

FLORAL PARK



NEIGHBORHOOD GAZETTE

**Celebrating
Mothers Day**

**Building on a Dream:
The Bowers**

**Gardening for
Butterflies**

**Floral Park's
Victorian
Farm Houses**

Spring Garden Issue

APRIL ISSUE / 2021

**The need is constant.
The gratification is instant**

GIVE BLOOD



**American
Red Cross**



FLORAL PARK BLOOD DRIVE

**Friday, May 21, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Boys & Girls Club of Santa Ana**

Floral Park is once again partnering with the Red Cross to hold a much needed blood drive. Each pint of blood we collect can help save up to three lives and will touch the lives of so many more. What a great way to pay it forward and make an impact in our community and across the country. And, of course, COVID-19 protocols will be in place to keep you safe.

**LET'S ROLL UP OUR SLEEVES
AND SAVE SOME LIVES!**

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**SPRING GARDEN ISSUE 2021
FLORAL PARK NEIGHBORHOOD GAZETTE**

is the official publication of the
Floral Park Neighborhood Association
P.O. Box 11366
Santa Ana, CA 92711-1366

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

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Letter From The President

by Jeffrey Katz



When I was a senior in high school and I was lucky enough to have a date on Saturday night, in a restless anticipation, I would shave on Tuesday morning. This last month, I have had flashbacks to that era. Governor Newsom has announced that as long as the Golden State meets two specific criteria, California will fully reopen its economy on June 15. Although it is only April, I am lathering up. And, for all our new neighbors who moved into Floral Park since February

2020, it is now time for us to demonstrate what we meant by, “Just wait!”

Social co-directors and debutantes Suzee Katz and Alison DeMark are busy preparing their first real event in 2021. The Freedom Fest makes its return on July 3. Perhaps modest compared to past Fests, it is an appropriate return to one of the celebrations that highlights our neighborhood’s special quality.

This month, Floral Park’s Care & Compassion Committee is organizing a medic supply drive. This initiative will create an inventory of supplies to support the work of Wound Walk OC, an organization that treats the vulnerable living in our parks and escorts them to safer places. We are focused on “reclaiming” Santiago Park so it can be returned to Santa Ana families. Please support this effort with a contribution to the drive and join “We ♥ Santiago Park” on May 15 at the Santiago Park baseball diamond for grilled hot dogs and a screening of “Field of Dreams.”

During the first ten months of my term, the FPNA board has begun to lay the groundwork for some infrastructure improvements. I firmly believe that we need to make many small investments throughout our neighborhood, all aimed at improving the quality of life. This involves a simple, four-step approach: (1) Identify where people in the neighborhood struggle going about their daily routine. (2) Identify the next smallest thing that can be done today to address that struggle. (3) Do that thing. Do it right away. (4) Repeat the process.

And, thus, throughout the month of January, a group of residents brought their shovels, rakes and chainsaws and helped one dear neighbor recapture his home’s magnificence which had been lost to years of over-growth. The impact on the quality of life on Greenleaf has been dramatic. In yet another example, two other neighbors painted a weathered yellow front door that had sullied the southern entrance to Victoria Drive.

We next turned our sights to the strip center on 17th Street between Jefferson and Ross streets. We have been working with the property owner to reimagine the strip center so it can become a true extension of Floral Park, transforming it into a “neighborhood porch”—a place where we can meet for coffee or dinner and enjoy each other’s company in a safe a beautiful environment. With the property owner’s blessing and financial support, we have brought on a theme park designer who will sprinkle the center with some of the same fairy dust he has used at Disneyland and hopefully create something magical. The first rendering will be presented in early May. From there, we hope to duplicate the theme throughout 17th Street and make it a walkable thoroughfare.

If you have “small ideas” and/or you are interested in joining one of our ad hoc committees to enhance Floral Park, please reach out to me at President@FloralPark.com.

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From The Editor

Every year, the relative cold of winter melts away and spring brings a new beginning. And that couldn't possibly be truer than this year! With a vaccination program well under way, we're finally seeing our way out of winter and into spring! Kudos go to Social Committee Directors Suzee Katz and Allison DeMark who organized two different online social events in the last few months: a cooking class and a gardening class which kept us connected and socially active, even if it didn't get us out of the house. Also, thank you to everyone who donated blood and helped assemble Easter Baskets for the Boys & Girls Club of Santa Ana. Together we're making a difference!

This being our annual Spring Garden issue, we've turned our focus on the beauty that is around us here in Floral Park. Taking a walk through the neighborhood is certainly a feast for the eyes as almost every kind of flower is in bloom! Neighbor and landscape designer Millie Low (Table2Garden) writes about what we need to do this season to keep our plants in top condition. Neighbor and garden designer Ashley Irene (Heirloom Potager) teaches us about planting heirloom vegetables by seed so you can enjoy amazing vegetables that you can't buy in the market. And neighbor and landscape designer Lina Tonkunas (LiloLandscapes) advises us on the best way to keep our parkway trees healthy and happy.

After more than a year of careful planing, the Floral Park Beautification Committee officially dedicates our new butterfly garden at Sarah Mae Downie Herb Garden. Neighbor and lepidopterist Allene Symons talks us through why butterflies are important and what we can do to make our yards and neighborhood more butterfly friendly.

Museums are back open and just in time to see the Disney exhibit at the Bowers. In this issue, Assistant Curator of Collections Mark Bustamante takes us on a tour of the museum's history, from a Victorian home on Main Street to the world class museum that it is today.

And speaking of Victorians, neighbor and architect David Ko initiates a new column on the architecture of Floral Park and starts with the first homes: Victorians. The oldest house in Floral Park, which dates back to 1894, is still standing proudly on Greenleaf Street.

If you need a little pick me up to help you through the day, neighbor Mark Rothenberg shows you how to brew the perfect cup of coffee. Chef Mila Payne takes it even further and shares with us her recipes for cooking with coffee.

Mother's Day is upon us. So we've included the history of the holiday along with some ideas on how you can make Mom's day more special by being a bit creative. Yeah, what she really wants is more time with you, but I doubt she's going to refuse any of the great gift ideas at the Spring Boutique made and sold by our Floral Park neighbors, or tickets to Open Garden Day.

Robin Williams once said "Spring is nature's way of saying, 'Let's party!'" So I say, let's take her up on it and get out and enjoy.

If you haven't been to FloralPark.com lately, you should. There you'll find all kinds of fun info about the neighborhood including articles on our history, galleries of photos, homes for sale, a calendar of events, both here and around town, things to buy, useful info for homeowners like getting parking permits, and the Mills Act, a list of businesses who support the neighborhood, who to call when you have questions or issues, scholarship applications and more!

And here's another reason to celebrate: your Floral Park Neighborhood Gazette has been named a finalist for Best Neighborhood Newsletter in America by Neighborhoods USA, an honor we're quite proud of. So let's take the sage advice of Garth and Wayne and "Party On" (safely, of course)!



Sunday, May 9, is Mother's Day and many of us will be busy buying See's Candies, cards and flowers to honor the important ladies in our lives. But it wasn't always a day to treat mothers to a day off. While celebrations of motherhood can be traced back to the ancient Greeks, here in the U.S., it started with Anna Jarvis and became an official holiday in 1914.

Anna Jarvis first conceived of Mother's Day as a way of honoring the sacrifices mothers made for their children following the death of her own mother in 1905. After gaining financial backing from a Philadelphia department store owner named John Wanamaker, in May 1908 she organized the first official Mother's Day celebration at a Methodist church in Grafton, West Virginia. That same day also saw thousands of people attend a Mother's Day event at one of Wanamaker's retail stores in Philadelphia.

Following the success of her first Mother's Day, Jarvis—who remained unmarried and childless her whole life—resolved to see her holiday added to the national calendar. Arguing that American holidays were biased toward male achievements, she started a massive letter writing campaign to newspapers and prominent politicians urging the adoption of a special day honoring motherhood.

By 1912, many states, towns and churches had adopted Mother's Day as an annual holiday, and Jarvis had

established the Mother's Day International Association to help promote her cause. Her persistence paid off in 1914 when President Woodrow Wilson signed a measure officially establishing the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.

Jarvis had originally conceived of Mother's Day as a day of personal celebration between mothers and families. Her version of the day involved wearing a white carnation as a badge and visiting one's mother or attending church services. But once Mother's Day became a national holiday, it was not long before florists, card companies and other merchants capitalized on its popularity.

By 1920, she had become disgusted with how the holiday had been commercialized and urged people to stop buying Mother's Day flowers, cards and candies. She launched countless lawsuits against groups that had used the name "Mother's Day," eventually spending most of her personal wealth in legal fees. By the time of her death in 1948, Jarvis had disowned the holiday altogether, and even actively lobbied the government to see it removed from the American calendar.

Obvious, that ship had sailed, and Mother's Day is now one of the biggest holidays for consumer spending. Though the celebration has evolved over the last century, Jarvis' vision of a day to honor "the person who has done more for you than anyone in the world" will never change.

MOTHER'S DAY IDEAS

Mom's take care of you your whole life. Now it's her time to be pampered and celebrated. Here are some creative local ideas on how to do that:

- Shop scarves, soaps, and plants and more at the **Spring Boutique** featuring **Kathy of Passport, Please; Sweets & Savories** by **Chef Mila Payne** and more at 2415 Heliotrope on Saturday, May 1, from 11:00 AM-3:00 PM (714-657-2746)
- Instead of traditional cut flowers, give your mom a potted herb garden or salad bowl from Ashley Irene at **HeirloomPotager**. (Order at HeirloomPotager.com.)
- Host a dinner in Mom's honor on the shaded patio of **Benchmark Restaurant**. (Reservations at BenchmarkOC.com)
- Treat her to margaritas and Mariachi at **Perla Mexican Cuisine** in Santa Ana's historic downtown. (Reservations at PerlaD TSA.com)
- Let chef Blanca Yepez at **El Cortijo Grill Peruvian Express** cook up a Peruvian family feast and have it delivered to your home. (Order at PeruvianExpress.com.)
- What mother wouldn't love a fabulous spa day at **Montanya Spa**? (Gift cards are available at Montanya-Spa.com.)
- Honor your mom with a personalized commemorative **Heart Stone** placed in Floral Park's Sarah Mae Downie Garden. (FloralPark.com/shop)
- Beautify her closet with the professional organizing services of Nancy Collins at **Simplified Spaces by Nancy**. (NancyOrganizes.com)
- Make a donation in Mom's name towards a **scholarship** for an outstanding high school or college student at FloralPark.com/shop.

