

SLRA Newsletter

Silver Lake Residents Association

September, 1999

Third Silver Lake Master Plan Workshop

By Spencer L. SooHoo

Over 150 people attended the third Silver Lake Master Plan workshop at John Marshall High School on Saturday, July 24th. The Master Plan team setup large display boards with photographs and drawings highlighting various ideas and proposals that were developed from the first workshop and, based on input from the second workshop, refined for presentation in the third workshop. Since many participants in the second workshop said they did not have time to adequately review the proposals before the presentation or were confused by some of the ideas and concepts being presented, the third workshop was structured so that attendees would be able to view the proposals and concepts between 8:30 and 10:30 AM before the formal presentation.

By the time Mia Lehrer and her team started the formal presentation at 10:30, many of the participants had taken advantage of the opportunity to discuss the various proposals and ideas with members of the Master Plan team, SLRA and CSSLR Board members, and their neighbors. This was a great chance to have an in-depth discussion about the Master Plan.

One of the clear messages from the second workshop was that the top priorities were a safe walking/jogging path around the perimeter of the reservoir, a more attractive fence, slower traffic on W. Silver Lake Dr. and Silver Lake Blvd, and very limited access to the reservoir grounds.

As participants arrived at the 2nd and 3rd workshops, they were given a survey to clarify some questions that arose from the second workshop. The highlights are presented elsewhere (see "And the Survey Says...." on Page 3) and confirm the assessment of the priorities. Also, it was clear that the community favored improvements that would be consistent with the current serene, pastoral feel of the reservoir and that any closer access to the water should be very restricted and limited.

After the formal presentation, the participants were divided into two smaller groups for more in-depth discussion with the project team. During the breaks, refreshments were supplied by the Backdoor Bakery, Say Cheese, Victor

(See "Master Plan" on page 3)

A Few Words from the President

By Catherine Moyers

You just have to look at the other articles in this newsletter to see why I'm thrilled to be President of the Silver Lake Residents Association at this time. There are exciting things happening all around our community. Beautification happening at Gateway 2000, a key entrance to our neighborhood; a brand new Recreation Center opened, with the much loved Program Director staying at the facility; the potential of great things happening around the reservoir (in a minor way) by way of a Master Plan, and crime is down.

My volunteer career began with the Committee to Save Silver Lake's Reservoirs and segued to SLRA on a matter of crime. Now Senior Lead Officer Al Polehonki attends our Board meetings (when he can) and reports very little happening in that regard. Thanks to Officer Polehonki and the Northeast LAPD for that, and for Protection One, which this community supports for a twenty-four hour dedicated patrol.

It's hard to replace the outgoing President, Spencer SooHoo. His dedication and enthusiasm are to be commended. But fortunately he remains on the Board for me to consult with on an as needed basis, which I rely on in these early days. Board positions are for two-year periods, and I hope that in the end I can be half as good a President as Spencer.

Though we don't take responsibility for the local schools' performance, we're proud to have in recent history supported both Marshall High School, home of a new gifted program, and Ivanhoe Elementary, where the recent Stanford 9 test results exceeded all expectations.

My thanks go out to the other members of this Board, who care as much as I do about the quality of life in Silver Lake and work to make life here, so near the urban center, like living in a small town.

Have you checked out the Silver Lake Web site?
<http://www.silverlake.org>

Silver Lake Recreation Center Opens Amid Fanfare and Good-byes

By Catherine Moyers and Ann Jones

After what seemed like a very long wait, it was time to celebrate the Grand Opening of the brand new Silver Lake Recreation Center. Neighbors and City officials were in a festive mood Saturday June 19th for the honorary ribbon cutting. The Building Design Plan began way back in '92 and now there is a beautiful new red tile roofed building, with a basketball court, a multi-purpose room, a modern kitchen and truly decent director's office. The design of the building is based on the design concepts developed by local architect Christian Dufay and integrates the architectural style of the surrounding neighborhood and the types of activities that the Silver Lake community felt would be best suited for the site.

The new digs must've impressed Program Director Santi Cuevas, who was praised for his years of service to the neighborhood and congratulated on his move to El Sereno Park. Santi, who was given lovely parting gifts, has decided to stay after all and we're all very glad to have him.

