Fright Nights at The Frida

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Celebrating Floral Park's Centenarian

Architecture: California Ranch

Halloween

Jared Allmond: Professional Scaremeister

HISTORIC

October 2023

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#### OCTOBER ISSUE 2023 FLORAL PARK NEIGHBORHOOD GAZETTE

is the official publication of the Floral Park Neighborhood Association P.O. Box 11366 Santa Ana, CA 92711-1366 Editor, Trace Weatherford Writers: Logan Crow, Jeffrey Katz, David Ko, Jenell Krishnan, Rachel Moloo, Mark Rothenberg, Tracey Stein, Chris Switzer, Allyson Thompson, Trace Weatherford Art Director, Marc LaFont Email: Newsletter@FloralPark.com Website: www.FloralPark.com Connect with us on FACEBOOK and INSTAGRAM Send letters to the editor at Editor@FloralPark.com

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

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Well, here we are again... the Fall/Halloween edition of our beloved *Gazette*. I can't believe how quickly the year went! And because of the amazing events the FPNA puts on every year, I've met even more fantastic neighbors in and around the area.

Halloween is my favorite time of year; from pumpkin everything to the crunch of dead leaves beneath my feet. There's just something spectacular about the way the air smells on a clear, crisp day or how you feel gazing up at those white, cotton candy, fluffy, cumulous clouds slowly making their way across a cerulean sky.

This issue of *The Gazette* is replete with stories of interest and intrigue; from the gargoyles in our gardens, to Floral Park's own Jared Allmond and his work at Knotts Scary Farm, I think we have Halloween well and truly covered. For those looking for something interesting without all that spooky intrigue we've got you as well. For within these pages you'll read about some standout Floral Park resident accomplishments, the celebration of our eldest neighbor and another architectural style found in our historic neighborhood: the California Ranch.

Lastly, I hope that by the time you're reading this letter the weather has cooled and the desire to sit by a warm fire kicks in. I encourage each of you to grab a mug or cup of your favorite cozy beverage, curl up in a chair with a furry companion, and enjoy each and every page of this *Gazette*.

Warmest regards,

Trace Weatherford

Trace Weatherford Gazette Editor



for more information, go to floralPark.com/calendar

# Letter From The President

Having just observed Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, I thought I would invite a guest to lead us on a soulstirring journey that celebrates the transformative power of forgiveness – a force that mends shattered relationships, heals wounded souls and breathes new life into our shared tapestry. – Jeffrey Katz, President, FPNA

Howdy neighbors! Ted Lasso here, ready to talk about a topic that's close to my heart: forgiveness. You see,

forgiveness is a remarkable thing. It's about offering second chances and not judging one another solely based on our worst moments. As I like to say, "I hope that either all of us, or none of us, are judged by the actions of our weakest moments, but rather the strength we show when and if we're ever given a second chance."

Life has a funny way of throwing curveballs at us. Our neighbors make mistakes and we sometimes find ourselves in situations where forgiveness is needed. It's in these moments that we have a choice - let anger and resentment take hold or extend grace and understanding. Forgiveness is not about pretending that hurtful actions never occur, it's about acknowledging the pain, finding the strength to move forward, and allowing healing to take place.

<image>

something lightly handed out. It takes as much strength and courage to forgive as it takes to apologize, and both are equally honorable. I recall when Beard went to Nate's house to forgive him and invite him back on the team. Beard told the story how, upon his release from prison, I let him shack up at mine and Michelle's place. He said, "I thanked him by stealing his car." Beard never mentions in his story whether he apologized to me, but the fact remains that he was forgiven Maybe regardless. Beard was just in a bad place mentally and emotionally that he couldn't bear to apologize... that's okay folks, he thanked me the only way he could - by being loyal.

So don't wait for an apology. "Be a gold-

We've all had mo-

ments we wish we could take back. We've all made decisions that we regret. But it's how we respond that can truly define us.

In my experience as a coach, I've seen the incredible power of forgiveness in sports and in life. When a player errs, I don't dwell on the error, I offer support. It's about giving them the chance to redeem themselves and prove their worth. We all have the capacity for change and secfish!"— forgive, start fresh, and swim together toward a more giving future.

ond chances can lead to remarkable transformations. I once told Jamie Tart, "I think that you might be so sure that you're one in a million, that sometimes you

forget that, out there, you're just one in 11." Sometimes

we forget that each of us is just one out of 623 homes. Like I tell my players, "Believe in yourselves. Be-

lieve in each other. And believe in forgiveness." There

are two buttons I never like to hit: panic and snooze.

Let's hit the forgiveness button and watch as it transforms the neighborhood into a place of harmony, un-

Now hold on, one more thing - forgiveness is not

derstanding and positivity.

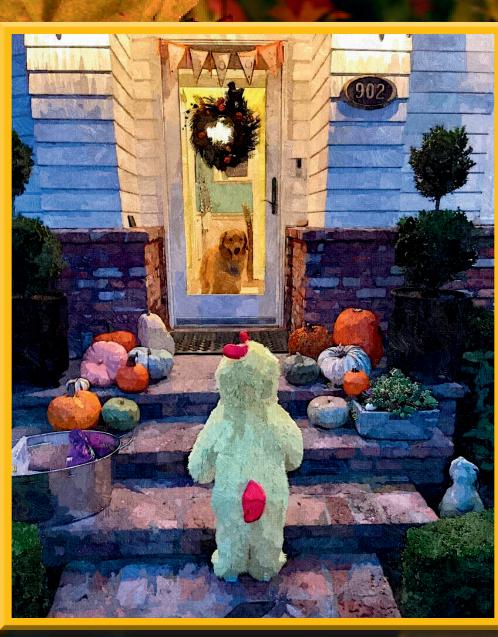
(with a whole lot of forgiveness and genuine smile)

Jed Ted Lasso.

Yours Truly,

Coach of AFC Richmond

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by Jeffrey Katz (Photo: Tuko greets a Trick-or-Treater at the home of Allyson & Marc Thompson.)

Halloween, that bewitching time of year when we put on costumes and wrap ourselves in the mystique of the unknown. It's a time when the imagination turns to the extraordinary, when shadows hold secrets and every creak of the floorboard suggests tales of ghosts and ghouls. So join us, dear reader, as we embark on a journey through the realm of the enchanting and the macabre. In this issue we shall unravel the threads of All Hallows' Eve. So gather 'round, for the air is charged with magic and the season of the supernatural is upon us once more!

# EMBRACING THE THRILLS OF HORROR CINEMA AT THE FRIDA



by Logan Crow Founder of the Frida Cinema

he Frida Cinema is, if nothing else, a labor of love dreamed up and brought to life by a selfdescribed lifelong film junkie. As is part of the journey with all passion projects, there's certainly been a lot of learning along the way – and if there's one thing I've learned about our audience after almost ten years, they sure do love to get scared.

From an early age, I've had an affinity for horror films; so you might think this was deliberate on my part. But from the get-go, my mission with The Frida was to allow its programming to grow organically, with a primary focus on ensuring diversity across cinema's many genres, themes, countries and eras of origin, but with a fo-

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cused eye on what our community communicated they wanted to see.

We have been so grateful to serve audiences that haven't been shy about getting in touch to share their interests with us. Coupled with ticket sales, it has been consistently clear that horror and "cult" cinema top that list. Whether it's a 1970s classic like Halloween or The *Exorcist*, or a contemporary chiller like recent Frida hits Skinmarink or Talk To Me - both of which saw sold-out opening nights - we get not only large numbers, but a fun crowd relishing in their shared love of a genre; a genre once relatively derided but which has seen steadily increasing critical examination and acclaim in recent years.

So, what is it about horror? Why are there countless horror conventions across Southern California pretty much throughout the year, as opposed to a proliferation of conventions dedicated to any of a number of cinematic genres? Why do thousands of shops start popping up months in anticipation of Halloween, as opposed to any other secular holiday? Why do our three largest local amusement parks dedicate a full month, at major expense, to this one secular holiday? I'm sure it's different for everyone, but using Halloween as a specific example, I think it begins with a factor of nostalgia and a certain level of regression to childhood. As children, we were allowed to play dress-up, to engage in flights of whimsy, to band together with our friends, disregard propriety and indulge in careless play. Here's one night of the year where a grown adult can throw on deliberately tattered clothes, obscure their face with a mask – or for that matter, indulge in creativity with latex and fake blood - and lurch down the block like a zombie with no one but the most cynical observer to question their sanity. Moreover, here's one night of the year where an adult can simply, through their fun and carefree behavior, tell such cynics to stick it in their ear.

And then there are horror movies. There is, of course, the scientific answer - being frightened triggers the biochemical release of adrenaline, which results in a rush of heightened sensations and a surge of energy. But there's something to be said about the phenomenon of the shared experience - a room full of people, gathered in the dark, sharing what is essentially a flood of cathartic euphoria. Think about it - how often, after that initial jump and scream, does the audience laugh? Or even cheer? How often do you hear people alternately scream out in ter-

ror, then laugh clap hoot and cheer, on a rollercoaster?

