



# THE FEDERATION

OF HILLSIDE AND CANYON ASSOCIATIONS, INC.

POST OFFICE BOX 1673  
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213-368-6120

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website: [www.hillsidefederation.org](http://www.hillsidefederation.org)

## FOUNDED IN 1952

### President

Joan Luchs

### CHAIRMAN

Lynette Berg Robe

### VICE PRESIDENTS

Conrad Schoeffter

Charley Mims

### EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Liz Tigar

### RECORDING SECRETARY

Cassandra Barrère

### TREASURER

David Garfinkle

### MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

BelAir Knolls Property  
BelAir Skycrest Property  
Benedict Canyon  
Briarcliff Improvement  
Cahuenga Pass Neighborhood  
Crests Neighborhood Association  
Encino Property Owners  
Forest Hills Homeowners  
Franklin Hills Residents  
Franklin Ave/Hwd.Blvd.West  
Glassell Park Improvement  
Glenridge Homeowners  
Highland Homeowners  
Hollywood Dell Civic  
Hollywood Heights  
Hollywoodland Homeowners  
Holmby Hills Homeowners  
Laurel Canyon  
La Tuna Canyon Community  
Lookout Mountain Alliance  
Los Feliz Improvement  
Mt. Olympus Property Owners  
Mount Washington Association  
Mt. Wash. Homeowners Alliance  
Nichols Canyon  
No. Beverly Dr./Franklin Canyon  
Outpost Estates  
Pacific Palisades Residents  
Residents of Beverly Glen  
Roscomare Valley  
Shadow Hills Property  
Sherman Oaks  
Studio City Residents  
Tarzana Property Owners  
Torreyson-Flynn  
Upper Mandeville Canyon  
Whitley Heights Civic

### CHAIRMEN EMERITUS

Jerome C. Daniel  
Patricia Bell Hearst  
Gordon Murley  
Polly Ward

### CHAIRMAN IN MEMORIUM

Brian Moore

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### SPECIAL GUEST:

### Joe Edmiston Inducts new officers:

The Hillside Federation welcomes Joseph Edmiston, California's top conservationist /environmentalist and Executive Director of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, appointed by Governor Jerry Brown in 1979.

Educated at USC where he was President of the California Collegiate Student Government Assn., he accepted his first professional conservation position in 1973 with the Sierra Club when an advocate before the California Coastal Commission was needed. Intending to leave law school for only six months, that first position with the Sierra Club captured him for the world of public policy and he never looked back.

Joe says he will never forget the day in Sacramento when he was handed a travel voucher, a state credit card and told to "go down there and save the Santa Monica Mountains." What an order! Ultimately The Santa Monica Mountains Commission enacted the Santa Monica Mountains Comprehensive Environmental Plan that set out land use policy for local government to follow and set the stage for the Santa Monica Mountains land acquisition program in addition to recommending establishment of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.

Continued on page 2...

*Important Information  
Enclosed*



## NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Social Hour at 7 PM/Meeting at 7:30 PM  
Meeting to start promptly at 7:30 pm

## UNIVERSAL CITY NISSAN

3550 Cahuenga Blvd. West between  
Lankershim-Universal Drive bridge off ramps;  
park underground garage/street; take elevator to  
2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room

## AGENDA

**Introductions: Members/Guests**

**Minutes: April**

**Induction: Special Guest-Joseph Edmiston  
Executive Director/SM Mtns. Conservation  
Executive Secretary Report: Liz Tigar**

**A. New Faces**

**B. New Rosters**

**C. Future Newsletters will only be  
emailed**

**President's Report:**

**A. Appointments: 1. Dr. Niles Chapman  
2. Polly Ward**

**B. Membership Update: La Tuna  
Canyon Community**

**New Business:**

**A. Billboards-Ventura/Cahuenga Blvds.  
Corridor Specific Plan- Lisa Sarkin/  
Ted Wu**

**Old Business:**

**A. 101/405 Widening Update**

**B. Long Range Transportation Plan**

**C. Densification Lawsuit- EAHCLA-  
Guest Speaker/Rob Glushon**

**D. Baseline Mansionization Ordinance**

**Adjournment:**

The mission of the Hillside Federation shall be: To protect the property and the quality of life of the residents of the Santa Monica Mountains and other hillside areas of Los Angeles and its environs, and to encourage and promote those policies and programs which will best preserve the natural topography and wildlife of the mountains and hillsides for the benefit of all the people of Los Angeles.

