**Happenin’s ‘Round the House**

*Rachel Barnes, Education and Volunteer Coordinator*

There is something to be said for tradition. It is constant. It is reliable. It is a comfort to know that tradition will be steadfast in a world of a constant change.

But change isn’t all bad either. Sometimes traditions are outdated. They are obsolete. They happen now because they are tradition and not because they serve some specific purpose. In those cases, the time spent on traditions is wasted; it is time that could be spent on new ways, which will meet the needs the old traditions no longer do.

And that is why the Hart Museum is changing one of its traditions. As far back as most guests can probably remember, the Museum was open for guided tours (during the school year) Wednesdays – Fridays, 10:00am – 1:00pm. First tour starts at 10:00am. Last tour starts at 12:30pm. On weekends, the museum is open Saturdays and Sundays, 11:00am – 4:00pm. First tour at 11:00am and last tour at 3:30pm.

It was constant. It was reliable.

It was no longer serving the needs of our guests.

Especially during our busy school visits season when we are deluged with elementary school students from all across Los Angeles County. And as much as we love our young visitors, and the unique experience with history they obtain when they come on a field trip, we know not all of our guests sign up to take a school tour when they visit the Mansion.

That is why we are changing our weekday hours as of September 3, 2014. We are changing the *weekday hours only* so the weekend hours of 11:00am – 4:00pm will remain the same. Starting on Wednesday, September 3, 2014, weekday hours will now be:

**12:00pm – 3:00pm**

*Tours start every 30 minutes*

*Last tour starts at 2:30pm*

With these new hours in place, not only are we hoping to better accommodate our visitors’ schedules – who wants to go on a museum tour at 10:00am anyway – but also to ensure we provide the best experience for all our visitors, both school-aged and …… non-school-aged. With that said, we will be setting aside separate hours for our school tours. These hours will be for school tours only and will better accommodate the students’ classroom schedules.

That means the school kids will come early, and then go. Our non-school visitors will have the tours all to themselves starting at 12:00pm on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, and if that doesn’t scream “win-win,” well, we’re not sure what would.

So, tradition or change?

In this case, we choose change. And a new tradition. One that means all of our visitors gain the experience they are seeking when they come on a tour.

See you up the hill soon!