



HAVANA

Nights

**FLORAL PARK
FALL CONCERT**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25,
5:00 - 9:00 PM**

HELIOTROPE DRIVE CUL-DE-SAC

Ever wanted to visit Cuba? Now you can enjoy the sights & sounds of old Havana right here in Floral Park with traditional Cuban Rhumba, Salsa and Conga music, colorful Cuban dancers, a cigar rolling booth, flavorful shaved ices, vintage Chevy and more. Toss on a guayabera, pack a picnic dinner, enter the table decorating contest and enjoy a magical, tropical evening under the stars.

**FloralPark.com/calendar
For more information, email Social@FloralPark.com.**



SEPTEMBER ISSUE 2021

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

Summer is almost officially over, which means it's time for pumpkin spice flavored... everything! We in Floral Park are no exception to annual Fall traditions. Halloween is big here and it's bound to be even bigger after having taken a year off.

In this issue, we look at couple of our Floral Park neighbors who have made Halloween a lifestyle and literally celebrate the holiday all year round! We also take the opportunity to look at the many ways our neighborhood celebrates the autumn holidays including the home decorating contest, our 2nd annual Walk of Frights and the family Spooktacular. And if that weren't enough, you'll find a long list of fun seasonal things to do on the calendar page of our web site, FloralPark.com.

This year's fall concert takes on a distinctly Latin flavor during Hispanic Heritage Month with Havana Nights on Saturday, September 25. And to help you get the most out of this fabulous event, our Floral Park epicurian, Ed Trotter, offers you a list of restaurants that specialize in Cuban food in *On The Town* so that you can order your picnic dinners for the event. For those of you who prefer to cook it yourselves, culinary queen Flora Park, aka Chef Mila, shares with us some great Cuban recipes that you can prepare at home and bring to the party.

Resident architect David Ko continues his look at Floral Park's architecture with a focus on our Storybook homes and Mark Rothenberg puts his eye on neighbors who collect posters.

Ever wonder where your donation dollars go? Wonder no more as we recognize the outstanding students and charities who received Floral Park awards this year. It'll make you proud to read about the amazing accomplishments of these young people and how they're already making a difference in our city.

This Halloween, in addition to handing out candy, treat yourself by contributing to the Floral Park Scholarship Fund at FloralPark.com/scholarship-fund. When you do, you'll not only be helping others, you'll be impacting your own community right where you live. It's truly a win-win situation and there's no trick about that!

Upcoming Floral Park Events

**HAVANA NIGHTS
 FALL CONCERT
 September 25**

**DECORATING
 CONTEST
 October 19**

**WALK OF
 FRIGHTS
 October 22**

**HOLIDAY
 HOME TOUR
 November 13**

For more information, go to FloralPark.com/calendar

Fall Concert Brings Sounds of Old Havana

Get your dancing shoes ready because the Floral Park Social Committee is proud to present this year's fall concert, Havana Nights, on Saturday, September 25 from 5:00-9:00 p.m. This event will be located at the Heliotrope cul-de-sac (at Heliotrope Drive south of 19th Street), easily found by the twinkling market lights adorning the street. It will be enhanced with beautiful decorations and will exhibit the flair and attributes of Cuba in our own back yard. Don't forget to pack a picnic and join the table decorating contest. Bring on the fruit and brightly colored Cuban-inspired décor to showcase your table and be the talk of the town.

Donning Cuban-inspired clothing to get you in the mood and make the theme come to life is strongly encouraged but it is not required. During the evening, you can take part in an opportunity drawing featuring donated baskets of surprise goodies, so bring your Moni, Plata, Divisa and Pesos.

We're bringing to life the sounds and entertainment of Cuba with a live band and dance duo that'll be sure to get you "on your feet." For those who love a good cigar, we are indulging you with a live cigar roller where you can pay for a freshly-rolled cigar and get your smoke on.

To keep you cool, grab a flavored shaved ice that was generously provided by Denise Byrd. Finally, be sure to salsa over and check out the amazing 1952 Chevy Styleline for your photo opportunity and say hello and thank you to its owner, Jaime Ruiz (brother of Sandra Loughlin) at some point during the evening.

For more information, go to FloralPark.com/calendar or email Social@FloralPark.com.

We look forward to seeing you and dancing the night away!



Family Spooktacular In Floral Park

BOO! Come one, come all and get ready for a "wicked" good time with your neighbors! The annual Halloween Spooktacular makes its return this year with the usual fanfare of trick or treating, games, apple cider and a pumpkin patch for the little ones. It all happens in Floral Park on Saturday, October 30 from 4:00 pm to 6:00 PM. All neighbors are welcome to join the fun.

If attending, all we ask is that you RSVP by dropping off one bag of Halloween candy per child for distribution at the event. Please attach your name and contact information to the bag(s) of candy and you can drop it off in the basket at 2001 N. Heliotrope Drive. Once we've received your donation, we'll notify you of the location. This event is geared for the younger members of our neighborhood, but all are welcome to socialize and enjoy the day. For information, contact Kevin Shuler at 949-633-6668 or kevin@neighborsrep.com.

Letters to the Editor

A big shoutout to the City of Santa Ana and their mySantaAna app. I used the app to report an illegal dumping on the parkway in front of my house on Sunday, and the issue was taken care of before 10 am Monday morning. The app works. Great job!

—Cheryl Taft, Floral Park

Thanks for the mosquito article. We used Colby Pest Control's new mosquito control technology — works great.

—JB, Floral Park

Welcome New Floral Park Residents

A huge welcome to the newest members of our special neighborhood! May you cherish and develop a love of Floral Park, and your neighbors, that many of us hold dear to our hearts. We look forward to meeting you all.

Andy & Amy Dawson

2445 North Park Blvd

Jena Jensen

2227 N. Flower Street

Jaime Guthrie & Chris Ashton

2140 Greenleaf Street

Bejay & Laura Magnusen

1904 N. Heliotrope Drive

Gamze & Serdar Celik

2450 N. Riverside Drive

Patrick & Marki Lenahan

2105 N. Heliotrope Drive

George & Mary Pavlov

2207 N. Flower Street

Matthew Orsini & Crystal Yee

1920 Greenleaf Street

Paul Gulino & Jylie Bidmead

2369 N. Flower

Armand & Sarah Barragan

1908 N. Flower Street

Joseph Brothman & Jaiden Tanaleon

1808 N. Flower Street

Michael & Alyse DeCavalias

2436 N. Riverside Drive

Behzad Samavati & Deanna Kashani

2397 N. Flower Street

Justin Ybarra & Quyen Pham

2381 Riverside Drive

Once again, welcome and we look forward to meeting and getting to know you all. See you at the next event!

Election Committee Volunteers Needed

We are in need of neighbors willing to serve on the election committee to oversee FPNA board elections in the spring of 2022. To volunteer, email president@FloralPark.com.

HALLOQUEENS OF FLORAL PARK

goth



Welcome my pretties. Please do hop on a short broomstick ride as I introduce you to...the Hallo-Queens of Floral Park!

Here on North Park Blvd., I take my passion for the creepastically beautiful seriously. Anyone who knows me knows I love Halloween and nearly all things creepy. I vaguely recall sleeping in a Strawberry Shortcake bed with Strawberry Shortcake sheets when I was a toddler and shared a room with my baby sister. Beyond that, mine is a lifelong love of the creepastic. If I had to pick a moment where the normal me turned into the skeleton-obsessed me, it would be when my dad handed me a paperback called *The Shining* by Stephen King. I was ten.

Is it any wonder that I live in an old house with a staircase you can lift to reveal a basement lurking beneath, a la *The Munsters*? In 2019, 2411 North Park was for sale, I toured it with my real estate agent. As the seller lifted up the staircase (yes, cue haunted creaking sounds) and we followed her down dusty steps to the basement beneath, I grabbed my agents arm and whispered fiercely, "This is the one."

I thoroughly enjoy turning my home into the dark sanctuary of my dreams with its skull damask wallpaper, blood red ceiling, and giant gold disco ball in the living room. For me Halloween isn't a Holiday... it's a lifestyle.

I'm not the only one who enjoys Halloween. Recent data shows that from 2005 to present, celebrating Halloween in the US grew from just over half of all adults to over 70%!



One of four Haunted Mansion "stretching portraits" on display at the home of Suzee Katz on Heliotrope Drive. Skull damask wallpaper (background) adorns the walls of Trace Weatherford's home.

by Trace Weatherford

hamlet of over 600 historic homes began in the 1920s. Which got me thinking and led me to stumble upon something remarkably serendipitous.

On Friday, October 31, 1925 (nearly 100 years ago and a mere year after my house was built) a group of young girls celebrated Halloween right here in this house! According to the November 2, 1925 edition of the *Santa Ana Register* it was the liveliest of celebrations with scary stories and a huge spider web hanging in the living room. "Individual pumpkin pies offering a most delectable supper" were served and one young lady dressed in a witch's costume told everyone's fortune.

Speaking of witches, did you know we have our own resident Green Witch? Suzee Katz on Heliotrope Drive believes the earth is full of energy. She seeks to live in harmony by walking a "green path" which can be growing plants and using crystals for healing and power, to honoring the spirits of trees and animals and understanding the deep connection of all living things.

And she doesn't stop there. Suzee & Jeff Katz throw an annual Halloween Party, something Suzee herself has been doing for 18 years, each with a different theme—A woman after my own heart! She too loves to surround herself with the spooky and the villainous When I asked how she came to love Halloween she said "My Dad was a big Halloween fan. He was this short, outgoing Italian who loved horror movies.

(Continued on page 29)

This growth in popularity of Halloween, while impressive, is a drop in the bucket considering our beautiful little

Halloween in Floral Park



All Hallows' Eve, or Halloween as it is commonly referred, is a global celebration that annually takes place on October 31. It developed from the ancient Celtic ritual of Samhain, which was, in the simplest terms, a festival celebrating the changing of the seasons from light to dark (summer to winter). Traditionally, a bonfire would be lit, sweets would be prepared, and costumes would be worn to ward off evil spirits as the ancient Celts believed that, at this time of year, the veil separating the worlds of the living and the dead was at its thinnest.

