

HISTORIC
FLORAL PARK
NEIGHBORHOOD GAZETTE

**The Day it Snowed in
Floral Park**

**Holiday Traditions
Around the World**

**Festive Events
Around Town**

**The Year 2023
In Review**

Holidays in Floral Park

December 2023



Merry

CHRISTMAS



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FLORAL PARK HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Saturday, December 9, 4:00 - 7:00 pm
North Park Boulevard at Benton

Enjoy an afternoon of old-fashioned, family holiday fun with a sled run (sponsored in part by Sandy DeAngelis of DeAngelis Realty), horse-drawn carriage rides (sponsored by Denise Silva of Calendar Fundraising), tamale tasting and mariachis (sponsored by Perla Restaurant), hot cocoa (sponsored by Sabrina Salamone of Salamone Realty), churros (sponsored by Kevin Shuler of Neighbors Real Estate Partners), and, of course, photos with Santa (sponsored by Denise Byrd and Joanne Peart of Berkshire Hathaway). Please bring a new toy for the toy drive. It's a great way to celebrate the season with neighbors, family and friends. For more information, go to FloralPark.com/calendar.



Santa Claus



Sledding



Toy Drive



Mariachi



Storytime

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The Floral Park Neighborhood Gazette is published four times a year by the Floral Park Neighborhood Association. Our goal is to provide accurate, entertaining, enlightening and informative news of the neighborhood and to bring the community closer together through communication. Views, conclusions and opinions expressed in articles herein are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the editors, officers or policies of the Floral Park Neighborhood. The Floral Park Neighborhood Association is a 501(c)3 organization (EIN: 33-0908244) and contributions are deductible under state and federal law to the extent applicable. Consult your tax professional for advice.

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From The Editor

Seasons Greetings, neighbors! Can you believe the new year is nearly upon us!? Yep, that old cliché of time flying is stuck in my head. At least the weather has given way to colder evenings and a day or two of some Santa Ana winds, something we native Southern Californians recognize as signs of year end.

Halloween is behind us for sure, but in this issue we had to pay homage to some truly adorable kids in costume from throughout Floral Park. I felt with the barrage of awful news coming at us from around the world nowadays, some “cuteness overload” in the form of toddlers decked out in their Halloween finery would hopefully put a smile on your face.

This winter/holiday issue of the Gazette is focused on traditions; from those that exist around the world, to some heartfelt tips and tricks on how to make your holidays more pleasing both in your home and in your heart. I also wanted to take the opportunity in this issue to highlight some literary themes (a personal passion of mine); via an interview with Suzee Katz who’s run the Floral Park Book Club for going on nine years now, to some of my favorite winter/fall themed poetry. And if literature isn’t your passion, we even have something for you sports hounds out there...because what doesn’t scream winter-time like American Football!

As always, I encourage each of you to grab a mug or cup of your favorite cozy beverage, curl up in a chair with a furry companion and/or in front of a warm fire, and enjoy each and every page of this Gazette.

Warmest regards,

Trace Weatherford

Trace Weatherford
Gazette Editor

Upcoming Floral Park Events

TOY DRIVE
December 9-10
December 15-17



**FLORAL PARK
HOLIDAY PARTY**
December 9



**DECORATING
CONTEST**
December 17



**WALK OF
LIGHTS**
December 21



For more information, go to FloralPark.com/calendar

To Be Thankful For The Littlest Things

An Antidote For Feelings Of Thanklessness and Insufficiency

by Jeffrey Katz

Floral Park Neighborhood Association President

As we gather our thoughts amid the whirlwind of this holiday season, it's nearly impossible to escape the cacophony of dissonance that permeates our daily lives. If, by some miracle, you've been contentedly happy lately, just turn on the news. In no time, you'll find yourself swimming in a sea of anxiety and despair. It's a unique talent of the media to make us feel like the world is perpetually on the brink of destruction. And trust me, this isn't a recent development. Whether you're rocking a ruffled collar in the 1600s or donning a toga in Roman times, the news has always been a bearer of less-than-stellar tidings.

Sure, the delivery methods have evolved – from carrier pigeons to 24-hour cable news – but the doom and gloom? That's as constant as the North Star. We humans seem to have an insatiable appetite for danger, hardwired to seek out threats in whatever form they may take – be

it a menacing figure, a growling dog, or the looming specter of civil unrest.

Recognizing this human trait is a help and a hindrance. It's like having a caveman constantly whispering dire warnings in your ear. But here's the thing – gratitude my friends, is the secret weapon against the dread that lurks within us. Gratitude is the uniquely human antidote to the poison of fear, myopia, prejudice, and all the other nasties that spring from our most primitive instincts.

Gratitude is a shield against a ruthless nemesis – thanklessness. It's the realization that we don't need more and more things; bigger toys, grander homes, or stacks of cash to be content. Those are just the clam-

ors of our primitive selves, not true aspirations reflective of our deeper, more enlightened selves. Being thankful for the little things, the things that cost us nothing, that don't earn us bragging rights – that's the real game-changer. It's about recognizing the sheer joy of being alive on this magnificent planet; teeming with beauty, wonder, and boundless possibilities for discovery.

Personally, I am happy to get us started down the path of thanks. Let's extend our deepest appreciation

to the unsung heroes of Floral Park – our incredible volunteers! They are the heartbeat of our community, dedicating their time and energy in making our neighborhood not just a place to live, but a place to thrive. These individuals, with their selflessness and commitment, are the driving force behind the events, initiatives, and programs that make Floral Park very special. It's thanks to these volunteers that we have the vibrant events that bring joy to our families, the meticulously maintained green spaces that enhance our quality of life, and the sense of unity

that defines our neighborhood. They embody the spirit of service that transforms a group of homes into a neighborhood.

So, my prayer for you dear neighbors, is that in your own way, you take a moment to reflect on your blessings. Let it draw out the humanity within you, the knowledge that we are all brothers and sisters, passengers on this beautiful blue sphere hurtling through the cosmos. Let gratitude be your guide, your compassion the navigator of our shared journey. So here's to being thankful, here's to humanity, and here's to riding together on this cosmic rollercoaster. Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and happiest of holidays to Floral Park!

“When we focus on our gratitude, the tide of disappointment goes out and the tide of love rushes in.”
—Kristin Armstrong

THE DAY IT SNOWED IN FLORAL PARK



by Marc LaFont

Every year in December, snow comes to Floral Park, mounds of it in fact. It gladdens the heart of children as they toss snowballs and frolic in the icy cold stuff that blankets the meridian on North Park Boulevard. But there was a time when it covered the entire neighborhood without being sponsored by local Realtor Sandy DeAngelis. It was the historic snowfall of 1949.

On the morning of January 9, local residents awoke to find Floral Park white with snow. Roofs of houses and cars, lawns and bushes were coated in a layer of white even late into the morning. It began as rain the night before and turned to sleet and snow as the mercury dropped. The sun soon penetrated the clouds and melted the snow into muddy slush (except in the shade) but not before people grabbed their Kodaks and preserved visions of the rare snow for posterity. Family albums contained black and white photos of snow covering lawns and streets as well as bundled up children scraping together enough snow for a snowball or a snowman.

But this dusting was but a forecast of the unusual weather that was to come. A sharp northerly wind was predicted along with continued frost warnings. Citrus growers were hopeful that the cloudiness might mitigate the damage by warming temperatures, which had dropped to 27 just before daybreak. For weeks prior, the temperatures had plummeted, forcing the local groves to fire up the smudge pots in an attempt to salvage their crop, which they were hesitant to do due to a diminishing oil supply.

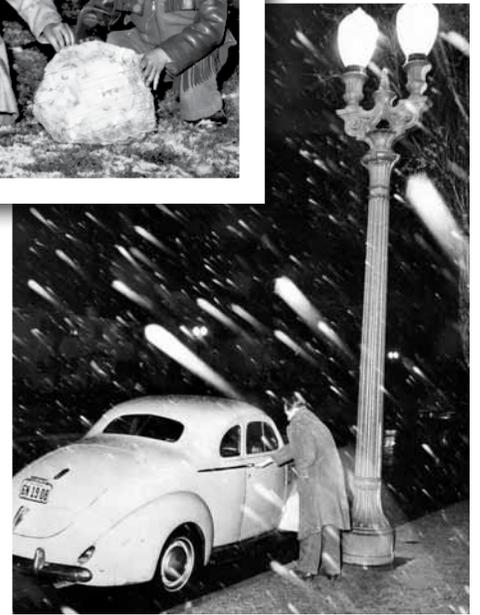
As the day turned to evening the snow returned. By the next morning, the neighborhood was a winter wonderland. Residents who parked their cars on the street regretted doing so as they scraped ice and snow from their windshields. Children skipped school to play in the white powdery stuff. College students took off to the foothills where up to eight inches of snow had fallen. Neals Sporting Goods on 4th street in downtown Santa Ana was enjoying a brisk business for skis, toboggans and mittens. Both Sears Roebuck and Co. and Montgomery Wards in Santa Ana were deluged with de-

mand for chains, antifreeze and car heaters. Western Auto Supply was likewise inundated and unable to meet the demand.