After decades of locking myself into a movie theater with a fellow audience, and the last ten years of hosting these experiences at The Frida, I can attest to the singular rush that is sharing a horror film with a house full of people going through the same terror I am, a palpable and thick sense of dread through the air as rows of people peer through their fingers or avert their eyes to their popcorn in suspense, only to find their popcorn flying when the monster pops into frame and the violins shriek.

Such is the cinematic experience. Such is what our team at The Frida dedicate themselves to every day, far beyond the horror genre. Every once in a blue moon, we're asked why someone would pay \$12 to watch, say, *E.T. The Extra Terrestrial*, when they could watch it at home. Our answer is always the same: why would someone pay thousands to visit the Louvre to



John Carpenter's original Halloween, starring Jamie Lee Curtis, will screen October 30 at the Frida. Betty Boops Halloween Party screens Saturday, October 28.

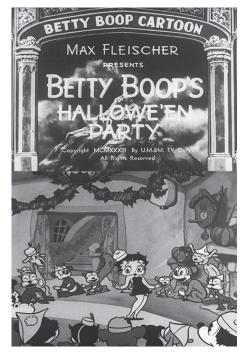
see the Mona Lisa when they could easily pull up a photo of their on their computer? And moreover, print up a large and clear picture of her, not obscured by stanchions and bulletproof glass and hundreds of fellow museumgoers clamoring for a look? Why go see a concert when you can kick back on your couch and hear the same music through your high-def headphones without the distractions of a sea of cell phone cameras and talkative people ruining the experience? At a time where this historic cultural tradition is at its greatest peril, we desire the experience of surrounding ourselves with community; sitting back in a comfortable chair with a favorite snack, shutting off the cell phone and feeling that singularly transportive sensation of the lights going down as we immerse in a cinematic journey. And so we give ourselves fully to the sights and sounds of a creative work and the emotions it evokes within us...feeling the rush of the shared experience as other people laugh, cry, and scream along with us, being both alone, and very much not alone, in the shared experience of submitting to a work of art.

We invite you to take that journey with us this October and beyond. Come watch a film at your neighborhood nonprofit community art house theater, The Frida Cinema. If you're a fan of horror cinema, don't miss our fantastic lineup of classic and contemporary horror this October.

And if you support our crusade to preserve the cinematic experience, please consider supporting our mission with a donation at www. thefridacinema.org/donate/. We'll see you in the aisles.

Editor's Note: The Frida was recently named OC's House of Horror. For a schedule of films, go to FridaCinema.org or scan the QR code.





# UNMASKING THE MAN WHO PUTS THE SCARY INTO KNOTT'S SCARY FARM



by Jeffrey Katz

As the moon rises higher, shadows grow longer, and the autumn breeze carries a chill, it is the perfect time to gather 'round and delve into the tale of a fearconjuring artist among us. Prepare to be mesmerized as we unveil the thrilling world of our neighbor, Jared Allmond (Ross Street), one of the official masterminds behind Knott's Scary Farm!

Unassuming neighbor by day and master of terror by night, Jared weaves a web of fright at none other than Knott's Scary Farm. For those unfamiliar with Knott's Scary Farm, it is a world-renowned Halloween event that beckons brave souls to navigate through its haunted mazes and face their darkest fears. What lies behind the scenes there is a cadre of creative minds, tirelessly crafting the horror-filled experiences that have visitors flocking back year after year.

Jared, with imagination and a flair for the macabre, has managed to turn fear into an art form. Drawing inspiration from the eerie depths of folklore, classic horror tales, and the darkest corners of the human psyche, he and his team bring to life nightmares we dare not speak of. As you stroll through the haunted mazes at Knott's Scary Farm, beware of the terrifying visuals that await you. Jared's expertise in filmmaking and storytelling, intertwined with a keen eye for detail, transports visitors into a world of heart-pounding scares, eliciting screams and adrenaline-fueled laughter in equal measure.

"I have always been into darker themes," Jared says. He recalls that at age five, channel 13 would run horror movies and he would sneak into the living room and watch them all the time. "My mom thought I was crazy."

Drawing inspiration from the likes of David Lynch, Alfred Hitchcock and '80s horror classics like *Nightmare on Elm Street*, Jared unleashed his creative side while attending film school at Long Beach State. In fact, Wes Craven himself once paid a visit to his class, cementing Craven as one of Jared's primary influences.

Jared's professional journey into the horror domain began when he worked for five years as the sound guy for Cassandra Peterson...aka

9



L to R: Florence, Jared, Gibson, Everly, Rachel and Cheyanne.

Elvira, Mistress of the Dark. After that, he and fellow designer Darrell Ruivivar brought their video design skills to Knott's Scary Farm in 2014, when the park started incorporating multimedia into the mazes. Jared and Darrell's work was so widely appreciated by Knott's staff, fans and park attendees, that in 2018, Jared became an official member of the creative team. Now with a great team that works for him, Jared is instrumental in bringing terror to the masses every year.

His videos serve as eerie backdrops to the mazes and scare zones that permeate Knott's Scary Farm. Armed with his camera and a touch of the supernatural, he captures the essence of fear, skillfully blending reality and the uncanny to transport visitors into a world beyond imagination.

With pride (and perhaps a hint of warning), Jared says that his best work will be featured this year in a maze called Cinema Slasher. Think haunted old movie house; where you'll see a slasher movie on screen as you walk through the screen and into the actual horror scene being depicted. Yikes!

Yes, crafting fear is no simple

task. It requires a deep understanding of human psychology, an ability to tap into the darkest corners of the mind, and above all, an appreciation for the electrifying thrill that comes with experiencing a well-crafted scare. Jared has mastered this art, concocting videos that make one's heart race and the hairs on the back of the neck stand on end.



The Hive was written and directed by Floral Park resident Jared Allmond. In it, a couple returns home from a night out to find two sadistic strangers waiting to terrorize them.



Jared directs a monster on set.

This summer saw Jared reach a new milestone in his filmmaking career. He completed his first fulllength feature film, *The Hive*, written and directed by Jared himself with much of the movie filmed right here in Historic Floral Park.

I asked Jared if there is any movie that really frightened him? His response: "I don't really get scared, but I have never reacted to a horror movie more than I did for *Hereditary*. It made me so uncomfortable, I almost walked out of the movie."

Jared isn't all scares. He and his wife Rachel have four kids (Everly 7, Gibson 5, Florence 3 and Cheyanne 8 months) and all of them enjoy and cherish the community here with Jared confessing that he draws a lot of creative inspiration from Floral Park's architecture and foliage.

As Halloween draws near and the gates of Knott's Scary Farm creak open, remember to take a moment to appreciate his handiwork. And as the clock strikes midnight and the moon casts its chilling glow, know that we have our very own "professional scare" afficionado right here in Floral Park.

Happy haunting my friends!

# GARGOYLES AND DRAGONS AND CREATURES, DH MY!

by Jeffrey Katz and Trace Weatherford

It is the veil between worlds grows thin, we find ourselves on the cusp of All Hallows' Eve. In the spirit of this bewitching season, we embark on a journey of exploring the fascinating history of the legendary creatures that adorn our very own gardens; be them dragons or gargoyles or fallen angels.

Imagine a moonlit stroll through our streets where shadows dance and around every corner there lies a stalwart centurion. Not so hidden among the gardens and porches and roof eves, there stands steadfast and silent as guardians of the night... gothic stone statuary.

Gargoyles for instance, with their grotesque features and stern expressions, have been watching over humanity for centuries. Originally conceived as functional waterspouts in the 13th century, these stone creatures with their elongated wings, protruding tongues, and menacing gazes, have over time shed their early role to become

protectors of sacred spaces. Intriguingly,

the history of gargoyles is intertwined with ancient myths and legends. Often depicted as demonic beings, their grotesque forms were believed to ward off evil spirits and protect the vulnerable. Some say they possess the power to absorb negativity and transform it into positive energy, ensuring our homes and gardens remain safe havens.

But what of dragons? Draconic creatures were first depicted in ancient Mesopotamian art and literature. It's no wonder these mythical beasts, with their scaly hides and fiery breath, have captured the human imagination for centuries as well.

As we delved deeper into these fearsome guardians, we discovered many homeowners in Historic Floral Park who believe these gothic figures are just the thing their homes need. We believe it speaks to the history and architectural depth of our neighborhood, infusing our streets with a touch of magic and myth.

"The Castle House" (as its often referred to), the Storybook home on North Park Blvd. owned by Allison and Rocke DeMark, has its own pair of stone dragons flanking either side of their front porch. The De-Mark's felt

they

needed some significant ornamental stone statues to greet guests and visitors. Allison recalls, "There were several lions in the neighborhood so we wanted something different. We visited M&M Nursery in Orange and came across the perfect pair of dragons that reminded us of the creatures Zuul and Viggo from *Ghostbusters*."

11

Right next door to The Castle House is a Tudor owned by *Gazette* Editor, Trace Weatherford along with her husband Jonathan Rosenberger. They affectionately call their home the "House of a Thousand Skulls" and if you've seen the interior, you'd get the reference. Trace placed a stone gargoyle on her front porch and hung a small cast iron fallen angel on the front exterior wall, dubbed Ernest and Azazel respectively.