Life Goes Better with Butterflies by Allene Symons



Let's say you are a monarch or swallowtail butterfly, flying over Floral Park. Wouldn't you want to drop down and stay for a while, sip some nectar, flutter around, find a mate and lay eggs so your progeny would benefit from such a green and peaceful setting?

Okay, maybe that's a bit too anthropomorphic, but not far off. With its lush gardens and citrus trees, Floral Park offers a natural waystation for many species of butterflies, ranging from the iconic orange-and-black monarch and yellow tiger swallowtail to others like the mourning cloak, the cloudless sulphur, the painted lady and more.

Floral Park may already seem like a perfect waystation, offering a vast variety of nectar plants for feeding, but we can do more, and many of us believe that as a neighborhood we should do so. Here comes the pitch, as if you even need one: These beautiful and graceful creatures not only please the eye but

further the health of the planet by acting as pollinators, as do honeybees.

Floral Park may attract butterflies as spring brings them around in greater numbers, yet with a modest additional effort, we can attract more and amplify our support. This is especially true for monarch butterflies. The magnificent annual migration of millions of monarch butterflies, one of the natural wonders of the world, is under threat from loss of habitat, and their numbers have fallen sharply in recent years.

So how can we help as a community and as individuals? Butterflies only lay their eggs on a few specific plants, such as pesticide-free milkweed for monarchs and fennel for swallowtails.

For the community, the Floral Park Beautification Committee is establishing some of these in a new Butterfly Garden at Sarah Mae Downie Park, where a grand opening will take place on Saturday, June 19, fittingly, the weekend of the summer solstice. There will be an educational presentation, including visual signs and handouts, and a tour and talk about the special plants along with a hands-on look at some of their live inhabitants in various stages.

Again, there are steps we can take to help butterflies – and in turn they help the planet, the community, and individuals in so many ways. Another way to help is to welcome butterflies to your own back yard. This involves very little effort or expense and provides the benefit of a sense of purpose. It pays off in a lot of fascinating fun, especially

in spring and summer. You'll want to plant a few welcoming nectar plants for feeding (see list), and especially add plants for egg-laying — the latter including the aforementioned pesticide-free milkweed for monarchs and perhaps fennel for swallowtails.

About getting more involved with butterflies, it's fair to say there is something to enjoy for every type of household in this neighborhood. It might be your children or grandchildren watching the life cycle of a monarch, from caterpillar to chrysalis to a breathtaking emergence. Seeing this sparks curiosity and, at certain special moments in the cycle, is sure to inspire awe. It also blends a bit of natural history education with a sense of purpose about this way of helping the planet at home.

But you don't need to be in grade school to become a butterfly enthusiast, far from it. Countless adults across the nation are involved in backyard and community butterfly conservation. If you live solo, or are a pair of empty nesters, you would bring your own sense of joy to the experience -- and not only the thrill of colorful visitors landing in your garden, but the amusement of watching caterpillars looking quite cute as they trundle along, munching away. Then too, the monarch chrysalis is a tiny green-and-gold object of beauty.

In short, if you have a little time and a few yards of dirt to spare, think about adding a waystation for butterflies. Please consider attending the Butterfly Garden event on June 19 where people with butterfly expertise will be on hand to answer your questions.

Butterflies give back in so many ways, and life in Floral Park definitely goes better with butterflies.



Floral Park to Dedicate Butterfly Garden

Floral Park's Beautification Committee has taken on the responsibility of bringing back butterflies to Sarah Mae Downie Park. Over the last year, the committee has worked with butterfly sanctuaries and local experts to design a garden that will both attract butterflies and breed them.

And now, the garden is complete and ready for its official unveiling on Saturday, June 19 at 10:00 a.m. The garden will be staffed with docents between 10:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. who can share information on the life cycle of butterflies and what plants they need to survive. The event is free to the public and is featured as part of Open Garden Day. Contributions to the upkeep of the garden are always welcome at FloralPark.com/donate.

Among those scheduled to participate are Santa Ana City Councilperson Jessie Lopez, Ron Ono, director of the Santa Ana Parks & Recreation, and certified arborist, Mike Swinghold.

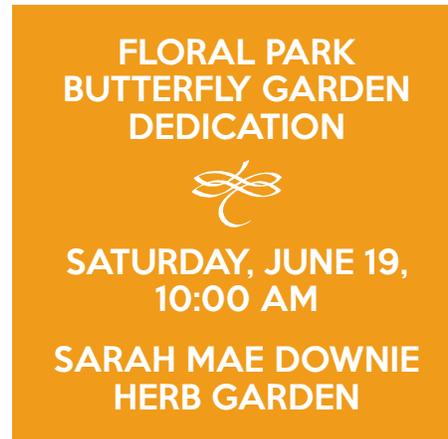
The butterfly population has decreased and the list for blame is long - habitat destruction, insecticides, herbicides, and good intentions. At Sarah Mae Downie Garden, no pesticides or weed killers have been used for over a year. Floral Park volunteers have planted all the plants that attract and nourish butterflies.

In addition to being beautiful, butterflies, like bees, are necessary pollinators. About one-third of the food people eat depends on the work of pollinators such as butterflies. In their caterpillar state, they are a food source for birds and other animals. Adult butterflies typically only live from a few weeks to about a month, as a result of both a naturally short life span and predation.

Sarah Mae Downie Garden is located at the corner of Flower St. and North Park Blvd. and is maintained by neighborhood volunteers. The personalized heart-shaped stones that

line the walkways help cover the costs of upkeeping the garden, upgrading neighborhood trees and planting the entrances and exits to the neighborhood. Heart stones may be purchased online at FloralPark.com/shop and the purchase is a tax-deductible donation. For more information on the butterfly garden or heart stones, email Beautification@FloralPark.com.

Floral Park's Butterfly Garden is made possible with the cooperation and collaboration from the City of Santa Ana.



Orange County Spring Garden Tours Are Back!

It's spring, and that means it's time for garden tours! While Floral Park will not be having its annual spring Home & Garden Tour this year, the dedication of Floral Park's new butterfly garden will be a featured stop at Open Garden Day. And if that's not enough beauty for you, there are plenty of other gorgeous gardens to tour throughout the county in the coming months.

LAGUNA BEACH GARDEN CLUB TOUR

Back after a pandemic year off, the Laguna Beach Garden Club Gate & Garden Tour takes place on May 1 from 10am-4pm, starting at the Laguna Beach County Water District. From there, tour-goers will be shuttled to where the walking tour begins. The event will offer artisanal margaritas

and Mexican fare, free refreshments, plein air painters in several gardens and a raffle of prizes from local artists and businesses. Proceeds help support educational school gardens, student scholarships and community projects. *For tickets and information, go to LagunaBeachGardenClub.org.*

NEWPORT BEACH GARDEN TOUR

Hosted by Sherman Library & Gardens' Volunteer Association, the 25th annual Newport Beach Garden Tour will take place virtually this year on May 8. A professional videographer has filmed all of the amazing gardens featured on this year's tour which you'll be able to watch and re-watch at your leisure. Proceeds from the Garden Tour will directly support children's education programs including science and history-based field trips for schools, as well as after-school classes and kids' camps. *For tickets and information, go to TheSherman.org.*



OPEN GARDEN DAY

Organized by the West Floral and Jack Fisher Park neighborhood associations, Open Garden Day takes place on Saturday, June 19. Tickets to the walking tour, which will feature 8-10 beautiful gardens, will go on sale May 1. There's also a need for help with docents and volunteers. Free tickets are provided for working half of the event. *For tickets, information, or to volunteer, go to OpenGardenDay.com.*

(GARDEN TOURS continued on page 35)



THE BOWERS

BUILDING ON A DREAM

by Mark Bustamante



There was a time,

not so long ago, where instead of the brilliantly white, mission revival-style museum at 2002 North Main Street in Santa Ana there was a two-story Victorian home inhabited by a couple named Charles and Ada Bowers. Much has changed since those days. The transformation can be tracked in the different stages of the construction and growth of the museum, but even as the Bowers Museum celebrates its 85th anniversary its mission remains an extension of the dream of that couple who donated their name and property for the creation of Orange County's largest museum.

Charles Wesley Bowers was born in Ohio City, now a neighborhood of Cleveland, on December 26, 1842. His parents were modest farmers who steadily moved in a generally westward direction, picking up and resettling every few years. It was in Missouri that Charles' father caught a debilitating disease. Not long after, the family moved out to California for the warmer, drier climate.

Already a grown man by this point but used to managing his sick father's farm, Charles followed his parents to Santa Ana, California and ran their citrus grove. In 1890, the family purchased a large plot of land on 20th and Main for \$6,000 and had a large Victorian home constructed there. Charles' father passed away the same year he purchased the new home and twelve years later Charles inherited the property when his mother passed away. Always too busy taking care of his parents to find time for marriage, Charles was almost 60 when he wedded Eliza Pedelty. The nineteen-aughts were an unforgiving decade for Charles though. Eliza died only three years into their marriage.

Ada Elvira Abbott was born in Perry, Illinois in 1846. Incredibly little is known about her life, but she moved out to Santa Ana at some point, for it was there that she met Charles Bowers. The pair married in 1908 and shared a thrifty life together. They reinvested almost every dollar they made off their citrus. Their one guilty pleasure was travel. In 1910, the couple toured across the United States and Canada collecting postcards and other memorabilia. Seeing America only gave them a better appreciation for the slice of paradise that they had found in Santa Ana though. They developed a shared love of the county's history and made it their mission to see that future generations would have a place where they could learn how Orange County came to be.