The local Boy Scout troop presented the colors with much dignity and fanfare, and Rick Podell sang the National Anthem; David Wheatley accompanied both on keyboards. City Councilmember Jackie Goldberg was on hand to present a certificate of appreciation to Marilyn Fickett, the widow of architect Ed Fickett, who used the conceptual design submitted by local architect Christian Dufay to come up with the final design. Fickett passed away just as the Center was completing construction. Then Jackie officially presented the new facility from the City to the neighborhood, represented by Anne Jones, head of the SLRC Advisory Council, coaches Ekuah Garret and John Hammond, and newly elected SLRA President, Catherine Moyers.

In addition to Councilmember Goldberg, Ellen Oppenheim, the new General Manager Recreation and Parks for the City of Los Angeles was in attendance to get a feel for the Center and this community. And Tom LaBonge from the Mayor's office was on hand with his children in tow and said a few words of congratulations.

The City provided tasty hot dogs, nachos and soft drinks, and kids had a great time bouncing on new Pogo sticks, playing on new ping-pong tables and shooting on new carom boards. Ines Chessum was in charge of decorating the facility along with her daughters. And David Wheatley and the Silver Lake Dads provided bluesy/rock ambient music for the afternoon.

Many thanks go out to neighbors who volunteered on the SLRC Advisory Council, spending long hours in sometimes fractious meetings. Most notably they include Glenn Silber, Ray LePone, Jan SooHoo, Larry Jacobs, Ted Coates, Anne Jones, and of course Christian Dufay for his *pro bono* work on the conceptual design. Special thanks go to former Field Deputy for Councilmember Goldberg, Lisa Sarno, for her diligence and dedication to this project in those early days.

As of our newsletter deadline there are details to be added shortly, if they're not there already; these include a shade cover over the climbing structure, a drinking fountain by the bathrooms and benches around the perimeter of the playground. Even without these last touches the community seems pleased to get our park back, and find it better than ever.

New Commanding Officer for Northeast Area LAPD

By Kathryn Rowley

We want to welcome Captain Lyle Jackson as the recently appointed Commanding Officer for the LAPD Northeast Area. Captain Jackson replaces Captain Mosel who retired in July of 1999 and who replaced Captain Louis Gray who was promoted to the rank of Commander in May of 1999. Captain Jackson has 22 years of service with the LAPD, most recently as Commanding Officer of the Burglary Auto Theft Division (7 mo.). Prior to that Captain Jackson was the Operations Support Commanding Officer for the Van Nuys Area (9 mo.) and the Lieutenant Commanding Officer for the Devonshire Area (6 1/2 years)

As the new Commanding Officer he brings with him a host of new ideas to improve policing in the Northeast Area. Captain Jackson is looking forward to working with the Silver Lake community to further implement community based policing, we are also looking forward to working with him so that both the police and community will benefit.

("Master Plan" continued from page 1)
 Bene' at the Mayfair Market, and the DWP.

The Master Plan project team is integrating the input from the final workshop and will be ready to present the results to the community at a meeting in November. On behalf of the SLRA and CSSLR Boards and the Master Plan project team, thanks to everyone who has participated in the process.

3rd Annual SLRA Block Party Set for Sunday, September 26

By Catherine Moyers

The third annual SLRA Block Party, is planned for Sunday, September 26, and is to be held on the block of Rokeby between Tesla and Armstrong, where it was held last year. The party will be from 3 PM to 7 PM, and will

once again be a potluck, in addition to the hamburgers and hotdogs that will be offered for sale. This is a delicious way to meet your neighbors and swap recipes.

Besides scrumptious foods there will be fun and games for kids and grown ups alike. The ever-popular Cake Walk will be back with cakes donated by local bakeries, as well as classics like the Egg Toss and Pass-the-Apple-Under- the-Chin. This is a non-issue way to come out, have a good time on a late Summer's day and not have to worry about finding a parking place.

As this is a party with food and little children, we ask that dogs be left at home . And to clarify a misperception from years past, this is a neighborhood event, not just a party for that block.

If you would like to participate in the organization, set-up or clean up for the Block Party just call the SLRA Hotline at (323) 661-6465.

And the Survey Says.....

For the three workshops, 2,000, 20,000, and 5,000 announcements were mailed. The respective number of attendees who signed in were 150, 225 and 132. Also, in an effort to insure that the residents who live in the immediate vicinity of the reservoirs were aware of the meeting, special letters were distributed to houses on Silver Lake Blvd, Van Pelt, Armstrong, W. Silver Lake Drive, and Kenilworth Avenue. This was supplemented by banners and flyers distributed at local businesses.

