

FLORAL PARK

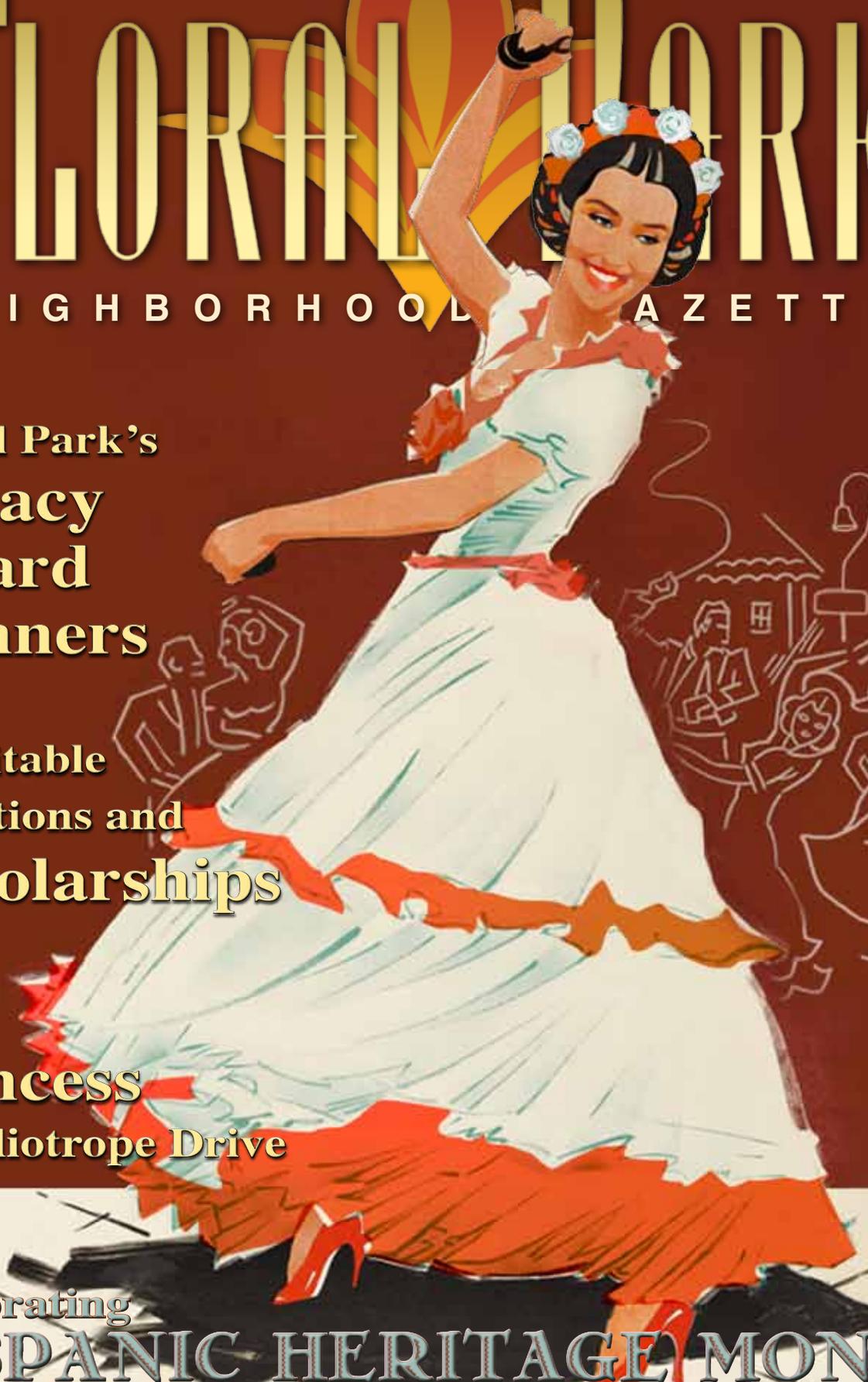
NEIGHBORHOOD P A Z E T T E

Floral Park's Legacy Award Winners

Charitable
Donations and
Scholarships

The
Princess
of Heliotrope Drive

Celebrating
HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH





FALL 2020 ISSUE

FLORAL PARK NEIGHBORHOOD GAZETTE

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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 and contributions are deductible under state and federal law to the extent applicable. Consult your tax professional for advice.

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Letter From The President

by Jeffrey Katz



It's 9:30 on Friday night and I have come to the last task on my list for the week: drafting this column, my first as president of FPNA. I confess that I am committed to lists in the belief that checking off tasks is the pathway to happiness. A checklist to buy more, a life list to accomplish more, a bucket list to live more. In the quest for happiness, we sometimes miss the unique moments that connect us to each other.

These last five months, surviving in the time of COVID, have been devastating. To those who have suffered or watched a loved one suffer, my heart goes out to you. Yet, distilled from this horrible chapter have been smaller moments that have connected us to each other. It is as if the pandemic has given us the permission to take the off-ramp from our productive lives and "waste time" with our neighbors: an evening chardonnay with friends on the front lawn, long walks on tree-lined streets, or gardening at Sarah Mae Downie park.

While the pandemic has put a halt to some of FPNA's annual gatherings, it has also forced us to pivot to alternatives. I am excited by the creativity that the social committee, led by Suzee Katz and Allison DeMark, has brought to this year's calendar of events.

I am equally excited to announce three potential new programs: Neighborhood Care & Compassion, Neighborhood Watch and KInDnesS Project.

Neighborhood Care & Compassion Committee—This type of group has existed in some form in the past, and we're looking to reincarnate it in the future. I am proud that when Rachel Borak (Victoria), Mike & Robin Evans (Heliotrope) and Tammie Chrisman Harakas (North Park) heard of the catastrophic car crash that devastated West Floral Park, it immediately sprang to action in the name of Floral Park. It brought the grieving wife flowers and followed up with a tray of Victory Diner sandwiches to comfort and feed the family. This month, an ad hoc committee will focus on developing guidelines for a potential neighborhood Care & Compassion Committee.

Neighborhood Watch—This program, as well, has had a previous incarnation in our neighborhood. But due to recent senseless acts, we are determined to bring the program back. While the 2020 neighborhood watch program is in its nascent stages, it has already enjoyed a success worth celebrating. Three weeks ago, neighbors "watched" some unusual and troubling activity occurring on the other side of the Heliotrope wall right off of 17th. (Yes, we have two neighbors who live south of the wall.) Suspicious activity at the storefront with "PC Repairs" signage was reported to the SAPD service officer designated for Floral Park. A search warrant was served which uncovered an illegal gambling operation. The games have been removed and our city's code enforcement is working with the property owner.

If you are interested in participating in this program or if you're just a fan of old Charles Bronson movies, please see the article on the Neighborhood Watch program on page 16 to learn more about this meaningful collaboration.

KInDnesS Project—This is an idea I'd like to explore. Consider it the "Junior FPNA Scholarship Program." Parents with kids who are receiving /earning an allowance would discuss donating 10% of their allowance to charity. Three times a year, the kids would meet for an event such as a movie night. At the event, three Santa Ana non-profits would make a two-minute presentation: who they are; who they help; and how they help. The kids would then caucus and decide how their money will be donated. They would then physically hand

a check to the representatives of the non-profit organization. Through this program, our kids, who are fortunate to live in Floral Park, could practice the selfless act of giving.

I watched the RNC and DNC conventions last month. One remark by President Obama resonated with me: “no single American can fix this country alone... It requires an active and informed citizenry. So I am also asking you to believe in your own ability—to embrace your own responsibility as citizens...”

There’s a sense of connection, solidarity, and strength that comes from participating in bettering our community and I encourage you to join any of our neighborhood committees.

National Good Neighbor Day is September 28

Mrs. Becky Mattson from Lakeside, Montana came up with the idea of a national holiday recognizing the importance of good neighbors in 1971. In 1978, U.S. President Jimmy Carter announced the creation of a national day aimed at raising public awareness that good neighbors help achieve human understanding and build strong, thriving communities.

While it’s a blessing to have a good neighbor, it’s even better to BE a good neighbor. Statistics show being neighborly helps cut back on crime and boosts morale, plus you never know when you’re going to need that cup of sugar. Being a good neighbor isn’t all that difficult: starting with kindness is always the first step. As Mister Rogers would say, “Please won’t you be...my neighbor?”



From The Editor

What a crazy time we’re in! But as strange as things are, we’ve gone through worse and come out better. It was nineteen years ago that our nation went through one of the most tragic events in our history, the terrorist attacks of 9/11. At that time we banded together as neighbors, as a community, to support and encourage one another and to instill hope, unity and compassion. In these challenging times we do the same.

In this issue we look at two Floral Park neighbors who exemplify these qualities through a history of giving to others: Mary Druitt and Wayne Suraci.

We take the opportunity to appreciate and pay tribute to the generations of Hispanic Americans who have positively influenced and enriched our neighborhood, community and nation.

We congratulate ten Santa Ana students, who earned FPNA scholarships, not by their scholastic achievement, but based upon their devotion to service and dedication to creating a better world. We gift ten Santa Ana charities who work to enrich the lives of those living in our fair city. Thanks go to sponsorship committee members Gary Barton, Merle Craig, Julie Humphreys, Bev Schauwecker, Erwin Scahuwecker, Tracey Stein and Wayne Suraci for their hard work.

If this crazy year has taught us anything, it is that life is uncertain. Now is a good time to reevaluate what’s truly important in our lives. British philosopher Bertrand Russell once said “The most valuable things in life are not measured in monetary terms. The really important things are not houses and lands, stocks and bonds, automobiles and real estate, but friendships, trust, confidence, empathy, mercy, love and faith.” Couldn’t have said it any better.

Santa Ana Offers Free COVID-19 Testing

The City of Santa Ana has launched the Santa Ana CARES initiative to provide a broad range of health and financial assistance to Santa Ana residents, businesses and non-profits affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Included in the initiative are:

- Free COVID-19 testing for Santa Ana residents by appointment on Saturdays and Sundays at Santa Ana College. To make an appointment, call 714-362-9779.
- Isolation assistance to provide hotel rooms for families who have a member of the household diagnosed with COVID-19.
- Utility bill payment assistance for those with delinquent bills.
- Child care assistance for workers.

Santa Ana CARES is funded by \$28.6 million in federal CARES Act money that was allocated through the State budget. Santa Ana CARES includes \$8 million in direct monetary assistance and other measures including a landlord assistance program, and grants for businesses and non-profits.