They took their first concrete step towards realizing their dream on May 26, 1924 when they created a trust that would see to the creation of a museum. To create more of an incentive for the City of Santa Ana to see the project to completion, they included a stipulation that the city had to move forward with construction shortly after their death or else the property would instead be sold and their assets given to one of the county's rival cities. Charles W. Bowers died November 29, 1929 and Ada E. Bowers on February 28, 1931. The city accepted their bequest almost immediately.

There were several problems that the city had to solve before it had a functional museum.

The first was the most obvious: the lack of a building. Fearing that some other city would snatch up the great opportunity if they delayed, the City of Santa Ana hired Frank Lansdown and W. Horace Austin as architects. They quickly got to work on a design, focusing on a plan which would preserve as many of the original property's trees as possible. To be in keeping with the state's Spanish roots, the early building was designed to look like an old rancho home, complete with a fireplace for a display on cooking. It was approved in December of 1931. With the city already in the grips of the Great Depression, a contractor who employed mostly Santa Ana residents was hired and on February 15, 1932, they began construction by demolishing the Bowers' original Victorian home. Remarkably, construction on the building was completed by September of that year. Only a few items remained to be completed, such as Marten Syversten's interior ceiling murals of California history, and Ada May Sharpless' memorial fountain with a sculpture of Juan Cabrillo.

However, the other two barriers to opening the museum remained: the new Charles W. Bowers Memorial Museum needed a permanent staff and there was nothing to exhibit. Back in 1932, another client at the bank that was managing the Bowers' trust had mentioned she had an interest in being the Bowers' curator. Her name was Bessie Beth Coulter and she was involved in no less than four local organizations at the time. Her name was passed up the chain to the first museum board and, impressed by her drive, she was hired. In 1934, she walked into the empty Bowers Museum for the first time. But instead of seeing the cobwebs which had largely claimed the museum, she had a vision of a place where people could learn and dream—a place teeming with children and adults who could find direction in a shared heritage.

Coulter applying to be curator might just be the best bit of luck the Bowers Museum has ever had. From 1934 on, she spent every spare minute researching the county, reaching out to old landowners and making cold calls, all with the intent of permanently acquiring or borrowing enough of a collection that the Bowers could speak to the history of the indigenous peoples of California, the mission and rancho periods, and early statehood. With Coulter's help, the Bowers Museum opened to the public on February 13, 1936. There was great fanfare that day with Spanish song and dances in the mission revival style courtyard.

Even with the museum's doors open, the work had just begun. Coulter continued to do the work of an entire department to acquire collections from around the county. Feeling that dolls were an ideal medium for teaching the children of Orange County about the nationalities of the world, she personally created an exhibition-worth of dolls and started an annual tradition of "international" doll shows. To their credit, the exhibits rapidly gathered enough

of a following that Coulter was able to secure loans and donations of dolls that really were from around the world. In 1947, Sherman Stevens offered to donate an incredible collection of early Californian impressionist paintings to the Bowers on the condition that they be transferred directly to the museum. To facilitate the transfer, Coulter saw to the change of the Bowers Museum's status from a municipal corporation to a non-profit and personally interviewed the first seven members of the Bowers Museum's foundation. The Martha C. Stevens Memorial Art Collection, named for Sherman Stevens' late wife, was donated in 1948, becoming the backbone of the Bowers' fine art collections.

Over the years, the museum's collections, staff, and scope of exhibitions continued to grow. Coulter retired in 1960, but by this time she was not alone in running things. There were other staff members and shortly after her departure the museum officially hired on Director Merton E. Hinshaw to fill her shoes. In the middle of the 20th century, the Bowers Museum modernized a lot of its practices around exhibitions. Margaret Key was hired on as registrar in 1962 and was responsible for both updating the museum's system of cataloguing and incorporating standard museum practices like reporting the condition of loans and donations as they arrive at and leave the museum. It seemed like everything at the Bowers was getting bigger and better all the time, the one exception to that being the amount of space for storage and exhibitions.

When the claustrophobia hit a breaking point in 1973, the Bowers Museum closed its doors for its first expansion. Little of this remodel can be seen today, but funding from private sources around the nation allowed for a second building located approximately where the Bowers Museum store is now. All told, the expansion doubled the museum's square footage. The new space gave the museum a venue to look beyond the history of the county to the cultures of the world—the shared heritage of humanity—and many of the new exhibitions featured ethnographic art from Africa, Asia, Oceania, or South America. With its influence growing, it was not long before the Bowers Museum wanted to expand beyond its walls. In 1978 the Bowers converted an older trailer into a Mobile Museum which could travel directly to schools. Its first exhibition was one which would have made Charles and Ada Bowers proud: the history of the citrus industry in the county.

For its golden anniversary in 1986 the Bowers Museum again began to make plans for a museum expansion. Feeling that the last one had been somewhat underwhelming; this update tripled the square footage of the museum. In addition to adding more exhibit space, it solved some logistical issues too: it allowed for the remodel and retrofitting of the museum's old wing and it created a dedicated administrative wing to the building.



Photography: BOWERS MUSEUM'S BELL TOWER, c. 1932, Edward W. Cochems (American, 1874-1949); Santa Ana, California, Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Borders; BESSIE BETH COULTER, 1927-1928 (35682.7). Gift of Mr. Eldon G. McNeil; MAIN CORRIDOR OF THE BOWERS MUSEUM, c. 1936 (30185). Bowers Museum Collection; FLOOR PLAN FOR THE BOWERS MUSEUM, 1933 (36760.10). Bowers Museum Collection.

With a still-growing permanent collection of ethnographic art and special exhibits space constantly occupied by a slew of impressive, limited exhibitions, the Bowers ran into an issue it was becoming accustomed to—it was once again running out of space. Another national campaign and major funding from Dorothy and Donald Kennedy allowed for the completion of the museum's most recent expansion: the 2005 to 2007 construction of a North Wing. The new space was to include three exhibition galleries as well as a 300-seat auditorium. Mostly, the new construction afforded the Bowers beautiful indoor and outdoor multipurpose spaces.

Though the museum reopened for a third time to great ado, it garnered even more attention about a year later when, with the help of the chair of the Bowers Board of Governors, it hosted an exhibition of China's terracotta warriors. Over 200,000 visitors attended the six-month exhibition, including celebrities like Kobe



Bryant. Since then, the Bowers has hosted almost 70 more exhibitions, with standout greats like *Lucy's Legacy: The Hidden Treasure of Ethiopia*, *China's Lost Civilization: The Mystery of Sanxingdui*, and *Guo Pei: Couture Beyond*.

Despite having closed many times for renovations, museum operation in the time of COVID-19 has been a chapter without parallel in the Bowers' history. All around the country, museums have had to reevaluate what it means to be a museum when our doors cannot open. In this regard it has been fortunate the coronavirus came during the internet age, as being closed has not meant being inaccessible to those wishing to learn

more about the diverse cultures of the world. The Bowers has curated several virtual exhibitions, continued sharing pieces from its permanent collections through the Bowers Blog and social media, created art projects that parents could easily walk through with children, and—in large part with the help of the Bowers Museum Docent Guild—organized a staggering number of tours and other educational programs.

The Bowers Museum reopened to the public on March 17 of this year. Thanks to generous lenders, three exciting special exhibitions have been extended. *Inside the Walt Disney Archives: 50 Years of Preserving the Magic* invites visitors to step into The Walt Disney archives as they walk through a dazzling display of more than 400 objects, including original artwork, costumes, and props that tell the story of the archives, The Walt Disney Company, and Walt Disney himself. *Treasures in Gold & Jade: Masterworks from Taiwan* features

VOLUNTEER IN THE DOCENT GUILD

The Bowers Museum Docent Guild, one of the seven Affiliate Councils of Bowers Museum, has over 100 members. The role of the Bowers Docent is to enhance visitors' knowledge and engage visitors through conversation and observation. Docents offer public and private tours and host public programs like Sunday Storytelling and a book club for museum members. "Books at Bowers: Touring Through the Pages," pairs a book with an exhibit and meets every other month for a discussion. Bowers Docents also conduct school tours for children of all ages. During this past year Docents developed virtual tours that featured both collections on display and in storage. Training to become a Bowers Docent is offered annually. Anyone interested in becoming a docent may visit the Docent Guild website at bowersdocentguild.org or contact Rhonda Nalisnik, current chair of the Docent Guild, at 1901 N. Flower St. in Floral Park. Several residents of Floral Park are current or past volunteer docents.

BECOME A MEMBER

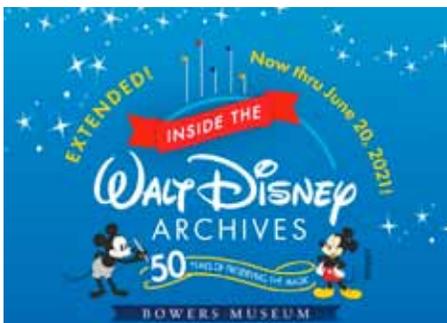
Membership to the Bowers goes beyond the range of exciting benefits which are offered year-round. Your investment plays an integral role in bringing life-changing learning opportunities to our visitors and the greater Orange County community. Memberships truly makes a difference in allowing us to continue in our mission to enrich lives through the world's finest arts and cultures. In celebration of the museum's reopening, new Bowers Museum members at the Family Level and above will receive a free 50th Anniversary of the Walt Disney Archives tote bag. Sign up to become a member at Bowers.org.

works of incredible beauty and complexity by two of Taiwan's premier artists. *Test of Medal: Charles J. Shaw and the Montford Point Marines* tells the little-known story of America's first US Marine Corps base for Black men, and the first Black man to train an integrated platoon of Marines.

The closure also afforded the museum the opportunity to curate *Miao: Masters of Silver*, an exhibition on the silver made by the Miao minority culture of China, and redesign some of our *Spirits and Headhunters: Art of the Pacific Islands* exhibition.

At the Bowers Museum's inauguration in 1936, Dr. Frederick W. Hodge, then the director of the Southwest Museum in Los Angeles, gave an address calling museums silent universities, institutions that would fade away if they ever began to think of themselves as finished. As of the Bowers Museum's 85th anniversary, the museum is still growing and changing every day, breathing continued life into the dream of Charles and Ada Bowers.