All this history is not meant to confuse

Halloween and its Mexican cousin, Dia de los Muertos, a.k.a. Day of the Dead. Dia de los Muertos is a completely separate celebration that occurs during the same timeframe, October 31 to November 2. While Halloween focuses on the dark and grim aspects of death, Dia de los Muertos is a celebration of the connection between the living and the dead, as well as life after death.

The celebration of Halloween that we recognize today was brought to America by the early settlers. People originally carved out turnips and placed candles inside to ward off evil spirits, but somewhere along the way we switched from turnips to pumpkins, which are a heck of a lot easier to carve!

Here in Floral Park, we celebrate the season all month long

with a family street party, decorating contest, neighborhood-wide Walk of Frights, and, of course, the distribution of candy to hoards of trick-or-treaters on October 31. If you're new to the neighborhood, be forewarned: literally thousands of trick-or-treaters will descend upon our streets in search of sweets! It's a lot of fun. The kids are adorable and well-behaved and the costumes are creative and festive. But it's easy to underestimate the amount of treats you'll need, so it'd be wise to start scouting for good deals on candy now.

Last year with the pandemic approaching peak levels, the neighborhood, and most of America, went dark. So far this year, there are no special guidelines for the holiday other than common sense. The holiday falls on a Sunday this year, which is technically both a weekend and a school night, so it's anyone's guess how many ghouls and goblins will come to your door, but in previous years, neighbors have



run out of candy after distributing 3,000 pieces!

With the absence of trick or treating last year, the neighborhood looked for new creative ways to celebrate and came up with a Halloween home decorating contest. It was such a big hit that it's now an annual event! If it's anything like last year, homes will go out on their displays with pumpkins, skeletons, spiders and even a pirate ship. Homes will be judged after dusk on Tuesday, October 19 in six categories: Scariest, Most Theatrical, Best Use of Skeletons, Most Creative, Best Harvest Theme and Best Fall Colors. The competition is bound to be fierce for the coveted signs that announce to the world that your home is a winner!

Then, a few days later on Friday, October 22, it's the 2nd annual Floral Park Walk of Frights! Inspired by our holiday Walk of Lights that takes place in December, this is the evening to gather your friends and family and walk the neighborhood to view all the spooky home displays. And there are certain to be "spirits" about as some homeowners set up sidewalk beverage & snack stations to offer sips and sweets.

On Saturday, October 30 from 4:00 to 6:00 PM, a street in Floral Park will shut down for the neighborhood Halloween Spooktacular, a frightfully fun event for the children of Floral

Park, West Floral Park and Jack Fisher Park. You can RSVP to the event by dropping a bag of candy (one for each child attending) along with your contact info to 2001 N. Heliotrope Drive. You'll then be notified of the location and all other pertinent information. Costumes encouraged. It's a great event for the whole family!

Elsewhere around Floral Park, Dia de los Muertos is celebrated at two Santa Ana museums: The Bowers and the Heritage. There's a sugar skull decorating class for seniors on October 28, and a festival with music by Joel Aceves and Los Cuates, dance by Relampago del Cielo, art, and special foods in the Key Courtyard on October 24. Gente Market presents a Dia de los Muertos festival for the whole family at the OC Heritage Museum on October 17 with live performances (Cumbia 4 Calle band, Nueva Generacion folklorico, and more), art, food, sugar skull face painting, kids craft area, raffles, scavenger hunt and more. To get you ready for your closeup, Santa Ana College has two different 2-day, Day of the Dead face painting classes you can take.

Do you smell children? You will at the Heritage Museum on Saturday, October 23 at an outdoor screening of the classic Halloween family film *Hocus Pocus*.

Enjoy trick-or-treating, themed photo ops, a costume contest, and trivia. Then find your spot, enjoy your picnic, and watch the movie under the stars surrounded by the beautiful Victorian buildings.

The Frida Cinema will also be hosting screenings of films appropriate for the season. And Boo at the Zoo returns to the Santa Ana Zoo on two weekends on October, 23, 24, 29 & 30. Follow a fun Halloween trail through the Zoo during extended admission hours in your family-friendly costume with "merry, not scary" decorations along the way. Don't forget to collect your goodie bag on the way out.

Looking to get sheet-faced? There's a costumed Halloween pub crawl in downtown Santa Ana on Saturday, October 23 with games, contests, prizes, and, of course, drink specials.

There's SO much more going on to help you celebrate this time of year, so be sure to check out FloralPark.com/calendar for all the fun Halloween happenings around town.





RESTORING THE GEORGE

BY PATRICK JOHNSON

The George House on Victoria Drive was built by William Roy George in 1928 for a whopping \$19,000 according to the headlines in the Santa Ana Register that year. The Italian Renaissance Revival design makes this landmark home stand out with its massing, proportions and the fact that it sits on two large lots.

Roy George was an executive with the Federal Finance Company in downtown Santa Ana and was heavily involved in real estate and stock trading prior to the stock market crash of 1929. The George family lived in the house for nearly 70 continuous years. The house was then purchased by Brett Waterman, current host of the cable TV show *RESTORED*, who did major water-damage restoration to the foyer of the home caused by leaking shower pans in the front upstairs bathrooms. The house was then sold to its third owner, who sold it to my wife, Denise, and I last summer.

Fortunately for us, my brother, Sandy Johnson, had just retired after spending close to 35 years restoring historic homes in Old Town Orange and he agreed to take on and supervise the one-year restoration of the George. It was also fortuitous that having so few owners, the house remained fairly original and unmolested, other than a full kitchen remodel, the replacement of the original bathroom fixtures and the building of an out-of-character pool.

Before the restoration of the house could commence, the property needed to be “cleared” of years of overgrown vegetation and numerous “volunteer” trees. It took the efforts of eight men and our arborist one week to release the house from a vegetation time capsule, filling four 40-foot dumpsters in the process. In removing the overgrown vegetation at the back of the property, we discovered that the vines and shrubs had “consumed” the wooden perimeter fencing, which next

needed to be replaced with block walls to secure the property and pool. The pool was also drained for a long winter’s nap. With the lacing of the two cedar cedars in the front yard, many people commented that the new paint job looked great. But we hadn’t yet painted the house . . . we had just washed it and thinned the trees to let the sunlight once again illuminate the façade.

With the house now exposed, we turned our attention to the major utility services to the house. With a service pole in the back corner of the property, electrical, telephone and cable TV feeds ran through the grand oak tree, over the back driveway and onto the service panels on the side of house and looked very unsightly. To correct this, we ran all the cabling down the service pole, into a new underground vault and up into new service panels to an area hidden on the side of the garage. From there, all services were then run underground and into the basement, where we converted the

old canning room into a utility room.

Likewise, we moved the natural gas meter and the “dog house” that enclosed it from the back of the house to the side yard, removing another unattractive interruption to the back of the house. The house was originally built with four gravity-feed furnaces that were dropped into the basement before the first floor was constructed. None of the furnaces were fully operational and repairing them would have still left us with a very inefficient heating system. So, we disassemble the furnaces, carried them out of the basement and replaced them with high-efficiency heat exchangers. In the process, we also removed all of the original asbestos-clad ducting, and installed air-conditioning in the house for the first time. This required that we find paths inside the original interior walls to run return ducts, a pretty amazing feat considering that air-condition was never an original design consideration for the house.

After removing all the terracotta roofing tiles and replacing the original roofing paper on the three-car garage, we converted it into a work shop for Sandy to create his restoration magic. This included completely rewiring the garage and installing period correct utility lighting. We also harvested about 300 original roof tiles of the backside of the garage roof, replacing them with vintage replicas that could not be seen and used the original tiles to repair broken tiles on the house proper. Fortunately, the roofing paper on the house was in good shape having been replaced about 20 year earlier.

Before any interior restoration could be started, we had to first demo the kitchen remodel that had been done by previous owners. It’s not that the remodel was done badly . . . it just didn’t match the character and original design of the house. So, we decided to remove it and restore the kitchen to its original splendor. Fortunately, we not only had

pictures of the original kitchen, but we had material samples as well, allowing us to replicate the original kitchen exactly. In fact, we found a 1928 Magic Chef 8-burner stove, identical to the original stove, in a barn in Ohio and had it shipped to Los Angeles for a ground-up restoration by the craftsmen at Antique Stove Heaven, a process that took ten months.

Sandy’s first order of business was restoring all the windows and exterior doors. As most of the sash-cords were badly frayed or cut all together. Every



This fully-restored, 1928 Magic Chef range is an exact duplicate of the original range that lived in the house when it was built at same year.

sash window had to be disassembled from the inside and then removed through the outside of the house. This took several days per window. The casement windows were all originally installed with hi-tech interlocking copper weather stripping, however over the years the copper had been bent, crushed and deformed in one way or another. This required the weather stripping on each casement window to be re-shaped, so it properly inter-locked once again. The exterior doors then needing restoring, in many cases, replacing the worn oak thresholds and rebuilding the origi-

nal hardware. As much as possible we attempted to retain the original finish of the hardware and the patina that had developed over 90+ years. Finally, all the windows and doors were fully stripped, repaired and repainted in the colors original to the house.

While Sandy worked on the windows and doors, Floral Park landscaper extraordinaire, Jim Shepstone, and his team began the restoration of the front yard. Using a picture of the house shortly after it was built, we wanted to create the original look of the front yard. We

also wanted to minimize the unsightliness of the restoration for our neighbors and avoid placement of a construction fence. With the original deodar cedars dominating the front yard, we just had to redefine the pathways and the perimeters of the yard.

The original cast-in-place front walkway pavers also remained, but they had been removed from the parking. Jim’s team made new pavers to match the original, returning the main approach of the house to its original design. Flower beds were also created along the balustrade at the front veranda and under the deodars. We also created a “wine garden” on the south side of the front yard, installing an antique stone Italian fountain and restored antique park benches. The replica pavers were also installed here. In addition, we had our cabinet maker build five garden gates that took their cues from the massive garage barn doors, the first taking its place in the wine garden. Finally, we defined the perimeters of the yard with the planting of shrubs, being careful not to cut-off the flow from the neighbors yards at the side walk. Denise and I believe it is important that front yards flow together in a neighborly-way in Floral Park.