The City is providing a COVID-19 hotline to help the community access these assistance programs and will soon have a nurse hotline that Santa Ana residents can call with health questions 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The Santa Ana CARES hotline number is 714-667-CARE (2273) and is available 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Information on all of the assistance programs and other pandemic resources and updates can be found at www.santa-ana.org/CARES.



Celebrating HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Each year, we observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15 by celebrating the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.

The observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to 30 days. It was enacted into law on August 17, 1988.

The day of September 15 is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively.

In Santa Ana, we've traditionally kicked off the celebration with the Fiestas Patrias Festival and Parade, which offered top-level entertainment, delicious food, carnival rides and games, art and culture exhibits and a variety of vendor booths downtown.

This year, however, most traditional celebrations have been cancelled due to the pandemic. Still, there are many ways to observe Hispanic Heritage Month.

Did you know La Catrina, the female skeleton wearing a fancy hat with feathers and modern icon of the Day of the Dead celebration, was originally created in a print by 19th century Mexican artist, José Guadalupe Posada? The Bowers Museum presents an exclusive online presentation on Posada's Unknown Calaveras with Dr. Gloria Arjona, Spanish lecturer at the California Institute of Technology on Sunday, September 20 from 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Seniors are invited to make their own Día de los Muertos sugar skull on October 22 by reserving kits online by October 1 for pick up at the

Bowers Museum.

The Orange County Library System has numerous online events in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month where you can create your own Mexican folk art, make a piñata, learn about regional instruments, and join in hispanic heritage story time. The library invites you to check out their vast collection of Latin and Spanish language music, explore the rich and diverse history of Hispanic Americans like Ellen Ochoa, the world's first Hispanic female astronaut, Roberto

Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution and US Holocaust Memorial Museum. Here you'll find exhibits and collections from around the world, fascinating histories, guides for kids, travel itineraries, videos on everything from Spanish gastronomy to la Quinceañera to the crafts of Peru. If you have children at home, you can find curriculum and study guides on Hispanic heritage, culture and history for kids K-12.

Biography.com has captivating stories on historical figures (Frida Kahlo, Eva

“The story of Hispanics in America is the story of America itself. The Hispanic community's values—love of family, a deep and abiding faith, and a strong work ethic—are America's values.”

—President Barack Obama

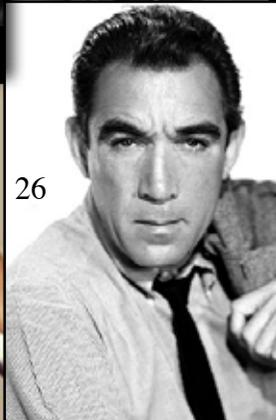
Clemente, the first Latin American to be inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame and Sonia Sotomayor, the first Latino woman nominated to the US Supreme Court. Explore books by celebrated Hispanic authors such as Chilean-American author Isabel Allende (*House of Spirits*), Dominican-American author Julia Alvarez (*In The Time of the Butterflies*), Mexican-American authors, Rudolfo Anaya (*Bless Me, Ultima*) and Sandra Cisneros (*The House on Mango Street*) and Mexican poet and diplomat Octavio Paz, awarded Nobel Prize in Literature.

A great place to start online is HispanicHeritageMonth.gov, a joint project of the Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of

Perón, Sdor Juana Inés de la Cruz), singers (Selena, Jennifer Lopez, Gloria Estefan, Marc Anthony) musicians (Tito Puente, Carlos Santana, Ruben Gonzalez), actors (Desi Arnaz, Rita Moreno, Selma Hayek, Sofia Vergara) and more. Even OprahMag.com is highlighting stories from a Latinx perspective throughout Hispanic Heritage Month.

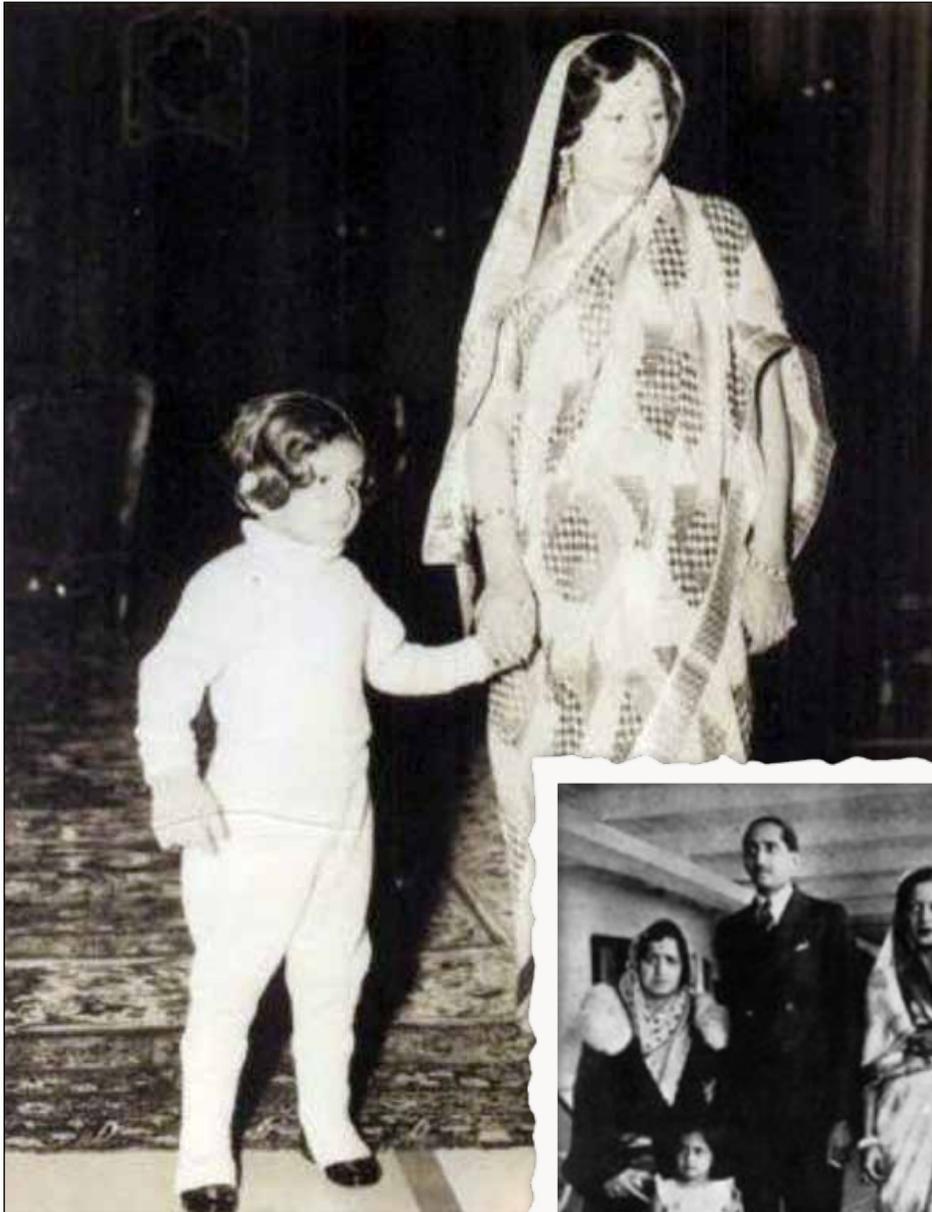
If you're a film fan with a Netflix account, there's Selma Hayek's portrayal of Mexican artist Frida Kahlo, *Frida*; a light-hearted comedy about Mexican cinema star Pedro Infante (*Como coído del cielo*); the Oscar-winning and emotional portrait of domestic life set against Mexico's political turmoil of the 1970s, *Roma*; (continued on page 27)

RIGHT: How many influential people of Hispanic heritage in America can you name? Answers are on page 27.



THE PRINCESS OF HELIOTROPE DRIVE

the story continues *by Dylan Almendral*



ABOVE clockwise: Maharani Usha Raje Holkar with her paternal grandmother, Maasaheb Maharani Chandravatibai Holkar; with her parents, Maharaja and Maharani of Indore and paternal grandmother in 1936; with her father the Maharaja in 1937.

A

s an addendum to last issue's article about the Maharaja of Indore, Yeshwant Holkar, I felt it was fitting to share more about the person who actually lived in the palace on Heliotrope; the little girl who, when not yet 4 years old, lost her mother to a botched appendectomy; the girl who grew up in an Art Deco palace in a city thousands of miles away from her ancestral home; the little girl who attended Hoover Elementary School; the little girl who would become a queen.

This is the story of the young Maharani Usha Raje Holkar – the Princess of Heliotrope Drive.

Princess Usha was born in the American Hospital in Paris, France on October 20, 1933 to the Maharajah and Maharani of Indore. The daughter of the presumed wealthiest man in the world and Indian aristocracy, Usha was destined to lead a charmed life. Between 1933 and 1937, Princess Usha travelled the world with her mother, trotting around the United States making friends with movie stars. The princess knew nothing but paradise... and the Pan-American Clipper. In July 1937, her mother, Sanyogitaraje Holkar, became suddenly ill and an emergency appendectomy was performed in Switzerland while the Maharajah was away in England on business. She did not survive.

The Maharajah took his daughter, the final vestige of his first crush, first love and first wife, and planned to make a second home in America.

The Maharajah became ill from grief in Los Angeles and was attended by the woman who would become his second wife, his nurse Marguerite Lawler. It was at this same time that the Maharajah set his eyes on Santa Ana's Floral Park neighborhood as his home away from home. He built an Art Deco fortress to protect Princess Usha; it was a building designed both for its beauty and utility, fresh on the heels of the tragic story of the Lindbergh baby kidnapping just a few years prior.

In 1940, the fortress was complete and life began anew with Marguerite acting as wife and stepmother to Princess Usha with the help of Usha's paternal grandmother. The house was also staffed with a governess, Mary Louise Thallier (a college graduate born in New York in 1910) as well as Mr. H.A. Shan, international man of mystery, body guard and a personal friend from the Maharajah's days at Oxford.

The staff was rounded out with Blanche LeSage-Famechon (1871-1963) and Anne B. Famechon (1904-1978), mother and daughter, and house keeper and cook respectively. They would also become the foster family for the new Mrs. Holkar.

Throughout 1940, Princess Usha traveled with her stepmother, spending much time in Hawaii and other Pacific islands that were not yet under the control of Japan. This was the life that the princess was used to. She even had time to play in a local piano recital at the YMCA. But this was all to change.

