

*TERA Statement of Purpose and Mission:
The mission of this organization is to work
for improvement of the quality of life in
the Eagle Rock Community in
Los Angeles, California, by providing
research and education about Eagle Rock,
participating in land-use planning activities,
and promoting positive community
growth and beautification. TERA is a
non-profit 501 (C) (3) organization.*

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One of many artists submissions.

Make Art Not Trash

• by *Pauline Mauro*

This fall Eagle Rock's commercial boulevards will become an outdoor gallery of functional public art. Artists, mostly from Northeast LA, are designing ceramic tile and mosaic panels that reflect some unique element of Eagle Rock. These panels will be installed on each side of 20 concrete-cast trash receptacles that will be placed along Eagle Rock, Colorado and Figueroa Boulevards this September. Some examples of the panels will feature dahlias, a flower intimately tied to Eagle Rock's history; elements from a historical Eagle Rock Rose Parade float; the Arroyo's sycamores in four seasons; colorful dioramas of our town and the Rock; and a Day of the Dead inspired mosaic reflecting the Hispanic and multi-cultural heritage of Eagle Rock and its surrounding neighborhoods.

CONTINUE ON PAGE 4

IN THIS ISSUE

Pg 1 **Make Art Not Trash**

Pg 6 **Lounging In Eagle Rock**

Pg 8 **New York Comes to Eagle Rock**

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Working on your behalf

• MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Board has been working on several items on your behalf and I'll lead off with the one I think is most important:

Eagle Rock Ridge – Preserving Open Space

There is a ridge in Eagle Rock between Harvey Drive and Figueroa Boulevard, north of the 134 Freeway that divides Glendale from Eagle Rock. Along the top of that ridge is a fire road where hikers brave poison oak and steep grades to see Santa Monica Bay on a clear day. The ridge is largely undeveloped, with the exception of one single family dwelling.

Although most people think the ridge is in public ownership, the ridge line is actually privately owned. At the request of Councilmember Huizar, the owner of 25 acres along the ridge and his architect presented their proposed development plans to TERA's Preservation, Planning and Development Committee. The project consists of a 25,000 square foot restaurant and banquet center, a 12,000 square foot theater for live performances and community theater groups, along with a community meeting room and gallery hall for use by local artists and groups. The site itself is proposed to be located to the north of the northbound transition ramp from the westbound 134 Freeway to the northbound 2 Freeway, on the Eagle Rock side of the ridge. The restaurant and banquet hall would operate 7 days a week from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m.

The site is currently zoned A1-1LX and is designated as "Open Space" by the Northeast Community Plan. In order to construct the project the owner would first have to apply for and receive an amendment to the Northeast Plan, along with a Zone Change to allow Commercial Zoning and Development. It is likely that an Environmental Impact Report will also be required before any action can be taken on the project. Full bar service is also proposed, requiring a Conditional Use Permit to serve alcoholic beverages and a State of California liquor license.

Since there is no direct access to the site from the City of Los Angeles, the owner proposes to access the property through the City of Glendale from Mt. Carmel Drive. The owner indicated that all city services to the site would be provided by the City of Glendale.

Providing access to the proposed restaurant and banquet site will also open up access to all of the other privately owned parcels along Eagle Rock Ridge and will create a precedent for further development of those properties. Since the property is currently designated as open space and is in the Agricultural Zone, no such precedent should be allowed.

TERA is grateful to Councilmember Huizar for referring the owner to TERA's PP&D Committee and appreciates the presentation made by the owner and his architect. TERA strongly supports good development. However, we must oppose the proposed development because we believe the property should retain its current plan designation of Open Space and current Zone of A1-1LX. In addition, TERA strongly supports the acquisition of this Eagle Rock Ridge to be retained as public Open Space. The development of this large tract of hillside would destroy valuable and irreplaceable animal habitat, which once gone, is lost forever. Deer, coyote, bob cats, hawks, owls and

even mountain lions share this space with hikers and the area should be preserved for this use. The request for such a Plan Amendment and Zone Change does not meet the requirements that the public benefit and well being be served.