With the restoration of the exterior doors and windows completed, we turned our attention to the interior painting of the house. With the exception of where there was still original stenciling and murals in the house, all ceiling, walls



Before: Kitchen of the George House after the original kitchen was remodeled in the 1980s. After: The original kitchen design was restored with matching tile, linoleum flooring and 1930s Magic Chef range.

and millwork were repainted, picking up cues from the deepest layers of old paint in the house. Most of the interior doors and millwork are mahogany and for the most part, these just required cleaning and superficial restoration. Again, we did our best to preserve the original aged finishes in the house.

With the interior painting completed, we could then refinish the floors. With the exception of the kitchen and the bathroom, all the floors in the George are quarter-sawn white oak. Given the intricate pattern of the flooring, it's estimated that it would have taken 3–4 months in 1928 to install them, one board at a time. Terry Keyes, who does a lot of flooring work in Floral Park, had his team spend a week on each level of the house, sanding, filling and refinishing the oak floors. And with that, we were able to move into the guest room on the second floor, which we dubbed “the apartment,” because it felt like we were

living in the only finished room in an abandoned apartment building.

Next came the restoration of the kitchen and mud room. We first installed a new sub-floor made from 1-1/8” marine grade plywood, on

“It is our privilege to be the custodians of this lovely old home and to preserve safely it for future generations.”

which the replicated Marmoleum flooring would lay. Then the ceiling and walls were painted and vintage 1924 Westinghouse pendant lights were installed, to shine a little light on the subject. We have a fantastic cabinet maker, Michael Lee in Tustin, who specializes in vintage cabinetry. With

the photos we had, Michael was able to recreate the original cabinet design in the kitchen, something we continued into the mudroom. While looking vintage, the cabinets hide a bevy of modern features that not only make the kitchen look great, but very functional. Michael also recreated the original butler’s pantry, with a mahogany counter and mirrored backsplash trimmed in mahogany, to match the swinging butler’s doors.

With samples and pictures of the original kitchen tile, we were able to have it reproduced in the correct color, size and design. We have an “old school” tile guy, Jack Neglia, who has done work for me for 30 years, who also came out of retirement to tile our kitchen. Jack’s not fast, but he is meticulous, both supervising the production of the tile in Redlands, as well as installing it in the kitchen. And when we could not get tile made in the original size, Jack would cut and shape it on-



Before & After: The metal balcony rail was replaced with wood and the pool was removed and rebuilt along with a columned pergola.

site, to make it exactly right.

The cabinets were then painted to a high gloss finish and the flooring was installed. And with this, we were able to install a dishwasher, hidden in the original cabinet design. Two retro refrigerators, selected to closely replicate the original ice boxes, were installed in the kitchen and in the mudroom. After a ten-month restoration, the Magic Chef stove almost completed the kitchen refurbishment. The final touch was the restoration and reinstallation of the original brass doorbell over the kitchen door to the main downstairs hallway.

We also restored the down stairs powder room, painting, wall papering and replacing the toilet, pedestal sink and plumbing fixtures with period-correct porcelain pieces.

While the original kitchen was being recreated indoors, Sandy got to painting the exterior of the house, first painting the under-eaves, then the walls and finally the trim, consuming hundreds of gallons of paint. We were very popular at Dunn-Edwards on Greenleaf! However, before the exterior painting could be completed, the railing on the rear balcony needed to be replaced back to original. The original wood railing had been replaced with a wrought iron railing and the redwood decking had been replaced with ceramic tile. Michael and Sandy combined efforts

to beautifully restore the balcony, using photos of the original and again picking up the architectural details of the barn doors on the garage.

Jim Shepstone then began the backyard landscape design, starting with the remodeling of the pool to match the architectural design of the house, building a fireplace and raised patio adjacent to the newly re-build spa. The supplier of the original stamped red concrete used on the covered patio and



Big Chill makes modern refrigerators that duplicate the look of vintage ice boxes or earlier times.

the veranda was found in Los Angeles and so we were able to repeat the same finish on the new raised patio. The entire yard was replanted with a cooler northern California shade garden on the one side and a southern California desert garden on the opposite side of the yard. The desert garden was created from "pups" we brought from our Ross Street house. Jim also planted

a variety of eight fruit trees along the rear driveway, where fruit trees had originally been on the property, the harvested fruit being passed down through the driveway transom windows to the canning room in the basement.

As you might imagine, the full restoration of a 4,200 square foot house involves hundreds of details, too many to remember, to speak nothing of writing down. The house retained more than half of its original light fixtures and the Batchelder fire place (design #357). Denise spent the better part of a weekend removing decades of soot from the fireplace and we scoured the earth to find period correct replacement light fixtures.

At this point, what remains of the project is the painting of the back staircase and the restoration of the two upstairs bathrooms. Like the powder room, the plan is to repaint the bathrooms, repairing and restoring the original tile, some of

which was replaced in the water damage repair mentioned previously. Again, we plan to have tile custom made to exactly replicate the original bathroom tile, such that when finished, the tile will be as it was in 1928. Finally, we will replace the modern sinks and toilets with period correct pieces and find period correct replacements for the missing light fixtures.

It is our privilege to be the custodians of this lovely old home and to safely preserve it for future generations.



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Santa Ana students receive Floral Park scholarships presented by Mayor Vicente Sarmiento, Councilperson Jessie Lopez and FPNA 1st VP Tracey Stein.

Floral Park Awards \$11,000 in Scholarships to Santa Ana Students

As part of our charter, each year Floral Park Neighborhood Association awards at least five scholarships to Santa Ana high school and Santa Ana College students who represent excellence in volunteerism and community involvement. This year, even amid the challenges of COVID, we were thrilled to endow a total of 11 scholarships, of \$1,000 each, to some very deserving young students!

Our ability to award this many scholarships is due in large part to the generosity of our Floral Park neighbors, who privately funded six scholarships! A huge Floral Park thank you to Karen & Ed Athey, Susan Hart, Helen & KC Jones, Ed Trotter & Sandy DeAngelis, Wayne Suraci & Merle Craig, and George & Kelli Will for generously giving an additional \$6,000 to the Scholarship Fund, so that we could recognize an amazing group of young people.

Lastly, a heartfelt thank you to the Sponsorship Committee—Gary Barton, Merle Craig, Julie Humphreys, Mark Rothenberg, Tracey Stein, and Wayne Suraci—for all your time spent reading applications and selecting scholarship and charity award win-

ners. Your passion for volunteerism and community service is inspirational and I know we helped make a difference in our neighborhood and our city.

2021 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

ALEXIES BENITEZ Joe Banger Award Circulos High School

Because English was not her first language, Alexies felt left out of important conversations and struggled academically. She wanted to make sure other students did not feel the same way, so she and a friend designed a literacy program to serve young students in her community. Alexies and friend received a \$5,000 fellowship to implement their program called “Children Read Together.” The program served 61 elementary students by utilizing books both in English and Spanish to teach literacy over the summer at Latino Health Access, Heroes Elementary, and OC Rescue Mission.

Alexies told us that “This experience changed my life. By running a literacy program in my own com-

munity, I helped impact children and their families through the empowering tool of literacy.”

In the fall, Alexies will be attending Cornell University with a major in human biology, health, and society. She hopes to someday become a doctor.

ARLENE CORTEZ Helen & KC Jones Award Santa Ana High School

Arlene joined the Freshman Mentor Program in high school, where she led a weekly class of 30 students. In efforts to help the kids plan out their future goals, Arlene created a presentation that introduced them to the higher education system and exposed them to various career options.

In her essay, she told us that “Not only did the opportunity allow me to be a leader and a role model for my mentees, but I also learned to step out of my comfort zone and I became an advocate for others. I became comfortable with speaking in front of crowds and asking questions while avidly looking for solutions.”

Arlene will attend Cornell University and major in animal science.

RAY DIAZ**Suraci/Craig Award Winner
Samueli Academy**

Ray served as chairman of the Santa Ana Youth Commission, which he says taught him valuable skills he'll take with him for the rest of his life. The Youth Commission acts in an advisory capacity to the City Council in matters pertaining to youth and teen services, programs, and cooperation with other public and private agencies. In this position he has had opportunities to meet and work alongside neighborhood leaders to find solutions for our city's most pressing issues.

Ray says, "Nobody can do everything, but everybody can do something. Giving back to your community is essential to restoring your neighborhood and making it a better place than how you found it."

Ray will attend either UC Santa Cruz or Cal State Fullerton majoring in political science. He hopes to come back to Santa Ana and teach for SAUSD, with perhaps an eventual path to getting involved in our local government.

CIELO ECHEGOYEN**Susan Hart Award
Santa Ana High School**

Cielo interned at Project Summer Employment in Law Firms (SELF), driven to lend a hand to those who remained in ICE detention. While working as a translator for law students who were assisting detainees, Cielo implemented a letter-writing program to help elevate cases and gain the attention they deserved.

Cielo wrote, "As I prepare for college and begin my journey toward becoming an oncologist, my heart continues to fill with hope that my education will provide me with additional tools to do more than translate for my community."

Cielo will be attending Harvard University this upcoming fall as a molecular and cellular biology major, aspiring to become a surgical oncologist and cancer researcher.

STEPHANY GUTIERREZ**Santa Ana High School**

Stephany gave her time to the Freshman Mentor Program and Super Tutors, providing first-year students with a mentor who helps ease the adjustment from junior high to high school. She worked with students for the entirety of their freshman year, and developed weekly lesson plans, varying from college awareness to financial literacy, for predominantly first-generation students.

Stephany says that "In my three years as a mentor, I learned how gratifying it is to share my knowledge and empower students. This also shaped my goal to lead a life of purpose and be of service to others."

Stephany will attend Harvard to major in philosophy and government.

VICTORIA MEDINA**Samueli Academy**

Victoria gave her time to A21, a nonprofit organization that works to combat human trafficking. She helped organize and participated in the global Walk for Freedom, and she said "looking around and seeing the hundreds of people standing behind me, nothing could get to me. I cried because I was finally sure of what I wanted to do in life. Through these experiences I was able to grow immensely in terms of impacting my community. Actively participating in these events taught me that it does not have to be my problem for me to care. And I learned that no matter how big the problem may seem, there is always something that can be done."

Victoria will be attending Irvine Valley College then transfer to UCI to obtain a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. After this, Victoria would like to attend the UC Irvine School of Law so she can advocate for those who are unable to advocate for themselves.