Photo (left): Illustration of the Bowers Museum as it appeared before the 2007 remodel, c. 2005. All photos courtesy of Bowers Museum, Santa Ana, California



On view at the Bowers Museum through June 20 is the exhibition *Inside the Walt Disney Archives: 50 Years of Preserving the Magic* with a display of over 400 objects, including original artwork, costumes, and props that tell the story of the Archives, The Walt Disney Company, and Walt Disney himself. Tickets and information are available at Bowers.org.



Photos (above) Ada May Sharpless in front of her carving for the Ada E. Bowers Memorial Fountain, c. 1936 (40635). Gift of Mrs. Cecil Marks; Bowers History Room, 1932 (38107.2). Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Borders.



Frank Greenwald house, 1894

Early Architecture of Floral Park

THE VICTORIANS

by David Ko

Residential architecture reflects a myriad of influences, to include technology, environment, economics, aesthetics, and day-to-day life. In this ongoing column, neighbor and architect David Ko looks at the architecture of Floral Park, starting with Victorian, a few of which still exist in Floral Park and the broader Orange County community.

The antebellum era, as depicted in *Gone with the Wind*, was a prelude to the significant late 19th century agricultural expansion in the United States. During this time, farmhouse plans designed by creative rural men and women, regularly appeared in farm journals, inspiring the early settlers farming on expansive agricultural fields in Old Town Orange, Tustin, Floral Park, and neighboring Park Santiago. These farmsteads once

seamlessly unified a broad community without the freeways and heavy trafficked thoroughfares which divide it into separate enclaves today.

These early floorplans reflected the work patterns, social interactions, and cultural values of the time's farm families. The architecture depicted ingenious ways in which rural Americans designed dwellings in keeping with their visions of a dynamic, reformed rural culture, including concerns ranging from efficient workspaces

to self-contained rooms for adolescent children. The evolution of these progressive farmers' homes provided flexibility and sheds light on rural Santa Ana's efforts to adapt to significant changes brought by industrialization, urbanization, consolidation of capitalist agriculture, and the consumer's rise in society.

The earliest architectural styles to emerge in this town were Victorian for the affluent and Transitional for the working class. The fancy, decorative

adornment of Victorian houses once lined our most prestigious street—not Victoria in Floral Park but Broadway. These stately homes for the wealthy once afforded a team of handymen year-round work, attending tirelessly to unrelenting wood exteriors which continuously required new wood claddings, stripping, painting and varnishing. The Great Depression affected even the wealthiest residents who could no longer afford deferred maintenance of these impressive structures. Unfortunately, when uncared for, these delicate beauties deteriorated into a state of disrepair. Even Alfred Hitchcock selected this architecture genre as the haunting backdrop for his films, further accentuating their negative stereotype.

These elaborate and elegant homes were seen as eyesores to mid-century urban renewal planners and were razed, rezoned and replaced with modern commercial buildings and apartments. Fortunately, three modest Floral Park Victorian houses known as Transitional avoided the wrecking ball and survive to this day (1819 and 2033 Greenleaf Street as well as 2402 Flower.) A magnificent Victorian on Valencia in Park Santiago was restored in the late 1980s by a well-known merchant home builder who had an appreciation for vintage homes. A dozen spared eclectic Victorian homes are under a strict preservation covenant in Old Town Orange and numerous Old Tustin Victorian mansions have been repurposed as businesses.

The less ornate Transitional homes escaped the ill fate of their fancier cousins. By default, fewer ornamentation meant that they weathered much better and were more cost-effective to upkeep, thus lasting over a century. Academia has other names for these two homes, such as Four Square or Transitional style.

The primary form of these homes appeared taller than wide due to the extra high ceilings for both floors. This functioned to induce an eternal cycle of convection airflow where the lighter hot air rises and expels out through transom windows and is replaced by the

heavier, cooler, fresh air drawn in from the lower windows. The unique design of these late 19th century houses, built before the widespread use of electricity, allowed air flow to function as a form of natural air conditioning.

Gas or fuel-lit chandeliers occupied the upper high ceiling zone leaving the lower zone flame and fume-free. The primary cause of most house fires during this era was windblown sheers ignited by flame lighting. Thus, the light fixture hung high from the ceiling. To create a sense of human scale for the tall interior walls, crown molding, picture rail, wainscoting, chair rail and tall baseboard were used to articulate proportion and texture.

Early Transitional style homes in Santa Ana and Floral Park were built on a raised foundation and elevated above ground level because of frequent, severe flooding. Civil engineering projects did not occur until the mid-1930s during FDR's Work Progress Administration, when the construction of storm drains

appear plain and rather ordinary. Thus the use of multiple paint colors on the exterior of many Victorian homes.

Lumber companies published numerous plan books during the Victorian era featuring designs that were basic yet neat, modern, and comfortable. Many migrants to the West brought an East Coast "vernacular" architectural vision characterized by a steep pitched roof from a snowy climate to sunny Southern California.

However, architecture was a relatively new profession then and only the wealthiest could afford an architect to design a pedigreed Victorian mansion. In fact, few architects designed houses during this era as most were involved in civic projects where engineering, safety, and code compliance were paramount. And since architects took large fees on a house commissions, the rest of the population had to resort to homes made in the factory, transported by railroad, and assembled on location. Most owners either bought plan

“The earliest architectural styles to emerge in this town were Victorian for the affluent and Transitional for the working class.”

and flood channels alleviated torrential flooding.

The transom window above a regular window looked disproportionately tall. Therefore a single-story porch was used to conceal the transom window under the porch roof. The shaded patio also cooled the air before being drawn into the homes.

Victorian houses have exposed trusses, “stickwork,” and other details. The most important features are on the exterior wall surfaces. Instead of three-dimensional ornamentation, the emphasis was on patterns and lines. Because the decorative elements are flat, they are often lost when homeowners remodel. If the decorative stickwork is covered up with vinyl siding or painted a single solid color, Victorians may

book blueprints or ordered a house kit from companies such as Sears (think Craftsman) or Montgomery Ward (Wardway Homes).

These essential Transitional boxes allowed for cosmetic upgrades to transform them into Victorians, sort of like vehicles today. But those add-ons rarely seemed to look proportional and integrated with the scale of the homes. Other features include prominent brackets, rafters, and braces. These details were not structurally necessary but, rather, merely exterior decoration. The brackets and corbels looked too flimsy to support roof overhangs; the thin turn posts, spindles, and braces did not look sufficiently structurally to hold up the porch. The dishonesty of the surface treatment was short-lived and lasted no more than




Photography: (page 14) the Frank Greenwald House at 1810 Greenleaf Street, built in 1894, is the oldest remaining Victorian home in Floral Park; (above clockwise) North Broadway, once lined with elaborate Victorian homes, was one of the most exclusive streets in Santa Ana; the Dr. Raymond Smith House built in 1901 still stands at 1315 N. Broadway; Sears sold kit homes in their catalogs like this modest farm house from 1908; the historic Gustlin house built in 1907, still stands in Floral Park at 2033 Greenleaf.

three decades. People much preferred a stripped-down version where the exterior exemplified honesty and details were pertinent to the structural integrity and weather protection.

Farmer folks could afford these more modest homes built between 1870 and 1900. Life was simple before the age of railroads. In the vast, remote stretches of Orange County, families built no-fuss, square, or L-shaped houses in the transitional style. But the rise of industrialization made it easier and more affordable to add decorative details to otherwise

simple homes. Decorative architectural trim could be mass-produced. As the railroads expanded, factory-made building parts reached far west to Orange County. Also, small pioneer towns could now obtain sophisticated woodworking machinery. A crate of scrolled brackets might find its way to Santa Ana or Orange, where carpenters could mix and match the pieces according to personal whim or according to what happened to be in the latest shipment. Many modest Victorian houses were adorned with flat, jigsaw cut trim in a variety of patterns.

Others had spindles, gingerbread, and detailed porches.

The dry, hot, and sunny climate of Southern California was a constant threat to Victorian houses. Weathering and deterioration caused by Mother Nature required attentive maintenance to sustain the exterior finishes. As homes changed hands from one generation to another, the care they required was rarely sustainable. Only a few Victorian houses survived to this day, avoiding water or fire damage, and the biggest threat, “progress.”



Whenever you want to recognize a neighbor for any occasion, whether it be a birthday, anniversary or even an act of kindness, give them a shoutout in the Floral Park Gazette.

- Shout Out to co-chairs of Open Garden Day, **Karen Mittendorf** and **Donna Layne**, for putting on such a great event and speaking at the dedication ceremony of Floral Park's new butterfly garden.
- To **Allene Symons** for teaching me so much about butterflies and also donating two native, narrow leaf milkweed plants to the garden. —*C. Switzer*
- Thumbs up to **Nancy and Jeff Smith** who donated so many clivias to Sarah Mae Downie Garden and thumbs down to the people who stole them.
- To **Quida and Danny Quon** who donated balloon milkweeds to the butterfly garden and to **Maggie** on Baker Street who donated deep purple iris to the park.
- To **KC and Helen** - Thank you for one year of inspirational quotes on the blackboard in front of your house.
- A warm welcome to **Andrew and Patrice**, new neighbors on Riverside Drive with the cool dog!
- To **Mike & Christine**: We hate to see you go but wish you much happiness in your new home. You've been great

friends, neighbors and stewards of historic homes. — *Marc & Jeff*

- **Aleda Barton**, filled with her own mother's strength and faith, poured everything she had into making us strong, capable, and caring individuals! She's everything to each of us! Happy Mother's Day! — *Yvette*
- Love my mom, miss her so so much and really wish she was here. She is a very funny lady with a great sense of humor. Miss you mom. — *Mila*
- Mom, you instilled a can-do spirit of adventure in all of your children, and we have lived our lives accordingly. Thank you for that gift. And thank you for now keeping us happy and whole as you've joined us in Floral Park. Love, *Sis*
- Momma, you mean the world to me, and thank you for everything you have done for me. From the college trips to the late nights helping me with projects, I love you, best friend. Happy Mother's Day — *Sydney Montague*
- To **Armida Barcena Medina**, Thank you Mom for your 102+ years of love, sacrifice, and teaching your eight children the value of family togetherness. You inspired us through your actions to be kind, caring, giving people - we appreciate, love and miss you. — *George Alfonso Medina*

How To Keep Our Parkway Trees Healthy

by *Lina Tonkunas*

One of the most impressive things about our beautiful neighborhood (besides the best neighbors and gorgeous architecture), are the majestic, established trees that line our parkways. These trees not only accentuate the historic character of our neighborhood, but they also provide havens for nature, cleaner air for us to breathe, and shady respites to take in at our leisure.

