We congratulate all the winners of the March 7th election, especially on a local level; Jackie Goldberg (D), who will replace Antonio Villaraigosa as Assemblymember representing the 45th district, Dario Frommer (D) and Craig Missakian (R), who will face off in November for the 43rd Assembly seat vacated by Scott Wildman (D), and Jack Scott who will face Paul Zee (R), for the 21st State Senate seat, vacated by Adam Schiff, who will be opposing James Rogan for United States Congress in November. Many people came out February 23rd for a candidates forum, to hear all the candidates for these statewide seats answer questions regarding issues pertinent to our neighborhood. It was held at the Russian Orthodox Church in Silver Lake, on a wet night when they could have stayed home to watch the Grammies.

The forum was preceded by a brief community meeting, with Vince Brook, president of the Silver Lake Improvement Association and Catherine Moyers, president of SLRA speaking. Then the captains of the two local LAPD divisions, Capt. Jackson of Northeast Division and Capt. Hansohn of the Rampart Division, spoke about crime statistics and morale in their stations. This included a brief Q&A session.

The focus of the evening though, was the candidates forum. Now that it’s all over and done with, it’s good to remember that the reason this was an important meeting is because Silver Lake has a tiny percentage of all those districts, assembly and senate. This forum was important in getting the issues important to our neighborhood, i.e.: the Gateway 2000 project and the Silver Lake Master Plan, on the table for discussion. Questions covering a wide range of issues came from the audience via 3x5 cards, and were presented by Vince Brook, who acted as moderator.

Apologies go out to those who received their forum announcements late. The bulk mail process got held up with the candidates’ material and we failed to factor in the President’s Day holiday. We’ve learned to extend our deadline for future bulk mailings.

The Department of Water & Power is pleased to report that the last of the chlorine depot has been moved from Silver Lake to a more appropriate site at the Los Angeles Reservoir. While chlorine is still stored on the site, it isn’t the entire City’s supply, but just what is needed for Silver Lake. As part of the Risk Management and Prevention Plan, the Department is taking the next step and will be installing a chlorine scrubber building which will capture any fumes should there be a chlorine spill. Since there has never been a chlorine spill, the precaution is over and above what is required, but because of the close proximity to residents, the DWP thought it prudent to go the extra measure.

As part of the CPOR and Master Plan process, there will be meetings with community representatives as to the location and architecture of the building. In keeping with the spirit of the Master Plan, every effort will be made to incorporate the new building with an overall plan for the entire operating site.

Report any abandoned shopping carts to
(310) 452-9088 or (800) 252-4613
You ‘ll need the street address and cross street. You can report identified carts to the local store for their own pick.
Silver Lake to Get New Sewer: Construction to Begin in September  
by Catherine Moyers

The City of LA plans to install new sewers under Griffith Park Blvd. from Hyperion Avenue to Fountain Avenue, and under Fountain Avenue from Hyperion Avenue/Griffith Park Blvd to Myra Ave. The new lines are needed to prevent overflows during storms and provide capacity for existing and future developments in the Silver Lake-Echo Park community. Pipe placement will involve the “open trench” method of construction.

Measures will be taken to minimize the impact of this construction on the community. These measures may include, but are not limited to, the scheduling of construction activity to avoid peak traffic and/or school hours, limiting the amount of traffic lane closures, temporary noise barriers (where feasible), and turning equipment off when not in use. Impacts will be local and temporary, occurring only near active construction.

Construction is scheduled to begin no later than September 2000 and will take approximately six months to complete. During this period, actual construction will be limited to a moving construction zone (typically a few hundred feet long), and progress at approximately 30 to 50 feet per day.

Look for construction notices and signs that will be posted to notify motorists and residents of traffic disruptions prior to and during construction.

If you have any questions or comments about the proposed project please contact Dorothy Meyer at (213) 847-8698.

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Y2K & POWER OUTAGE & DISASTER PREPAREDNESS  
by Maryann Kuk

Parts of Silver Lake experienced a power outage starting about 2 pm and, for some, lasting for 12 hours on New Years Eve. It was probably caused by the unexpected rain which can wreak havoc with the 75+ year-old underground utilities (you may have seen DWP measuring the streets in the neighborhood lately for replacement of some of these old lines). The DWP reports that it takes much longer to find the problem and longer to repair it then overhead utilities. Needless to say, the timing was spooky for those on tinter hooks waiting for the Y2K. For those who had taken the time to update their disaster preparedness supplies, the outage just assured them that they had done the right thing. For those who didn’t, isn’t it about time?

