

FLORIDA NEIGHBORHOOD ZETTE

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Revival**

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HOLIDAY ISSUE 2021

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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

Well, it's been one heck of a year. Starting with a global pandemic that kept us all indoors to a winter filled once again with activities, it's been a year we'll likely never forget.

In the *Gazette*, we celebrated our graduates, examined some of the classic architecture of our neighborhood, shared recipes and gardening tips, looked at the heritage of the Bowers, Paul Revere Williams and Santa Ana High School, told Floral Park love stories, and recognized some of the unique talents and contributions of our neighbors. And, we were recognized as the #1 neighborhood newsletter in America by Neighborhoods USA!

I have to thank everyone who has made this possible. Ongoing writers Ashley Irene for her gardening tips; David Ko for his articles on architecture; Jeff Katz for his articles on our talented neighbors; Mila Payne for her Flora Park's Kitchen column; Ed Trotter for his On The Town column; and Mark Rothenberg for his articles on neighborhood passion projects. Thanks also go to Rachel Borack; Mark Bustamante; David Buster; Peg Corley; Allison DeMark; Erik Hernandez; Jennifer Huynh; Patrick Johnson; Suzee Katz; Elena Levin; Milli Low; Christina Miles; Jeanette Mustafa; Denise Silva; Tracey Stein; Chris Switzer; Allene Symons; and Trace Weatherford for their editorial contributions.

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Here's wishing everyone a happy and HEALTHY new year!

Upcoming Floral Park Events

**TOY
DRIVE**
December 10-12



**DECORATING
CONTEST**
December 19



**WALK OF
LIGHTS**
December 21



**FLORAL PARK
SKATE DATE**
December 30



For more information, go to FloralPark.com/calendar



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All the beauty of Santa Ana's historic Floral Park neighborhood in a colorful calendar with a photo for every day of the year! This calendar makes a perfect gift, is great as decor in your home kitchen or office and easily helps keep track of important dates and events at a glance. Make your whole year beautiful, with the 365 Days of Beautiful Floral Park 2022 Calendar.

Purchase yours now at FloralPark.com/shop.



Letter From The President

by Jeffrey Katz



We end 2021 with the culmination of an effort that has been nearly 100 years in the making: Floral Park has been approved for designation as a historic district by the California State Historical Resources Commission. The commission's decision was premised upon Floral Park's planning and development and our architecture – we are an example of

the City Beautiful Movement of the early 20th century. But, to me, events of 2021 offer other indicia why this neighborhood is worthy so that, as Julie Humphreys presented to the commission, “the character of this special place remains intact and not subject to the gentrification that has plagued other neighborhoods in Orange County and Los Angeles.”

Other than Floral Park's architectural integrity, is there more to our “character” that makes the neighborhood deserving?

The answer came to me this morning as I sat in my home office writing this column. I looked beyond the boughs of our sycamore and I saw Joanne Peart walking one of her sweet chocolate labs. And, then I thought of the Com-Link neighborhood meeting, held on November 18, 2021, where more than 20 neighbors came to celebrate Chris Switzer receiving the 2021 Neighborhood Hero Award.

Historically, communities were a vital part of our social ecology. They were where we gained our identity, preserved our traditions, established friendships and developed reciprocity—the give-and-take on which social life depends. They are where we learned to speak the “we” as against the “I”-inflected language of consumerism and a rights-based political culture.

Today, authentic communities are in short supply. During the last 50 years, there has been a marked decline in our civic and cultural engagement. I think one of the key reasons why there has been a decline is that, in the past, communities were often formed on the basis of long-standing geographical proximity. People stayed in the same place for a long time; so, they got to know their neighbors. Today, people move. The anonymity of urban life diminishes trust. We are afraid to leave the door open. We have become guarded, suspicious and defensive. We move within a narrow circle of friends. Outside that circle, the world is increasingly unknown. We learn about life from distant glimpses on TV or in the press or social media, and our anxieties are easily aroused. Ignorance feeds fear.

Floral Park, however, is a living community that has become an essential part of our collective wellbeing. It bridges

the gap between family and society. It is large enough to extend our sympathies and small enough to be intelligible. It is the human face of common good, which otherwise would remain an abstraction.

Seeing Joanne walking her dogs is something I had taken for granted. Due to a devastating accident borne out of a kind act, she was absent from our streets. How blessed we are in her return.

Chris Switzer has tirelessly given to Floral Park's beautification. And on a Thursday night, more than 20 neighbors went the Com-Link meeting to celebrate Chris and say, “We see you and we appreciate you.”

We live in a day where the individual is emphasized. Floral Park is relentlessly communal.

“Authentic Community” is society on a human scale where we notice when one of us is missing and we take the trouble to find out why. It is where you are there for other people and they are there for you. It is where our griefs are halved and our celebrations doubled by being shared.

This is the character of a neighborhood that is worthy of being preserved. This is...Floral Park.

Closure of the Alley Behind Flower

At the behest of the neighbors on Flower and Olive, FPNA has worked to close off the alley extending from 17th to 19th Streets, behind Flower. The alley is unpaved and rarely used for authorized traffic. As a result, it has become an attractive nuisance for tagging, illegal trash dumping, and fires set by homeless. Neighbors have complained of large dust bowls wafting into their yards when cars have used the alley.

We have received preliminary City authorization for the closure. Currently, we will be able to return the alley to the private ownership of the two Olive St. homes at the north end. This means, a permanent wall will be erected at the northern entrance to the alley providing controlled access into Floral Park and removing visibility of the unpaved eyesore. The neighbors have something special planned for the closure. Stay tuned.

A New Light on Santa Clara

FPNA successfully persuaded the Public Works Department to install an additional historic streetlight on Santa Clara just east of Heliotrope. It was previously reported to us that the light would be installed in November. The City was trying to use its existing on-call street light contractor to install the streetlight. However, due to cost overruns arising from too many knocked down streetlights, Public Works is working on bringing in another contractor. It is now anticipated that the work will start in January, 2022.

Fisher Park & Santiago Creek

FPNA is partnering with Gruett Tree Co. in Orange to plant a Veterans Grove on the north side of Fisher Park to hide the backside fences of the neighbors who border the park. Gruett employee Jackson McConnell (Victoria St.) is spearheading the project. In early December, we will be meeting with Ron Ono, the administrative service manager in Santa Ana's Parks, Recreation & Community Services Agency, to design the grove.

We will be seeing some significant movement on our efforts to address Santiago Creek. The City will be hiring an outside contractor to perform a dramatic clean-up of the City-owned portion of the creek. The contractor will be removing non-native plants and trimming the skirts of native plants to eliminate hideaways for illegal "campers." Neighbors who own portions of the creek will have an opportunity to engage the contractor for maintenance. Once completed, Floral Park and Fisher Park Neighborhood Associations will be looking for volunteers to clean remaining debris.

Shopping Center on 17th

In our June issue of the *Gazette*, we highlighted a designer's rendering of the shopping center to transform the property's appearance into an extension of Floral Park. The project stalled as the property owner attempted to persuade Trader Joe's to become the anchor tenant. Unsuccessful, the property owner has now shifted to bringing in an assortment of businesses that will serve the residents of the Floral Park. He is moving forward with engaging the designer in the next step of the project and is committed to investing seven figures into the remodel.

On December 20, 2021, we will be convening a focus group of Floral Park residents so the property owner can hear your ideas of the businesses he should be pursuing for the property. If you are interested in participating, please email president@floralpark.com.



Flower Street Traffic Calming Project

This is the most ambitious project currently on our neighborhood's plate. Flower St. has seen a shift in its demographic with young families moving in. The change has created an urgency in addressing the unsafe driving which has plagued the Flower St. residents for years.

In October, at Marc and Allyson Thompson's home (Flower St.), the FPNA Ad Hoc Traffic Calming Committee met with senior traffic engineer Frank Orellana and other members of the Traffic Engineering Department to discuss the problem. The committee revived some ideas that were seriously considered by prior iterations of the FPNA Traffic Committee. David Ko (Heliotrope), an architect and *Gazette* contributor, prepared renderings (shared above) of various ideas which were proposed to Orellana and his team.

The problem is that the street prioritizes through-traffic over neighborhood safety. The long blocks with wide lanes and relatively few parked cars invite drivers to speed. The key is to reconfigure the Flower so that it alters the behavior of drivers. Two ideas were discussed: (1) curb extensions; and (2) a roundabout.

Curb extensions (sometimes called bump-outs or bulb-outs when vertically landscaped) give the illusion that the road has narrowed, resulting in slower traffic.

The committee also proposed a roundabout at the Riverside, North Park and Flower congruence. (Can we actually call that an intersection?) We are sure you have witnessed cars taking the left-hand turn from Flower on to North Park at high speeds. A roundabout would slow traffic by compelling drivers to be more deliberate as they negotiate the traffic change. This feature would also serve as an aesthetic entrance into Floral Park.

These ideas have their advantages and disadvantages. And, like any city improvement, they will require funding. A foundational step to this process requires neighborhood engagement. When you witness speeding or unsafe driving (doughnuts!), please call Santa Ana Police Department Traffic Safety at (714) 245-8200. Insist on a reference number. These reports will provide the City with statistics which can be used to support applications for grants and budget allocation.

If you are interested in joining the FPNA Traffic Calming Ad Hoc Committee, please email president@floralpark.com.



Neighborhood Shines at Walk of Lights

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

Judging for the most festive homes takes place on Sunday, December 19 after dusk. The categories include Most Beautiful, Most Creative, Most Old Fashioned, Most Whimsical, Best Use of Lights, and Best Group.

Then on Tuesday, December 21 from 6:00 pm until 8:00 pm, merrily we'll stroll along, stopping at beverage/snack stations along the way.

After taking a break last year, the stations are back. I'm sure you remember from years past how much fun it was to gather at a home along the way and greet each other over cookies, wassail or wine. This year we're asking neighbors to sign up to host stations online. We're hoping to spread the cheer to every street in the neighborhood

To sign up to host a Walk of Lights station, or to find out more, go to FloralPark.com/calendar.