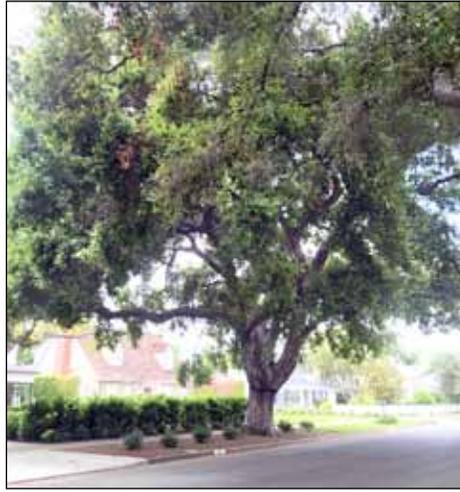
Did you know that the parkway area and the trees within them are owned and maintained by the city, but as residents, we are in partnership with the city to care for and water the parkway plants and trees in front of our home? I think many of us may be aware of this responsibility, and I would attest that we devote a lot to make our parkway look as beautiful as possible. But are there some things we can do better to help our parkway trees stay healthy?

To answer this question, I invited Gilbert Vargas, ISA certified arborist and owner of Vargas Tree Service, to tour our neighborhood parkways. While he noted several areas of needed improvement, he assured me that there are many things that we as residents can do (and not do) to keep our trees healthy and less vulnerable to disease.

These are his recommended "Do's and Don'ts" for tree care—some are so important they are mentioned twice!

- Don't stop watering! Best practices are to water deeply, and infrequently (every 1-2 months) to regularly (1-2 times per month) depending on tree species and daily temperatures. See www.santa-ana.org/green/TreeProgram.asp for guidance on how to deep water.
- Don't use string trimmers or similar equipment near the base of the tree or along the trunk. This is especially important with thin bark species such as crape myrtles.

- Don't allow plants, especially turf and ivy/vines, to grow up the trunk of the tree. Keep at least a 1-2-foot buffer, which should be free of vegetation, ideally covered with mulch seasonally.
- Don't cover the base of the trunk with any materials (such as soil, rocks, bricks, or concrete) other than mulch.
- Do not build a planter around your tree requiring you to fill with additional soil up the trunk.
- Don't trim, prune, or remove a city tree. If you absolutely must prune, please do not prune branches or roots greater than 1" in diameter and make clean cuts with disinfected tools.
- Don't affix anything to a tree or use equipment or chemicals near a tree that might harm it.
- Don't dig irrigation trenches near a tree.
- Do protect your trees from string trimmers and similar equipment. If you use a landscaping service, request that they avoid using this equipment near the trunks.
- Do consider installing deep watering



- tubes, if possible, as close to the dripline (tree canopy edge) a possible.
- Do face sprinklers away from the trunk. Wet trunks invite problems.
- Do use plants with similar water and site needs as your parkway tree, which will aid in providing proper irrigation for your tree and consolidate your own maintenance.
- Do help remove sucker growth.
- Do minimize pest issues on your own property, which decreases the spread of

pests to the parkway.

- Do report any tree that needs attention to the City. Preferred contact is via the mySantaAna app, or call 714-647-3380.
- Do contact the City with ANY tree-related questions. They are there to support our efforts.

Special thanks to Gilbert Vargas of Vargas Tree Service and Frank Torres, Tree Maintenance Supervisor and certified arborist with the City of Santa Ana, for their assistance with this piece.

TREES

by Joyce Kilmer - 1886-1918

I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.

A tree whose hungry mouth is prest
Against the sweet earth's flowing breast;
A tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;
A tree that may in summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;
Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain.
Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.

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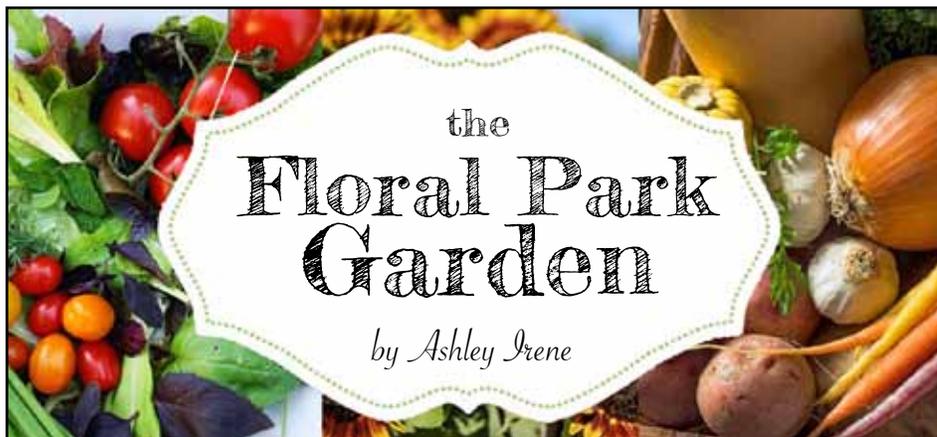
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THREE REASON TO GROW AN HEIRLOOM GARDEN

A big part of successful gardening is honoring historic lore and the passing of that knowledge on to others for the next generation. Growing heirlooms – uncommon varieties of food and flora – are a huge part of that rich history.

WHAT ARE HEIRLOOMS EXACTLY?

Heirlooms are a traditional variety of plant or breed of animal which are not associated with large-scale commercial agriculture, often passed down from generation to generation. Heirloom varieties have been grown for at least 50 years.

And I love the idea of planting the food of our ancestors, plants that join each of us together, from country to country, continent to continent, and memory to memory. Food culture is a shared experience that beckons us all to the table.

GROWING HEIRLOOM VARIETIES ISN'T HARD

Growing these storied varieties isn't any harder than any other seed types when following an organic gardening practice. The beauty that these one-of-a-kind plants bring to the garden is priceless. When we open our gardens to heirlooms, we're opening hundreds of doors to possibilities yet unknown.

YOU'RE SAVING SEEDS FOR THE FUTURE

For me, perhaps the most important reason for planting heirloom varieties

is to preserve these gene species for the future. Garden author Rosalind Creasy, said it best: "Home gardeners have the ability to help slow the erosion of our seed banks by continuing to grow and save seeds from harvests." Seed saving is easier than one might believe and is a principle practice of growing a kitchen garden. If you haven't saved seeds before, don't fret; there are several responsible seed providers such as Botanical Interests, Seed Savers Exchange and San Diego Seed Company that ship heirloom varieties directly to consumers.

Planting heirloom varieties gives gardeners the freedom to select what works best in their gardens. Saving seeds from heirloom plants year after year will build up a personal library of seeds from the plants that perform best in your local soil and climate. Since plants are much more adaptable than most of us realize, you'll have a seed strain that is more resistant to local pests and diseases.

PRESERVING HISTORY ONE SEED AT A TIME

In the broader sense, growing heirlooms are heritage, history, and nostalgia contained in one tiny seed. Specifically, growing heirlooms preserves history and cultural agriculture methodology, but also adds immense diversity to a garden space. Diversity that is becoming more and more valuable to home and culinary gardeners.

Heirlooms offer so much more than their hybrid cousins usually found in grocery stores across the country.

Unique shapes, dazzling colors, and various sizes as well as unmatched flavor profiles. That flavor is the result of better nutrition. And better nutrition for animals and humans comes from healthy, diverse soil that breeds the essence of high-quality sustainable food that will thrive for generations to come.

As many of us seek to live healthier lives, growing an heirloom garden full of hand-selected plants just makes sense. Turning wasted landscaping space into an even more bountiful garden or growing in containers nurtures our planet, our bodies, and our souls.

Heirlooms offer so much more than their hybrid cousins usually found in grocery stores across the country. They bring unique shapes, dazzling colors, and various sizes as well as unmatched flavor profiles. That flavor is the result of better nutrition. And better nutrition for animals and humans comes from healthy, diverse soil that breeds the essence of high-quality sustainable food that will thrive for generations to come.

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If you'd like to learn more about growing an heirloom garden, please visit heirloompotager.com.





Spring has arrived in Floral Park! Here are a few tips for getting your garden groovin’:

FERTILIZE

Now is the time to fertilize everything! I recommend using a soluble - one you hook up to your hose. The advantage is that you can’t burn - or overfertilize - with a liquid. And you don’t have to worry that your pets might be drawn to ingesting it or that it will draw critters. I love Dr. Earth products, the rose and flower fertilizer is great. Annuals and all the beautiful flowers you will be adding to your garden need more fertilizer as well.

- Feed your roses every two weeks from now to July 1.
- Feed your citrus every two weeks from now to September.
- Apply aluminum sulfate to the soil of your Hydrangeas for blue flowers.
- Don’t forget to FEED YOUR LAWN.

MULCH

There is nothing better than a heavy layer of mulch or bark. Mulch conserves moisture, suppresses weeds, reduces erosion and decreases water runoff. Bare soil reduces the overall health of your soil and your garden. Apply at least three inches of mulch, and apply around the

base of your trees as well to reduce intrusion from other plants and to keep mowers away. Make sure to use a high quality mulch. Inferior mulch can often include weed seed and other environmental toxins.

PRUNE

Your roses, flowering shrubs and fruit trees will benefit from regular pruning, picking and deadheading. The regular pruning encourages the plant to continue producing for you and blooming throughout the spring and summer seasons.