Also, if you have some information about a particular house (like who the original owners were and something about them, if an actor or actress lived there, etc), a story about an incident that you would like to share with the community, or other interesting facts about Silver Lake, please e-mail the facts you have to me at SOOHOO@SILVERLAKE.ORG. Or you can send it to the SLRA at PO Box 39587 Los Angeles, Ca. 90039 or via fax to (323)665-2125. If you have any photographs for us to post on the web site, please send them to us as well. We prefer a copy that we can keep, but if you want anything returned, please include a self-
WHAT’S UP WITH THAT GATEWAY TO SILVER LAKE THING?
by Harry Otto

Have you taken a look at the newly-landscaped Gateway to Silver Lake 2000 site located at the intersection of the Hollywood Freeway and Silver Lake Boulevard? How about the two freshly-painted murals? When my fellow members of the GSL 2000 committee and I began our efforts way back in the last millennium, the last century, in 1997, we had the ambitious goal of having a substantial portion of the work started — if not completed — by the year 2000. Well, here we are in the year 2000, and what a great sense of satisfaction it is to know that Gateway to Silver Lake is one-third complete with more to come.

The work and organization of the median preparation, sprinkler installations, and landscaping has been handled with great modesty by local native and resident David Bermudez who also happens to work for the Central City Action Committee (CCAC). The coordination of the artists and fund raising for their murals is in the more-than-capable hands of Vincent Brook of the Silver Lake Improvement Association. What a job both have done! The landscaping of the median includes low shrubs of Phlax, Blue Fescue, Blue Oat Grass, Rosemary and others interspersed among five young Jacaranda trees. David has involved his own organization, CCAC, and the local community in removal of the asphalt surface of the median and cutting through the 10 inch-thick old concrete roadway that was under the median. He held two planting efforts at the site, one for the five trees and one for the many shrubs. You may have seen David at the Gateway site in the late evening or early morning with his hose watering the trees and shrubs while the final touches were being applied to the sprinkler system — also installed by David and his devoted crew.

While the planting was going on, the murals were also in the works. Vincent Brook applied for and obtained grant funding through the city’s “Neighborhood Matching Grant” program of Operation Sparkle. You can now see two competed murals. They are the artistic work of Ernesto De La Loza and Annie Sperling. The owners of the art work who purchased their pieces at the GSL 2000 fundraiser, “Silver Fest”, tow years ago should be very excited to see the mural art in its final location. Annie Sperling’s work, located on the northeastern panel of the Silver Lake Blvd. underpass of the Hollywood Freeway depicts the rich art, film, and cultural heritage of Silver Lake. Two figures, a woman and a man, are depicted in the center of the mural holding theater masks over their faces while standing in a representation of Silver Lake Reservoir. The pair stand between the skylines of highrise downtown and Hollywood, with a cowboy and other images around them. Ernesto De La Loza’s mural, located on the southwestern panel, is inspired by Silver Lake’s Sunset Junction Street Fair. His colorful scene depicts three female images, which may relate to the diversity of our community, along with a Ferris Wheel, a Merry-go-round with horses and the Silver Lake hills in the background. These first two murals of planned total of eight are indicative of the positive and inspiring community in which we live. Stop by the Gateway and check the results of all this hard work by artists and residents. Just don’t stop in the the roadway to admire our newest cultural asset!

MASTER PLAN UPDATE
By Maryann Kuk

The Master Plan is in its final draft stage. The subcommittee has been meeting with the Department of Water & Power and Mia Lehrer & Associates to review, revise and edit this important document. None of us realized what a big job it would be to produce the actual document. We anticipate that it will be May 2000 before the community meeting which will present this Plan to all who participated in the workshops, other interested residents, the political people who will play a huge role in finding the money to implement most of the Plan, and the Department of Water & Power.

