

SORO

Newsletter

ISSUE II **SPRING 2001**
Circulation: 10,000 quarterly

the Newsletter of the
SOUTH ROBERTSON
Neighborhoods Council

BEVERLYWOOD
CASTLE HEIGHTS
CRESTVIEW
REYNIER VILLAGE
REGENT SQUARE
SoRo MERCHANTS
& SURROUNDING AREA

SoRo is a non profit
501c3 charitable organization



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SoRo Upcoming Elections 2001

SoRo holds elections for its Board of Directors once a year. The SoRo Bylaws require that the Board maintain a balanced membership drawn from residential neighborhoods, the business community, property owners, and religious, educational, and social service organizations. To be a member of the SoRo Board of Directors,

you must reside, work and/or own property within SoRo's current general boundaries of Pico, LaCienega, Venice/National and Beverwil/Castle Hts.

For SoRo to function effectively, members of the Board must be active and involved. Their job is to see that the Board is a positive force for the betterment of the entire community by

learning about its mission, plans, current projects and objectives.

Nominees for the Board are drawn from people who have basic knowledge of SoRo as a

result of their involvement with SoRo activities. Voting for the Board seats that are up for election will take place at the March 20th Candidates for City Council Forum in the Hamilton High School Pattiz audi-



SOUTH ROBERTSON NEIGHBORHOODS COUNCIL -- PRESIDENT -- SUSAN BURKS

5th District Candidates Forum

Tuesday, March 20, 2001, 7 pm
Hamilton High Pattiz Auditorium
S. Robertson Blvd & Cattaraugus Ave

SoRo and The League of Women Voters have invited all of the candidates who are running for election on April 10th to fill the seat which will be vacated by 5th district council member Mike Feuer to a discussion of city wide and community issues at Hamilton High on March 20th. The candidates are Jill Barad, Nathan Bernstein, Joe Connolly, Ken Gerston, Tom Hayden, Laura Lake, Constantina Milonopoulos, Stephen Saltzman, Robyn Ritter Simon, Victor N. Viereck and Jack Weiss. Kitty Felde, host of "Talk of the City" National Public Radio heard on KPCC, will moderate the forum. Issues identified by a SoRo task force will be discussed.

A French Restaurant in a flower shop? Treat yourself to one of SoRo's best culinary offerings--Le Petit Jardin, which serves up fine French cooking amongst a fragrant array of fresh flowers. (full story on page 4)



Mark your calendar for the this years "SoRo Festival Road Show" happening on June 3rd. This year's party-in-the-streets promises to be the best one ever--(full story on page 3)



South Roberston's gone to the dogs.... in the best sense of the word. Not only is the boulevard a nice place to take your four legged friend out for a stroll, it's also home to several shops catering to pets, like Many Paws--a full service pet supply and grooming shop, operated out of a cute little corner cottage (full story on page 4)



to reach us
PHONE/FAX:
310-839-7639
WEBSITE:
www.soro.org
SoRo Board Meetings
2nd Wednesday of every month
Hamilton High Library 6:30 PM

- neighborhood events**
- March 11**
A Shenere Velt Gallery, 1525 S. Robertson
David Rose: Witness to a Century. Opening reception 3-5 p.m. Through April 27
For Info: 310 552-2007
 - March 15**
Canfield Elementary School, 9233 Airdrome
Principal's tour
For Info: 552-2525
 - March 20**
Fifth District Candidates Forum & SoRo Board Elections
Hamilton High School, Pattiz Auditorium 7:00 p.m.
 - March 23**
The Workmen's Circle, 1525 S. Robertson, 7:30 p.m.
"The Irish Tradition of Resistance" speaker, T om Hayden
For Info: 310 552-2007
 - April 1**
Sharon Jan Bernstein in Concert
The Workmen's Circle, 1525 S Robertson
Two Shows: 2:00 & 5:00 pm
Ticket Info: 310 552-2007
 - April 21**
Jazz Concert 7:30 pm Pattiz Auditorium
Hamilton High School Academy of Music
For Info: 559-9468
 - May 10, 11, 12, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26**
"Sweet Charity" Spring Musical
Hamilton High School Academy of Music
Pattiz Auditorium
For Info: 559-9468
 - May 19**
Castle Heights "Spring Fling" honoring Mel Feuer and Don & Bonnie Blish
Beverly Hills Country Club, Motor and Manning
Call Heather Rappaport
For Info: 202-8610
 - June 3**
SoRo Road Show street festival
South Robertson Blvd bet. Cattaraugus & Beverlywood
11 am - 6 pm