Menorah Lights up Holiday Season

On Wednesday, December 1, Jeff and Suzee Katz hosted their fifth annual Floral Park menorah lighting. This year, the gathering took place on the fourth night of Hanukkah in their front yard on North Heliotrope Drive. Honoring tradition, Jeff and Chabad Rabbi Shuey Eliezrie shared a brief universal message of the holiday.

Hanukkah is the Jewish Festival of Lights and remembers the rededication of the second Jewish Temple in Jerusalem in Israel in the 160s BC. Historically, Hanukkah candles used to be lit outside the front door. It was only fear of persecution that took the Hanukkah candles back inside.

The Floral Park ceremony re-introduces the custom of lighting a giant menorah in a public place to bring back the original spirit of the day. "Hanukkah candles are the light brought to the world when we are unafraid to announce our identity in public, live by our principles and fight, if necessary, for our freedom," said Katz.

Hanukkah began on the evening of Sunday, November 28 and ended the evening of Monday, December 6.



Santa Ana Mayor Pro Tem David Penaloza lights the menorah at the Katz's fifth annual Floral Park Hanukkah Celebration.



Santa Claus Visits at Holiday Celebration

Santa Claus came to town on Saturday, December 4 to make Floral Park's annual holiday celebration merry and bright. After last year's hiatus, Floral Park's beloved Holiday Celebration returned with some new twists. Back were favorites like real snow (generously donated by Sandy DeAngelis), pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus, horse drawn carriage rides and crafts for the kids. The mailbox was there for kids' letters to Santa and neighbors were entertained by strolling carolers and a local choir. The annual toy drive collected toys for children at the Boys & Girls Club of Santa Ana.

Hot chocolate was available for the naughty and the nice and food was provided by the Monkey Business Café truck. At the story book corner, youngsters delighted to hear a holiday reading by a Floral Park elf.

Santa's helpers were also there selling tickets for prizes donated by local neighbors and businesses at the opportunity drawing. It was heartwarming to see neighbors with their families and friends, once again enjoying this wonderful holiday tradition.

"The Joy of brightening other lives, bearing each others' burdens, easing each other's loads and supplanting empty hearts and lives with generous gifts becomes for us the magic of the holidays." –W. C. Jones

Celebrating the Season

by Andrew Han





December holidays are more than just the 12 days of Christmas.

Growing up in Wisconsin, the 5th of December always felt like the true beginning of the holiday season for my family. Before bed that night, my mom would make sure my brother and I hung giant stockings to the end of our beds with a safety pin. Being Niklausabend — German for the eve of St. Nicholas day — the mysterious man would be sure to have it absolutely bulging with treats by morning.

She'd sing:

Niklaus komm in unser Haus,
Pack die großen Taschen aus.
Lustig, lustig, fallerallala!
Heut ist Niklausabend da,
Heut ist Niklausabend da.
Nicholas, come into our house,
And unpack your big bags.
Merry, merry, fa la la la!
Today is St. Nicholas' eve,
Today is St. Nicholas' eve.

Many Americans have transplanted this tradition to Christmas morning. For my wife, who grew up in the Floral Park home we moved to this year, stockings are hung by the gas fireplace with care and are always the first to be unpacked, before any wrapped gifts. Traditionally, they always come with a new toothbrush and floss, a little push back by Mom against the cookies and candies about to be eaten that day.

The holiday season, of course, is more than just Christmas. This time of year, residents across Floral Park are celebrating a raft of holidays. After the year we've had, we may as well celebrate as much as we can. So, in addition to the mainstays of Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, and New Year's Eve, here are a few more holidays you might put on your calendar.

DECEMBER 1 — The first day of Advent (also, Rosa Parks Day.) For those of us with those special calendars that only go up to 25, crack open that big number "one." Whether you have chocolate, booze, or just a little picture inside, the first day is nearly as fun as the last.

DECEMBER 6 — Last night of Hanukkah 2021, St. Nicholas Day. Light that eighth candle on the menorah and give the dreidel one last spin. Most nights are celebrated the same, according to neighborhood President Jeff Katz, but enjoy, because it'll be more than a year before the Festival of Lights begins again on Dec. 18, 2022.

DECEMBER 16 marks the beginning of Las Posadas, a 400 year old Mexican tradition. At dusk, a procession of the faithful takes to the streets with children often dressed as angels and shepherds re-enacting Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem in search of lodging. (Posadas is Spanish for "accommodations.") The festivities often end with the bursting of a star-shaped piñata. December 16 also marks the Second Annual Tamalfest. December is tamale-making season for many Santa Anans, as it's a Mexican Christmas-time tradition. If you want to join in on the action, head to Downtown Santa Ana for the best of the local tamale scene featuring food from restaurants including Perla Mexican Cuisine, Casa Oaxaca, Chapter One, and more.

DECEMBER 21 — Winter Solstice. Some consider it the original reason for the season. Light a flame to celebrate the "rebirth" of the sun on the shortest day of the year. Witchy vibes encouraged. Or, take a visit to one of the old Spanish Missions like in Santa Barbara, where, at dawn, a shaft of light will come in through a specially placed window and illuminate the altar.

DECEMBER 23, or really, anytime everyone can get together — Christmas Eve Eve. This is the day when you get together with as many people as you can before you go your separate ways for Christmas celebrations. Relayed to me by a neighborhood Halloween partygoer whose name I have regrettably forgotten, it's the day you can get together that works for everyone. "It started on a December 23rd, but now it's just

whenever works for people's schedules," she said. For friends, travelers, or extended family.

DECEMBER 26 — First day of Kwanzaa, Boxing Day.

LATE DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS — Make some special time for any Christmas time babies in your life. For Brian Chan and Joanna Petticord-Chan, the week between Christmas and New Year's is especially busy. Joanna's birthday is right after Christmas and Brian's is Dec. 31. "Holiday birthdays are hard because everyone is busy or tired," Joanna says. Brian says he felt like he only got a half birthday, because after 5 pm it was only New Year's Eve. "Now, we always make sure to do something distinct on our birthdays... it's definitely a solid festive mood from Dec. 25 to Jan. 1."

JANUARY 6 — Epiphany. Mexican Americans may celebrate the day marking the arrival of the Three Magi with a rosca de reyes — Spanish for ring of the kings — an oval pastry topped with fruit. Pasteleria La Mejor on First Street gets rave reviews on Google! Or like Marc LaFont's French family, have a traditional Epiphany dinner, complete with galette des rois. "A plastic baby is baked inside a delicious almond pastry," explained LaFont. "It's then sliced and served by the youngest person at the dinner. Whoever gets the baby becomes the king or queen for the evening and wears a crown."

With all these days of celebration, you're bound to have something to look forward to. The best part of the holiday season, for me, is anticipation. Going to bed on Niklausabend all those years ago, I would dream of pulling out a watch or a pack of basketball cards, like Oliver, my one friend whose family had the same tradition. Alas, the St. Nicholas who visited me was much more traditional: candy canes, chocolate, nuts in shells, an apple, and an orange. At least this year, in a new house with a Valencia orange tree, I'm making it easy on the big guy. He won't have to go far to get me that citrus.

For a calendar of holiday events happening in and around Floral Park, go to FloralPark.com/calendar.

FLORAL PARK ARCHITECTURE

SPANISH REVIVAL



Vintage photo of the Spanish Colonial Revival-styled Emison-Georgieff House located at 2335 North Park Boulevard

A century ago, the perfect weather of Southern California attracted a population from all over the world seeking the good life: an abundance of agricultural land, longer daylight hours, and mild climate and opportunities. Bright sunny days lured the motion picture industry away from the East Coast to Hollywood. Following the path of commerce came the finest pedigree of architects and developers to this promised land of new developments. Floral Park was among the finest of these developments.

Hollywood introduced an entertaining-at-home lifestyle that worked on the screen, but not necessarily in real life in real homes. Instead of being designed for hosting parties, they were designed to be pragmatic and practical. The houses were never intended

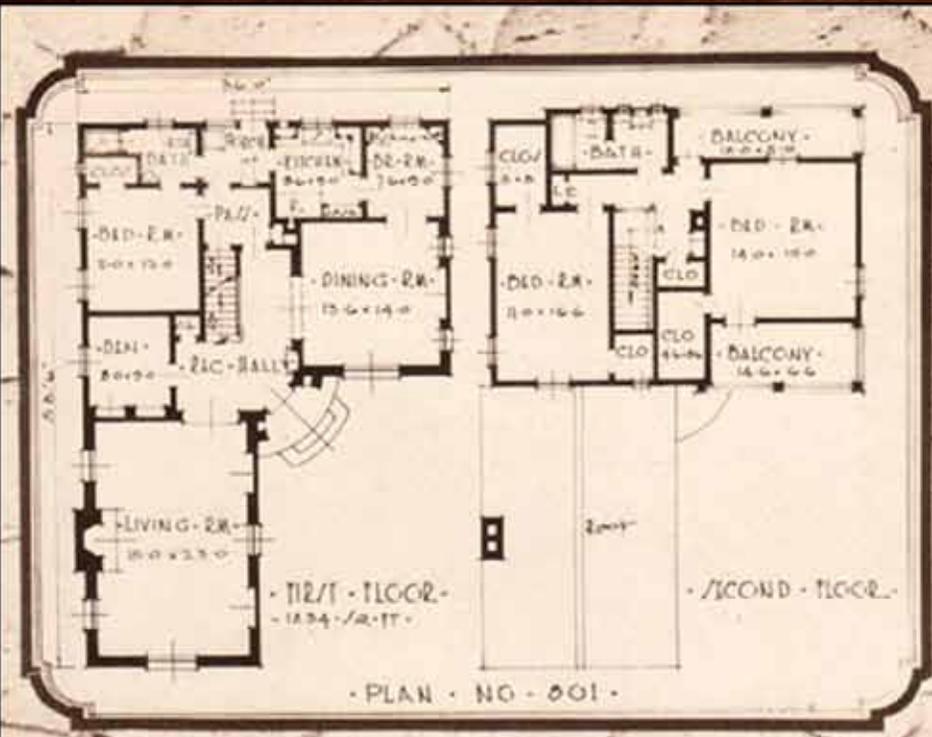
to connect to the beautiful outdoors and their floor plans limited outdoor enjoyment.

