

# FLORIDA PARKS

NEIGHBORHOOD COMMITTEE

Neighborhood  
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**Christmas in  
the 1930s**

**The new  
Holiday Heroes**

**A Santa Ana  
Christmas Story**

**WWI Legacy  
Veterans Remembered**

*Celebrating the Holidays*



*It's a beautiful day  
in the neighborhood!*



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FLORAL PARK

# HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

**Saturday, December 10, 2-5 PM**  
**North Park Boulevard at Benton**

Enjoy an afternoon of old-fashioned, family holiday fun with horse-drawn carriage rides, carolers, crafts, hot cocoa, story time with an elf, tamale tasting (*donated by Eddie Quillares of State Farm Insurance*), real snow (*donated by Sandy DeAngelis of DeAngelis Realty*), and, of course, photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus. 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](http://FloralPark.com/calendar).



*Santa Claus*



*Real Snow*



*Toy Drive*



*Caroling*



*Storytime*

*Catering / Events /  
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**DECEMBER ISSUE 2022**

**FLORAL PARK NEIGHBORHOOD GAZETTE**

is the official publication of the  
Floral Park Neighborhood Association  
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Santa Ana, CA 92711-1366  
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*The Floral Park Neighborhood Gazette is published five 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*

As I sit here writing this, having lived her for more than three years, I'm still in awe of our neighborhood. I feel so incredibly blessed. So many of you have become such dear friends. And so many of you I have yet to meet!

*The Gazette* is something I relished as a much-needed respite during the tough COVID times and now it's something I relish as a much-needed respite from the stress of long work hours and uncertain economic times. This issue is, of course, our holiday issue. Thus we've tried to sprinkle in a little bit of everything: photos and tidbits from recent social events, upcoming holiday-themed happenings around Floral Park, some history, some humor, and, heck, even a Floral Park Gift Guide. And as the last issue of 2022, you'll find a year in review section as we pause to read about weddings, births, and, of course, to remember and honor those who are no longer with us.

As I look ahead to 2023, I try to envision how to best fill the pages of our award-winning newsletter. What interesting, intriguing, informative content would YOU like to see? What do you like best about our *Gazette*? What would you like to see differently?

What I can tell you for sure is that we need contributors! Whether you're an amateur writer or a more polished veteran, we NEED folks to chip in to write articles and provide content ideas. I promise you we have experienced folks who will proofread and edit anything you submit to ensure what gets printed is the best it can be. I know the end result, the newsletter itself, looks fantastic...perhaps even effortless, but I assure you Dear Reader, there is a LOT of hustle behind these pages. Consider this my regular plea for *Gazette* contributors, without which there is no, you guessed it, *Gazette*! So pay attention to those eblasts announcing upcoming *Gazette* meetings or if you're the shy type, simply send me an email at editor@floralpark.com.

Let's make 2023 the best year of *Gazette's* you've ever seen, shall we?

Warmly,

*Trace Weatherford*

**Upcoming Floral Park Events**

<b>TOY DRIVE</b> December 10-12 	<b>FLORAL PARK HOLIDAY PARTY</b> December 10 	<b>DECORATING CONTEST</b> December 18 	<b>WALK OF LIGHTS</b> December 21 
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**For more information, go to [FloralPark.com/calendar](http://FloralPark.com/calendar)**



## Menorah Lights up Holiday Season

On Tuesday, December 20, Jeff and Suzee Katz will host their sixth annual Floral Park menorah lighting. The gathering will take place on the third night of Hanukkah in their front yard at 1919 North Heliotrope Drive at 6:30 pm. Honoring tradition, Jeff and Chabad Rabbi Shuey Eliezrie will share a brief universal message of the holiday.

The eight-day Jewish celebration known as Hanukkah or Chanukah commemorates the rededication during the second century B.C. of the Second Temple in Jerusalem, where according to legend, Jews had risen up against their Greek-Syrian oppressors in the Maccabean Revolt. Maccabee and his followers sought oil for the temple's menorah so that the sanctuary could be rededicated, but they found only enough oil for a single day. Miraculously, that tiny amount of oil burned for eight days.

Often called the Festival of Lights, the holiday is celebrated with the lighting of the menorah, food, games and gifts. The Floral Park ceremony will be followed by traditional holiday fare and beverages.



*Former Santa Ana Mayor Pro Tem David Penalosa lights the menorah at a previous Floral Park Hanukkah Celebration.*

## Neighborhood Shines at Walk of Lights

It's the time of year when Floral Park shines brightest...literally! It's the annual Walk of Lights when neighbors and friends stroll our streets admiring the many decorated homes, including winners of the Holiday Home Decorating Contest.

Judging for the most festive homes takes place on Sunday, December 18 after dusk. The categories include Most Beautiful, Most Creative, Most Old Fashioned, Most Whimsical, Best Use of Lights, and Best Group.

Then on Wednesday, December 21 from 6:00 pm until 8:00 pm, merrily we'll stroll along, stopping at beverage/snack stations along the way to greet one another over cookies, wassail or wine. This year we're asking neighbors to sign up to host stations online. We're hoping to spread the cheer to every street in the neighborhood

To sign up to host a Walk of Lights station, or to find out more, go to [FloralPark.com/calendar](http://FloralPark.com/calendar).



## Santa Claus Visits at Holiday Celebration

Santa Claus is coming to town on Saturday, December 10 from 2:00 to 5:00 pm to make Floral Park's annual holiday celebration merry and bright. Back will be favorites like real snow (*generously donated by Sandy DeAngelis*), pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus, horse-drawn carriage rides and crafts for the kids. The mailbox will be there for kids' letters to Santa and neighbors will be entertained by strolling carolers. The annual toy drive will be collecting toys for children at the Boys & Girls Club of Santa Ana.

Hot chocolate will be available for both the naughty and the nice and at the story book corner, youngsters will be delighted to hear a holiday reading by Buddy, the Floral Park elf. And for a tasty holiday treat, there will be three different tamale tastings (*generously donated by Eddie Quillares*).

It's sure to be a holiday event to remember, so make sure to join us on North Park at Bonnie Brae as we celebrate in true Floral Park style!

"We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day." —Edith Lovejoy Pierce

# Floral Park Holiday

# Gift Guide

1.



2.



3.



4.



### 1. TABLE TOP SALAD BOWL

14" Terracotta bowl filled with heirloom lettuce varieties and fresh herbs. \$65 by Heirloom Potager. [HeirloomPotager.com](http://HeirloomPotager.com)

### 2. FLORAL PARK BANNER

Colorful neighborhood banner to display your pride. \$25 at [FloralPark.com/shop](http://FloralPark.com/shop)

### 3. FLORAL PARK LGBTQ PRIDE PROGRESS FLAG

3'x5' Floral Park Pride Flag. \$35 at [FloralPark.com/shop](http://FloralPark.com/shop)

### 4. HEART STONE

Commerate your love to someone in cement at Sarah Mae Downie Park Starting at \$200 at [FloralPark.com/shop](http://FloralPark.com/shop)

### 5. HOLIDAY FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS

The best of the season delivered right to your door or the home of a friend (prices vary) from The Hive. [TheHiveFloralDesign.com](http://TheHiveFloralDesign.com)

### 6. NEST SCENTED CANDLES AND DIFFUSERS

Give the quintessential fragrances of the holidays. Available candles, diffuser and gift sets. starting at \$18 from The Duchess on Cambridge. [DuchessOnCambridge.com](http://DuchessOnCambridge.com)

### 7. BENCHMARK RESTAURANT GIFT CARD

Give the gift of gastronomy with a gift card in any increment from Benchmark Restaurant. [BenchmarkOC.com](http://BenchmarkOC.com)

### 8. POLLY'S PIES

Who doesn't love freshly baked pie for the holidays? Several to chose from at Polly's Pies on Main Street. Prices start at \$16.49 [QR Code and Discount Coupon on page 35](#)

### 9. SESSIONS WITH A PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZER

Less chaos, more calm! Gift cards in various amounts from Simplified Spaces By Nancy [NancyOrganizes.com](http://NancyOrganizes.com)

### 10. FLORAL PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION PATRONAGE

Make a donation towards neighborhood preservation and local scholarships on behalf of a loved one. Donate at [FloralPark.com/donate](http://FloralPark.com/donate)

### 11. MONTANYA HOLIDAY FIR CANDLE,

Bring the fresh scent of fir indoors with this bestselling 12 oz. candle. \$30.95 while supplies last from Montanya Spa. [montanya-spa.com](http://montanya-spa.com)

5.



7.



8.



9.



10.



11.



# 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!

*For times and links, go to [FloralPark.com/calendar](http://FloralPark.com/calendar)*

## A Christmas Carol

*Now through December 24*

*South Coast Repertory*

Orange County's favorite yuletide tradition continues! From the first "Bah humbug" to the final "Wassail," this timeless classic is sure to rekindle your family's holiday spirit.



## Winter Village

*Now through January 8*

*Santa Ana Civic Center Plaza*

Test your skills at a world-class outdoor ice-skating rink and enjoy live entertainment, shopping, cuisine from local food trucks, ride a festive trackless train, read a story with Mrs. Claus, or simply enjoy a warm holiday treat.



## Silent Night Silent Disco

*Friday, Dec. 9, 6:00 pm*

*Argyros Plaza, Santa Ana*

With three upbeat channels to choose from on your own light-up wireless headphones, there's something for everyone to enjoy as Silent DJs will have you rockin' around the dance floor!



## American Ballet Theater's The Nutcracker

*Friday, Dec. 9 through Dec. 18*

*Seegerstrom Hall, Costa Mesa*

SoCal's favorite holiday tradition returns with American Ballet Theatre's production of The Nutcracker. This dazzling holiday treat features ABT's superstar dancers, gorgeous sets and costumes, and the Pacific Symphony playing Tchaikovsky's timeless score.

## Howe-Waffle House Victorian Christmas Tour

*December 9-11*

*Howe-Waffle House*

Floral Park, along with other groups from across the community, created a magical display of decorations throughout the house. Guided tours over three days.

## Kellogg House Ghost Tour

*December 9 and 11 at 7:30 pm*

*Heritage Museum of Orange County*

It may not be Marley's Ghost or the ghosts of Christmas past, but something is definitely haunting this historic Victorian mansion.



## Floral Park Holiday Party

*Saturday, December 10, 2:00-5:00 pm*

*North Park Blvd at Benton Way*

Floral Park's annual holiday street party features sleigh rides, treats, carolers, a visit by Santa and Mrs. Claus and real snow!



## Santa Ana Tree Lighting

*Saturday, December 10, 5:00 pm*

*Santa Ana Civic Center Plaza*

Enjoy the official lighting of the Christmas tree at Santa Ana's Winter Village.

## Miracle on 34th Street

*Sunday, Dec. 11 & 18, 1:30 pm*

*4th Street Matinee: Frida Cinema*

Enjoy this 1994 remake of the American Christmas fantasy comedy-drama





film starring Richard Attenborough as Kris Kringle

### Winter Concert

Tuesday, Dec. 13, 7:30 pm

Michael F. Harrah Symphony Hall

Join the Frederick Fennell Wind Studies Program for their Winter Band Concert featuring OCSA's award winning symphonic band and wind ensemble performing old and new classics as well as some holiday favorites.



### How The Grinch Stole Christmas

Wednesday, December 14, 7:30 pm

Regency Cinema South Coast Village

Holiday classic starring Jim Carrey as the Grinch, based on the book by the famous Dr. Seuss.

### Solo Recital

Thursday, December 15, 7:00 pm

Symphony Hall

The program will encompass great piano literature dating from 1700 to present time, performed by award winning OCSA students

### Holidaze

Thurs. & Friday, Dec. 16 & 17, 7:00 pm

Dance Music & Science Center

Kick off your holiday season with an evening of merriment as OCSA's middle school acapella group explores some holiday favorites.