Palm trees on Heliotrope Drive looked like they were dusted with powdered sugar and bird baths froze like miniature ice rinks. Snow covered cedars made Victoria Drive look like Christmas Tree Lane. The Santiago hills resembled an ice cream sundae covered with whipped cream.

The phone lines were jammed, with both adults and children calling their friends to tell them to watch the snow come down. Who got the most calls? Surprisingly, it was the Santa Ana Chamber of Commerce, and the calls were not friendly. "If it never snows again," said one phone operator, "it will be too soon!"

The snow, which took a break during the day, started falling again around 10:00 pm and continued throughout the night. As morning came, the snow turned to sleet and hail with flutters of snow. Children set their alarm clocks to wake them early, for fear that the sun would melt the snow and, on their way to school, they romped and threw snowballs, most of them seeing snow for the first time. Chickens refused to leave their coops. The papers also reported that there was a run on camera film – as soon as stores opened people were buying up film to take pictures of the snow. Cecil Hahn and his nephew Mike made a snowman in front of their house on Ross Street while their dog Skippy looked on. One homeowner took his blowmold Santa Claus out of the garage and put it on his front lawn which was now starting to resemble the North Pole.



Bill Cook, coach of Santa Ana College's championship football team, got stuck in the snow on his way to work. After extracting his car (which didn't have chains) he continued on to class and got stuck in the snow a second time on MacArthur Boulevard, which was later closed due to the snow. He was three hours late. Even Bing Crosby wasn't spared when he was stranded

in Beverly Hills with a frozen radiator.

Putting a positive spin on the situation, a claim was made that the snow would protect the already ripe navel oranges and soon-to-ripen Valencias from freezing. But the new threat came from the weight of the snow which, while protecting the fruit, broke the branches.

For four days it snowed. On January 12, the snow had started to

melt although icy conditions continued to cause car accidents. On January 13, the weather had almost disappeared from the headlines. Then, on the night of January 14, a light rain began to fall across the county and the rare weather phenomenon was over, much to the relief of farmers and the disappointment of young snowball throwers and snowman builders.

Tips For Surviving the Holidays

by Jess Jones and Jeanette Mustafa

Many of us consider the holidays our favorite time of the year! We love creating a festive and inviting atmosphere in our homes; setting the stage for family gatherings where everyone can feel warm and welcome.

However, the holidays can also be a stressful and overwhelming time for some. In this spirit, we'd like to share some tips as you navigate your holiday preparation by sharing our simple yet stunning decorating tips along with a personal checklist of activities to help you thrive this holiday season!

ADD FRESH GREENERY

Create a warm and natural at-

mosphere by combining silver dollar eucalyptus and pine garland with paper white bulbs for an organic flair.

REMOVE CLUTTER

Unleash the enchantment of the holiday season by clearing your home's adornments, storing them away, and granting your festive decor the spotlight.

CREATE COHESIVE SPACE

To weave a spell of festive charm, imbue your decor with hues that already grace your home. For example, if your dining room has a blue color palette; think about adding décor with shades of blue.

Other useful ideas include:

- ✧ Write a heartfelt letter
- ✧ Journal what you are grateful for
- ✧ Read a holiday story
- ✧ Set a special place just for gift wrapping
- ✧ Plan a holiday playlist
- ✧ Enjoy your favorite holiday beverage
- ✧ Take a soothing bath
- ✧ Snuggle in a cozy blanket
- ✧ Create a glowing space with candles and lights
- ✧ Play a nostalgic board game with friends / family
- ✧ Make something with love
- ✧ Share a smile, a hug, a hand-shake or a kiss
- ✧ Warm your home with a crackling fire
- ✧ Take a rejuvenating nap
- ✧ Relax and enjoy the holidays!

Floral Park Gives Back to Santa Ana

by Julie Humphreys

Thanks to the success of last year's Home Tour Events, in addition to a whopping \$31,000 budgeted for high school and Santa Ana College scholarships, we are thrilled to have \$9,000 budgeted for donations to local charitable organizations in 2024—our highest amounts ever!

We are soliciting nominations for proposed recipients of FPNA's 2024 charitable donations with a deadline of January 31, 2024, so we can use the rest of the year to promote them and, hopefully, boost additional donations from others. If you'd like to nominate a local organization to receive an FPNA donation, please submit your nomination to giving@floralpark.com by January 31, 2024. Nomination forms can be found on the FPNA website under documents.



The LGBT Center OC is one of many charities that have benefitted from Floral Park donations.

Past recipients include: Santiago Elementary School, Wooden Floor, Taller San Jose, WISE Place, Southwest Community Center, Family Assessment Counseling & Education (FACES), Court Appointed Special Advocates of Orange County (CASA), Kid Works, Assistance League of Santa Ana, Discovery Science Center, Santa

Ana Zoo, Mercy House, Willard Middle School, Santa Ana Police Explorers, the Santa Ana Historical Society and the LGBTQ Center Orange County.

Applications for the 2024 Santa Ana high school and Santa Ana college scholarships are also now available online at the FPNA website, under Documents. Scholarships are open to Santa Ana College students or graduating seniors of a Santa Ana public high school or public charter schools—who are also Santa Ana residents. The deadline for submitting scholarship applications is March 8, 2024. If you know of any eligible student, please encourage them to apply!

Finally, it's not too late to join the sponsorship committee. Our next meeting is Wednesday, January 17 at 7:00 p.m. No prior experience needed! Questions or requests for further information may be directed to giving@floralpark.com.

Holiday Traditions Around the World

by Trace Weatherford

I think we all have a tendency to forget or shut-out what goes on in the world around us, caught up in our own little bubble of family, loved ones, community and traditions. But there is a big glorious world out there (seriously, nearly 200 countries), and one rich with delightful and even intriguing ways of celebrating the Holidays.

So while I can't pull together an article on the traditions that are celebrated from every country on the planet (as that would break the budget and our Printing Partner), I did pull together a shorter, more curated list of how other countries and cultures enjoy their own traditions this time of year. I hope you enjoy the list as much as I did gathering it!



India

In India, Hindus celebrate Diwali, a huge five-day festival of lights that's observed in the fall on a different date each year. An ancient holiday discovered in Sanskrit texts, celebrates good overcoming evil; the light over darkness. And in that spirit Diwali is filled with light, from candles, to string lights, to firecrackers. Other traditions of this holiday involve honoring the Hindu deity Lakshmi, who represents wealth; and creating rangoli,

elaborate colorful patterns made with flowers, chalk, rice, paint, sand and more. There is also gift giving with an emphasis on anything gold. Sweets like gulab jamun (fried balls soaked in rose-water syrup) and barfi (solid squares made of condensed milk and sugar and flavored with everything from pistachios to cardamom) are also widespread in India during this time.



Czech Republic

The Gazette once wrote about the origin of Santa Claus. So you may recall he's also known as St. Nick for a reason - the jolly old guy is actually based on St. Nicholas, a fourth-century Greek bishop who protected children. St. Nicholas Day is still celebrated across Europe on December 6, though the traditions vary depending on the country. In the Czech Republic, St. Nick dresses like a bishop and is accompanied by both an angel and a devil. St. Nick's judgment of a child's behavior ends with the child either getting a treat from the angel or getting terrorized by the devil. Wowza!

Netherlands

In the Netherlands, St. Nick (or Sinterklaas) is celebrated on a day earlier, on December 5. In preparation, kids leave traditional clogs or



their regular shoes, by the fireplace or door. Kinda the equivalent of hanging stockings over the fireplace. The shoes are filled with hay or carrots for Sinterklaas' white horse, in the hopes that small gifts will be put in their place.



Greece

In Greece, Christmas trees are popular, but there it's about the boats. You'll find boats of all shapes and sizes, on land and on the water, wrapped in strings and strings of lights. There are supposedly two reasons for the boat-decorating phenomenon; one is Greece's ancient maritime tradition with boats always being an integral part of the culture, so they've been decorated way before the more contemporary tradition of decorating trees came along. The second is that St. Nicholas is considered the patron saint of sailors, which is also a reason why boats are decorated in December.