Riverside Drive is the home of a few sets of gargoyles. Two of the most prominent belong to Alyse and Michael DeCavallas. Michael says "Gargoyles get a bad rap. Not only do ours stand sentry, at night

they

come

alive and roam the street looking for any threats; coyotes, pesky mosquitoes and solar panel salesman to name a few."

Of course no article that mentions the thin veil between worlds would be complete without the HallowQueen of Floral Park, Suzee Katz. She, too, keeps the company of a gargoyle named Harvey. Harvey stands as sentinel over the Katz's backyard pool area.

These stone creatures, frozen in time, brim with stories and gothic energy. As you embark on your Fall festivities, take a moment to seek out these neighborhood guardians. Tip your hat (as the saying goes) to them as you go by. You'll be surprised how many fantastical creatures adorn the homes and gardens of Historic Floral Park. And what better time to call attention to them than now, now that Halloween season is upon us!







(Clockwise from top: Alyse and Michael DeCavallas by their front door, on Riverside Drive; Alison and Rocke Demark on their front steps on North Park Boulevard; Suzee Katz in her back yard on Heliotrope Drive; Jack and Linda Russell by their front gate on 19th Street; Russell Flynn holding his gargoyle at his home on Riverside Drive.)

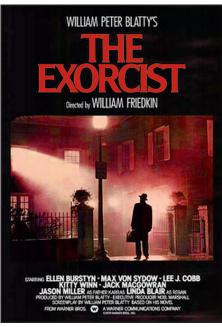
12

HAMNTEP HAPPENINGS

By Trace Weatherford

Every year, during this time (what you might call Fall Season, but I excitedly dub HALLOWEEN Season), I find myself searching and/ or participating in all the scary goings-on in the area. Whether it's kidfriendly spooks or unique "mature audiences only" attractions where waivers are signed and safe-words handed out...below is a curated list of what's happening around our neighborhood that should delight the inner creep in all of us.





#### FLORAL PARK FRIGHT NIGHT AT THE FRIDA

Sunday, October 22, 7:00 pm www.FloralPark.com/calendar Voted the #1 most frightening film by Floral Park residents is the *Exorcist*, screening at the Frida Cinema. We'll be meeting for pizza before the show at 7:00 pm at Loosies, 300 East 4th Street, Suite 103, Santa Ana, before moving on to the Frida Cinema for the screening at 8:00 pm.



#### **BOO! THE HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR** Oct. 28, 3:00 - 6:00 pm

Floral Park

Get your little ones prepared for trick-or-treating, games and a fun afternoon for all. Please RSVP by dropping off a bag of candy with your contact information to Kevin Shuler at 2001 N. Heliotrope Drive. For further information, contact Kevin at 949-633-6668.



WALK OF FRIGHTS Oct. 29, 6:00 - 9:00 pm *www.FloralPark.com/calendar* Dare to stroll the neighborhood to witness the most frightening and spookified homes in Historic Floral Park with stops along the way for libations and treats. To sign up to host a snack station, go to floralpark.com/calendar.

### SANTA ANA

#### **BOO AT THE ZOO**

Santa Ana Zoo Oct. 21, 22, 28, 29, 5:30 - 7:30 pm *www.santaanazoo.org/boo.htm* Boo at the Zoo is one of the safest places for young children to trickor-treat for Halloween taking home goodies from ten different toy/treats stations. It's a "Merry Not Scary" family fun event, and everyone (young and young at heart) is encouraged to come in costume!



#### SPIRITS AND LEGENDS OF THE BOWERS MUSEUM The Bowers Museum

Oct. 6, 13, 27, 6:30 pm www.hauntedoc.com/ghost-tours/ spirits-and-legends-of-the-bowersmuseum/

Join Haunted Orange County's historian and author Charles Spratley for an exclusive after-hours tour as you explore the spirits and legends of Bowers Museum.

#### HISTORIC SANTA ANA GHOST WALK

Downtown Santa Ana Oct. 20, 21,27, 29, 31, 7:00 pm www.hauntedoc.com/ghost-tours/ downtown-santa-ana-ghost-walk/ Learn of tales of execution, murder and untimely death that have left in 14

its wake, whispers of the undead that are all but at peace. Walk the streets of the downtown historic district and hear the stories of restless spirits who may still inhabit the places of their bodily demise. From those who perished in an earthquake, to the "victims" of prairie justice. These stories will travel with you forever, pray nothing else does.



#### **9TH ANNUAL VIVA LA VIDA DIA DE MUERTOS FESTIVAL** November 4, 2023

www.vivalavidasantaana.org

The streets will be alive with culture, tradition, and beautiful tributes to loved ones. Join us and celebrate Dia de los Muertos in our hometown of Santa Ana. The festival features traditional altares built by community members and organizations, artisan vendors, music & entertainment, food trucks. and more.



#### **CREEP IT REAL**

Heritage Museum of OC Nov. 17, 18, 4:00 - 10:00 pm *www.creepitrealoc.com/cirf23* Awaken from your Halloween hangover for some jolly, creepy, festive fun. Get a jump on the biggest shopping season of the year. Over 100 vendors will be available for you, thanks to the many participating local shops and small businesses.



#### KELLOGG HOUSE GHOST TOUR

Heritage Museum of OC Oct. 6, 12, 15, 18, 26, 31 at 7:30 pm https://hauntedoc.com/ghost-tours/ the-kellogg-house/

Explore unexplained phenomena with tales of ghosts and legends of the historic Kellogg house, located on the beautiful grounds of Heritage Museum of OC.



**TRUNK OR TREAT** Santa Ana Elks Lodge Oct. 29, 4:40 - 7:00 pm Bring your little ones to the Santa Ana Elks as members decorate the trunks of their vehicles in Halloween-themed decor and pass out candy or other goodies to the children in our community.

#### THE VOGEL VICTORIAN HAUNTED TEA PARTY

The Vogel Victorian, Santa Ana Oct.8, 20, 22, 29, times vary Your spirit is being summoned to join us at the 125-year-old Victorian for a two hour interactive, haunted tour and tea party!

#### **BARKS OF LOVE BARK BASH**

October 8, 11am to 2:45 pm Heritage Museum of OC *www.barksoflove.org* It's Halloween gone to the dogs with doggy trick or treating, vendors, food, custume contest, rescue animals and more.





#### THE 17TH DOOR Oct. 1-31, Buena Park Mall www.the17thdoor.com

This year, this fully immersive and terrifying maze, moved into much larger digs in Buena Park...the entire basement of the BP Mall if I'm not mistaken. It's so scary, there are significant waivers to sign before entering and a "safe word" you can utter if things get to be a little too much!



#### **KNOTT'S SCARY FARM**

www.knotts.com

Knott's Scary Farm is the largest and most haunting Halloween event in Southern California, with unimaginable scares and innovative thrills that can't be found anywhere else.



CAMP SPOOKY www.knotts.com/events/spookyfarm

Every Thursday through Sunday from Sept. 28 through Oct. 29, plus Halloween, enjoy the Halloween season at Knott's Spooky Farm, a family-friendly fall time celebration. Little ghouls can trick-or-treat and enjoy kids' Halloween activities.

#### ANAHEIM FALL FESTIVAL

*www.anaheimfallfestival.org/* Oct.28, 11:00 am to 6:00 pm Fall Festival and Parade returnswith fun for the whole family!

#### **BOO HAA HAA**

https://www.theboohaha.com/ Located at the OC Fairgrounds, The Boo Ha Ha is a Halloweenthemed Oktoberfest; with beer tastings, live music and eats. Costumes are strongly encouraged!



#### **HALLOWEEN TIME**

Disneyland Resort Through Oct. 31

Disneyland dresses up for Halloween every year with magically spook-free decorations throughout the park and all your favorite characters don their best costumes.



#### TUNNEL OF TERROR CAR WASH

Big Wave Car Wash, Anaheim Thursdays through Saturdays, Oct. 5-30, 6:00-10:00 pm

www.enjoyorangecounty.com/tunnel-of-terror/

OC's first haunted car wash will give you drive-thru thrills with special effects and creepy costumed characters popping in throughout the duration of your wash cycle.

#### DARK HARVEST HAUNTED ATTRACTION

www.darkharvesthaunt.com Garden Grove Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays through October 31 Step into a family-operated immersive haunted maze attraction. Brace yourself for bone-chilling frights, gruesome sights, and a genuinely terrifying Halloween adventure.



#### HOCUS POCUS DRAG SHOW SPELLTACULAR

STRUT Bar & Lounge, Costa Mesa Saturdays, Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28, 9:00 pm *https://mimosagirls.com/* SoCal's premier drag show experience in Orange County. Some legends never die.

### LOS ANGELES



#### **ANGEL OF LIGHT**

www.angeloflight.live/enter-the-light Held at the historic Los Angeles Theater in downtown LA. Old Hollywood comes alive for this live immersive walk-through horror experience.



### UNIVERSAL HORROR NIGHTS:

www.universalstudioshollywood.com From Sept 7 through Oct 31

Universal is going to outdo themselves by offering up eight haunted houses (Stranger Things, The Exorcist, Evil Dead, The Last of Us, Chucky, Universals Monsters, Holidaz In Hell) and the Terror Tram ride.