JOE MENDOZA**Will Family Award
Middle College High School**

Joe's volunteer work includes the Big Brothers Big Sisters program, which matches high school students (called Bigs) with elementary students (called

Little) based on their similar interests. Joe said, "I wanted to be the mentor that I wished I'd had when I was his age. By encouraging my Little to work hard in school and inspire him to go on to college, I felt I was uplifting my community, by demonstrating that higher education is an achievable goal for anyone, regardless of their background."

Joe plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in computer science.

LESLY NICASIO**Will Family Award
Santa Ana High School**

Lesly volunteered for the Human Options Ambassador Program, a nonprofit organization that brings awareness to domestic violence. They provide domestic violence survivors with resources such as therapy, shelter, food, and supplies to help start a new chapter in their lives. As a special project, she created a social media platform for adolescents to offer information and resources to prevent the cycle of domestic abuse. She told us that "working for them and with them impacted my life to a great extent because I am now able to recognize signs of domestic abuse, help my community, and point people toward appropriate resources."

Lesly plans is to attend the University of California Santa Cruz and get a bachelor's degree in business management economics.

CINTHIA OCHOA**Segerstrom High School**

Cinthia began tutoring elementary school students in her freshman year at Segerstrom High. In her essay, Cinthia said "tutoring has not only given me an opportunity to help others but has also given me an opportunity to grow as a person. When these students come to me and tell me I helped them understand a topic or that I helped them improve, I am grateful that I am that to them; I am that helper I never had. I will forever be grateful to have had the opportunity to become a tutor in the community in which I grew up."

Cinthia plans to attend a four-year university and major in sociology.

LESLIE RAMIREZ DeAngelis/Trotter Award Santa Ana High School

Leslie was an active leader of the Freshmen Mentor Program, a program within the Santa Ana High School community whose sole focus is to serve the campus academically. This allowed Leslie to embrace the skill of advocacy through many different forms.

Leslie learned to guide others into the known. “The tools of comprehension, service to others, optimism, and commitment have shaped me into a leader. As I embark onto my next chapter, I will adapt these traits to my future as I pursue a career as a speech pathologist with the goal to continue to help others.”

Leslie plans to attend a four-year university, either Cal State Fullerton or Cal State Long Beach, and major in speech-language and communicative disorders.

OSCAR MARTINEZ Valley High School

Oscar organized the Youth in Resistance Conference —to learn about community issues and become empowered through civic engagement. He started from scratch, organizing this conference to facilitate workshops regarding mental health, the school-to-prison pipeline, immigration and other crucial societal issues. He contacted donors such as local vendors and community organizations, worked with other leaders to facilitate a conversation, in which the importance of utilizing their voices for the greater good was reaffirmed.

“I obtained a greater determination to continue advocating for what I believe is right and beneficial to my community as a whole.”

Oscar will attend Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, New York, to study political science and/or psychology.

2021 CHARITY AWARD WINNERS

In addition, we recognized five Santa Ana-based charities that support our community through educational pro-



Receiving Floral Park charitable gifts are (L to R) Lauren McGunigale for Mercy House, Yazmin Dukes for MOMS OC, Peg Corley the LGBTQ Center OC, and Christ Sheehan for Hope Builders.

grams, mentorship, and advocacy. Each received a neighborhood donation of \$400. To learn more about these organizations, please visit their websites. Nominations for each of these charities came from Floral Park neighbors, so if you have a local non-profit you'd like considered next year, please send a note to sponsorship@FloralPark.com.

HOPE BUILDERS (tsjhopebuilders.org)

Hope Builders empowers Orange County's young adults with mentorship, life skills and job skills training that meets the needs of employers. Every year, Hope Builders enrolls more than 200 young adults, who are caught in the ongoing cycle of poverty, and strives to help them achieve and maintain self-sufficiency.

ORANGE COUNTY CENTER FOR THERAPEUTIC ARTS (occtac.org)

OCCTAC provides innovative, artistic, educational and therapeutic programs that inspire and transform children, at-risk youth, adults and their families to fulfill their highest potential.

LGBTQ CENTER OC (lgbtqcenteroc.org)

Celebrating their 100th year in Orange County, the Center advocates on behalf of the Orange County Lesbian

Gay Bisexual Transgender and Queer/Questioning communities and provides services that ensure its well-being and positive identity.

MERCY HOUSE (mercyhouse.net)

Mercy House provides dignified housing and comprehensive supportive services to a wide variety of homeless subpopulations including, but not limited to, adult men and women, families, mothers and their children, veterans, chronically homeless individuals, persons living with HIV/AIDS, individuals overcoming substance addictions, and those who are both physically and/or mentally disabled.

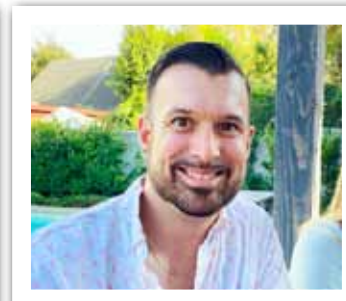
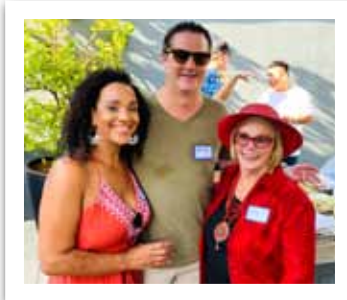
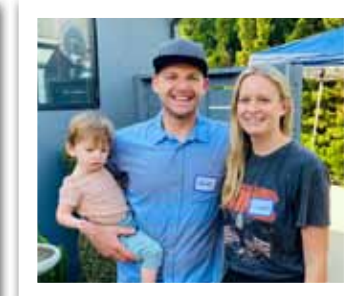
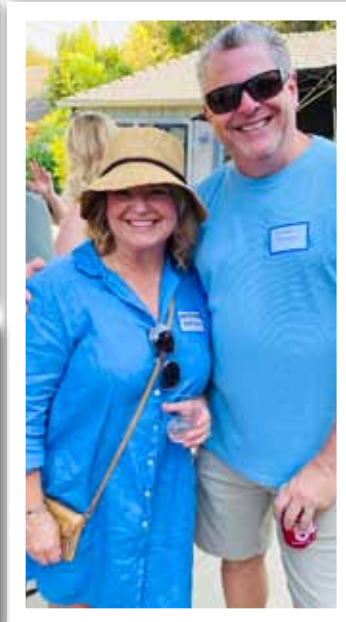
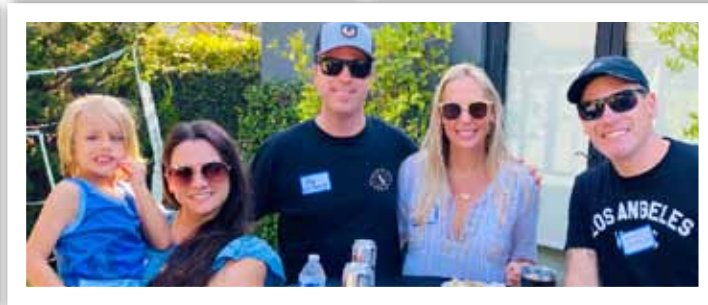
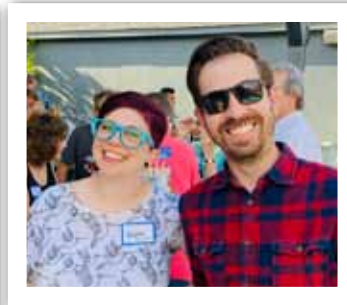
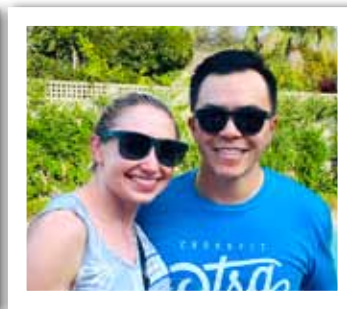
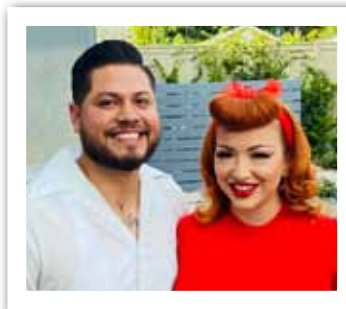
MOMS OC (momsorangecounty.org)

MOMS OC provides free access to pre-natal care, health screenings, health education, and referral services through monthly home visits and group classes. Services are rendered in Santa Ana.

Funds for scholarships and charitable awards come from donations, the annual home tour and other fundraising activities. To make a donation towards next year's awards, go to FloralPark.com/giving or FloralPark.com/scholarship-fund. For more information, email Giving@FloralPark.com.

Floral Park in Pictures

We held our first neighborhood mixer in over a year poolside at the home of Kevin Shuler and Brian Stoddard on Heliotrope Drive, Sunday, September 4. It was our best attended best mixer ever! FPNA president Jeffrey Katz introduced new neighbors and kept us up to date on happenings in the neighborhood. For more photos, go to FloralPark.com/gallery.





Southern California Development Inc. sold four lots with plans for this whimsical storybook house- three of them were in the Beverly Grove neighborhood in Los Angeles and one was built in 1927 on North Park Boulevard in Floral Park.

FLORAL PARK ARCHITECTURE: STORYBOOK

BY DAVID KO

A century ago, Santa Ana, a rapidly burgeoning city, spurred exponential growth in civic and private enterprises, as well as agriculture. The roaring '20s brought flourishing commerce, retail, and culture. Although an outlying suburb of Los Angeles, this self-sustaining city had everything within easy reach and residents could ride the Pacific Electric Railway streetcar to Downtown Los Angeles for work, shopping or pleasure.

The popularization of the automobile and the era's economic boom fueled a surge in exclusive residential developments. North

Broadway Park, later renamed Floral Park, was significant in both community design and architecture. It was the first, and indeed is still one of the few, curvilinear subdivisions in Santa Ana. The design of North Park Boulevard utilized a signature landscaped median which had earlier proven successful by famed landscape architect Frederick Law Olmstead. The neighborhood's significant setbacks and neatly maintained environments supported the concept of a carefully planned residential park. Indeed, the promotional litera-

ture for North Broadway Park declared this to be “one of the finest residential parks ever conceived.” Even the Library of Congress kept records of this astonishing achievement.

