wonderful pieces from a demolished historical landmark are on their way to being repurposed as part of a decorative entryway into the planned Drake/Chavez Greenbelt.

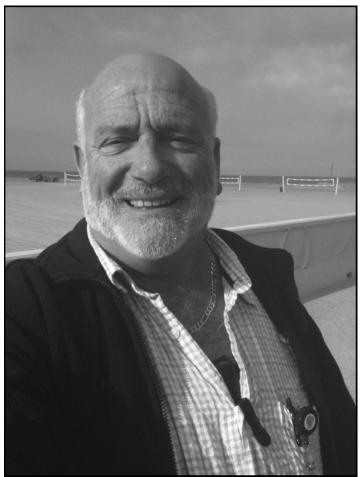
Spectra Company, who was responsible for the beautiful restoration of the Villa Riviera, among many other high profile projects, spent two weeks removing weeds, dirt and loose and cracked mortar and terra cotta from the massive (approximately 5000 pounds each) elements. Damaged bricks from the back were pulled off and the steel beams holding it all together were cut to create two even pillars. The ornamental aspects were repaired using mortar and Magic Sculpt, matching the historic ornamental concrete as closely as possible. Nova Color was used to match the adjacent finish. All materials matched the historic color, texture and application of mortar as closely as possible.

The next items on the agenda are the sinking of 22' foot deep (no, that is not a typo!) caissons and pouring 15' tall pillars. If there is an earthquake, Long Beach may fall, but the pillars will be here til the end of time! We expect this next phase of construc-

Pillars continued on page 4



Board Member, Jim Danno examines Spectra's progress



FAREWELL KEITH From Jim Danno

It is with a heavy heart that we say farewell to a loyal WCHA supporter, who passed this month.

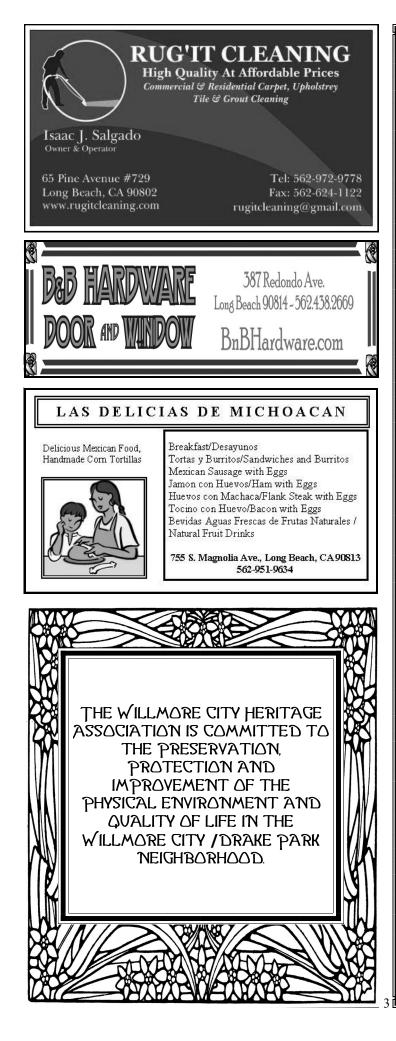
Many of you might not know the name Keith O ' Brian, but it's not surprising. Keith was a member who lived in Camarillo and never attended a meeting or an event.

I've had the pleasure of knowing Keith for the last five years while working on the TV Show "The Mentalist ". During that time, Keith has quietly donated to all our WCHA fundraising endeavors. Keith was always amazed and impressed with the number of things that our organization and our community were able to accomplish. He joked about paying his membership every quarter, asking almost weekly if it was time to renew. God bless you Keith, your membership is paid up until the cows come home. Keep a eye on us from up above, there's a lot more to be done. You'll be missed my friend.

# RUMMAGING AROUND

The WCHA is looking for donations for the May Day Rummage Sale to benefit Drake Park and the Fundraiser that supports our events and projects in July. It's your chance to finally clean out your closets and organize your life! Contact a board member for drop off or pickup! Thanks for your support





# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### TOYOTA GRAND PRIX

PLACE: Downtown Long Beach DATE: April 13-15 TIME: Various Fast cars and Rock n Roll! Need we say more?! www.longbeachgp.com

# MAYDAY AT THE BEMBRIDGE HOUSE

PLACE:Drake Park/Bembridge HouseDATE:May 5TIME:10:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.Maypole dancing, a health fair and children'sactivitieswww.lbheritage.org

# LONG BEACH BIKEFEST TOUR

PLACE: Downtown Long Beach DATE: May 4-5 TIME: various 4th Annual 31 mile Tour, fundraiser, music and vendors. www.bikefestlb.com