Iceland

The 13 troll-like Yule Lads of Iceland is a personal favorite because it mixes a bit of the warm Christmas tradition with the creepy scary vibes of a Halloween. The thirteen Yule Lads are a kind of mix of Santa Claus and dwarves, with each having a different name and personality, and all of which leave gifts in kids' shoes for 13 nights leading up to Christmas. If a child has been "naughty" they get shoes filled with rotten potatoes or worse yet, the Yule Lads' evil mom, Gryla, will boil them in a cauldron. Yikes! The Yule Lads are very mischievous...they are known to mostly food and other items and even slam doors and move furniture. One such "Pot Licker Lad" steals leftovers and then licks the pot clean, or the "Skyr Gobbler Lad" who steals yogurt.

Mexico

Las Posadas (The Inns) is a Mexican tradition that originated with Spanish missionaries. These nightly processions go for nine days before Christmas Eve. They recreate Jesus and Mary seeking shelter that involves a lot of singing and children dressed as angels. Each posada ends at someone's home with everyone are enjoying homemade tamales and Christmas punch. There is the candy-filled piñata (the



seven-pointed star pinatas we see about town right here in Santa Ana) representing the seven deadly sins, which gets smashed to bits marking the end of each posada.



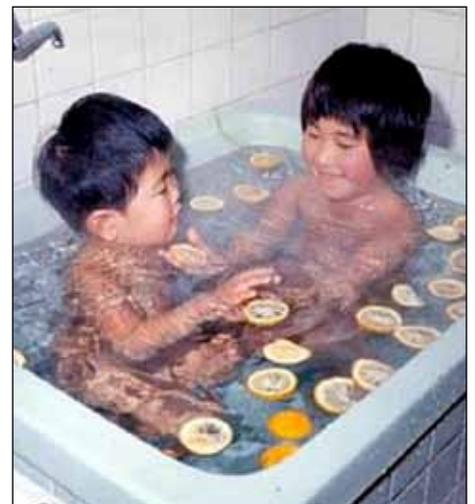
Israel

Sufganiyot (pronounced soof-gaa-nee-owt) is a jelly-filled doughnut sprinkled with powdered sugar. These delightful treats are commonly enjoyed by Sephardic Jews of Spanish, Middle Eastern and African origin, during Hanukkah. There is an eight-day festival of lights in December which celebrates the historic event where one night of lamp oil lasted for eight days. One theory on why sufganiyot became a treat during the festival of lights is that both Moroccan and European Jews enjoyed variations of the doughnut before they became popular in Israel. In any event, they are the holiday treat during Hanukkah.



China

China has its own version of winter solstice, the Dōngzhì Festival. In more recent times, the Chinese New Year has kind of taken over winter solstice in popularity. So while the winter solstice is no longer a public holiday in China, many families still continue the tradition of celebrating their ancestors by eating tangyuan (sticky rice balls in sweet soup) in Southern China while Northern China has maintained the tradition of eating dumplings on this day.



Japan

Toji, the Winter Solstice, is a low-key tradition involving lighting bonfires on Mt. Fuji and soaking oneself in citrus baths. One very popular way of welcoming the winter solstice in Japan is by visiting an onsen (a natural hot spring) and taking a bath that's filled with yuzu (sour citrus fruit).



United Kingdom

Ah yes, the beloved Christmas Pudding, a mainstay British tradition also called plum pudding, dates back all the way to the Middle Ages! By Victorian times, the Christmas pudding has evolved into today's familiar fruit-based version (as depicted in Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol) which in proper UK tradition has the pudding concealing a silver sixpence (or any coin) for good luck. Upon serving, the dark brown ball is supposed to be soaked in brandy and set alight.



Bahamas

The Junkanoo is a popular street festival evolved from an 18th-century tradition where slaves would celebrate having three days off during Christmas. Today Junkanoo is celebrated on Dec. 26 and Jan. 1. It has evolved to the next level with a fantastic parade of dance groups wearing elaborate costumes with drums, cowbells and whistles and joined by thousands of spectators at the main parade in Nassau (which starts around 2 am and goes through mid-morning the following day.



Scotland

Hogmanay is a huge New Year's Eve celebration with huge parties that last until January 2! This holiday tradition came from celebrating the winter solstice with elements from Samhain (an ancient Gaelic holiday still celebrated today). Edinburgh plays host to the largest Hogmanay that begins with a massive torchlight parade on Dec. 30 (yep, read fire) with drummers and bagpipers (because you know...Scotland).



Sweden

In Sweden, the Christmas season officially kicks off with the celebration of St Lucia on the 13th of December. Children dressed all in white, wear head wreaths and candles. At the centre is a young woman, the "Lucia bride", with a crown of candles atop her head. St Lucia day, though stemming from the Lutheran Church, coincides with the winter solstice of the old "Julian" pagan calendar. The event has come to symbolise the return of the light and new life in winter.



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Your contributions help make these Floral Park events possible;

- Holiday Party
- Walk of Lights
- Spring Concert & Chili Cookoff
- Home & Garden Tour
- Freedom Fest
- Independence Day Bike Parade
- Fall Concert
- Halloween Decorating Contest
- Walk of Frights
- Holiday Party
- Holiday Decorating Contest
- Walk of Lights

In addition, the Floral Park Neighborhood Association provides the following:

- Entrance and exit beautification
- Streetlight and stop sign maintenance
- Scholarships and donations to local charities
- Historic neighborhood designation signage
- Neighborhood website, the Gazette and other forms of communications
- And much more!

Are you a contributing member of your neighborhood? Please consider setting up a recurring monthly donation as part of our annual membership drive. Any amount is appreciated. Scan the QR code below or visit floralpark.com/giving.



Celebrating the Holidays

It's holiday time in Floral Park which is truly the most wonderful time of the year! There's cocoa to drink, candy canes to eat, lights to admire, trees to decorate, gifts to wrap, parties for hosting, marshmallows for toasting, holiday greetings, gay happy meetings, much mistletoeing, and hearts will be glowing... well you get the idea. There's a LOT going on. And we don't want you to miss any of it! So we put together a guide of holiday happenings in and around Floral Park to make your holiday the merriest!



Holiday Toy Drive

December 8-11 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
December 15-17, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
2221 North Victoria Drive
Bring a new, unwrapped toy and help make the holidays happier to kids at the Santa Ana Boys & Girls Club. A drop boy will also be located at the Floral Park Holiday Celebration.



Floral Park Holiday Celebration

December 8, 4:00 to 7:00 pm
N. Park Blvd at Benton Way
Come enjoy tasty treats, mariachi, story telling, tamale tasting, churros, hot cocoa, a kids snow sled run, horse-drawn carriage rides, photo ops with Santa, live carolers and SO much more!



Annual Menorah Lighting

December 12, 6:00 pm
1919 Heliotrope Drive
Join us for Floral Park's annual lighting of the menorah on the sixth night of Hanukkah.

Walk of Lights

December 21, starting at dusk
Merrily we walk the neighborhood with friends and family to take in all the festive decorations throughout the neighborhood, including the contest winners, while shopping along the way for libations and holiday treats. It's a Floral Park holiday tradition.



Fiesta Navideña

December 1 & 2, 7:00 pm
The Callero Family Foundation Plaza
906 N. Main Street, Santa Ana
www.boxoffice.ocsarts.net
Friendly fundraising event celebrating the rich traditions of Mexico including dinner and a performance by OCSA's Ballet Folklórico dance conservatory.

Santa Ana Tree Lighting

December 2, 5:0 - 8:00 pm
Santa Ana Civic Center Plaza
www.santa-ana.org/winter-village
Enjoy the official lighting of the Christmas tree at Santa Ana's Winter Village.

DTSA Art Walk

December 2, 6:00-10:00 pm
Downtown Santa Ana
www.dtsaartwalk.org
Join friends and neighbors for live art, outdoor vendors, live music, dancing under the stars, and over twenty art galleries and studios featuring rotating exhibitions, performances, and more.

Pancakes With Santa

December 2, 8:0-10:00 am
Santa Ana Police Station
60 Civic Center Plaza
www.santa-ana.org/events
Join Santa for a pancake breakfast and lots of fun holidays activities.



Winter Village

December 2-31, times vary
Santa Ana Civic Center Plaza
www.santa-ana.org/winter-village
Test your skills at a world-class outdoor ice skating rink and enjoy live entertainment, shopping, food trucks story telling with Mrs. Claus and rides on a festick trackless train.



Celebration of Winter Holidays

December 3, 11:00 am -3:00 pm
Bowers Museum
2002 North Main Street, Santa Ana
www.bowers.org

Enjoy a full day of fun for the entire family! Each Festival includes complimentary face painting, art projects, live performances, and more!

All Is Bright

December 7, 7:00 pm
Newsong Church 10ten
1010 W. 17th St., Santa Ana
www.boxoffice.ocarts.net

This festive performance will feature OCSA's Classical Voice Choirs and specially selected soloists and small groups. The night will end with an audience sing-along to capture the holiday spirit.