Southern CA Development, Inc. handled sales and marketing for both North Broadway Park and its sister development in Los Angeles, Beverly Grove. From its office at 4th and Spring Streets in Downtown Los Angeles, they sold 50-foot wide lots here and 45-foot lots in Beverly Grove.

Most neighbors purchased a single lot on which to build a modest home. A few combined lots in order to construct much larger homes. Many chose developer’s stock plans prepared by architects, which is the reason Floral Park and Beverly Grove share architectural resemblances, some homes virtually identical except for lot size.

Specific blueprints were hugely popular among consumers and led to the construction of look-alike houses at both locations. The “castle house” built in 1927 on North Park Boulevard is a carbon copy to three other Storybook homes built prior in Beverly Grove. Duplicated down to minute details, the design was originally created by a set designer from nearby Famous Players Lasky Studio (which later became Paramount Pictures).

Floral Park is noted for its Storybook theme, an offshoot of the arts and crafts movement. These fairytale-like, whimsical, and uniquely American

homes were born in both the trenches of World War I and the Hollywood film industry.

While most cities had one or two theaters at the most, in the 1920s, downtown Santa Ana boasted seven grand motion picture palaces and was considered a destination hub catering to affluent audiences. With the widespread popularity of motion pictures, consumers dreamed of living in a home straight



from the lavish movie sets of Mary Pickford and Douglas Fairbanks.

Capitalizing on America’s newfound fascination with mysterious lands became a guaranteed money maker for the rapidly expanding movie industry. Hollywood began cranking out films set in historical periods and recreated foreign locations. Silents like 1925’s

“*Son of the Sheik*” starring Rudolph Valentino, featured backdrops that were works of art in themselves. The same techniques that went to creating the exotic and whimsical look of these early films eventually applied to Storybook-style houses in Beverly Grove, then passed to Floral Park.

The golden age of Hollywood attracted talented craftspeople and artists from across the globe. But many of these artists crossed-over to residential design to build a paradise of unique revival-styled architecture resulting in picturesque, idealized versions of European architectural antiquity.

The Great War (1911-1918) had sent young Americans to Europe for the first time, and many came back charmed by the romantic architecture of rural France and Germany. For the first time, soldiers brought along cameras and documented, among other things, the rustic architecture found in European villages.

The development of the halftone process in the printing industry also brought photographs to magazines, replacing old-fashioned engravings. For the first time, the public could easily view “exotic” locations, which meant the public could view European architecture as it was, not as interpreted by illustrators. These magazines became a source of inspiration for homeowners, builders, and architects.

To begin to envision a whimsical Storybook-style home, think of an old

The storybook style is a nod toward Hollywood design and took a foothold in Southern California during the 1920s and 1930s. Featuring a sense of playfulness and whimsy, they seem snapped out of an old-world village.



SWAYBACK ROOF

Steeply sloping rooftops make it look like gravity has taken its toll over the years.



THATCHED SHINGLES

Wood shingles laid in a swirly or wavy pattern to simulate the look of a thatched roof.



TURRETS

Towers and turrets with conical roofs, spires are a popular feature in Storybook homes.



ARCHED WINDOWS

Windows and doors on Storybook houses draw heavily from the medieval Tudor style.



2340 N. RIVERSIDE DRIVE

English cottage, a castle or even Snow White's home in the forest. With winding fascia boards and cartoonishly lopsided walls and roofs, the entire design is a cleverly wrought caricature of dilapidated antiquity. They featured dramatically exaggerated medieval or other "exotic" styles, with traits like thatching, crooked walls, and swayback roofs. Artificial aging of finishes and use of ancient artisanal decorative motifs were also essential components.

Many set-design tricks gave the homes a venerable look, including the building's walls purposely framed off-plumb and its plaster work distressed to resemble aged masonry. Hand-built, curvilinear, hewn-cut rafters and beams were used instead of machine straight-cut lumber of mass production homes. Exposed timbers were first charred in a local lumberyard's incinerator and then wire-brushed to produce the effect of great age.

Hollywood was uniquely qualified



2032 GREENLEAF STREET

to produce homes of the Storybook style's felicity and originality. Set designers fit in as many visual references to a time and place as possible, creating historically impossible architecture. Crafts people in the film industry were capable of creating a false sense of patina, giving the impression of age, and adding a level of fanciful fiction to the Period Revival style that evolved into the Storybook style.

Floral Park's typical lot width of 50-feet seems palatial by today's standards, but was deemed merely sufficient in the 1920s. So developers embraced the concept of gracious setbacks to create an identity and disguise dense urban development as bucolic sprawl.

While there is no specific definition of what makes a house Storybook in style, the main factor may be a sense of playfulness and whimsy. Most seemed

BELOW: Flat roofs hidden behind steep-pitches allowed headroom in the second story.



2357 RIVERSIDE DRIVE

snapped out of a ragged old-world village with intentionally pitched roofs, cobblestones, doors, and windows that may look mismatched and odd-shaped.

Storybook-style houses often feature common eccentricities. Roof shingles might be deliberately misaligned and arranged in unusual patterns. Decorative wrought iron works on doors and gates might help evoke a more ancient era. Ditto for turrets and dovecotes or pigeon shelters. Exposed beams on half-timbered Storybook-style houses might be distressed to give the appearance of age.

Back when land was plentiful, building a single-story home was cheaper than building a two-story house, a notion that hardly makes sense today. However, the single story home's low roofline was considered too mundane or modest and was disliked by consumers. Storybook's dramatic and steep pitched roofline was an immediate cure, not only im-



2003 ROSS STREET



2005 N. ROSS STREET



2140 N. GREENLEAF STREET





1904 N. FLOWER STREET

pressive but utterly charming.

Although the storybook style was ideal for a single-story house with modest footage, a more significant two-story required a seasoned architect who specialized in roof geometry. The beauty lay in the impressive and picturesque roofline.

Normally a house's exterior dictated the interior. Storybook homes with their asymmetrical and awkwardly sloped ceilings limited interior space and made second stories unpractical. Set designer got around this by creating one-room deep exterior facades and then sound stage interior sets that didn't necessarily correspond to the facades. But home designers didn't have this luxury. The space dilemma of steep roof lines was a real problem limiting room size, slipping ceilings and making staircases too steep to climb.

The solution for designers who wanted to create a more prominent and spacious home was to increase second story ceiling height by incorporate a flat



2442 N. HELIOTROPE DRIVE

portion to the roof. Unfortunately, flat roofs are prone to leak and eventually requiring attentive maintenance. The Storybook style, where form came before function, has rarely been able to resolve the roof and proportion dilemma. Some ended up building a flat roof box house and tacking a storybook facade onto the front.

The Storybook style inspired Walt Disney, then a small-time animator living in Los Feliz. Disney, who became a lifelong admirer of these homes, included many stylized storybook structures in his films and parks. A series of eight Storybook cottages built in 1931 just a few blocks from the original site of Walt Disney's studio, bear an uncanny resemblance to Disney's 1937 *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*.

With the onset of the Great Depression, the construction of Storybook-style houses tapered off as people turned to more economical house designs. The emergence of stricter



2214 N GREENLEAF STREET

building codes, more labor-intensive construction costs, and a trend towards mass production, further rendered Storybook-style houses impractical.

Despite its faddish success, the heyday of the original storybook-style was brief. By the early 1930s, the Great Depression had slowed all buildings to a crawl. The style's over-the-top design made it date rapidly in an era that was increasingly turning toward modernist architecture. By the mid-1930s, all revivalist architecture, particularly the theatrical storybook work, was seen as outdated.

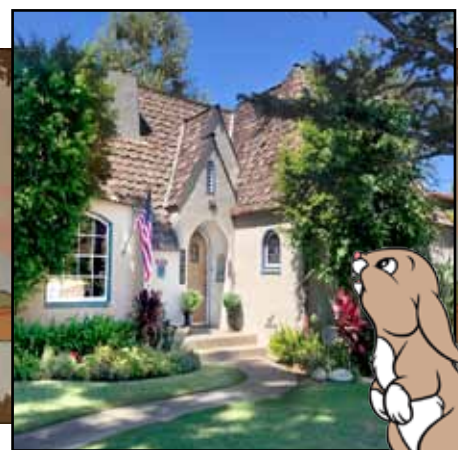
The Storybook houses never had a resurgence and fell into extinction. Today these vintage homes in Floral Park, the only surviving and well-preserved enclave in Orange County, immortalized by Disney, intrigue visitors and homebuyers of all ages to experience and imagine the timeless classic and wonder of Fairytales coming alive from pages of their childhood storybooks.



2130 N. GREENLEAF STREET



528 SANTA CLARA STREET



2203 ROSS STREET

CA State Resources Commission to Review Floral Park Historic District Request in October

As many of you have received letters from the State Historic Preservation Office recently, we have an important update. The decades-long concerted effort to place Floral Park neighborhood on the National Register of Historic Places as a Historic District will be heard in late October 2021 by the California State Historic Resources Commission, a nine-member state review board appointed by the Governor with responsibilities for the identification, registration, and preservation of California's cultural heritage. It is finally happening!

This nomination was made possible by the tireless work of the Floral Park Historic Preservation Committee and local historian, Dylan Almendral, who drafted the comprehensive nomination document.

Since 2008 when FPNA began formal efforts to seek Historic District designation, there have been many meetings with the city staff, local colleges and within the neighborhood. Members of the committee have changed over the years, but the committee has remained committed to seeing this effort to completion, persevering through the unfortunate loss of several members and many hours of hard work and dedication. Numerous prior efforts were attempted using volunteers to complete the lengthy and detailed application process, which ultimately proved inadequate to the task—though not for lack of trying!

In the fall of 2018, the committee approached local historian Dylan Almendral to draft the complex nomination application and see the project through to completion. That effort, through a pandemic and a personal loss, has finally come to a head. The culmination of nearly 3,000 hours of work, included research, drafting the text, photography and formatting the document. This was followed by a series of edits with the cooperation of a state histo-



rian, and our own Julie Humphreys, Ed Murashie, and Mark McLoughlin...and many cups of tea, and has resulted in a 200-page document that provides a comprehensive survey and overview of the architectural integrity and history of our cherished neighborhood.

The purpose of seeking this distinction is to provide protections for the treasured architectural landscape of our neighborhood. This distinction has both state and federal provisions through the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service. This will also make certain grant opportunities available for the restoration and rehabilitation of our historic homes in the neighborhood. This will keep Floral Park...Floral Park.