With war brewing in the east with imperial Japanese forces attacking British colonial Indian shipping lanes and colonies, the Maharajah was called home. He took Marguerite and two other members of staff with him and returned to Indore in July of 1941. Pearl Harbor wouldn't happen for another five months and Princess Usha was left in the care of her governess, house staff, Mr. Shan and her Floral Park friends and neighbors.

The city of Santa Ana treated the princess like any other kid. She attended local birthday parties, and went to public school at the now

defunct Jefferson Elementary on 17th Street. She could even be seen playing outside on Heliotrope now and again, but always under the watchful eye of her governess. Here, the princess lived a typical American life.

From July of 1941 to July of 1943, the princess was without her father and stepmother, whom by all accounts

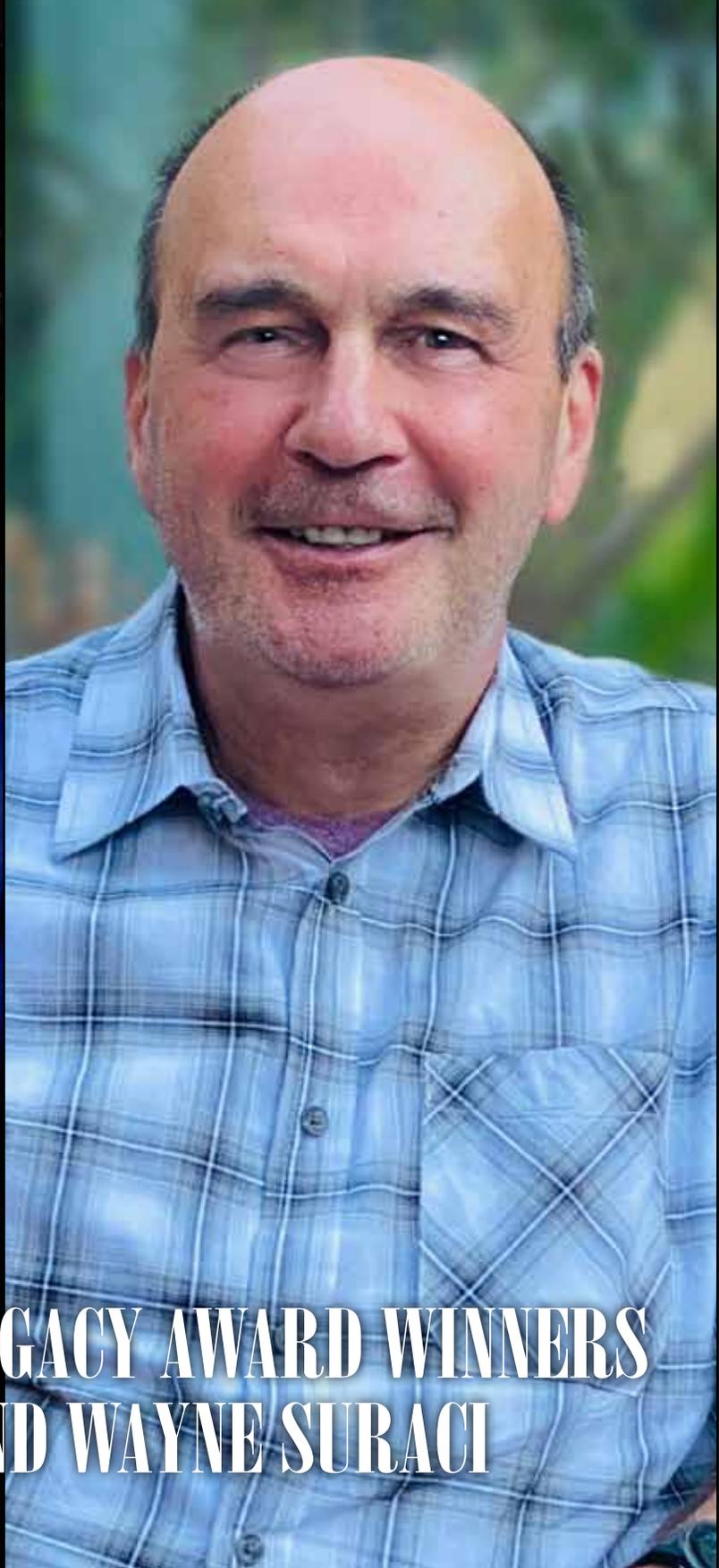


was a decent person. However, in July of 1943, the Holkars filed for divorce. The day of the divorce, he married another Los Angeles divorcé whose divorce from her husband finalized the same day. The Maharajah gave custody of Princess Usha to Marguerite, who legally adopted the now 6 year-old girl. They would split their time between the palace on Heliotrope Drive and their home in Laguna's Emerald Bay. In 1946, at age 9, Marguerite decided to return her stepdaughter to her ancestral home, India. Once again single and without child, Marguerite joined the WAVES (*Women Activated Volunteer Emergency Service*), the female portion of the United States Navy. She died in 1963 and is buried at Fairhaven Memorial Park.

The Maharani never returned to Santa Ana and upon her father's death at age 53, inherited his title and rights. Today, at age 86, she is a pillar in her country and is celebrated for her love of the arts and architecture.

ABOVE (clockwise): Her parents in traditional dress; at a birthday party in Santa Ana in 1940; at "The Modern Maharajah" exhibition at the Museum of Decorative Arts in Paris in September, 2019; newspaper clipping from 1933 announcing Usha's birth in Paris; (center photo) with her mother, Sanyogitaraje Holkar. To read the previous article, "The Maharaja of Indore: When Royalty Lived in Floral Park", go to FloralPark.com/history, then scroll down to articles.

LEGACY AWARDS



**2020 FLORAL PARK LEGACY AWARD WINNERS
MARY DRUITT AND WAYNE SURACI**

The legacy committee is pleased to announce that this year we have two Floral Park Legacy Award winners, Mary Druitt and Wayne Suraci. Floral Park has a long tradition of recognizing neighbors who have made truly outstanding contributions to our community and represent the heart and soul of Floral Park.

Sue Stewart, Mary's daughter, wrote such moving words to describe her mother that I have included them here:

Mary I. Druitt came to Santa Clara Avenue as a bride in September of 1946. After a short stint in Houston, Texas and Oxnard, California, this was her home until she passed in April of 2005 (home tour weekend).

Mary was the "docent coordinator" for the first of many home tours in Floral Park. She used her phone, her yellow pad, her pencil and her bicycle to organize and supervise docents. She encouraged folks from all over the county to participate in this special event. As the years went by, she recruited Nicki Curran, our lifetime neighbor, to help her. And, as you know, Nicki eventually took over the entire job, now using email, her computer and a golf cart.

Prior to the start of the official Floral Park Neighborhood in the early 1990s, she was active in whatever the current neighborhood group was. She was a major participant in closing Broadway to incoming traffic; stopping through traffic at Ross and 17th; stopping northbound traffic from entering the neighborhood at 17th street on Flower; and stopping right hand turns from Memory Lane southbound onto Flower.

Before that, she was active in the closing of the Flower Street off-ramp off the 5 freeway; getting a crossing guard at Ross and 17th for children crossing to Jefferson Elementary School (the signal wasn't put in until the early 1960s when Jefferson was replaced by Alpha Beta).

She was also active in continuing to put traffic and safety issues before the City of Santa Ana.

Raising two children on Santa Clara Avenue (Sue & Craig), she was active in PTA (at Jefferson, Willard, Santa Ana High School, and Servite High School), First Methodist Church, Girl Scouts (our troop recently celebrated 50+ years of friendship!), Boy Scouts, Children's Home Society, Ebell Club, candy-strippers at the old Santa Ana Community Hospital, volunteering in the nursery at the First Congregational Church of Santa Ana, and volunteering at Western Medical Center on Tustin.

For a couple of years, she used her Spanish as an Avon sales lady, selling most of her products to the ladies at Diamond Laundry. After her children were grown, Mom worked at Charmante Furs in Santa Ana, as a "red coat" at the Anaheim Convention Center, and in the security office at Disneyland.

Wayne Suraci is the neighbor every neighborhood should have. He is not only kind and generous with his time, but he is truly engaged in making Floral Park a better place to live.

Wayne is a native Canadian, having grown up in an idyllic small town, where everyone knew each other and cared about neighbors like family. It was this nostalgia that drew him to Floral Park, after years spent in Irvine and Santa Ana. Wayne and his husband Merle would take leisurely drives through the neighborhood, taking special interest in open houses, as sort of a "maybe one day" dream. As many of us can relate, they took a special liking to a house on Ross Street, and as serendipity would have it, they happened to drive down the street as it was coming up for sale. Wayne told me it was like the scene in "Miracle on 34th Street" when the girl runs into the house of her dreams – "It was just a feeling that I belonged here," he said.

That was 2010, and for the next 10 years, both Wayne and Merle have embraced

"There is nothing more beautiful than someone who goes out of their way to make life beautiful for others."

— Mandy Hale

Mom was born in Cardiff, Wales. She grew up in Detroit, Michigan. She studied at the Universidad de Mexico in Mexico City where she met my dad (William Druitt). Even though they lived in the same place for many years, they were avid travelers who saw much of the United States and many other countries (and cultures) as well.

She was always available to help a child or a friend. She tutored many of our friends in Spanish, as well as sticking in lessons on manners and spelling whenever she could. She was a gracious lady, who delighted in sharing her home and her neighborhood with friends, family and visitors from all over.

Floral Park is honored to celebrate Mary Druitt's indelible contributions to the neighborhood. She is a true inspiration to us all.

Floral Park as if they've lived here their whole lives. Wayne immediately got involved on the FPNA sponsorship committee, and in 2014 he became Co-1st VP with Julie Humphreys. Together they led their committee in selecting recipients for our annual scholarship and charity awards, endowed to Santa Ana school kids and non-profit organizations. His next neighborhood endeavor was on the home tour committee, where he was able to realize many more of his fundraising ideas. Together with Sue McManus, he introduced the wine & beer garden to the home tour and began a new tradition of raising funds specifically for scholarships. All net proceeds went to the scholarship fund, and last year the wine & beer garden funded three additional scholarships of \$1,000 each, (*LEGACY continued on page 23*)



Floral Park Scholarship recipients (top row, L to R) Jeannie Bui, Kate Charco, Arlene Garcia, Franklin Guevara (bottom row) Wendy Millan, Jamila Penaloza, Andres Rios, Adam Santana, and Yulin Tang. Not pictured is Galilea Ruiz.