### DELUSION: NOCTURNES & NIGHTMARES

#### www.enterdelusion.com/

This year marks the 12th season of Delusion, a terrifying and fully immersive theatrical play in which attendees become literal characters in the horror of the unfolding drama. Better still, the venue an historic mansion in Los Angeles.

# Floral Park Centenarian, Kunko Ishii, Celebrates Her 104th Birthday

#### by Jenell Krishnan and Jeffrey Katz

n the tree-lined streets of Floral Park resides a living testament to resilience and the inexorable passage

of years. As fall approaches, so does a remarkable milestone. The oldest resident of Floral Park, Kunko Ishii will be turning 104-yearsold on Nov 9, 2023! Kunko Ishii's life's tapestry, woven with threads of history, courage, and enduring grace, serves as a bridge between different worlds. In this article we honor her by sharing a small part of her journey.

Born to Japanese immigrants in 1919, Kunko lived in San Francisco throughout her childhood. However, her mother wanted Kunko and her siblings to get their education in Japan. Kibeii (translating to "go home to America") was a term often used in the 1940s to describe Japanese Americans born in

the United States who returned to America after receiving their education in Japan. As a result of anti-Japanese sentiments and a strong desire to maintain language and cultural heritage, it is said there were about 10,000 Kibeii among second-generation Japanese Americans. Kunko represents the Kibeii tradition.

Kunko and her siblings took a boat to Japan where they lived with relatives amidst the picturesque landscapes



the bustling economy of Hiroshima where Kunko went to an all-girls high school.

and

After returning to the United States with her high school diploma in hand, World War II began. During this tumultuous time, Kunko was separated from her brother and sister who had not yet completed their schooling back in Japan. In the throes of wartime hysteria and on the heals of the attack on Pearl Harbor, Japanese Americans were unjustly uprooted from their homes and their lives. In the spring of 1942, along with about 120,000 others of Japanese ancestry, Kunko was shipped out dur-

> ing the evacuation to an internment camp in Jerome, Arkansas.

During the early part of war, the much-decorated 442nd Regimental Combat Unit was stationed in Texas. Sharing a border with the Arkansas camp, events were organized so that the soldiers could socialize with the young women from the camp. Being in her early 20s, Kunko took part in these social events and. as fate would have it, met her future husband. Charles Ishii.

> With the war's end, the process of releasing internment camp prisoners began. In Janu-

ary, 1947, having lingered four years within the confines of the camp, Kunko was finally set free.

Although they considered other Orange County locales such as Newport Beach, Charles and Kunko chose Floral Park to call home in 1962. While Charles tended to the family farm in Talbert (now Fountain Valley) growing



17





asparagus, tomatoes and bell peppers, Kunko was a housewife and mother. In our community, she raised their two sons–James, a professional musician and event planner, and Roger, a graduate of Cal Poly Pomona.

The Ishiis have always loved the peace and serenity of Floral Park. Her son, Roger, has two Chihuahua's - Piggy and Lola - to whom Kunko has endeared herself. Her son, James, continues to add activities to Kunko's life to enrich her outlook. According to Kunko's family, both in her younger years and now, she always lifts everyone's spirits around her. She loves life and continues to bring joy to all her friends and family.

Now, in the heart of Floral Park, she writes her latest chapters of life. As she approaches her 104th birthday, she carries with her the stories of generations past, a living embodiment of strength and endurance. In her presence, the streets of Floral Park echo with whispers of a history both shared and unique.

So, neighbors and friends, let us honor Kunko's journey; one that began in San Francisco, survived the dark days of internment camp, and resides today right here in our own haven...Historic Floral Park.

The authors would like to thank Kunko's family for gathering the stories and photos needed to write this article. To wish Kunko a happy 104th birthday, please address cards to: P.O Box 11366. Santa Ana, California, 92711.



Kunko Ishii with her son, James, enjoy an afternoon on Balboa Bay.

# **Exploring Timeless Charms: A Glimpse Into the History of Ranch Architecture**



The historic Boulton House built in 1953 at 2126 Heliotrope is a classic California Ranch home.

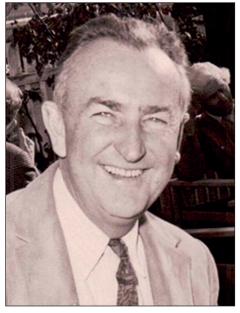
by David Ko

18

To truly appreciate the Ranch architecture of Floral Park, one must delve into the area's rich history. In the early 20th century, this region witnessed a surge in suburban development, as many families sought a peaceful retreat from the bustling urban landscape. In the midst of this growth, Floral Park emerged as a sanctuary of tranquility, featuring spacious lots and tree-lined streets that seemed tailormade for the Ranch style.

Ranch architecture is marked by a shift towards a more relaxed and casual lifestyle. Drawing inspiration from the sprawling ranches of the American West, architects began designing homes that fused the elegance of modern design with the rustic charm of country living. These homes were characterized by their low profiles, open layouts, and a seamless integration with the surrounding environment.

Floral Park was a neighborhood that homebuilders crafted for over half a century. The two world wars and the depression, however, halted developments but also wel-



Cliff May, the father of Ranch houses

comed a renewed era of innovative design; such as those by Cliff May (largely considered the Father of Ranch houses).

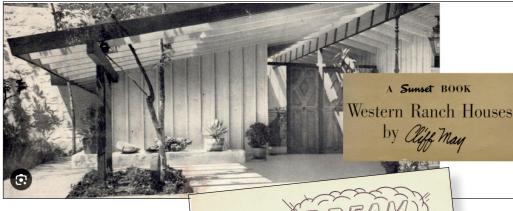
May, a self-taught architect from San Diego, built homes there in the early 1930s then moved to Los Angeles where he began building some of the most widely recognized Ranch homes of that time. It was during this time that the California Ranch homes became an architectural style in their own right. Their distinguishing features include onestory layouts, open-plan interiors, use of local materials, and pride of place given to functional spaces like built-in garages. These homes offer a blend of minimalist chic and earthy hospitality that typifies midcentury modern design.

May was a rarity in home design because he was not a formally educated architect. His unconventional thinking, however, enabled him to discover a style unbound by rules and precedents favored by the masses nationwide. In May's view, old school architects had too much baggage in design that emphasized needless exterior charm, facade symmetry, composition balance, ornamentations, and the center position of the front door. Function was subjugated to follow form.

May's passion was designing homes harmonious with how people wanted to live. He watched families use his houses—watched them give parties, prepare meals, and use the patio for entertaining. Each idea that brought pleasure to homeowners was worked over and improved in the next house he built. He explained the early Californians had the right idea. They built for the seclusion and comfort of their families, for the enjoyment of relaxation in their homes.

Among his most significant





innovations was moving the garage from the backyard to the front and attaching it to the side of the house with a breezeway in between. He invented this breezeway for a garden potting shed, a protected outdoor space for pets, and a weather-protected path with direct access to the garage, which could be a convenient hobby space, a workshop, or home storage.

May fused elements of the Spanish Revival style with Modernism to produce lowslung, horizontally oriented, pitched-roof ranch houses. His modern ranch house designs took the country by storm after World War II. Hollywood celebrities' new playground in the desert legitimized and validated this modern ranch style. Even the movie industry capitalized on May's backyard lifestyle depicting outdoor entertainment, pool parties, and Tiki bars!



*Tiki bars were once popular additions to 1950s Ranch homes.* 

<complex-block>

#### KEY FEATURES OF RANCH HOMES

Single-level ranch-style living has many benefits, including the practicality of the home aging with its owners—no stairs for older knees! Open-plan living is also perfect for family gatherings, as people can flow easily between the kitchen, living room, and sunroom. Pairing traditional features such as a Spanish red tile roof with a modern white palette made this style timeless.

The interiors are often breathtaking, with exposed wood beams and high ceilings only possible without a second floor; polished stone floors and pendant lighting add touches of warmth, amplifying the natural light. Their open, flexible layout emphasized outdoor living, perfect



Open-beamed ceilings and a wall of glass are definitive features of this Ranch home on Heliotrope Drive.

for the casual lifestyle and temperate climate of Southern California. From the outside, looking at the expansive glass and warmly lit interior made the ranch-style home more attractive.

It is not uncommon in Ranch homes to find that every room in the house has a connection to the outdoors. Floor-to-ceiling glass takes the place of walls to bring light and nature in, creating a relationship to the outside that is as much a part of the home as the decor.

The architectural elements of Ranch homes include a mixture of materials such as wood, brick, and stucco. Large windows, sliding glass doors and minimalist ornamentation are also common characteristics.

#### EMBRACING A TIMELESS AESTHETIC

Casual, hospitable, and human scale define the best California Ranch homes. And as Orange County continues to evolve, Floral Park stands as a testament to the enduring appeal of Ranch architecture. Our homes, each telling a unique story, serve as a bridge between the past and the present. The neighborhood's commitment to preserving its architectural heritage while embracing contemporary living ensures that the Ranch style in Floral Park will remain a source of inspiration for generations to come.