But, believe it or not, the Plan (as long as it has taken) is merely the first tiny step to implementation. We will be need all kinds of community input on the specifics of what will be done. Many hours of research will go into each decision, hours spent in meetings with all the government agencies who will oversee their own particular responsibility. If you have particular skills in design, construction, landscaping, patience or want to be a helper, please call the Committee to Save Silver Lake’s Reservoirs’ hotline ((213) 612-5271) and let them know you’d like to help make this dream a reality.
IVANHOE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GETS NEW PLAYGROUND
Contributions by SLRA members help local school get matching funds grant
by Iris Schneider and Todd Wexman

After two years of effort a new playground will be installed at Ivanhoe Elementary School later this spring. The parents of Ivanhoe wish to extend their thanks to the Silver Lake Residents Association whose members responded extremely generously with donations.

Friends of Ivanhoe, our non-profit fundraising organization, received close to $9,000 in contributions sent to the school. The Silver Lake Residents Association was fundamental in helping Ivanhoe Elementary School raise the matching funds we needed to apply for the Anne and Kirk Douglas Playground Grant. In October, we were notified that our proposal was approved and we would be receiving $25,000 with which to purchase and install playground equipment and seating on our campus. For all of SLRA’s help and support, everyone at the school wishes to extend a very special thank you.

Our vision for the play area is to create a town square on our lower yard. In our proposal we likened Ivanhoe to a small town, and the overwhelming support we received from our neighborhood only reinforced those feelings. We realized that Ivanhoe is treasured in our community and has earned a place in its heart.

Our town square will promote and encourage physical education, inspire playful creativity and provide opportunities for staff and children to take learning to places outside the confines of the indoor classroom. It will be a place to get together with friends on a Monday morning, a place to read by oneself, sitting in the shade of a big old tree, or to burn off some unspent energy on a brilliantly sunny day, after being cooped up in a classroom all morning.

Many businesses have donated goods or services to help make this dream come true. Home Depot has offered us sod to surround the play area, and labor to remove the asphalt. The Silver Lake/Atwater Rotary Club, Engine Co. 56, Mayfair Market and other businesses have helped with donations as well.

Thank you again Silver Lake community, for your generous contributions. Your support reaffirms the important link between one of Silver Lake’s elementary schools and the community.

SILVER LAKE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
by Cheryl Revkin

On the first Saturday of December, Silver Lake initiated what may become a new tradition — “Silver Lake Shops” (an offshoot of “Silver Lake Rocks”). About 90% of the retail shops and restaurants in the Silver Lake Chamber of Commerce participated in a day of good deals for holiday shoppers with the added pleasure of some Silver Lake culture. Probably the best part of the event was the operatic performance by our local diva, Karen Lopez, at both Leela Thai and Michelangelo’s. They both offered specials on their delicious food and Karen enhanced the meal with hours of arias. Earlier in the day, there was a very successful sidewalk sale on Silver Lake Blvd. and low cost “stress massages for the shopper” — so there was quite a buzz in the neighborhood much to everyone’s delight. In other parts of Silver Lake, such as Glendale Blvd., Rowena, Hyperion and Sunset shopping areas, there were poetry, singing, art and good deals on everything from books and CDs to free checking for a year. Overall it was fairly successful. Edna Hart was enthusiastic about making this a yearly event, saying participation would build if we make it a regular event. Silver Lake is gaining strongly as a hip place to live, shop and eat. The Chamber hopes to support this reputation by planning these kinds of events to bring people here to enjoy themselves. So our next event will be on this coming July 2 — “The Silver Lake Rock and Run”. We are planning a 5K run around the reservoirs with a street party with local bands (sponsored by Dreams/Spaceland) and another sidewalk sale and “meal deals” from our great restaurants. This time a percentage of the proceeds will go to our own Hollywood Sunset Free Clinic. They are providing so many important health-related services to our community and have asked for our help and support in the coming year. So, join us in the 5K or at the sidewalk sale/street party this summer. For more information, call (323)665-1281.
Census 2000
It’s a Matter of Dollars and Sense

By now you should have received a simple questionnaire from the Census Bureau. It can easily get lost in your mail, and neglected in the stacks of material you get every day labeled as “junk.” As ads running currently on television tell you, this is not junk. The census data is vital in determining congressional seat districting, but is also used in awarding over $100 billion in federal funds for everything from roads to schools to parks to child care and health care. So when you get the form, please take a few minutes to fill it out and return it before it gets lost the shuffle.

