



# FRIENDS OF SUNSET PARK

A California nonprofit corporation of Sunset Park residents • Box 5823, Santa Monica, California 90409-5823 • (310) 358-7117 • FriendsofSP@yahoo.com

## SEPTEMBER 2009 NEWSLETTER

Layout by Bill Josephs



FOSP 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration — Past and present Board Members with city officials

### 2009 “Emmalie” Award Winner: Kathy Knight

**K**athy Knight was born and raised in Los Angeles and remembers the natural beauty of this area in the 1950s and 60s. Just 5% of California’s original wetlands remain, and much of it is located in the Ballona Wetlands, which once covered more than 2,000 acres.

In the 1920s, whales swam where boats now cruise the Marina main channel. But in the 1930s, Ballona Creek was lined with concrete, and Marina del Rey was constructed in the late 1950s.

In 1993, just weeks after development plans were approved for the huge Playa Vista project, which would have covered

the remaining wetlands, Kathy and two other volunteers filed a lawsuit to stop the developers. They eventually formed a nonprofit organization, Save Ballona Wetlands.

*In the 1920s, whales swam where boats now cruise the Marina main channel.*

adoption to volunteer full time to save the Ballona coastal wetland ecosystem. She said, “I felt like I was still working for the children of L.A. County because...I can place them in a great home, but they’re still not going to have a good future if we don’t save the planet.”

In 1995, Kathy resigned from her job as a clinical social worker in

### Annual Meeting Wrap-Up

**M**arking the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Friends of Sunset Park, the 2009 Annual General Membership Meeting was held on May 30th at Mt. Olive Church.

Past FOSP board members (Barbara Brown, Jane Dempsey, Caroline Denyer, Karen Greenwalt, Kathy Knight, Y. Richard Kuyama, Cathy Larson, Ellen Mark, Veronica Pinckard, Jennifer Polhemus, Regula Ziegler, Council member Richard Bloom) and governmental leaders (Council members Kevin McKeown and Bob Holbrook, Transportation Planning Manager Lucy Dyke, Airport Commissioner Stephen Mark, Social Service Commissioner Gail Myers, SMC Trustee Andrew Walzer) were introduced along with FOSP board candidates. Ballots were cast by attendees when they registered, and the Santa Monica High School Jazz Combo provided background music during registration.

**Awards:** The Emmalie Award, named after Emmalie Hodgin and presented annually for outstanding service to the Sunset Park community, went to Kathy Knight, former FOSP president, who has led the fight to preserve much of the Ballona Wetlands. Certificates also were awarded to outgoing FOSP board member Brian Bland for applying his journalistic writing talents to FOSP causes, to FOSP Airport Committee Chair Cathy Larson and Airport Committee member Ping Ho for their work documenting safety

continued on page 3

continued on page 3

## Parking Problems

Full semester at Santa Monica College began on August 31<sup>st</sup> this year. Enrollment was over 34,000 last year and, according to the August Board of Trustees meeting minutes, applications for enrollment were up 24% as of July 2009. So, despite increased ridership on the Big Blue Bus, there are lots of SMC students looking for places to park in the neighborhood.

**Whom do you call?** If drivers are not following the posted parking regulations on your street, or a parked car is blocking your driveway, here's what you can do:

- 1) Between 8 AM and 8 PM, call the SMPD Traffic Enforcement section at 310-458-2226.
- 2) After hours, call SMPD non-emergency dispatch at (310) 458-8491.

The SMC Police Department can also ticket cars near the Main Campus (Pico to Ocean Park Blvd., 14<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>) for blocking driveways, parking in preferential parking zones without a valid permit, etc. You can phone SMC Dispatch at 310-434-3000.

**Parking Permits:** Here are the restrictions on the parking permits which the city issues to residents:

“Permit valid ONLY

- When hung from rear-view mirror AND
- Numbered side of permit faces rear of vehicle AND
- Visible from rear of vehicle AND
- Vehicle is parked within 2 blocks of permit address AND
- Vehicle is parked in same zone as permit.

“Obey all posted signs, the Santa Monica Municipal Code and the California Vehicle Code. Failure to comply with above rules may result in citation and/or fine. For questions about enforcement or citations, call (310) 458-2226. For questions about permit purchase, call (310) 458-9291. Sale or transfer of this permit violates Santa Monica Municipal Code; permits will be confiscated and violators will not be allowed to renew permits.”