TERA has met with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy as well as the Council Office and is exploring the best ways to preserve this irreplaceable open space. We are seeking your support in this effort and urge you to contact the Council Office and ask them to make clear that they will not support any request for a change of zoning designation or plan amendment for this property. At this time no application has been filed but TERA believes that the best policy is to be proactive, rather than reactive and to be clear that such a commercial development on property that is planned and zoned as Open Space is unacceptable. TERA urges that resources be allocated to preserve Eagle Rock Ridge for animal habitat and future hikers and cyclists. Contact Councilmember Jose Huizar at (323) 254-5295 and Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa at (213) 922-9777 and let them know that Eagle Rock Ridge should be protected from any future development.

My thanks to **Frank Parrello** and **Michael Tharp** for all their research on this matter.

Beautification Goals Come to Fruition

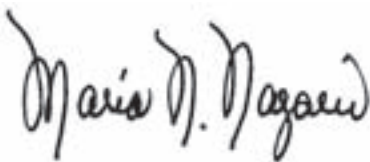
Two of TERA's goals are finally coming to fruition. First, the Make Art Not Trash project to install decorative trash receptacles along Colorado and Eagle Rock Boulevards will soon be a reality. See article that follows for full details. Thanks to **Pauline Mauro** for her vision and hard work.

Second, the Eagle Rockdale Community Garden and Art Park has recently expanded by adding fourteen planting beds. The project, led by Master Gardner and Board Member **Mary Tokita**, makes urban gardening a reality. Other developments since you last visited include a totem pole art installation, tiled entry gates and lighting, all of which make it the place to be on June 21 for TERA's Member Appreciation Event and Summer Solstice Party.

New Board Members

I am quite fortunate to have a supportive and hard working board to help carry out the work of TERA. New to the board since our last newsletter are **Bob Gotham** and **Joan McNeill** who have jumped in with both feet. Bob has taken on the responsibility of Newsletter Editor and Joan is our new Treasurer. Thanks to both and welcome aboard.

Remember to renew your annual membership and help support TERA's work for a better Eagle Rock. It's your community, it's your Eagle Rock Association - participate.



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Editor's Greeting



By Bob Gotham

At one time or another you have received a letter from a business explaining that they are going to charge you more for their

services and that is good for you. I have written those letters. As the new editor of the TERA Newsletter, I will now be able to write about things that are closer to me, subjects for which I have more passion, and to support the community in which I feel fortunate to live.

Eagle Rock has been my home for 22 years. This is my second time on the TERA board, having previously served from 2001 to 2003. Never in my life have I lived in any place this long. We have agreed that our home in Eagle Rock is our retirement home. I am committed to Eagle Rock "till the end" you might say.

There has been tremendous growth in Eagle Rock since I moved here. Some changes have been unanimously embraced. But not always. There are times we have indulged in high-pitched debates. We haven't always been good listeners. However, the depth of the feelings and the degree of involvement demonstrates one of the key characteristics that makes Eagle Rock special; People care and they are willing to get involved. There is a rare sense of "community" here. So "hats off" to those who get involved, who make their views known, even to those who don't see things the way I do. If you are thinking of getting more involved, please get more involved with TERA.

One defining characteristic of a community is found in the businesses located in the neighborhood. Zoning regulations, the specific plan, and other considerations attempt to regulate to a degree, the businesses that may be located in specific areas. Within those broad guidelines there is considerable latitude. Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will find articles regarding two new businesses in Eagle Rock, businesses that I feel make Eagle Rock a better place. Please take the time to read about Brownstone Pizza and the CT Lounge and visit them.

Thanks to the TERA Board for giving me the chance to do something fun, write about a community I love. Your comments about what you would like to see in future newsletters would be most welcome. Please email newsletter@tera90041.org.