PLANT

A good garden begins with really good soil. Investing in, and protecting your soil will make an enormous difference in your gardens beauty over time. When you pick up those gorgeous foxgloves and dahlias, pick up a few bags of organic soil that is specifically designed for what you are planting. Ask at the nursery if you are unsure. Many times you will find after winter that your soil is compacted. Adding new soil and turning the soil before planting will ensure success. Be on the look out for hot weather sizzlers such as gomphrena and nemesia that can take our warm spring weather. You may want to rotate your overgrown potted plants into your garden beds, for next year’s season, using this as an opportunity to update your pots with this season’s color.



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FPNA “Membership” Makes A Difference!

Kevin Shuler, Membership Committee

What an amazing neighborhood we all get to call home and enjoy as our community...and yes, we are a community! As you are aware, Floral Park does not have an HOA – which means no HOA fees, nor are there a Mello-Roos taxes, so we depend on the voluntary support from each of you.

When you moved into Floral Park, whether recently or years ago, you automatically became a member of the Floral Park Neighborhood Association (FPNA). The purpose of FPNA is to preserve the integrity of, and the historical significance of, our homes and to develop a sense of unity within the Floral Park neighborhood. In addition, FPNA acts as a communication vehicle to represent our neighborhood to city officials, the city’s agencies, local businesses, and other neighborhood associations. We

rely on donations from our community to continue providing all the wonderful services our association provides.

Here are just a few examples of where we direct our funds:

- Beautification (planting trees & flowers at the entrances, Sarah Mae Downey Park preservation, street lamps painted).
- Scholarships to Santa Ana deserving students for continued growth.
- Donations to local Santa Ana charitable organizations.
- Our annual home & garden tour showcasing selected homes, driving recognition and interest in our neighborhood. (This year, due to the pandemic, we will have a holiday tour in November.)
- Source for expertise working with the historic registry and Mills Act.
- Working to make Floral Park a federal historic district which will enhance all of our property values and our visibility on a national level.
- Community mixers, social events, the Walk of Lights and Walk of

Frights which help connect us to one another.

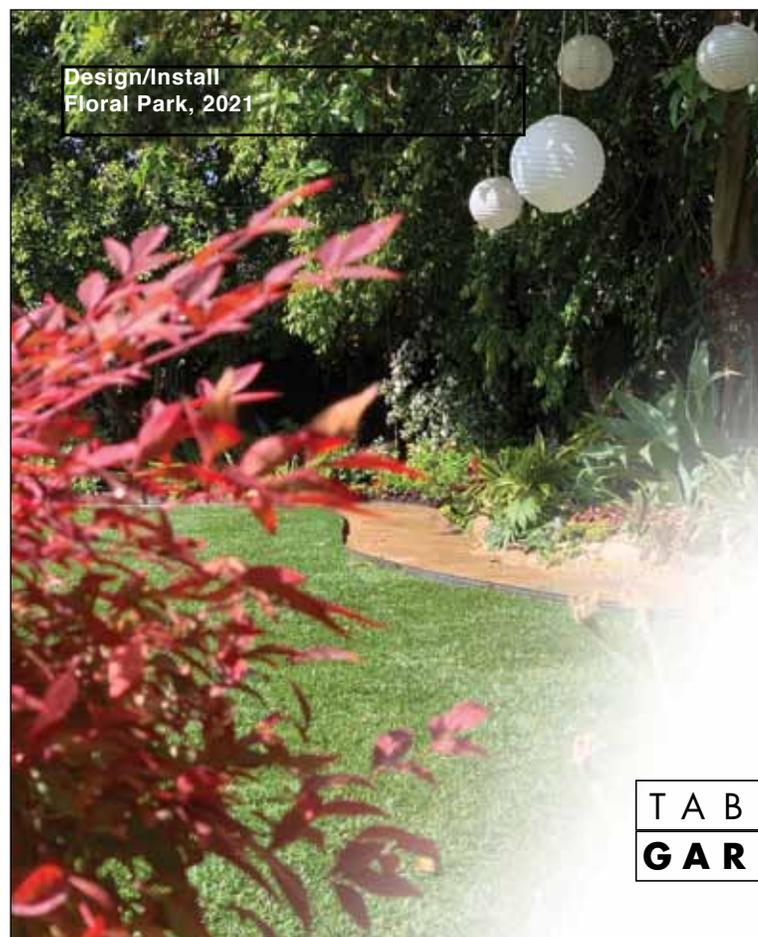
The average donation is in the range of \$20 per month. (Many of us spend more than that at Starbucks!) Yet, any donation, big or small, is appreciated beyond words. And because FPNA is a 501(c)3 non-profit, your donation is tax-deductible.

The best way to donate is to set up a recurring gift at FloralPark.com/giving. With this option you never need to remember when it is time renew.

You can also set up a one-time annual donation using the same link, but please consider a recurring donation. (Think of it as another monthly fee you don’t even notice in your bank account!)

And, if you’re old school, we still accept checks made out to FPNA and mailed to P.O. Box 11366, Santa Ana, CA 92711-1366. Be sure to write “membership donation” on the check.

Together we will continue to make this neighborhood even more special. Got questions? Email me at membership@FloralPark.com. Thanks.



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we nurture
nature, ourselves
and each other.

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Designs for Outdoor Living

COFFEE: A LOVE STORY CONTINUED

The Eccentric's Corner
by Mark Rothenberg

*Exploring The Myriad of Hobbies and Passion Projects
of Our Neighbors*

A young man and woman are on their first date. The young man is desperate to impress the young woman. He uses fancy words, tells great stories, and was in every respect a "smoothie." Following dinner, the waiter brought a cup of coffee to the table along with a silver canister of sugar. The young man appeared puzzled by the contraption as the spout was depressed and therefore flush with the surface of the canister's cap. The young man took a bread knife and manipulated the spout to the open position. Once the knife was removed, the spout collapsed back into the closed position. The young

man used the knife again and applied more pressure thinking that perhaps the spout's hinge had been damaged. Again, the spout lifted but collapsed as soon as the knife was removed. The young man intensified his efforts to open the spout. Each time, the spout would open... and then collapse as soon as the knife was removed. The young woman watched in bewilderment as this show of abject stupidity continued for approximately five minutes. Finally, the young woman wrenched the accursed object out of the young man's hand and turned the canister upside down. The wonderful phenomenon of gravity caused the

spout to open...and stay open. Sugar along with the young man's dignity freely poured out.

As this story illustrates: humans have a pesky habit of complicating simple things. The young man learned that he should remove complexity from his life and just let his girlfriend make all the decisions. The young man has been happily married to the young woman for 17 years and they have three boys, a Goldendoodle, and a contemptuous Basset Hound named Steven. Much like simply letting your wife make all the decisions---why overcomplicate the preparation of coffee? Our beloved is relatively simple to prepare and doesn't require all manner of contraptions (don't tell my wife.)

COFFEE BEANS

The first step in making good coffee is sourcing quality coffee beans. Anyone walking into a quality coffee house such as Kean or Bodhi Leaf Coffee may feel somewhat puzzled at the variety of bagged coffee available for purchase and the different terms listed on the bags. A high-end, knowledgeable roaster will label his or her coffee or be prepared to provide the: (1) date of the roast, (2) species of coffee (Arabica/Robusta), (3) region where the coffee was grown and its altitude, (4) method used to process



the coffee bean, (5) roast level, and (6) tasting notes.

The date of the roast helps the consumer understand whether or not the coffee they are purchasing is stale. It is generally acceptable to prepare coffee up to 1 to 2 weeks following roasting and even longer for espresso. Coffee that is sealed or in kraft bags with one-way air valves last longer. However, no matter how good the seal, coffee will decline in taste and quality over time.

Although there are other species of coffee, most roasteries and coffee retailers deal in either “Arabica” or “Robusta” beans. Arabica beans are typically grown at a higher-elevations, the plants are harder to grow and cultivate, and result in coffees that are broadly regarded as being more flavorful than their counterpart. By contrast, Robusta tends to be grown at lower elevations, comes from a heartier plant, and is generally known for being bitter and having a higher concentration of caffeine. Robusta beans are typically cheaper than their Arabica counterpart.

While most coffee aficionados prefer Arabica over Robusta, there are numerous distinctions and levels of quality and taste that can be found within and between both species of plant. Consider that McDonald’s and Maxwell House both proudly advertise that they solely use Arabica beans. Tasty as McDonald’s coffee may be, it does not compare particularly well to a high-quality Robusta bean. Marketing seldom tells the whole story.

There are numerous variables that affect the flavor profile of the coffee. Most notably, the method by which the coffee bean is removed from the coffee cherry, the region and elevation where the coffee is grown, and of course, the level of roast. For example, the coffee bean may be removed from its cherry encasement through a “natural” method whereby the coffee cherry is left out in the sun to dry and the bean is then extracted. This process results in greater contact between the bean and the outer fruit and may result in a coffee that is more acidic with a fruitier or sweeter taste. By contrast, the coffee cherry

may be stripped away with water at the beginning of the process (known as the “washed process”) resulting in coffee with a cleaner or brighter taste.

Another method known as the “honey-process” involves a partial depulping of the coffee bean resulting in a gooey, honey-like substance coating the coffee before it goes through final processing. Honey processed coffees are often have a flavor profile that is brighter and more acidic than coffee prepared using the washed process but less so than coffees that were processed using the natural process.

Thankfully, reputable coffee roasters take some of the guesswork out of the process by sharing their tasting notes on the bag. For example, on Sunday mornings, I like a coffee with notes of fruit. Therefore, I enjoy Bodhi Coffee’s Ethiopian Yigracheffe—a delightful lightly roasted coffee prepared using the washed process with citrus and floral taste notes. When my father comes to visit, he guilts me into running to Barnes and Nobles to buy a print copy of the New York Times. How quaint! While reading the New York Times and lamenting the Mets, my father enjoys Kean Coffee’s Guatemalan Hunapu—a medium roasted coffee with notes of chocolate, hazelnut, and malt. If you still have trouble deciding, find the barista but try to find one with one more of the following—a leather smock, disc earring, 1930s newsboy cap (preferably in tweed), or handlebar mustache. You can’t go wrong with that criteria. After choosing the right coffee bean for you, we turn to preparation.