### The Broadway Hollywood Holiday Songbook

December 15-17, 7:30 pm

Samueli Theater

This delightful performance by Aaron Lazar and Kerry O'Malley features great holiday songs from Broadway shows and films!



### Holiday Pops with Manhattan Transfer

Dec. 16 & 17, 8:00 pm

Seegerstrom Concert Hall

Celebrate the season with family and friends in the holiday-decked René and Henry Seegerstrom Concert Hall. Sparkling classics and favorites for the season—even a visit from Santa!



### Die Hard

December 16, 20 & 21, 5:30 & 8:30 pm

Frida Cinema

In this beloved holiday classic, an entire building gets taken over by terrorists on Christmas Eve.

### Snow Day with the Critters

Saturday, December 17

Santa Ana Zoo

Watch animals receive icy treats, listen to festive music, enjoy the winter decorations, play educational games, create cool crafts and listen to delightful winter stories.



### White Christmas

Saturday, December 17, 1:30 pm

Bowers Museum

Just in time for the holidays - join A Night at the Movies' Theo Siegel for a joyous screening of White Christmas, complete with fun facts from behind the scenes.



### DTSA TamalFest

Saturday, December 17, 3-10 pm

Broadway between 1st and 4th Streets

The 3rd Annual Downtown Santa Ana Tamalfest is a free food festival featuring local restaurants, a great lineup of entertainment and more.

### Nutcracker Concert

Saturday, December 17, 7:00 pm  
Symphony Hall

Join us for an evening of two versions of the Nutcracker! The OCSA Symphony Orchestra and the Ambassador Jazz Orchestra present back-to-back versions of the Tchaikovsky and Duke Ellington Nutcracker Suites.

### How To Build A Snowman

Sunday, December 18, 1:30  
Bowers Museum

Join local artist Erna van Dyk as she shows you how to build your own snowman using different sizes of different shapes in this family program.



### Tis The Season!

Monday, Dec. 19, 7:30 pm  
Seegerstrom Concert Hall

One of Orange County's favorite musical traditions, "Tis the Season!" offers a selection of holiday favorites seasoned with delightful surprises in a Pacific Chorale concert the entire family can enjoy.



### Menorah Lighting

Tuesday, December 20, 6:30 pm  
1919 Heliotrope Drive

Join us for Floral Park's annual lighting of the menorah on the third night of Hanukkah.



### Organ Spectacular

Tuesday, Dec. 20, 7:30 pm  
Seegerstrom Concert Hall

Enjoy a magnitude of musical splendors with world-class organist Todd Wilson and members of Pacific Symphony performing a delightful mix of sacred and holiday music.



### Floral Park Walk of Lights

Wednesday, Dec. 21, 6:00-8:00 pm  
Throughout Floral Park

View award-winning holiday home decoration as you stroll the neighborhood with stops along the way for holiday cheer.



### Elf

Wednesday, December 21, 7:30 pm  
Regency Cinema South Coast Village  
In this holiday classic, a human raised by Santa's elves heads to New York City to meet his biological father.

### Popular Christmas Songs

Thursday, December 22, 1:30 pm  
Bowers Museum

Join historian Larry Maurer as he shares stories behind the most beloved American Christmas classics and sing along to old favorites like "Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire," "Let it Snow," and "White Christmas!"



### Johnny Mathis Christmas Concert

Friday, December 23, 7:30 pm  
Seegerstrom Center

Best-known for his supremely popular hits, Johnny has recorded close to 80 albums, including six Christmas albums that have made him the undisputed and iconic "Voice of Christmas."



### Fiesta Navidad

Friday, December 23, 8:00 pm  
Seegerstrom Concert Hall

One of Orange County's most beloved holiday events, Fiesta Navidad, features the Grammy Award®-winning Mariachi Los Camperos in a concert filled with festive music and dance. This celebration of Mexican holiday traditions is a joyous annual tradition at Seegerstrom Center, perfect for the whole family.

# Christmas in the 1930s



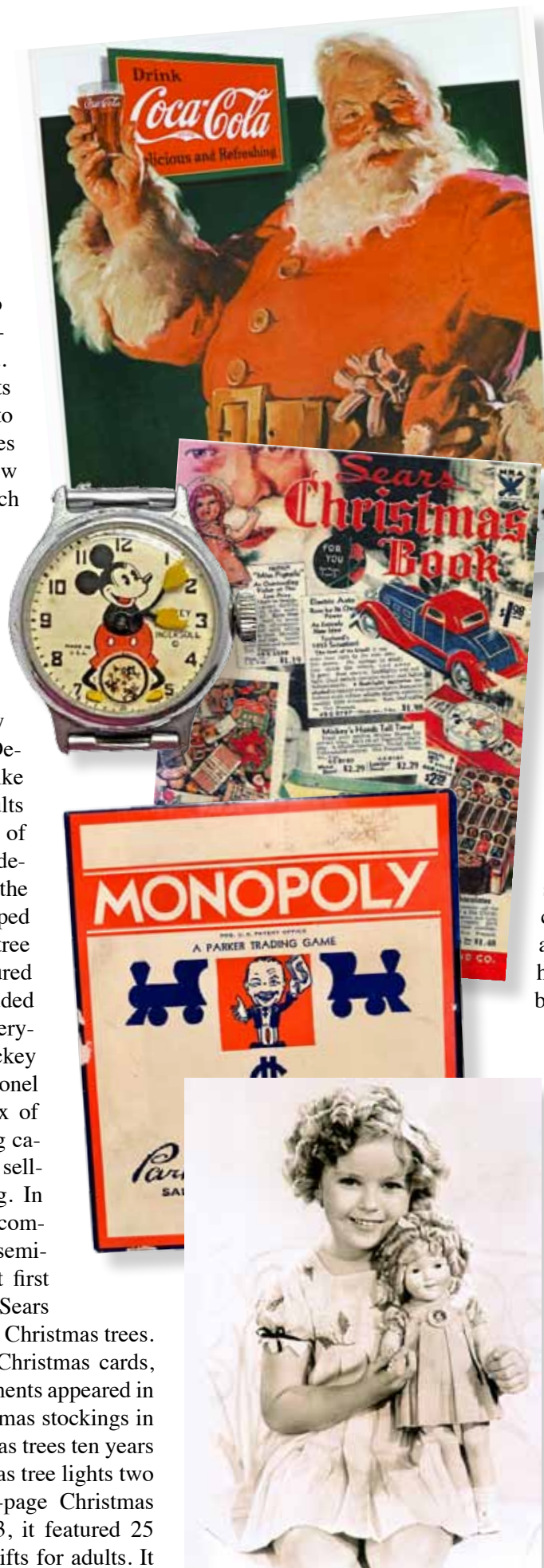
When the stock market crashed in late 1929, it was inevitable that Santa Ana, like the rest of the world, would suffer in the ensuing Great Depression. An abundant orange crop selling at good prices, along with continued demand for oil, helped stall the full impact of the Great Depression in Orange County through 1931. But profits from citrus dropped nearly in half in 1932 and stayed low through the end of the 1930s. Other crop prices dropped by as much as 60%. Most of our fifteen local bank failures occurred in 1932. Bread lines served more than 18,000 people and up to 16% of Orange County residents received direct government assistance monthly.

But not everything was gloomy during the depression years. Harry T. Ball and Allison C. Honer started their Floral Park development in 1930 with 157 lots. Beautiful new homes starting springing up in this exclusive subdivision for families with the means to purchase them. When December came, these same families would be celebrating their first holiday in their new homes.

There were many wonderful Christmas traditions that made their debut during this time. In 1931, our iconic image of Santa Claus first made his appearance thanks to a Coca Cola ad published in the Saturday Evening Post. This is the Santa that we know today: portly and jolly in a fur-trimmed suit. Prior to that, Santa was depicted as everything from a tall gaunt man to a spooky-looking elf. He has

donned a bishop's robe and a Norse huntsman's animal skin. This new Santa Claus, dressed in Coke colors of red and white, sparked so much interest that in 1937, Charles W. Howard, who played Santa Claus in department stores and parades, established a Santa school whose mission it was (and still is) to "uphold the traditions and preserve the history of Santa Claus... allowing them to enter the hearts and spread the Christmas spirit to everyone they meet." The Charles W. Howard Santa School is now the oldest continuously-run such school in the world!

Also making its debut during the Great Depression was the Sears Christmas Book (aka the Wish Book) which came out in 1933. For generations of Americans, the arrival of the Sears Christmas Book was nearly as magical as Christmas itself. Decades before online retailers like Amazon existed, kids and adults alike thumbed through hundreds of pages filled with toys, clothing, decor, gadgets and other trends of the time, circling everything they hoped to see wrapped underneath the tree on Christmas morning. Featured items in this first catalog included the "Miss Pigtales" doll, a battery-powered toy automobile, a Mickey Mouse watch, fruitcakes, Lionel electric trains, a five pound box of chocolates, and even live singing canaries. Sears was no stranger to selling Christmas items via catalog. In fact, the Christmas Book was a companion to the already popular semi-annual "Big Book" catalog that first came out in 1891. In 1896, the Sears catalog included wax candles for Christmas trees. The 1898 Sears catalog added Christmas cards, and the first Christmas tree ornaments appeared in 1900. Sears began selling Christmas stockings in the catalog and artificial Christmas trees ten years later and added Electric Christmas tree lights two years after that. When the 87-page Christmas Book catalog came out in 1933, it featured 25 pages of toys and 62 pages of gifts for adults. It



was renamed the Sears Wish Book in 1968.

Before malls and big box stores, Santa Ana residents did their holiday shopping downtown where you'd find the biggest and best stores including J. C. Penny Company, Montgomery Ward, Owl Drug, Rankin's and Vandermast. In 1935, they all sold the most popular holiday gift to hit the market: Monopoly. The history of Monopoly can be traced back to 1903 when American anti-monopolist Lizzie Magie created a game to illustrate exploitation by greedy landlords which she called the Landlord's Game. An unemployed heating engineer, Charles B. Darrow, drew upon her concept to create a similar game he called Monopoly. He successfully launched his version in 1933 but demand soon overwhelmed his ability to keep up with production. It took several tries but he eventually convinced Parker Brothers to acquire the game and the rest is history. It is now the best selling board game of all time.

The most popular personality doll ever made its debut in 1934. Shirley Temple was the darling diminutive movie star of the 1930s who kept a nation smiling during the Depression. Millions of people went to see her movies and millions more bought the doll made in her likeness by the Ideal Toy Company of New York. Over 1.5 million Shirley Temple dolls were sold from 1934-1939. The doll's enormous sales reflected the child star's popularity and saved the Ideal Toy Company from financial ruin in the midst of the Depression. Rankin's in down-

town Santa Ana created a whole new doll shop in 1935 on their third floor at 4th and Sycamore to promote the new Shirley Temple dolls which sold for \$2.95 to \$12.95 and included a free "Mickey Mouse and the Magic Carpet" book for each child accompanied by an adult.

You'd think that the financial collapse of the Great Depression would shrink the selection of toys. Surprisingly, it did not. New manufacturing methods combined with the growth of radio and the movie theaters, which made household names of radio and movie stars, only increased the range of toys kids wanted. The most popular toys included fire trucks (59¢), Lionel electric trains (\$11.98), stick horse (39¢), Teddy bears (98¢) and Velocipede or 3 Wheel Bike (\$9.90 at J.C. Penny Co.) Nichol's Dollar Store on E. 4th Street in downtown Santa Ana offered steel wagons for 79¢, scooters for 79¢ and dressed dolls for a dollar. A pedal car in 1937 would have cost a family about \$15, which in today's money would have been about \$250. An extravagant gift even by today's standards, pedal cars were most popular during the interwar period and were prominently featured in Sears catalogs every year during the Great Depression. The shortage of metal during WWII hit the brakes on pedal cars sales.

