



# FRIENDS OF SUNSET PARK

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

## NOVEMBER 2011 NEWSLETTER

Layout by Bill Josephs

*AN INVITATION FROM THE CITY MANAGER:*

# CAN WE TALK?

A community conversation with City Manager Rod Gould about neighborhood projects, the economy, and the future.

***...about how we are doing...***

How does the economy look from a local perspective?

Rod will discuss our fiscal outlook and talk about the city's strategies for difficult times.

***...and what we are doing!***

What did we do last year? How will we build on that?

Talk with Rod about what we accomplished last year, upcoming City initiatives and outreach projects, and what is going on in your neighborhood.

***Thursday, November 3, at 7 PM***

Cosponsored by Friends of Sunset Park

Grant Elementary School Auditorium  
2368 Pearl Street, Santa Monica

### ***SM Airport Update***

**The Future of Santa Monica Airport** – On October 4th, the City Council held a special meeting, as part of the “Airport Visioning” process. The staff report and the Powerpoint presentations are posted at <http://www01.smgov.net/cityclerk/council/agendas/2011/20111004/a20111004.htm>

The airport consists of 227 acres located at the southeast corner of the city. The 5000-ft runway is embedded in a residential area, and the environmental and safety impacts have been a longtime concern for airport neighbors. In addition to the runway itself, the airport property hosts airport staff offices, aircraft tie-downs (parking spaces), aircraft hangers, restaurants, artist studios, sports playing fields, a dog park, a theatre, and SMC classrooms.

continued on page 3

### ***SMC and SMMUSD***

**F**all semester for Santa Monica College (SMC) and the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) began the same week this year. As SMC enrolled nearly 34,000 students in Fall 2010, FOSP College Committee Chair Regula Ziegler and SMC neighbors were concerned about traffic congestion and pedestrian safety, especially at the intersection of 20<sup>th</sup> and Pearl. It's one of the few non-signalized intersections in the city that's rated “F” and, in addition to thousands of cars, has 3 Big Blue Bus lines running through it. About 130 SMMUSD students, as well as hundreds of SMC students, use its crosswalks. Regula invited SMC and city officials to join her and nearby residents for a “get-together observation” on August 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.

continued on page 3

## **FOSP Annual Meeting Wrap-Up**

The 2011 FOSP Annual General Membership Meeting was held on May 21st at Mount Olive Church. The afternoon began with refreshments, with background music provided by pianist Chris Dawson, and visits to the exhibits tables, including one from the Red Cross of Santa Monica.

The "Emmalie Award" was presented to John Reynolds and Charles Donaldson. Guest speakers included City Manager Rod Gould, SMPD Deputy Chief Al Venegas, City of Santa Monica Emergency Manager Ken Semko, Airport Director Bob Trimborn, former Transportation Planning Manager Lucy Dyke, City Traffic Engineer Sam Morrissey, and Santa Monica College Trustee Rob Rader. After the brief speeches, we broke up into discussion groups.

After the results of the Board of Directors election, we distributed door prizes which had been donated by local businesses. Here are the results of the election:

### **FOSP Board of Directors for 2011-12**

Joanne Curtis, Charles R. Donaldson, Vivien Flitton,  
Robert Gomez, Susan Hartley, Emmalie Hodgin,  
Zina Josephs, Cathy Larson,  
Lorraine Sanchez, and Lloyd Saunders.

The Board subsequently elected the following officers:

President – Zina Josephs  
Vice President – Vivien Flitton  
Secretary – Charles R. Donaldson  
Treasurer – Lloyd Saunders

## **Emmalie Award – 2011**

### **Charles R. Donaldson**

Charles R. Donaldson and his wife Phyllis have been members of Friends of Sunset Park since 1993.

Charlie grew up in Los Angeles and Glendale, and attended Glendale College and Cal State LA. He later earned a master's at Fairleigh Dickinson University's Wroxton College in London, and later still, a Ph.D. at Claremont.

Charlie worked at the *Los Angeles Times* and then taught English and Journalism at Santa Monica College.