BREWS, GRIND, AND EQUIPMENT

Once beans have been selected, the amateur barista (who should now feel inclined to purchase a leather smock), must decide on the method of preparation. There are a multitude of methods to prepare coffee but the easiest include the use of a drip machine, French Press, Cold Brew, or by pulling shots through the use of an espresso machine.

The “tired” and true method of mak-

ing coffee for most is the use of a drip machine. The problem with most drip machines is that the water tends not to be heated to the right temperature. Most coffee connoisseurs would agree that coffee brewed via drip or French Press should use water heated somewhere between 196 to 204 degrees Fahrenheit. Unfortunately, most drip machines use heating elements that are not calibrated to reach this level of heat or heat water beyond 204 degrees. The end result may be under extracted and weak coffee or over extracted and therefore bitter coffee.

Most coffee snobs endorse the Technivorm Moccamaster which is one of the few coffee machines calibrated to ensure correct brewing temperature. The Technivorm is available in multiple colors thus ranking high on the spousal acceptance chart. However, making coffee does not have to be expensive (don’t tell my wife). For those not willing to invest hundreds of dollars in a drip machine or who do not need the capability for brewing a full pot, consider the French Press or Cold Brew Method.

FRENCH PRESS

A French Press typically consists of a cylindrical container with an internal plunger. Hot water (at 196 to 204 degrees) is poured from a kettle on top of coffee grounds and the coffee steeps for 4-5 minutes. The home barista then plunges a filter basket through the coffee pushing the grounds to the bottom. A French Press can be purchased for \$10-\$40. The problem with French Press coffee is that it makes comparatively small amounts of coffee (typically 1-4 cups).

Most of the inexpensive French Press offerings use a glass container which are relatively easy to break and do not hold heat particularly well. Another challenge is that the inexpensive units have inferior internal filtration resulting in grounds of coffee escaping the filter and winding up in your morning cup. I therefore recommend the Espro P7. The P7 is made of insulated stainless steel with two internal/washable filter baskets. The P7 comes in two sizes. I recommend the 32 ounce version which will make 2-3 well sized cups of coffee. For those

who want to have coffee that is ready to go for either hot or ice coffee, consider the Cold Brew method.

COLD BREW

Cold brewing coffee simply requires a large bowl and strainer. Ground coffee is added to cold or lukewarm water and left to rest either in the fridge or on the counter for 12-24 hours. The coffee gradually steeps in the water. Because heat is not used in the immediate preparation, the result is a coffee that is smoother and more flavorful. Although the claims are somewhat exaggerated, cold brew coffee tends to be less acidic than coffee prepared with most other methods and many coffee drinkers report that cold brew coffee is easier on their stomach. While cold brew only requires a bowl and strainer, there are a number of cold brew kits available online that make straining the coffee out of the water easier. I like the 38 ounce stainless steel Kitchen Aide Cold Brew Coffee Maker. The unit has a dispenser and sits on a shelf in the fridge. I like that

the coffee is poured into a removable strainer. After the coffee steeps in water overnight, the internal chamber containing the coffee grounds is simply removed and the cold brew is dispensed through a spigot. However, a cautionary note about cold brew coffee is required.

Imagine the same young man referenced in the foregoing story enjoying dinner with friends at a Japanese restaurant. The young man has never had Japanese food before and is puzzled that the chef has paired Hibachi steak with guacamole. “Burn” into your mind the resulting image of the young man engulfing a pitcher of ice water among a cacophony of laughter from his friends as the young man just discovered that wasabi looks just like guacamole. Before earning his leather apron, the same young man would at some point in the future gloss over directions on Cold Brew preparation and drank two full glasses without realizing that Cold Brew creates a coffee concentrate. The concentrate is not immediately drinkable coffee because

it has to be diluted with hot water, or ice and cold water (for ice coffee) and/milk, cream, etc. Finally, we turn to espresso.

ESPRESSO

There are a number of misnomers about espresso. For example, many coffee drinkers assume that espresso is a type of coffee bean or that espresso must be made from a dark roast. Espresso is not a type of bean nor does it describe a type of coffee roast. Rather, espresso simply describes a method of brewing coffee whereby hot water is pushed through a condensed or tamped disc of coffee at high pressure. Espresso does not require a darkly roasted coffee. Historically, dark roasts were prepared in regions of the world (such as Venice Italy—hence a Venetian roast) that lacked access to high quality coffee beans. Therefore, dark roasts would hide or cover up inconsistent or lackluster beans.

Espresso is generally thicker and almost syrupy with a layer of foam atop the espresso known as crema. Espresso



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is usually regarded as being creamy, highly aromatic, and contains slightly more caffeine than other coffees. Although many coffee houses choose to use a dark roast, the reality is that many baristas use medium or even light roasts. In addition, many roasters and baristas use blends of different coffee beans as opposed to using one type of coffee bean (known as “single origin”). When formulating my own beans for espresso, I enjoy mixing a medium roast of Guatemalan Hunapu beans with lightly roasted Ethiopian Yigracheffe at a ratio of 3:1. This blend results in a balanced espresso shot with a slight kick.

Preparing espresso at home does not require the investment of thousands of dollars of equipment nor does it require large Italian machines with chromed figurines of eagles sitting atop the machine. However, while Breville makes fine products at various price points, I find that the Breville machines take much of the guess work and fun out of the process. I therefore recommend either the Gaggia Pro or the Rancilio



ESPRO P7 Stainless Steel French Press

Slyia “M” espresso machines for a beginner. Both machines are “single boiler” machines capable of pulling shots and steaming or, more appropriately, “frothing” milk. I have owned both and found them to be highly durable and fairly easy to use. However, the challenge with single-boiler machines is that you have to wait after pulling a shot for the boiler to recover for the next drink or for the boiler to heat up water to a higher temperature once the user switches to using the steam wand for frothing milk. Both machines have been out for decades

and many used models can be found on Craigslist or Ebay. Finally, most coffee gadget hounds (myself included) advise the burgeoning home barista to focus on a quality coffee grinder.

There are few coffee grinders capable of producing a grind that is fine enough for espresso while coarse enough for French Press or drip. I have found Breville’s Smart Grinder to be a good entry level grinder that can do both. I therefore recommend the Baratza Vario or Virtuoso line of grinders. Both grinders are extremely well built and serviceable. I have had my Baratza for 6 years without any issue. However, much like every guy who buys a boat...there are always bigger and better boats out there and the same is true for coffee equipment.

I am always happy to speak about coffee and coffee equipment so feel free to accost me on the street. Just don’t mention pod-based machines or you will get a dirty look from Steven and I.

Mark is available to answer all your caffeineated questions at mark11aa@me.com.



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Cooking With Coffee



Coffee and Cocoa Rub Baby Back Ribs

Time:

Serves 4 to 6

Ingredients:

- 1/3 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1/3 cup coffee ground
- 1/ cup brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons chili powder
- 2 tablespoons kosher salt
- 2 tablespoons powder onions
- 1 tablespoons powder garlic
- 1 tablespoon dried oregano
- 1 tablespoon dried mustard
- 2 teaspoons dried ginger
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 2 racks pork baby back ribs

Instructions:

Mix all the dried ingredients in a large bowl including salt. Rub ribs generously with the rub. Wrap the ribs in a plastic wrap and refrigerate overnight. Two hours before you serve your ribs, remove from the refrigerator and let reach room temperature. Heat oven to 375 degrees. Place the ribs in a shallow baking pan and bake for 45 minutes or until tender. Increase the oven temperature to 450 degrees and transfer the ribs to a baking sheet with a wire rack with the curved rib side up. Bake for an additional 25 minutes until browned, flipping the ribs once halfway through. Let rest for 5 to 10 minutes before serving. Great for friend and family gatherings



Roasted Cauliflower Florets with Coffee Sauce

Time: 30 minutes

Serves: 4 to 6

Ingredients:

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 teaspoon of instant coffee
- 2 cauliflowers heads cut into florets
- Kosher salt and 21 seasonings from Trader Joe's (or just black pepper)
- 1 teaspoon olive oil
- 2 chopped shallots

- 3/4 cup of brewed coffee
- 1/3 cup of whiskey
- 3/ cup heavy cream (optional)
- 1/4 cup toasted hazelnuts or walnuts or almonds chopped
- 2 tablespoons chopped tarragon leaves (optional)

Instructions:

Heat the broiler. In a large bowl, mix olive oil and instant coffee and toss with cauliflowers florets. Season with salt and pepper and mix well making sure each floret is evenly coated. Spread florets in a baking sheet and broil for about 10 minutes, turning them once in a while to make sure they are tender and charred evenly. In a small sauté pan add 1 teaspoon olive oil and sauté the shallots till tender but not burned. Add the coffee and the whiskey and reduce the heat. Cook just until the liquid is almost evaporated. Add heavy cream and season with salt and pepper and cook for 3 minutes. Place cauliflower florets on a platter and drizzle with the sauce. Sprinkle with chopped tarragon.



Dark Chocolate Bark with Coffee and Dried Fruits

Time:

Serves:

Ingredients

- 2 cups semi sweet chocolate chips
- 1 tsp ground cardamom (optional)
- 3/4 cups chopped toasted almonds
- 1/2 cup chopped pistachios
- 2 teaspoon chopped coffee bean
- 1/4 cup dried cranberries
- 1/8 kosher salt

Instructions:

Place chocolate in a bowl over a sauce pan of simmering water. Cook, stirring until all the chips are melted, about 8 minutes. Remove the bowl from the pan and stir in cardamom, half of the dried fruits and nuts. Spread mixture onto a parchment paper lined baking sheets into a 9"x12" rectangular pan about 1/4-inch thick. Sprinkle the remaining almonds, pistachios, cranberries and the coffee beans and salt (evenly). Chill uncovered for about 2 hours or till the bark hardens. Break into pieces and enjoy.