One of the most popular toys of the 1930s was, surprisingly, the sock monkey! This icon of American childhood would not have been possible without the Nelson Knitting Company, which created the first no-seam sock during the 19th century (in Rockford, Illinois). When copycat socks began to chip away at their business, a red heel was added in 1932 to assure customers that they were buying the original. Frugal and creative mothers across the country soon figured out a way to make a homemade toy from a used, worn out sock, using the red heel for the mouth. It was not until the 1950s that the Nelson Knitting Company acquired any kind of patent for a sock monkey, despite the fact that they had been in-



cluding a pattern with each pair of Red Heel Rockfords for years.

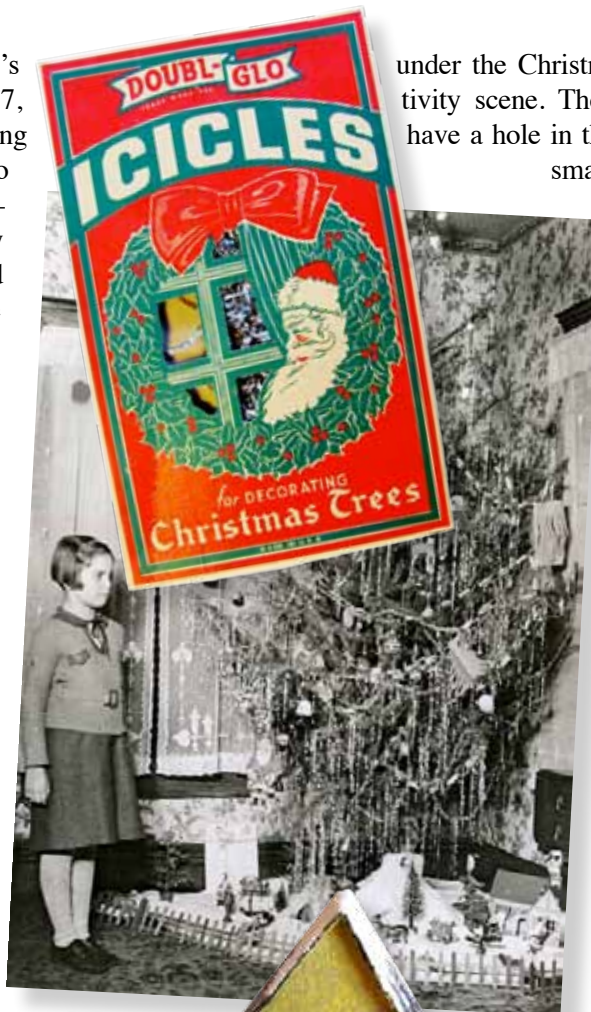
All these toys and more would find their way under a decorated tree on Christmas morning. You could buy a live tree from the Santa Ana Employment Association at 1st and Main where a 10-foot tree would set you back a dollar. You could buy lights for the tree at Schramm-Johnson Drugs at 4th and Sycamore where a string of 8 Christmas tree lights cost a buck. By this time, electric lights had pretty much replaced candles on the tree for safety reasons. But even lights posed a danger. The biggest threat wasn't the lights themselves, but the wiring they were plugged into. Most houses had 10- or 15-amp service and "knob and tube" wiring. Overheating could cause the insulated wires to break down. Most homes in Floral Park had only one electrical outlet (or at the most, two) per room. So the tree's lighting usually shared an outlet with a radio, a floor lamp, and any other electrically-powered device in the room resulting in a maze of extension chords. Even the White House wasn't immune to Christmas fires. Overheated wiring was blamed for the Christmas Eve fire that burned much of the White House executive wing in 1929. Still, electric Christmas tree lights were still a lot safer than candles on the tree.

When it came to decorating your 1930s tree, you wanted the shiniest and brightest ornaments you could get, which were called... Shiny Bright. For centuries, the small German village of Lauscha, located in the Thuringian Mountains was the center of hand-blown glass ornament production. In 1926, Max Eckhart and his brother opened a toy and ornament factory in their birthplace of Oberlind, just twenty miles from Lauscha but immigrated to the US a few years later. As the nation moved closer to war with Germany, Eckhart saw that the future of German imports looked bleak. So he approached

Corning Glass Co. and Woolworth's Department Store with an idea. In 1937, he founded Shiny Bright using a Corning Glass Works machine originally used to make light bulbs. Once produced, the delicate ornaments were sent to New Jersey for decorating before being packaged and sold at Woolworth's. This proved to be a wise decision for Eckart: the outbreak of war ended all importation of German ornaments until the mid-1950s.

Once decorated with lights and glass ornaments, your tree would then be draped with icicles. Icicle ornaments had been around since the early 1900s but didn't really hit their peak until the 1930s. Today, tinsel is made of mylar and is just the cheap sparkle people throw on their trees when they need to cover up open spaces. But in the 1930s, strands of tinsel were carefully placed one the tree one strand at a time. Because they were made of metal, they hung straight and reflected the light of Christmas lights. Originally, tinsel was made of silver, but that was expensive and tarnished easily. So it was replaced by other metals like copper, which was needed for the war. It was then swapped for aluminium, but this caused fire scares. So finally, it was replaced with lead which kept its shine and didn't tarnish. Look at any photo of a Christmas tree from that era and it will be literally dripping in icicles. Who can forget the scene in *"The Bishop's Wife"* when Dudley, played by Cary Grant, magically trims the Christmas tree with oodles of icicles with a wave of his hand? Lead icicles remained popular until the 1960s when awareness of the risks of lead poisoning spelled its demise. Garlands, however, were made of foil, so they didn't experience the same fate.

Another tradition which emerged during the Great Depression were Putz houses. The term comes from a German word "putzen" which means to clean or to decorate. The little miniature cottages originated in Germany and were part of Christmas villages that Moravians, who were from Germany, modern-day Czech Republic and Slovakia, put up as part of their traditional Christmas observance. They put these houses



under the Christmas tree, usually including a nativity scene. The cardboard houses would often have a hole in the back where you could insert a small Christmas bulb, illuminating the house through its tissue paper windows. Americans embraced the tradition in the 1930s partially because they were cheap. Woolworth went to Germany and was enchanted with the Putz houses and looked to find a way to mass produce them somewhere other than Germany. He found his manufacturer in Japan. That didn't end well either and Putz houses wouldn't make a resurgence until after the World War II.

One of the more interesting decorations to emerge from the 1930s were trees and wreaths made from bristle brushes. In 1930, a British company called Addis Houseware Companies manufactured toilet bowl brushes. They applied that same technology to Christmas trees, dyeing the bristles green. Miniature artificial trees at that time were made from goose feathers. The bristle trees took over and were seen foresting villages of Putz houses. Bristle wreaths soon followed.

Christmas cards were a popular tradition since the mid-1800s. During the Great Depression, many families made their own cards in order to economize. They also turned cards into ornaments as an inexpensive way to decorate the tree. The 1930s was known as the golden age of gift wrap, largely thanks to the invention of Scotch tape in 1932. That same year, Neiman Marcus came out with their famous gift wrapping service. Soon wrapping paper took off with new innovations in paper design. Gold cellophane ribbon also made its debut. Prior to this, packages were wrapped in recycled material or tissue paper and held together with Christmas seals.

Yet another popular trend that came out of the 1930s were Tavern or Gurley Candles. At this time, a company called Zucconi Vacuum Oil Company, which we know today as Exxon Mobile, had a leftover by product, paraffin wax. They didn't want to dump it but didn't have a use for it either. So they approached the WNF Manufacturing Company of Buffalo, New York. A chemist there named Frank Gurley worked a deal where he got the paraffin wax cheaply and created products from it, including wax lips and teeth, but also the iconic figurine candles which became hugely popular. You could buy them for under a dollar at Woolworths or the local drug store. People loved them so much, that most of the candles were never burned, but instead used as decorations, which is why so many are still around today.

Christmas dinner has always been a tradition, one that didn't end with the economic downturn of the Great Depression. Good Housekeeping in 1931 proposed the following extravagant Christmas dinner menu: cream of peanut butter soup, stuffed roast turkey, giblet gravy, sweet potato balls, creamed onions, scalloped tomatoes and spinach, celery curls, ripe and stuffed olives, piccalilli, cranberry jelly circles, pear salad, plum pudding, sterling and yellow sauces, assorted crackers, assorted cheeses, crystallized ginger, and coffee. Can you imagine the work that went into preparing such a meal? At the Empire Market at 2nd and Broadway, turkeys cost 18¢ a pound. Seidel's market on 4th Street offered a 5 oz. can of plum and fig



pudding for 15¢. You could do your shopping the ABC way at Alpha Beta Food Market where items were displayed in alphabetical order and Jello cost 8¢ a package, Folgers coffee 32¢ and eggs were 2¢ a dozen. You could also shop at the Grand Central Market at 2nd and Sycamore, a whopping building holding 25 merchants under one roof. And if you didn't like to cook, you could enjoy a traditional turkey dinner for 75¢ at the Charcoal Broiler, "Orange County's Finest and Most Modern Restaurant" at 6th and Main Street.

But times were hard, and not everyone could afford such a luxury. In 1932, the Salvation Army distributed 400 Christmas baskets to needy families in Santa Ana containing sugar, milk, lard, canned fruit, coffee, beans, margarine, bread, potatoes, vegetables, onions, rice, roast beef and flour. They also sponsored a visit by Santa who distributed candy, nuts, apples and toys. Likewise, the Santa Ana Elks Club gave out over 150 baskets to needy Santa Ana families that year.

Hopefully we will never see the difficult times as our relatives did during the Great Depression. But there are lessons to be learned here. No matter how hard things got, folks managed to find ways to celebrate within their means. Communities rallied together to keep every mouth fed and to support each other through the emotional pain that often came with trying to make ends meet. Families spent time together, with every member doing whatever they could to bring a smile to others. These are the holiday traditions that never go out of style!

# Hard Times for Santa: A 1930 Santa Ana Christmas Story

by Olive Roberts Barton  
December 14, 1930

**T**HERE won't be much Christmas this year," sighed Jane.

Instantly three appetites lost heart and three pairs of eyes quickly turned to their mother's end of the table.

"Oh now, Mother," pleaded David, don't talk that way. Something may turn up. I'll get work and Santa Claus will have time to stop after all."

"Well, if he does I hope he'll bring some stocking and money for the gas bill and a couple of coats."

"Won't we have a tree?" Eddie's eyes were tragic.

Jane shook her head.

"Oh Mother!" The two girls regarded her with despair.

"Well, I can't help it. Don't look at me as though I'd committed murder. If you father had work it would be a different story."

**D**AVID looked around at the stricken faces. His own worried features flushed miserably. Never had he felt his futility so keenly.

"Don't get discouraged, children," he tried to smile reassuringly. "We'll wangle a Christmas out of the air some way. Won't we, Mother?"

"What on? It's like you to think that way. Always hopeful, always building castles in the air. I'm just so discouraged now I could —."

I know," David interrupted her patiently, "but we have a lot to be thankful for. We're all here and we're all well. Why, when I was little we just killed a goose and Mother made a plum pudding and we went out and got some red berries in the woods and that was about all the Christmas we had.

Jane was silent.



*"Gosh, I didn't realize they were so hard up!"*

**S**AY, look here!" David had had an idea. "Let's have a Christmas on nothing."

"On nothing?"

"Yes. To begin with, let's pretend we're on a desert island and there is no such thing as money. We'll put our wits together and let the Spirit of Christmas do the rest."

"Well," sighed Jane resignedly, "since it's about all we can do, what are your wonderful plans?"

"I—why, I haven't any this minute, but—why can't we make a game out of it? That's where Santa Claus comes from anyway. Why not make it a mystery Christmas? I'll guarantee some thing for my part, a tree, if I have to walk 15 miles to Uncle Luke's to chop it down and haul it back on Shank's mare myself."

Already four other brains were working. "I know what I can do," shouted Eddie, shaking with fervor. "I've got a plan already."