Breakfast With Santa

December 9, 9:00-11:00 am
Civic Center Plaza
717 W Santa Ana Blvd, Santa Ana
santa-ana.org/events

Spend a morning with Santa while eating a delicious breakfast cooked by the Santa Ana Lions Club. \$5 tickets must be purchased in advance.



His Girl Friday

December 13, 7:30 pm
Frida Cinema
305 E 4th St #100, Santa Ana
www.thefridacinema.org

This 1940 screwball comedy starring Cary Grant and Rosalind Russell is a winter classic. Prior to the screening there will be a thirty minute lecture by screenwriter, researcher, and television professional Theo Siegel.

Victorian Christmas

December 15-17, multiple times
Howe-Waffle House
120 W Civic Center Dr, Santa Ana
www.santaanahistory.com

Experience Victorian Christmas at the Dr. Willella Howe-Waffle House where neighborhood groups from across the community create a magical display of decorations throughout the house with docent-guided tours



DTSA TamalFest

December 16, 3:00-10:00 pm
Broaway between 1st and 4th Streets
The 4th annual downtown Santa Ana Tamalfest is a free food festival featuring local restaurants, a great lineup of entertainment and more.

Snow Day With The Critters

December 17, 5:30-7:20 pm
Santa Ana Zoo
1801 E Chestnut Ave, Santa Ana
www.santaanazoo.org

It's an all-zoo celebration with animal education activities. See the animals get "snow enrichment treats."



Elf

December 20, 7:30 pm
Regency Cinema
1561 Sunflower Ave, Santa Ana
www.regencymovies.com

In this classic holiday movie, a man raised as an elf at the North Pole is sent to the U.S. in search of his true identity.



Winter Fest OC

Now through January 7
OC Fair & Event Center
88 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa
www.winterfestoc.com

Winter Fest OC is Southern California's largest winter festival with Santa, snow, rides, carnival games, festive light displays, snow tubing, ice skating, holiday market, fireworks, parade and more.

Festival of Lights

Now through Dec. 30, 4:30 to 10 pm
Tanaka Farms Hikari
5380 3/4 University Drive, Irvine
www.tanakafarms.com/hikari

Tanaka Farms will shine with 30-acres full of farm-themed lighting. Ride a wagon to the Land of a Thousand Lanterns and visit the Gingerbread Forest with crafts, photo ops, live music, and the chance to meet Santa.

A Christmas Carol

Now through Dec. 24, times vary
South Coast Repertory
655 Town Center Dr, Costa Mesa
www.scfta.org

This timeless classic is sure to rekindle your family's holiday spirit with all of your favorite Dickens characters.



Winter Fantasy

Fridays through Sundays, now
through Dec 17, 10 am to 7:00 pm
Sawdust Festival

935 Laguna Canyon, Laguna Beach
sawdustartfestival.org

The Sawdust Festival transforms its 3-acre art village into a magical winter wonderland during the holiday season, complete with lights and decorations, falling snow, Santa, art demos, live music and entertainment, plus 150 artists and craft makers.

Nutcracker For Kids

December 2, 10:00 am
Segerstrom Concert Hall
600 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa
www.scfta.org

Visions of sugarplums will dance in your heads after seeing Tchaikovsky's delightful Christmas ballet performed in a condensed version created just for kids!



Orange Tree Lighting

December 3, 2023, 3:30 pm
Plaza Park (Glassell and Chapman)
www.cityoforange.org

The annual Orange tree lighting ceremony and candlelight choir procession. The musical program begins at 5:15 pm with carols, an orchestra, the candlelight choir procession, and of course the tree lighting.

Handels Messiah

December 3, 3:00 pm
Segerstrom Concert Hall
600 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa
www.scfta.org

A timeless masterwork that transcends three centuries of fads and fashions, Handel's "Messiah" is an event of joy, reflection, and renewal.



ABT's The Nutcracker

December 8–17, times vary
Segerstrom Center for the Arts
www.scfta.org/
SoCal's favorite holiday tradition returns with American Ballet Theatre's critically acclaimed production of The Nutcracker with the Pacific Symphony playing Tchaikovsky's timeless score.

Night of 1,000 Lights

Dec. 9-10, 14-22, 6:00 - 9:00 pm
Sherman Library & Gardens
2647 E. Coast Hwy, Corona Del Mar
www.thesherman.org

The gardens transform into a magical holidayland with Rainbow Trail, Lollipop Woods, Gumdrop Mountains, Peppermint Stick Forest, and the glistening light tunnel, on your way to the Candy Heart Carnival, featuring carnival games for kids of all ages.



115th Newport Beach Christmas Boat Parade

December 13-17, 6:30 pm
Newport Harbor, Newport Beach
www.christmasboatparade.com

Watch beautifully decorated yachts, boats, kayaks and canoes sail along the harbor.



A Merry Little Christmas with Megan Hilty

December 14-16, 7:30 pm
Samueli Theater
615 Town Center Dr, Costa Mesa
www.scfta.org

The star of WICKED and TV's SMASH delights with a new holiday performance of seasonal classics.



Celtic Woman Christmas

December 15-16, 8:00 pm
 Segerstrom Concert Hall
 600 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa
www.scfta.org

Celebrate this holiday season with the celestial voices of multi-platinum Irish singing sensation Celtic Woman with the Pacific Symphony.

Living Nativity

December 15-17, 4:00 to 9:00 pm.
 Village Bible Church
 2671 Buaro St., Garden Grove.

Walk through Bethlehem and relive the first Christmas at this living Nativity event featuring a candlelight choir procession, and tree lighting.



'Tis The Season

December 17-18, times vary
 Segerstrom Concert Hall
 600 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa
www.scfta.org

The Grammy-winning Pacific Chorus presents its annual extravaganza with a selection of holiday favorites seasoned with delightful surprises in a concert the entire family can enjoy.



Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical

December 19-24, times vary
 Segerstrom Hall
 600 Town Center Dr, Costa Mesa
www.scfta.org

Discover the magic of Dr. Seuss' classic holiday tale as it comes to life on stage. Celebrate the holidays with the show The New York Times calls "100 times better than any bedtime story!"

Holiday Organ Spectacular

December 19, 7:30 pm
 Segerstrom Concert Hall
 600 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa
www.scfta.org

Organist Todd Wilson and members of Pacific Symphony performing a delightful mix of sacred and holiday music.



Fiesta Navidad

December 23, 8:00 pm
 Segerstrom Concert Hall
 600 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa
www.scfta.org

Fiesta Navidad, features the Grammy Award®-winning Mariachi Los Camperos in a concert filled with festive music and dance.

Festival of Lights



On Tuesday, December 12, Jeff and Suzee Katz will host their 8th annual Floral Park menorah lighting. This year, the gathering will take place on the sixth night of Hanukkah (or Chanukah) at 6:00 p.m. in their front yard located at 1919 North Heliotrope Drive.

The ceremony is open to all Floral Park and West Floral Park neighbors regardless of religion. Jeff and Chabad Rabbi Shuey Eliezrie will share a brief universal message of the holiday. Hanukkah is the Jewish Festival of Lights and remembers the rededication of the second Jewish Temple in Jerusalem in Israel in 160 BC.

Historically, Hanukkah candles used to be lit outside the front door. It was only fear of persecution that took the Hanukkah candles back inside. The Floral Park ceremony re-introduces the custom of lighting a giant menorah in a public place to bring back the original spirit of the day. "Hanukkah candles are the light brought to the world when we are unafraid to announce our identity in public, live by our principles and fight, if necessary, for our freedom," said Jeff Katz.

Hanukkah begins on the evening of Thursday, December 7 and ends the evening of Friday, December 15. For information, email President@FloralPark.com.