If you don’t return your questionnaire you might get a knock on your door from a friendly census worker. Beginning in April and continuing though June census takers will visit all addresses that have not returned a completed census form. By November 2000 all fieldwork must be completed, factoring in 275 millions residents, with apportionment counts delivered to the President December 31. On April 1, 2001 states will receive redistricting counts. This is a big job, bigger than ever. Do your part in expediting the process by getting your form in on time.

Don’t let fear keep you from filling out and returning your census form. By law, the Census Bureau cannot share your records with any other government agency, including welfare agencies, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Internal Revenue Service, courts, police and the military. Census workers must take an oath of secrecy before seeing the numbers, and face a possible $5,000 fine and five years in prison if they break that oath. In 1990, millions of questionnaires were processed with no breach of trust.

There may still be jobs available for this big job. If you are interested in obtaining more information about becoming a census taker you can call 1-888-325-7733 or visit the Census web site at www.census.gov/jobs2000. A simple test is required, and then you can become an integral part of this important project.

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LAPD PROBLEM SOLVING DETAIL
Kathryn Rowley and Spencer L. SooHoo

The Problem Solving Detail (PSD) of the Northeast Area is intended to provide the community with a single telephone number (213 847-3136) to request non-emergency assistance for ongoing, persistent problems. The PSD:

- Supplies referrals and other brief information.
- Assists the community in obtaining the services of other City departments and governmental agencies.
- Schedules police officers for problem solving to address long-standing community problems.
- Provides follow-up call to insure that referrals to other agencies have addressed the concern or problem.
- Provides a follow-up letter to the community member requesting assistance if a police officer has been assigned to a problem solving request.

Remember, this number should only be used to report and seek assistance for persistent, long-term issues that are not being resolved. Examples of calls that should go to the PSD include requests to help stop illegal swap meets and yard sales, persistent speeding problems, and complaints that a building or house used for drug dealing. Some of these problems involve other agencies such as Building and Safety, Street Maintenance, and Department of Transportation as well as LAPD resources to solve, and the function of the PSD is to pull in those resources as needed. In many respects the PSD replaces the Senior Lead Officer's role as a direct contact for dealing with these and other "quality of life" problems. Senior Lead Officers can still be contact by leaving a message with the PSD.

If anyone wants information on how to start a Neighborhood Watch or schedule an officer to attend a meeting, contact the Neighborhood Watch and Meeting Coordinator in the Northeast Community Relations Office at (213) 485-2548.
FAREWELL TO THE SOOHOO FAMILY
by Catherine Moyers

The SooHoo Family, made up of Spencer and Jan and their children, Hayley and Christopher, have announced their plans to move from Silver Lake to nearby La Canada Flintridge. Not only have they been residents for over 22 years, but both Spencer and Jan have been active in the neighborhood on a variety of fronts.

Spencer is the immediate past President of our Board, and originally got involved on the Board regarding a traffic issue (does nothing change?). He has been a major force behind the Silver Lake Master Plan process, and the SLRA’s webmeister. The last position is one that he says he can and will continue.

Jan was active at Neighborhood Nursery School for the 5 years the kids attended. She has edited the SLRA newsletters for 10 years, and served on the Board of the Committee to Save Silver Lake’s Reservoirs. During the 6-year period from 1991 to 1997, she worked to help get the new Silver Lake Community Center built. She has also been the point person in getting both Hayley and Christopher to Pickwick Ice Arena where Hayley trains daily as a competitive figure skater, and Christopher is tearing up the ice in Pickwick’s Youth Hockey Program.

Both Spencer and Jan have been involved at Ivanhoe Elementary, where he is on the LEARN Decision Making Council and chairs the Technology Committee. Spencer was instrumental in getting the campus completely wired for Internet access. Jan has volunteered in the kids’ classrooms and helped with other school activities.