"We'll think of something, too." Betty and Lois were regarding each other speculatively.

From that day on a spirit of bustle and mystery pervaded the house.

Empty banks, empty purses made no difference. And in some undefined way

the uplook improved the outlook, as it always does.

**W**HEN David wrote Uncle Luke about coming out for a small tree, he received a letter saying that his uncle was driving in before the 25th and he would bring a tree along. Also, knowing that times were hard, he wanted to make them the present of a pair of chickens.

That was that, but best of all, word came from the power company that they could use David for part-time work.

Eddie was late for supper each night, but he came in tired, happy and hungry. The family suspected a sudden ambition for selling papers and doing odd jobs.

The girls rented themselves out in pairs, having conceived the idea of taking care of small children while their other went Christmas shopping.

Two days before Christmas Eddie announced proudly, "I'm buying ornaments for the tree. And I've got enough for a little present for each of you too."

The girls capped the climax that night. "We've got nearly six dollars. Half for Mother and the rest for our presents. It's going to be a grand Christmas, isn't it?"

Jane silently went on with her dyeing and cutting and sewing. Bring new dresses were taking shape under her fingers.

It was the happiest Christmas the Parkers had ever know, different from others because each had put part of himself into his work and forgotten to complain.

But David need not have wondered about the secret of it all.

He himself was the answer. His moral courage to be brave in the face of disaster and to put on a semblance of happiness took others with him, even tired, discouraged Jane.

It is a most wonderful quality in any parent. Children respond so quickly to our moods.

*Reprinted from the Santa Ana Register, 1930*



# The History of the Christmas Tree

By Trace Weatherford

Ever look at a fully decorated Christmas tree all beautifully lit up for the holidays and think... who came up with this spectacular idea? Ever ponder how this adorned fir tree became the most recognizable symbol of the Christmas Season around the globe (aside from perhaps 'ol Saint Nick himself)?

The Christmas tree is largely associated with Christianity, but in modern society its use is also quite secular. The Christmas tree, typically an Evergreen, Pine or Fir gets decorated with lights and all manner of ornamentation as part of each Decembers Christmas festivities. The trees can be fresh, in a pot, artificial, indoor, outdoor...and nowadays even hung upside down (something this particular author is not a fan of) and of course – surrounded by wrapped presents!

The use of evergreen trees, wreaths, and garlands were used among the ancient Egyptians, Chinese, and Hebrews to symbolize eternal life. Also common among the pagan Europeans is one tradition that survived their conversion to Christianity with the Scandinavian custom of decorating a house or barn with evergreens at the New Year to scare away the devil. The Christmas tree survived further in Germany, where they placed a Yule tree at an entrance or inside the house during the midwinter holidays.

However, the modern Christmas tree as we all know it to be, originated in western Germany. It was a main prop of a medieval play about Adam and Eve. This “paradise” fir tree hung with apples and fruits, represented the Garden of Eden, and the Germans set

up these paradise trees in their homes on December 24 to mark the religious feast day of Adam and Eve. They also hung wafers on it in reference to the eucharistic host (the Christian symbol of redemption) with cookies replacing the wafers later on. Candles were used to symbolize Christ as the light. And often in the same room, tallish triangular pyramid constructions of wood planks with shelves to hold



Christmas figurines were placed in homes and also decorated with candles and evergreens with a star placed on top. By the 16th century the Christmas pyramid and the paradise tree merged, becoming the Christmas tree!

By the 18th century the custom was widespread. By the 19th century in Europe, the Christmas tree was introduced and became popular by German-born Prince Albert (husband of Queen Victoria). This Victorian-era tree was decorated with candles, candy, strings of popcorn, ribbon, paper chains and more. In North America, the Christmas tree had already made

its way here by German settlers in as early as the 17th century. But by the 19th century Christmas trees in the US were the height of fashion and had grown in wide popularity around the world in Poland, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Austria, etc. In China and Japan the trees were introduced by Western missionaries in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Blown-glass ornaments started showing up in Britain and the US as early as the 1870s. Much of these were produced in small workshops in Germany and Bohemia – many still in business today and available at the various European Christmas Markets. It was then that other decorations; from tinsel, beads and pressed paper to cotton batting, started showing up. In the US, Woolworths was selling \$25 million in ornaments each year by 1890! By then, electric string lights were a thing and by the 1930s, artificial trees made of brush bristles became available in the US. And as many of us know, by the 1950s and '60s there was mass production of PVC and aluminum trees when artificial trees became hugely popular.

Which finally, brings us to Christmas 2022 and the 21st century. How has the Christmas Tree tradition changed? Not much unless you count the infinite number, types and styles of trees and decorations available to us as we creatively set to the task adorning ours. Just type “christmas tree themes” into Pinterest and see for yourself. From the weird and wacky, to the whimsical, Victorian and yes...ultimately the simply beautiful. Whether we put up our trees to remember the birth of Christ or as a secular tradition we grew up with and embrace, we Americans don't hold back. The Christmas Tree is the very pinnacle (see what I did there?) and symbol of joy and cheer and...good will among men.

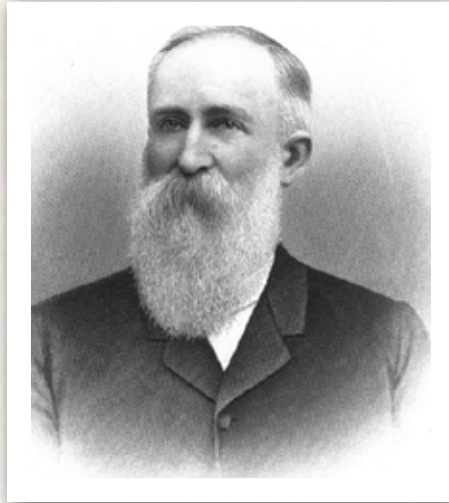
# The Facts, and Nothing But the Facts: 15 Things We Bet You Didn't Know About Santa Ana

Trace Weatherford

Many of us live out our lives not knowing a ton about the city in which we reside. No matter where we lay our heads at night, the towns and cities and communities we call home are rich in history and interesting tidbits. Santa Ana is no exception.

Below is a list of 15 fascinating facts about Santa Ana. How many did you know?

**1.** Before Santa Ana became an actual city in 1869, it was a mustard field.



paused to climb a sycamore tree and have a look around. He liked what he saw so much, he paid \$595 for 74.2 acres and on October 27, 1869 and built a 24-block village on it now bordered by First Street on the south, Seventh Street on the north, Broadway on the west and Spurgeon Street on the east.

**5.** One of the first orange orchards in the city and county is the historic Sexlinger Orchard on Santa Clara. The George and Sophia Sexlinger family purchased this property in 1913 and maintained it as a viable orange orchard continuously up until 2006, when the last family member died. The original 1914 Craftsman Bungalow family residence and 16 trees is all that remains.

**6.** The first group of European explorers reached the outskirts of Orange County in 1769. They named the area "The Valley of Saint Anne," or Santa Ana. It almost became the name of the whole county but was changed to Orange County in 1889 due to the vast amount of oranges in the area (150,000 orange trees).



**2.** In January of 1969 locals were concerned about the erosion to their homes caused by heavy rains flooding the Santiago Creek. To solve this, El Toro marines lowered frames of old cars from helicopters at the sound bend to prevent the waters from corroding the homes.

**3.** Santa Ana was founded by William H. Spurgeon. While riding through on horseback, Spurgeon



**4.** Spurgeon built a stone courthouse with a tower that covered a whole city block that rose higher than any building in town. It still stands today.



**7.** Santa Ana is home to Rick-Enbacker, which is widely credited as making the first electric guitar (in 1932). They are STILL in business today building electric and brass guitars for more rock legends than any other company.

**8.** After the big 1906 earthquake in San Francisco men of Santa Ana came together to organize Company L of the State Guard. They helped organize and implement recovery efforts and even stayed together to serve in the Spanish-American War, both World Wars and the Korean conflict!



**9.** Both Michelle Pfeiffer and Diane Keaton are from Santa Ana!

**10.** Dr. Willella Howe-Waffle was one of Orange County's first women doctors. She delivered over 1,000 ba-



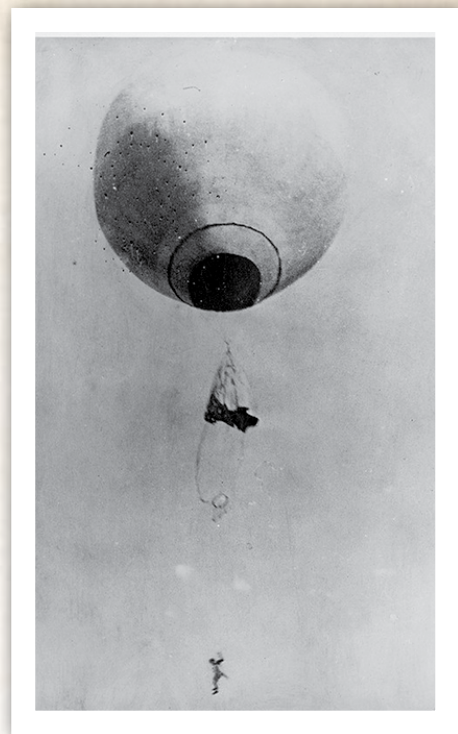
bies during her 38 years of practice. The Howe-Waffle House, a beautiful Victorian home built in 1889, still stands today as a medical museum and event center.

**11.** The Santa Ana Zoo at Prentice Park, still in operation, opened in 1952.

Joseph Prentice donated land for the zoo with the stipulation that the city must keep at least 50 monkeys at all times. The zoo maintains an extensive primate collection with over a dozen species from around the world.

**12.** The first school-room in Santa Ana was located in a private residence at Fifth and Main back in 1870. Central School, as it was known, sat on the site of the present YMCA.

**13.** During one fateful 4th of July celebration in 1900, residents were forced to watch in horror as a balloonist's parachute failed to open and he plunged to his death. At 5:00 p.m. on the Fourth a "celebrated aeronaut, Prof. Emil Markeburg," ascended in a hot air balloon in what would be one of the main events of the day's festivities. His great feat was to rise to a height of 500 feet attached to the balloon only by a strap clenched between his teeth. The event was never repeated at a Santa Ana Fourth of July



**14.** Early Santa Ana residents celebrated the 4th of July by catching greased pigs. Additional festive activities included singing, tight-rope walking, a baseball game, a bicycle race, a 25-yard potato and basket race and greased pole climb and the old standard: fireworks.

**15.** On one amazing day back in January 1949 it snowed heavily in Santa Ana enough for children to build snowmen and ride makeshift sleds.



# THE NEW HOLIDAY HEROES

The Curmudgeon's Corner by Mark Rothenberg

The holiday season is a time that should be filled with laughter and good cheer. At this time of year, we are also encouraged to try to see the good in people. It therefore seems fitting that this should serve as a time where we reflect on those misunderstood heroes who never quite got their due.

We begin with a boxer. Braving the harsh reality of the Soviet Union, imagine a young boy ripped from his family in the Ukraine and forced to train day and night without the ability to question. The youngster was tragically pumped full of steroids by his government and then assigned a callous Communist Party member to serve as his "wife" and manager. She would later abandon him and their young son upon his first loss in the ring. Finally, this young man was forced to fight an over-the-hill American boxer to demonstrate his prowess. The unfortunate exhibition match resulted in the American boxer's death and the expected vilification of the Soviet boxer. It should further be noted that the fight could have been stopped but for the American boxer's insistence that the fight go on. The Russian fighter's name was Ivan Drago—the real hero of Rocky IV.