*Pictured clockwise:* 2035 N. Heliotrope Dr. (1956); 2220 N. Heliotrope Dr. (1952); 2302 Heliotrope Dr. (1955); 2125 Heliotrope Dr. (1956); 2424 Bonnie Brae (1950); 2101 Heliotrope Dr. (1955)



# Historic Floral Park Awards Scholarships & Charitable Donations



#### by Tracey Stein

Our annual scholarship & charity awards presentation took place on June 25 when Sandy DeAngelis and Ed Trotter were once again our gracious hosts.

We gave out 20 scholarships and seven charity awards to very deserving students and local nonprofits. In attendance were several FPNA board members, the scholarship committee members, proud families, school counselors, our city councilwoman, Jessie Lopez, school board representative, Rigo Rodriguez, and of course representatives from local non-profit organizations. Many Floral Park neighbors also came to support this special day, so it was a very well-attended event!

Each year the sponsorship committee reads applications and chooses our award winners. If you'd like to be a part of this committee, please send a note to sponsorship@floralpark.com. If you know students who are eligible for our awards, please check our website for details and applications in early 2024. If you would like a local charity or non-profit organization to be recognized or you'd like information about funding a scholarship, please email sponsorship@floralpark.com.

On behalf of the scholarship committee, I would like to thank our generous donors who seem to give more selflessly every year. Not only did we have a number of privately-funded scholarships, but this year the proceeds from our annual Floral Park Home & Garden Tour was unsurpassed; with incredible fund raising also coming from the wine & beer garden and the opening night gala. In short, this generous giving has provided us with the ability to recognize an amazing group of Santa Ana students and charities whose volunteerism and impact on our community is so recognized.

#### 2023 Scholarship Awards \$1,200 each

#### SANTA ANA COLLEGE STUDENTS

#### Victor Huerta

Alice Sinclair Award

Victor was an active volunteer coach for the Orange County FC, a youth soccer team. He will study computer science in college and is part of a summer "junior developers" program with Amazon.

#### Maria Roman Ed Trotter & Sandy DeAngelis Award

Maria volunteered for Operation Warm Wishes, where she helped the homeless population throughout the year, giving them haircuts and clothing. She is studying psychology and will transfer to Cal State Fullerton to pursue a degree in psychology.

#### **Diana Torres**

Diana was a very active health scholar volunteer at St Joseph Hospital, with over 500 hours, comforting patients prior to surgeries and during their stays in recovery. Diana is applying to become a physician's assistant.

#### HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

#### Lorena Alvarez

Santa Ana High School

While a very active volunteer at the Boys & Girls Club and as a super tutor and freshman mentor, Lorena's most inspirational experience was her volunteer work for Viet Rainbow of Orange County, a community organization that supports members of the LGBTQ community. Lorena will pursue a degree in computer science and sociology.

#### **Aaliyah Candela**

#### Middle College High School

Aaliyah tutored children at the La Semilla Learning Center where she helped Spanish-speaking children learn English and develop successful study habits as they navigate the difficulties of COVID learning environments and new schools. Aaliyah wants to study psychology at a four-year university.

#### **Nicholas Cisneros**

#### Middle College High School

Nicholas volunteered for The Coalition of Orange County Health Centers, helping vulnerable families navigate and enroll in healthcare and social services programs that are often difficult to access due to language and economic barriers. Nicholas was inspired to pursue a degree in public health.

#### Esmeralda Coeto-Medina

Middle College High School

Esmeralda gained extensive volunteer experience at the Mc-Fadden Institute of Technology as an assistant in the counseling department. Esmeralda was inspired to become an intern for a guidance counselor at McFadden Institute, helping students realize their achievement goals. She will attend UCLA to study psychology and would like to become a school counselor within SAUSD.

#### **Olivia Cortes**

#### Century High School

Olivia was encouraged at a young age to make an impact. Over the years she has volunteered for the OC Rescue Mission, Santa Ana Zoo, Laura's House, and the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Her most inspirational service experience was with the Girl Scouts of Orange County where she traveled to South America to help coordinate mentoring programs for children. Olivia has been accepted to UC Davis, where she will study environmental science.

#### Angelica Covarrubias

Godinez High School Angelica served as social media manager for The Girls League Club, where she helped drive traffic to events and fundraisers for community organizations, such as WISEPlace women's shelter. Angelica would like to study political science and become a paralegal.

#### Samantha Esparza

Middle College High Samantha was a very active volunteer for the Boys and Girls Club of Orange County and their family strengthening initiative, including backpack drives and yearly community events. She has accumulated over 600 hours of community service in her four years of high school. Samantha will attend either Chapman or Vanguard University, where she will study business and psychology, and would like a career in human resources.

#### **Gricelda Gallardo**

#### Century High School

Gricelda learned the importance of giving back at an early age when she was mentored through the Nicholas Academic Centers. Through her service volunteering for the Big Brothers & Big Sisters of Orange County, she was able to help a young student, as she was helped years earlier, to become confident in her study habits and interpersonal skills. Gricelda wants to study journalism after high school.

#### Valeria Garcia

Santa Ana High School

Valeria started volunteering for food drives at an early age and has continued her community service by organizing blood drives and getting pledges for UNICEF. Valeria wants to major in business and work in her local community.

#### **Kimberly Martinez**

#### Saddleback High School

Kimberly's notable involvements include volunteer work for Community United for Clean Air, an environmental justice advocacy group that helps inform her community about any environmental hazards that may affect the health of its residents. She hopes she can make an impact by fighting for those who don't know how. Kimberly would like to become a social worker in her community.

#### **Beto Miranda**

#### Century High School

Beto wanted to give back to the community organization that helped him and his brother when they were young. He volunteered for The Cambodian Family, tutoring children and helping to contribute to their educational success. Beto wants to major in business and one day have his own business.

#### **Marlizett Morales**

#### Valley High School Edward & Karen Athey Award

A self-proclaimed bookworm, Marlizett developed a way to inspire readers everywhere. When she realized how few libraries Santa Ana has, she and a couple friends ran book drives and developed a social media platform to bring attention to the need for more libraries in Santa Ana. Her social media posts gained followers and she realized she could make an impact on her community. Marlizett plans to major in business and merchandising in college.

#### **Christopher Morales**

#### Santa Ana High School Christopher created a recycling club at his school to bring more awareness to the need for disposing of trash in smarter ways. He was a freshman mentor and also a tutor for 3rd graders through a partnership with his high school and a local elementary school. Christopher would like to study biochemistry and work in cancer research.

#### **Gizele Parra**

#### Valley High School

Giazele made some notable contributions to her community through her work with the Making Lives Better with Alorica Next Gen Program – she secured a sizeable grant and organized a backpack and school-supply giveaway, distributing over 1,000 backpacks and boxes of food supplies to the local community. Gizele would like to major in psychology and become a school counselor.

#### **Philana Trieu**

#### Orange County School of the Arts Joe Banger Award

Philana enjoyed her volunteer work for the California Scholarship Federation where she collaborated on community projects to secure donations and create handmade blankets and books for shelters. Philana wants to pursue an artistic career in animation.

#### Naomy Vazquez

#### *Century High School* Naomy volunteered for Teach ademy as a tutor for kids at

Academy as a tutor for kids at Madison Elementary School. This inspired her to become a teacher.

#### Sandra Hernandez

Valley High School Sandra was active in Key Club, Big Brothers & Sisters and Santa Ana Active Streets, where she helped kids access bike helmets and learn about bike safety.

#### Charity Award Recipients \$1,000 each

#### Orange County Children's Therapeutic Arts

www.occtac.org

This charity provides innovative, artistic, educational and therapeutic programs that inspire and transform children, at-promise youth and their families. The OCCTAC arts center is the first and only organization in Orange County offering unique programming that combines the arts, academics and creative therapies to help people realize their highest capabilities.

#### **Police Explorers**

The Santa Ana Police Explorer Program provides an opportunity for young men and women to experience first-hand, how a police department functions and what it takes to get started with a challenging career in law enforcement. Twice a year, new Explorers have an opportunity to attend a formal academy where they are taught criminal law, radio codes, traffic control, first aid, military drill, police procedures and other basic techniques. Santa Ana Police Explorers perform a variety of community services such as traffic control at parades, festivals and special events. Occasionally, they are called to assist police in emergency situations such as searching for missing children, evidence or to perform any other duties required by the police department.

#### The Frida Cinema

#### www.thefridacinema.org

The Frida Cinema is non-profit organization and Orange County's only non-profit, independent art house cinema dedicated to enriching, connecting, and educating through the art of cinema.

#### **WISE Place**

www.Wiseplace.org

The only Orange County-based nonprofit leading the effort to end homelessness for unaccompanied women. They provide women with safe shelter, counseling and mental health services, case management and addiction recovery, and employment assistance to help rebuild their lives.

#### LGBTQ Center of Orange County

www.lgbtqcenteroc.org

The LGBTQ Center OC advocates for individuals' rights and represent the policy and legislative interests of Orange County's LGBTQ community. Among their many programs and services, The LGBTQ Center OC offers mental health, HIV testing, outreach and educational services to seniors, gay, lesbian, trans, youth, and those living with HIV.