Continued from page 1 ...

Under his guidance, the Conservancy has brought parks and open space to the Los Angeles River Parkway, the Simi Hills, the Santa Susana Mountains, Verdugo Hills, the San Gabriel Mountains escarpment and even to South Los Angeles in the form of Augustus Hawkins Natural Park, a nationally acclaimed introduction of representative ecosystems into an urban setting.

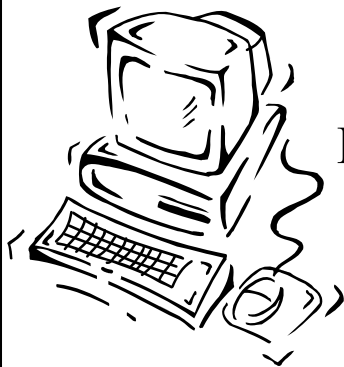
Joe's outstanding accomplishments leading the Conservancy have been regularly acknowledged over the years. In 2003 he received one of the American Society of Landscape Architects highest award, the La Gasse Medal, in recognition of his extraordinary contribution to the management of natural resources and public lands. For more information, check Who's Who in America.

Liz Tigar, Executive Secretary

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

The following Hillside Federation Directors were elected at the April 2, 2008 meeting. Their term of office will expire May 6, 2009

|                             |                          |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Board Chairman:</b>      | <b>Lynette Berg Robe</b> |
| <b>President:</b>           | <b>Joan Luchs</b>        |
| <b>Vice President:</b>      | <b>Charley Mims</b>      |
| <b>Executive Secretary:</b> | <b>Elizabeth Tigar</b>   |
| <b>Recording Secretary:</b> | <b>Ann Walnum</b>        |
| <b>Treasurer:</b>           | <b>Daniel Palmer</b>     |



**VIEW  
FEDERATION  
WEBSITE  
at**

**[www.hillsidefederation.org](http://www.hillsidefederation.org)**

**February Newsletter, News and Update  
Links are available**

**If there is something else you'd like to see, or  
if you want to send an article for the  
newsletter, let us hear from you.  
Call Joan Luchs at (213) 368-6120  
with your suggestions.**

## NEWSLETTER MAILING REMINDER

**One more chance to be sure you receive  
your Federation Newsletter the way you  
want it because starting in June the  
Newsletter will only be sent out by  
email unless you prefer to receive  
a hard copy. We have a short list  
now. If you are not sure your name is on  
it, please email your request to Liz Tigar  
at [lizabite@gmail.com](mailto:lizabite@gmail.com) or call her at**

**(805) 522-7733**

## MANSIONIZATION ORDINANCE GOES TO CITY COUNCIL MAY 6<sup>TH</sup>



The Baseline Mansionization Ordinance, which applies only to single-family zoned properties not located in the hillside or coastal areas, was again referred back to City Planning Commission on April 24, 2008. Because Planning Director Gail Goldberg disapproved changes made by the Planning and Land Use Management Committee, the CPC then had the authority to disapprove/ approve the Revised Ordinance. The disapproval requires City Council to have 10 votes on May 6, 2008 to approve the Ordinance instead of the normal majority of 8.

### These changes include:

1. **Section 20: Residential Floor Area Districts:** A method which would allow individual neighborhoods flexibility to increase or decrease the maximum size limits in Residential Floor Area Districts (RFA) for properties in the RA, RE, RS or R1 zones with a district not generally less than 100 acres. The purpose is to permit a qualified district with not less than 75% agreement to further enhance the existing scale of homes and help to preserve the existing character of the neighborhood as effectively as the RFA limitations established in this Code and where the increased or decreased RFA maximums will be consistent with the policies and objectives set forth in the Community Plan.
2. **Section 5: Maximum Residential Floor Area:** An additional option to allow for a 20% Bonus when a new SFR home is constructed using Green Building Methods; the new construction shall be in substantial compliance with the requirements for the U.S. Green Building Council's (USGBC) and Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) for Homes program at the "Certified" level or higher.

3. **Section 15: Request for an Increase in Residential Floor Area:** A provision to increase the size limits over the proposed 20% Bonus (if articulated) may be allowed as an additional adjustment in Residential Floor Areas (RFA) up to 10% with a public hearing and where all required findings can be made. Any further increase over and above the 30% would require a full variance application and a publicly noticed hearing before the Zoning Administrator who shall have the authority to grant the Variance in RFA if all five required Findings can be made. This process may also require an Area Planning Commission and/or City Planning Commission review.