They will be hard to replace, and will be missed for a long time. If you want to email your greetings to them,

SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS
by Maryann Kuk

Have friends or family coming to town and no room to put them? There are two neighborhood hotels to consider. In Silver Lake, call the Holiday Inn Express direct for the best rate (213) 387-5737. General Manager, Anil Patel, is an active supporter of the community, especially Gateway 2000 (see article elsewhere in this Newsletter). The Holiday Inn Express is located at 250 Silver Lake Bl., near the intersection of Virgil, Beverly, Temple and Silverlake.

In Atwater, winner of the Atwater Beautiful Award, and walking distance to LA Bakery, is the Los Feliz Hotel. Owner, Sarkiss Dashchi, reports that his 12-room hotel is full nearly every night, so call early and he’ll do his best to accommodate your needs. The Los Feliz Hotel is at 3101 Los Feliz Bl at the corner of Garden at (323) 667-2567.

DID YOU KNOW??????

There are 2,400 miles of underground and 6,100 miles of overhead lines in the LA power system. There are also 290,000 poles and 18,000 underground vaults as well as 113,000 distribution transformers.

ATTENTION AUDUBON MEMBERS
by Maryann Kuk

If you are an Audubon member or if you know a lot about birds or biology, your community needs your help. The Department of Water & Power is launching a study of water fowl on Ivanhoe Reservoir in order to determine what, if any, problem they may be should the disinfectant be changed from chlorine to chloramine. It would be helpful if a biologist could review the data in order to insure that the study is complete and unbiased.

Secondly, the Master Plan workshop attendees were in favor of a path through the meadow and tree-covered hillside on the east side of the reservoir. This habitat has been neglected for years and consequently provides good cover for small birds and skags for a variety of woodpeckers. Prior to any specific planning, it would be helpful to have a survey done to determine just how much the bird life depends on this area. The annual Christmas bird count hadn’t been able to access the area because of the underbrush, but recently the DWP has been clearing for fire prevention so it is accessible now.

Thirdly, for the past several years there have been nesting Great Blue Herons in the Eucalyptus trees on West Silver Lake Drive at Hawick. At last count there were 7 nests with 2 birds standing guard. It would be helpful to have someone with knowledge about these beautiful birds to monitor the activity in these nests and report to Audubon. If you can devote a few hours per week, please call Maryann at (323) 665-4145.
LA FAMILY SCHOOL SPRING FAIRE AND SILENT AUCTION SET FOR SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2000

L.A. Family School, located at the corner of Griffith Park Blvd. and Hyperion, will celebrate its annual Spring Faire and Silent Auction on April 29, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The event is once again called Springtime on the Farm, with animal rides, the traditional cake walk, a variety of crafts and games, and confetti eggs galore. The legendary silent auction will offer a catalogue of hundreds of items for children and adults alike, many available for a fraction of their actual cost. Admission is $4.00 for an adult and one child at the door. For more information, call the school at (323)663-8049.

TOUR HISTORIC VDL NEUTRA HOUSE ON 30th ANNIVERSARY OF ACCLAIMED L.A. ARCHITECT RICHARD NEUTRA’S DEATH

by Catherine Moyers

Sunday, April 16 is the date set for the first of a series of fundraising open houses at the Richard and Dion Neutra VDL Research House II, located at 2300 Silver Lake Blvd. Dion Neutra, who designed the restoration to his father’s original design after a fire in 1963, will conduct a group remembrance of his father at the event, as well as the participation of other honored guests. The house was donated to Cal Poly Pomona in the late 70’s. Fallen into a state of disrepair, the house has recently been listed by the World Monuments Watch as one of the world’s 100 most endangered sites. The house will be open between the hours of 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. Admission to the tour is $15.00. For more information, call Dion Neutra at (323) 666-1806.

SILVER LAKE FILM FESTIVAL

The first Silver Lake Film Festival will be held Sept. 14-17, 2000. A California nonprofit, public benefit corporation, the Silver Lake Film Festival was created to celebrate through cinema the cultural diversity and avant-garde creativity that historically has characterized the Silver Lake community. The Silver Lake Film Festival serves as a conduit for bringing together the film community -- filmmakers and fans alike -- in a wide geographic and demographic area stretching from East L.A. to Hollywood, and Burbank-Glendale to Echo Park. The Festival launches what will be an annual four-day film festival comprised of features and short films by filmmakers from Silver Lake, greater Los Angeles, and around the world. The selection of film programming emphasizes the cultural and creative diversity of Silver Lake and its neighboring communities. All screenings will be held in local area theaters and other venues. The Gala Opening Night will be held in the historic Vista theater. Over the following three days, approximately 15 features and 65 shorts will be screened.

