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Elysian  
Park  
Committee



# Notes

April 23, 2003

Citizens Committee to Save Elysian Park (CCSEP)

No. 126

## JUNE 1 FUNDRAISER DINNER

The Citizens Committee to Save Elysian Park will host our annual fundraising banquet for the fourth year at the Grace E. Simons Lodge. Please join us for this highly anticipated community event on Sunday, June 1, 2002

Returning to cater this year's event will be Bar-B-Que Express. They will barbeque on site with oak burning barbeques. The buffet menu features tri-tip beef, boneless breast of chicken and vegetable kebabs. A selection of side dishes includes caesar salad, corn on the cob with seasoned butter, and red rose potatoes with garlic and herbs will also be served.

This year the event will start at 5:00 p.m. with a no-host bar, appetizers and musical entertainment. Following introductions our dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m. The evening will conclude with the traditional raffle, dessert and coffee. Local businesses and artists donate great items every year. Raffle tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5 so bring that extra cash!

Due to size restrictions of the Lodge, this evening will be limited to the first 200 people that order their tickets. Unfortunately, there cannot be any exceptions to this limit and tickets must be paid in full, so send your payment right away! Dinner price is \$30.00

To purchase an entire table of 8, please include your name and the names of those persons sitting with you. Free parking is available at the lodge.

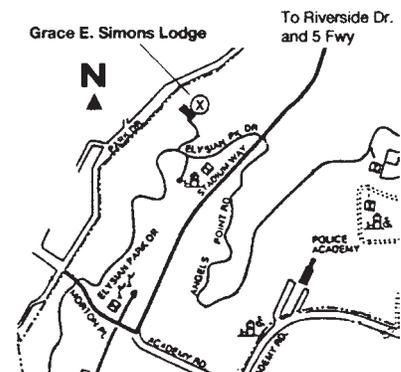
Please send your checks to CCSEP, c/o Michael Kogan, 1401 W. Calumet Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90026. For more information or directions, please phone Michael at 213-250-2378.

Save The Date

**Sunday, June 1, 2003**

Place: Grace E. Simons Lodge  
1025 Elysian Park Drive  
Elysian Park

Time: 5:00 P.M.  
No-host bar,  
Hors d'Oeuvres and  
Musical entertainment



## \$150,000 Secured for new Elysian Park Master Plan

It is with great pleasure that the Citizens Committee to Save Elysian Park would like to announce the funding of a new Elysian Park Master Plan. We would like to express our profound gratitude to Councilmember Ed Reyes for securing the funds and awarding them to the Master Plan process.

Committee members were stunned when Council Deputy Armida Olguin-Flores announced at the CCSEP's February meeting that Councilmember Reyes had convinced his council colleagues that the Elysian Park Master Plan ought to be included in this year's City-Wide priorities. With that \$100,000 were secured through the Community Development Block Grants (CDBG\*).

Moreover, subsequent to the City Council debate, Councilmember Reyes requested that the City's Recreation and Parks Department identify an additional \$50,000 for the same purpose bringing the total for the Elysian Park Master Plan to \$150,000!

See Master Plan, page 2

Some months ago a sub-committee of CCSEP members was formed to develop an outline for a new Elysian Park Master Plan. After beginning the process of considering the many elements that make Elysian Park what it is, the sub-committee synthesized those elements down to the following key topics:

I. Existing Condition: History, Existing Landscape, Amenities, Commercial & Governmental Users, and Roads, Traffic & Parking.

II. Plan of Development: Land Acquisitions, Plantings & Wildlife, Water Resources & Irrigation, Fire & Safety, Trails, Signage System, New Amenities, Design Standards for New Construction, Park in the Context of the City, Transportation & Parking, Community Outreach and How Can the Department of Recreation and Parks Better Manage Resources?

Each of these topics was then broken down into a multitude of subtopics that endeavor to depict the issues that require addressing by the Master Plan authors.

When the outline was near completion, the CCSEP met with both Department of Recreation and Parks General Manager Manuel Mollinedo and Councilmember Reyes' Office to discuss the document. Mr. Mollinedo expressed support for our draft document and encouraged the CCSEP to pursue funding through our Council Office and other sources.

It was now the sub-committee's assumption that we would be in for a long haul in our quest for putting together funding for the Master Plan. However, much to our relief, the Master Plan has been funded and the work can begin a good deal sooner than anticipated.

It is the Committees hope that the Elysian Park Master Plan becomes the guideline for the future stewardship and protection of Elysian Park by the City of Los Angeles so that future generations of Angelenos can continue to enjoy its sanctuary in the center of the city.

The Citizen's Committee to Save Elysian Park looks forward to being partners with the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks in the Master Plan decision making process. Thanks again to Councilmember Reyes and his Field Deputy Armida Olguin-Flores, for bringing us so swiftly and painlessly to this point.

\* CDBG funds are federally allocated monies designed for a variety of purposes. Each year Los Angeles receives what is best described as its federal allotment. Council debate follows which prioritizes our City-wide projects. Last year, the City had nearly \$20 million in requests, but was given less than \$10 million.