SORO NEWS

Lani update

FIRST PHASE OF SORO VILLAGE LANI PROJECT TO BEGIN

The first phase of the revitalization work on Robertson Boulevard will begin in the next few months. It will include a pedestrian-activated crosswalk (pending city approval), decorative crosswalks at three intersections, pedestrian lights, bus shelters with benches and trash receptacles. Costs for this phase are funded primarily by a federal grant of \$400,000 through Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative (LANI).

The SoRo Village Community Work Plan calls for additional improvements, which would be part of future phases as additional funds become available.



Roz Gallet, Castle Heights Librarian with 4th Grader Emma Klatman Browsing the BUCK-A-BOOK Cart.

Castle Heights Elementary Book Donation Campaign

Castle Heights Elementary School (Kindergarten-Grade 5), located at 9755 Cattaraugus Avenue in Beverlywood, and part of the Los Angeles Unified School District, is asking the community to donate used children's books for its ongoing

Buck-a-Book campaign. Parent volunteers collect books to sell back to Castle Heights Elementary School students for one dollar and the funds are earmarked to improve the Castle Heights Elementary School's library originally built in the 1940's and in desperate need of new carpet, furniture and bookshelves.

"We are creating a community of readers who share the same reading experience," says Roz Gallet, the school's librarian

and longtime Castle Heights Neighborhood resident who says she is excited about the Buck-a-Book campaign not only because it benefits her beloved library but because it encourages young children to read. "These kids are saving their own dollars just to have the experience of owning previously loved books"

One of the Buck-a-Book organizers, Susan Avolio, a SORO resident and parent volunteer whose children are 6, 9,

and 12, says plans are underway to sell children's used video and audiotapes and a much larger weekend book sale will be held in the spring for the entire community. "We are constantly upgrading our inventory because the turnover is so fast," says Avolio, who has been a tireless parent volunteer for just about every school fundraiser.

"We'll provide hassle-free pick-up," says the Buck-a-Book creator and Castle Heights parent, Carol Eisner, who thought of the idea one day while browsing in a westside bookstore. "Firstly, books are expensive. Buck-a-Book is a chance for parents and kids to buy high-quality books at bargain basement prices at a convenient location on campus," says Eisner.

For more information about how you can donate your tax-deductible unwanted children's books or tapes to Castle Heights Elementary, call (310) 839-1400 or (310) 838-6488. Or log on to www.castleheightselementary.org. --by Carol Eisner

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SoRo

A Charitable 501c3 organization, we rely upon you, our community, to volunteer time & make tax deductible contributions. As we strive to revitalize our community we ask that you consider how you too can help! Thank You.

Can You Help?

- ◆ Outreach
- ◆ Distribution
- ◆ Committees
- ◆ Fund Raising



People Making Community Work

South Robertson Neighborhoods Council
Phone/Fax 310-839-7639 or www.SoRo.org
2861 S Robertson Blvd., L.A., CA 90034

2001 So Ro Festival Road Show Coming June 3!

All Aboard for the 2001 SoRo Festival Road Show! On Sunday, June 3, take the fast lane to fun at SoRo's greatest Festival yet. The Festival Committee is working hard together with the L.A. Department of Cultural Affairs and the SoRo community, and plans are speeding along.

This year a dazzling array of booths will feature both local and visiting merchants and organizations displaying art, crafts, gifts, ideas, and more! Plenty to eat and drink will be offered at enticing food booths, including Kosher!

There will be entertainment galore on stage, strolling performers, and scheduled activities for all ages.

Watch for the better-than-ever, popular Camp SoRo for kids.