#### **Concern America**

#### www.capoc.org

Concern America is a globally focused non-profit organization that has worked in materially impoverished regions since 1972. By transforming need into self-sufficiency, they seek to bring health care, clean water, education, and income opportunities to communities worldwide.

#### **Southwest Community Center**

*www.capoc.org* Serves meals and provides services for needy individuals in the community. They are always in need of unopened and unused non-perishable food items and grocery bags to pack things in for their patrons. P4 Historic Floral Park in Pictures

There was so much going on in Historic Floral Park this summer: our annual Freedom Fest celebration, the Arts & Culture jazz concerts and the Pacific Symphony, a Packard Parade and, of course, the annual Fall Concert. There's never not something going on! If you have photos to share, send them to Communications@FloralPark.com.









# Turning Tassels and Opening Doors: Celebrting Our High School and College Graduates

by Jeffrey Katz

The heart of Floral Park beats strong in the stories of our residents, and among these stories, none are more inspiring and heartwarming than those of our graduates. From high school diplomas to college degrees, these young achievers have demonstrated dedication and hard work that will undoubtedly shape their futures and the world around them.

To the graduates among us... congratulations! As you spread your wings, may you always find the warmth of our neighborhood's support beneath you.

#### **Our College Graduates**



Sophia Chiaramonte U.S. Air Force Academy Sophia, daughter of Gina and Tony Chiaramonte (Greenleaf St.), graduated from the United States Air Force Academy as a 2nd Lieutenant, with B.S. in business management. Sophia will be stationed in Charleston South Carolina, where she will be a logistics officer in the United States Air Force.



#### Grace Thawley Harvard University

Grace, daughter of Sharon and John Thawley (Bonnie Brae), graduated from Harvard with a degree concentration in psychology and a secondary in studio art. During her summer, post-graduation, she put her studio art degree to good use as she completed a commissioned pizza oven right here in Floral Park. While at Harvard, she played on the water polo team all 4 years and in her senior year scored a team-high 63 goals. Her most prolific game occurred in February 2019, when she scored a career best 8 goals against Sienna. Grace has returned to Boston with plans to work in private equity/real estate development.

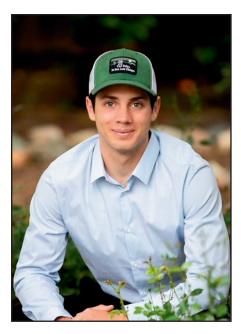
#### Our High School Graduates

#### Sara Castillo

Mater Dei High School Sara, daughter of Trish and Tony Castillo (Greenleaf St.),



graduated from Mater Dei High School Summa Cum Laude, after transferring her junior year from Tokyo, Japan. Sara grew up as an expat in Asia. She lived in Tokyo from 2008 to 2011, then moved to Shanghai, China in 2012 to 2021. She attended her freshman and sophomore years at International School of the Sacred Heart in Tokyo before her family repatriated back to Southern California at the start of her junior year. With this move, she pivoted from athletics to her real passion: performing arts. At Mater Dei, Sarah put more than 1500 hours into the theatre department, from being onstage to teching behind the scenes. She also dual enrolled at Santa Ana College, took many AP and honors classes, was vice president of the Chinese National Honors Society and participated in her school's choir...the same choir that got to sing in Carnegie Hall and the Vatican. Sara will be attending Cal State Fullerton studying for her BFA in acting.



#### Paolo de Lancellotti

Orange County School of the Arts Paolo, son of Anya and David de Lancellotti (Ross St.), studied 6 years (7th-12th) at the Orange County School of the Arts. His conservatory was ballroom dance. He competed with a partner in both smooth and Latin dance styles, was in leadership and always loved the highly competitive biannual dodge ball tournaments. His Team winning 3 of 4 tournaments! This fall, Paolo began at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo where he will be studying communications.

#### Jack Rodgriguez

Samueli Academy Jack, son of Kim (Heliotrope Dr.) and Steve Rodriguez, graduated this June from Samueli Academy in Santa Ana where he was named most promising designer and also played on the varsity basketball team. His art was featured at the Samueli Firewolf Festival where he won first place for best art display. He was also selected by Vans to have his art produced on a shoe and skateboard deck. He was honored to be chosen to complete his internship with the Anaheim Ducks/ OCVIBE in their graphic design department. His t-shirt design for



Trevor Zegras, Ducks Center and EA Sports NHL 2024 cover athlete, was also chosen by the Anaheim Ducks Foundation to be sold in the Ducks team store. Jack will be attending Orange Coast College in the fall. He plans to major in illustration and graphic arts.



Floral Park is holding a Thanksgiving Food Drive over two weekends to help those in need during the holidays. As we head into a time of celebration, let's not only be thankful for our blessings but also remember those who are not as fortunate. The food drive will benefit families at the Santa Ana Boys & Girls Club. Donation boxes will be located from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm at 2221 Victoria Drive. For a list of needed food items, visit FloralPark. com/calendar. You can also donate money towards groceries at FloralPark.com/calendar. For information, contact Rachel Borack at 714-310-4570 or Care@FloralPark.com.



#### **CELEBRATE AUTUMN WITH DELICIOUS FALL RECIPES!**

by Flora Park

While I'm always sad to see summer go, I can't help but look forward to hot bowls of soup, weekend baking, and long walks on crisp afternoons. As the temperatures drop and the days shortern, here's a few recipes to help bring in the new season.

#### TWO MOOSE'S CLASSIC CHICKEN AND DUMPLINGS

from Jeanette Mustafa (Riverside Drive)

Jeanette says this is hands down the BEST fall comfort food! If anyone is interested in a cooking demo class for this amazing recipe, please email jeanette.m.mustafa@gmail.com

#### Ingredients:

- 1 tbsp olive oil & 2 tbsp butter
- Bone in chicken thighs (about 3 -3.5 pounds)
- kosher salt and black pepper
- 4-5 stalks celery, chopped
- 6 carrots, chopped
- 2 sweet yellow onions, chopped
- 2 tablespoons fresh thyme leaves or 2 teaspoons dried thyme
- 4 cloves garlic, chopped or 4 tablespoons of jarred
- 3 bay leaves
- 12 cups chicken stockstore bought or homemade (may require more)
- $2\frac{1}{2}$  cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon baking powder



- <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> teaspoon baking soda
- 6 tablespoons (¾ stick) salted or unsalted butter, melted
- <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> cup buttermilk
- 3 tablespoons chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley leaves, plus more for garnish

#### Instructions:

:Make the chicken: Heat the oil and butter in a large pot or Dutch oven over medium-high heat. Season the chicken with ½ teaspoon each salt and pepper. Brown in batches, 4 to 6 minutes per side. Transfer to a plate; reserve the pot.

Add the celery, carrots, onions, thyme, and garlic to the chicken drippings in the pot and cook, stirring, until the vegetables begin to soften, 5 to 10 minutes. Add the chicken, bay leaves, and 12 cups chicken stock store bought or homemade. Bring to a simmer and cook until the chicken is cooked through, 25 to 35 minutes. Discard the bay leaves and transfer the chicken to a plate; let cool. Shred the chicken with 2 forks and return it to the pot (discarding the skin and bones).

Whisk together ½ cup of the flour, 2 cups of the cooking liquid, and ¼ teaspoon each salt and pepper in a small bowl. Slowly whisk the flour mixture back into the pot and simmer until slightly thickened, 8 to 10 minutes. You may have to repeat this a few times with additional flour or corn starch to get the desired consistency.

Make the dumplings: Whisk together the remaining 2 cups of flour, the baking powder, baking soda, and <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> teaspoon each salt and pepper in a medium bowl. Whisk in the butter, buttermilk and parsley. Reduce heat to low and drop the mixture into the broth in 8 - 10 large spoonfuls. Simmer, covered, until the dumplings are firm, 12 to 18 minutes. Serve the chicken and dumplings sprinkled with parsley. These dumplings are simply delicious so you may want to have extra for any leftovers.

#### **GNOCCI AND STEAK HASH**

From Allyson Thompson (Flower Street)

#### Ingredients:

- 8 ounces sirloin steak, ½ inch pieces
- Kosher salt & fresh ground pepper
- 5 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 12 ounces gnocchi
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 red bell pepper, chopped

- 1 small jalapeno pepper chopped (seeded for less heat)
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon smoked paprika
- 1 tablespoon apple cider vinegar
- <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> cup chopped fresh parsley

#### Instructions:

1. Season the steak with <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> teaspoon salt and a few grinds of pepper in a bowl.

2. Heat 2 tablespoons of vegetable oil in large cast-iron skillet over medium-high heat. Add the gnocchi and cook, stirring occasionally and reducing the heat as needed until browned and crisp all over (6-8 minutes). Season with a big pinch of salt and remove to a plate.

3. Add 1 more tablespoon of vegetable oil to the skillet over mediumhigh heat. Spread out the steak pieces in the pan and cook, turning until well browned all over (2-3 minutes). Remove to another plate.