CONTINUED FROM COVER

Make Art Not Trash

This project began in 2006, when TERA began researching the feasibility of how to get trash receptacles on our streets as part of a community beautification effort. The Art Can project in Silverlake inspired the solution and turned out to be the perfect platform to combine public art, community beautification, and collaboration from all walks of the community. TERA is pleased to be leading and managing the project after raising \$30,000 in funding from throughout the community: \$10,000 from TERA matched by a Community Beautification Grant from City of Los Angeles' Department of Public Works, \$5,500 from Eagle Rock Community Preservation and Revitalization Corp (ERCPR), \$2,000 each from the Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council and the Eagle Rock Chamber of Commerce, and \$500 from the Eagle Rock Kiwanis Club. Additional funding is also coming from a street furniture project spearheaded by Jessica Wethington Mclean, from Councilmember Huizar's office, in the area by Colorado and Figueroa Boulevards.

The Center for the Arts, Eagle Rock; and Arroyo Arts Collective are partners as well, through their networks, expertise, and volunteer work, 17 talented artists have signed on to design and fabricate the art panels. Selected Artists include Mary Clark Camargo, Marcela Ciszewski, Eagle Rock Montessori students, Frances Garretson, Rebeca Guerrero, Linda Johnston Allen, Luz Mack-Durini & Dawn Mendelson, Mary Jean Mallman, Megan McHone, CJ Metzger, Suzanne Siegel & Helaine Melvin, Toros Tngrian, Kacy Treadway, Kelly Witmer, and Valerie Daval.

But what really makes this possible for the long term are the 18 local busi-

nesses and organizations that have volunteered to maintain these trash receptacles to alleviate litter and continue Eagle Rock's artistic heritage. If a third party was contracted to maintain the trash, it would've been cost prohibitive at \$20,000/year for bi-weekly trash pickup and dump fees for just 10 trash



Pauline looking at artist submissions.

receptacles! Funding this project long term without these businesses' volunteer commitment would have been very challenging. Please make it a point to thank the following businesses: Auntie Em's Kitchen; Cactus Gallery; Center for the Arts, Eagle Rock; Colorado Wine Company; Curves; Eagle Rock Montessori; JJ's Car Wash; Mademoiselle Nails and Spa; Spitz; Swanky Blanky; That Yarn Store; The Coffee Table; Torres Construction; Toros Pottery; Tritch Hardware; Twentieth Century Womens Club; Unique Nails and Spa; and XTC Training Center.

There is still a lot to do and TERA could use your volunteer help to do it. We need an artist liaison, business liaison, public relations guru, photographer, administrative help, reception coordinator, and future project managers! If you have interest in any of those roles, or you would like to support TERA with a donation, or simply want more information, please email volunteer@tera90041.org or call 323-799-1190.

TERA Activities – Public Meetings

.....• By Keith Louie and Bob Gotham

Hosting public meetings or co-hosting with other community organizations is one of the ways in which TERA contributes to the Eagle Rock Community. Keith Louie, a member of the board, is responsible for coordinating the meetings.

The best attended meeting tends to be the "Annual State of the Town Address". For the last couple of years the regular schedule of the meetings (September) has coincided with the council member taking office. Therefore, the most recent meeting has been "Meet the Councilmember" events. At these meetings, the councilmember has the opportunity to share their perception of the condition of our community and more importantly their goals for Eagle Rock. It is also an opportunity for Eagle Rock residents to get close and personal during the Q & A portion of the meeting.



Last year, an election year. TERA and the ERNC co-hosted a Council District Candidates Forum titled "Meet the Candidates". All ten candidates running for the 14th Council District seat were invited to speak at the forum, and the differences in what each candidate brought to the table were evident because we were experiencing the candidates in a live spontaneous setting.

Historic preservation is a key issue for Eagle Rock. Reflecting TERA's understanding of the importance of historic preservation, several meetings have been held regarding this topic. Some of the speakers have included Gail Goldberg (Director, Los Angeles Planning Department), Ken Bernstein (Manager, Office of Historic Resources

with the Los Angeles Planning Department) and Christy McAvoy, Managing Principal of Historic Resources Group. An interesting aspect of historic preservation meetings is that community-wide there is a groundswell of support for preservation. Those who attend the meetings typically react to the meetings enthusiastically and with great appreciation. Many people are not aware that historic preservation and adaptive re-use are not only cost-effective, but they provide a distinctive style, increasing property values. It is hoped that as more people learn that historic preservation increases property values, interest in TERA and public meeting attendance will grow.