We continue seeing the good in people with an evaluation of a revolutionary who grew up in Germany following the bifurcation of the country after World War II. The young revolutionary was a kindhearted—

albeit practical protestor and community organizer who realized that protests mattered little in an age of multi-national corporations. And so—our revolutionary built a diverse group of freedom fighters who intended to topple a Japanese conglomerate by appropriating its ill-gotten gains. Indeed, the leadership structure of this multinational was populated by cocaine addled sharks intent on beating up on the little guy. And so—our hero hatched a plan whereby he and his compatriots would break into an office tower and temporarily detain the CEO. All the CEO needed to do was provide a simple computer code that would facilitate the partial opening of the company's safe. The safe was filled with bearer bonds presumably being stored in the United States in an effort to avoid Japan's rigorous corporate tax laws. Unfortunately, the CEO of the Nakatomi Corporation cared more for his company's wealth than the wellbeing of his employees and refused to provide the passcode. The CEO could have diffused the situation but failed to do so. Our freedom fighter also had to address the grossly negligent actions of a rogue New York Police officer who was visiting his estranged wife that week. Instead of allowing the freedom fighters



to complete their re-appropriation of Nakatomi's ill-gotten assets, officer John McClane chose to harass the freedom fighters resulting in needless death of a Nakatomi executive and numerous law enforcement agents. The name of the community organizer who sought to bring justice to Corporate America: Hanz Gruber. The real hero of the film *Die Hard*.

Our journey concludes by a candid assessment of the 1966 classic, "How the Grinch Stole Christmas." I submit that the true hero of the story was the Grinch as he is portrayed until the last two minutes of the film. The cartoon begins with the "good people" of Whoville as they prepare for the holiday season. The village denizens march into the woods like lemmings and fell (cut down) what appears to be a thousand year-old redwood. The tree is brought back to Whoville while the residents continue to sing a song in unison extolling the virtues of joy and goodness. The Stepford like lack of non-conformity is indeed quite alarming and is contrasted by the film's analysis of the Whoville's neighbor to the North. The Grinch was a non-conformist who, as the narrator explains, hated not only Christmas, but the whole Christmas season. We are told in pertinent part: "The Grinch hated Christmas, the whole Christmas season. Please don't ask why, no one knows the reason."

The narrator speculates that the Grinch's physical deformities may be the culprit. Indeed—we are told that the Grinch may suffer from neurocirculatory ashenia (a heart that is too small). Perhaps the Grinch's physical deformity is why he despises the holiday? Balderdash! I respectfully counter that there are a myriad of reasons for the

Grinch to despise the season. Maybe finding \$1,000 artificial Christmas Trees for sale at Costco...in early October, or trying to find parking at South Coast Plaza caused his hatred. Or perhaps the Grinch simply wanted to be one with nature and rejected the encroachment of Whoville into his quiet solitude?

Whatever the reason it should be noted that despite his physical maladies, the Grinch does not live alone. Indeed, the Grinch adopted a shelter dog. This is u n d e r - s t a n d - a b l e as

dogs love unconditionally. The film continues by depicting the Grinch glaring at Whoville. At last—the Grinch's motivations are made clear.

The Grinch continues by exclaiming that what he hates most of all is the "noise...noise...noise!" I pose to you, dear readers, that what the folks who live in Whoville are Who-villians! They walk around town banging on their drums and blowing various horns and making a general nuisance. In one scene, a Whovillian actually blows into an instrument that has 10 separate horns! Can you imagine the cacophony!? To make matters worse, a number of Whovillians attach their horns and drums to their vehicles and drive through the streets as they clamor away. It would bring any normal person extreme anxiety. Any sensible-fair minded person would call code-enforcement within seconds - yet their raucous assault on the senses goes on and on.

The Whovillians then sit down for a feast as the narrator reports they will "feast, feast, feast, feast, feast... feast." We also see the wait staff valiantly trying to keep up with the locust like appetites of the Whovillians. Indeed, it takes five servers to serve a single apple to a one little girl! The gluttony depicted in the film shocks the conscience!

Following the meal, the Whovillians double down on their insensitivity by marching into the town square to ring bells and sing. The song consists of the same most-irritating lyrics repeated over and over again... "Dabu-dorey—dabu dorey—welcome welcome Christmas Day."

All the Grinch wants to do is cuddle with his beloved dog. How can one sleep with this maddening drivel being repeated over and over and over again? (continued page 27)





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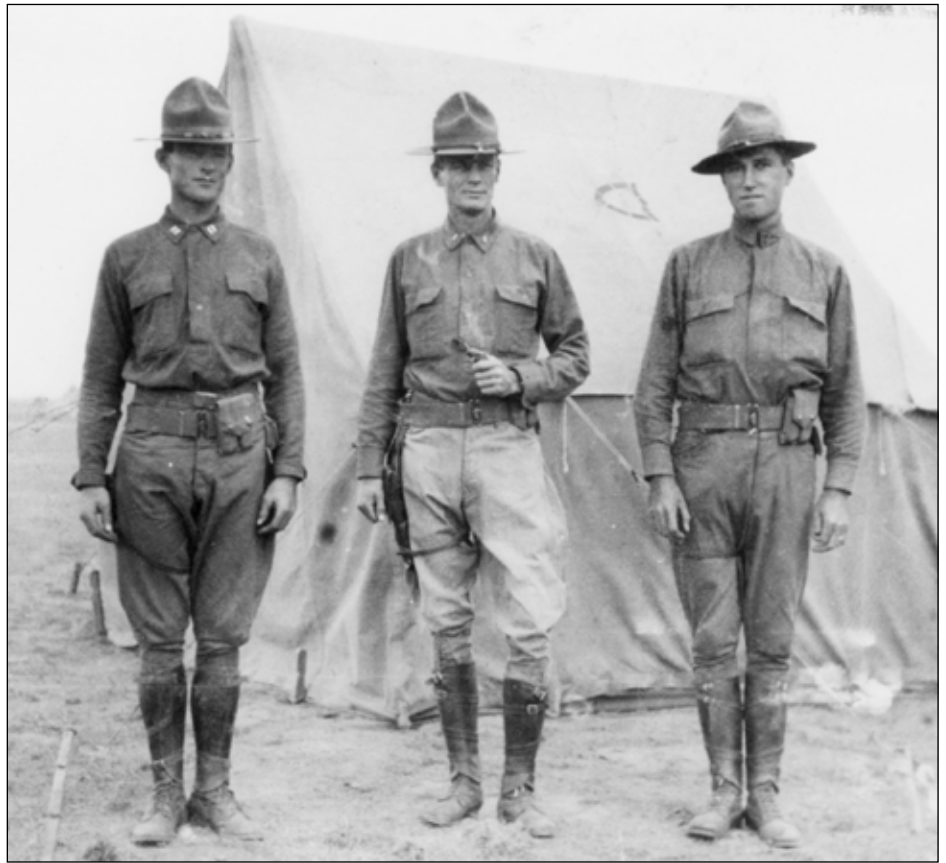
# Veterans Honored at Fisher Park

The Floral Park and Fisher Park Neighborhood Associations joined together once again to honor Veterans at a ceremony at Jack Fisher Park on Veterans Day, November 11.

Association presidents Nancy Collins and Jeffrey Katz led the program and introduced veterans and local dignitaries. The Santa Ana Police Department Honor Guard presented colors. Congressman Lou Correa led attendees in the pledge of allegiance and the Neighborhood Ladies Ensemble sang America the Beautiful.

Floral Park president Jeffrey Katz spoke and Taps were played by Dan Hallman and Timothy Collins as members of Boy Scout Troop 543 lowered the flag. As the program closed, the Boy Scouts collected flags to be retired and attending veterans were honored with a gift.

Veterans Day is a time for us to reflect on and honor the sacrifices made by our heroic men and women of the Armed Forces. It's not only a time for us to pay homage to those currently serving, but perhaps even more importantly, a time for us to salute those who paid the ultimate sacrifice.



(L to R) Captain Nelson Holderman, Lt. A.K. Ford and Lt. Charles Swanner of Co. L, 1917.  
(Courtesy First American Corp)

## Santa Ana's World War I Legacy —Veterans Remembered

by Dylan Almendral

With this holiday season and the end of another year approaching, I take this time to look back and reflect on the past and in our shared history, especially after these last two years.

I got to thinking about Veterans Day and what it means and I wanted to shine a light on some local history that so few know about. Veterans Day is meant to celebrate the end of World War I; being called The Armistice halting, the War to End All Wars was signed in Compiègne, France, at 11 a.m. on 11 November 1918 – hence the significance of the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, could not have come sooner as we drew closer to our destruction. War at that scale, with that level of destruction and

ferocity, had not been witnessed in modern history.

Veterans Day should not be confused with Memorial Day (a day to remember our war-dead and their ultimate sacrifice for our country) or Independence Day (meant to celebrate the ratification of the Declaration of Independence from Great Britain in 1776). Each of these days has its solemn own meaning of remembrance or transformation.

Floral Park and Santa Ana at large have a deep connection to the first World War because of Santa Ana's own National Guard Company "L" who counts Floral Park resident, attorney, historian and author Charles D. Swanner Sr. among its cadre as well as



Jacob M. Fisher, for whom Jack Fisher Park is so named. It is these two men that I profile for this article.

Charles D. Swanner Sr. (1894-1979), a Santa Ana native, USC Graduate of 1915 was a private attorney, Army officer in WWI, city attorney, local historian, and the author of three books about his life in Santa Ana and its history; "A Narrative of Yesterday: Santa Ana 1970-1910", "Santa Ana's Own: The Story of Company L", and finally "50 Years A Barrister in Orange County".

Charles Swanner was a distinguished person in legal circles and a veteran of World War I from Santa Ana's national guard company of the 160th Infantry Regiment. Swanner witnessed the burning of Santa Ana's Chinatown in 1906 and chronicled his experiences growing up in a city that was growing with him. He lived in two houses in Floral Park, 2341 N. Bonnie Brae and 2346 N. Park Blvd. He lived in the Bonnie Brae house in the 1930s while he rose to legal prominence and moved into the North Park Blvd. house in 1941.

In his book *The Story of Company L*, Charles remembers getting on his motorcycle to fetch Capt. Nelson Holderman of Tustin, who was planting trees along the highway in El Toro that Company "L" had been activated for service with the US entering the war on April 6, 1917. Holderman did not wait for details but jumped into the tandem seat. When asked what about his trees Holderman replied, "They'll take care of themselves, we are going to war!"

They immediately headed to the armory at 313 N. Birch Street. Swanner did not fight alongside members of Company L; in fact, Company L was splintered among the American Expeditionary Force, with many divisions suffering high casualty rates, the men of Company L were sent into the winds of war, this is how Swanner ended up leading "B" Company 11th Infantry of the 5th Division with whom he did see combat. Capt. Nelson Holderman ended up in U.S. Army, 307th Infan-



*First Lieutenant C. D. Swanner*

try, 77th Division, a New York National Guard unit. Holderman would later receive the Medal of Honor for his actions and leadership during the "Lost Battalion" in the Argonne Forest in October 1918. "Captain Holderman commanded a company battalion which was cut off and surrounded by the enemy. He was wounded on 4, 5, and 7 October, but throughout this entire period, suffering great pain and subjected to fire of every character, he continued personally to lead and encourage his officers and men under his command with unflinching courage and with distinguished success. On 6 October, in a wounded condition, he rushed through enemy machine gun and shell fire and carried two wounded men to a place of safety."