By the late '20s, tastes and lifestyles had changed, Homeowners were now seeking homes that opened to the outdoors and had a greater connection to the land. Many ready-made homes were flopped down onto a site without any consideration of the sun angle, prevailing breeze, view, indoor-outdoor relationship, sightline, furnishing layout or room privacy. Furthermore, the lack of bathrooms and inadequate closet space rendered these kit houses obsolete, signaling the end of Sears Roebuck kit house empire.

Beyond the beautiful and calm Southern California weather lurks the harsh, extreme temperatures that were highly destructive to buildings. Prolonged drought and scorching heat

deteriorates, shrinks, splits and twists wood siding, beams, rafters and finishes. Sudden and infrequent doses of torrential rain caused water intrusion into the woods' open pores and joineries, leaving dry rot and mold which also contributed to rapid deterioration. Weakened structures rarely sustain the jolting and movements of Southern California's infamous earthquakes. Ground movements caused buildings to settle or collapse, often making them inhabitable. Furthermore, above all, Santa Ana winds spread fire from house to house, destroys neighborhoods and cities,

At the turn of the 20th century, both the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and the Great Fire of Santa Barbara leveled both cities. Both calamities led to stricter building codes by requiring steel, shear walls, reinforced masonry (to resist seismic forces) and



THE CASA LOMA

Here we have that illusive yet so desired quality in a home—an air of hospitality, that quality that invites the guest and welcomes the owner. This plan is a clever adaptation of early Spanish architecture. Rough mill lumber has been used throughout. A red tiled roof complements the white-washed rough plaster.

Plans and specifications, \$21.00.



Plans for the two-story Casa Loma Spanish Colonial Revival home could be purchased for \$21. This home (mirrored) appears at 1912 Greenleaf Street.



2435 Riverside Drive



2226 Victoria Drive



2020 Victoria Drive



2453 Riverside Drive

fire-rated construction (to retard the spread of fire). Architectural styles such as Victorian, Craftsman and Storybooks with their combustible wood shingle roofs became a paramount concern for both building officials and homeowners.

City planning endorsed the use of lath and plaster, a lightweight concrete, material. It made a non-combustible skin that when used with clay tile roofs helped protect buildings from fire. Plaster, highly malleable, easily applied, and attached over wood stud wall, steel framing, or masonry walls. Its wide adaptability made it an ideal choice for buildings of any scale,

The most significant attribute was that it was patchable, making it ideal for construction revisions and repairs. Its pliability also dissipated seismic energy. A team of artisans can work on plastering walls simultaneously and blend joints flawlessly, thus shortening construction time. Paint adheres to plaster exceptionally well and resists moisture that lifts the paint from the underside. A plaster wall, a blank canvas, made to receive an assortment of architectural applied details of all budgets or, in most cases, just as strikingly beautiful, no details at all and just climbing flowering vines against

the plaster wall. Most importantly, plaster is readily available and easy to create from the abundance of an earthy mixture of sand and aggregate plentiful in nature.

Plaster was not a new invention. Spaniard missionaries built twenty-one California missions that stood the test of time and weathered well in California's climate. However, taller sanctuaries and bell towers, unreinforced brick or stone, built without steel today remain ruins, damaged by earthquakes centuries ago. Adjacent single-story Adobes stood and remained unaffected for over 300 years.

It is these magnificent Spanish antiquities that inspired the creations of the Spanish Colonial Revival movement. It is a style that easily range from small, modest houses to highly decorative stately mansions. It became the style of choice for stars of Hollywood's golden age. It could be seen in commercial, manufacturing, retail, offices, civic buildings, schools, post offices, universities, museums, train stations, and even places of worship. This style works beautifully with any floor plan configuration, a box, L shape, U shape, H shape, Crescent shape, round shape, and even an O shape. Another signifi-

cant attribute is a composition of two stories with one-story wings and even a circular or rectangular tower. Here at Floral Park, there are many Spanish Colonial Revival houses, yet all homes are incredibly different and iconic.

Homeowners could finally create a floor plan to enhance their lifestyle where form follows function. In the past, floor plans were limited and dictated by the style of the home. Spanish Colonial Revival became the ideal Southern California vernacular, seamlessly blending the indoors with the outdoors, with outdoor courtyards and gardens, French doors that opened to the outside, pools and fountains (that provide coolness during the day), outdoor fireplaces and covered loggia.

"To me, Spanish Colonial homes are the type where you can't help but feel comfortable—the kind where you kick off your shoes at the door and pad around in bare feet," said architect Lisa Stacholy. "With plenty of alfresco gathering spaces, these rambling homes express a sense of relaxation and foster a connection to nature and the surrounding environment."

Spanish Colonial homes have several distinct characteristics. The structures are built with very thick walls, recessed windows, typically white

2030 Ross Street



2011 Ross Street



2415 Heliotrope Drive



2412 Heliotrope Drive





2224 Greenleaf Street



2046 Flower Street



2460 Heliotrope Drive



2127 Ross Street

stucco over adobe brick or stone or double framed walls (which helped keep the houses cool), clay tile roofs (which prevent heat transfer to the roof attic keeping the house cool), and a limited number of small window openings. Having only a few small windows allows a cool breeze into the house, but doesn't allow direct sunlight, which can make the space warmer.

These homes were often L-shaped, with a central or side courtyard (a key feature of Spanish-style homes). Historically, the yard let families move the cooking, and its accompanying heat and steam, outside. Today, these patios, porches, and courtyards act as informal gathering spots for family, an outdoor room for extended family and friends. Many Floral Park homes have this distinction. One of the most recognizable features is the red barrel tile roof, which was low-pitched. Owners could look out the window and see their own house.

In some cases, homes have entirely flat roofs with castle-like parapets lining the perimeter. Wooden doors accent the light stucco exterior walls and are sometimes arched, mimicked by arched doorways inside the homes. Interiors of Spanish Colonial Revival

homes innately have a casual, warm feel to them since the wood ceiling may not be covered with plaster or accented with trim, and wooden beams often serve as structural support.

A decade before the widespread of this style, Monolith Portland Cement Company led the research and development of the plaster product and the aesthetic design application. They sponsored a team of architects to visit the Mediterranean region of Europe, with its climate strikingly similar to California, to search and document exotic architectural design ideas and outdoor courtyards and gardens. They made note of the many distinctive characteristics that defined Mediterranean design: round arches at entryway, porch and windows, columned arcades, low-relief carving at doorways, windows and cornices, stucco exterior walls, elaborately carved doors, decorative window grills, spiral columns, multi-paned windows, balconies and terraces, curvilinear gable details, circular turrets, tiled roofs, round arches, wrought iron, deeply recessed windows and doors, thick walls, cantilevered second floors, wood balconies, outdoor staircases, stone-carved door frames, beamed ceilings, and decorative, colorful tile.

Portland Cement Company printed thousand of heavy leather-bound portfolio sized books and gifted complimentary copies to California libraries, universities, architectural firms, builders, and motion picture studios. The books were the design Bible for students, teachers, movie set designers, and architects. Many of Floral Park's Spanish Revival homes have architectural details that resemble images from these two books.

The Panama-California Exposition of 1915 in San Diego was perhaps the most significant force in popularizing Spanish Colonial Revival architecture in America. The Spanish style of the exposition's architecture was deliberately selected to be in contrast to previous expositions in the Eastern United States and in Europe. The exposition attracted twenty-two million visitors, seven times the size of the state's population. The display was so successful that Spanish Colonial Revival architecture became perhaps the dominant architectural style of Southern California in the 1920s.

The world's fair inspired architects, planners, builders, building officials, developers, civic leaders, and all attendees that Spanish Colonial Revival should be the unified theme to build

2410 North Park Boulevard



2218 Greenleaf Street



1904 Greenleaf Street



2102 Ross Street





seamlessly to the outdoors, gracefully ages in Southern California's extreme weather conditions, resists earthquakes, is fire retardant, features adaptable floor plans, and requires less maintenance) made it the architectural style of former US presidents (Hoover, Nixon, Ford, and Reagan), who maintained Spanish Colonial Revival estates in Southern California—houses that embody the California dream.

PHOTOS: Above, the Panama-California Exposition of 1915 in San Diego, currently the site of Balboa Park, is credited as popularizing Spanish Revival architecture in America. Below, Spanish Revival home built on the corner of 19th Street and Flower in 1932 in Ball & Honer's Floral Park development.

new cities and neighborhoods in California. Palos Verdes Estates, Santa Barbara, Ojai, Montecito, Rancho Santa Fe, and San Clemente created CC&Rs that stated only Spanish Colonial Revival was allowed and governed by an art jury to meticulously review developments. To this day, these mature communities retain the highest property values. This methodology inspired The Irvine Company to reach an epitome of success.

The many unique qualities of Spanish Colonial Revival architecture, (blends



Spanish Revival architecture borrows from Moorish, Gothic and Byzantine influences. The Panama-California Exposition held in 1915 at Balboa Park in San Diego popularized the style which was favored in Southern California through the 1930s.



TILE ROOF

Red, fired clay tile roofs are character-defining and include Spanish and Mission styles.



STUCCO WALLS

Wall surfaces are coated with stucco painted in white or tan and are undecorated.



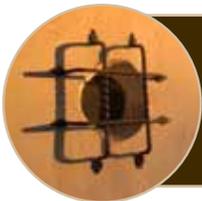
MULTI-PAYNE WINDOWS

Multi-pane casement windows are typical. Focal windows with elaboration are also common.



TOWERS

Round, square or polygonal towers often mark an entrance or stairwell.



DECORATIVE DETAILS

Iron and wood brackets and railings, hand-painted tile and elaborate chimneys lend character.



OUTDOOR SPACES

Outdoor courtyards, covered archades and balconies are an important element of the style.

FURNISHING THE SPANISH COLONIAL REVIVAL HOME

The craze for Spanish-inspired architecture arrived in California in 1915 when Bertram Goodhue designed structures for the Panama-California International Exposition in Spanish Colonial architecture. That, in turn, inspired other architects to study the architecture of Spain and Mexico. By the mid-1920s, the public had whole heartedly embraced the style and Spanish Colonial Revival homes started popping up in Hollywood, Montecito, Pasadena and North Broadway Park. A new style of furniture quickly followed.