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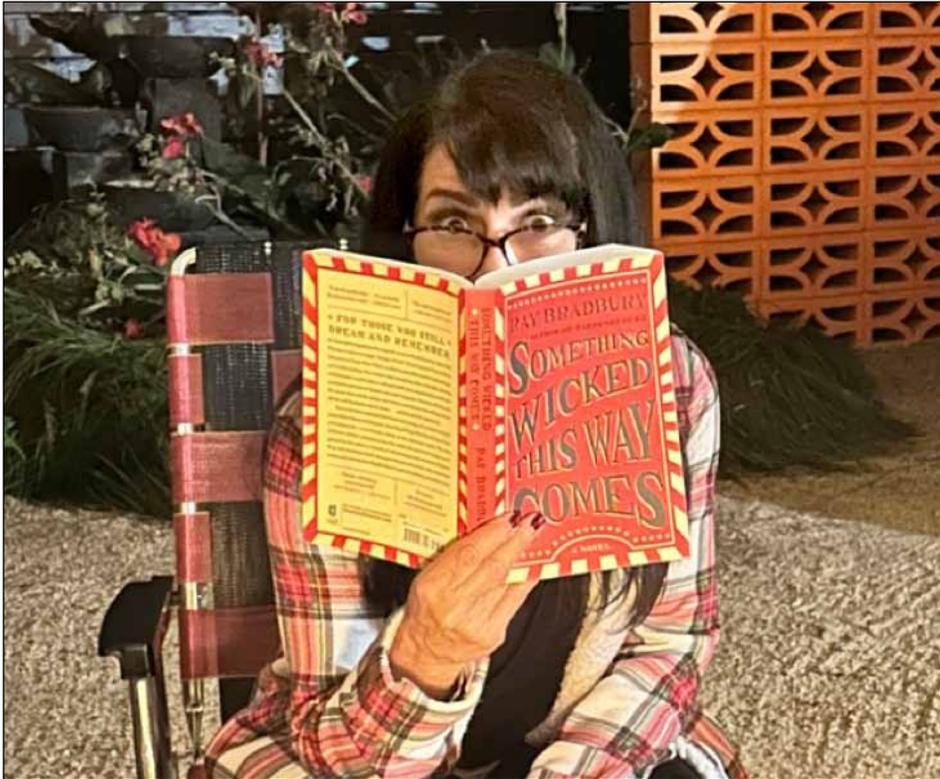
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Floral Park's Thriving Book Club

by Trace Weatheford



Okay I admit it, as a member and regular attendee of this Book Club, I'm biased. It's fantastic!

Suzee Katz (Heliotrope Drive) wanting to keep the club alive, has been running it for going on nine years now (since 2014) when a couple of original members moved away.

The Floral Park Book Club meets at the end of every month with the exception of November. A number of book titles are suggested and a vote typically takes place via email or at the end of each meeting. We've read auto-biographies, Pulitzer Prize-winning fiction, murder mysteries, bodice rippers, horror, all manner of non-fiction...you name it. It is one of the key reasons this writer keeps returning month after month, as it takes us readers out of our personal comfort zone and expands our reading list.

I've been involved in a number of book clubs over my lifetime and they've all been great. But the Floral Park Book Club under Suzee's

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stewardship stands apart for several reasons. For one, we host published authors! Our most recent example was hosting published, award-winning Santa Ana poet Gustavo Hernandez during our “poetry night” meeting where instead of our regular monthly book read, every member brought a favorite poem and reads it aloud. This night is a favorite of all our members, and it’s a surprisingly moving and emotional event. Gustavo read a couple of poems from his book “Flower Grand First” and signed some of his work. It was a great night!

There is our December book club meeting. We typically assign and read a light-hearted “Holiday-themed” book so as to keep the discussion short and sweet. This is followed by a very lively holiday ornament gift exchange.

I asked Suzee why she decided to take up the reigns, as it’s a big commitment to undertake often hosting well over 20 people in your home each month.

“I kinda followed in my mom’s



Santa Ana poet Gustavo Hernandez, read from his work at the Floral Park Book Club

footsteps. She was an avid reader. I can recall as a child watching her sit in a chair and read for hours at a time. In high school, *The Martian Chronicles* by Ray Bradbury was a reading assignment. I loved it and I’ve been hooked ever since. So as the main organizer was leaving and nobody was raising their hand to take it up, I volunteered to take it over because I didn’t want to see it end!”

What do you enjoy most about the Book Club?

“The sheer variety. Members from all walks of life (we have lawyers, teachers, veterans, authors, dog trainers, librarians, psychologists...you name it). Then there’s the food! Oh boy, do our members know how to bring on the delicious; from home-baked treats to savory cultural dishes. It’s not just an evening of literary indulgence; it’s an evening of gastro indulgence!”

What are you most proud of besides keeping the Book Club alive?

“COVID. We kept it going all throughout the pandemic via virtual Zoom calls.”

Anything you’d like to change or do differently?

“Not really. It’s a great group of people and it’s something we all look forward to each month. The only thing I can think of is having the meetings hosted at more members’ homes. We’ve done this a few times and it’s a great way to change things up a little.”

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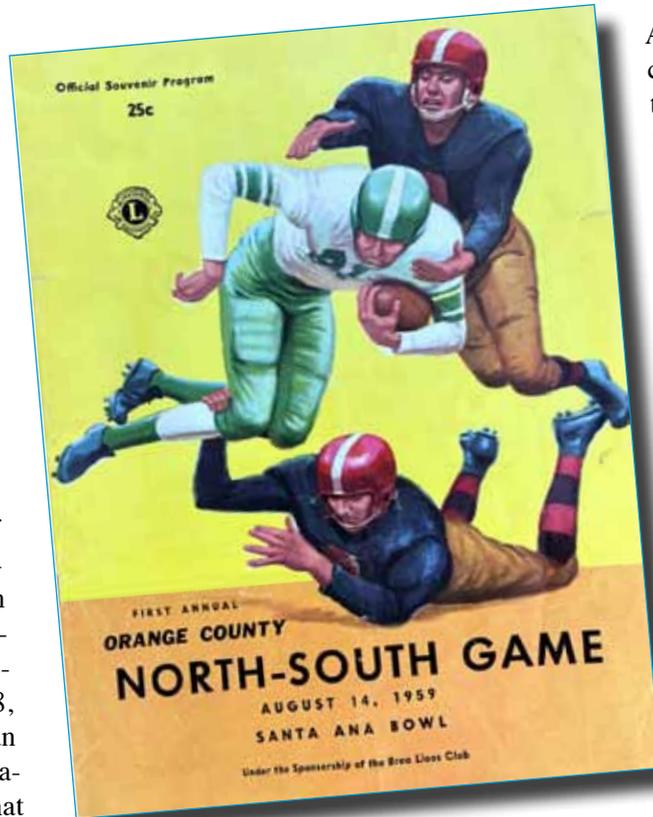
FROM LEGENDS TO MIRACLES: FLORAL PARK'S FOOTBALL ODYSSEY AND THE NEXT GENERATION'S ASCENT

by Jeffrey Katz

In the crisp autumn air of a Friday night in Floral Park, where football fever permeates the community, the Gazette takes a moment to remember tales of grit, passion, and familial legacy. Among the local legends etched into the hallowed grounds of Flower Street is Wylie Carlyle, a name synonymous with gridiron glory. Raised amid the echoes of the game, Wylie's roots run deep, stretching across generations of the Santa Ana Saints' storied history. From his father's gridiron exploits in 1928 to his own stand-out performances, and then passing the torch to his son in 1978, the Carlisle name has become an indelible part of the Saints' narrative. We also revisit a chapter that still resonates with the community -- the miraculous 1983 victory of the Santa Ana Saints over the Mater Dei Monarchs in the 1983 Mayor's Bowl. And, as the current football season unfolds, the gridiron gaze not only reminisces on past glories but also looks ahead to the budding talent emerging on local fields, the future stars who are just beginning to script their own tales of triumph.

The Legend of Wylie Carlyle

Amidst the Flower Street asphalt and camaraderie, one name resonates with the reverence reserved for legends: Wylie Carlyle -- a local legend who emerged from the shadows of Flower Street. A three-generation legacy at Santa Ana High School, Wylie's football lineage runs deep, starting with his father's gridiron exploits back in 1928.



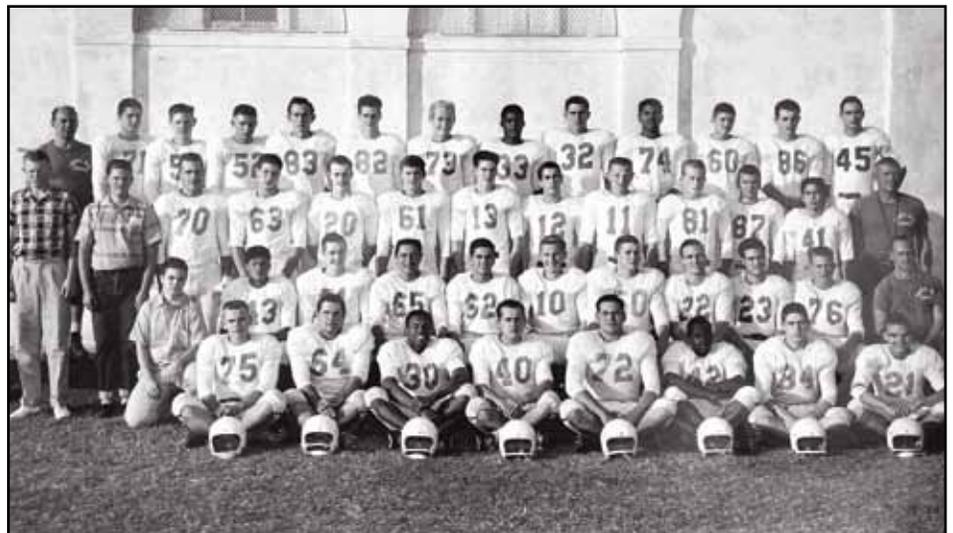
Wylie, a 1959 Santa Ana High alum, left an indelible mark with his athletic prowess, excelling not only in football but also on the track. His junior year saw him earn second-team

All-Sunset League honors as a receiver, but it was his senior season that truly etched his name in local football lore. Selected as first-team All-Sunset League and All-County as a defensive back, Wylie's football finesse earned him a spot in the inaugural Orange County All-Star Game in 1959.