Jacob M. "Jack" Fisher (1899-1929) was a native of Yakima, Washington and came to Santa Ana during his youth with his family in search of opportunity. Jack was a graduate of Santa Ana schools and also joined Company "L" the day the United States entered the war. He took part in training at Camp San Luis Obispo, and Camp Kearny, but he was ultimately separated from Company L and transferred to the 58th Infantry Regiment, where he saw combat with that unit



*Jacob (Jack) Fisher*

at Chateau Thierry, July -August 1918, Verdun in mid-September 1918 and finally in the Argonne Forest from 26 September to 5 October 1918. He sustained shrapnel wounds in August and September of 1918 and was gassed and shot in October. Jack received the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions in the Argonne Forest where, seriously wounded, he was one of only three men to return alive, carrying his lieutenant on his back. He received the Purple Heart with cluster, the French Croix de Guerre with 12 additional Palms (each for recognition of a separate act of bravery in combat). He was awarded the French Medaille Militaire for his actions at Verdun while attached to French troops as a field cartographer. He went on a raid with these French soldiers and ended up taking four German soldiers prisoner. Near the end of the war, he found himself shot in the leg, took refuge in a shell crater and was stranded for 3 days withstanding barrage after barrage of explosive and poisonous gas. Once found, another soldier gave him water from a nearby canteen not knowing it was contaminated with gas. Jack drank from this canteen and severely damaged his internal organs in the process. After his war service, he spent many months in various hospitals recuperating and

learning to use his prosthetic leg. He took a vocational course in Art as part of the recovery process through the Veterans Administration which led to Jack working for the Herald Examiner in San Francisco. And shortly thereafter at the Santa Ana Register as an artist and cartoonist. Through all his suffering which characterized the rest of his short life he made the best of it; becoming a respected cartoonist and editorialist. Jack married Frances Baker on June 8, 1927 in Santa Ana. He ultimately died of complications from injuries he received on the battlefield less than 2 years later in 1929. His widow, Frances, never remarried and died in 1995. The City of Santa Ana named a park in his honor, "Jack Fisher Park" in 1933.

With all the strife and pain and uncertainty of these last couple of years, it's good to look back and appreciate those that came before us; to honor them, their lives and the sacrifices they made so we could still be here today.



*Charles Swanner lived at 2341 Bonnie Brae in the 1930s and moved to 2346 North Park Blvd. in 1941.*



# Houses Sought For Home Tour

The Home and Garden Tour is turning 30 and we've decided to try something new with our arrangement of streets. This year we will feature Flower, Heliotrope (up to Santa Clara) and Greenleaf. So we need your help!

This is the major fundraising arm of the Association and we really appreciate your support! First we need homes and gardens, and then volunteers.

If you live on any of these streets, please consider volunteering your home or garden for the Tour. We have a brochure which explains all the ways we work to make it fun and easy for you! Neighbors who have volunteered in the past are almost universally very happy and delighted with the experience. Please give Sandy DeAngelis a call at 714-357-8565 and join in the fun!



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*(ANTI HERO continued from page 21)*  
 The Grinch reports that he has “put up with this for 53 years.” So—for 53 years, the Whovillians ignore their neighbor to the North, expropriate his resources, and engage in what any reasonable person would view as a horrendous public abuse. And yet we are to believe the Grinch is “the mean one?” Really!?

And so-our beloved Grinch hatches a plan to stop Christmas. The Grinch and his beloved shelter dog re-appropriate the ill-gotten gains of the Whovillians. The following morning, the Grinch is awakened by - you guessed it, more incessant singing. Clearly, the Whovillians did not need all of their toys and horns to enjoy Christmas, which makes this intrepid writer wonder why did they purchase all of that junk to begin with? Through happenstance, the Grinch returns the toys and trumpets to the Whovillians and is finally invited to dine. 53 years without an invitation to dinner? I guess the Grinch having to sell his soul and conform was the price of admission.

As set forth in the beginning of

this curmudgeonly and sarcastic mis-sive—with the exception of the last 2 minutes of the film (where the Grinch sells-out) it is the Grinch who is the true hero of our story. A tragic character with a disability ignored by the Whovillian who are a bunch of rabid consumers and code-violators. I salute you Mr. Grinch! You were never the mean one.

Next year we will engage in an honest assessment of the Bumpess family—the unsung heroes of the film, “A Christmas Story.” We will examine their heartfelt effort to rehabilitate old and abused hound-dogs and how insensitive and inappropriate it was for their neighbors to roast a turkey without having the decency to shut the front door. Can we really blame the Bumpess family and their dogs for being attracted to the smell? In the law, we call this condition an “attractive nuisance.”

From your neighborly curmudgeon, Happy Holidays---and stay off my lawn!

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# Concert & Chili Cook-Off Combine for Fall Event

—Denise A. Silva

After a record heat wave followed by unsuspected road repair, a welcome change in the weather occurred just in time to bring us some beautiful temperatures for our annual Fall Concert held under the canopy of our beloved oak trees on Heliotrope Drive. To spice things up we combined the concert event with the Chili Cook-off, which hadn't been taken place since 2019 due to COVID.

Jessica Carr, Joy Rideout and Stacey Olson brought the first Chili Cook-off to Floral Park which was inspired by the NASA chili cook-offs at Johnson's Space Center in Texas which Jessica attended as a child with her father. I was delighted when Jessica and Joy accepted my invitation to head the chili cook-off portion of the event this year. Without hesitation, they jumped in, dusted off the notes from previous years and coordinated the event splendidly.

The day started with the usual volunteers, Laszlo Biro, Dave Fink, Richard Terrones, Paul Miller, Jeff and Suzee Katz and of course my husband Mike Silva helping with set up. In addition, Chris and Britiny Cecil have become our resident audio team for guidance, set up and breakdown at almost every event. Our sound has never been better. Karen and Stephen Amsler created a delicious fall inspired libation for the event and served it in the most beautifully decorated bar we've ever had. We are always looking for some of the younger folks to join the set-up volunteer group as it is an arduous task putting everything together on the day of these events. It was a pleasure to have Alan Tea and Jay Joyer join us for this event and a big thank you to the Bruce's for letting us use their home for storage, staging and holding area for the judges of the chili competition. Rochelle Landry and Chris Switzer sold chili tasting tickets which in addition to table sales, helps cover the cost of putting on such a fun filled event. To boot, we were so fortunate to have David Buster and Erik Hernandez of Meridian Property Management sponsor all the wonderful props that made the event even more magnificent.

The tradition of our events keeps them welcoming and familiar however, the individual contribution of the guests keeps things fresh. As usual, nearly everyone participated in the table decorating contest and the country theme spurred on some wonderful creativity. Connie Yokum won for best table decoration. The band, The Dardens did not disappoint. Their fantastic sound and rendition of folksy Americana songs were the perfect background to our neighborhood country fair feel of the event. Guests were



enthusiastic to join in the line dancing and two-step lessons with Kimberly of Line Dancing with Kimberly. Finally, the chili cook-off brought an added excitement to the event.

Thank you to our contestants: Eric Finley, Andrew Higgins, Team Triple J Ranch - Jenny Hazen, Jaime Saleta, and Joanne Beamon, Matt Orsini, Jonathan "Red" Rosenberger, Allyson Thompson, Huey Yann Ooi, and Connie Yoakum for entering your amazing chilies. And of course, thank you to our judges: Michelle Donahue, Richard Payne, and Wayne Suraci for your input. The winners are as follows: First place – Team Triple J Ranch, Second Place - Eric Finley, People's Choice – Red Rosenberg, Best Booth – Allyson and Marc Thompson.

As always, I look forward to seeing you all in the neighborhood! —Denise



# 2022 Year in Review - Milestones

by Jeffrey Katz

*To* where has this year vanished?  
Is it lost forever?

Will we ever recover anything from it?

The joy of life, the unexpected victory,

The realized hope, the career accomplished?

Will we ever be able to banish the memory of pain,

The sting of defeat, the heaviness of boredom?

In this moment, as 2022 comes to an end,

Let us keep for a while what must drift away.

In this moment, let us be free of the burdens that must return.

In this moment, let us celebrate the new lives gifted to us;

Let us sanctify the love affairs proclaimed;

And let us immortalize the lives that we have lost.



*Isabelle Sharp*



*Jack Moloo*

## Births

Seanna and Kenny Rahe (*Ross St*) welcomed **Adria Leigh Rahe** on February 9, 2022.



*Adria Leigh Rahe*

Candace and Allan Tea (*Heliotrope Dr.*) welcomed **River Rose Tea** on March 28, 2022.



*River Rose Tea*

Amy and Ryan Bruce (*Heliotrope Dr.*) welcomed **Parker Catherine Bruce** on January 7, 2022.



*Parker Catherine Bruce*

Stephanie and Chris Sharpe (*Greenleaf St.*) welcomed **Isabelle Sharp** in January, 2022.

Rachel and Kyle Moloo (*Victoria Drive*) welcomed **Jack David Moloo** December 20, 2022.

Leigh and Matthew Mohler (*Heliotrope Dr.*) welcomed **Marlowe Mohler** on September 14, 2022.

Before 2022 comes to an end, **Brian Chan and Joanna Petticord** (*Santa Clara*) will welcome their first child into this world. We wish them a safe birth and a healthy child.



*Marlowe Mohler*

## Marriages

**Andrew Higgins & Nathan Bates**  
(*Riverside Dr.*)

Andrew and Nathan married on July 22 at the Laguna Hills courthouse. They plan to honeymoon this coming year in Italy. The couple moved to Floral Park in May 2021 when they bought the house from Nathan's aunt and uncles who had begun their residence in Floral Park in the 1990s. Andrew is a dentist in the Newport Beach area. Nathan is a sales representative at Prich in Mission Viejo, a high-end fixture and appliance store. Andrew loves to cook

and bake. Nathan has a passion for interior design. They also share a love for their three dogs and travelling.

**Ashley & Jay Boyer**  
(North Park Blvd.)

Jay and Ashley married July 6, in Maui. The couple and their daughter, Marley, moved to Floral Park in October 2020. Jay is Executive VP for a PR agency, Zeno Group. In his role, Jay has coordinated events for Zeno’s longtime client, Kia. FPNA has been the beneficiary of Jay’s talent when he took over the helm as Social Director this past July.



Andrew & Nathan



Ashley & Jay



Carl & Kevin



Britiny & Chris



Obed & Joe

**Carl Jordan and Kevin Islas**  
(Heliotrope Dr.)

Carl Jordan and Kevin Islas got married on August 27. Their wedding was at the Ranch in Laguna Beach where their ceremony was held on the golf course. They met four years ago this month and got engaged July of 2021. Carl moved to Floral Park in 2017 and now they both call Floral Park home. Carl is an executive vice president for U.S. Bank and Kevin is in accounting. They both enjoy golf and socializing with friends and family.

**Britiny Froemmling & Chris Cecil**  
(Santa Clara)

Britiny and Chris tied the knot on May 14 at the Ponte Winery & Vineyard in Temecula. Following the wedding the two were off to Bora Bora for their honeymoon. The Cecils moved into Floral Park in September 2020 and have been active neighbors from the get go. Britiny and Chris own and operate Alpha Solutions, an audio-visual equipment and supplies business. Thanks to their talents, the Floral Park events have never sounded better.

**Obed Garcia-Colato & Joe Rodriguez**  
(Heliotrope Dr.)

Obed and Joe were married on August 19. It was a true neighborhood affair. Heliotrope neighbor

Jade Chirarini-Gallagher served as the planner. After a ceremony at the Old Orange County Courthouse, the wedding party continued at Benchmark for the reception. The newlyweds will be honeymooning in the United Kingdom this Christmas. Neighbors since November 2021, Obed is a Deloitte consultant and Joe is a project manager at Arcus Biosciences.

## Deaths

In the Spring issue of *The Gazette* we remembered the lives of three significant neighbors we lost early in 2022: **Ruth Ann Moriarty** (Victoria Drive), **Ann Andres** (Riverside Dive), and **Ed Power** (Greenleaf Street). No less significant were the lives of these three neighbors who we lost later in 2022.

**Nicki Curran - 1949-2022**  
(Santa Clara)

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to one of Floral Park’s own – Nicki Curran. The Curran family came to Floral Park in 1939, when Nicki’s paternal grandfather built a home at 2204 Victoria Drive. He and his wife raised their two sons and three daughters there. The home stayed in the family until the early 1970s.

In 1942, Frank Jr. and his wife, Nan (Mead), bought the property at 533 W. Santa Clara Ave. and built a home there. The four Curran children all went to St. Joseph Elementary School, Mater Dei High School and St. Joseph’s Catholic Church.