**Disabled Placards:** According to the DMV web site, illegal use of a blue Disabled Person Parking Placard can result in cancellation of the placard and is punishable by fines from \$250 to \$3,500, imprisonment up to six months, or both.

## Contact Information

**SMPD Neighborhood Resource Officer – Artis Williams:**  
424-200-0687

**SMPD Non-Emergency Dispatch:** 310-458-8491

**SMPD free residential security surveys:** 310-458-8474

**Crime Map:** <http://www.SantaMonicaPD.org/CrimeMapping>

**Graffiti Hotline:** 310-458-2231

**Airport Noise Hotline:** 310-458-8692

**Animal Shelter:** 310-458-8594

## Door Prize Donors — Thank You!

We would like to express our gratitude to the following local businesses and individuals who donated door prizes for the FOSP Annual Meeting:

- Artful – 1726 Ocean Park Blvd.
- Bark Williams – 2901 Ocean Park Blvd.
- Bud's Deli/Ocean Park Pizza - 2819½ Ocean Park Blvd.
- Campos Mexican Foods – 2008 Pico Blvd.
- Chavez Art (<http://www.artshow.com/chavez.index.htm>)
- Cop-a-tan – 2901 Ocean Park Blvd.
- Crafts Around the Corner – 1716½ Ocean Park Blvd.
- Edelweiss Flower Boutique – 1722 Ocean Park Blvd.
- Executive Cleaners – 2901 Ocean Park Blvd.
- Gilbert's El Indio – 2526 Pico Blvd.
- Hair Brains Beauty Salon – 1718 Ocean Park Blvd.
- Lares Restaurant – 2911 Pico Blvd.
- Maya Shoe Repair – 1708 Ocean Park Blvd.
- Object Salon – 3017 Ocean Park Blvd.
- Sylvia Shapiro at The Massage Place – 2901 Ocean Park Blvd.
- Studio E – 3001 Ocean Park Blvd.
- Teddie Tillett – 3238 Pico Blvd.
- Unurban Coffee House and Café – 3301 Pico Blvd.

Also, a very big “thank you” to Starbucks Coffee at 2901 Ocean Park Blvd. for giving us a generous discount on coffee for the meeting, and to Bob's Market at 1650 Ocean Park Blvd. for providing us with delicious sandwiches and fresh fruit at an affordable price!

## Calendar

**September 22 – City Council – 6:45 PM**

**September 26 – Neighborhood Council**  
10 AM – Ken Edwards Center – 1527 4<sup>th</sup> St.

**September 28 – Social Services Commission**  
7 PM – Ken Edwards Center

**September 28 – Airport Commission**  
7:30 PM – City Hall

**October 7 & 21 – Planning Commission**  
7 PM – City Hall

**October 8 – FOSP Board/Membership Meeting**  
7 PM – Mt. Olive Church

**October 13 & 27 – City Council – 6:45 PM**  
**October 17 – Neighborhood Council**

10 AM – Ken Edwards Center

**October 26 – Social Services Commission**  
7 PM – Ken Edwards Center

**October 26 – Airport Commission**  
7:30 PM – City Hall

**Annual Meeting, continued from page 1**

concerns at Santa Monica Airport, to SMPD Neighborhood Resource Officer Artis Williams, and to *Santa Monica Daily Press* reporter Melody Hanatani, a special "Courage Under Fire" award after she was struck by a BB while standing outside a Sunset Park restaurant.

Mayor Ken Genser and Timothy Lippman, representing Assembly Member Julia Brownley and State Senator Fran Pavley, presented commendations to FOSP on its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Mr. Lippman also presented a commendation to Kathy Knight from Senator Pavley for her environmental advocacy work regarding the Ballona Wetlands.

**City Council:** Mayor Genser told of efforts to incorporate neighborhood conservation policies into the Land Use and Circulation Element regulations, now being updated to provide the city with planning guidelines to carry it into the future. He spoke optimistically about the city effort to curb big, fast passenger jets from using Santa Monica Airport. He said Rep. Henry Waxman is pushing Congress for Santa Monica Airport safety and to get the FAA to work with us. He said light rail is coming down the old Exposition tracks to 20<sup>th</sup> and then down the center of Colorado Ave. to the location of the Sears automotive center, which has been acquired for the project. Genser concluded his remarks by calling attention to the Annenberg Community Beach Club the city has opened. "It is a magical place, and it is ours. Just make use of it," he urged.