4. Add the remaining 2 tablespoons of vegetable oil to the skillet along with the onion, bell pepper, jalapeno, 1 teaspoon salt and a few grinds of pepper. Cook, stirring until the vegetables have softened and browned (5-7 min). Add the garlic and paprika and stir for about 30 seconds then drizzle in the vinegar and stir for a few more seconds. Return the gnocchi and steak to the pan and add the parsley. Stir until heated through (1 min). Season with salt and pepper. Top with remaining parlsey.

#### **APPLE BOURBON SMASH**

From Trace Weatherford (North Park Boulevard)

Ingredients:

- ½ honeycrisp apple, roughly chopped
- 2 teaspoons honey
- 4 ounces bourbon
- 2 ounces fresh lemon
- Grated nutmeg
- Pinch ground cardamom•

#### Instructions:

• Muddle apple and honey in a cocktail shaker until completely smashed and liquid is released.

• Add bourbon, lemon juice, a few grates of fresh nutmeg and a pinch of cardamom. Fill shaker with ice and shake vigorously until chilled.

• Strain cocktail into glasses filled with ice, garnish with a few more grates of fresh nutmeg, apple slice, and a cinnamon stick if desired.







#### Solia Moltt

Sofia (Greenleaf St.), an artistic roller skater at the Holiday Skate Club of Orange, has qualified to skate at the World Cup of Figures in Germany, October 20-22, 2023. As a freshman in high school, she is one of the youngest ever to qualify to represent the US at a World Figures Skating event.

Throughout her skating career, Sofia has won more than 12 national titles in roller skating and one international title, the coveted America's Cup. Her coach, Shelby Smith, says "Sofia is not only a hard-working and talented athlete, but she is also an inspiration to the young skaters. They are all cheering for her." As a multi-sport athlete, Sofia runs track at her high school and plays both club and high school. Her soccer club, Slammers RL, won their second back-to-back national title championship in Virginia this summer.



#### Fernando Serratos

"Coach" Fernando Serratos (Greenleaf St.) was inducted into the Santa Ana High School and the SAUSD Halls of Fame on September 18, 2023. Fernando graduated from Santa Ana High School in 1997 and went on to wrestle at Golden West College where he earned a State Title. His coaching career has spanned over 25 years and has consisted of coaching at the prestigious Boston University, including Santa Ana High School, Trabuco Hills High School, and Laguna Hills High School. He has also coached at various clubs in Orange County such as Grappler's Studio, Reign and Hawkeye.

Over the past 7 years, he has shifted his focus to help grow the sport of wrestling for girls. He coached Girl on the Mat, lead a California girls' team to a national title, and played an integral role in starting the first girls' team at Laguna Hills High School leading them to a league championship and CIF duals final.

He recently moved back to his hometown of Santa Ana to join the Santa Ana High School Girls Wrestling Team staff as co-head coach. He has also brought back the famous Wolf Pack Wrestling Club where his focus is providing opportunity to the community.

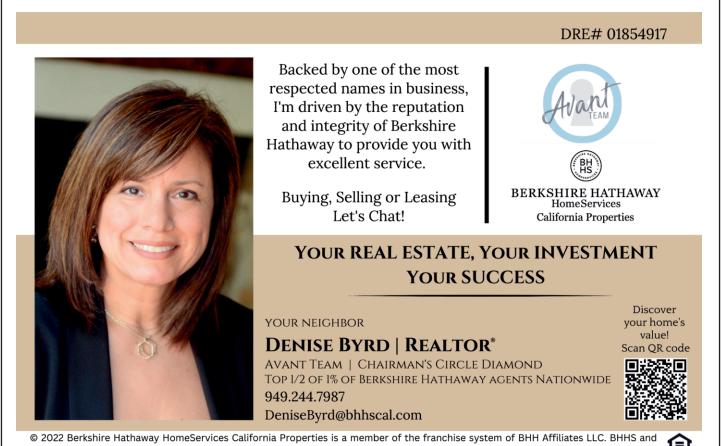
#### Anna Padilla

Anna Padilla (Heliotrope Dr.) accompanied Santa Ana Mayor Valerie Amezcua on her visit to Sahuayo, Mexico, from July 28 thru July 31 to formalize an agreement establishing Sahuayo and Santa Ana as sister cities. Sahuayo, Michoacán, also hap-





He has done it again! In August, Robin Hipolito (Ross St.) swam across Lake Tahoe. That is 21 miles at an altitude of 6,000 feet. With his Catalina swim in 2022, Robin has only to swim the Channel Islands to complete the California Triple Crown. He intends to complete the feat this coming year.



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Anna stands between ath mayor of Sahuayo and Santa Ana mayor Valerie Amezcua

pens to be Anna's birth state.

This journey was a blend of cultural exchange and empowerment, featuring a historic moment that left a lasting impression and filled Anna with immense pride. Anna is a board member for the National Hispanic Business Women Association. She was invited to speak at a women's forum during her visit. Anna shared insights from her own journey as a businesswoman.

DERES"

As her visit to Sahuayo ended, Anna said, "I departed with a sense of renewed purpose, enriched by the connections made and the inspiration drawn from the events and individuals I encountered. This journey highlighted the potential that exists when communities collaborate, and the capacity of empowered women to create positive change."

# Floral Park Announces Curb Appeal Appreciation Project



Newly landscaped front yard at 525 W. Santa Clara.

The Curb Appeal Appreciation Project will select one to three houses, four times a year, to recognize and thank for helping to make Floral Park such a gorgeous place to live.

Homes will be selected by a small group of volunteers and voted on within the group, based on the following criteria:

- Consistent maintenance/upkeep
- A nice change
- Actively done something different
- Provided a new focal point
- A 'Refresh'

What does the homeowner receive? Homeowners will get a sign to place in their yard which they can keep up for one month. The signs would then be retrieved to be reused for upcoming awards. Their yard will be photographed and be placed in *The Gazette* and the winners will be announced via our eblast and our social media channels.

The award will be given out during the first week of September, January, March and June.

Without further ado, below are the winners for September. Congratulations!

- -525 W. Santa Clara
- -2202 N. Flower Street

Please email beautification@ floralpark.com with any questions.

# Home & Garden Tour Looking For Homes for 2024 Tour

We need houses and gardens north of Santa Clara Avenue for the annual FPNA Historic Home & Garden Tour taking place on April 27 & 28, 2024. We are asking all neighbors to help us find homes and gardens, whether it's your very own abode or a neighbor or friend here in Floral Park that you think has a house that should be seen.

Please call or text Sandy DeAngelis at 714-357-8565, if you would like to put forth your home/garden or have one you'd like to nominate.

And thank you for making the Historic Floral Park Home & Garden Tour such a successful, highly anticipated annual event.



## Neighbors Enjoy Two Summer Jazz Concerts

by Jeffrey Katz

There's something truly magical about the warm embrace of a Friday evening in the heart of summer, especially when nestled in the ambiance of Historic Floral Park.

On two summer evenings, jazz aficionados and music enthusiasts alike gathered on the front lawn of The George House (the Victoria Drive residence of Patrick and Denise Johnson) for two unforgettable jazz concerts, part of the budding Floral Park Art & Culture Salon Series which highlights neighborhood and local Santa Ana talent. The home's sprawling lawn was transformed into an open-air jazz club allowing us to revel in the joy of shared artistry and community togetherness.



Debby Yeagger performed with neighbor Steven Cerra and his quartet.

The first concert featured the talented John Reynolds Jazz Quintet. Reynolds, a Ross Street resident, is no stranger to the soulstirring sounds of jazz. Beyond the borders of our little Floral Park, he directs the jazz program at the esteemed Orange County School of the Arts. Our community had the honor of basking in the brilliance of his musical prowess.

The second jazz concert featured Victoria Drive neighbor Steven Cerra and his amazing quartet accompanied by the vocal stylings of performer and recording artist Debby Yeager.

The Johnsons were our gracious hosts for both concerts, their beautiful home provided the perfect backdrop. Patrick and Denise's passion for fostering a vibrant arts and culture scene within Floral Park has truly made their residence a hub of creativity and inspiration.

As the final notes of the concerts echoed into the night, the resounding applause spoke volumes about the impact of the evenings' performances. Both John Reynolds and Steven Cerra left an indelible mark on our hearts, reminding us of the beauty that exists right within our own community.



by Jeffrey Katz

Well, folks, the beginning of July saw another great Freedom Fest celebration as we gathered together to don our stars and stripes and celebrate our beloved country. This year's extravaganza was nothing short of a rousing success, thanks to the extraordinary efforts of Suzee Katz (who's been chairing this shindig since we settled in Floral Park back in 2014) and her team of volunteers.

The event was a sold-out success and filled to the brim with good ol' fashioned Americana charm. Some highlights...

• Some seriously rockin' tunes from the Reef Brothers!

• Hats off to Rochelle Landry, who orchestrated the ever popular cake

walk. We saw folks twirling and swirling like tornadoes for a chance at some truly delectable desserts.