Although not located in Eagle Rock, there was considerable community interest in the future for the Southwest Museum in Highland Park. In 2006 this interest prompted TERA and the ERNC to co-host another meeting titled "The Southwest Museum - Past, Present, and Future?" with guest speakers Pam Hannah (Director, The Southwest Museum), and Nicole Possert (Spokesperson, Friends of The Southwest Museum and Coalition to Save the Southwest Museum) of which TERA is a member.

The annual Member Appreciation Meeting is being held June 21 at the Eaglerockdale Community Garden and Art Park. More details on that event will be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

Public meetings are an important aspect of the quality of life of the Eagle Rock Community. TERA is pleased to be able to contribute to making these events happen.



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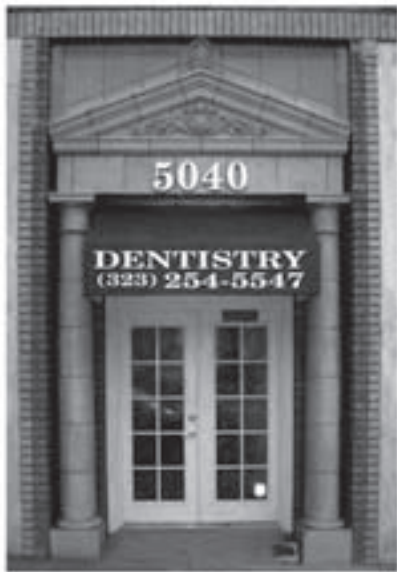
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Lounging in Eagle Rock CT Lounge

• By Keely Myres



Neon Sign

It was a sweltering day, one of those where it is impossible to cool down, especially when going from one place to another around town. As my final stop, I decided to check out Eagle Rock's newest hot spot. Walking through the unassuming doors into the dark and deliciously cool CT Lounge, where deep purple curtains blocked out the overwhelming sunlight beating down on Colorado Boulevard, was exactly the relief I needed after running errands in the blistering heat. Once my eyes adjusted to the sudden darkness, I climbed into one of the futuristic-looking booths and relaxed into the cool atmosphere. With multiple big screen TVs on every wall and a good-vibe soundtrack playing overhead, the CT Lounge is definitely the place to chill

out on a hot day. An ice cold beer completes the picture.

The CT Lounge is an offshoot of the Coffee Table Bistro, owned and operated by Mike Zammarrappa. Mike originally came to Eagle Rock to open a second location of his Silver Lake eatery, the Coffee Table. As in Silver Lake, when he opened the doors to the new restaurant there was a major lack of local eating establishments. It wasn't too long before other eateries followed suit, and now Eagle Rock is full of food delights, with more on the way. Mike explains that when Chic's Liquor closed its doors (right next door to the Coffee Table) he saw "an opportunity to take what was once a liquor store with a very bad reputation and create something that Eagle Rock lacked – a nicely designed space where one could go to watch a movie or see a game." Another key element in opening the CT Lounge was the desire to "distinguish ourselves by having the largest variety of premium beer in the Northeast area," states Mike. And they do have variety: 16 beers on tap and over 100 bottled beers available to thirsty customers. To satisfy the patrons' hunger, the CT Lounge also serves up a variety of tasty burgers and munchies, they have even included some healthy salads into the bar food mix.

Along with having a relaxing environment with a fun vibe, Mike wants the CT Lounge to be known as a place "where the staff is friendly, the food is good, and the variety of beer is amazing." This proves to be a winning mixture among the Eagle Rock crowd. During a recent Lakers' game there was not a seat to be found in the bar, with Oxy college students making up a large per-

centage of the bar-goers. Aside from the mouth-watering food and large beer selection, the Lounge is simply a great place to hang out. Multiple flat screen TVs and a huge projection TV constantly play various sporting events or movies, while a Touch Tunes Internet Juke Box gives patrons "just about every song ever recorded" to choose from to blast throughout the bar. The CT Lounge's Monday Movie Night is also sure to draw a crowd, with films like Young Frankenstein projected on the big screen.