Experience SoRo's own "Antique Road-Show"! Bring along those just-might-be-worth-a-fortune items you've always wondered about: genuine appraisers will be on hand to estimate values- just like on T.V!

And don't miss the exciting Harley Davidson Show-bike Display and Premier Motorcycle Contest with cash prizes, new and special features of the 2001 SoRo Festival Road Show!

The Festival will take place Sunday June 3, 2001, from 11A.M. to 6P.M. along South Robertson Boulevard. between Beverlywood and Cattaraugus.

This Sunday June 3rd, come mingle and make new friends in our high-performance community, at the 2001 So Ro Festival Road Show!

--By Barbara Mendes

SORO Mourns Congressman Dixon

Los Angeles lost an effective leader, and SORO lost a good friend with the death of Congressman Julian Dixon on December 8, 2000.

He served our community in Congress for 22 years, and for 6 years in the State Assembly. A special election will be held on April 10 to fill his seat.

As a senior member of the Appropriations Committee, Dixon played a crucial role in bringing Federal funds to regional transportation projects, including

the Metro Rail subway and the Alameda Corridor.

He also helped secure funds for the Natural History Museum and the Museum of Tolerance.

He helped SORO obtain \$400,000 for a community development grant under the L. A. Neighborhood Initiatives program.

Dixon was a former chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, and a leader on civil rights issues.

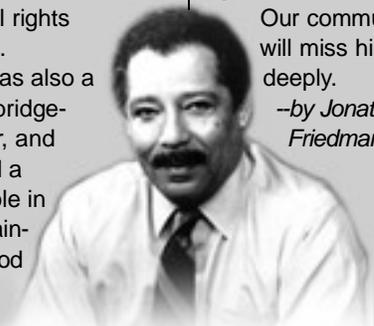
He was also a great bridge-builder, and played a vital role in maintaining good

relations between the Black and Jewish communities.

On a personal level, he was never flamboyant, but always soft-spoken and invariably polite. He was liked and respected by his colleagues of both parties; he was more interested in getting results than in getting the credit. He truly enjoyed talking with his constituents, and really listened to their inputs.

Our community will miss him deeply.

--by Jonathan Friedman



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SORO NEWS



Fresh from the farm... an assortment of locally grown offerings available every Thursday at SoRo's own **Farmer's Market**, from 3 to 7PM at La Cienega and 18th

What do you know about billboards in our city?

The good news: The Los Angeles City Council passed a 6 month moratorium in November '00 prohibiting any new billboards from going up in our city.

The bad news: In December '00, the City Council, by a 9 to 4 vote, approved 7 new billboards in the Pico/La Brea area despite the earlier moratorium.

The good news: According to the current L.A. City Municipal Code, it is illegal to put billboards on our free ways. Our freeways have been free of billboards for over 50 years.

The bad news: A motion was proposed in City Council in November '00 to consider legislation called the Billboard Reduction (or Relocation) Ordinance (CF002254) which will allow the billboard industry to construct 78 new double-sided giant billboards (800 sq. ft.) along our freeways. In

return for constructing these billboards, the billboard industry will remove 780 much smaller billboards within the city (ranging from 55 sq. ft. to 230 sq. ft.). The billboard industry will select the billboards to be removed.

The bad news: A Sign Review Task Force* has been established and is currently meeting to review the methodology to implement this proposal. The majority of the members are "friends" of billboards.

The good news: If you want to stop the increased construction of giant billboards, you can have a voice! Call, fax or write to your City Council member and tell them that you do not want billboards lining our freeways. Urge all of City Council to oppose the misleading "Billboard Relocation Ordinance" and any other proposal that will increase the number of billboards in our city. Attend the Sign Review Task Force meet-

ings and tell them your concerns. Share this information with your friends and neighbors and ask them to join in this effort to stop the continuation of visual blight in Los Angeles.

The bad news: Without your action, this legislation will go through!

The good news: You Can Make A Difference!!!

* Date, time and place of the next Task Force meeting has not been scheduled.