For more information, contact organizers, Greg Ptacek, Co-Director - Marketing at (323)660-1935, Evangeline Griego, Co-Director - Programming at (323)-221-1763, or, better yet, check out the film festival’s comprehensive website at www.silverlakefilmfestival.com.

SILVER LAKE BRANCH LIBRARY?

by Maryann Kuk

A few months ago, we heard that the LA Public Library was thinking of putting a branch in Silver Lake. Some of us got busy looking for sites and forwarding our findings to the LAPL Construction Division. We were excited to be invited to the first public meeting on January 27 to hear about the possible locations. What this meeting actually was though, was an attempt to make it look like it was a public meeting looking for input. The room was stacked against selecting a site in Silver Lake but instead favoring putting another new branch in Echo Park.

Granted, the first Echo Park library is right on the southern border of Echo Park and on the other side of the Hollywood Freeway, and, granted, the Echo Park community was “promised” another branch to be located more centrally when that first compromise location was selected, and, granted, that the site of LAPL’s first preference is an ugly, busy, degraded corner (the car wash and empty lot on the Southeast corner of Sunset & Alvarado) which would benefit from a custom-designed branch, but it isn’t Silver Lake. It was clear that from the selected location of this public meeting, the groups of Echo Parkers bused in and from remarks by Councilmember Jackie Goldberg, that the site selection was a fait accompli. We left feeling we had been had.

So, if this upsets you as much as it upset us, make your desire for a branch in Silver Lake known to the powers that be. Maybe Silver Lake could be on the list for next time. Maybe Silver Lake could be promised a branch too. But it will not happen unless you make your wishes known.

Call or write the LAPL, Branch Library Services, Construction Division, 630 W. Fifth St, LA 90071 (213) 228 7590. Send copies to Councilmember Jackie Goldberg (13th) and Councilman John Ferraro (4th), 200 N. Spring St, LA 90012 (213) 485-3353 and (213) 485-3337. If you have some passion and want to make this a project, call Catherine Moyers at the hotline number (323) 661-6465.
Community Calendar

Sunday April 16    Tour of VDL Neutra House.  5-8 pm.  Admission is $15. See page 7 for details.

Saturday April 29  Los Angeles Family School’s Spring Faire will be held from 11 am - 5pm. Admission is $4 for 1 adult and 1 child. See page 7 for details.

Saturday & Sunday April 29 & 30     Artists celebrate their Visions of the River.  Dawn to Dusk.  Site specific installations by LA artists on view at the LA River on a 2 1/2 mile stretch between Riverside Dr. near Figueroa and Fletcher Dr.  FREE. Call for information: (323)850-8566.

Saturday May 6     11th Annual Great L.A. River Cleanup from 9 am-noon. Call (323)223-0585 or check the website for the Friends of the Los Angeles River at www.FoLAR.org.

Saturday May 20 The annual spring fair at Neighborhood Nursery School will take place on May 20th from 1-6pm. This much-anticipated yearly event's theme is "County Fair". The Fair includes the increasingly infamous buffet, the returning Zydeco Party Band, and Jitter the Critter puppet show. There will be a silent auction, games for children, and the raffling of this year's beautiful parent-made quilt. Tickets are $10 for adults, $5 for children, children under six are free. Price of admission includes entertainment and buffet.

Sunday May 21    Down-by-the-River Walk.  4:30 pm. Meet at the bridge at the Bette Davis Picnic Area where Victory, Sonora, and Riverside Dr. meet in Glendale. Friends of the LA River and Sierra Club sponsor monthly walks along the banks of the river. Held the 3rd Sunday of each month, these 1 hour walks highlight natural, historical, artistic and political aspects of the river. For more info, call (213)381-3570, or visit the FoLAR website at www.FoLAR.org.

Check the Silver Lake website at http://www.silverlake.org for more events