The CT Lounge will be the place to hang out this summer. Stop in and cool down with a beer and great atmosphere.



Left: Beer on Tap
Top Right: Bottles in cooler



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• By Bob Gotham



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It can be described ethnically as Greek, Mexican or Sicilian. Often regional attributions such as Chicago Style, New York Style, New Haven Style and of course California style are also used to describe this treat. It's pizza of course. An edible that evokes strong convictions from its devotees as to what style is preferred and who makes the best pie in town.

Eagle Rock has long been blessed with several excellent places to get a pizza pie. For several years Casa Bianca has won awards for the best pizza in town. It used to be my practice to pick up a pizza Sunday nights at the Capri on the way home. More recently we have alternated between ordering a "garbage" (every topping offered) pizza to-go from Scarantinos or having personal sized pizzas with a glass of wine and live music to boot at Colombo's. All of these restaurants bake a "pie to be proud of".

As you can tell, I have very rarely met a slice that I didn't like. New York style is my clear preference. Thin crust, easy on the sauce and cheese, with a crispy crunchy rolled crust at the edges. And of course, it needs one or two additional toppings, perhaps sausage, pepperoni, mushrooms or onions. But not too much added on or else it loses that New York feeling.

On October 6, the night of the Eagle Rock Music Festival, Gunther and Bertha Donoso opened Brownstone Pizza on Colorado Boulevard. They introduced authentic New York style pizza to the community, not only in how the pizza was made but in making it available either by the slice or by the whole pie, a true New York tradition.

Born and raised in the area (Glassell Park and Cypress Park) Gunther and Bertha were high school sweethearts and are now Eagle Rock residents. Casa Bianca pizza was a staple in

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their lives as teens. Opening their own pizza parlor had been a long time dream for the graphic designer and the banker. Both had worked in restaurants occasionally. Early in his career, Gunther had worked his way up to a pastry sous chef in a little more than a year, showing a natural talent for cooking. Bertha however commands the kitchen at home. Today they enjoy the friendship of several professional chefs as close friends.

After several years of talking about opening a pizza parlor, when they saw the empty storefront on Colorado Blvd. it just seemed to make sense to just "go for it". If not now, when? From the business perspective, although there are several other fine pizza options in Eagle Rock, none were focusing on those who wanted to simply get a quick slice, be in and out in a few minutes. They also wanted to be in an area where they could get to know their customers, where there is a sense of connection through the community.

Bertha and Gunther feel that Eagle Rock is one of the few communities that has this quality.

Originally they expected students from high school and Occidental College to be an important part of their



Bertha and Gunther (owners)

customer base. Surprisingly, teachers have been more regular customers than students, although the student patronage is steadily growing. Families coming in for a pizza night comprise about

a third of the business. Single women and men, often the "quick in / quick out" folks, are another third. Favorite toppings are pepperoni (duh) and to Gunther's surprise – margherita which is simply fresh tomato and basil. Many come in for a quick lunch, to eat there or take it back to their home office.

Open less than a year, Gunther has a vision of the future. He is in the early planning stages to develop an outside patio dining area on Colorado by moving the entrance to the service counter several feet back from the sidewalk. There are also plans for the future to try to be able to say, "Let's go to Brownstone for pizza and a beer".

My final question was "what is the secret of making New York style?" He is not telling. In fact, most of his employees do not even know the recipes.

Welcome **Brownstone Pizza** (2108 Colorado Blvd.) to our community. Drop in, say hello to Gunther and Bertha and try a slice. I predict you will love it.

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We Can't Do It Without You

June marks the beginning of TERA's 2008/2009 membership year. That means it's time for our annual membership renewal drive. For twenty years, TERA has been your all-volunteer advocate dedicated to improving the quality of life in Eagle Rock. TERA depends on the financial support of its members to fund our many beneficial activities. Your membership dues are vital to our continued success!

To renew your membership or join us for the first time, please visit our website at www.tera90041.org for more information. Membership dues in various levels can be made via PayPal, credit card or send in the membership envelop included with this newsletter. We look forward to working together to continue to make Eagle Rock a community we are proud to call home.



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