



[HOUSE AND HOLMES]

A Dim View

By Rob Loos, Ledger Columnist

I've always liked lights with dimmers—when you want to watch a movie, have a nice dinner party, or even late at night when you want to create a romantic mood, you dim the lights.

But recently my dimmer lights resisted my attempts at mood lighting.

My problem started in our main hallway, which has a gallery of framed photographs of family, friends and famous people hanging on the walls.

We have recessed “museum” lighting that spotlights everyone from my Great Uncle Morris in his grandfather’s top hat to my wife and I in high school, looking like dress extras from a *Brady Bunch* episode.

I enjoyed the feeling of being greeted daily by my “Wall of Ancestors,” until suddenly it looked like a bad night at the Funky Town Disco.

The lights were flashing to their own techno-electrical beat combined with a high-pitched buzz and the sizzling

sound of arch-light electricity, making the photos appear super creepy—like blacklight posters at the mall.

I tried to troubleshoot the problem, but after several failed attempts, I figured my only hope was to replace the dimmer switches.

But before I started taking apart our electrical circuitry, my wife suggested I give my amazing contractor friend Dave a call.

I explained my situation, and Dave asked, “Is any bulb more active than the others?”

Of the three main lights in the hallway the middle one seemed to be sputtering more, and to my surprise, Dave told me to replace it.

“Just replace the bulb?” I asked.

“Yup.”

So I did, and to my great surprise the flashing disco light show stopped and the hallway was back to respectable photo gallery spotlights, which just goes to prove: “If I can’t figure it out—and I know that I can’t—my friend Dave can.”

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no-cost healthcare center for HIV-positive patients; a pharmacy and an Out of the Closet thrift store, according to AHF spokesperson Ged Kenslea.

The thrift store will replace an existing Out of the Closet at Sunset Boulevard and El Centro Avenue, near

tion has purchased four other former hotels—two others on Skid Row, one in Hollywood and one in East Los Angeles—and converted them into low-cost housing.

The conversions have cost the nonprofit between \$36,000 and \$170,000 per unit and have resulted in near-

in the three years since the measure passed.

“The bottom line is we need viable solutions that are economical and fast,” AHF President Michael Weinstein said in a February statement. “Communities can’t wait any longer; the situation is too dire.”

In March, AHF purchased two additional Skid Row properties, a retail building and an adjacent dirt lot, on which the nonprofit plans to construct an affordable housing complex—its first foray into new construction.

“Our target is to build this complex, which will have relatively small apartments and micro-units, for roughly \$100,000 or less per unit,” Weinstein said in a statement at the time of the purchase.

Former longtime Los Feliz Neighborhood Council Boardmember and current Recreation Committee member Mark Mauceri previously editorialized the OSH should become a city-owned recreation center, but the building’s owner was not interested in selling or leasing the property to the city, a Los Angeles City Councilmember David Ryu staffer told the Recreation Committee at the time.

The conversions have cost the nonprofit between \$36,000 and \$170,000 per unit and have resulted in nearly 600 newly opened units of affordable housing, according to a February AHF press release.

the Hollywood Palladium, which will close in November, Kenslea said.

Both the thrift store and the pharmacy are expected open by mid-November, while the healthcare center and administrative offices will open in early 2020, according to Kenslea.

The OSH purchase is the latest in an AHF property-buying spree since October 2017, when the nonprofit purchased the 202-room Madison Hotel in Downtown Los Angeles’s Skid Row and turned it into affordable housing, with rents of \$400 per month.

Since then, the founda-

ly 600 newly opened units of affordable housing, according to a February AHF press release.

For comparison, the city’s median cost to build such units under Proposition HHH—a 2016 ballot measure overwhelmingly approved by voters to subsidize affordable and permanent supportive homeless housing—is \$531,000 per unit, according to an October audit by Los Angeles City Controller Ron Galperin.

Additionally, Galperin’s audit indicated that while several HHH projects are in the pipeline, none have been built

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