In 1964, the Currans put a pool in the backyard. Nicki spent several summers teaching swimming to many of the children of the neighborhood.

Nicki graduated from Loyola-Marymount and began her career as a PE teacher and coach at Cornelia Connelly High School. Later, she went back to earn her master’s degree in family counseling. She especially loved working with children and youth. She also spent time as an



*Nicki Curran*

“emergency counselor” to assist with crisis management.

In 1996, after the death of her father, Nicki bought the house at 533 and moved back “home.”

The Floral Park Home Tour started in 1992. Mary Druitt began as the docent coordinator. By the early 2000s, Nicki was her “right-hand lady” and eventually took over the entire job. Many of us will fondly remember Nicki, with her dog Copper, “tooling” around on home tour weekends in her trusty golf cart. For her dedicated work, she was bestowed the

Legacy Award from Floral Park.

Nicki will be remembered for her smile, her animals, her love of animals, her counseling expertise and her love of anything to do with Floral Park.

And the house? 533 W. Santa Clara has stayed in the family—Nicki’s niece, Sheila, bought it to house yet another generation in Floral Park.

### **Herbert Silva - 1950-2022**

*(Flower Street)*

Herbert Silva, a 30-year resident of Floral Park, passed away on May 25, 2022 at the age of 72. Known to many as Herb, he was admired and loved by family and friends for his good nature, quiet strength, and many skills and talents.

Herbert grew up in Boyle Heights and graduated from Roosevelt High School and UCLA with a BA in Spanish language/literature and minor in French language/literature. Working at age 14 in a hardware store, he became familiar with the tools and supplies for home repair. His family rented the Mt. Pleasant House, now located in



*Herbert Silva*

the Heritage Square Museum. Growing up in an 1876 Victorian Italianate house instilled in Herbert an appreciation for fine building and woodworking construction. He continued to restore and live in residences built prior to the mid 1930’s for the rest of his life which is why he appreciated the Floral Park neighborhood.

Herbert’s expertise in all aspects of construction served him well in employment. He retired from the City of Los Angeles Housing Authority where he served as a maintenance supervisor for most of his 25-year career.

# THANK YOU!

As you know, Floral Park held its first annual Membership Drive during the month of November. The response was enthusiastic: we more than doubled the percentage of households that support the neighborhood as patrons. This allows us to continue supplying the neighborhood with the services and support that help make it so special:

- . *The web site, signs and other forms of communication to the neighborhood.*
- . *Landscaping of our entrances and exits along with tree replacement and park maintenance.*
- . *Events that bring us all together throughout the year.*
- . *Our continuing push to make Floral Park a national historic district... and more!*

If you haven’t yet make a contribution, it’s not too late. Year end is a great time to take advantage of tax advantages that come with charitable donations, and FPNA is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. To donate, go to [FloralPark.com/donate](http://FloralPark.com/donate).





Herbert and his wife, Rhonda Nalishnik, were avid world travelers and proponents of slow travel. In 1971 he traveled overland with a college friend for six months along the Pacific Coast Highway from Mexico to Tierra del Fuego and Brazil's Amazon. In 1973 he and Rhonda spent nine months in Europe and Morocco. In 1978-79 they traveled for 16 months, beginning with his parents in Europe in an English taxi purchased at an auction. From Greece, Rhonda and Herbert flew to Egypt and began a 9-month overland journey through Africa and Turkey. Other destinations included the United States, Ireland, Canada, Mexico, Baja, and a 6-week trek in the Himalayas following Nepal's Annapurna circuit route. Summiting Africa's Mt. Kilimanjaro and hiking in Nepal were travel highlights.

Herbert had many interests. His passion for organic gardening and enriching the soil included composting, vermiculture, and growing heirloom tomatoes. He read two newspapers dai-



*Armand Aguinaga*

ly and he was a charter subscriber to *Fine Woodworking* and *Fine Homebuilding* magazines. His huge music collection was eclectic. A Floral Park highlight was the annual Home Tour during which he enjoyed examining the fine architectural details and workmanship of the neighborhood residences. Restoring his Floral Park home was a constant joy.

**Armand Aguinaga - 1936-2022**  
(*Greenleaf St.*)

Armand lived in Floral Park for more than 60 years, but it was in Artesia Pilar that he was an icon and

a hero. He owned and operated a small grocery store bordering El Salvador Park. He was a father figure for many youngsters who grew up in the shadows of his store. He literally saved the lives of these kids who have grown up to be responsible adults. He helped the elderly and the poor by giving them free groceries when they were in desperate need to feed a hungry family.

Mando, as he was called, married Cecilia and they had three children: Ramses (a police officer), Allan (a chef and restaurant consultant), and Sylvia (who with her husband owns Animo Games).

Mando was a legend in Santa Ana. In September, the City Council meeting was closed in his name. Two of the kids who visited Mando's grocery store and personally witnessed his benevolence are now councilmembers: Jonathan Hernandez and David Peñaloza. Both men spoke eloquently, from the council dais, in Mando's memory.

*Merry  
Christmas*

*May your holiday season be wrapped  
with cheer and filled with celebration  
for the new year.*



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## THE TASTE OF THE HOLIDAYS

by Flora Park

It's holiday time, and that means food. Not just any food either, but the best, tastiest foods of the year! We asked Flora Park cooks to submit their favorite winter/holiday recipes. Here's this year's offerings.



### JESSICA'S COMFORT MAC-N-CHEESE

from Jessica Jones  
Heliotrope Drive

Macaroni and cheese just might be the most popular comfort food known to man—or at least any American. There are many varieties of this delicious dish, but here, Jennifer shares her favorite.

#### Ingredients

- 1 lb. macaroni noodles
- 1 stick of butter
- 2 cups of whole milk
- Flour
- 1 lb. sharp cheddar cheese
- 1 lb. Monterey jack cheese
- Bread crumbs
- Salt and pepper

*Instructions:* Boil noodle until soft. Melt stick of butter in saucepan on low heat, add in some flour until it becomes thick gravy mixture. Add two cups of milk to mixture stirring well. Add salt and pepper to taste. Add in sharp cheddar and monterey jack stirring thoroughly. Put everything into casserole dish, put bread crumbs on top and bake at 350 degrees for 30 min.



### MULLED WINE WITH WINTER SPICES

by Trace Weatherford  
North Park Boulevard

This traditional Christmas drink is the warming beverage we love to cozy up to in the fall and winter. This longstanding drink dates back to ancient Roman times where they would warm up their wine with spices to keep them warm in the winter cold and has become the perfect Walk of Lights beverage!

#### Ingredients

- 12 cups of Apple Cider
- ¼ cup of Orange Juice
- Orange peel (orange part only) cut into strips
- One bay leaf
- One TBSP of packed brown sugar
- 2 cinnamon sticks
- 2 whole cloves
- 2 whole allspice
- 2 tablespoons of fresh lemon juice
- Pinch of salt
- 1 ½ cups Applejack Brandy (optional)

#### Instructions

Mix first 10 ingredients in large saucepan/pot. Bring to boil. Reduce heat to medium/low simmer for 30 minutes to blend flavors. Strain mulled spices into mugs. Serve cider, passing Applejack

### PEPPERMINT BARK MARTINI

by Marc LaFont  
Heliotrope Drive

Peppermint bark fans, meet your match. This hits all the marks for a jolly holiday in a glass!

#### Ingredients

- 1/2 cup semisweet chocolate chips, melted
- 1/4 cup crushed candy canes
- 6 oz. white chocolate liqueur
- 4 oz. vodka
- 2 oz. peppermint schnapps
- 2 tbsp. heavy cream
- Ice



#### Instructions

Pour melted chocolate onto a shallow plate, and place crushed candy canes on another shallow plate. Dip rims of martini glasses first in chocolate, then in candy canes. Pour remaining choc-

olate into the bottom of glasses and swirl to coat the bottom 1/3 of glasses with chocolate. Place glasses in freezer while you prepare the drink. Combine white chocolate liqueur, vodka, peppermint schnapps, and heavy cream in a cocktail shaker. Fill to the top with ice and shake until cold. Divide drink between 3 glasses and garnish with a candy cane before serving.

### Traditional Mexican Christmas Cookies

by Jill Brumett  
19th Street

*Known by many names, these delectable, buttery holiday cookies make a wonderful gift or addition to any Christmas platter.*

#### Ingredients

- 1 cup butter, softened
- 1/2 cup powdered sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 1/4 cups sifted flour
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 cup chopped walnuts or pecans
- powdered sugar



#### Instructions

Cream together butter and powdered sugar until light and fluffy; stir in vanilla.

Whisk together flour and salt; add gradually to butter mixture; stir in

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chopped nuts. Chill dough if it seems too soft.

Form dough into 1 1/4" balls and place onto parchment-lined or ungreased baking sheets.

Bake at 400° for 10-12 minutes or just until the cookies start to turn light golden-brown; remove from oven and allow to cool slightly; while cookies are still warm (but NOT hot) remove them from baking sheets and roll, a few at a time, in powdered sugar until evenly coated; cool cookies completely on wire racks.

Cookies may (optionally) be rolled in powdered sugar a second time once cooled to room temperature.

NOTE: Forming dough into 1" balls will increase yield to 48 cookies. They make a great gift for friends, and neighbors!

### **SIX GEESE A BOOZIN'**

*by Trace Weatherford  
North Park Boulevard*

*Here's a festive beverage you can drink all twelve days of Christmas!*

#### *Ingredients*

- .5 oz Grey Goose vodka
- 2 tsp Cointreau
- Juice of a quarter of a lime
- Prosecco

#### *Instructions;*

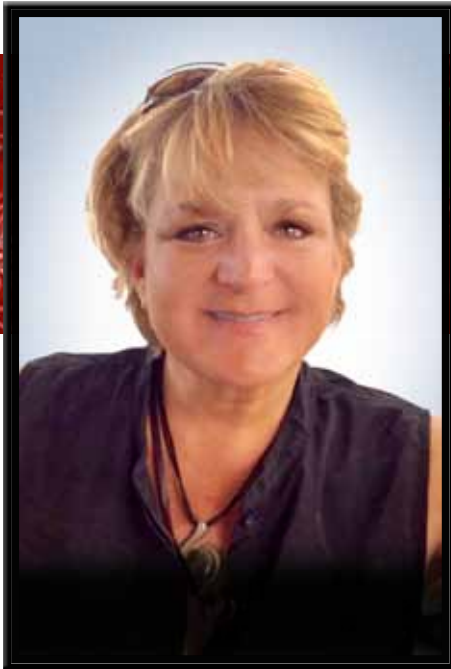
Shake all ingredients (except the prosecco) over ice, strain into champagne flute and top with prosecco.



## **Floral Park Holds Holiday Toy Drive**

Floral Park is holding a holiday toy drive to benefit children at the Santa Ana Boys & Girls Club. The drive will collect new, unwrapped toys and sports equipment for children ages 6 through 12 over two weekends: December 2 through 4 and December 9 through 11. A drop box will be located at 2221 N. Victoria Drive between the hours of 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. In addition, there will be a drop box at the Floral Park Holiday Party on Saturday, December 10.

You can also donate towards the purchase of toys with a monetary donation at [FloralPark.com/calendar](http://FloralPark.com/calendar). If you are purchasing toys through Amazon, be sure to use your Smile account so a portion of the sale benefits the neighborhood ([FloralPark.com/shop](http://FloralPark.com/shop)). For more information on the toy drive, email [Care@FloralPark.com](mailto:Care@FloralPark.com)



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# Walk of Fright Scares Up Halloween Fun

The Floral Park held its annual Halloween Home Decorating Contest and, as usual, the competition was downright scary! Award winners included:

*Best in Show:* 2369 N. Flower

*Most Original:* 1825 N. Ross

*Scariest:* 2402 N. Flower

*Best Use of FX:* 2315 Benton Way

*Best Use of Skeletons:* 2311 Riverside

*Honorable Mention:* 1816 Heliotrope  
2489 Riverside

Then on Friday, October 28, we held the Walk of Frights, a chance to walk the neighborhood and take in all the spookified homes and award winners, while stopping along the way for some Halloween “spirits”. Thank you to the nine residents who sponsored snack stations for the Walk of Frights as well as all who decorated your homes for the season. Now’s it’s time to do it all again for the winter holidays!