**Police:** Police Chief Timothy Jackman said, "What makes the community safe is all of us," and observed, "I get more information from Sunset Park than any other part of the city." He praised the work of Sunset Park Neighborhood Resource Officer Artis Williams, who was applauded. Jackman said that earlier in the year theft from autos increased, with laptop computers and GPS equipment as prime targets. But, the chief said, only four such thefts had been reported since April. He urged persons to be on

the lookout for taggers, saying, "Graffiti is our early warning system. Call police as soon as possible."

**Fire:** Fire Chief Jim Hone reported on the switch from L.A. back to Santa Monica for the handling of emergency calls. He said a fire communications supervisor has been hired and eight operators will staff the center, with two operators each working 12-hour shifts. The fire chief also noted that new rescue equipment now in use requires more than two men. Currently, a fire truck normally is dispatched to each call with the two-man rescue truck. For added efficiency, two fire trucks are being taken out of reserve and will replace the rescue trucks. The city's advanced life support fire engines are staffed with four firefighters, two of which must be paramedics. By using fire engines, the city can respond to each call with one vehicle and the necessary number of rescue personnel.

**Planning:** Eileen Fogarty, the city's planning director, urged attendance at a June 2<sup>nd</sup> LUCE Neighborhood Conservation workshop at the Main Library to provide input. She spoke of the need to conserve neighborhoods and noted that the Expo rail line will be built at grade, not 30 or more feet in the air, dividing the city. She said traffic needs to be monitored at different times of the day and not just at troublesome intersections. The planning director also said the city must determine what is an appropriate mixture of heights in active areas such as downtown.

**Airport:** Bob Trimborn, Santa Monica Airport Director, said he hopes the Museum of Flying on the airport's south side will be open in December. A DC-3 airliner has been installed at the entrance. Douglas Aircraft, which once employed 40,000 persons, produced about 10,000 DC-3s after the model was introduced in the 1930s. It became the nation's primary airliner. In World War II, it was the primary military transport plane. Later, some flew as aerial gunships over Vietnam, flying for hours to support American ground troops with aerial cannon fire. Some DC-3s are still flying, Trimborn said.

After the series of brief talks, the five speakers split up to form the centers of lively discussion groups. The awarding of door prizes donated by local businesses concluded the annual meeting.

**Election Results:** All ten board candidates on the ballot were elected: Phyllis Chavez, Tom Cleys, Charlie Donaldson, Susan Hartley, Emmalie Hodgins, Zina Josephs, Gail Myers, John Reynolds, Lorraine Sanchez, and Laura Thixton.

—CHARLIE DONALDSON,  
FOSP SECRETARY

**Kathy Knight, continued from page 1**

In 1996, she received the Earthkeeper Award of the Interfaith Council for the United Nations and, in 1997, she received the Angeles Chapter Sierra Club Conservation Award. She has served as the Conservation Chair of the Airport Marina Group Sierra Club, the Wetlands Coordinator for the Spirit of the Sage Council, the Vice President of the Habitat Trust, and as an outstanding President of Friends of Sunset Park.

In educating the public, Kathy has given over 100 presentations to groups and schools on the value of saving all 1,000 acres of the last remnant of the Ballona Wetlands. She focuses on the beauty of the wildlife, the economic benefits of saving it, and its importance to fisheries and to migratory birds as part of the Pacific Flyway, noting that the wetlands serve as habitat for more than 215 species of birds.

In 2003, conservationists convinced the state of California to acquire over 500 acres of the wetlands, including nearly all the open space west of Lincoln Blvd. Kathy's current goal is to save another 110 acres east of Lincoln Blvd. for a treatment wetland to help clean up Ballona Creek and prevent it from polluting Santa Monica Bay.

In addition to the environmental benefit, Kathy's efforts have also greatly reduced the impact of Playa Vista traffic on Sunset Park. For all these reasons, we were honored to honor Kathy Knight with the 2009 Emmalie Award.

# FRIENDS OF SUNSET PARK



***Friends of Sunset Park  
Annual Meeting and  
20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration  
May 30, 2009***