Dylan is very honored and privileged for the trust and understanding that has been afforded to him through this project, and for the many friends he has made while in its pursuit. The neighborhood's collective support for this project and partnering with him to see it through, has been one of the greater accomplishments of his life. In turn, Floral Park has been very fortunate to have Dylan's expertise and dedication in taking the helm to guide us through a lengthy endeavor that proved more complex than anticipated. We are thrilled to be in sight of the finish line at long last! Many thanks to everyone involved in this effort since inception, and for the neighborhood's

support of this project. For more information, write History@FloralPark.com.

Q. *What is a National Register Historic District?*

A. A National Register historic district is a concentration of historic buildings, structures, sites, or objects united historically or aesthetically by plan or physical development. Not every home in an historic district needs to have particular historical architectural, engineering or cultural distinction, but the collection as a whole must have significance in at least one of these areas. The City of Santa Ana currently has two National Register Districts: Downtown Santa Ana (listed in 1984) and French Park (1999).

Q. *Why does Floral Park want to be listed as a National Register Historic District?*

A. Floral Park is already an area of local historic significance. Historic buildings are tangible links with the past. They help give a community a sense of identity, stability and orientation. It will help the neighborhood preserve the aesthetic value and character that attracted us to the neighborhood in the first place, and give it the recognition and distinction it deserves. Floral Park is a unique neighborhood within Orange County which simply cannot be recreated. While new developments may try to copy many design and architectural aspects of these homes, we have the originals and there are only 630 of them!

Q. *Will I be prevented from remodeling or adding on to my home?*

A. Not at all! It is recognized that historic properties adapt and change over time; this process is designed to insure that such adaptations do not seriously damage their historic character. This benefits not only the property owner, but all neighbors within the Historic District. Properties listed on the Historic Regis-

ter are subject to the Secretary of the Interior Standards for Preservation, Rehabilitation, Restoration and Reconstruction of Historic Buildings, but interpretation and application of these guidelines is administered through local governments, which, in Santa Ana, is through the Historic Resources Commission. These guidelines apply to exterior modifications only, and “modification” does not include painting.

Q. Will Historic District designation take away my property rights?

A. No. To the contrary, a historic district helps protect your property rights. Part of your property’s value is based on the character and quality of the neighborhood. Historic District status would help safeguard against inappropriate development that could negatively affect your property’s value. These established guidelines should discourage construction of “spec” homes and “McMansions”

that are out of character with the style, size, and quality of the existing property. It will not keep you from selling your property to anyone you like, nor will it keep you from remodeling or otherwise improving your property. By sending a message that you care about the character of the neighborhood, you invite the type of buyers who appreciate these homes. In short, historic district designation is one of the best investments the FPNA can make.

Q. How does this differ from a Mills Act designation?

A. The Mills Act is a separate program administered by the State of California and is an important preservation incentive program by granting property tax relief for home-owners of qualified historic properties. Mills Act is State legislation that allows cities to enter into voluntary 10-year agreements with individual property owners. The property owner promises to

maintain their historic home and make specific improvements to the property during that time. In exchange, that agreement is forwarded to the County Tax Assessor’s office, where the tax base on the home is recalculated. Most Floral Park property owners who have entered into Mills Act contracts have seen significant reductions in their property taxes. The benefits of any tax reduction transfer to new owners of the property. The inclusion of a home within the boundaries of a National Historic District may assist in the evaluation of a property for purposes of a Mills Act designation, though this does not guarantee qualification.

Q. Will National Historic District status increase my property values?

A. Most likely. A 2011 study found that property values in historic districts saw average increases in property values, ranging from 4% to over 19% per year.

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A PASSION FOR POSTERS

The Eccentric's Corner by Mark Rothenberg

Exploring The Myriad of Hobbies and Passion Projects of Our Neighbors

The television series *Mad Men* depicts the life and times of 1950s advertising executives in New York. During a pitch to Kodak, Don Draper (the primary ad-man) makes a presentation that includes a new contraption designed to project images from a slide onto a screen. In one of the most compelling moments of the series, Don states: "Nostalgia - it's delicate, but potent...In Greek, nostalgia literally means 'the pain from an old wound.' It's a twinge in your heart far more powerful than memory alone. This device isn't a spaceship, it's a time machine. It goes backwards, and forwards... it takes us to a place where we ache to go again. It's not called the wheel, it's called the carousel. It let's us travel the way a child travels - around and around, and back home again, to a place where we know we are loved."

Much like the advertising campaign for the resulting Kodak Carousel, virtually all of the advertising schemes and devices from the 1930s through the present rely on a combination of media forms to advertise a product, show, campaign, or some other form of idea. In stark contrast, the ad men of yesteryear were faced with the task of compressing advertising into a single image. Despite their inability to make

use of social media, the old advertisers made use of posters to convey complex ideas in graphically compelling advertisements. Many of these advertisements have become iconic. By way of example, World War I military recruitment posters depicting the fictional character Uncle Sam or Coca-Cola's introduction of a white bearded St. Nic have become part of the cultural landscape. An unanticipated consequence of creating clever poster art was the creation of the poster collector. Whether purchased as a single piece of accent art, or a large collection, vintage posters present the unique opportunity to own and display antique artwork created by famous artists and publishing houses.

Those of us who love vintage posters collect for a number of different reasons. Some collect due to a sense of nostalgia for the past, the glory of the artwork, or to get a greater understanding of history. For some, the motivation to build the collection is very personal and may reflect movies, concerts, or other ideas that truly spoke to the person. As an example, Dave and Crystal Kosak on Ross Street have a wonderful collection of concert and movie posters collected over a lifetime. One fabulous poster reflecting Crystal's early gothic influence is of noted actress Maila Nurmi—also



known as “Vampira” — the predecessor from whom numerous characters (such as Elvira-Mistress of the Dark or Morticia Addams) have taken inspiration. Dave and Crystal also have a number of movie and concert posters reflective of their deep love of film and music. Suzee Katz’s home displays an original poster for the 1954 Universal Studios film *Creature From the Black Lagoon*.

Marc LaFont started collecting movie posters when he was in the 8th grade. His mom would drive him to the Brookhurst Loge Cinema in Anaheim where he got the posters when a film’s run ended. Before long, his entire bedroom ceiling was covered in early 1970s movie posters promoting *Diamonds Are Forever*, *The Aristocats*, *They Shoot Horses Don’t They*, *Dr. Zhivago*, *Kelly’s Heroes*, and the 1970 rerelease of *Gone With The Wind*. Today, however, his displayed posters are more likely to advertise Josephine Baker at the Bar des Folies Africaines in Paris or vintage French cooking fat La Végétaline... none of them on the ceiling.

A discussion about posters generally starts with Alphonse Mucha, Jules Cheret and Theophile Steinlen. Each were painters who subsequently formed publishing houses employing numerous other artists to prepare advertisements for products, theaters, and services. The artistic quality of these posters attracted the attention of poster thieves who regularly removed the posters to display them in their homes. In addition, governments took note and began taxing poster houses. Tax revenue stamps can be found on many vintage posters.

To cash in the poster collector craze, Jules Cheret republished miniature versions of 256 of the era’s finest posters known as the “Maitres de l’affiche” or “Master of the Poster”. These smaller versions were sold to collectors between 1895 and 1900 by subscription. Today, these prints are still highly collectible although (with some exceptions) are fairly easy to find in retail settings and auction sites.

An example from the Rothenberg

family collection includes a famous advertisement painted by the artist Firmin Bousset in 1893 advertising a school-girl professing her love for French chocolate maker Chocolat Mennier. Both an original run of the advertisement measuring at 40” by 52” and a smaller version from the Maitres de L’affiche can be found today although the smaller version (featured here) is dramatically less expensive and much easier to find.



Vintage synthetic silk stocking poster from the collection of Patrick & Denise Johnson.

In addition to countless casual collectors, a number of collectors in Europe began building immense collections of posters in the early 1900s. One such collector was Dr. Hans Sachs. Dr. Sachs was a successful dentist in Germany that counted Albert Einstein as an early patient. Dr. Sachs was an avid poster collector and built a collection of over 12,000 posters. Sadly, Dr. Sachs was arrested by the Nazis and sent to a concentration camp. The collection was confiscated on orders of Joseph Goebbels as the Nazi party had wanted to create a collection dedicated to the promotion of German business art. Dr. Sachs ultimately escaped Germany in 1938. Despite a recommen-

dation from Albert Einstein, Dr. Sachs was ultimately required to get a second doctorate in dentistry—which he did from Harvard in 1941.

Following World War II, Dr. Sachs was informed by the West German government that his posters were destroyed. However, many of the posters (roughly 1/3) were subsequently found in East Germany. In the early 2000’s, Dr. Sachs’s son Peter maintained a nearly decade long fight in court to win back approximately 4500 of the posters from the German government. Peter Sachs was ultimately awarded possession and received the posters in 2013. The bulk of these posters were subsequently auctioned and can be found in various galleries and collections. One stunning example can be found in the home of Patrick and Denise Johnson on Victoria Drive. The poster advertises the sale of stockings and features gorgeous imagery of a woman wearing a bright yellow dress.

Most vintage posters were printed on relatively inexpensive paper stock that may have been at or slightly better than newspaper grade. However, to accommodate numerous customers who might have a large demand for poster art or to ensure that theaters could readily and rapidly have access to posters for shows without having to wait for custom designs, many artists and publishing houses chose to create stock poster imagery which could then be populated with text specific to a product, store, or performance. By way of example, Patrick and Denise Johnson also have a poster from the late 1890s designed by renowned artist Jean de Paleologue (known as “PAL”). The image features a breathtaking ballet dancer but does not contain any text. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, these posters were kept in stock by the poster publisher and text would be added to the poster when requested to support a specific performance.

To suggest a hobby or passion project that you would like explored in a future column, write Mark at Mark11aa@me.com

Care & Compassion Raises Funds for CHOC & Childhood Cancer

by Rachel Borack
Care & Compassion Committee

This is truly one of my favorite months as we prepare for fall and everything pumpkin, and start to brainstorm about the holidays. With kids returning to school while still dealing with a pandemic and mask mandate, I wanted to find a way to make starting the school year even more fun and exciting for them. The Care & Compassion Committee partnered with Ruth Anne Moriarty and her amazing care-givers to make adorable fabric masks for the kids, starting with the little ones in kindergarten. We are donating our first round of masks to the children at Santiago Elementary in West Floral Park. The masks come in various patterns, so the kids will be able



Ruth Anne Moriarty making masks for students.

to pick something they really love.