In 1929, smart executives at Barker Brothers, the world's largest home furnishing store in Los Angeles, approached Frank Mason and his son George of Mason Manufacturing with a promotional poster from the Fox Film Corporation talkie, "In Old Arizona." They asked the Masons to design a line of furniture inspired by the film for the new Spanish Revival homes that were appearing throughout Southern California. Within a year they had produced a 24-piece furniture line that they called Monterey.



The furniture reflected the influence of old California with its ranchos and haciendas with pieces that were both elegant and whimsical. They were an instant success and became the design of choice for many Hollywood stars for their fashionable Spanish Colonial estates including Will Rogers, Bela Lugosi, Gene Autry, Walt Disney, Norma Talmedge, Clark Gable and Edward G. Robinson.

It wasn't long before other manufacturers also began designing and selling furnishings for Spanish Colonial homes including the Imperial Company, Angeles Furniture Company (with its Monterey-style Coronado line and Granada line of more traditional, carved Spanish furniture) and Stickley (known for their mission-style furniture). Even Sears hopped onto the band wagon with its La Fiesta line. All were popular with Spanish Revival homeowners in the 1930s.

Wood furniture was often given a dark walnut oil stain and fabricated to have the illusion of age. Others were painted with a lively Mexican palette toned down with an asphaltum glaze that created a vintage look. The Mexican cartoonist Juan Intenoché headed the Mason's paint department, and the most valuable pieces of Monterey contain his whimsical designs of donkeys, caballeros, cactus and men sleeping under wide sombreros. He apparently moonlighted at the Angeles Furniture's factory as his designs are also found on their Coronado pieces.



ABOVE: Items from The Angeles Furniture Company's 1930 Granada line furnish the Hillis House on Heliotrope Drive. LEFT: Monterey Furniture brochure, circa 1930.



Monterey's prohibition bar features copper-lined shelves, Catalina tile and artwork by Juan Intenoche. Below: Dorrie Hall's Pasadena store, Monterey Garage, specializes in Spanish Revival furnishings.

One unique feature of early Monterey furniture was the use of rope for seat bottoms of chairs, sofas, and footstools. It disappeared from the line in 1932, however, after women complained that the roughness of the rope caused their stockings to run when they rubbed against it.

One of the most sought-after pieces of Monterey furniture is the prohibition bar. Disguised as a gentlemen's dresser, it swings open to unveil a bar with whimsical Mexican scenes and bright Catalina tile and conceals built-in storage for glasses and bottles. A handle on the lower cabinet features a trick latch that slides to unlock hidden liquor storage. Once again, copies were quickly produced by other manufacturers. Even Bullocks Wilshire sold a version.

Decorative artisan metal workshops opened up throughout California to produce pieces for the proliferation of Spanish Colonial Revival architecture. Lamps, chandeliers, candlesticks, fireplace tools, andirons and tables featured wrought iron in what was referred to as Spanish California style. Monterey style furniture often featured wrought iron embellishments.

To compliment its Monterey line of furniture, Mason Manufacturing began selling china, pottery, bed spreads, floor coverings, draperies and lamps. Additionally, the style incorporated California pottery (Bauer, Pacific,

Gladding-McBean) and tile (Catalina, Malibu), plain air paintings, and rich embroidered fabrics. The style lasted until the mid-1930s when the more modern California Ranch style emerged and Spanish Revival fell out of fashion.

Today, Spanish Revival's rustic charm still conjures up the excitement and glamour of early Hollywood. The old world beauty and whimsy that compelled stars of the 1930s to adorn their homes with California Rancho furniture still maintains its allure today with collectors like Diane Keaton, Ryan Murphy and Diane English.

North Santa Ana native ("there was no Floral Park back then, it was just North Santa Ana") and SAHS gradu-

ate Dorrie Hall is an avid collector and authority on California Rancho design. "My sister would drag me along on trips to swap meets to keep her company," said Hall. "I just tagged along for the longest time, but eventually I succumbed and bought my first piece of Monterey furniture, and that's how it all started." Today, Hall is the owner of Monterey Garage, a Pasadena antique store that specializes in early California design. Her finds have been seen in Architectural Digest, celebrity estates, coffee table books, films, TV and homes here in Floral Park.

"Monterey furniture provokes nostalgia for the baby boomers as a link to the early western film and TV shows we grew up on," said Hall. "Still, it's uncanny original and unique designs cannot be denied and crosses barriers with the most unsuspecting admirers. It's art!"

Looking to furnish your Spanish Revival home with early California antiques? Here's where to start:

The Bungalow Store

TheBungalowStore.com

Early California Antiques

EarlyCal.com

Golden Hour California

etsy.com/shop/goldenhourcalifornia

Monterey Garage

MontereyGarage.com

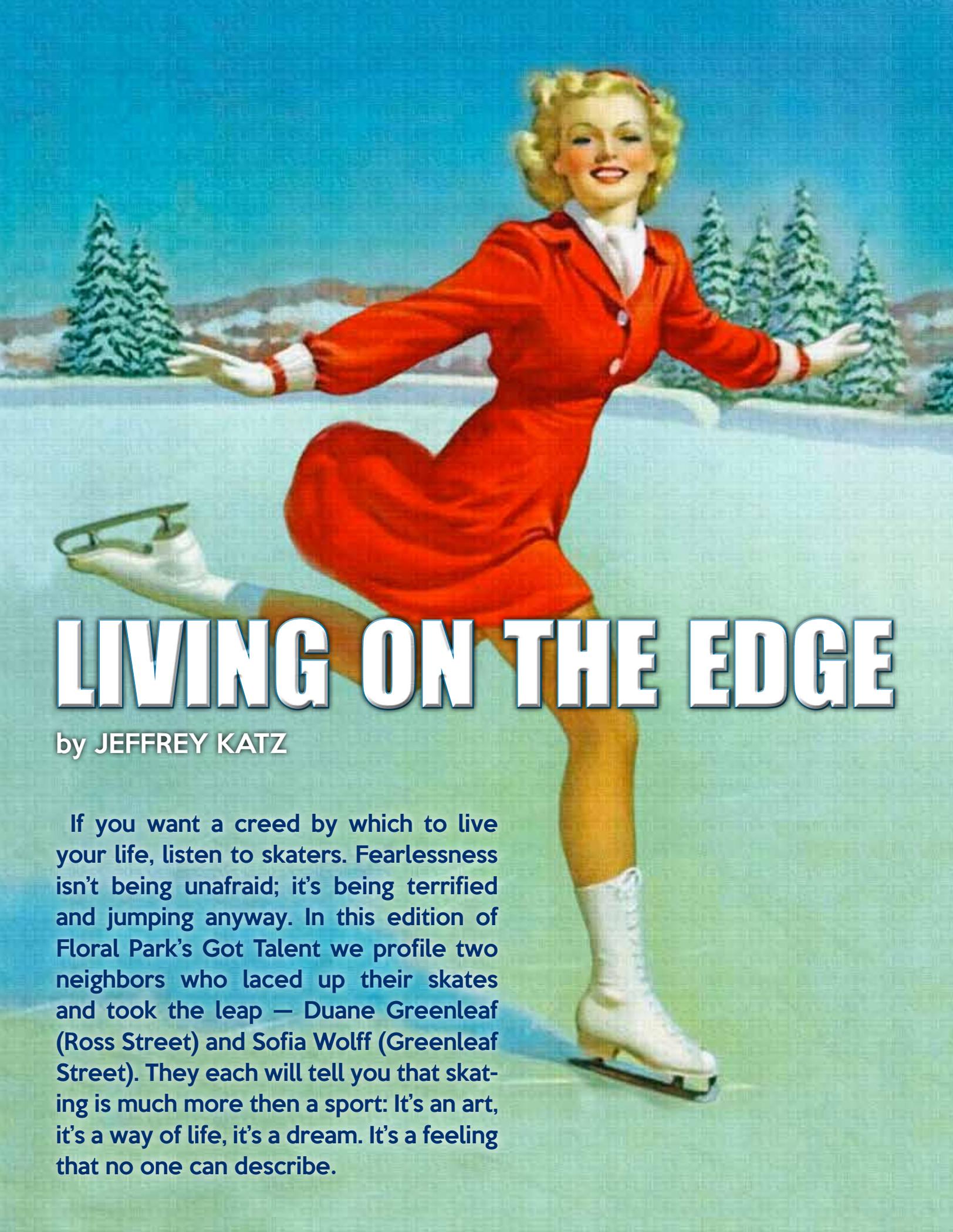
Revival Antiques

RevivalAntiques.com

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WellsTile.com



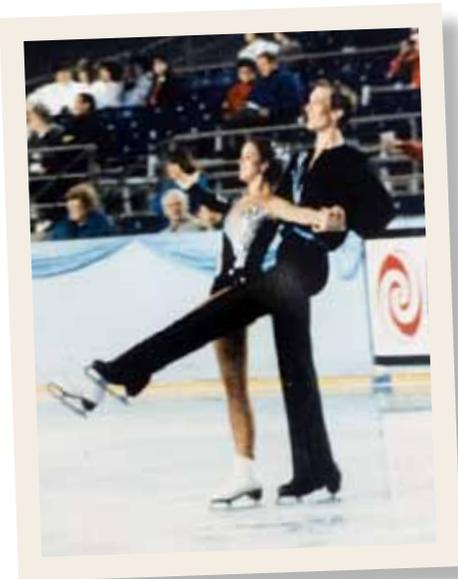


LIVING ON THE EDGE

by JEFFREY KATZ

If you want a creed by which to live your life, listen to skaters. Fearlessness isn't being unafraid; it's being terrified and jumping anyway. In this edition of Floral Park's Got Talent we profile two neighbors who laced up their skates and took the leap — Duane Greenleaf (Ross Street) and Sofia Wolff (Greenleaf Street). They each will tell you that skating is much more than a sport: It's an art, it's a way of life, it's a dream. It's a feeling that no one can describe.