The Hillside Federation conditionally approved this Ordinance IF the Bonus for R1 lots under 5,000 sq. ft. were reduced from 30% to 20% and the 400 sq. ft. for a garage was included into the Base Formula.

The changes made at PLUM and the City Attorney's report that goes to City Council May 6th now treats all R1 Zone lots the same until a lot is 20,000 square foot. As a result it appears that under 20,000 sq. ft. the new formula may reduce the square footage on smaller residential lots UNLESS the applicant files and qualifies for an additional 10% Adjustment on top of the 20% Bonus (if articulated) and already given. The good news with this process is that it requires Findings to be made at a noticed public hearing which enables the neighbors/ community to have a say. The bad news with PLUM's formula is it doesn't stop there. It goes further and allows an applicant to apply for more than the 20% Bonus and the 10% Adjustment and even though that requires a full blown Variance with much tougher Findings if neighbors don't attend and the respective council office doesn't support the neighbors, the impacts to the community could be significant.

Joan Luchs, President  
Hillside Federation

## CALTRANS SETS MAY 14<sup>TH</sup> HEARING ON 101/405 CONNECTOR PROJECT

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) will hold a **public hearing on Wednesday, May 14**, to discuss proposed improvements to the connector from the SB San Diego Freeway (I-405) to the WB Ventura Freeway (U.S. 101).

The project will involve a new, upgraded 50 mph two-lane connector that would replace the existing 20 mph single-lane connector, and require right-of-way from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers related to the operation of the Sepulveda Dam.

**The hearing will be held Wednesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>** from 5:30 to 8:30 PM at Valley Beth Shalom, 15739 Ventura Boulevard, Encino, CA 91436.

Several design alternatives have been proposed which will be explained at the hearing. A draft Environmental Assessment/Initial Study (EA/IS) has been completed and is available for review and self-copying at the following locations.

Caltrans District 7 Division of Environmental Planning, 100 S. Main Street, Los Angeles, 90012; the Los Angeles Public Library, Van Nuys Branch, 6250 Sylmar Avenue, Van Nuys, 91401; the Sherman Oaks Branch, 14245 Moorpark Street, Sherman Oaks, 91423. You may also call Ron Kosinski at 213 897-0703 or email him at [ronkosinski@dot.ca.gov](mailto:ronkosinski@dot.ca.gov).

Written comments will be accepted through May 28<sup>th</sup> and should be addressed to: Mr. Ronald Kosinski, Deputy District Director, Division of Environmental Planning, Caltrans District 7, 100 S. Main Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

Caltrans is telling us that the new connector would improve traffic flow at the U.S. 101-1-405 interchange, particularly during peak periods. Comments from this meeting are recorded and taken into consideration. This is how you can participate and let the system know what is right and what is wrong.

## NEW FACES

As the Federation gets ready for the induction of its newly elected officers at the May 7<sup>th</sup> meeting it's time to look back and introduce organizations, presidents and representatives who have become part of the Federation family during the past year.

### Alphabetically by organization they are:

Benedict Canyon: **Nickie Miner** new president and **Mark Montgomery** new alternate representative, replacing long time representative **Marilyn Stefano** who has taken a leave of absence. Recently joined the Hillside Federation November 2007, Crests Neighborhood Association's President and representative are **Ron Galperin** and **Peter Jones**. Forrest Hills Homeowners new alternate **Patsy Stecher**; Hollywood Heights new president, **Lannette Pabon**; Holmby Hills new president, **Lauren King**. La Tuna Canyon Association rejoined the Federation after a year's absence and is headed by President **Linda Greco**; Los Feliz Improvement Association, new representative **Don Seligman**; Mount Washington Association's new president **Eliot Sekuler**; Mount Washington Homeowners Alliance new president **Clare Marter Kenyon**; Nichols Canyon Association new rep **David DeWeiss**; Roscomare Valley Association's new president **Robin Greenberg**; Shadow Hills Property Owners new president **Electra Kruger**.

A hearty welcome to all. We look forward to your active participation.