Post-high school, Wylie's journey continued to soar. A pivotal member of Santa Ana Junior College's national championship team, he triumphantly hoisted the Junior College Rose Bowl trophy in 1962. His odyssey led him to Whittier College, where he contributed to a SCIAC championship in 1964.

Beyond the field, Wylie's dedication to his alma mater extended for over three decades. A coach and mentor, he left an indelible impact on generations of athletes. From track to basketball, frosh football to varsity coaching, Wylie's influence was felt far beyond the football field.

Now, as the sun sets over Flower



The 1958 Santa Ana Saints football team. Wylie Carlyle stands third row, fifth from the left.



Wylie Carlisle and his sister, Terry, stand in front of the Flower St. home in which they grew up with the current resident, Matt Sagehorn.

Street, a picture capturing the essence of this local hero, Wylie Carlisle, alongside his sister Terry, stands proudly with Matt Sagehorn, the current custodian of the Carlisle family home. A living testament to the enduring legacy of a Floral Park football legend.

The 1983 Miracle on the Gridiron

The year was 1983, and the stage was set for the Mayor's Bowl, a matchup that would go down in his-

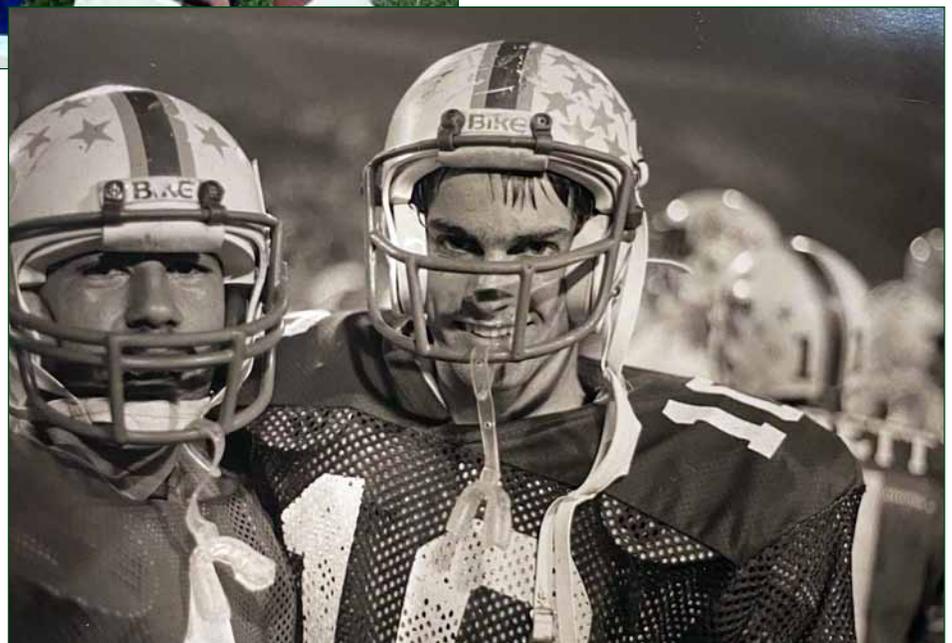
tory as one of the most unforgettable moments in the annals of our beloved neighborhood.

For the Santa Ana High School Saints, facing the Mater Dei Monarchs was no ordinary challenge. They had not beaten their cross-town rivals since 1968, and their last encounter in 1974 had ended in a demoralizing 37-0 defeat – a game which put an exclamation point to the rivalry which was laid to rest. However, in 1983, something extraordinary was in the air as Coach Meese scheduled a game with the Monarchs – the first in 9 years.

Four names would emerge as the local heroes of this unforgettable game, and all of them were proud residents of what was then North Santa Ana (the Floral Park area) including our own Kurt Franklin, Cary Conway, Steve Graves, and George “Smokey” Cross.

Kurt, born and raised on Riverside Drive, was the heart and soul of the Santa Ana High School football team. Franklin's passion for the game was evident to anyone who watched him play. He would go on to play a crucial role in the Mayor's Bowl victory that will forever be etched in our memories.

On that fateful evening in September 1983, the Santa Ana High



Kurt Franklin (left) and George Fausto celebrate the hard win over Mater Dei.

School Saints, led by these local legends, did the unthinkable. They triumphed over the heavily favored Mater Dei Monarchs, ending a 15-year drought that had haunted them since 1968. The final score was a testament to their determination and unity - a thrilling 21-7 victory.

Except for one member of the Mater Dei pep squad, Lisa Tornell (Heliotrope Dr.; daughter of Pat and Ed Tornell), the joy and celebration that swept through Floral Park were unparalleled. It wasn't just a football game; it was a symbol of the indomitable spirit of our community. The heroes of the 1983 Mayor's Bowl brought not only victory but also a renewed sense of pride to our neighborhood.

The Future Stars of Floral Park

As we relive these tales of glory, we also turn our gaze towards the future stars emerging from the very same streets. Meet Andrew and Nathan, sons of Johanna and Jose Rivera (North

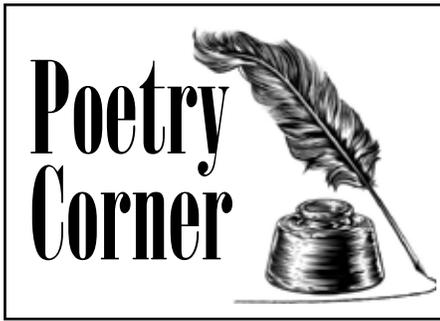


Park); and Hayes, the son of Kevin Shuler and Brian Stoddard (Heliotrope). In the vibrant world of youth football, Nathan, a corner and wide receiver for the Santa Ana Monarchs (9U), Andrew, a powerhouse running back for the Orange Chiefs (12U), and Hayes, a formidable defensive tackle and dynamic running back for the Tustin Cobras (12-year olds), are the promising stars destined to carry on

Above left: Lisa Tornell, member of the 1983 Mater Dei Pep Squad; Above right: Andrew Rivera (North Park); Bottom left: Andrew (left) and Nathan, sons of Johanna and Jose Rivera (North Park); Bottom right: Hayes, the son of Kevin Shuler and Brian Stoddard (Heliotrope).

the footballing legacy of Floral Park into the future. These young athletes are not just playing the game; they are weaving their own stories into the Floral Park football lore.





CHRISTMAS BELLS

by Henry Wordsworth Longfellow

*I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!*

*And thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along
The unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!*

*Till ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day,
A voice, a chime,
A chant sublime
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!*

*Then from each black, accursed mouth
The cannon thundered in the South,
And with the sound
The carols drowned
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!*

*It was as if an earthquake rent
The hearth-stones of a continent,
And made forlorn
The households born
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!*

*And in despair I bowed my head,
"There is no peace on earth," I said,
"For hate is strong,
And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"*

*Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The Wrong shall fail,
The Right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men."*

STOPPING BY WOODS ON A SNOWY EVENING

by Robert Frost

*Whose woods these are I think I know.
His house is in the village though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fill up with snow.*

*My little horse must think it queer
To stop without a farmhouse near
Between the woods and frozen lake
The darkest evening of the year.*

*He gives his harness bells a shake
To ask if there is some mistake.
The only other sound's the sweep
Of easy wind and downy flake.*

*The woods are lovely, dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.
Once Upon a Time There Was the*

FIERCEST FLOWER

by Trace Weatherford

*I am a map etched on the underside of leaves
difficult to find
prone to sbredding
adept at the concealment of thighs.
I am a midnight blue daisy
barely bending in a breeze
towards the sunlight in your mind.
How do I stand before you
and press with naked flesh and ash
toward that opening in your soul?
Because you cannot
you simply can't
erase things that, when touched
catch fire in your hands.*



TWO WEEKENDS:

**FRIDAY — SUNDAY
DECEMBER 8 — 10
DECEMBER 15 — 17**

Please donate a new, unwrapped toy for boys and girls ages 6-12 to the **Floral Park Toy Drive**. Toys will benefit children at the **Boys & Girls Club of Santa Ana**.