Floral Park Awards \$10,000 in Scholarships to Santa Ana Students

Every year, proceeds from the Floral Park Home & Garden Tour go towards funding scholarships for Santa Ana high school and college students. Recipients are selected from applicants for their community involvement and volunteerism, each receiving a \$1,000 scholarship. We are proud to announce our ten scholarship winners for 2020:

JEANNIE BUI

Godinez Fundamental High School (Joe Banger Award)

Jeannie volunteers as a teaching assistant at her church. After overcoming her initial reluctance to get in front of kids, Jeannie's leadership skills flourished, and she has become inspired to help young learners and feels that she can truly make a difference. Jeannie plans to attend UCLA and pursue a medical career.

KATE CHARCO

Segerstrom High School

Kate volunteered her time to Human Options, a non-profit that supports the fight to end domestic violence. She led workshops to educate others and bring awareness to the local community. She acted as a peer-to-peer mentor and developed a social media campaign to provide further outreach. Kate plans to attend UC Berkeley to study business.

ARLENE GARCIA

Valley High School

Arlene volunteers at Kidsworks, a non-profit that helps families who need nutritional support and public-program assistance. She volunteers at events and in the office to assist struggling families in Santa Ana. She plans to attend the University of Alaska to become a wildlife biologist.

FRANKLIN GUEVARA

Middle College High School

Franklin volunteers at The Discovery Cube, where he communicates his enthusiasm for science to young kids. Over the course of his volunteer experience, Franklin engaged people of all ages and recruited his friends to volunteer as well. Franklin plans to attend Stanford University and major in chemical engineering.

WENDY MILLAN

Santa Ana High School

Wendy is an active volunteer for the Assistance League of Santa Ana, giving her time to work at the League's thrift store, helping to serve the families who benefit greatly from these shops. Wendy was inspired by the families she helped and wants to keep volunteering in the future. Wendy plans to major in global studies at UC Berkeley.

JAMILA PENALOZA

Saddleback High School

Jamila created her own care-package drive for the homeless, to fill a void she saw in the community for much needed resources. Over 5 months, Jamila coordinated fundraising efforts and collected supplies to make over 50 individual care packages that included socks, water, non-perishable food, and other essential items. Jamila and her small group of student volunteers took public transportation to deliver the care packages to homeless and needy people throughout Santa Ana. Jamila plans to attend UCLA in the fall and major in psychology.

ANDRES RIOS

Segerstrom High School

Andres became involved with CHOC as part of a school passion project. He dedicated a year to visiting children with cancer, coordinating volunteer opportunities for other students, and leading fundraising efforts to support their mission of bringing joy to kids, with gifts and in-kind donations. Andres plans to pursue a career in Spanish education at Cal State Fullerton.

GALILEA RUIZ

Middle College High School

Galilea volunteers for Stand Up to Cancer and has held various positions

in her high school chapter, including president. Galilea has helped organize fundraisers and walks to raise cancer awareness among her peers. Galilea plans to go to college, then medical school, to become a forensic pathologist

ADAM SANTANA

Century High School

Adam was inspired by his baseball coach at Century High School to give back to his community. As a volunteer advisor to incoming freshman students, Adam has helped young kids navigate their transition to high school. Adam's connections to younger kids has stayed with him and, he hopes, he has inspired them to follow in his footsteps as he followed his coach before him. Adam would like to become a math teacher after college.

YULIN TANG

Orange County School of the Arts

Yulin has had the unique experience of volunteering overseas, in India, caring for children in the most impoverished areas of Jaipur. Yulin has been accepted to Cornell University and plans a future as a doctor.

Neighborhood Funds Ten Local Charities

A percentage of each year's proceeds from the Floral Park Home & Garden Tour fund not only scholarships but charities that provide valuable services to the people of Santa Ana. Floral Park neighbors nominate charities and the selection is made by the neighborhood scholarship committee. This year the neighborhood is proud to award \$450 donations to the following ten charities:

MOMS ORANGE COUNTY

MomsOrangeCounty.org

Since 1992, MOMS Orange County has provided free access to prenatal care, health screenings, infant development screenings, health education and referral services through monthly home visits and group classes. They currently serve more than 2,500 low-income families annually. OC's largest nonprofit dedicated to newborn and pregnancy health, they have been recognized by the Health Care Agency of Orange County, the Children and Families Commission of Orange County, and the California Department of Health Services

LOVE BUGS RESCUE

LoveBugsRescue.org

Since 2010, this foster-based animal rescue charity works with local animal shelters that are overpopulated to lessen the number of animals being euthanized. Voted best animal rescue by the OC Weekly readers poll, Love Bugs is dedicated to saving the lives of animals through adoption, fostering, spaying & neutering, and education. Many Floral Park residents have adopted their pets from Love Bugs.

POLICE EXPLORERS

In partnership with Boy Scouts of America, the Explorer program provides young men and women the opportunity to study the field of law enforcement and community service first-hand. They sponsor efforts to develop awareness of the criminal justice system



Moms OC offers childbirth and Mommy & Me classes in English, Spanish and Vietnamese.

through training, practical experiences and other activities. Each year, the Explorers contribute approximately 2,000 volunteer hours towards study and community service to the Police Department and the City of Santa Ana, including volunteering their time to help at the Floral Park Home & Garden Tour.

CASA OF ORANGE COUNTY

CASAOC.org

Founded in 1985, CASA OC annually serves approximately 800 of the children who move through our court system as a direct cause of abuse and neglect. CASA OC is a privately-funded non-profit organization that serves severely abused, neglected and abandoned children through the recruitment, training, and continued support of volunteers who advocate and mentor these children, representing their best interest in the courtroom and other settings.

THE SAMUELI ACADEMY

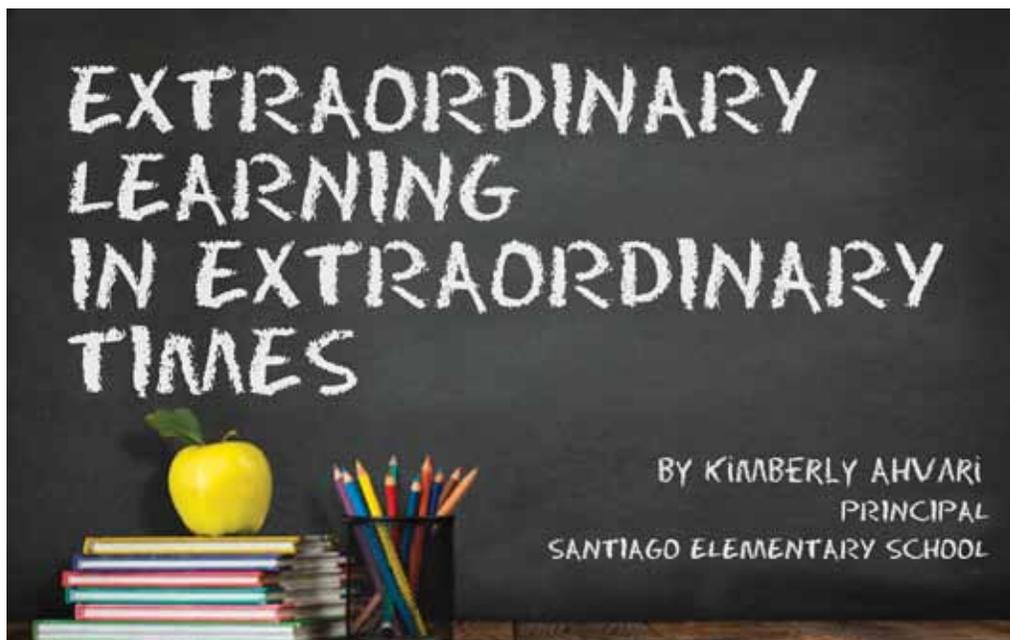
SamueliAcademy.org

This Santa Ana-based charter school has offered educationally underserved communities a new choice for public education of teens since 2006. Founded by Orangewood Foundation board members, the school serves many at-risk and foster care youth served by Orangewood, one of the leading providers of services to current and former foster youth in Orange County, helping nearly 2,000 foster and community youth annually prepare for independent adulthood.

(continued on page 26)

**Do Your Part
To Slow The Spread**

**Wear A Mask
Wash Your Hands
Social Distance**



As we embark on the 2020-2021 school year, there are so many unknowns. As a principal navigating these unprecedented times, I am dedicated to academic and social emotional wellbeing of each student. The questions of health, safety, rigorous instruction, and technology, circulate in my head, not on a daily basis, but minute-by-minute. Though this new environment has challenges, it also provides opportunities for us to grow educators by developing new and innovative ways to deliver instruction and enhance learning.

Relationships before Rigor. This phrase has never been more important! For students to embrace learning, they need to feel connected to their teacher, classmates, and school. Knowing that relationship building can be difficult behind a computer screen, SAUSD has embedded Social Emotional Learning (SEL) into their daily lessons to provide time for students to connect and share. Before learning even began, Santiago teachers reached out to each student with a personal phone call welcoming them to our school year and answering any questions that the family may have. Teachers also met their students from a distance as they handed them school supplies to prepare for school. Though behind a mask and through

a car window, this single interaction was powerful, allowing students to see their teachers in person and start to build a connection. Our priority was that every Santiago Turtle felt part of our community from Day 1. If you see that your child seems to be struggling connecting with others while online, please reach out to your child's teacher or school counselor.

To meet the academic needs of all students, teachers provide a combination of synchronous (live) and asynchronous (independent) learning daily. With learning taking place away from school, communication between the home and school is more crucial than ever. Encourage your child to ask questions if something is unclear and email the teacher with any concerns regarding your child's learning.

To help at home, parents should work with their child to set up a daily schedule including schoolwork, family time, and free time. Students should also have a consistent place to work on a daily basis, away from distractions. Headphones are a great tool if multiple children are working virtually from home. For smaller children, it is helpful to have an adult close by in case any concerns come up. Always remember that the school is here to help if you need anything.

Technology is vital for students to

be able to access online classes. To provide technology support, videos and links are constantly being updated on Santiago's website, and our Turtle Tech Squad provides walk-in support every Tuesday and Thursday to address student needs. Our office staff is also happy to assist students and parents by phone from 7:30-4:00 daily. In addition, SAUSD has created a Technology Assistance Line at (714) 480-4743. We are here to help!