# MARY LOU HEARD GARDEN TOUR

/ • • • • • •	
PLACE:	Various
DATE:	May 5-6
TIME:	1:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.
Lovely gard	lens throughout the South Bay and
Orange Co	unty, including the Bembridge House
and other l	beautiful Long Beach gardens. Chari-
ty fundrais	er.
www.heard	lsgardentour.com

# AVALON BALL

/ WILCON DI	
PLACE:	Casino Ballroom, Avalon
DATE:	May 12
TIME:	6:00 p.m.—10:00 p.m.
10th Annual j	ourney into the past at the beauti-
ful Art Deco C	asino Ballroom on Catalina Island.
www.adsla.org	g

# LANG BEACH CAMIC CAN

PLACE:	Long Beach Convention Center
DATE:	May 12
TIME:	various.
All things com	nic book—new stars of the genre,
vendors of his	toric, publishers of modern.
www.lbheritag	ge.org

# GREAT HOMES OF LONG BEACH

PLACE: various DATE: June 3 TIME: 12:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m. Six Long Beach distinguished homes with docent led tours. Proceeds benefit the Bembridge House. www.lbheritage.org

Pillars continued from page 1



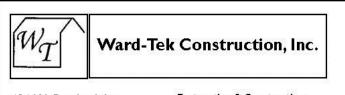
The Lady Before



In process-cleanup, filling in and painting the terra cotta details

tion to take place by the end of June. The Jergins pieces will be moved to The Willmore Heritage Garden and attached to the concrete pillars. We'll keep you posted—it will be a great day and very interesting to watch. All the little boys (and probably the big boys too) will want to see the heavy equipment involved in doing a project like this.

After the pillars, it will be on to signage, the mural, the decorative wrought iron and (cross your fingers), a Port of Long Beach Grant to expand the plantings and add lighting. Stay tuned for updates!



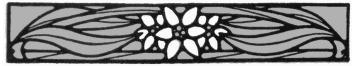
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#### Restoration & Construction Fire Water Wind Motor Vehicle Historical Restoration 24 Hour Emergency Services Performing above and beyond insurance company requirements and client expectations



Clean, lovely and ready to be put in place



Farewell continued from page 1

and dream big! However, time and experience has shown me that the greatest assets a community can have are its dedicated residents, rather than big city government. Without the tireless commitment of this WCHA board and its fellow neighbors, the Willmore City/Drake Park neighborhood would only be a shadow of itself as it stands today. Not that there are no longer necessary projects to be done, rather the momentum created through this partnership must continue to bring great things to this neighborhood. It has been a great honor to work on such projects as the Courts and Ways Rejuvenation Program, the Daisy Ave. Business District Improvement Project, the Willmore Bikes/ Walks, the WCHA District Markers, Neighborhood Cleanups, organizing historical tours in neighboring communities, petitions to the city council and other city agencies on numerous subjects, as well as countless May Days, LA Heritage Days, and Rose Park Restoration Fairs. These are just a few ways I have been involved in this wonderful community.

This is not a final good-bye, but as life has gotten more complex since my

#### Farewell continued from page 4

#### daughter's birth, it has

limited my ability to dedicate as much time as I would like to the board formally. Therefore I will still be participating in the activities in this community but in a different capacity at this time. I wish all the best to Hulean Tyler, the new board member elected in March' and the rest of the board as they continue on with the wonderful work that they do.



Honey Badgers, ready to roll!

#### THE GREAT DOWNTOWN CHASE By Patty Lund

On a gorgeous March day, three costumed Willmore residents were found at 10:00 a.m., sampling the hottest hot sauce at the Hot Licks store in Shoreline Village. They then jogged over to DiStefano's to make a pizza, and then took off at a sprint to Kress Market on Pine Avenue, to do a taste test of a few beers. After downing the rest of the beers, they ran to Pilates Plus to do 3 minutes of exercise, then ran over to the Joe R. Churchill's Cigars on Broadway to take a photo of the Indian Chief statue. What the hell is going on? It's the Downtown Amaz-



ing Chase! Just like television's Amazing Race, the Chase has its participants solving clues and participating in challenges throughout downtown Long Beach. The first three teams to complete all the clues and challenges in the shortest amount of time received gift bags filled with gift certificates to Long Beach businesses, worth hundreds of dollars.

More than 20 teams of two to four people competed in the Chase this year. Running from the Promenade to Pine Avenue, the East Village, Shoreline Village and the Queen Mary, they ended up at the finish line: Kavika's restaurant in the Pike. Presented by the Downtown Long Beach Associates and Garnica Interiors, Willmore's own team, The Honey Badgers: Emily Tanaka, Patty Lund, Morgan Wolfe and fellow Downtown resident Jorge Rivera, came in second. missing first place by only 5 minutes, and beating out all the other teams by a full 65 minutes. Dozens of volunteers, including Willmore's own Dianne McNinch, kept the Chase running smoothly.