He has served as Executive Director of the Pico Improvement Organization, President of the local Retired Teachers Association, and Secretary of the League of Women Voters of Santa Monica.

While on the FOSP Board, Charlie has served as Secretary and unofficial Parliamentarian, has kept us entertained with his vast repertoire of stories, and has collected countless door prizes for our Annual Meetings.

### **John Reynolds**

John Reynolds grew up in Salt Lake City, Utah, came to Southern California while in his twenties, and started a small commercial film production company that he still owns and runs successfully with his partner.

He is a devoted father to his older daughters Joey and Sarah, and to his younger twins Frances and Louisa, and a loving husband to his wife, Christine.

John has been on the FOSP Board since 2003, serving as Treasurer, and has lent his knowledgeable voice to every issue from finance, to website re-design, to the Civic Center Parks project, to the ongoing issues with Santa Monica Airport.

He has earned his expertise in how to get things done in government by working with other non-profit organizations such as RESULTS, and that expertise has greatly benefited Friends of Sunset Park. He's a really good guy and a treasured member of our community.

## **Annual Meeting Door Prize Donors**

Thank you to the following local businesses for donating door prizes for our Annual General Membership Meeting on May 21<sup>st</sup>:

Acapillow Home Accessories – 3018 Pico Blvd.  
Artful – 1726 Ocean Park Blvd.  
Bark Williams – 2901 Ocean Park Blvd.  
Bob's Market – 1650 Ocean Park Blvd.  
Bourget Bros. – 1636 11<sup>th</sup> St.  
Campos Mexican Foods – 2008 Pico Blvd.  
Classic Pizza – 2624 Pico Blvd.  
The Counter – 2901 Ocean Park Blvd.  
The Cut Salon – 1620 Ocean Park Blvd.  
Edelweiss Flower Boutique – 1722 Ocean Park Blvd.  
Engler Brother Auto Parts – 2630 Pico Blvd.  
Evelt's Model Shop – 1636 Ocean Park Blvd.  
Fast Taco – 2901 Ocean Park Blvd.

Gilbert's El Indio Restaurant – 2526 Pico Blvd.  
Hydro-organics – 3010 Pico Blvd.  
Il Forno Restaurant – 2901 Ocean Park Blvd.  
Lares Restaurant – 2909 Pico Blvd.  
The Massage Place – 2901 Ocean Park Blvd.  
Maya Shoe Repair – 1708 Ocean Park Blvd.  
Morgan-Wixson Theatre – 2627 Pico Blvd.  
Ocean Park Pharmacy – 2731 Ocean Park Blvd.  
Santa Monica Yoga – 1640 Ocean Park Blvd.  
SMC Theatre Arts Department – 1900 Pico Blvd.  
Superfast Copying & binding – 2358 Pico Blvd.  
Tandoor India Restaurant – 2622 Pico Blvd.  
Unurban Cafe – 3301 Pico Blvd.

Thanks also to Starbucks at 2901 Ocean Park Blvd. for providing coffee!

**Airport, Continued from page 1**

With the 2015 expiration of the operating agreement between the City and the FAA rapidly approaching, the City hired three consultant firms to explore future options of the airport property. Point C interviewed residents, business owners, aviation and non-aviation interests regarding the range of possibilities for the airport's future. The RAND Corporation produced a study of potential development concepts. HR&A Advisors analyzed the economic and fiscal impacts of the airport.

At the meeting, the City Attorney spoke about legal constraints that could influence possible future airport options. Representatives from Point C, HR&A, and The RAND Corporation presented their findings.

The overflow audience was surprised to learn that the RAND report only consisted of development proposals for the 40 acres of non-aviation and did not present options to mitigate environmental and safety concerns. The HR&A economic evaluation calculated economic benefits by treating the "airport campus" as a single entity—lumping aviation, non-aviation, governmental agencies, and the SMC campus all together. The general tone of the public comments exhibited dissatisfaction with the manner in which the consultants' studies were conducted and the lack of pertinent information in their findings.