Highlights of surveys taken at Workshops 2 and 3 are summarized in the table below. Complete results will be posted on our web site (<http://www.silverlake.org>) and in the final report due in November, 1999.

Item	Yes	No
Narrow W. Silver Lake Drive	79%	21%
Narrow Silver Lake Blvd	87%	13%
Low key Interpretative exhibits on the path around the reservoir	70%	30%
Decorative fountains as an element in the Meadow Area	56%	44%
Artwork integrated into walls, fencing, seating	58%	42%
Temporary art exhibits in designated areas	48%	52%
Eucalyptus Grove and Meadow Area		
• Limited access to grove and meadow area		22%
Vs		
• 24 hour access—78% favor limited access.		78%
Eucalyptus Grove		
• Limited access with one path along the sidewalk and one through the grove close to the water. Path in grove is open limited hours and would have a double fence; one along the sidewalk and one along the reservoir vs Expanded landscape edge with meandering path and no access to the Eucalyptus Grove Area		37%
Vs		
• Expanded landscape edge with a meandering path and no access to the Eucalyptus Grove Area.		63%
Meadow Area		
• Linear path parallel to the sidewalk with a small landscape buffer		9%
Vs		
• Expanded landscape edge with a meandering path		91%
• Small scale recreational bike path intended for small children and separate pedestrian path for strolling, jogging, etc.		32%
Vs		
• Pedestrian/jogging path only		68%
Reservoir Embankment		
• In your opinion, is it a priority to improve the appearance of the reservoir embankment		77% yes
• Do the stripes bug you?		71% yes

Silver Lake Architectural Festival

By Greg Ptacek

Two day event, Oct. 2-3, to feature docent-led house tour, lectures by renowned historians, and guide to Modernist landmarks and design boutiques

Modernist architectural design, which can be witnessed abundantly throughout the Los Angeles community of Silver Lake, will be celebrated during "Modernist Silver Lake: An Architectural Festival," October 2-3. The weekend event -- featuring lectures, a self-guided driving tour, and discounts at vintage design boutiques -- will culminate in a docent-led house tour on Sunday, Oct. 3, 9 PM to 5 PM, that will showcase the work of American Modernist pioneers Rudolph Schindler, Richard Neutra, Gregory Ain, Harwell Harris and John Lautner. Tickets are \$40 and can be reserved in advance by calling (213) 612 5271.

Beginning in the 1920s and extending through the 1960s, Silver Lake became an architectural showcase for the Modernist aesthetic. Attracted to the community's dramatic topography of steep hills and sweeping vistas, architectural pioneers Schindler and Neutra, and their disciples Ain, Harris and Lautner, built homes that continue to rank among the world's most-forward looking designs.

After lying dormant for the last quarter of the century, the Modernist movement has returned to the forefront of design. As recently noted in *Vanity Fair* magazine, "fashion spreads, advertising campaigns, and feature films are being shot in homes" designed by Schindler, Neutra and their followers, all of whom worked extensively in Silver Lake.

The "Modernist Silver Lake" house tour will feature six homes, each of which is described in more detail in the accompanying insert: the How House (1925) and the Wilson House (1934-35) by Schindler, representing early and later styles respectively by one of the central figures of the Modernist movement; the VDL House (1933 and 1964) by Neutra, built by the other California pillar in American Modernism as his own residence; the Scharlin House (1937-39) by Ain, among the best examples by the first local architect to work in the Modernist style; the Hawk House (1939) by Harris, whose design reflects the roots of the artist *cum* architect who had a long association with both Schindler and Neutra; and Silvertop (1957-64) by Lautner, a dramatic architectural landmark in Silver Lake by this student of Frank Lloyd Wright.

In addition to the house tour, ticket holders can enjoy lectures by three of the foremost authorities on American Modernist architecture: Lionel March, the former Rector

(See "Architectural Festival" continued on page 7)

LAPD REQUESTS VICTIMS TO COME FORWARD

By Maryann Kuk

The Los Angeles Independent Newspaper on Wednesday, June 30, 1999, had an article recounting the con game and successful arrest of the perpetrators by Senior Lead Officer Miyamura. The problem is they need more victims to come forward for a better case.