This is the second in a series of articles profiling Floral Park neighbors who possess remarkable talents. If you or a neighbor has a talent you'd like featured, contact Editor@FloralPark.com



Duane Greenleaf

Before the 15-year Floral Park resident and the co-owner of Benchmark was in the kitchen with knives in his hands, Duane was on a sheet of ice with knives on his feet.

Duane grew up in Brooklyn, Ohio. An ice rink opened in his neighborhood and Duane did what most Midwestern boys do – he played hockey. When Duane was 13, a coach saw Duane on the ice and said, “You would be a good fit for figure skating.” This was a remarkable observation when one considers that Duane was a goalie. Tired of taking slap shots to his face, Duane made the switch to men’s singles figure skating. By his senior year in high school, Duane was ranked second in Ohio.

Duane moved on to college at Bowling Green where he had the opportunity to train with Scott Hamilton – a skater that Duane idolized for his commitment to hard work. Duane switched to ice dancing. With no jumping permitted in ice dancing programs, the change offered Duane a longer career in the sport. After college, Duane moved to California to continue training.



Duane initially paired up with K.C. Watkins, but with Watkins’ retirement, Duane found a new partner – both on and off the ice – Tiffany Veltre. The pair competed at the U.S. Olympic Festival – a competition which was held in the United States by the United States Olympic Committee in the years between Olympic Games.

In 1991, Duane and Tiffany came in second at the U.S. Figure Skating Championship – the highest ranking in his career.

Duane and Tiffany on occasion return to Anaheim Ice. It has been more than two decades since they competed, but Duane says, “We can still do stuff. Your mind still remembers the routines, but your body says, ‘I don’t want to do that anymore.’”

Sofia Wolff

Twelve-year-old Sofia Wolff (daughter of Stefan Wolff and Darlene Glenn) has known no home other than Floral Park. At age five, Sofia started roller skating on Greenleaf Street’s concrete sidewalk. Seven years later, she was standing on the podium at the U.S. National Championships in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Sofia is an artistic roller skater – a sport similar to figure ice skating but performed wearing quad roller skates. It does not have the same prominence as

figure skating, but artistic roller skating is just one genre of roller sports that make the USA Roller Sports (skate boarding, in-line hockey, speed skating, downhill, slalom and more).

From the sidewalks of Floral Park, Sofia moved over to the Orange Rink where, like Duane, coaches took note of her raw talent.

Unfortunately, roller skating in the U.S. does not offer the same opportunities as ice skating—an occasional show or an appearance in a movie, but for most skaters the most they can hope for is working in a Disneyland



parade or providing carhop service at a 50’s diner. So, it should come as no surprise that Sofia splits her competitive juices among roller skating, soccer and track and field.

But, Sofia says, this past year she fell in love with roller skating all over again when she realized how popular the sport is internationally. Her commitment paid off. Sofia just returned from the U.S. National Championships where she competed in the 11-12 year-old division. She brought three golds (compulsory figures, loops, and quartets) and a silver (artistic) – the most decorated of all competitors. Sofia now sets her sights on making the U.S. Junior World Class team which will bring her one step closer to the World’s.

Skaters do more before 6 a.m., than most people do in a day. Practices for each have started at 5 a.m. And both neighbors will tell you that skating will hurt and take time. It will require sacrifice, dedication and willpower. But, it will be worth it.

You can catch videos of Duane and Sofia's competitive programs at FloralPark.com/skate.



to learn how the Black skating community was part of both the civil rights movement and the emergence of hip-hop, and how skaters have fought against segregation and are still fighting to keep roller rinks open as safe spaces.

And if you want to see entertaining roller jams (hip hop on wheels), catch the comedy *Roll Bounce* (2005). Set in the summer of 1978, the movie tells the story of a teenager and his group of friends who face new challenges when their neighborhood roller-skating rink closes, forcing them to visit a different rink.



It Was a Good Skate

Before there was the Discovery Cube at Main and the 5 Freeway, there was The Skate Ranch. This month marks 30 years since The Skate Ranch closed.

The Skate Ranch opened up in 1955 at a cost of \$200,000. It was designed to accommodate more than 1,000 skaters – one of the largest roller skating rinks in the Western United States.

In 1987, the property was purchased by Caltrans. In 1991, Caltrans gave the rink manager, Dennis Collier, a 90-day lease termination notice so that the state's Department of Transportation could begin the expansion of the 5 freeway. And for the sake of easing traffic, Santa Ana lost a landmark which, to date, has not been replaced.



Santa Ana Skates

But if you're a fan of outdoor ice skating, you're in luck! Santa Ana is installing a temporary world-class outdoor ice skating rink in the Santa Ana City Hall Square. The rink will be part



of the Santa Ana Winter Village, where dining, performances and other activities will take place. Winter Village will open for four weeks from December 8 to January 2.

So come on every one, let's get your skate on! Join your neighbors for Floral Park Skate Date on December 30. Go to FloralPark.com/calendar for information.



Embracing the Skate

Quarantine internet has inspired us to do so much: bake bread; question whether, actually, everything is cake; and, maybe most adventurously for some Floral Park neighbors, try our hand (neigh... feet) at roller skating. And it's easy to understand why: The horror of the pandemic has left many of us drenched in nostalgia and searching for activities that comply with social distancing measures, making roller skating particularly alluring.

On most Wednesday nights, Helen Luetto (North Park), Victoria and Robbie Collins (Heliotrope) and Suzee Katz (Heliotrope) hit the rink.

What To Watch

The Black communities have kept skating alive over the decades. Watch the HBO documentary *United Skates*

The Eccentric's Corner

Exploring the Myriad of Hobbies and Passion Projects of our Neighbors

by Mark Rothenberg

Miles, a recent divorcee and frustrated writer, and his friend Jack, an aging actor looking for adventure the week before his wedding, go on a trip to the Santa Ynez Valley (Santa Barbara County). At their first winery stop, Miles carefully explains to Jack how wine is to be tasted and provides step-by-step tasting instructions including: holding the wine up to the light and examining its viscosity, color and clarity, tipping the wine to further evaluate color and age, sticking your nose into the glass to activate olfactory senses (smell) and swirling the wine to aerate it before drinking.

Miles delights in explaining the intricacies of the scent on a particular wine tasting by describing "...notes of citrus, strawberry, and the faintest soupçon (obnoxiously fancy French word for "slight") of asparagus and a flutter of a nutty Edam cheese." Jack proceeds to drink and instantly nods in agreement. To his horror, Miles realizes that Jack has been chewing gum through the tasting. Later that night, Miles meets up with Maya, a local waitress struggling to complete her degree in horticulture. In stark contrast to the overly sophisticated Miles and our casual drinker Jack, Maya explains her spiritual philosophy of wine:

"I like to think about what was going on the year the grapes were grown. How the sun was shining. If it rained. I like to think about all the people who tended the grapes. And if it's an old wine, how many of them must be



dead by now. I love how wine continues to evolve- like if I opened a bottle of wine today it would taste different than if I opened it any other day. Because a bottle of wine is alive. And it's constantly evolving-gaining complexity. That is until it peaks...and then it begins its sad inevitable decline. And it tastes so F---ing good."

Each of these characters from the 2004 cult classic "Sideways" presents a wine archetype. For some, wine is simply a refreshing libation. For others, wine presents an opportunity to delve deeply into the technical details of production and taste. And for others, the pursuit and enjoyment of wine is a spiritual endeavor. For the nascent wine enthusiast, the first question is how best to procure this magical elixir.

I consider myself a "Sideways Jack" as to wine and felt the need to consult with a cross between a Sideways Miles and Jack. Thankfully Floral Park is home to a number of wine Sherpas who possess both a technical

and spiritual knowledge of wine. George Pavlov on Flower has been in the wine business for years and has considerable experience working with wine buyers of all experience levels. George offered the following advice for all wine buyers: Costco and the grocery store are fine but in many respects, "it is like going to a pharmacy without a pharmacist." George strongly suggested developing a relationship with a staff member at one of the local wine merchants in the area.

In particular, George explained that Orange County is home to a highly unusual abundance of extraordinary wine shops—several of which are in Santa Ana. These include Hi-Time Wine Cellars, The Wine Exchange, Argaux, The Wine Country, Spectrum Wine, and the Original Wine Club.

As a Sideways Jack, I explained to George that many customers may be hesitant to go to a wine boutique for fear of being forced to spend hundreds of dollars on a single bottle. George assured me that these shops carry wines from smaller vineyards and actually present buyers with a better value proposition than purchasing wines from larger producers. Put simply, you may be unnecessarily paying more money at Costco or the grocery store for wines from larger wine producers who may have built in added cost due to their reputation and advertising.

George suggested approaching the knowledgeable staff at these shops and explaining to the staff your price

point, the kinds of food the wine will be paired with, and whether you have had favorable experiences with other wines in the past. The sales folks will begin building a profile to assist you in your wine journey.

Another wonderful example of true wine shepherds are the de Lancellotis on Ross Street. Complimenting the guidance offered by George Pavlov, David offered up his zen philosophy of wine which led him to commit over two decades of his life to scrimping and saving to found his own vineyard in the Willamette Valley of Oregon—Formaglini. David recounted how, in his twenties, his father took him on a trip to their family's ancestral homeland in Italy where they explored the beauty and family connections that are forged in making wine. At that time, David recounts he was not terribly into wine. That trip and subsequent stories about their ancestry planted the proverbial grape seed in David's mind.

David's philosophy was to create a true family project that would both forge a link to his family's wine making past in Italy and tie his children and future generations together.

To compliment George's sage wine buying advice, David stressed the importance of supporting smaller vineyards. If a local or smaller vineyard wins the customer over through a tasting, David stressed the benefit of vineyard buying clubs which can guarantee the consumer both the fine wines they have already experienced but expose the buyer to new innovations from families that are meticulous in making their product. As an added benefit, supporting local businesses enables these family vineyards to sponsor tastings and other neighborhood events while simultaneously

supporting exciting new ventures and offerings. Proponents of vineyard clubs highlight another advantage: the winemaker is incentivized to ensure that the wines they send you are as good if not better than the bottle that may have hooked you. Put simply, trust and faith in a vineyard can be easily lost if the wine maker abuses that trust by sending its members inferior products.