To our Santiago scholars, **YOU'VE GOT THIS!** We are so proud of your extraordinary efforts in staying connected with your teacher and classmates, and reaching out if you need help. We

know this can be tough sometimes and we are here to help if you need anything. We miss you so much!

To our incredible teachers, **YOU'VE GOT THIS!** Your efforts in making online learning engaging and meaningful go beyond the norm on a daily basis. In the past five months, you have completely changed the way you teach our students and have done so with grace, flexibility, and vision for revolutionizing instruction. Without you, none of this is even possible!

To our extraordinary parents, **YOU'VE GOT THIS!** Thank you for being our partners in learning. We know there are daily challenges and are so grateful for your support and constant communication. If you find yourself in need of additional support, SAUSD schools have a Family and Community Engagement (FACE) worker to assist with community resources and support year round. We are eternally grateful for you!

To our amazing community members, thank you for your constant support of Santiago Elementary School! I had the opportunity to walk parts of the neighborhood recently and met so many of you. I am so encouraged and proud to be part of Santiago and am here to support this amazing community in any way I can. Together, **WE'VE GOT THIS!**

Celebrating the 2020 Chili Cook-Off at Home

Every fall, Floral Park celebrates this delicious spicy comfort food with a chili cook-off & block party. This year, however, the pandemic has put the kibosh on much of our public gatherings. But that doesn't mean we still can't celebrate. It just means we'll be celebrating at home.

But before we start cooking, have you ever wondered about the origins of this ancient, spicy bowl of deliciousness?

Legend has it that a Spanish nun in the early 1600s, Sister Mary of Agreda, never left her convent. Instead, she traveled across the Atlantic via out-of-body experiences to preach Christianity to the Indians. It was on one of these celestial trips that she discovered the recipe for chili and wrote it down: chili peppers, venison, onions, and tomatoes.

Or did the first bowl of chili come from Canary Islanders who made their way to San Antonio in 1723 and combined local peppers, wild onions and various meats?

Most historians agree that the earliest written description of chili came from J.C. Clopper, who lived near Houston. While his description never actually mentions the word chili, he tells of a kind of hash with as many peppers as meat, stewed together by poor families in San Antonio.

In the 1880s, a market in San Antonio started setting up chili stands from which chili or "bowls o' red", as it was called, were sold by women who were called "chili queens." A bowl o' red cost diners such as writer O. Henry and democratic presidential hopeful William Jennings Bryan ten cents and included bread and a glass of water. The fame of chili carne began to spread and the dish soon became a major tourist attraction. It was featured at the World's Fair in Chicago in 1893 at the San Antonio Chili Stand.

By the 20th century, chili joints had made their debut in Texas and soon spread across the West. In fact, by the end of that decade, there was hardly a town that didn't have a chili parlour,



which were often no more than a shed or a room with a counter and some stools. It's been said that chili joints meant the difference between starvation and staying alive during the Great Depression since chili was cheap and crackers were free.

Today, playful debates rage at chili cook-offs regarding which ingredients compose "real" chili. For many, a "bowl o' red" contains nothing more than chili peppers, meat, and spices. But it's not uncommon to find varieties of chili that also feature tomato sauce, pasta noodles, pickles or even chocolate!

Here in Floral Park, chili cook-off contestants have created their own unique version of chili by choosing specific ingredients they feel will create the most intense flavor. Some feature different types of meat, including beef, sausage, turkey, like Rick Litchie's "Road Kill Chili". Many chili chefs customize the spiciness of their chili by selecting a variety of chili peppers like Steve Thomas's "Smokin' Hot Rambling Anejo Chili". Who can forget the 1st place winning "New Chilis On The Block" or Rochelle Landry and Gloria Crockett's infamous "Pull My Finger Chili"?

But the fan favorite was Jonathan Rosenberger and Trace Weatherford's "Red's Smoked Brisket Chili", last year's People's Choice winner.

Naturally, most of the winners are

keeping their top secret chili recipes close to their chests. But the Santa Ana Elks Lodge #794, who came in second place in last year's competition, have generously agreed to share their award-winning recipe for "Heart Burn Chili" for you to try at home. Tums optional.

SANTA ANA ELKS LODGE #794 HEART BURN CHILI

- 20 pounds of ground beef (*ask your butcher to use the chili grind plate if grinding it fresh for a thicker grind of beef, regular 80/20 ground beef from your local supermarket will work.*)
- 2 large yellow onions
- 1 tablespoon dry oregano
- 1 tablespoon cumin
- 1 cup dark chili powder
- 1 tablespoon cayenne pepper
- ½ cup of Spanish paprika
- 3 tablespoon of salt
- 2 tablespoons black pepper
- 1 cup chopped garlic
- 1 Large (#10) can of ground tomatoes
- 32-ounce tomato juice
- 1 cup tomato paste
- 2 large cans of pinto beans
- 2 large cans of kidney beans

Sauté the ground beef with the chopped yellow onions and garlic, add all the dry ingredients and tomato paste cook for ten minutes over medium heat stirring. Next add tomato juice and paste, let it cook on medium to high heat for 40 minutes stirring every 5 minutes. Next add the beans, cook on medium high heat until it boils, remove from heat and let it rest

Serve in a bowl with blended cheddar and jack cheese, diced white onion and a dollop of sour cream. Garnish with chopped parsley.



WHAT'S UP? READERS!



ON THE TOWN

by Ed Trotter

The bombshell news on the Santa Ana culinary scene recently that Playground, an anchor for the revival of DTSA, will close came as a sucker punch.

After what will be more than a decade run, the beloved restaurant will shutter at the end of 2021 when its current lease expires. Playground has been such a flagship for DTSA that one's first reaction is "What now?"

Clearly the pandemic has taken its toll. We'll explore that impact on other restaurants below but as owner Jason Quinn is in his 30s it's time, he seems to say in an OC Register article recently. "You know, 10 years feels like such a good run."

I will miss Playground as I've been going there since not long after its opening and am sad to see it go. But, it was always the playground of young, experimental foodies. I often think of them as the equivalent of computer nerds of my youth. So, good luck to all.

But, creativity grows beyond its constraints and spawns new ventures and opportunities.

How will this affect other restaurants in Santa Ana?

We turned to three restaurateurs who are left standing to see how they are coping with the ravages of this horrid disease. I was surprised at the resilience they showed.

I talked with Floral Park resident Duane Greenleaf who with his partner Pedro Leon operate Benchmark in downtown Santa Ana. I asked for his reaction to Playground closing. "It makes me really, really sad," he commented. "You want a good restaurant business in your community. I really want to develop a camaraderie with other restaurants in our city."

It's a basic truth that nearby restaurants

reinforce one another, particularly when there is a diversity in the cuisines.

Duane has been especially hard-hit by the pandemic as his 28-year-old catering business, Collette's in Fullerton, has been completely shut down. That takes an immense toll on support for a restaurant.

Downtown Santa Ana has been extremely harmed by the shutdown as office workers from all of the government activities, law firms, and myriad other enterprises have stayed home. "Revenue is down big time," he said. "Downtown is dead right now. We have no lunch business. And, no after-work business."

One thing going for Benchmark is that it is essentially a patio restaurant. So, evening business, while down significantly, sustained the business. And, the restaurant has expanded into the rear parking lot.

So what does the future hold for Benchmark? "Even if we get through it, there will be a long-time effect," he said. "People are really scared but we're full-speed."

Similarly, Ana Laura Padilla and her co-owner Laura Fabiola Diaz felt the impact of the shutdown almost instantly after opening Perla just across the street from the Ronald Reagan Federal Building and United States Courthouse in DTSA.

Just a month after opening the restaurant in January of this year, the pandemic hit, putting the business at great peril.

"We struggled to keep our staff employed," Ana told me in a phone interview. But with federal bailouts and ingenuity she and Laura have managed to keep the enterprise afloat. Recently, a group of four of us went to dinner on a Friday night. I must say the place was alive with customers out dining at sidewalk and street tables, eating superb food, drinking divine cocktails, and hearing very well-performed smooth jazz.

I would say the odds of Perla making a go of it are good. Hard work and creative ingenuity will persevere, I predict, once downtown reopens for business.

Another pair of Floral Park residents, Demetri Harakas and his wife Tammie, operate Victory Diner on Main Street in Orange just a few blocks north of Main Place Mall. Because he's not in DTSA and through proactive planning, he's been able to weather the storm quite well, he reports.

Demetri bought the former Duke's restaurant and transformed it into Victory Diner about five years ago. He's been in the restaurant business about 30 years, having owned and then sold Fantastic Café on 17th Street.

What did he do?

"Well, we rose to the challenge early," he said. "We converted basically to drive-through and takeout and added extra staff with tablets working the drive-through line as well as being able to take lot of on-line ordering."

He proudly proclaimed, "I like to play three-dimensional chess, always seeing moves well ahead of the current situation."

He believes "It's about perception; if folks see someone is paying attention to keeping the situation healthy, they will have much greater confidence in being at your facility." All the PPE costs contributed to that perception.

He invested in making that perception a reality by putting tempered glass between tables, not just temporary plastic shields. Complete sanitization and social distancing are the norm.

The result? He reports that he's operating at 95 percent of the pre-pandemic revenue, which, frankly, is amazing.

The couple moved to Floral Park in the past few years because the neighborhood reminded him of his hometown of Lexington, Massachusetts. "This is a great neighborhood," he said. "I love it here. It has wonderful diversity."

There you have it. Success in the face of adversity.

**HERE'S YOUR PART IN
MAKING THIS SUCCESS STORY
REALLY COME TO PASS.
GET OUT THERE AND DINE!**

This economy only works if we spend to keep it going. Yes, there are

risks but they can be managed properly if care is exercised. These people are our family and we must do our part.

If dining in is still too risky for you, then call in for pick-up or home delivery. We do that a lot at our house and slowed down in this culinary trip called life.

One final point: street and parking lot dining is perhaps a turning point for many Southern California communities. We've gone European, it seems. Many Orange County cities have responded to the needs of restaurants to have safer spaces by allowing use of walkways and streets. I suspect this will become a permanent feature, at least seasonally. Sometimes, external forces create new patterns of behavior.

Think of what our streets would feel like at, say, Christmas, all lit up with festive lights and outdoor and heated spaces. It could really create community in ways we never imagined. So, here's "up yours," Covid, and let the social changes begin.