If you have been accused of a car accident or of hitting someone with your car, and you haven't, and were approached by the perpetrator for money to not report you to the police or your insurance company, please, swallow your shyness and call Detective Stuart Michelson of the LAPD Northeast Robbery Unit at (213) 847 4270. Tell him your story, it will be a big help.



**877 ASK-LAPD
(877 275- 5273)**

What is 877 ASK-LAPD?

877 ASK-LAPD is a new universal toll-free non-emergency police number. It was designed to reduce the number of non-emergency calls to 9-1-1. 877 ASK-LAPD is also available in Spanish and TTY for the hearing-impaired.

When Should I use 877 ASK-LAPD?

Callers who do not have an emergency or who may only need information should use 877 ASK-LAPD.

Examples of an Emergency Call (use 9-1-1)

- Anyone requiring medical attention
- Fires
- Crimes in progress
- Domestic violence in progress

Examples of a Non-Emergency Call (877 ASK-LAPD)

- Disturbances (including a loud radio or party)
- Drinking in public
- Disputes involving a landlord, property, or business
- Loitering/Trespassing

Los Angeles is a large city with limited resources. It is important to keep all emergency lines and operators available to handle incoming emergencies. Dial 877 ASK-LAPD when you need the police but don't have an emergency.

Year 2000 Personal Contingency Planning

By Teresa Owen

Center for Early Education

Reports are that U.S. banks, securities exchanges and brokerage firms are the most prepared of all industries, and many have participated in successful industry wide Y2K simulations. Telecommunications, utility, retail and travel industries, as well as federal government agencies, are optimistic about readiness for the date change to January 1, 2000. Nevertheless, even the most optimistic Y2K planners and researchers expect at least some localized power outages and other minor Y2K disruptions. The final phase of any Y2K project is contingency planning. This will help serve as a guide for such planning.

DOCUMENT YOUR FINANCIAL HISTORY:

One risk of Y2K is lack of access to your personal data for an undetermined period of time, or worse, corruption of that data by glitches in government and business computer systems. By building a "Vital Information Portfolio", consisting of hard copies of the information that is most critical to you, you will be taking measures to protect and preserve the integrity of that data. None of the measures listed below is alarmist or radical. In fact, having this information organized and readily available is a good idea at any time, not just as part of a Y2K plan.

- Compile a list of your bank, investment, credit cards, and insurance policies account numbers.
- Maintain current hard copy files of checking, savings, retirement and other investment account statements.
- If you bank online, download and print hard copies of bank account information before the end of December.
- Make backup diskettes and hard copies of all important data files on your personal computer.
- Keep your payroll check stubs and review the deductions for accuracy before and after January 2000.
- Ask your employer for hard copies of any employee data – such as vacation accruals, attendance history, bonus calculations, step increases, etc.
- If you have not done so within the last year, request from the Social Security Administration, a "Personal Earnings and Benefits Statement" using Form SSA-7004.
- Maintain paper files of at least your last three years of tax returns. For more security, request actual copies from the IRS, for \$23.00 per form, using Form 4506, "Request for Copy or Transcript of Tax Form."
- Obtain a current status report for life insurance policies and annuities.
- Maintain paper files proving payment of critical bills such as mortgage, rent, credit cards, utilities, and insurance policies noting the check numbers used to pay each.
- Keep cancelled checks.
- Obtain from your mortgage lender and other important note holders a payment history and amortization schedule of your loan.
- If your property tax and homeowner's insurance are paid from a mortgage escrow account, obtain documentation from the taxing authority and insurance company that recent payments were received and recorded.
- Have proof of ownership documents for important possessions readily available such as deeds, titles and title search documents, and bills of sale for homes and other real estate, autos, boats and other valuable items.
- Obtain copies of credit reports from the three major credit reporting agencies before and after January 2000 and closely monitor them. These companies are *TransUnion (800) 645-1533*, *Experian (888) 397-3742*, and *Equifax (800) 685-1111*.

OTHER PLANNING:

- Consider paying major bills due in early January before December 31.
- Try to not use the IRS as your savings account. In the event of IRS system glitches, refunds could be delayed. Consult with your tax planner to adjust withholdings for a minimal refund.
- If you will need them early in 2000, allow extra lead time when applying for government services such as passports, social security and Medicare benefits, license renewals, building or other permits.
- Review your investment portfolio with your financial planner taking into consideration such concerns as a company's Y2K disclosure to the SEC (required), the Y2K preparedness of businesses and governments in emerging-market economies, and attention to these issues by mutual fund managers.