We also wrapped up our partnership with the American Red Cross with another successful Blood Drive on September 17. The Floral Park blood drives have saved over 173 lives. The American Red Cross is still dealing with a massive nationwide shortage of blood due to the Pandemic, so thank you to everyone who contributed.

Something that is very near and dear to my heart is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month (September). We are partnering with the CHOC Foundation



to raise funds and awareness for a new program. The Onco-Fertility Program is meant to preserve the fertility of the children who are undergoing extensive cancer treatments so they will have the opportunity to have kids one day, after their cancer treatment is complete. For details and a link where you can send a donation, go to FloralPark.com/news.

With the Holiday season approaching, we are getting excited to kick off another food drive for November and a toy drive for December—both will benefit children and low income families within the city of Santa Ana.

I want to give a shout out to Marc La-Font who has helped me spearhead all our blood drives and monthly events. I couldn't do what I am doing without his help and guidance and that of our amazing community. It is always refreshing to see everyone pull together to make these events impactful. I am blessed to have such wonderful neighbors who are like family, and to give back to this wonderful community we all love and cherish.

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FLORAL PARK Social Scene

Denise Silva & Jeanette Mustafa
Floral Park Social Co-Chairs

With the backdrop of a bright summer day, warm wind blowing, community and patriotic spirit on full display from table to table in decorations and in delicious picnic treats, it is no wonder close to 350 residents and family of Floral Park Neighborhood Association were electrified by a keen sense of and gratitude for their freedom at this year's Freedom Fest!

It had been close to a year and a half since the last community event had taken place and our community was ready for this day of extraordinary summer festivities! It was a quintessential celebration offering up entertainment, community outreach and enjoyment for kids old and young.



Thank you to all who supported the event with their attendance, sparkling personalities, and charm. You are what makes our community so strong!

Thank you to all the social committee members for their unwavering support to make this event truly spectacular and run so smoothly. Most importantly, our gratitude and heartfelt thanks to Suzee and Jeff Katz for your thoughtful celebration of our freedoms. You gave us a platform so we could collectively pay tribute to those who have supported and sacrificed for our freedoms. It allowed us to share a reflective moment that gave everyone "the feels." What a special day!

Looking ahead, we have our Havana Nights Fall concert scheduled for Saturday, September 25 from 5pm-9pm and our Holiday Spectacular scheduled for Saturday, December 4 from 3pm-6pm. (You can always find information about upcoming events at FloralPark.com/calendar.) We look forward to seeing you all and continuing our community celebration then!

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Glenwood Residents Return to Floral Park

Residents of Glenwood House visited Floral Park's historic Hillis House in September for a Miami Vice-themed pool party. The event raised funds for the residents "prom" which will take place during the annual gala at the Festival of the Arts on October 17.

Glenwood Housing Foundation provides non-profit housing and supported living services to adults with developmental and/or intellectual disabilities. In addition, the nonprofit organization provides educational, physical and emotional support through regular meetings, events and outings, such as this one. For more information on Glenwood Housing Foundation and their gala event, visit GlenwoodHouse.org.

Architectural Tour of DTSA on Nov. 6

On Saturday, November 6, Preserve Orange County presents a 2.5 hour-guided walking tour of the landmarks and historic buildings of Downtown Santa Ana. The tour begins at the Old Orange County Courthouse at 2 pm and repeats on February 5, April 2, and June 4, 2022.

Led by experienced tour guides, guests will see banks, courthouses, stores, churches, fraternal halls, and office buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places. You will also learn about active historic preservation issues in the area related to buildings such as First American and the YMCA.

Tickets are \$12 for Preserve Orange County members and \$15 for non-members. For more information or to purchase tickets, go to FloralPark.com/calendar (Local Events).

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It's party time with the annual Floral Park Fall Concert: Havana Nights right around the corner. You're going to want to bring something fabulous to eat during the street party. And Chef Mila has you covered with these delicious and easy to make Cuban recipes!



MILA'S CUBAN ARROZ CON POLLO (Chicken & Rice)

Serves : 6

Time : 1-1/2 hours

Ingredients:

- 6 legs and 6 chicken thighs (bone in)
- 2 cups washed long grain rice (Basmati or Jasmine)
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 cup diced onions
- 2 diced garlic cloves
- 1 cup diced red and green bell peppers
- 4 diced Roma tomatoes
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 8 cups of hot water or chicken broth
- Green peas, cilantro and paprika

Wash and drain rice and set aside. In a large pan add olive oil, sauté chicken on both sides till golden brown. Add onions, garlic, bell peppers and tomatoes. Season with salt and pepper. Add 2 cups of water and bring to a boil and cook for about 15 minutes. Reduce and cover and cook for 30 more minutes. Check for tenderness. Add 4 cups of hot

water, bring to a boil and add the rice and mix well, making sure all the rice is submerged in the liquid. Taste and season as desired. Cover and simmer about 15 minutes until the rice is well cooked. Check and stir occasionally to make sure it doesn't burn on the bottom of the pan. Garnish with paprika. Delicious



GRILLED CUBAN SANDWICH

Serves: 2

Prep Time: 15 minutes

Ingredients:

- 1 fresh light baguette cut into two 6" slices - Big Saver or Ralph's carry light airy ones
- 1 teaspoon yellow or Dijon mustard
- 1/2 lb fresh roast pork cut into 1/4" thick slices (*Big Saver and Northgate carry this.*)
- 4 large slices of a nice glazed ham - Cuban ham is a little sweeter in taste
- 4 thick slices of Swiss cheese
- 1 dill Pickle cut into round slices

**If you don't like dill try the Trader Joe's Bread and butter pickles which are sweeter If you can't find fresh roast pork substitute it with fresh pulled pork or carnitas*

Instructions:

Cut the slices of baguette in half length wise. Spread a thin line of mustard down the middle of the bottom slice. Add 2 slices of ham and 2 cheese



to the top half. Place the pork slices on the bottom half with sliced pickles on top. Put the top on the bottom half, brush it with butter and grill (like a panini) until golden brown and the cheese is melted. *Muy sabroso!*

**If you don't have a grill pan use a regular fry pan and place a heavy item on top of the sandwich to press it down.*

FRIED PLANTAINS (BANANAS) WITH SUGAR AND CINNAMON

Serves: 6 to 8

Prep time: 30 minutes

Ingredients:

- 6 ripe bananas cut into 6 pieces
- 1 tbsp cinnamon
- 1 tbsp sugar
- 1/4 cup oil (enough to fry the bananas)

Instructions:

Peel the bananas and cut into 4 pieces. In a frying pan add the oil and bring to a medium high heat. Add banana pieces, about 4 to 6 at a time (depending on the pan size). Do not overcrowd them. Cook bananas about 2-3 minutes on each side until golden brown. Remove from the pan with a slotted spoon, drain and place on paper towels to dry the excess oil. Garnish with sugar and cinnamon. I like to add a little butter when still warm.

Mila Payne is a cookbook author and sells slow-roasted Roma tomatoes, fresh pesto, dark chocolate sauce with Kahlua and dark chocolate barks under the Sweets & Savories label. She's catered events for many neighbors and friends and makes home-made meals for local pickup or delivery. For more info contact her at milapayne@att.net

Recalling Floral Park Halloween Memories



Kerri Stork (Heliotrope Drive) trick-or-treating circa 1979 when she lived on 19th Street in Floral Park.

I have such fond memories of my childhood on Halloween here in Floral Park. Trick-or-treating, pumpkin carving, running past the spooky haunted houses, and not being able to wait until it got dark! My mom (Linda Koepsell

on Heliotrope Drive) would always make me such amazing costumes and the neighborhood was always so festive. I'm so honored to be making new memories now in Floral Park on Halloween with my own children.

—*Carrie Stork
Heliotrope Drive*



Kim and Lindsey Rodriguez, trick-or-treat in Floral Park.

I grew up on Ross (my parents, Bob and Cathy Huebner still live therw) and loved trick-or-tresting in the neighborhood with my sister in the '80s. Fast forward 30 years and we were moms taking our kids trick-or-treating in the same great neighborhood, My kids, Jack and Malia, loved Treats in the Streets when they were little. Now 21 and 16, they have great memories of Halloween in Floral Park just like I do. And we still enjoy all the neighborhood festivities!

—*Kim Rodriguez
Heliotrope Drive*



Kim Rodriguez, and her son at a Floral Park Halloween event.

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(HALLOQUEENS Continued from page 5)

Growing up, I remember the movie-sized posters of Bela Lugosi and Frankenstein in our living room. He built walk-throughs (what we now call mazes) in our front yard each year and this was way before anybody else was doing it.”

As I sat with Suzee in their home I was struck by the wonder of it - from the Disney villain décor to her inherent warmth and welcome and thought – aren’t we lucky, we HalloQueens of Floral Park, to live in a community of such diverse culture, lifestyle, architecture and backgrounds. Where an annual Halloween Decorating Contest is held, or where a Green Witch and a Gothic Maximalist can live and thrive and feel accepted. And though I own something akin to 100 decorative skeletons, at least I don’t live next door to a serial killer. Or, do I?

Paintings, yard vignettes and items from the homes and personal collections of Trace Weatherford and Suzee Katz.





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FLORAL PARK EPICURIAN



ON THE TOWN

by Ed Trotter

So El Jefe, a.k.a. the editor of the Gazette Marc LaFont, called on me to do a take on nearby Cuban restaurants in anticipation of Floral Park's Havana Nights concert on September 25, to provide some assistance for takeout that evening. I had eaten in one or two locally and a few in Miami, including the famous Versailles on Calle Ocho. If you ever travel there, don't miss it. It's well worth the visit.

I'm also reminded of one of my all-time favorites songs, "Only in Miami," by Bette Midler. It's a jolly, upbeat song about a sad Cuban girl who longs to be back in her native Cuba, lamenting that only in Miami does

Cuba seem so far away.