## MULHOLLAND SCENIC PARKWAY DESIGN REVIEW BOARD

Meets the first and third Thursday of the month at  
6:30 PM

MARVIN BRAUDE CONSTITUENTS  
SERVICE CENTER  
6262 Van Nuys Blvd., Van Nuys, CA  
First Floor Conference Room

Free parking under the building:  
Entrance just east of Van Nuys Blvd.  
On Sylvan Street



**APRIL MINUTES****DRAFT MINUTES  
HILLSIDE FEDERATION****General Membership Meeting: April 2, 2008**

A quorum being present, the meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 7:35 PM by President Joan Luchs. Members and guests were welcomed and self introductions made.

**MINUTES:** March minutes approved as submitted.

**PRESIDENT'S REMARKS:**

**Status of dues payment:** The Treasurer reported that 34 organizations have paid dues for the 2008-2009 period.

**Las Lomas Proposed Development Report:** Developer Dan S. Palmer, presenting himself as owner of these 555 acres, has been working for six years with the Planning Department behind closed doors to obtain a permit for the annexation of this LA County land to Los Angeles. Palmer, in fact, owns only 8 of the 14 acres. Councilman Greig Smith has strongly opposed this project since the information became public and recently secured enough votes in City Council to kill the project. The Federation strongly supported Smith's opposition and recently received a letter of thanks for that support.

**Draft Housing Element:** Discussion meetings are scheduled to be held in each of the seven planning areas between April 14th and 24<sup>th</sup>. For information, call Naomi Guth at (213) 978-1363.

**Executive Committee Election:** Nominating Committee Chair Niles Chapman presented the following slate: Chairman, Lynette Berg Robe; President, Joan Luchs, Vice President, Charley Mims, Exec. Secretary, Elizabeth Tigar; Recording Secretary, Ann Walnum; Treasurer, Dan Palmer and noted that the position of a 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President is open.

Nominations from the floor were opened and Don Andres was nominated for Vice President by Yvonne Hessler. Andres declined the nomination citing lack of time to devote to the activity. There being no further nominations it was moved:

**MOTION (Schuldenfrei/Levy) that the slate as presented be approved. Motion passed.**

**Federation Newsletters:** Starting in May, newsletters will be sent only by email unless otherwise requested. Anyone who would like to receive a hard copy are asked to transmit their requests via email or telephone to Liz Tigar at lizabite@gmail.com or (805) 522-7733.

**Federation Roster** is being updated and will be available for distribution at the May meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Draft Transportation Element Report:** Polly Ward reported on the March 18, 2008 Livable Communities Council meeting of the Economic Alliance of the San Fernando Valley at which Metro's 2008 Plan was presented. She commented that a major roadblock is size and lack of money and that the public needs to make sure that the bond funds voted for are applied as voted. On April 23 a second presentation of the Plan will be made at the Braude Center in Van Nuys. Check with your councilman as to time and location. Polly stated a major reason more people are not using public transportation is lack of available parking. Public comments must be submitted by April 25, 2008 to metroplan@metro.net or (213) 922-2833.

**Coalition to Repeal SB1818:** In describing the ordinance passed by City Council to implement SB1818, Joan Luchs commented that what was supposed to be an increase in the affordable housing needed for various income levels has wound up as a decrease and is exempt from CEQA.

James O'Sullivan and John H. Welbourne, land use attorneys described the mechanism by which the Coalition intends to move forward with the lawsuit, and noted that Jane Usher, President of the Planning Commission has faulted the ordinance for eliminating environmental review. Extensive discussion of this issue resulted in the following two motions:

## APRIL MINUTES

**MOTION: (Galperin/Seligman)** *Be it resolved that the Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations, Inc. (Federation) contribute the amount of \$1000 to the Environment and Housing Coalition of Los Angeles (The Coalition); and be it further resolved that the Federation may, upon approval by the Executive Committee, contribute up to an additional \$4000 to The Coalition; and be it further resolved that the Federation encourage individuals and organizations to generously contribute to The Coalition. Motion passed.*

**MOTION: (Garfinkle/Mims)** *Be it resolved that the Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations joins as a plaintiff to an action to overturn said City actions, including, but not limited to becoming a party to a suit to require CEQA considerations of all Density Bonus applications. Motion passed. Numbers 9-5-3.*

## OLD BUSINESS:

**Camino de la Cumbre motion to rescind:** Charley Mims read the motion made at the March meeting. Joan Luchs, who has visited the area, described in greater detail why the suggested widening is not only detrimental, but provides no significant benefit. A new motion was made. Dr. Andrew Newman, PH.D., Executive Director of The International Society for the Preservation of the Tropical Rainforest also provided clarifying information. **MOTION: (Walnum/Mims)** *Resolved that the Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations not support any widening of Camino de la Cumbre. Motion passed unanimously.*

**405 Widening EIR Update:** Wayne Williams said the EIR/EIS submitted is evidence that CalTrans considered community input and, as a result, beneficial changes were made to its original plan. Among them was abandonment of a plan to remove only two rather than 16 homes in Sherman Oaks at the end of Valley Vista; a sound wall will be moved to the east; four more homes will be taken but not demolished. The overall project only provides a northbound carpool lane and does not resolve the significant bottleneck southbound at Skirball.