WHEN THE BIG DAY COMES:

- In the event of power or telecommunications failures, do not get into a situation where you will be dependent upon

(“Y2K” continued on page 6)

Silver Lake Resident David Bermudez Honored

By Kathryn Rowley

Every four months the Northeast Area C-PAB honors a resident of the area who has truly given back to the community through their hard work and community activism. On August 17th at the Northeast Area Community Police Station, **David Bermudez**, a long time resident of Silver Lake and a graduate of John Marshall High School, was so honored.

David, with his wife Alde and daughter Leanne present, was given a plaque thanking him for his service to the community, tickets to a Dodger game and dinner for two at a local Tony Roma's restaurant.

About ten years ago David began spending his weekends cleaning up trash, planting trees and painting out graffiti in his neighborhood, and inspiring others to do the same. Because of his concerns about crime and the conditions in his neighborhood, he became involved in several community groups, including the Central City Action Committee which had government funding for graffiti removal. Because of his voluntary activities, in 1996 David was hired by Central City as the full time project director, supervising 7 crews as well as court ordered youth and adults, for graffiti removal in parts of Echo Park, Silver Lake, East Hollywood, Cypress Park, Eagle Rock, Lincoln Heights and Boyle Heights. In David's spare time he got an Associate Arts degree at night in Horticulture and was responsible for creating two pocket gardens and creating landscaping and irrigation for a small art park in the Echo Park area. Currently David is the Co-Chair of the Gateway to Silver Lake project, which will create and install landscaping and irrigation on the medians on Silver Lake Boulevard at the entrance/exit to the Hollywood (101) Freeway.



David Bermudez is a truly outstanding citizen and we all owe David and his family our sincere thanks for caring and working so hard to make our community an even better place to live and work.

Each year the Northeast Area C-PAB honors four area residents and four police officers for their service to the community. If you want to nominate either a resident or a police officer for such an award, please contact Kathryn Rowley, the North Silver Lake C-PAB representative, at (323) 663 4720 or the SLRA telephone line at (323) 664 6165.

("Y2K" continued from page 5)

ATM or credit cards in the early days of January.

- Have short term cash or traveler's checks on hand. The Federal Reserve is printing \$50 billion extra dollars in anticipation of individuals doing just that. Reasonable suggestions indicate that a long weekend to a two-week supply should be sufficient.
- Have multiple proofs of identification easily accessible.
- Be aware that automatic bill paying through your bank might succumb to a Y2K glitch. Any weak link in the payment chain could result in a failed transfer. Be prepared to monitor all electronic debits for timeliness and accuracy.
- Know when your insurance premiums are due and pay them even if you don't receive a payment notice.
- Closely scrutinize all your statements and bills as they arrive in the months following the New Year. Double check items like deposits, payment credits, interest calculations, reasonableness of utility usage, etc.
- Drink champagne (unless you are one of the computer professionals who will be "on call" then!)
- Enjoy the company of friends and family.

Chances are that little of this careful preparation will be necessary. Most reports are that industry and government are becoming well prepared, and that most Y2K glitches that do occur will likely be fixed before the public becomes aware

("Architectural Festival" continued from page 4)

of the Royal College of Architecture in England, author of "RM Schindler Composition and Construction," and owner and resident of the How House; Julius Shulman, the pre-eminent architectural photographer in the U.S. and author of "The Photography of Architecture and Design," considered to be the standard tome on the subject; and Robert Winter, professor of history at Occidental College, and co-author of the seminal reference "A Guide to Architecture in Los Angeles and Southern California."

All three lectures will be held throughout the day in Silver Lake on Sunday, Oct. 3. Note: the exact location, times and lecture topics will be announced at a later date.

Beyond the house tour and lectures on Sunday, participants will be encouraged to spend Saturday, Oct. 2, taking a self-guided driving tour of other noteworthy Modernist residential and commercial buildings in Silver Lake. A detailed map and guide has been created for the festival and will be made available exclusively with a ticket purchase. The guide/map will also include locations of the numerous Modernist vintage interior-design boutiques in Silver Lake, which will be offering special discounts to ticket-holders.