Yes, we're on the opposite coast, but guess what? There are plenty of local Cuban food eateries nearby. In an effort to give novices a hand (and that would include yours truly), I hauled out Yelp, that bastion of high cuisine, to see what it claims are the five or so best or most popular Cuban restaurants in Orange County.

After that, I consulted my trusty trainer from 24Hour Fitness, Arielly Conde, whose father immigrated from Cuba by boat as a teenager with his mom and his sister, Arielly's aunt Annette, who is the mama chef of the family and knows what is authentic and what is not. Who am I to argue? If I do, it's 30 seconds more on the plank exercise! We're hoping the Conde contingent joins us at our table for Havana Nights.

Anyway, here are what the denizens of Yelp had to say are the favorites, all of which offer takeout or home delivery:

Bella Cuba (Santa Ana)
BellaCubaRestaurant.com

Located at the corner of Bristol and Sunflower, Bella Cuba is a full menu restaurant with a wide array of traditional dishes. Sandy and I had a delightful evening there doing my "research." (This is a tough gig, you know.) I had rabo encendido, oxtails served in a creole sauce with Cuban spices. Sandy opted for the pollo asado, roast chicken in a garlic rub. Both were outstanding.

Papos Cuban Kitchen (Anaheim)
- now closed as a restaurant

We went by a few weeks ago in late August to find that the restaurant per se closed on the very day we arrived, another victim of the pandemic – labor shortage, loan overhead, etc. However, the owner told us that he would continue with catering special events. Given the reviews I read online, this looked like a beauty, culinarily speaking, and so perhaps you can take advantage of their work in the future. Just a mention in case you do research online. And, follow them on their web page.

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Felix Continental Café (Orange) *FelixContinentalCafe.com*

This restaurant on the Orange Plaza Circle is a local, almost historical, institution in Orange County. Dating from the late 1970s, it is particularly noted for its extensive breakfast menu but it is for sure a full-service restaurant. They are especially proud of their paella Valencia, considered to the iconic national dish of Spain named for a Spanish Mediterranean city, it is always a crowd pleaser. But, the menu is extensive. It's worth a view.

Habana Restaurant (Costa Mesa) *RestaurantHabana.com/costa-mesa*

Recently, I had to drop off some visitors at John Wayne Airport and pulled around to Habana Restaurant in Costa Mesa, located on Bristol in what is called the LAB Anti-mall, for some takeout with Merle Craig and Wayne Suraci. Merle had lechon asado, slow roasted pork, garlic mojo, pickled white onions, sofrito black beans, buttered white rice, and sweet plantains. Wayne

enjoyed ropa vieja, Spanish for "old clothes." It's shredded beef braised with sweet peppers, onions, garlic, tomato, sofrito black beans, buttered white rice, sweet plantains. I had paella. All were good, but "old clothes" stole the night. (I love the name.)



El Cubano Kitchen Food Truck in Orange

El Cubano Kitchen (Orange - more of a food truck) *ElCubanoKitchen.com*

Finally, a bit of an outlier. Cubano Kitchen is a food truck/popup type of business. The organizing committee was informed of this option too late to have it at the Havana Nights event. The owner was eager to come but logistics

such as placement of a generator and permitting, etc., just would not allow it. However, be aware he is open near the Orange Circle just north of in the side lot of Fix Auto Repair, just north of Chapman Crafted Beer on N. Cypress. Consult their web page for times the truck is there.

Now, all of this being said, there is a universal national delight, the Cubano, a sandwich of roasted leg of pork, ham, Swiss cheese, pickles, and mustard on a Cuban baguette. Everyone of the establishments listed above offers this must-try sandwich. It would make a perfect meal for the Havana Night event. Easily shared and absolutely tasty, it's always a pleaser. There's even a version of it at Puerto Madero, an all-purpose South American store/restaurant on 17th just before Bristol.

So, give some local businesses your love and support by ordering takeout or home delivery. And, be sure to check out Bette Midler and her rendition of "Only in Miami." I'm hoping it's featured in the band's performance.



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Discovering Your Home's History

by Mark Rothenberg

One of the blessings of living in Floral Park is that if you squint your eyes just right, you can readily envision garden parties featuring gentleman wearing linen suits, hats and ties and the ladies festooned in dapper dresses befitting a late 1930s Sunday lawn party. One can also see families crowded around the radio in their "radio rooms" to hear FDR deliver a fireside chat. Or perhaps we can see GIs with duffel bags slung over their backs returning home from the Santa Ana Train Station after VE or VJ Day.

Many of us have dedicated time to studying the architectural elements of our homes and some of have detailed biographies of the luminaries that lived in some of our storied estates. However, amongst the hustle and bustle, there is a lost world of fascinating



Santa Ana Register February. 16, 1927

people who built homes and created a lifetime of memories that have been passed to future generations for posterity. This column attempts to summarize some of the prior residences one house at a time.

A modest Tudor home sits quietly behind a black picket fence on North Ross Street. A lazy and contemptuous

Basset Hound and wide-eyed and energetic Goldendoodle frolic in front of the front parlor bay window. As I walked home last night, I wondered who might have been sitting in the front parlor looking out onto the street 80 years ago. Often times, newspapers can provide us with the answer.

William Besser was a local merchant owning a men's haberdashery called Bessers located at 315½ West 4th Street. Mr. Besser also served as vice president of what was the First National Bank of Fullerton. The Besser family originally resided at a home located at the intersection of Bush and 6th Street. In 1929, the United States government attempted to condemn the Besser residence and several other houses on the block to accommodate the construction of a new post office. The Santa Ana (now OC) Register reported that Mr. Besser fought the government for several years over a paltry valuation given for the home. The government eventually capitulated and (with the contribution of

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downtown businesses) paid Mr. Besser the sum of \$38,500 (approximately 550,000 in 2021 dollars). Mr. Besser then proceeded to build his home at 2042 North Ross Street. The Besser family consisted of William, his wife, and their two children: Frank and Minnie. Sadly, the Bessers had another son who was killed in a car accident some years prior.

Frank Besser served as a field artillery officer in Bordeaux, France during the Great War and went on to become a local merchant, police officer, and later the United States Marshall in Orange County. Mr. Besser eventually started his own family and lived at 2212 North Ross Street (just two houses down). Frank's sister Minnie eventually inherited 2042 North Ross Street from her parents in the mid 1930s and was widely respected for her considerable charitable work on behalf of the local chapter of the VFW (including serving as its president). Ms. Besser also did considerable fundraising for her church and held numerous garden par-

ties and celebrations in the home. Records indicate that Ms. Besser moved out of the home at some point in the 1950s and passed away in the 1960s. All of the Bessers are interred at the Santa Ana Cemetery. Several months ago, I visited the cemetery and found the gravesites for all of the Bessers as they appeared to have purchased an area of the cemetery for their entire family. I spoke a few brief words of thanks to the Besser family for building the home we are now blessed to call our own and I am confident they were wonderfully warm neighbors.

If you are interested, please feel free to send me an email and I will attempt to research the original family that resided in your home. If your home is chosen and a brief summary of one of the early families from your home's history is prepared, please donate \$50 to the FPNA upon receipt of the summary. Due to the volume of requests, I may only be able to get to one per issue.

You may reach Mark Rothenberg at mark11aa@me.com.

Book Club Slays with October Selection

The October selection for the Floral Park Book Club will be *The Southern Book Club's Guide to Slaying Vampires* by Grady Hendrix. It's an appropriate selection considering the season. The meeting will be held 7:00 pm, October 29 at the home of Joanne Peart, 2038 N. Ross Street. For information, on the book club or meeting, email Suzee Katz at susankatz2525@gmail.com.






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Those of us lucky enough to live here already know what a beautiful neighborhood we have. Now you can experience the beauty of Floral Park all year long without ever leaving your house, and share it with friends and relatives, with the 365 Days of Floral Park Calendar.

Inspired by the Floral Park Instagram page, the calendar features a photo of our neighborhood every day of the year! There's also an introductory page that explains the history of our neighborhood.

The calendar makes a great holiday gift and fits beautifully on the wall of your home, office, or kitchen. Each month focuses on a different home in the neighborhood and the design makes it easy mark so you can stay organized at



a glance all throughout the year. Floral Park events and special days are already marked, so you won't forget them.

The 12" x 19" calendar is available at FloralPark.com/shop for a donation of \$19.95. Sales of the calendar go to support neighborhood communications (like the Gazette), historic preservation, scholarships, charitable donations and community events.

Only 200 calendars are being printed, so get yours while they last. Purchase yours now at FloralPark.com/shop.





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Volunteers Needed For First-Ever Holiday Tour

As you may have heard, the Floral Park Neighborhood Association has had to cancel two years of the Home Tour due to the pandemic, proceeds of which help support the Floral Park Scholarship Fund. So your ever-creative Home Tour Committee has been very busy and has come up with an interim event, the FPNA Holiday Home Tour, scheduled for Saturday, November 13 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM on the southern end of Victoria Drive.

Four homes, each decorated for the season, will be featured. Specially selected vendors will be located at each home with gifts ideas and home good. Mulled wine, beverages and other yuletide spirits will be available at a Winter Wine Garden.

Here's where you come in: VOLUNTEER! How can you do that? We need help in any of the following areas:

- Docent at one of the tour homes,
- Assist in the Winter Wine Garden,
- Help on the set up/take down crew.

To sign up, email HomeTour@FloralPark.com. Serving as a volunteer gets you a free ticket to the tour.

Early bird tickets will soon be available at FloralPark.com for \$35 through Friday, November 5. After that, tickets will be \$40 each online and on the day of the event at the ticket booth located south of Santa Clara on Victoria Driver. Children 10 years of age and under are free. COVID-19 health and safety protocols will be in effect.

For additional information, email HomeTour@FloralPark.com.



Neighborhood Calendar

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

SEPTEMBER

- Blood Drive9/17
- Havana Nights Concert9/25

OCTOBER

- Board Meeting10/12, 7 pm
- Halloween Decorating Contest .10/17
- Walk of Frights10/22
- Halloween Spooktacular10/30
- Halloween.....10/31

NOVEMBER

- General Meeting11/9, 7 pm
- Holiday Tour.....11/13, 10am-4pm

DECEMBER

- Holiday Celebration12/4, 3pm
- Holiday Decorating Contest TBA
- Walk of Lights TBA

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