Neighborhood Watch Makes A Comeback

Floral Park is resurrecting its Neighborhood Watch program designed to help prevent and reduce crime through education and increased communication with law enforcement. This program is a cooperative effort between interested neighbors and SAPD services

striving to improve the quality of life in both our neighborhood and the overall community. The program involves getting to know each other, taking time to care about one another, and working together in a program of mutual assistance and acting as an extra pair of "eyes and ears" for law enforcement. The program will facilitate the implementation of crime prevention strategies and safety tips.

To grow this program, FPNA is asking for volunteers to serve as block captains (15 to 20 homes) who will establish and maintain phone numbers and email address trees of neighbors in their designated area in case of emergencies; develop an activity profile to help neighbors recognize suspicious activity and act as a spokesperson for the block.

To volunteer to be a block captain or for more information regarding the program, please reach out to Jeffrey Katz at president@FloralPark.com.

RESTAURANT. NOMINATED FOR BEST NEW

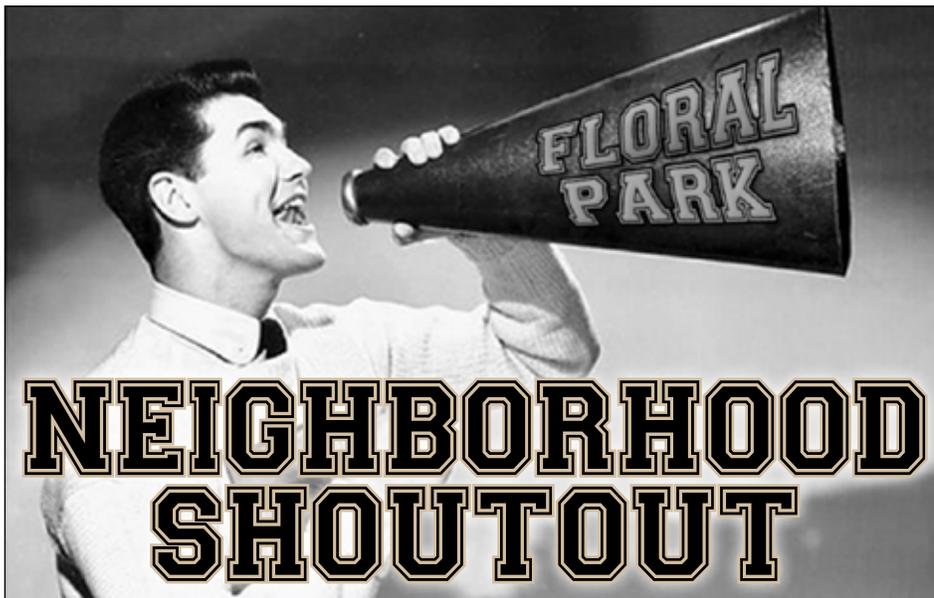
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In this issue of the Gazette, we're trying out a new column where you can give a shout out to folks in the neighborhood. It can be a birthday, anniversary, or just an appreciation for an act of kindness. Whenever you want to recognize a neighbor for any occasion, give them a shout out at newsletter@FloralPark.com.

To **Jill Brumett & Mona Konstan** on 19th Street: thank you for the zucchini. You can stop now. —JB

Shout out to **Gene Andres** who bought his wife Ann a golf cart for her birthday - when do I get my ride?—CS

Congratulations **Wayne Suraci & Merle Craig** on 29 years together! You're an inspiration.

Way to go **Pedro Arizmendi** and **Duane Greenleaf** on opening your new outdoor dining room at Benchmark.

Thank you to the **woman who walks the neighborhood picking up trash!**

Bravo to everyone who flew **LGBTQ Pride flags** during Pride Month. It's awesome to live in such an inclusive neighborhood!

Happy 52nd anniversary to **Bev and Erwin Schauwecker**.

Alison & Rocke DeMark, kudos for bringing the ice cream truck to the neighborhood. So awesome!

Happy B-day to the fabulous **Angelica Romeo** on October 14. Woot, Woot!

Thanks to the **mysterious and talented artist** who painted rocks and placed them strategically throughout the neighborhood.

To **Sherri & George Honer** on North Park for allowing me to use your guest house shower during my bathroom remodel. Thank goodness for neighbors—CS

Good luck to **Mary Jo & Tom Osborn** on Heliotrope with your move to the Midwest. After 30 plus years in Floral Park, you will be missed!

To **Mike Becker & Jeff Gillis** on Greenleaf: We miss you already. Good luck in your new home.

Happy birthday (10/24) to **Jen Faiz** on Riverside Drive

Trace and Red: Thank you for always looking out for us and making sure that we are always well fed! A&R

Congratulations and good luck to both **Mark McLoughlin & Jeff Katz** for running for city council!

Happy 75th birthday to **Karen A!**

I'd like to give a shout out to the **Little Free Libraries** in the neighborhood. So many generous neighbors! —TS

Thank you to **Helen and K.C. Jones** for your daily inspirational quotes on the easel in front of your home on North Park.

To our **essential workers**, know that you are greatly appreciated!

Shout out to the **neighbors at 2020 Victoria** for the lovely front yard redo!

Congratulations to **Rachel and Jared Allmond** (Greenleaf) on the birth of their daughter, **Florence Magnolia**.

Toni Kimball, thank you for the weekly figs. They are divine! xx-al

Happy birthday **Marc LaFont**. Enjoy that senior discount!

What to Expect on Halloween This Year

Normally by now, those of us who have lived in the neighborhood for a while would be investing in candy in preparation for the thousands (yes, literally thousands!) of trick-or-treaters who descend on Floral Park in search of sweets. They come from all over the city and are some of the most polite, well-behaved, and cutest kids you'll ever see! In a normal year, you can go through 3,000 pieces of candy. Last year, KTLA News even chose to broadcast from the corner of 19th and Heliotrope!

But this is not a normal year and Halloween is bound to look a lot different.

The annual Families of the Parks Halloween street festival on Heliotrope, the DTSA Noche de Altares and Viva la Vida events, and trick-or-treating at Main Place Mall have all been cancelled, while the Bowers Museum Dia de los Muertos celebration has gone virtual.

As for the tradition of knocking on doors in the neighborhood to collect trick-or-treat goodies, the County Department of Public Health said it will issue guidelines shortly, but for now families should "be prepared to offer alternative ways of celebrating that minimize contact with non-household members."

For this reason, many homes in Floral Park will be going dark this year. But we can still keep the spirit/s alive.

Floral Park will mark the occasion by holding its first ever Halloween/Fall home decorating contest this year with prizes awarded in numerous categories followed by a two-night Walk of Fright.

Other Halloween festivities may have to go virtual (think Skype-o-Ween) or in social "bubbles." You can have costume and pumpkin carving parties on Zoom. Halloween movie marathons are a safe way to celebrate the season. The family can join together in conjuring up Halloween snacks at home or you can order Halloween-themed menu items from local Santa Ana restaurants. There are bound to be drive-in movies you can enjoy from the safety of your own car.



Seasonal decorations on Victoria Drive

And, of course, there's no reason you can't still buy Halloween candy to enjoy at home, costume or not.

It may be Quarantine-o-ween, but by being creative and following safety guidelines, we can make this year's observance less scary and more fun. For safe Halloween happenings around town, go to FloralPark.com/calendar.

Floral Park To Hold First Ever Walk of Fright Two Nights in October

Whether trick-or-treating or not this year, there's no reason we can't still dress up for the occasion. That's especially true since Floral Park is holding its first ever Halloween/Fall decorating contest.

Judges will be roaming the neighborhood on Wednesday evening, October 22 making their selections in six different categories:

- Scariest
- Most Theatrical
- Best Use of Pumpkins
- Most Creative
- Best Harvest Theme
- Best Use of Fall Colors

Winners will be announced the next day and will receive a yard sign heralding their award-winning status.

Then on Saturday and Sunday, October 24 & 25, it's the Floral Park Walk of Fright. Join your friends and



Neighborly coffee klatsch on Flower Street.

neighbors in walking the neighborhood to view all the homes at their fall finest. After all, we're already wearing masks! But the only candy that night will be eye candy with all the seasonal and spooktacular decorations!

So get out the jack-o'-lanterns and scarecrows and let's get festive! For more, go to FloralPark.com/calendar.

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HALLOWEEN & Autumn Home Decorating Contest

Judging takes place Wednesday evening,
October 22 in the following categories:

- *Scariest* • *Most Theatrical* • *Best Use of Pumpkins*
- *Most Creative* • *Best Harvest Theme* • *Best Use of Fall Colors*

On Saturday and Sunday, October 24 & 25, walk the neighborhood
and view the neighborhood's festive attire as part of the

WALK OF FRIGHT

So get out the jack-o'-lanterns and scarecrows and let's get festive!

For more, go to FloralPark.com/calendar.

FLORAL PARK'S GOT TALENT

Floral Park is having a drive-by / walk-by TALENT SHOW
Saturday, October 3 all throughout Floral Park!
THIS IS YOUR CHANGE TO BE A STAR!

Share your talent with the neighborhood whatever it is right in your own front yard!

Big or small, all talents are welcome including
Dancing • Singing • Comedy • Acting • Magic • Acrobatics • Music • and more.
Register your talent at Social@FloralPark.com.

Go to FloralPark.com/calendar for more info and watch for updates on Facebook and via email.

Book Club Reads For September & October

Got a little extra time to read during the pandemic? The Floral Park Neighborhood Book Club has two recommendations for you: For September it's the winner of the 2020 Pulitzer Prize for fiction and New York Times bestseller *THE NICKEL BOYS* by Colson Whitehead. In this follow-up to the Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award-winning #1 New York Times best seller, *THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD*, Whitehead dramatizes the story of two boys sentenced to a hellish reform school in Jim Crow-era Florida.

October's read is *THE BOOK OF LOST FRIENDS* by Lisa Wingate. The New York Times bestselling historical novel tells the dramatic story of three young women searching for family amid the destruction of the post-Civil War South, and of a modern-day teacher who learns of their story and its vital connection to her students' lives.

The Floral Park Book Club meets monthly via Zoom to discuss the book of the month. It's also a great opportunity to meet new people and make new friends with common literary interests. For information, contact Suzee Katz at SusanKatz2525@gmail.com.

*"The more that you read,
the more things you will know.*

*The more that you learn,
the more places you'll go."*

– Dr. Seuss



Neighbors Set Up GoFundMe Page for Floral Park Stalwart

Longtime Floral Park resident Nicki Curran was diagnosed with cancer three years ago and neighbors are coming to her aid with a GoFundMe page to help with the costs of treatment.