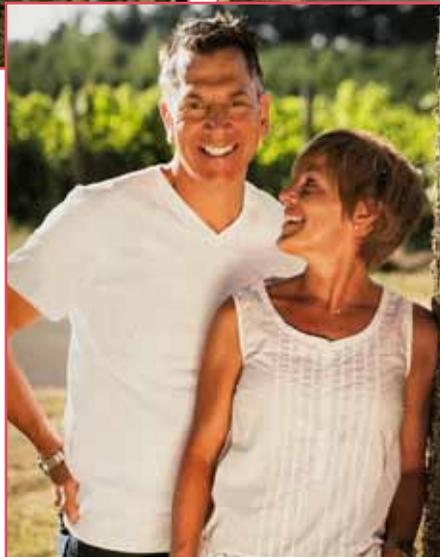
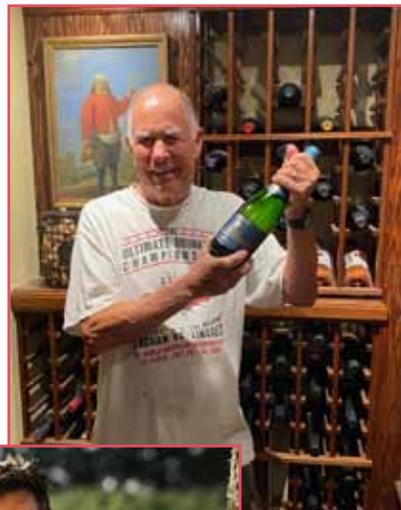
Excitingly, David and Anya have parlayed their well-deserved success into a new venture: a winery and 6 bedroom / 6 bath restored 1800's-

era farmhouse to be used for wine tours on the Amalfi Coast of Italy. The experience is intended to give visitors a full wine and tasting experience.

Another issue facing the wine drinker and collector is how to store the wine. Experts advise that wine should be stored in a relatively cool and dark place. As a Sideways Jack, my wine is stored under the bed and in my closet. However, neighbors like Ted and Sandra Meraz on Greenleaf maintain a splendid wine cellar in their homes. Sometimes, wine cellars in Floral Park date to the 1920s and early 1930s during prohibition when the sale of wine

was prohibited. Other fabulous examples include a built-in tavern at Rocke Denmark's lovely castle home on North Park featuring a splendid built-in tavern and an extraordinary custom built wine cellar at Mike Zachan's home on North Heliotrope.

May we have a fruitful new year filled with merriment and a spiritual wine journey amongst friends.



*PHOTOS: Top left: George Pavlov and family.
Top Right: Mike Zachan
Middle: Delancelotti Family
Below Right: Rocke Demark at the bar with Westie Snipes.
Below Left: Sandra and Ted Meraz's wine cellar on Greenleaf Street.*



Floral Park in Pictures

A lot has happened in the last few months! There was the Havana Nights Summer Concert, the Moon Festival proclamation, the unveiling of the Beautiful Block signs, Veteran's Day, Halloween, the Walk of Frights, and the Holiday home tour. Wow! When posting photos online, be sure to use the hashtag #HistoricFloralPark on Facebook and Instagram.





Floral Park On Track to Become Historic District

On October 29, 2021, the State Historic Resources Commission considered the application of the Floral Park neighborhood to receive official designation as a historic district. The commission is a nine-member state review board, appointed by the governor, with responsibility for the identification, registration and preservation of California cultural heritage.

The neighborhood was eligible at the local level of significance under criterion A (Community Planning & Development, Criterion B (social history), and criterion C (architecture). Some of the individuals recognized by the commission's staff under criterion B included author and screenwriter Allan Vaughan Elston who wrote from his Floral Park home, Dr. Ralph Smedley, the founder of Toastmasters International, Charles Swanner, attorney turned local historian, and Princess Usha Rajee Holkar, who



lived in the home constructed by her father, the Maharaja of Indore, when the princess was five-years-old. The house is reputed to be the only "castle" in the Western United States to house a foreign ruler and his family.

Before the commission took its vote, it heard a presentation from Dylan Almendral, the consultant hired by FPNA to prepare the extensive application and shepherd the neighborhood through the elongated process. Almendral provided the

Commission with a narrated tour of the neighborhood courtesy of a six-minute drone video. You can see the video at FloralPark.com/news. Ed Murashie and Julie Humphreys, long-time members of FPNA historic resources committee, made thoughtful and ardent presentations in support of the application.

Before voting, one commissioner said, "It should be recognized that the amount of work that went into this nomination is amazing. Just pounding the sidewalk and convincing people to do something like this has to be respected. It is unquestionably a worthy district to go to the National Register. The architecture diversity, the quality, the remarkable planning and landscape design are outstanding." Another commissioner remarked, "When you buy a house in Floral Park, you are its guardian. And, if you are doing it right, the home way outlives you." With that, the motion was made to find Floral Park to eligible for the National

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Register. The Commission unanimously granted the motion.

What's next? The keeper of the National Register of Historic Places will screen and process the application. According to the federal process, "Complete nominations, with certifying recommendations, are submitted by the State Historic Preservation Office to the National Park Service in Washington, D.C. for final review and listing by the keeper of the National Register of Historic Places. The National Park Service makes a listing decision within 45 days." Accordingly, the HRC is awaiting the review for before it declares the neighborhood a National Historic District.

Once designated, the neighborhood will be exempt from compliance with SB9 which permits landowners to subdivide a single-family parcel and develop two structures with four units. For more information on what designation means to Floral Park residents, please visit FloralPark.com. history.



Chris Switzer Honored as Neighborhood Hero

Chris Switzer was honored this year as Neighborhood Hero for her tireless work to keep Floral Park looking beautiful and making improvements wherever possible. She is currently leading the effort to replant the neighborhood entrances and exits. She has regularly scheduled the clean-up of Sarah Mae Downie and under her leadership with Ellen Koldeway and Angel Barnes, the neighborhood unfurled a massive reforestation program. This year, she un-

veiled Floral Park's butterfly habitat. "I worked with the City for three years to convince them not to use insecticides and weed killers, and it worked," said Switzer. "This spring we had more butterflies in Floral Park than ever before. The purpose of the Butterfly Habitat dedication was to educate the neighbors on the importance of protecting our pollinators. I still have people reaching out to me with questions and with pictures of their butterflies."

Chris has served on the Beautification Committee for 7.5 years and started the Floral Park Garden Club, now known as Garden Swap.

Com-Link recognized something we have always known about her — she is a true neighborhood hero. On November 18, 2021, Com-Link honored Chris at a 2021 Neighborhood Hero Awards celebration ceremony.

The Communication Linkage Forum was formed to promote the exchange of ideas and information between community leaders in all 64 Santa Ana neighborhoods.



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Care & Compassion Committee Shows Floral Park Cares

by Rachel Borack Moloo
Care & Compassion Committee

Happy Holidays everyone! I love that we were able to get an early festive start to the holiday season with our Holiday Home Tour. A BIG congratulations to everyone who contributed to making the event so special and memorable for our community.

To me, the holidays are a time to create unforgettable memories, spend time with our loved ones, and to give back to our community to ensure the less fortunate can have a special holiday season. I'd like to give a big thank you to Chris Switzer for recommending MOMS Orange County as an organization Care & Compassion should support. We were able to kick off our giving early this year by providing much needed items



to low-income families within Santa Ana so the moms and their babies can have access to crucial and much needed items. MOMS Orange County is the region's largest non-profit dedicated solely to newborn and pregnancy health, as well as providing necessary items to the moms and their families.

The most requested item was car seats, so the parents could bring home their babies from the hospital.

Supporting MOMS OC was extremely special to me, as my husband and I prepare to welcome our first baby this holiday season. I couldn't imagine not having the ability to go purchase a car seat for our baby, so to make this a reality for other moms and families within our community was imperative. Once again, the community of Floral Park came together and made extremely generous donations. The monetary value of the donations received was approximately \$1,000.00.

For the month of November, we had a very successful food drive on behalf of Second Harvest Food Bank for the families of the Boys & Girls Club of Santa Ana. Second Harvest Food Bank, along with other organizations who support the Boys & Girls Club, are still extremely limited due to COVID-19 and couldn't host a food drive this year. We collected approximately \$700 worth of food to be distributed to the families

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Kids at Santiago Elementary School in Santa Ana show off their handmade face masks.

ensure they can have a special Thanksgiving.

For the month of December, we are hosting our second annual toy drive which also benefits the families and children of the Boys & Girls Club. The center is asking for brand new toys in the \$20 range for children ages 6-12. Last year we received almost one toy per child, and I'm confident this year we can do the same!

We are still making masks for the

kids at Santiago Elementary so they can find some joy in having to wear a mask during class time. The kindergarten kids were extremely excited to receive their first batch of masks and pick out a pattern or style that they loved.

The Floral Park community has truly become my second family, and I can't thank you all enough for continuing to support the initiatives of the Care & Compassion Committee. We are all so blessed to have neighbors who are like

family and to be able to celebrate all our amazing neighborhood events together. So, THANK YOU, to every one of you for continuously coming together to make the holiday season special for various low-income families and their children within Santa Ana. We couldn't do what we're doing without the love and generosity of our gracious Floral Park community.

Want to get involved in helping others in our community? Join the Floral Park Care & Compassion Committee. Email Care@Floral-Park.com.



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REMEMBERING

Floral Park, ever a community of friends and neighbors, has seen much happen in the past year: home renovations, the return of our social events, many home sales and moves, just to name a few of the changes. Additionally, some friends and neighbors have been lost along the way while we welcomed a few others (not just to the neighborhood, but to the world as well). As the year comes to an end, we thought it would be fitting to reflect on some of these life events and pay tribute to our neighbors, friends, and most importantly, the families we have become and have gotten to know over the years.

Reflecting on 2021 we remember the good times and remember those we lost, with our deepest sympathy we pay tribute to the following:



Aleda Barton

Aleda Mead Bojorquez Barton was born in Los Angeles on April 2, 1935 to a single mother from Mexico who taught her the importance of strength and character; she developed a moral center that guided her decisions and actions. She stood up for what is right.

She was caring and compassionate toward others and always fought for the dignity of those who were viewed as “weaker.”