## Walking Tours 2003 Schedule

This year's Historic Elysian Park Walking Tours will be held on Saturday, May 24<sup>th</sup> and August 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10 AM. Starting location is at Freemont Gate where N. Broadway crosses the Los Angeles River (Thomas Bros Map page and grid 634 H1). A donation of \$3 per person is requested for the tour, which benefits the Echo Park Historical Society the co-sponsors of the tour.

Included sites relate to the history of Elysian Park, the Los Angeles River and the city's early water system, the Figueroa Street Tunnels and the Pasadena Freeway, Chavez Ravine, the Elysian Park Auto Camp, the Cornfield Rail yard and much more. Please join us on the 2-mile hike, which takes about 2 hours to complete. Please RSVP at (213) 482-4458

### **Notes is published by the Citizens Committee to Save Elysian Park (CCSEP).**

CCSEP meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month, 7:00 P.M. at Barlow Hospital-Williams Hall.

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## Remembering Geneva Williams

### December 22, 1916 – October 10, 2002

By Sallie Nuebauer

I met Geneva in 1979 almost immediately after moving into my rented apartment in Echo Park. I had rented down the driveway from Citizens Committee to Save Elysian Park founder Grace E. Simons. She recruited me to the committee. I remember her coming down the driveway asking me, "Wouldn't I like to come to a meeting regarding Elysian Park?" That night, or the night after, I met Geneva, who was then secretary for the committee.

I quickly came to realize that she was a major player in the group. Besides her meticulous minutes and records, she worked with Grace typing correspondence and filing and she went down to City Hall frequently on lobbying expeditions. I was later to learn she was also the unofficial hostess of any committee function that involved food. This meant hard work of buying, storing plates, cups, etc. as well as setting up the tables and utensils and cleaning up afterwards.

I had the great fortune to be educated by Geneva and Grace in ways and means to protect Elysian Park. Geneva was totally dedicated to preserving Elysian Park and her neighborhood. Towards her later years people would ask, "Why don't you retire?" She would respond, "It's like you have a bull by the tail, you can't let him go!" Morning, noon or night, if there was a meeting involving the welfare of the park or of the community, she was there. In the twenty-three years I knew her, I cannot remember her ever refusing a request made of her on behalf of the park.

Over the years, we attended hundreds of meetings together. Geneva was my constant companion down at City Hall. She liked to say she had opinions and was not good at arguing. The reality is that she stood up for her convictions. Frequently after a meeting we would go to lunch together. We shared a passion for the park as well as a love of home and good food. Whenever we brought potluck food items for a committee event we were our own mutual admiration society.

The first three months or so after her stroke in January 2002 were probably the most trying times of her life. Probably for the first time in her memory, which by the way was like a steel trap right to the end, people were doing things for her rather than the other way around. I could tell she was uncomfortable asking the nurses at the convalescent home for anything. But she persevered and worked hard at her therapy.

She was thrilled to be in her new home again. She had twenty-four hour live in assistance, Luisa, Leah and Kelly, and was quite comfortable. She got around with a walker and enjoyed several lunch parties with committee members and church ladies. I'm so pleased that for the last one, only about a month before she died, she played hostess to my birthday party. Two of my good friends catered the affair, using her dining room, linen and china. Geneva just beamed to be on the giving end again.

Geneva had told me that it had been a long-time dream of hers to live in a new house, one she could help design. This was one dream fulfilled. She told me when the architect asked her for a "wish list" her number one priority was to have the sun come in her bedroom windows in the morning and set beyond her kitchen windows at dusk. That request epitomized her love of nature.

Since 1979 the Citizens Committee to Save Elysian Park has sponsored memorial tree plantings in Elysian Park. Geneva not only planted trees but was responsible for maintaining many other people and groups trees, including the Grindewald Ski Club, who planted trees regularly. At 2002's memorial planting friends and family including the CCSEP planted a grove of six Chinese Fringe Tree along the western slope of the Avenue of the Palms in her honor.

Geneva would have been 86 on December 21, 2002. She had a long and fruitful life, devoted to service, and I was fortunate to be her friend. On Tuesday, October 15, 2002 Geneva's Councilmember Ed Reyes, adjourned the Los Angeles City Council in her memory, honoring her service on behalf of Elysian Park.

I will miss her, as we all will, but Heaven will be glad to see her.

**Support the  
CCSEP  
Join Today!**

**Membership  
Information**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

New Member \$10

Renewal \$10

(Student and Seniors, \$5)

Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I'd like to help

I'm interested in the following:

\_\_\_\_\_

**We Need Your Continuing Support**

Have you been getting the CCSEP newsletter because of your involvement in the Citizen's Committee from years ago? Well, we're eternally grateful for your involvement, and at least for the time being, you'll keep getting your newsletters. But we really could use your support again.

**Why not mark your calendars for 7pm on the 1st Wednesday of every month, to come to the CCSEP regular meetings at William's Hall in the Barlow Hospital complex in Elysian Park?**

**Why not renew your membership to CCSEP by completing the form at the back of the newsletter and sending us a check for \$10 today?**

This newsletter and the activities of CCSEP take a lot of volunteer effort and cost money. Your continuing support helps us preserve Elysian Park and stay on top of environmental issues throughout Los Angeles.

In advance, we say "THANK YOU!" for your continuing support.

Citizens Committee  
to Save Elysian Park  
1403 Macbeth Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90026