You've probably seen Nicki driving around the neighborhood during the home & garden tour in her golf cart with her beloved dog Copper, sharing a friendly wave, and a generous smile.

Nicki is sort of a Floral Park legend. Her grandparents purchased their house at 2204 Victoria Drive in 1939 and celebrated their 50th and 60th wedding anniversaries there. Her parents built their house on Santa Clara in 1942, where Nicki grew up. After moving out to attend college, she returned to Floral Park and the family home in 1996, the year after her father passed away.

Nicki has been a pillar in the Floral Park community. She has served as chair of the docent committee for the Floral Park home & garden tour since 1996. She worked as a marriage, family and child counselor for over 35 years. She also taught swimming lessons for over 20 years to many of the children in our neighborhood. For her service to the community and dedication to others, she has been awarded the Floral Park Legacy

Award and the Comcast Neighbor Hero Award. Her brick is located in the Legacy Walk at Sara Mae Downey Herb Garden.

Being self-employed, Nicki's Medicare and supplemental insurance hasn't been enough to cover her medical costs. While the treatments show promise, they have taken a financial toll. Floral Park neighbors and friends have set up a GoFundMe page at [GoFundMe.com/f/NickiCurran](https://www.gofundme.com/f/NickiCurran) to help cover her medical expenses. If you would like more information, contact Nicki's niece, Sheila Segurson at 925-860-8284.

National Historic District Update

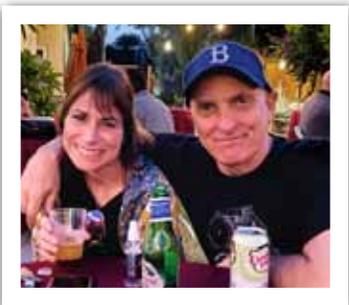
Late last year, Floral Park submitted an application for historic district status to the State Historic Preservation Office. Shortly after, the pandemic hit and progress at the state level came to a halt. In July of this year, we were sent a request for additional information along with formatting suggestions which, fortunately, did not require major changes to the 180+ page document that was submitted. The updated version is currently being reviewed by members of the Historic Preservation Committee in preparation for final resubmission, which is expected to happen soon.

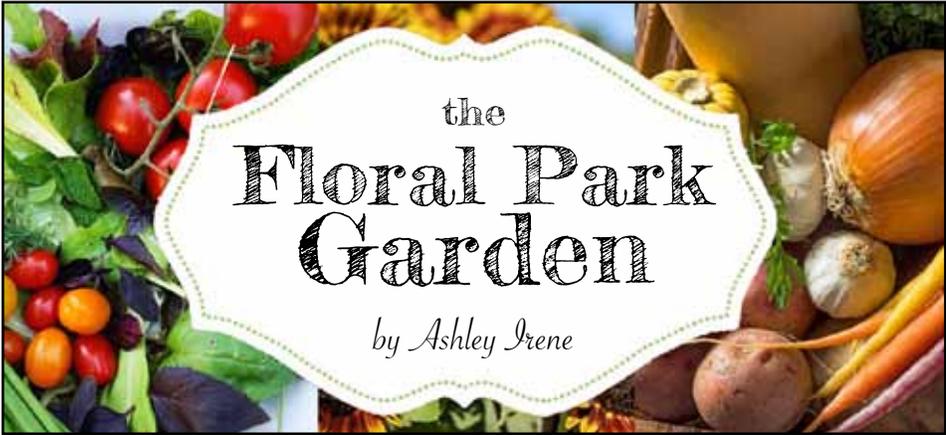
Floral Park's historic district designation will be an official recognition by the city and the National Register of Historic Places and is part of a national program to support efforts to protect history and architectural resources. Floral Park will be the city's third historic district.

September 30 is the last day
to stand up and be counted.
Complete the US census at
www.2020census.gov.

THE SOUNDS OF SUMMER

It just wouldn't be summer without the Floral Park Concert! While this year's event may not have been the big block party of years past, it was still great fun! Tables were well spaced by household or "social bubble" and masks were worn (when not eating, drinking or posing for photos) as Jordan Sherman performed live at the Katz Amphitheater on Heliotrope. Thanks to everyone who made this beautiful summer evening so magical!





Gardening in Autumn

by Ashley Irene

I firmly believe that it's never too late to start a garden - especially in our lovely Mediterranean climate.

With fall around the corner, I am eagerly looking forward to replanting the garden. Transition and cool season crops are my absolute favorite. In the heat of the Southern California summer, many of the well-loved kitchen garden staples don't thrive without dappled sun,

plenty of water, and maybe even sun shade, which creates quite a challenge for a permanent garden space.

But in 60-70F daytime temperatures, so many heirloom varieties come into their own, overflowing garden beds with delicious treats to harvest every day. From bee-loving edible flowers like borage and nasturtiums, to healthy greens like spinach, lettuce, and chard, to cool season favorites broccoli, cauliflower, and sugar snap peas, our climate offers something delicious for everyone to grow.

I have a lot to look forward to growing in my soon-to-be completed 150+ square foot raised bed garden which, with healthy soil, intensive planting, and a little TLC, will provide an abundance of organic, fresh, garden-to-table food for nutritious meals for my family and neighbors.

This fall, I'm planning on growing some unique heirloom varieties, like romanesco cauliflower, pusa jamuni radish, kuroda carrots, and rainbow chard. Classic cool season herbs include seasoning celery (more leaves, less stalk), florence fennel, and tri-colored sage, to name a few.

There is plenty more to grow during our cool winters, such as: arugula, beets, carrots, broccoli, spinach, dill, cabbage, Swiss chard, parsley, kale, parsnips, radish, mustard, lettuces, daikon, radicchio, sugar peas, watercress, endive and snow peas.

If you'd like to learn more about planting a fall garden, stop by on a morning walk where you'll most likely find me in the new potager garden in the front yard at 2416 Riverside Drive.

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Orange Crate Labels Celebrate FP Heritage

Show neighborhood pride with your very own Floral Park orange crate label, matted, framed and ready to hang. The two designs celebrate Floral Park's historic orange grove heritage and measure 10" x 12" framed.

Both designs are available for purchase online and your tax-deductible donation supports neighborhood preservation and community events.

Also available online are Floral Park flags and licence plate frames. To purchase, go to FloralPark.com/shop. For more information, write merchandise@FloralPark.com.

Welcome New Floral Park Neighbors

Welcome new neighbors! Floral Park would like to welcome you to your new neighborhood, filled with friendly, neighborly people. Let's all extend a socially-distant handshake and a friendly "masked" hello to:

Andres & Lynda Matzkin

2042 N. Victoria Drive

Jason Stilwell

2104 Greenleaf Street

Laura Haight & Michael Penilla

412 W Santa Clara Street

Hanna & Alejandro Franco

1816 N Ross Street

David & Laura Snipes

2315 Bonnie Brae Street

Ralph & Sherry Opacic

2222 Heliotrope

Keep Floral Park Beautiful: Join the FPNA Beautification Committee

The Floral Park Neighborhood beautification committee exists to preserve and improve the beauty of the gardens and trees in Floral Park's public spaces. We are charged with the task of caring for our entrance way gardens, the city street trees, Sarah Mae Downie Herb Garden, and street medians. This is a big job and we need help in doing it!

Any member of Floral Park can participate on the committee, you don't have to be a gardener! There are many projects in which members of our group can become involved that don't require you to dig in the dirt! Here are just a few examples of all the items the committee is in charge of:

- Coordination with the city for "Most Beautiful Yard Award": seeking nominations from neighbors, and submitting to the city. Scheduling and coordinating the planting of our Floral Park entryways, usually done two to four times a year.
- Supervision of entry/exit watering of plants with the city.
- Coordinating with the city regarding any street trees that are of concern, (i.e. dead or dying, removal, and replacement).
- Working with the city to perform needed jobs at the Sarah Mae Downie Herb Garden.
- Within Sarah Mae Downie Park, adopting an area to plant, design, and maintain.
- Heart Stones – take the orders, write announcements for newsletter and coordinate placing them in the park.
- Be a street reporter and tell us when a streetlight is out or a lamppost needs repair.

Can you see yourself helping out in one of these roles? We would love nothing more than to meet new neighbors and friends and exchange refreshing ideas. And what better way to do it than in the garden? Please consider being part of our team. The best part of this committee at the moment is that the



Volunteers keeping Sarah Mae Downie Park beautiful. Consultant Robin Hipolito releases monarch butterflies into the park.

majority of our work is outside! And you're never too old or too young to enjoy creativity outdoors.

The beautification committee wishes to extend a HUGE thank you to Nanci Zinngrabe who was an immense and integral part of the second vice president role for these past four years. Nanci's love of big rocks in the garden to "solve our problems," willingness to work with short notice and her ability to meet all deadlines, made working on the beautification committee a joyful experience. She brought all her skills as an avid gardener to this position and her attention to detail was beyond helpful. Big hugs from the committee and me (Chris). We appreciate all you have done for Floral Park and we are happy you are remaining on the committee, just not a co-chair.

Continue to stay Floral Park Strong!

*David Buster and Chris Switzer,
Co-chairs, Beautification Committee
Beautification@FloralPark.com*

Help Thank Our New Media Sponsors

Floral Park would like to welcome new and returning media sponsors El Cortijo Grill Peruvian Express, Hollingshead's Deli, Lola Gaspar Cocktail Bar & Tacqueria, Perla Mexican Cuisine and Benchmark Restaurant.

El Cortijo Grill Peruvian Express is right here in Floral Park on 17th and Jefferson Streets and serves freshly prepared Peruvian food for pickup, delivery and sidewalk dining.

Hollingshead's Deli at 368 S. Main Street in Orange has over 500 different bottled beers, 50 on tap and serves delicious sandwiches for sidewalk dining, pickup or delivery.

Lola Gaspar Cocktail Bar & Tacqueria—Chef Luis Pérez's Mexico City-inspired gastropub serves delicious small plates and handmade cocktails for pickup, to go or on their picturesque 2nd Street patio in the DTSA Artist village.

Perla Mexican Cuisine at 400 W 4th Street in downtown Santa Ana was the site of the neighborhood Valentine Brunch and hosts a mariachi brunch weekends, and daily lunch and dinner on their sidewalk patio as well as delivery and pick up to go.

And **Benchmark Restaurant** at 601 E. Santa Ana Blvd., just added a second outdoor dining room for alfresco dining of their critically-acclaimed cuisine.