"Modernist Silver Lake: An Architectural Festival" is sponsored by the Committee to Save Silver Lake's Reservoirs" (CSSLR), a California nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation and renovation of the Silver

Lake reservoirs. Tickets will be limited and the public is encouraged to reserve tickets early by calling the CSSLR hotline at (213) 612-5271. Tickets may be purchased in advance by sending a \$40 check or money order for each ticket, made payable to "CSSLR", to: CSSLR, Tickets, P.O. Box 39735, Los Angeles, CA 90039. Tickets are not refundable. **The event will be held rain or shine.**

Check it out !! <http://www.silverlake.org>



EUCALYPTUS GROVE UPDATE

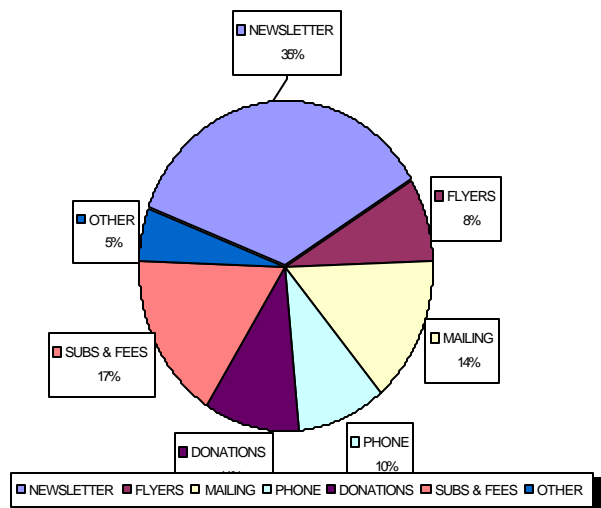
By Maryann Kuk

Some of the Eucalyptus trees in the grove on West Silverlake Drive have been looking sickly lately. This is a City-wide problem caused by a parasite, and there is a concerted effort to find a cure. This parasite affects some species of Eucalyptus in a similar way that Eugenia hedges were being affected for some years. No pesticides are being recommended at this time. There is a world-wide search going on for a harmless predator to be introduced that would solve the problem, but it will be many months before any could be approved for use. In the meantime, the best advice is to not over-trim the trees to avoid additional stress. We are being kept up to date on the progress of the search and will keep you posted through this Newsletter.

Membership and Dues

By Terry Jackson and Spencer L. SooHoo

Your Association dues accomplish a great deal, but less than half of the members on our mailing list remember to send their annual dues of \$15. Each time we prepare a newsletter printing alone costs nearly \$800. Even with the savings of our bulk mail permit we spend about \$200 for mailing costs. Banners to announce a public meetings cost \$150 to \$300. Then there's the monthly phone bill for the hot line, the subscriptions to planning reports, the special mailings for the master plan project, the fees to maintain the website, and yes the stationary, labels and paper clips. And with what we have left we can assist funding for school projects, police advisory boards, Gateway 2000 and share costs with other local organizations. The pie chart gives the percentages of our expens last year shows how your annual dues are put to work.



If you see the notice "**your dues are now payable**" on your address label, please use the envelope inserted in this newsletter for your renewal. The dues are \$15 per household per year. If your dues are paid up, please consider making a contribution to the Silver Lake Master Plan. So do your part; a little bit from each of us goes a long way together.

Community Calendar

9/26	10 AM - 6 PM	7th Annual Thai Cultural Day Barnsdall Park — 4800 Hollywood Bl.
9/26	3 PM - 7 PM	3rd Annual SLRA “Block Party” (details on page 3)
10/2 - 10/3	9 AM - 5 PM	Silver Lake Architectural Festival (details on page 4)
10/3	11 AM - 4 PM	City of Los Angeles Volunteer Festival, 5801 Wilshire Blvd. Call (213) 485 6984 for details
10/16	10 AM - 3 PM	LAPD Annual Open House 3353 San Fernando Road
12/4	All Day	Christmas in Silver Lake Sponsored by Silver Lake Chamber of Commerce Call Cheryl at (323) 665 1281 or Christina at (213) 484 9172 for more details

Check <http://www.silverlake.org> for more events

SLRA Newsletter

**Silver Lake Residents Association
PO Box 39587
Los Angeles, CA 90039**

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
GLENDALE, CA
PERMIT NO. 177