For more information call Ted Wu (310) 474-1711
Citizens to "Ban Billboard Blight"



Action Committees

WE NEED YOUR HELP! Be an important part of your community & revitalize SoRo. Contact a group leader or call today

SORO Merchant Assoc:
Work to stimulate and improve local business climate
Chair: Malcolm Brown
mbrown4988@aol.com

SORO Festival Committee:
Plan and Host Annual Festival held on Robertson Blvd.
Chair: Susan Bursk
sbursk@mediaone.net

Newsletter Committee:
Plan, write, illustrate, distribute quarterly communicate
Chair: Tony Fox
tfox0034@earthlink.net

Safety Committee:
Work with city departments and residents to improve safety in SORO area
Chair: Allan Graf
aggreat@aol.com

Website Committee:
Update, maintain, contribute to SORO's cyber link
Chair: Paul Levy
levyphoto@aol.com

Tree Committee:
Help care for and plant trees in SORO area
Chair: Julia Maher
juliamaher@aol.com

Land Use & Traffic:
Work with city departments on zoning and traffic flow issues
Chair: Carole Segal
kc6dxq@hotmail.com

Business Outreach Committee:
Help in efforts to bring new vital businesses into area
Chair: Claire Bowin
bowincline@earthlink.net

Call (310) 839-7639 For more information

Many Paws Pampers YourPets

Stephanie Marquez and Christel Wilson have been grooming pets with tender loving care and selling pet supplies for over 13 years in SoRo. Both have actively participated in all three SoRo Festivals and are busily preparing their best booth yet for this year's festival. Christel also owns and operates "Simply Worms", a composting worm farm business. Many Paws is located at 2730 S. Robertson Blvd at Olin. Ph: 310/837-1710.



Expo Light Rail

A light rail line stops at Venice & Robertson. You could get on and ride downtown, then on to Pasadena or N. Hollywood. A wild idea? Maybe not.

The MTA is now considering a bus or a light rail on the Exposition corridor. If you think light rail on Expo is a good idea, now's the time to say so -- we may not get another chance!

Let us know how you feel about these transit options. Contact SoRo at 839-7639 or www.soro.org. Friends 4 Expo Transit, www.friends4expo.org., meets at Hamilton High. Contact them at 310.393.9025, or friends4expo@aol.com.

--by Julia Maher

restaurant rave

The Best Kept Secret in SoRo is Le Petit Jardin, the simply marvelous "French" Restaurant at 1456 S. Robertson Blvd.

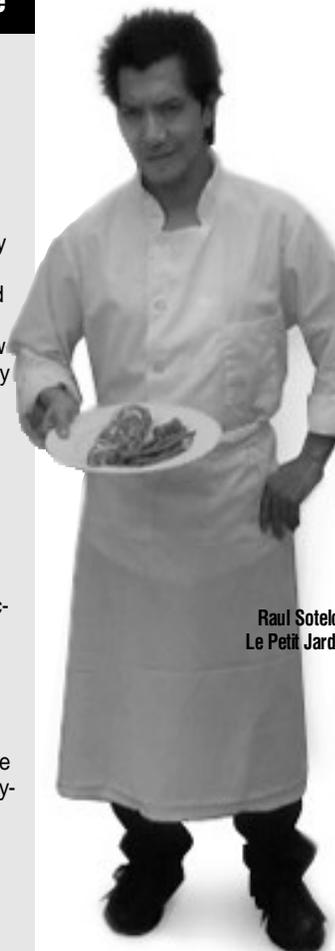
It is owned & run by Raul Sotelo & his lovely wife Celine, whose flower shop is enclosed within the restaurant.

Fragrances of the flowers mixed with heavenly aromas of the food makes for a delightful dining experience.

Open Mon.-Fri 8am-9pm, & Sat. 9am-9pm.

You're welcome to bring your own wine to enjoy with the many sumptuous menu choices. Prices range from \$4.95 to \$14.95. The wonderful soups, main dishes & desserts are home made preparations that would rival the finest of restaurants anywhere.

LA Mag called them "An Affordable Feast". 310-278-5294. The Secret's out!



Raul Sotelo
Le Petit Jardin