At the October 24<sup>th</sup> Airport Commission meeting, the Airport Director announced an Airport "Open House" on December 10<sup>th</sup>, as a kick-off for the Airport Visioning Phase 2 focus groups. Commissioner discussion included the following:

- Since the public didn't receive information on airport operations "options and alternatives" during Phase 1, it will be difficult for them to reach consensus on "the middle road" for SMO during Phase 2. Residents are looking to the City for guidance on identifying the range of options.
- The HR&A analysis didn't distinguish between economic impacts that were

the result of aviation activities and non-aviation activities at SMO. It's impossible to make informed decisions about the future of the airport without this information.

- Based on past experience with public process in Santa Monica, some residents are doubtful as to any meaningful outcome from Phase 2 focus groups.
- December 10<sup>th</sup> is in the middle of the holiday shopping season, so a good turn-out for the Airport Open House is unlikely.

**Recent Accident Renews Flight School Concerns**

On August 29, 2011, an airplane being flown by a student pilot collided with a wall and the side of a house at 21<sup>st</sup> and Navy. The FOSP web site includes a list of SMO-related accidents at: <http://www.friendsofsunsetpark.org/airport/safety-concerns/>

On September 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Public Works Director reported that "Staff is reviewing flight school operations since they do constitute a significant amount of aircraft operations at SMO. Staff is also pursuing multiple approaches involving discussion with the FAA, lease analysis, and discussions with the flight schools on frequency of and time of operations."

On September 26<sup>th</sup>, the Airport Commission held a Flight School Workshop. Sunset Park resident John Fairweather, Joe Justice, the owner of Justice Aviation, and Jay Elder, Director of American

Flyers at Santa Monica Airport, all presented Powerpoints, followed by Q and A with members of the large audience. Community studies show that approximately 60% of air traffic at SMO is flight school or training related. <http://www.friendsofsunsetpark.org/airport/departure-analysis-2011/>

**Important Dates**

**Monday, November 28, 7:30 PM at City Hall**  
Santa Monica Airport Commission

- Discussion with Airport Visioning consultants ◀
- Workshop format with Q and A ◀

**Saturday, December 10**  
Santa Monica Airport "Open House"

- Kick-off of Phase 2 of the Airport Visioning process ◀
- Tour the Airport site, facilities, and operations ◀

The Airport Commissioners hope to address some of these concerns by holding a public workshop at their next meeting on November 28. RAND and HR&A consultants have been invited to return. The workshop format will allow the public to make comments and pose questions to the presenters.

**SMC and SMMUSD, continued from page 1**

SMC and SMMUSD officials had worked with the City of Santa Monica and the Big Blue Bus Company to manage the traffic congestion around the Main Campus, John Adams Middle School, and Will Rogers Learning Community by sending postcards to residents, using dynamic message signs, providing additional traffic control officers, deploying extra buses, advising students to park in the satellite parking lots, and encouraging SMC students to take the bus.

SMC Police Chief Albert Vasquez, SMC Police Sgt. Jere Romano, SMC Vice President for Students Affairs Michael Tuitasi, Mayor Richard Bloom, City Council member Gleam Davis, Deputy City Manager Kate Vernez, SMPD Captain Carol Larson, City Traffic Engineer Sam Morrissey, and Transportation Engineer Jay Dinkins participated in the observation. On August 29<sup>th</sup>, the traffic chaos at 20<sup>th</sup> and Pearl seemed reached its peak between 8:00 and 8:30 AM, when one driver-in-a-hurry nearly ran down SMC Police Officer Micah Mitchell, who was standing in the middle of the intersection directing traffic.

As the week progressed, Regula also did morning observations at Pearl and 16<sup>th</sup>, Pearl and 17<sup>th</sup>, Ocean Park and 16<sup>th</sup>, and Ocean Park and 17<sup>th</sup>. She said afterward, "With this 'observation get-together,' we witnessed the result of increased cooperation between the City of Santa Monica and SMC, and we'll build on that."

# FRIENDS OF SUNSET PARK

## 2011 FRIENDS OF SUNSET PARK ANNUAL MEETING