Suggestions include:

- Legos
- Arts Supplies
- Balls/Sport Equipment
- Skateboards
- Board Games
- Action Figures/Dolls

Donations may be dropped off at
2221 N. Victoria Drive
from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

You can also donate at the Floral Park Holiday Party on **Saturday, Dec. 9**
For information, contact care@floralpark.com.



2023 Year in Review - Milestones

The Gazette is thrilled to share with our readers the joyous additions that have graced our neighborhood in 2023 – a year of new beginnings, heartfelt unions, and the pitter-patter of tiny feet. From the tender whispers of “I do” to the sweet lullabies welcoming the newest members of our community, each photo is a testament to the power of love and the magic that happens when neighbors become family.



Carter Van Houten

Births

Grant Alter and Kelsey Schuetz (Santa Clara) welcomed Olive Deanne Alter on September 21, 2023.

Bejay and Laura Magnuson (Heliotrope) welcomed Maple May Magnuson on October 11, 2023.

AJ and Sarah Rose Barragan (Flower) welcomed Dominic Jay Barragan on August 26, 2023.

Brian and Angelica Neudigate (Greenleaf) welcomed Luna Marie Neudigate on August 15, 2023.

Frank and Amber Ann Gamboa (Ross) welcomed Scarlett Gamboa on May 25, 2023.

Cory and Corrine Van Houten (North Park) welcomed Carter Van Houten on September 1, 2023.

Kyle and Rachel Moloo (Victoria) welcomed Johnny Joseph George Moloo on July 3, 2023.

Matt and Cassandra Sagehorn (Flower) welcomed Genevieve Tilly Sagehorn on July 21, 2023.

Seanna and Kenny Rahe (Ross) are expecting their second son in December 2023.

Weddings

Sarah Gilmartin & Greg Van Buiten (Flower) tied the knot on April 21 at the Old Courthouse in Santa Ana.



Maple May Magnuson



Johnny George Moloo



Dominic Jay Barragan



Tilly Sagehorn



Luna Marie Neudigate



Seanna Rahe



Scarlett Gamboa



Sarah Gilmartin & Greg Van Buiten

Historic Floral Park in Pictures

Every year the spirit of Halloween takes over Historic Floral Park with spooky home decor, pumpkins, children's parties and trick or treaters... lots of trick or treaters! When it comes to costumes, candy, and cobwebs, there's no denying that Floral Park takes the holiday very seriously! Here's a sampling of the fun that took place.





CELEBRATING IN STYLE

by Flora Park

It's holiday time, and that means parties. And what's a party without libations? So we searched for some of our neighbors favorite winter/holiday cocktails, and here are this year's offerings.



DRUNKEN SNOW MAN

From Trace Weatherford
(North Park Boulevard)

This Drunken Snowman is like a dessert and a beverage rolled into one. It's the hot chocolate drink we adults didn't even know we wanted!

Ingredients:

- ¼ cup (42g) white chocolate, melted (for glass rim)
- ¼ cup (42g) milk chocolate shavings (for glass rim)
- 1 pint vanilla ice cream
- 2 cups hot chocolate
- ½ cup Baileys

- 1 cup (120g) whipped cream, for topping

1. In two separate dishes, pour the melted white chocolate and milk chocolate shavings.
2. Dip the rims of glasses into the melted white chocolate, followed immediately by dipping the rims into the milk chocolate shavings.
3. Add two scoops of ice cream to each glass.
4. Pour the hot chocolate and Baileys on top of the ice cream.
5. Top with whipped cream and any extra milk chocolate shavings.



TOM & JERRY

From Marc LaFont
(Heliotrope Drive)

No, this drink has nothing to do with the cartoon cat and mouse. It is a rich holiday elixir, a relative of eggnog that flourished in America in the 19th and

early 20th centuries, the perfect boozy treat to keep you happy and warm all holiday season long!

Ingredients:

For the Batter

- 12 large eggs, separated, divided
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 pound butter, room temperature
- 3 pounds confectioners' sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1 teaspoon ground allspice

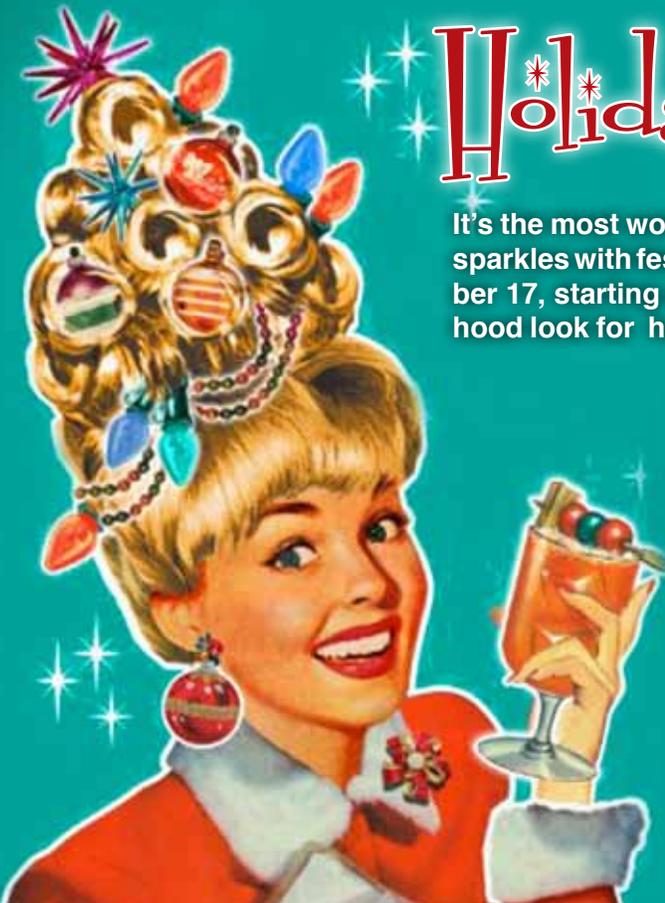
1 Beat egg whites and salt in a large glass or metal mixing bowl until stiff peaks form. Lift your beater or whisk straight up: the egg whites should form a sharp peak that holds its shape.

2 Beat egg yolks in a separate large bowl until they are thin.

3. Using an electric mixer, beat butter and confectioners' sugar in a third large bowl until light and fluffy; beat in egg yolks and vanilla. Stir in nutmeg, cloves, allspice, and beaten egg whites until well blended.

• Fill a mug with hot water and spiced rum or brandy (to taste), Top with one heaping tablespoon of Tom and Jerry batter and stir. *(In place of hot water you can also use warm milk, hot cocoa, or eggnog).*

• *Because batter contains raw eggs, it should be refrigerated when not being used, at no higher than 41 degrees. Batter should be used only on the day it is made, then discarded.*



Holiday Walk of Lights

It's the most wonderful time of the year when Historic Floral Park sparkles with festive lights and holiday decor! On Sunday, December 17, starting at dusk, judges will go through the neighborhood look for holiday homes that truly shine! Honors will go to...

- The Most Beautiful
- The Most Creative
- The Most Old Fashioned
- The Most Whimsical
- The Best Use of Lights

Then on Thursday, December 21 from 6:00 to 9:00 pm, it's the annual Floral Park Walk of Lights. Walk the neighborhood with friends and family to check out the contest winners with stops along the way for festive refreshments. We're looking for eight neighbors (four north of Santa Clara and four south of Santa Clara) to host a holiday snack station. To volunteer, click the QR code or go to FloralPark.com/calendar.



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Floral Park Board Votes to Oppose Santiago Creek Project

The Floral Park Neighborhood Association Board has voted to support the opposition of the Santiago Creek Project. As many of you may know the US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) plans to pave over the Santiago Creek in order to address a once in 100 year flood.

We believe USACE must revise the plan that was created in the 1980's and is no longer relevant today. All of Orange County would benefit from a new plan that focuses on water conservation; building infrastructure to capture rain water and direct it to catch basins to replenish aquifers.

The USACE project is the final segment of a regional flood control plan originally authorized and designed in the 1980's and, with minor modifica-



tions to the original plan, is quickly proceeding towards final approval and construction. Cost estimates exceed \$100 million. Construction will take approximately 3 years, 6 days a week (M-F from 7am to 7pm and Saturday from 8am-7pm).

The USACE will remove essentially all of the trees (some 100 years old and 80 feet tall) and other vegetation

and build a 6,400 foot long trapezoidal flood control channel lined with riprap and a thin layer of soil. Besides the destruction to the trees and ecosystem, it will cause a massive disruption to the lives of multiple neighborhoods of people.