We thank all of our media sponsors for their support. Publication of the Floral Park Neighborhood Gazette is made possible through the generosity of sponsors like these. Links to their web sites are posted at FloralPark.com/sponsors.

WE SINCERELY ENCOURAGE YOU TO PATRONIZE AND SUPPORT THE BUSINESSES WHO SUPPORT OUR NEIGHBORHOOD.

If you would like to become a media sponsor and advertise in our upcoming November holiday issue (it's a charitable contribution) write newsletter@FloralPark.com.

(LEGACY continued from page 9) plus added three more, with proceeds from our first annual opening night celebration, another fundraising idea Wayne helped bring to life. In addition to fundraising for Santa Ana students, Wayne also volunteers on the historic resources committee, which has made strides to help Floral Park become a member of the National Historic Registry. This is a testament to his dedication to preserving the spirit of Floral Park and showcasing its unique qualities.

Wayne and Merle's Ross Street dream home was on the Floral Park home & garden tour in 2013, and in 2018 they were awarded the most beautiful yard award from the city. Wayne is an avid traveler and consummate host, firing up amazing pizzas in his outdoor pizza oven! He also has an unbridled passion for Angels baseball and his three Bassenjis: Elzaer, Akiki, and Duende.

Thank you Wayne for sharing your heart with Floral Park and continuing to make our neighborhood shine. We are so lucky to have you here.



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Floral Park Social Scene

by Alison DeMark & Suzee Katz
Floral Park Social Co-Chairs

We are very excited to commence our support for social events in our community. This year, of course, will be a huge challenge, but we've got a good group of brilliant folks to help us bring creativity and energy to our neighborhood social scene.

Many of our events for the rest of the year have been reworked to better meet social distancing standards. We held a modified summer concert in the Katz's large back yard on August 22.

Each guest was preregistered, arrived in masks, and had their temperature checked before entering. What a sign of the current times! Much like our clever local restaurateurs, neighbors brought their own food and beverages to individual tables that were placed more than six feet apart. Jordan Sherman, a Floral Park favorite, performed for over two hours. Jordan has performed for us before at many backyard parties and two of our Freedom Fest events.

Our next endeavor will be a Talent Show. Our social committee knows that many neighbors have unique talents and we would love to highlight those with "Floral Park's Got Talent." Each talent will be performed in their own personal front yard. As we gather those talented individuals, we will be putting together a walk by/drive by map and a schedule of performances. We cannot wait to highlight some of our neighborhood talent. You're sure to be amazed.

We also plan on bringing you smaller

opportunities more often in order to keep us connected. On July 25, the DeMark's invited the Recess Ice Cream truck to stop by the neighborhood to offer small batch ice cream on a hot summer afternoon! We are working on a donut truck for a weekend morning neighborhood treat mid-to-late September. Stay tuned!

As we approach the end of the year, we have some new things in store for our neighborhood holiday celebrations to ensure everyone's comfort levels. Save the dates for our first Annual Halloween/fall home decorating contest (10/22) and Walk of Fright (10/23 & 24)! Also coming up soon is our holiday party on Saturday, December 3. Be sure to keep an eye out for the date of the Hanukkah menorah lighting and the Floral Park Walk of Lights. Check FloralPark.com/calendar for info on all our events.

2020 has been one for the books! We are all so fortunate to call Floral Park our home and look forward to seeing everyone socially again soon!

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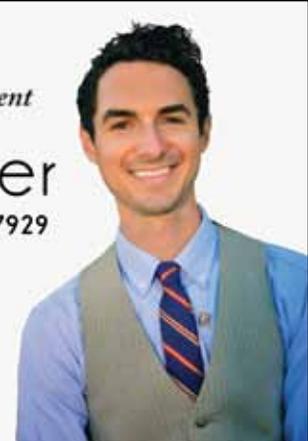
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Our *FAVORITE* Things



1. **Pumpkin Porter** and seasonal craft beers and deli sandwiches on the patio or to go at Hollingshead's Deli on Main Street (hollingsheadsdeli.com)
2. **Two for one hamburgers** at Victory Diner on Main Street, drive-thru or pick up, weekdays after 4:00. (714.633.4799)
3. **Mariachi Weekend Brunch** on the patio at Perla Mexican Cuisine in downtown Santa Ana. (PerlaDTSA.com)
4. **Autumn floral arrangements** delivered right to your door from Grand Floral Events (GrandFloralEvents.com)
5. **Lomo Saltado** (marinated strips of beef with onions, tomatoes, french fries) at El Cortijo Grill Peruvian Express, sidewalk dining on 17th Street, pick up or delivery in Floral Park (PeruvianExpress.com)
6. **Handmade Churro with chocolate dip** at Lola Gaspar Cocktail Bar & Tacqueria in the DTSA Artist Village served on their patio, take out or delivery. (LolaGaspar.com)
7. **Seasonal Sangria** from Benchmark Restaurant: wine and fruit blended to perfection to enjoy in their outdoor dining rooms. (BenchmarkOC.com)



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(CHARITIES continued from page 11)

SANTIAGO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GARDEN CLUB

Santiago Elementary School is our own neighborhood elementary school on Baker Street which has taught Floral Park children for generations. Santiago strives to provide unique opportunities for every student and creates an environment where students can grow and thrive. Funds will support garden club activities, promoting the love of the outdoors with plants, trees and flowers.

LGBTQ CENTER OC

LGBTQCenterOC.org

The LGBTQ Center OC is one of the oldest gay and lesbian community centers in the United States. Founded in 1971, the Center provides services to more than 14,000 individuals annually across a broad spectrum of culture, ethnicity, age, and economic background. Programming is especially designed for gay men, lesbians, youth, the transgender community, the Spanish-speaking LGBTQ community, the

bisexual community, and LGBTQ families. They exist so that every segment of the LGBTQ population of Orange County has the resources needed to thrive in their own lives and communities.

OC THERAPEUTIC ARTS CENTER

OCCTAC.org

OC Therapeutic Arts Center is a community-based organization committed to providing access to services for all families either impacted by physical, cognitive, language, social, emotional disabilities, or that are at risk. Founded in 2000, they provide innovative, artistic, educational and therapeutic programs that inspire and transform children, at-risk youth, adults and their families to fulfill their full potential.

SANTA ANA HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY

SantaAnaHistory.com

The Santa Ana Historical Preservation

Society is a group of volunteers interested in preserving and celebrating the history of our local Santa Ana valley community. The organization preserves and maintains the Dr. Willella Howe-Waffle House & Medical Museum and Santa Ana Fire Museum, records and promotes the history of early Santa Ana and its central role in the birth and growth of Orange County, and creates events and publications that celebrate our local history.

WISEPLACE

WisePlace.org

WISEPlace is the only Orange County-based nonprofit leading the effort to end homelessness for unaccompanied women. They provide safe transitional and emergency shelter, counseling and mental health services, case management and addiction recovery, and employment assistance to help rebuild their lives. In addition to housing solutions, they also provide empowering wrap-around services that provide a path toward personal self-reliance.



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(HERITAGE continued from page 5) and Pixar’s tale of Día de Muertos, *Coco*. There’s three seasons of *Alta Mar (High Seas)* about mystery and intrigue on a 1940s luxury liner traveling from Spain to Rio de Janeiro, *Gran Hotel*, sort of a cross between *Downton Abbey* and *Dynasty*, and *Valeria*, a combination of *Sex and the City* with a dash of *Girls* and *Bridget Jones* set it in Madrid.

And don’t forget the food! Local restaurants Perla Mexican Cuisine and Lola Gaspar in DTSA and El Cortijo Grill Peruvian Express all serve delicious, authentic Latin cuisine.

Even in the middle of a pandemic with most public events canceled, there are plenty of great ways to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. So let the fiesta begin!

Resources:

- HispanicHeritageMonth.gov
- Bowers Museum: Bowers.org
- Orange County Library System: OCLS.org
- Santa Ana Library: santa-ana.org/library
- Biography: Biography.com
- Netflix: Netflix.com
- Oprah Magazine: www.oprahmag.com/ hispanic-heritage-month/

1. Cuban band leader **Desi Arnaz**
2. Puerto Rican actress, dancer and singer **Rita Moreno**
3. American astronaut **Ellen Ochoa**
4. American screen idol **Margarita Carmen (Rita) Hayworth**
5. American composer, lyricist, actor, singer, rapper, producer, and playwright **Lin-Manuel Miranda**
6. Dominican professional baseball player (Angels) **José Alberto Pujols Alcántara**
7. American singer, songwriter **Selena Quintanilla-Pérez**
8. American actress, producer, director, and activist **Eva Jacqueline Bastón (Longoria)**
9. American singer **Linda Maria Ronstadt**
10. American actress, singer **Raquel Welch**
11. Santa Ana Mayor and Floral Park resident **Miguel Pulido**
12. US Congressman and Floral Park resident **Lou Correa**
13. Puerto Rican Baseball Hall of Famer **Roberto Clemente**
14. Puerto Rican singer, songwriter, producer, actor, and humanitarian **Ricky Martin**
15. American labor leader, community organizer, businessman, and Latino American civil rights activist **Cesar Chavez**
16. Cuban American singer **Celia Cruz**
17. Mexican American rock & roll singer, songwriter and guitarist **Ricardo Esteban Valenzuela Reyes (Ritchie Vallens)**
18. US Supreme Court Justice **Sonia Maria Sotomayor**

19. First woman and first Hispanic Surgeon General of the U.S. **Antonia C. Novello**
20. Peruvian American soprano **Yma Sumac**
21. Portuguese-born Brazilian samba singer, dancer, Broadway actress, and film star **Carmen Miranda**
22. Mexican & American actress, dancer and singer **Dolores del Rio**
23. Mexican American guitarist **Carlos Santana**
24. Mexican and American film actress and producer, **Salma Hayek**
25. Mexican American boxer **Oscar De La Hoya**
26. Mexican American actor **Anthony Quinn**

Neighborhood Calendar

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

OCTOBER 2020

- Floral Park Has Talent.....10/3
- FPNA Board Meeting 10/13, 7pm
- Decorating Contest Judging 10/22
- Walk of Fright10/24 & 25

NOVEMBER 2020

- FPNA Board Meeting 11/10, 7pm
- General Meeting.....

DECEMBER 2020

- Holiday Party12/5, 3-6 pm
- Decorating Contest Judging.....
- Walk of Lights.....



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