**Autry/Southwest Museums:**

Friends of the Southwest Museum have reviewed public financial records provided by Autry and question their veracity. Ann Walnum distributed copies of an announcement of a Los Angeles City Recreation and Parks Commission meeting to be held Wednesday, April 16, 2008 (hearing continued but no date yet) at 5:30 PM at the Montecito Heights Senior Center, 4545 Homer Street, Los Angeles 90031.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 PM  
Elizabeth Tigar, Secretary

**FEDERATION OFFICERS PRESENT:**

|                     |                              |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| President           | Joan Luchs, Cahuenga Pass    |
| Vice President      | Charley Mims, Franklin Hills |
| Treasurer           | David Garfinkle, Tarzana     |
| Executive Secretary | Liz Tigar, Tarzana           |

**FEDERATION DIRECTORS PRESENT:**

|                      |                             |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Barbara Dohrmann     | Belair Knolls               |
| Louis N. Nevell      | Belair Skycrest             |
| Mark Montgomery      | Benedict Canyon             |
| Ron Galperin         | Crests Neighborhood         |
| Patsy Stecher        | Forest Hills                |
| Don Andres           | Franklin Ave/Holly. West    |
| Yvonne Hessler       | Franklin Ave/Holly. West    |
| Patti Negri          | Hollywood Dell              |
| Lannette Pabon       | Hollywood Heights           |
| Donald Seligman      | Los Feliz Improvements      |
| Ann Walnum           | Mount Washington            |
| Eliot Sekular        | Mount Washington Assoc.     |
| Madeline O'Donnell   | Nichols Canyon              |
| Robert Levy          | No. Beverly/Franklin Canyon |
| Raymond Schuldenfrei | Outpost Homeowners          |
| Dan Palmer           | Residents of Beverly Glen   |
| Dr. Niles D. Chapman | Sherman Oaks                |
| Alison R. Connell    | Whitley Heights Civic       |

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS GUESTS**

|                   |                           |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Arnold Newman     | Camino de la Cumbre       |
| Tensie Palmer     | Residents of Beverly Glen |
| Wayne Williams    | Sherman Oaks Homeowners   |
| Linda Greco       | LaTuna Canyon             |
| Jim O'Sullivan    | Miracle Mile Residential  |
| Polly Ward        | Studio City               |
| John H. Welbourne | Windsor Square Assn.      |

## TARZANA PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION TOWN HALL FORUM

The Tarzana Property Owners Association will present our Annual Town Hall Forum Tuesday evening, May 6<sup>th</sup> at El Caballero Country Club, 18300 Tarzana Drive, Tarzana. The topic this year is: "Improving Transportation: Vision and Implementation".

**Wendy Greuel**, Councilmember from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Council District, President Pro Tempore of City Council and Chair of the Transportation Committee will moderate the discussion. **Dr. Paul Sorensen**, noted RAND Corporation expert on transportation policy, will lead off the discussion by presenting a vision of what's needed over the next 10-15 years including innovations required to provide a viable transportation network in the Los Angeles area. **Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky** will discuss how to bridge conception and innovation. **Rita Robinson, General Manager of the Los Angeles Department of Transportation**, will discuss implementation plans, limitations, and realities. **Councilman Dennis Zine, 3<sup>rd</sup> Council District**, will address specific concerns of the citizens in the West Valley. Our goal is to provide an overview of possible plans, hopes, and positions on intelligent transportation options and to stimulate some new ideas. A question and answer session will follow the panel presentations.

TPOA Town Hall Forums are always well attended - Last year we drew approximately 300 people. Refreshments and a social hour start at 6:15pm; The Transportation Forum starts at 7:30.