We DO NOT WANT:

- Large beautiful trees cut down in the Santiago Creek
- Vegetation and wildlife destroyed
- A beautiful and natural ecosystem destroyed

Please sign this petition to make clear to the USACE that the funds allocated for this project must be directed to a long term and sustainable approach that addresses our water supply needs and prevents flooding without destroying one of Orange County's longest natural waterways.

You can sign the petition at www.change.org/p/save-the-santiago-creek or use the QR code below..



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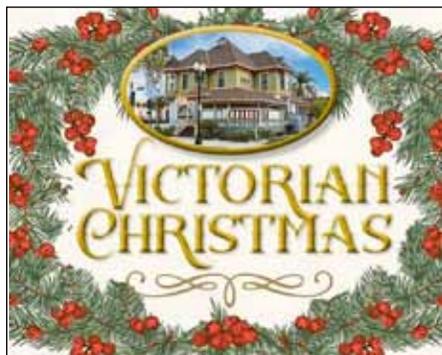
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Floral Park Trims Holiday House

by Denise Silva

The second Annual Victorian Holiday Home Tour at the Howe-Waffle House is coming soon! The Howe-Waffle medical museum and carriage house belonged to Dr. Willella Howe-Waffle and her first husband, Dr. Alvin Howe, then her second husband, Mr. Waffle. Dr. Willella Howe-Waffle was Orange County's first female doctor. On December 15th–17th the Santa Ana Historic Preservation Society will once again welcome visitors new and returning to tour the home regaled in Victorian Christmas finery.

In conjunction with Floral Park and other Santa Ana neighborhoods, Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society is hard at work preparing for their second annual Holiday Open House with guided tours. It will commence on the



15th of December from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. and continue over the weekend. Tickets are \$22 per person and can be purchased at SantaAnaHistory.com/house-tours. All proceeds will go to the Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society.

After volunteering last year to decorate the main parlor, Floral Park residents and Interior Designers Cindy Wilsie of Designs by Cynthia Dalton Wilsie, Jessica Jones and Jeanette Mustafa of Jess Jones Design Group and myself were invited back. Once again, we will work together to bring the main parlor aglow with elegant, era appropriate Christmas decor.

Although we are looking forward to the fun of decorating this fine home again, what really gives us pleasure is knowing that our efforts are contributing to the funds that this event brings to the Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society. We hope that in addition to attending the Victorian Holiday Home Tour you will consider making it a holiday tradition.



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Interview with Meeko

by Mark Rothenberg and Dave Kosak

In October we had the pleasure of grabbing a few minutes with Meeko Kosak, cat, of North Ross Street. Meeko reached out to request an interview.

Reporter: Meeko I want to thank you for your time.

Meeko: As you should.

Reporter: What are you working on these days?

Meeko: I'm prepping for an afternoon nap in order to preserve my energy for a much more serious nap later this evening.

Reporter: We received a note that you wanted to be interviewed for the Gazette?

Meeko: I thought your readership would like to hear from a member of the feline community. Your canine-heavy interviews skew toward cumbersome dog-ma. There's more to life than squirrels or butts.

Reporter: Well let's talk cats then! We understand you are a Birman cat. What are Birmans?

Meeko: Birman is short-hand for "Sacred Cat of Burma." My ancestors have incorrectly been described as the companions of Temple Priests.

Reporter: Oh? Why is that description incorrect?

Meeko: We weren't really "companions" of the priests.

Reporter: I don't follow you.

Meeko: You should follow me. After all, the priests

followed us.

Reporter: Ahh.

Meeko: You may stroke my head now.

Reporter: OUCH! You bit me!

Meeko: Windows of opportunity may close at any time. You've learned a valuable lesson.

Reporter: What would you say are the defining characteristics of the Birman breed?

Meeko: Very soft fur, pale blue eyes, a creamy color with dark 'points' on the face, ears, and legs. Most importantly, white paws.

Reporter: Adorable!

Meeko: Dangerous. Dangerous is the word you're looking for. This here is a pair of murder-mittens, nine-lives worth of sheathed knives, ensconced in floop so as to remain silent even on historic hardwood floors. That is, in fact, where the name "Meeko" comes from - in the native tongue, it means "He who appears silently in the kitchen when cans are opened."

Reporter: I thought the shelter named you that after the Racoon in "Pocahontas."

Meeko: ...

Reporter: Because of the mask on your face.

Meeko: ...

Reporter: And because you eat a lot.

Meeko: This interview ceases to amuse me. Also, you're cutting into my horking time. A coat this

beautiful must be frequently thrown up to maintain its lustrousness. Good day.

Reporter: Thank you for yo...

Meeko: I said good day! (swipes paw in dismissive gesture)



Photo of the Month

Keep your cameras ready and your creative spirits alive and share your photos that define the heart and soul of our beloved neighborhood. Please send your submissions to communications@floralpark.com.

Use the QR code for 365 Days of Beautiful Historic Floral Park on Instagram



Left: 2001 Heliotrope Drive by Denise Ryan
Above: 2402 Flower by Ashley Herrera.

Welcome to 2023!
One door closes, another opens.



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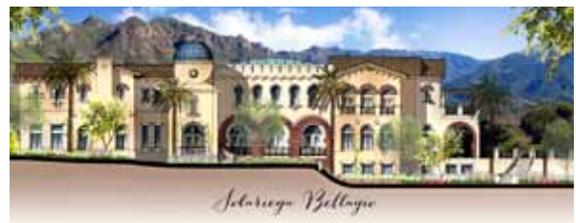
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40 years experience in residential architecture
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Attained Mills Act status for his own residence



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Neighborhood Calendar

*Dates and times are subject to change.
Check details at FloralPark.com/calendar.*

DECEMBER 2023

- Yard SaleSaturday & Sunday, Dec. 2 & 3
- Toy DriveFriday - Sunday, Dec. 8-10
- Holiday PartySaturday, Dec. 9
- Menorah Lighting Tuesday, Dec. 12
- Toy DriveFriday-Sunday, Dec. 15-17
- Walk of LightsThursday, Dec. 21

JANUARY 2024

- Board MeetingTuesday, January 9

FEBRUARY

- Board MeetingTuesday, February 13

MARCH 2024

- Yard SaleSaturday & Sunday, March 2 & 3
- Spring Concert & Chili CookoffSaturday, March 9
- Board MeetingTuesday, March 12

APRIL 2024

- Board MeetingTuesday, April 9
- Home & Garden TourSat. & Sun., April 27 & 28

MAY 2024

- Board MeetingTuesday, May 14

JUNE 2024

- Yard SaleSaturday & Sunday, June 1 & 2
- Board MeetingTuesday, June 11
- Freedom FestSaturday, June 29



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Another Client for Life...

Sandy DeAngelis and her team are amazing! She has helped our family in many transactions in the Floral Park neighborhood! This time it was tough for us...we had an unexpected death in the family with no will or trust...so Sandy helped us through the difficult steps of probate sale of our brothers home. We can't thank Sandy enough for her professionalism and expertise! The house was tired and Sandy said she saw its potential and took on the task of coordinating everything. Sandy seamlessly handled it all so we could focus on the other probate tasks...Full Service, found contractors to do necessary work, ordered the carpet, handled the landscaping, had the house cleaned, staged and did incredible photography, all in record time. Thank you Sandy and Team!

-Larry & Regina Gresowski (Regarding 1009 W. River Lane)



Highest Sale in Floral Park was this year - \$2,600,000. Listed and Sold by Sandy!



Sandy DeAngelis
The DeAngelis Realty Group
Seven Gables Real Estate
714-357-8565
HistoricHomes.com



SC DRE #00745605 | Sandy #00960016 | Cheryl #00114788 | Ed #01710117 | Susan #01578883. This is not intended to be a promotion of another broker's listing.

Floral Park Community Market Update

The Following Homes Sold In The Third Quarter 2023 To Present

Address	SQUARE FT.	\$\$\$/SQ. FT.	SALES PRICE
*2352 N Riverside Drive	1,748 SF	\$679.63	\$1,188,000
2116 N Ross Street	2,529 SF	\$593.11	\$1,500,000
2300 N Flower Street	3,100 SF	\$558.06	\$1,730,000

*Denotes a Buyer and Seller Represented by Kevin & Brian

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ALLYSON & MARC THOMPSON FROM RIVIERA DRIVE

"My husband and I moved to Floral Park at the height of the COVID pandemic. We moved from Irvine. We wanted to find a community that had mature trees, old homes with charm and real frontage. What we found was heaven. Not only did we find our charming home, but what we found was a neighborhood rich with a sense of community, history, brotherly love and vibrancy. I did not think that a community like Floral Park even existed anymore. Kevin Shuler was instrumental in helping us achieve the dream of living in Floral Park and for that, Marc