Aleda was a champion of her family and was always there for them. She could be counted on to support and encourage everyone. She was intelligent, and always searched out and explored new ideas. As a result, she was interesting, and others sought out her counsel and advice. She acted as a sounding board and a provocateur who challenged others to think more deeply about ideas and events.

She was funny too, with an easy laugh and a quick wit that saw humor in most things, which made her a great companion. And finally, because of her deep reservoir of spirituality, she was fiercely courageous, unafraid of the unknown.

In June of 2013, Aleda and her husband Gary moved into Aleda’s dream house on Heliotrope Drive, a “compound” for family and friends. We were alerted to the availability of the property by our daughter, who also lives in Floral Park.

“When Aleda was in middle school and high school, she would often sing

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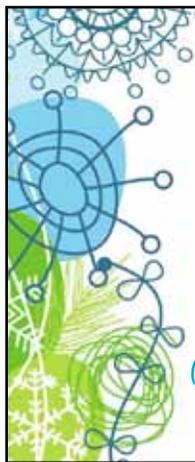
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in fiestas and fund raisers near her home in Whittier. These events were often covered by *The Whittier Pictorial*. She made the cover several times including 1951 when she was chosen at age 16 as the Queen of the March of Dimes in an event held at the Pico Palace on Whittier Blvd. "I am not sure why she was chosen for the cover of *The Pictorial*--maybe it was because she was so pretty," said her husband Gary Barton

On May 11, 2021, when Aleda suffered her second heart attack, she chose, at age 86, not to prolong her life with heroic measures or long-term regimens of medicines and treatments, and instead, asked to be sent home.

Aleda passed on June 20, 2021, leaving two daughters, four sons, nine grandchildren, seven great grandchildren, and a grieving husband. She is sorely missed by all of us.

Susan Hart

Our dear friend and neighbor, Susan Hart of Riverside Drive, passed away



on August 25. A resident of Floral Park since December of 1993, she made a significant contribution to this community that she loved so very much.

For 20 years, she was responsible for what she named "The Street of Treasures," i.e. the vendors for the Floral Park Home Tour. She recruited high quality vendors and organized the entire vendor process, continuing to be in charge of it until 2019.

She was an avid supporter of the Floral Park Neighborhood Association scholarship drive and created a scholarship in honor of her father, Webb Hart, after his death. She provided a \$10,000 bequest in her own will to support an on-going scholarship in her name.

One request she had was that more of us do the same. Her past is Santa Ana's future, she might say. In addition, she served on several other committees for the association and attended most FPNA events, especially the garden swap.

A graduate of Loyola University in New Orleans, where she earned both a bachelor's and law degree, she practiced law before moving to Southern California.

One of her greatest loves was travel, perhaps fueled by her semester abroad in Aix-en-Provence, France. Her life-long friend, Nancie, was her travel buddy. They managed to cover most of Europe, it seems. Their last trip together was to Croatia, a place she enjoyed immensely. Other destinations included Normandy, the UK, and Italy.

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One of the lasting memories the neighborhood will hold of her driving the home tour in Sandy DeAngelis' golf cart overseeing the "Street of Treasures" that she loved so much.

Susan will be sorely missed by her Floral Park family. Susan's family has asked that donations be made in her memory to the Floral Park Scholarship Fund, supporting local Santa Ana students. at FloralPark.com/scholarship-fund



Daniel Lankford

Daniel A. Lankford, a long time Floral Park resident, passed away September 12, 2021. After graduating high-school in Henry County, Tennessee, he enlisted in the U.S. military. He served for 12 years in the 82nd airborne, the 101st airborne, in South Korea, the Army exhibit unit and the National Security Agency.

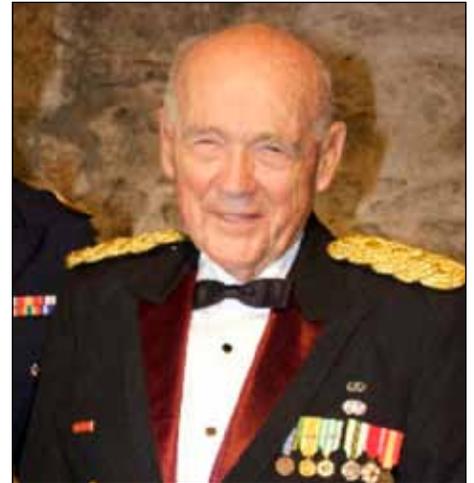
After that, he moved to Alaska, started a real-estate company, retired and lastly moved his family to Floral Park in 1991 where he spent the remainder of his life.

Sterling Mutz

Sterling B. Mutz MD, Col (Ret) US Army, on Heliotrope Drive, passed away at the age of 92. Sterling was born on May 13, 1929 in Portland, Oregon to Theodore and Addie Mutz. He attended Pasadena City College, UC Berkeley and was a graduate of George Washington University School of Medicine.

In 1955, he joined the US Army

where he served as an officer and orthopedic surgeon at several US Army posts and notably was a hand surgery fellow, Walter Reed General Hospital, Washington DC; commander of the 3rd Field Hospital, Republic of Vietnam; chief of orthopedic services at 97th General Hospital, Frankfurt, Germany; European orthopedic surgical consultant; and chief of orthopedic surgery at Letterman General Hospital where he ran the residency program at




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Sterling received numerous awards including Certificate of Achievement General Surgery, Ft. Lewis, Wash DC; National Defense Medal Legion of Merit; Viet Nam Campaign Medal (2); Vietnam Service Medal; Meritorious Unit Commendation; Expert Medical Field Award; Military Parachutist Award; Legion of Merit Oak Cluster; American Association for Hand Surgery Clinician/Teacher of the Year; The Royal Society of Medicine.

In his spare time, Sterling loved to tend to his garden in Floral Park, spend time and travel with his family, and study everything from history to medicine. He was a man who cared deeply for his family and friends, his patients, and the soldiers he led. He was a role model to countless men and women throughout his life and his legacy lives on in the soldiers, doctors, and nurses he trained.

He is survived by his wife Jane Mutz; daughters: Mary Claire, Karen, Anneliese, Rebecca; his sons: Theodore, William "Bick", Shannon; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



Béla Somogyi

Our dearest Béla Somogyi entered eternal life on October 4, 2021. He was the beloved and cherished husband of Joni Marie Barr Somogyi for 28 years and the adored head of the many generations of the Somogyi

family. He earned everyone's respect and admiration and gave his immediate and extended family unconditional love and support.

Béla was born in Újvidék (Novi Sad) in 1932, in the former Yugoslavia, as the 4th and second youngest child of humble Hungarian Christian parents. Béla escaped the Tito regime on a Christmas Eve to Stuttgart, Germany. He arrived in the US at the age of 28 in 1957 armed with dreams, hopes and faith, determined to have a new beginning. He worked for Bell Lab for a number of years and eventually settled in Orange County where he owned and operated City Glass. There he started Jet Cut Systems which operated the only high powered water jet cutting business in Orange County.

He married Joni Marie Barr, which was a 28 year "Real Love Affair." Wisely using his design engineer talents, Béla completely designed and remolded their home on Heliotrope Dr. (the home that was originally built by Joseph Callens who had a farm next to the Segerstrom farm).

His outstanding talent, imagination, passion and creativity, along with his resoluteness and perseverance, left a lasting impact and will forever be an inspiration and guiding light for all of us. Béla was an ingenious businessman, engineer, designer, and innovator and a competitive athlete who did not accept failure and lived by example. His legacy will be carried by all of his loved ones, family and friends alike.

"The Floral Park neighborhood and the pleasant comforts and beauty of our home, brought us, along with our family and friends, indescribable comfort, joy and gratitude. It was considered a Divine gift." – Joni and Béla

Our list may not be a complete one but we want to commemorate all who have passed on this year, knowing our neighborhood is not quite the same without these wonderful people no longer in our lives.

PETS

Oftentimes it is a neighbor's pet who we meet first as we head out for our walks; whether in the mornings before work or in the evenings as we wind down the day. We come to know one another and each other's pets by sight. Eventually we speak with them, get to know one another, and build a connection. Our neighborhood won't be the same without these familiar friends and they will be missed.

Akiki

Beloved dog of Wayne Suraci and Merle Craig on Ross Street.

Bud

Beloved family member of Jessica Carr and Joy Rideout on Bonnie Brae.

Edie

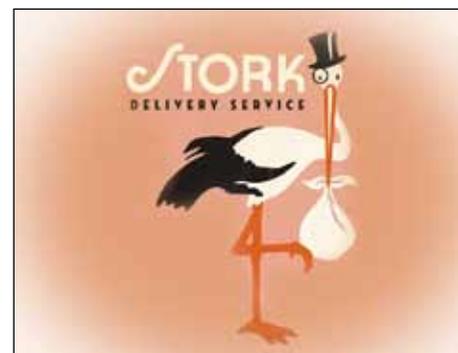
Beloved dog of Doug Myers and Joanne Larens on Riverside Drive.

Phoebe

Beloved member of Denise and Brian Byrd family on Heliotrope Drive.

Polly Pie

Beloved family member to Ryan and Amber Matas on Ross Street.



BIRTHS

On the beginning stage of life, Floral Park has also witnessed several new (tiny) additions this year. We've seen some families just getting started and other families that continue to grow; whichever the case, it is always exciting to welcome a new baby into the family. We joyfully welcome to the neighborhood:

Mayla Wynn Carver born April 20 to Alyssa and Mathew Carver on Greenleaf Street.



Neil and Nikola Hultgren, twins born August 7 to Nan and Eric Hultgren on North Flower Street.



Perry Rose Kantelis, born on March 31, 2021 to Kiko and Matt Kantelis on North Park Blvd.



Eleni Alexandra Palmer, born Sept. 6 to Megan & Jeff Palmer and big brother Graham on N. Flower Street.



Justus Jay, born on November 12, 2021, to A.J. and Sarah Rose Barragan on North Flower Street.



Forest James Newquist, born October 20 (the full moon!) to Krystle and Michael Newquist on Benton Way.



Sunna Rabin-Lai, born October 21, 2021 to Christian Rabin and Annie Lai on Ross Street.