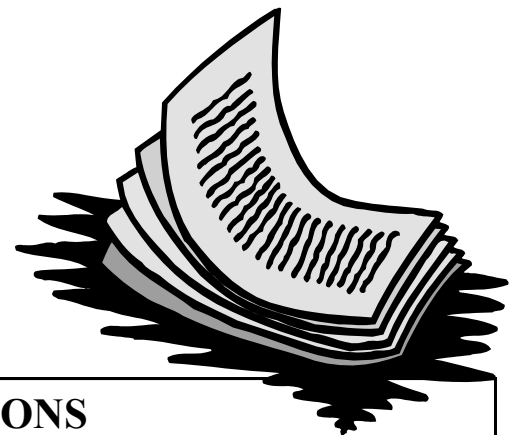
David Garfinkle, President  
Tarzana Property Owners Association

## FEDERATION MAKES APPOINTMENT TO CITIZEN'S OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Niles D. Chapman, M.D. joins Citizens Oversight Committee members along with Ginny Kruger, Asst. Chief Deputy to Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, and Attorney Pam Cooke, Residents of Beverly Glen, as the latest appointment to the Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Assessment District No.1

Dr. Chapman, a Board Certified thoracic surgeon for 40 years, has been for the past 11 years on the Clinical faculty in the Department of Surgery at the USC/ LAC Medical Center; that being after 27 years in private practice as a cardiothoracic surgery in Northridge.

Beyond his very busy schedule, Niles continues to be community active as Sherman Oaks Home Owners Association's representative to the Hillside Federation with special interest in protecting the Mulholland corridor from over development. The Hillside Federation is honored to appoint Dr. Chapman to the Citizens Oversight Committee from District One.



### REMINDERS: ISSUES & MOTIONS

Federation meetings are scheduled to start at 7:30 PM for Social Hour with the **meeting to start promptly at 7:30 PM** and end by 9:30 PM. In order to end on time, issues to be brought to the Board require a complete outline and a background, including a motion or what is being requested, then emailed to [president@hillsidefederation.org](mailto:president@hillsidefederation.org) at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting along with a direct home and fax number or phone and email address if available.

MOTIONS to be made at the meeting should be well thought out and printed so that they are clear and concise, with enough copies for all member associations. Each presenter will be given 5 minutes to make a presentation so that meetings can be kept on time. All requests to agendize an issue MUST be approved in writing by the President before the item will be placed on the agenda.



# NEXT MEETING

MAY 7, 2008

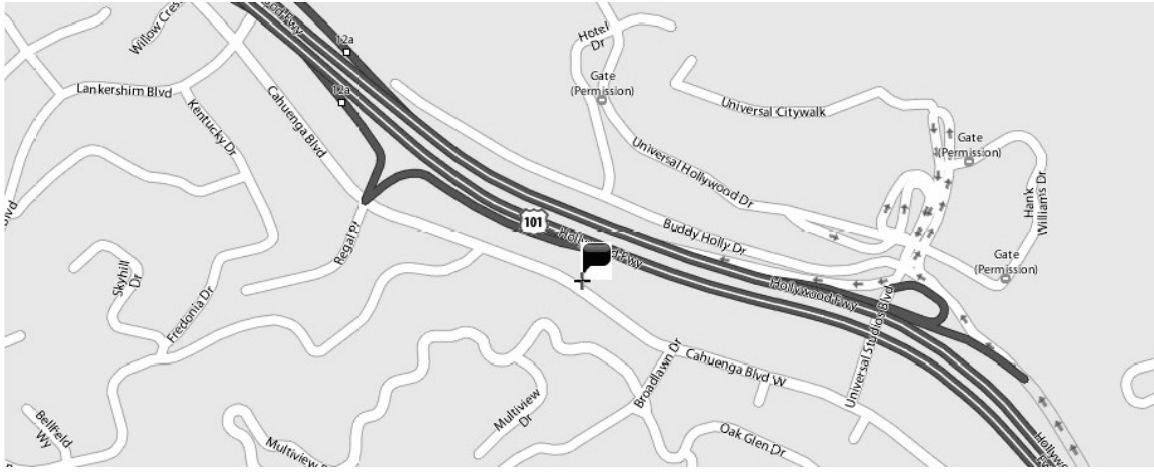
Social Hour at 7 PM - Meeting at 7:30 PM

## UNIVERSAL CITY NISSAN

3550 Cahuenga Blvd. West  
Los Angeles, CA 90068

Between Lakershim and Universal Drive bridge off ramps:

Park on street or in underground garage; take elevator to "S" street level or enter through showroom, turn left; follow signs to 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room



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