This is the 2nd year of Downtown's Amazing Chase. The Honey Badgers were robbed, robbed, robbed of their rightful glory last year, so this year they were back and ready for revenge! If you don't know the story of the honey badger, you obviously do something more productive with your time than most people, because the internet sensation, "The Crazy Nasty-%&@ Honey Badger" has received 40 million hits. (Search "Honey Badger" on the internet to see the clip on YouTube. Spoiler alert: it's a hilarious spoof on a National Geographic wildlife piece, with delightfully foul narration.) The Honey Badger team, trying to rectify the travesty of last vear's loss, vied for the costume bonus (15 minutes taken off the team's final time), adding furry tails, beady red eyes, ferocious teeth and stuffed cobras to their costumes. Alas, they were edged out by the "LBC - Let's Be Crazy" team, with their slightly clever Queen Mary costume (including "smoke" from their

Chase ontinued on page 6

### CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Willmore's newest Board Member, Hulean Tyler. Hulean and Debbie own the house on Maine Ave. that was moved by RDA and have spent many hours and dollars restoring it over the last year. We look forward to seeing them move into their new home and to working with them on improving and preserving the Willmore City Historic District. Thank you for being willing to serve Hulean!

In a vote of confidence, the membership also voted to confirm the re-election of current Board Members, Jana Shields, Jim Danno and Kathleen Irvine. Together with Patty Lund and Emily Tanaka, the Board looks forward to another year of progress and projects. Without the help and cooperation of the membership however, nothing can get done. So thanks to all the community!

Chase ontinued from page 5



Competition from the Queen!

smokestack hats, and "sea creatures" on their watery blue socks). Whatever. Honey Badger don't care!

Among other challenges: getting a "tattoo" at Outer Limits Tattoo, distinguishing between Cabernet Sauvignon, Shiraz and Tempranillo at District Wine, fixing a flat tire at the Bike Station (kudos to Jorge), guessing the flavors in cookies at Shortnin' Bread Bakery (rosemary and lime, as it turns out-- delicious), washing each other's hair at Den Salon, smoking a hookah (and guessing the flavor correctly as mint, thank you, Emily) at the Maya Hotel, downing a frozen drink in 30 seconds at Bubba Gump (good job managing brain freeze, Morgan), acting out a scene at International City Theatre (the Oscar goes to Patty), and the most difficult of all.- matching hues at Garnica Interiors. Minutes were added to a team's final time for each clue not solved, or challenges not completed. A few extra minutes were taken off the contestants times for taking photos of city landmarks along the way, based on clues as well.

An example of the clues: "Thousands of people

# HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS

1st District Council Office	562-570-6919
Code Enforcement	562-570-2633
Barking Dogs	562-570-PETS
Neighborhood Watch	562-570-7229
Police, Non-Emergency	562-435-6711
Public Services	562-570-2700
Graffiti	562-570-2773
Pot Holes	562-570-3259
Storm Drains	562-570-2440
Alley Cleaning	562-570-2876
Bike Trails (Glass or Other Debris)	562-869-1176
Street Maintenance	562-570-3259
Recycling	562-570-2876
Stray Shopping Carts	800-252-6131
Trash Collection	562-570-2878
Special Pickup	562-570-2876
Environmental Services	562-570-2876

passed by this 'sun'- flower during the TED conference, including Bill and Melinda Gates. When you arrive here, steak your claim to the finish line." The Honey Badgers were fortunate in that they had the Queen of Downtown, our own Emily Tanaka, who apparently knows every single place in Downtown Long Beach, the shortest way to get from one to another and the best places to find shade on the way. Emily immediately determined that this clue referred to the metal flower sculpture at the Convention Center, which has solar panels on the top of it. Once the Honey Badgers arrived at the 'sun'flower, they all tried to figure out what was meant by the "steak" part of the clue, surmising that perhaps they had to run back to Outback Steakhouse, which was in view from the Convention Center. Thankfully, team member Jorge Rivera noted that there was a sign directly across from the Convention Center, hanging on the former Borders building at the Pike, that had a huge photo of a steak. The sign is an advertisement for Kavika's Restaurant, so off the four of them went, to collect their prize, only to discover their nemesis team, The Dishonorables, had arrived five minutes before. CURSES!

Although Willmore's own were sore for several days after, the Honey Badgers have assured us they will be back next year to capture the grand prize.



Be afraid, be very afraid!



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