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Evelyn Snowden, born on March 3 to proud parents Kimberly and Sean Snowden on Riverside Drive.



Tera Anne Wright, born August 19, the first child of Kim and Jason Wright on Greenleaf Street.



PHOTO - Left to right: Sarah Rose Barragan, Krystle Newquist, Rachel Borack Moloo, Seanna Brooks, and Amy Bruce. Photo by Gina Chiaramonte.

Coming Attractions

Not only have there been births this past year, but we can eagerly expect some additional new neighbors to be joining us at the end of 2021 and in 2022!

Amy and Ryan Bruce on Heliotrope Drive are expecting January 23.

Rachel and Kyle Moloo on Victoria Drive are expecting their first child on New Year's Eve, December 31.

Seana and Kenneth Brooks on Ross Street are expecting February 23.

Allan and Candace Tea on Heliotrope Drive are expecting in April.



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FLORAL PARK Social Scene

Denise Silva & Jeanette Mustafa
Floral Park Social Co-Chairs

The evening came alive with sights, sounds, tastes and smells of Havana at our first official event, Havana Nights. The color and pageantry exploded our guests' senses as they entered through the balloon arch donated and designed by Alison DeMark. It was a sea of turquoise tables adorned with the most amazing, creative table settings and centerpieces designed by attendees. Congratulations to the winner on your masterpiece.

With the amazing group of committee members and other volunteers, we were able to create an evening filled with unexpected delights for everyone. Guests had the opportunity to indulge in freshly rolled cigars, rum tast-



Suzee Katz at the Havana Nights summer concert in Carmen Miranda-inspired headress.

ing, coconut waters, shaved ice treats, photos with a beautiful back drop and a pristine 1952 Skyline Chevy donated for the evening by Jaime Ruiz.

We were entertained with Latin dancers of OC Dance Studio and Latin sounds of Kimera Music. We had a preview of the new 2022 Floral Park cal-

endar (now available at FloralPark.com/shop). To add to the excitement, we had an opportunity drawing where generous folks from our neighborhood donated items from their respective talents and businesses and guests had the opportunity to put their purchased tickets in jars of items they hoped to win. All and all it was a magical evening attended by over 450 and made possible by the hard work, creativity and monetary contributions of our committee and neighbors and we could not be more grateful.

Our next event was a fun-filled and family-friendly, holiday event in front of the "Castle House" with Santa and Mrs. Claus, carriage rides, and snow, kids crafts and more.

Next season we have an exciting line-up with a Luck of the Irish event in March, Freedom Fest in July, summer concert in August, chili cook-off in September and finally the next holiday event in December of 2022.

We're ready to get together again and excited to see you soon!

Eddie Quillares, Jr.

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Halloween Decorating Contest Winners

Floral Park held its second annual Halloween/Autumn home decorating contest and the results were truly terrific with well over 100 homes dressing up for the holiday. Judging was conducted by members of the West Floral Park Neighborhood.

Congratulations go to all the homes, and especially the winners:

- **SCARIEST:** *Ryan & Amber Matas at 1825 N. Ross Street.*
- **MOST THEATRICAL:** *Jason & April Niedle at 2315 Benton Way.*
- **BEST USE OF SKELETONS:** *Mark & Mary Pero at 2208 Greenleaf Street.*
- **MOST CREATIVE:** *Jay Herrera & Ashley Rosas at 2402 N. Flower Street.*
- **BEST FALL COLORS:** *Jeff & Susie Millet at 2370 Riverside Drive.*
- **BEST DAYTIME THEME:** *2439 Heliotrope Drive, our newest category.*





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Looking for something to warm you up after you stroll the neighborhood for the annual Walk of Lights? Here are some festive holiday ideas with a distinct Latin twist. Felices fiestas!

Cranberry-Jalapeno Martini

Ingredients

- 1 cup turbinado (washed raw) sugar
- 1-1/2 cups cranberry juice, divided
- 1/2 cup fresh or frozen cranberries
- 1/2 teaspoon chopped seeded jalapeno pepper
- Ice cubes
- 6 cups vodka

- Fresh mint leaves and additional cranberries

Directions

In a large saucepan, combine the sugar, 1/2 cup cranberry juice, cranberries and jalapeno. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer, uncovered, for 3 minutes or until sugar is dissolved. Remove from the heat. Cover and let stand for 20 minutes.

Strain, discarding cranberries and jalapeno. Cover and refrigerate syrup for at least 2 hours or until chilled.

For each serving, fill a mixing glass or tumbler three-fourths full with ice. Add 3 ounces vodka, 1 tablespoon

cranberry juice and 1 tablespoon cranberry syrup; stir until condensation forms on outside of glass. Strain into a chilled cocktail glass. Repeat. Garnish with mint and cranberries if desired.

Mexian Hot Chocolate

Ingredients

- 1/4 cup baking cocoa
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 1 cup boiling water
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- Dash ground cloves or nutmeg
- 3 cups whole milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- Whipped cream
- Whole cinnamon sticks

Directions

In a small saucepan, mix cocoa and sugar; stir in water. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cook 2 minutes, stirring constantly.

Add cinnamon and cloves; stir in milk. Simmer 5 minutes (do not boil). Whisk in vanilla. Pour hot chocolate into mugs; top with whipped cream. Use cinnamon sticks for stirrers.

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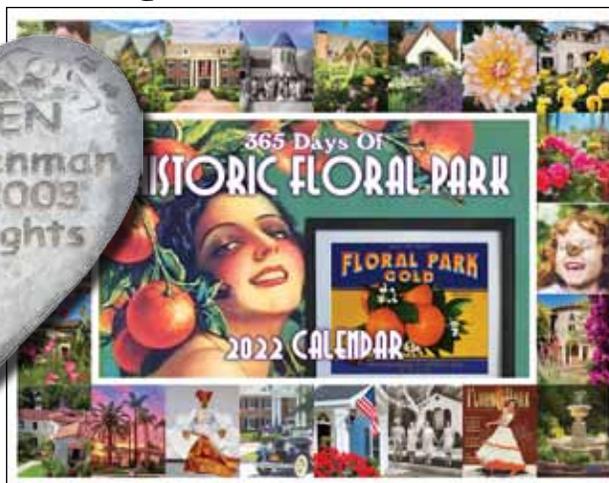
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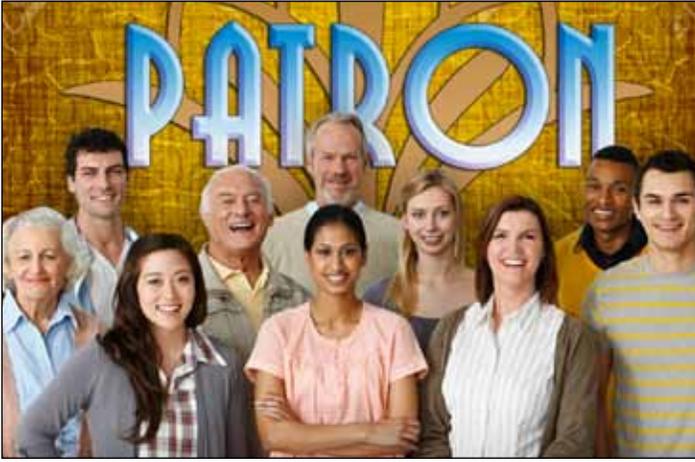
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by Kevin Shuler, Membership Chair

We're coming up to the end of the year, which is a great time to think about making those tax-deductable, charitable donations.

Do you enjoy your neighbors and the community we all share? We trust the answer is a resounding positive YES! With that in mind, we ask you to think about all the wonderful attributes, services and events our Floral Park Neighborhood Association

provides that make our experience of living here so special and to consider supporting your neighborhood with an end-of-year donation. Here's what you'll be supporting:

- Neighborhood Beautification (trees, flowers, Sarah Mae Downie Park upkeep, street lamp painting).
- Scholarships to Santa Ana students and support of local charitable organizations.
- *The Floral Park Neighborhood Gazette* that keeps us informed and entertained and the website that is a constant source of neighborhood information.
- The effort to place Floral Park on this historic register as an official National Historic District.
- Last but not least, the social events that help connect us to one another, like the summer concert, the holiday celebration, chili cook-off, neighborhood mixers and more.

We need your help in order to continue providing these services. Please consider becoming a Floral Park Patron by making a contribution to keep our community thriving.

The best way is to set up a recurring, monthly donation at FloralPark.com/giving or make a one-time donation using the same link. You can also send a check to FPNA, P.O. Box 11366, Santa Ana, CA 92711-1366, noting Membership Donation on the check. If your company has a matching contribution program, you could double your donation.

FPNA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization (EIN: 33-0908244) so contributions are deductible under state and federal law. Check with your tax professional for advice.



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City Council Honors Cecilia Aguaniga

At the October 19, 2021 City Council meeting, Cecilia Aguaniga (Greenleaf Street) was formally recognized for her 25+ years of hard work improving our city. Councilmember Nelida Mendoza awarded Cecilia the Certificate of Recognition for outstanding work.

Cecilia was born in Jalisco, Mexico in 1978 and emigrated to the United States. She's been a resident of Santa Ana for more than 37 years. From 1994 through 2009, Cecilia worked for the

Santa Ana Unified School District. She has served on a number of city commissions including the personnel board and the Community Development Commission. During her acceptance speech, Cecilia spoke proudly of her husband and three children and she remembered her son, Ramsey, a 16-year police officer who passed away in 2019 from cancer.



Patrick Johnson & Denise Ryan's home (the historic George House) on Victoria Drive was one of four featured on the Floral Park Holiday Tour, Saturday, November 13.



Neighborhood Calendar

Check details at FloralPark.com/calendar.

DECEMBER

- Toy Drive.....12/10-12
- Home Decorating Judging..... 12/19
- Walk of Lights 12/21
- Floral Park Skate Date..... 12/30

JANUARY

- Board Meeting..... 1/10
- Third Thursday Dine-Out..... 1/20

FEBRUARY

- Board Meeting..... 2/8
- Blood Drive..... 2/18

MARCH

- Board Meeting..... 3/8
- Luck of the Irish 3/12

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