A flag ceremony, emceed by yours truly, commenced with 23 members of the Santa Ana High School marching band parading down Heliotrope lead by flagcarrying Beckett Bruce (Heliotroe Drive). As is our tradition, veterans from each division of the U.S. military and our firefighters from our local battalion were called up to the ceremonial circle. This year's flag ceremony held a special significance as it honored our neighbors who bravely immigrated to the United States and became proud citizens; among them our very own Jaime Saleta (Riverside Dr.) whose journey to citizenship was completed just this past May. It was a poignant reminder that freedom transcends borders and the spirit of equality that unites us all. Jaime was gifted with the very flag carried in by Becket Bruce.

• The revival of the watermelon eating contest! Is there anything more Americana then witnessing young and old chomping away at those juicy wedges with wild abandon!? It's safe to say we might've set a new record for watermelon consumption this side of the Mississippi!

As the sun dipped low on the horizon, we once again made memories to last a lifetime. Freedom Fest 2023 will be etched in our hearts as a testament to the unity, the laughter, and the love that flow through the veins of Floral Park.

I'd like to give a heartfelt thank you to my wife, Suzee Katz, the heart and soul of this grand affair – whose dedication to this event has kept Freedom Fest flying high year after year. You're a real-life Lady Liberty, Suzee, shining that torch of togetherness for us all.



# Interview with Mookie

by Mark Rothenberg

Last week, the Floral Park Neighborhood Gazette sat down with our new four-legged resident Mookie Peart (Labrador Retriever extraordinaire) of North Ross

Street to get his take on the neighborhood and world events.

Mookie, thanks for meeting with us.

It's a pleasure to be with you. By the way. I love you.

Aw thanks Mookie we love you too.

Can I give you my frisbie?

So kind of you. Do you want us to throw the frisbie?

I just want you to look at my frisbie but I'm not going to give it to you. But that doesn't mean I don't love you because I do.

Thanks Mookie. So-you are new to the neighborhood. What are your thoughts?

I love it here. I love the people I live with. I love our nextdoor neighbors. I love the people who walk by the house. Oh - I also love I'm an open book. I think the zeitgeist of the neighborhood appropriately reflects a true esprit de corps amongst the denizens of our quaint hamlet. This spiritus mundi informed by the sense of place created by the architectural quality and integrity of a pre-war California neighborhood. I spend a good deal of time reading Nietzsche and am a tremendous admirer of the painter Reynolds Beal.

> What a beautiful sentiment! You are clearly very worldly.

35

Thanks. Can I eat that thing on your nose?

Those are glasses. You can't eat them.

Did I mention how much I love you?

You did.

Ok-I just want to make sure you knew that.

Mookie, now we are going to conclude our interview with the questionnaire invented by the great Bernard Pivot made famous by James Lipton on Inside the Actor's Studio. What is your favorite word?

My favorite word is "Mookie."

What is your least favorite word? "Inside." What turns you on? My Frisbie. Do you want to look at it again? What sound or noise do you love? When someone calls my

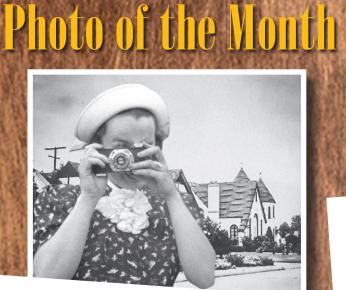
#### name!

What sound or noise do you hate?What is hate?What is your favorite curse word?Gosh darned it!Mookie thanks so much for chatting with us.I love you. Do you want to see my frisbie?

the people who drive by the house. And I love the people who come to the house! Do you want to see my frisbie?

No thanks Mookie, I'm good. We get that you love everyone but our readers really want to learn a bit more about you. For example, what do you think about the neighborhood?





We are thrilled to introduce a new feature in The Gazette: THE NEIGHBORHOOD'S **MOST BEAUTIFUL PHOTO OF THE** MONTH! Whether it's a picturesque sunset, a charming garden, or a heartwarming moment among neighbors, this feature will celebrate the visual poetry that is our neighborhood.



neighborhood. Please send your submissions to communications@ floralpark.com

(Clockwise: Roses on Greenleaf by Denise Ryan, Moon over 19th Street by Marc LaFont, The historic Elliott House after a storm by Jeffrey Brumett)

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



# Halloween Home Decorating Contest & Walk of Frights

Looking for a scare? Fright this way! From ghosts and goblins to pumpkins and spider webs, Historic Floral Park will be ablaze with Halloween hocus pocus as residents decorate for the holiday. Awards will be given during the Floral Park Home Decorating Contest in the following categories: (1) Best In Show, (2) Most Original (3) Scariest Display, (4) Best Use of Skeletons. (5) Best Use of Special Effects and (6) Most Theatrical. However you decorate, be sure that you're ready by sunset, Saturday, October 28 when witches judges will roam the neighborhood looking for the winning displays.

Then the following evening, Sunday, October 29, it's the Walk of Frights from 6:00 to 9:00 pm when friends and family gather together and walk the neighborhood to view all the spooky home displays. Witch way to go? A downloadable map will be published at FloralPark.com/calendar with all the decorated homes and winning displays. And don't be afraid to stop for a bite at any of the eight snack stations along the way. It'll be all treats and no tricks. We need eight homeowners willing to host station — you can sign up at FloralPark.com/ calendar. Wishing you a boo-tiful Halloween!



I've been meaning to reach out to thank FPNA for all that they do for our neighborhood. Ed and I especially enjoyed the Pacific Symphony performance and we've been sharing a video that I took with several of our south county friends We are so proud. We also went to Corona del Mar last night to see the moon and we bumped into neighbors from Heliotrope Drive (Crissy and Bill) and the four of us talked about how much we all enjoyed the event. Thank you! -Jayne Muñoz (Victoria Drive)

To write the editor, send an email to editor@floralpark.com.





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# Neighborhood Calendar

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

#### **OCTOBER**

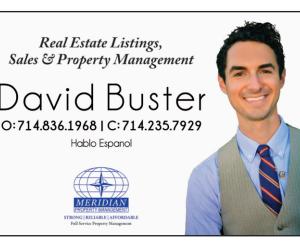
- FPNA Board Meeting ...... Tuesday, Oct. 10
- Fright Night at the Frida ...... Sunday, Oct. 22
- Boo! The Halloween Spooktacular... Saturday, Oct. 28
- Halloween Decorating Contest......Saturday, Oct. 28 •
- Walk of Fright ...... Sunday, Oct. 29

#### **NOVEMBER**

• Arts & Culture Salon Series #7 Indian Tribal Gathering ......Sunday, Nov. 4 • Thanksgiving Food Drive..... Friday through Sunday Nov. 10-12, Nov. 17-19 • Veterans Day Ceremony ......Saturday, Nov. 11 • FPNA Board Meeting ......Tuesday, Nov. 14

#### DECEMBER

- Yard Sale ......Saturday & Sunday, Dec. 2 & 3
- Holiday Party ...... Saturday, Dec. 9
- Menorah Lighting ...... Tuesday, Dec. 12
- Walk of Lights .....(Tentative) Thursday, Dec. 21





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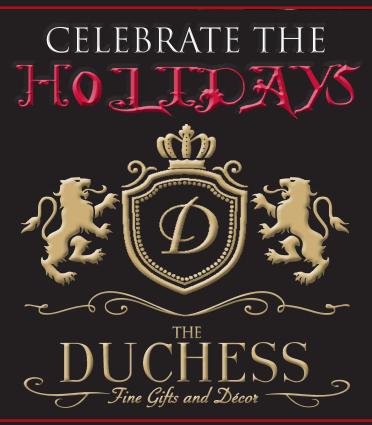
























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### Floral Park Community Market Update

Due to extremely low inventory, the following data reflects homes sold in the area from Third Quarter to Present

Address	Sqaure Footage	\$\$\$/SQ. FT.	SALES PRICE
2104 N Greenbrier St.	1,645	547.11	\$900,000
1801 Louise St.	1,950	653.85	\$1,275,000
1009 W River Ln.	2,132	619.13	1,320,000
2116 N Ross St.	2,529	593.11	1,500,000
2300 N Flower St.	3,100	558.06	1,730,000

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JAIME SALETA & JENNY HAZEN FROM RIVERSIDE DRIVE

What we love about living in Floral Park is that our neighbors have truly become some of our closest friends. We love the individuality of the homes, the sense of community and the absolute fun we have living in this special community.

### Another Client for Life...

Sandy DeAngelis found us the home of our dreams in Historic Floral Park 27 years ago. After raising our family and turning our neighbors into best friends, we have retired and moved to Oregon. Hiring Sandy and her team made our difficult task more than easy; it was actually fun! Her expertise, knowledge, and psychological savvy blew us away. We loved her "can do" attitude. She listened to our concerns and, best of all, turned our home into a showstopper then sold the house in 2 days at way above asking! Sandy and her team were there at every moment, walking us through the entire process. As sad as we are to leave, we feel blessed to have been here and to have Sandy by our side all along the way.

-Ron & Robin Romain (2116 N. Ross)



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



SG DRE #00745605 | Sandy #00960016 | Cheri #02114788 | Ed #01710117 | Susan #01378883. This is not intended to be a promotion of another broker's listing.