

December 23, 2020



CARING FOR OUR NEIGHBORHOOD.

Looking Back, Moving Forward

In the [last issue](#), we took a look at the top issues (good and bad) that impacted Silver Lake in 2020. This week, join us as we say goodbye to 2020 and welcome new opportunities in 2021.



Preserving Design and Community

“There is no logic that can be superimposed on the city; people make it, and it is to them, not buildings, that we must fit our plans.”

— Jane Jacobs*

Silver Lake is a geographically small neighborhood in the City of Los Angeles – yet it retains a unique vibrancy and character amidst the mostly characterless sprawl of

Southern California.

Why? The dedication of a community that cares about both design and community. If a new project is proposed, you will see the community organize to investigate, explore, and criticize the design – all in an effort to improve it and make it the best fit possible for the neighborhood. This organization and care about design and community is a constant, and has only increased with Silver Lake becoming an even more desirable place to live due to its neighborhood amenities, character, and geographical proximity to jobs.

Jane Jacobs' quote could not better express the dedication residents have for Silver Lake.

In 2021, Silver Lake will again face pressures on building more while simultaneously trying to balance design and community – providing new housing and jobs for residents within this vast metropolitan area.

Are we up to the challenge?

**About Jane Jacobs:*

The Death and Life of Great American Cities is quite possibly the most influential book on urban planning and cities, written by Jane Jacobs – a housewife and mother, who organized grassroots efforts to preserve neighborhoods such as Greenwich Village and SoHo New York City during the slum clearance efforts of the mid-twentieth century.

Building a Safe and Strong Community



Silver Lake Together (SLT) looks forward to continuing its transformative partnership with officers of LAPD's Northeast Division. In 2020, SLT launched a series of virtual conversations with Silver Lake community leaders, Captain Arturo Sandoval, and senior lead officers of Northeast Division. Through these meetings, stronger, sustainable relationships are being built. Opinions are being heard and respected. And the process of improving community policing is being made. We hope you join us in 2021!

[Learn more about meetings with LAPD](#)

Protecting All Creatures Great

and Small



In 2020, California took a giant step towards protecting wildlife by passing California Assembly Bill 1788, which places a moratorium on the class of poisons known as Second Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides. These dangerous poisons are directly responsible for weakening and killing wildlife and pets.

Silver Lake Together applauds organizations like CLAW and the [Silver Lake Wildlife Sanctuary](#), which has been instrumental in supporting AB 1788 and advocating to preserve safe habitats for Silver Lake's precious wildlife. But there is more work to be done. We look forward to providing information that helps residents and stakeholders understand Silver Lake's wildlife are also members of our community and deserve our protection.

[Read FAQs about AB1788](#)

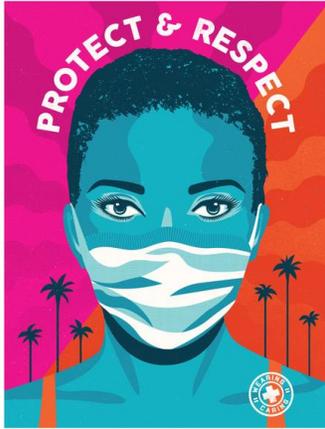


Honoring Those Lost to Injustice

In 2020, Silver Lake made headlines with the “Say Their Name” project, an art installation on the fences surrounding the Silver Lake Reservoirs. Sadly, “Black Lives Matter” became “Black Lives Tattered” as the names disintegrated. The community thanks organizers who have removed many of the faded, torn and disintegrated pieces of fabric used to spell out the names of those whose lives were lost by violence and injustice. However, there are still a number of disconnected and unraveling pieces of materials on the fence. And, as months have passed, all that remains of the names of black and brown Americans are but a memory of what the installation once was.

Silver Lake Together asks: How does leaving faded, ripped, dirty pieces of discarded strips of sheets and ribbons honor those who have died? The art installation, in its current state, is no longer a sign of empathy and recognition. It's a sad metaphor for the trials and tribulations too many Americans have faced for generations. We hope in 2021 there will be a complete removal and a more respectful memorial.

Continuing the Fight Against COVID-19



It's safe to say that Silver Lake will be thrilled to bid goodbye to COVID-19. During the past 10 months, Silver Lake Together and the community have worked diligently to protect residents and visitors from the pandemic – providing timely information, supporting programs that help those in need, and urging everyone to follow city and county guidelines. The new vaccines promise relief but to protect ourselves and others, we must continue to follow the necessary protocols: wear a mask, practice social distancing, get a vaccine, and work *together* to stay safe and healthy.

[Read FAQs about the COVID-19 vaccine](#)



Photo by David Haub

Supporting Our Firefighters

Los Angeles has survived another fire season, thanks to brave firefighters who risk their lives to protect us. We are also grateful for the open reservoirs, which LAFD has used many times as a source of water to fight fires. In 2021, we urge Silver Lake residents to support the Los Angeles Fire Department and join together to finally stop the illegal use of

fireworks, which cause hundreds of fires. Silver Lake Together will be partnering with LAFD on this initiative. Stay tuned!

[Learn more about fireworks and fires](#)



Thank You, CD 4

We close the year with special thanks to outgoing CD 4 Councilmember David Ryu and his dedicated staff who have done so much for Silver Lake. Former councilmember Ryu displayed extraordinary courage in leading the campaign to end corruption at city hall; stopping mansionization in our communities; creating innovative programs for those without housing; protecting our urban canopy and wildlife; and always putting the needs of CD 4 residents and stakeholders first. And most of all, he set an example by leading with civility and grace – a standard we hope will be upheld both nationally and locally.

We welcome Nithya Raman, CD 4's new councilmember, and look forward to working together to make Silver Lake all it can be.





Let Us Know!

www.silverlaketgether.com

Need help with an issue in Silver Lake? Do you have ideas that will help our neighborhood or want to share community news?

Email Us

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