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# Floral Park Historic District Update

The Historic Resources Committee of FPNA has an update on the nomination for placement on the National Register of Historic Places as a Historic District! It's been a long road, and we have some developments. We are dealing with two governmental entities, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the National Park Service (NPS). Both require different things out of the same document to be successful.

## What's Taking So Long?

On the 23rd of September, the NPS sent a letter through the SHPO asking for more changes with directions; many of these were purely bureaucratic, such as needing to transfer the document from one governmental form to another. The

NPS changes and updates its nomination forms every three years; since we started this project in the fall of 2018, the NPS has changed its forms, and we have had to adhere to that. Transferring 200+ pages of text and figures with proper formatting was a challenge. Thank you, Julie! SHPO also was taken to task by the NPS for lack of oversight in the nomination process.

The boundaries of the historic district, not the neighborhood, also changed. The commercial properties on 17th and Broadway were removed, making the southern boundary roughly follow the southernmost lot lines of residences along 17th St. and the rear fence lot lines on the eastern side of Victoria Drive. This required changing geographical coordinates, maps, figures, tables, acreage estimations and contributive and non-contributive counts and percentages. With this in mind, we have 636 total resources (including the Sarah Mae Downie Park), with 554 (87%) Contributive resources and 82 (13%) non-

contributive resources.

The NPS also questioned the significance of many individuals that we profiled in the nomination as they pertained to the neighborhood's history. They did this through the lens of how the profiles are applied to the application via categories of criteria. So these profiles had to be reorganized, playing to the tune of what criteria was most applicable per the different category.

In a more positive development, the NPS allowed us to add the homes built prior to 1919 to contribute to the overall district. These homes would otherwise be outside the period of significance from 1919-1960.

## Current Status in the Pipeline

As of November 7, the reformatted and edited form with all the above changes has been submitted back to the SHPO, which will give it a once over and then pass it back to the NPS. So we wait. But it is progressing.




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# Floral Park Trims Holiday House

Something exciting is happening at the Howe-Waffle House! 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. If you have never been to see this historic home and medical museum here in Santa Ana, December 9th -11th is a wonderful time for your first visit as well as the perfect time to come back if you have been before.

In conjunction with Floral Park and other Santa Ana neighborhoods, Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society will have their first annual Victorian Christmas Open House with guided tours. It will commence on the 9th of December from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. and



continue over the weekend. Tickets are \$20 per person and can be purchased at [SantaAnaHistory.com/house-tours](http://SantaAnaHistory.com/house-tours). All proceeds will go to the Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society.

The Floral Park Neighborhood Association board was asked to take one room in the home and decorate it to reflect an historic Victorian Christmas. I volunteered to take on this project. It occurred to me to enlist a team of neighbors who are Interior Designers to showcase their talent while giving back to the community. I chose Cindy Wilsie of

Designs by Cynthia Dalton Wilsie, Jessica Jones and Jeanette Mustafa of Jess Jones Design Group. After graciously accepting the challenge, the team visited the Howe-Waffle house to decide which room they wanted to adorn. The front parlor was the obvious choice, it is the first room guests will see and it is the jewel of the home. After some research for appropriate era décor and Inspired by the beautiful pastel pinks and blues in the Persian rug in the room, we produced a color scheme and look for the room. Two design companies who never worked together and myself worked cohesively, while thoughtfully choosing the ornaments for the Christmas tree and decorations for the rest of the room.

When the day came to start decorating everyone arrived ready to work with supplies in hand. Instinctively the team individually took on tasks that supported the overall project seamlessly. We are thrilled with the outcome and cannot wait for you to visit and enjoy the fruits of the collective neighborhoods' labor throughout the entire home.



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482 El Camino Real, Tustin, CA 92780  
714-731-2111 [TheHiveFloralDesign.com](http://TheHiveFloralDesign.com)

# Volunteers Keep Floral Park Beautiful

Chris Switzer  
Beautification Committee Chair

During my morning walk in the neighborhood and while shuffling through wet leaves after the welcomed rain, I was overcome with gratitude for living in this beautiful neighborhood. As a member of the Beautification Committee for almost 8 years now, I am forever grateful for the volunteers who cherish our gardens and exits and entrances as a reflection of our community. This past year, the committee replaced exit and entrance plants with perennials and water wise plants that require less maintenance. The Sarah Mae Downie/Butterfly Sanctuary con-



Back row L to R: Paul Bidmead, Lina Lopez, Julie Humphries, Joe Rodriguez, Dave Chapel, Kay Palmer; Front Row: Cindy Lee, me, Julie Bidmead, Eric Carlson. Photo by Mila Payne.

tinues to welcome a variety of butterflies – monarchs, swallowtails, painted ladies, cabbage whites and fritillaries.

In November, we had two neighborhood clean-up and planting days. Lina Lopez organized us for removing unwanted plants and where to place the new ones. We started out on 19th St. and Victoria, and then cheerfully fanned out to the 19th Street entrance and to the

Santa Clara exit. We had those areas replanted in record time. Dave Chapel, a new volunteer, greeted us all with a table, tablecloth, beverages, muffins, and croissants. Mila Payne made us coffee. In case you were wondering about the impatiens that were in the circular area on 19th and Victoria, they were transplanted to Sarah Mae Downie Park.

When you see the seasonal color dotting our exits and entrances and new plants in Butterfly Garden, thank a volunteer. Every other Wednesday, a group of volunteers meet in the park at 8:30 and trim and weed – feel free to join us.

Did you know the Beautification Committee is also responsible for installing heart stones in Sarah Mae Downie Butterfly Garden? Many memories are there, and these stone can be ordered on the Floral Park website. When a heart stone is ordered, a committee member contacts you and discusses the engraving and stone placement. Also, the tree subcommittee assists the City with identifying dead and dying trees and works with the homeowner and the city to re-

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move the trees and replant a new one. A streetlight came down during the recent rains, and when reported via the Santa Ana app, the streetlight was replaced within 48 hours – again the work of volunteers, and the city in keeping our neighborhood beautiful. The Committee also coordinates with the City for the Most Beautiful Yard of the Year award in April. To continue positive support, the committee is considering a Yard of the Month sign to say “thank you and we appreciate you” to a neighbor who has worked in their yard.

There is a “job” for everyone and please email us at Beautification@FloralPark.com to join us. But the best part is getting to know our neighbors and the feeling of doing something positive that may just make a happy difference.

Happy Holidays to all of you and hope to see you around. Watch for our e-blasts as we will busy again in the spring. And a special thank you to all the volunteers who help keep our neighborhood beautiful.



Floral Park’s Care & Compassion Committee hosted a Thanksgiving food drive to benefit families at the Boys & Girls Club of Santa Ana.

# Floral Park Cares

Rachel Moloo  
Care & Compassion Committee

The holidays are a special time for us all, but especially for everyone in Floral Park. We continue to gather and create wonderful memories through our traditional events as a neighborhood. I am proud to say we collected almost \$1,000 worth of donations for our third annual Food Drive to benefit the Boys & Girls Club of Santa Ana.

We get to support them for a second

time this holiday season with our annual toy drive the first two weekends of December. I am especially proud to say that our quarterly Floral Park blood drives have saved over 500 lives thus far. Due to the impact of COVID the last couple of years, the American Red Cross has been in dire need of blood donations. Our continued support has meant a tremendous amount to the American Red Cross, and we as Floral Park residents should be extremely proud of our unwavering dedication to donating blood. Our next Blood Drive will take place on February 24, 2023.

This time of year is always a little bittersweet. We get to reflect on everything we’ve accomplished and all the wonderful memories, while also preparing for the year to come. A big “thank you” to all the residents who continue to support Care & Compassion. Without you our accomplishments would not be possible. Wishing you the happiest of holidays and a joyous new year! *To volunteer, email Care@FloralPark.com*

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## Neighborhood Calendar

*Subject to change. Check details at [FloralPark.com/calendar](http://FloralPark.com/calendar).*

**DECEMBER**

- Toy Drive.....Friday - Sunday, December 9-11
- Holiday Party .....Saturday, December 10, 2:00-5:00 pm
- Decorating Judging ..... Sunday, December 18, dusk
- Walk of Lights ..... Wednesday, December 21, 6:00 pm

**JANUARY**

- FNA Board Meeting.....January 10, 7:00 pm

**FEBRUARY**

- FNA Board Meeting.....TBD

**MARCH**

- Yard Sale Weekend .....March 4 & 5
- FPNA Board Meeting .....March 14, 7:00 pm

**APRIL**

- FPNA Board Meeting .....April 11, 7:00 pm
- Home & Garden Tour .....April 29 & 30



## CLASSIC POSTER GALLERY

Announcing the opening of  
**ClassicPosterGallery.com**

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 —Mark and Lauren Rothenberg



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# Kids Korner

by Milan Cox



## Photo Scavenger Hunt for Little Floral Park Friends Featuring Homes on Riverside Drive between N. Park Blvd. and Benton Way

As Floral Park residents, we love our neighborhood, and it's never too early to start noticing and learning about the beautiful homes surrounding us! Can you find all 6 of the houses in the pictures below?

1. A chimney that looks like it's made out of leaves.
2. A grey house with four very tall **columns** in front.
3. A part of a house in the shape of a **cylinder**.
4. A stained-glass window with a rose, just like in *Beauty and the Beast*
5. A very pointy, cone-shaped roof
6. A house that the Big Bad Wolf could never glow down.

### New Words for Budding Architectural Enthusiasts

#### **COLUMN**

*A tall support that helps hold up a building*

#### **CYLINDER**

*The shape of a soup can*

### Questions to Spark Discussion On Your Walk

- What do you notice about the trees on this street?
- Which is your favorite house we've seen on our walk?
- What do you want your house to look like when you're a grown up?

### Young Families of Floral Park

Come join us Mondays at 4:00 pm at Jack Fisher Park. Feel free to bring a picnic, order delivery, or just come play with fellow little neighbors!

For more information email milanmcox@gmail.com

### Scavenger Hunt Answers:

1. 2481 Riverside Drive
2. 2440 Riverside Drive
3. 2435 Riverside Drive
4. 2428 Riverside Drive
5. 2416 Riverside Drive
6. 2408 Riverside Drive



1. \_\_\_\_\_



2. \_\_\_\_\_



3. \_\_\_\_\_



1. \_\_\_\_\_



2. \_\_\_\_\_



3. \_\_\_\_\_

"Children who are exposed to beauty at a young age will seek it their entire lives." – Carleton Varney

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## OUR COMMUNITY MARKET UPDATE

### Real Estate News Serving Floral Park

The Following Homes Sold In The Third Quarter 2022 To Present

ADDRESS	SQUARE FOOTAGE	\$\$\$/SQ. FT.	SALES PRICE
1722 N Flower Street	2,017 SF	\$466/SF	\$940,000
*2442 N Heliotrope Drive	2,522 SF	\$589/SF	\$1,485,000
*2418 N Riverside Drive	2,985 SF	\$523/SF	\$1,560,000
*2321 N Towner St.	3,090 SF	\$518/SF	\$1,600,000
2136 N Heliotrope Drive	2,758 SF	\$613/SF	\$1,690,000
*2307 N Riverside Drive	2,606 SF	\$652/SF	\$1,700,000
*2039 N Victoria Drive	2,996 SF	\$701/SF	\$2,100,000

\*Represents a home sold, or represented the buyer, by Kevin Shuler



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