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

City Holds Contest For Most Beautiful Blocks

The City of Santa Ana Public Works Agency is sponsoring a block beautification contest designed to encourage and promote community involvement in keeping Santa Ana a beautiful place to live, work and play. It will recognize and reward residents of winning neighborhood blocks whose properties reflect their community pride and have an aesthetically pleasing appearance. All residents are encouraged to participate.

In order to qualify, 50% of homes on a block must participate to qualify (A block is defined as "a section of homes separated by streets at each end.") Residents within the block will assign a block coordinator who will submit the block entry forms

and before/after photos of each participating property. Property enhancements include the parkway, front yard, fencing and exterior home.

Entries will be judged by the Environmental Transportation Advisory Commission (ETAC), which will consider plant materials, landscape design, property maintenance and neighborhood context.

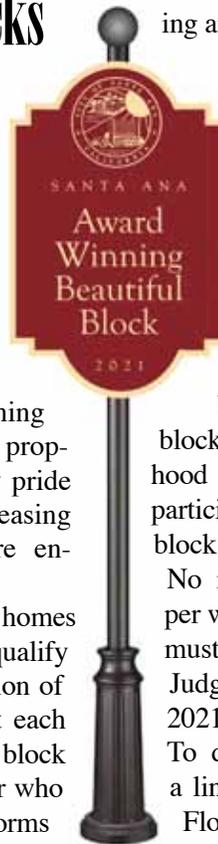
Each winning block will receive two elegantly designed, Santa Ana signs. One sign will

be installed at each end of the block, commemorating the neighborhood block's community pride. Each participating property of a winning block will receive one \$100 gift card.

No more than three block winners per ward will be chosen. Applications must be received by May 21, 2021.

Judging will take place on June 1-7, 2021 with results announced in July.

To download an application or for a link for further information, go to FloralPark.com/news.




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WHAT'S UP? READERS!



ON THE TOWN

by Ed Trotter

OK, it's Wednesday night and you've just gotten home. Heck, it could be any weekday. You're facing what to do for dinner. Well, sometimes the best solutions are staring you in the face. How about one of the most overlooked sources of reasonably priced food? Believe it or not, it's the Main Place Mall and City Place, both in Santa Ana.

I know we're not talking about five-star establishments here. After all, who goes to such places on a worknight?

Let's get real. We need something good, healthy, and fun. And, at a price. I think most of you would find something from the array just to our north.

You can virtually travel the world

within a mile or so. You've got Chinese, Korean, Japanese and Indian from Asia. Turkish, Mediterranean from the Middle East. Italian,

Domestic fare includes Hawaiian (poke), hamburgers (Johnny Rockets, Habit,), barbecue (Lucille's), Philly cheesesteaks, and, of course, pizza (so pervasive that's become American) There is, of course, an Italian place or two from Olive Garden on.

In all, there are some three to four dozen opportunities. I'll give some recommendations based on my experience. If I had tried them all, you could visit me over at Fairhaven Cemetery!

Let's start with City Place. I count 11 different places to eat in that area, to include Mother's takeout options. My suggestions?

POKI ONE N HALF

This is a favorite of our friends Wayne Suraci and Merle Craig. For the uninitiated, poki (or poke) is a Hawaiian concoction of a bowl of marinated

seafood, a wide variety of fresh raw ingredients, and various toppings and sauces. Spicy and refreshing.

DONER G

Doner kabob or kebab is a Turkish food similar to the Greek gyro, Middle Eastern shawarma, or tacos al pastor. They can be lamb, beef, or even chicken. I love them and they make a nice, flavorful evening meal. Of course, Doner G offers side dishes. Give their fries a try.

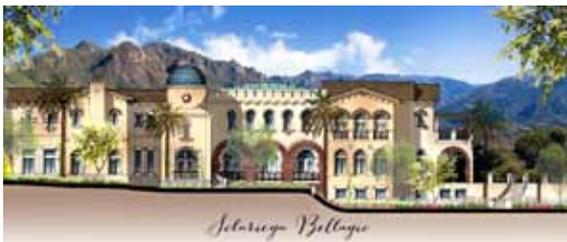
THE HABIT

This hamburger place is a close competitor to In-N-Out to me. My favorite is the Santa Barbara halved charburger. Well, all of their burgers are called charburger but the Santa Barbara is easily enough for two. It's served on toasted sourdough slices. It's a favorite at our house. Yummy for sure.

MOTHER'S MARKET

Technically not a restaurant but who's keeping score? I find the options at Mother's tasty and wholesome.

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Favorites would include a nice array of salads, dips, soups, and sandwiches. Originally, a vegetarian grocery store, it was founded in 1978 by a group of yoga enthusiasts. As time went on, the company merged with another and began to broaden its offerings to include meats, wines, cheeses, all of a superior quality. Just FYI, it's where I buy the T-Day turkey for our family. It's where I buy my pizza dough. It's a winner.

Across the street is Main Place. Now, no one is going to consider the food court and other restaurants at Main Place a high-end culinary experience. We're talking a convenient culinary experience. But, doggone it, I have to say there are some darned good options.

PANINI KABOB GRILL

At Panini Kabob Grill, our choice for \$50 is the family combo of four chicken skewers (you can substitute or add salmon and/or beef for an additional charge) with a choice of two sides. We always go for basmati rice and the Mediterranean salad. My granddaughter

has dubbed it her favorite chicken. And, it really feeds six people with leftovers. Or there is a smaller option with two skewers for \$30. Of course, there are plenty of other options and they brag about their breakfasts.

LUCILLE'S SMOKEHOUSE BBQ

This is Southern-style food, of course. I grew up in a Kentucky town renowned for its barbecue but different than Lucille's. I love ribs and these are slow-smoked barbecue ribs easily eaten off the bone. And, you get a good choice of Southern side dishes.

MRS. BEAN JIANBING

Ok, I'm a sucker for Chinese dumplings, particularly xiao long bao (just call them XLB). The XLB superstar in the U.S. is Ding Tai Fung, with an outlet at South Coast Plaza. I think Mrs. Bean puts out a reasonable facsimile and it's so handy to have nearby. You can't go wrong. These are a nice way for me to remember the dumplings Sandy and I had in Shanghai.

YUVRAJ INDIAN KITCHEN

Admittedly, it's been a while since I've had food from this establishment but I was quite pleased with the taste of the food. I walk the mall many mornings on either side of a workout at the mall's gym and am always tempted by the tandoor chicken, dal (lentils), or any of the curries. Indian food may just be the world's most diverse and flavorful cuisine. After all, how could 1.3 billion people be wrong?

BLAZE PIZZA

What I like about Blaze is that you can customize your pizza with made-from-scratch dough. You can assemble yours from healthful, artisanal ingredients on the assembly line. It's fun alternative to the normal pizzeria.

So, my apologies if I missed your favorite. And, know that space limited me to how many of our dedicated restaurateurs have taken us through this past, tough year.

It's payback time for all of us.

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FLORAL PARK Social Scene

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

As we head into summer, we look forward to the opportunities to come together again as a neighborhood. Our Social Committee has found ways to bring neighbors together in the last few months. We were thrilled to offer a virtual cooking class in February. Chef Kyrsten from HipCooks Hands-On Cooking Class in downtown Santa Ana led 35 neighbors through an incredible experience where she shared her family recipe for homemade cavatelli on Valentine's Day. It was a wonderful experience for all who attended and a great way to connect with one another from the comfort of our homes.

As spring began and our gardens started to bloom, we also saw our community opening up! Your Floral Park Social Committee was able to offer

opportunities for our youngest neighbors to enjoy the treats of the season. The Easter Bunny made a special visit to Floral Park on Saturday, April 3. The neighborhood children were delighted to meet the Easter Bunny, take photos with him, and receive little "eggs" of wisdom! Parents were thrilled to have an opportunity to take photos and create cherished family memories that were missed last year. What a joy to see our community enjoy this event!

After the success of the virtual cooking class held in February, our Social Committee started thinking of ways to continue to provide opportunities for all neighbors to get together without leaving the comfort of their homes. With so many talented community members, it wasn't a surprise that we were able to collaborate with our neighbor and gardening expert, Ashley Irene of Heirloom Potager, to provide an herb gardening class via Zoom! The Social Committee subsidized the cost of the class and for a fantastic deal, neighbors were able to create their very own herb

garden in a terra-cotta pot! What fun it was to get our hands dirty and plant a personal kitchen garden of parsley, cilantro, thyme, oregano, sage, and rosemary! Ashley provided flavor profile cards for each plant for participants to use in their own family cooking experiences. These herbs will provide class participants fresh ingredients to use in their favorite fresh salads, home-cooked meals, and, of course, fancy beverages!

As we look forward to summer and our city warming up, we are so grateful for this incredible community of people! Together we have kept one another's spirits up over the last year. This is one of the best things about living in Floral Park!

Your Social Committee is planning for our beloved summer event, Freedom Fest, on July 3. Our entertainment is booked. We are scoping out the best options in food, treats, and games! And as Orange County has moved into the orange tier, we keep our fingers crossed that July brings us all the opportunity to celebrate life together as only Floral Park neighbors can!

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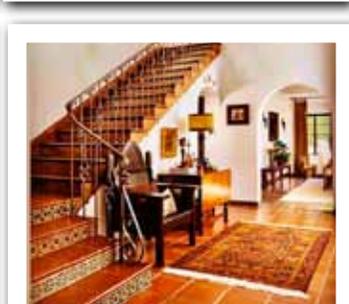
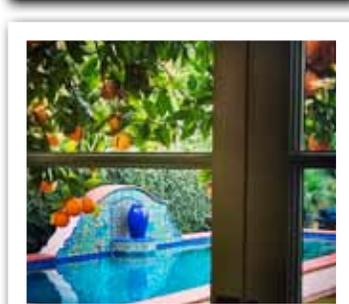
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Floral Park on Instagram

Every day, Floral Park posts a beautiful photo of the neighborhood on Instagram at [HistoricFloralParkNeighborhood](https://www.instagram.com/HistoricFloralParkNeighborhood). That's 365 photos a year with nearly 3,000 followers! If you don't have an Instagram account, you can view all the photos at [FloralPark.com/gallery](https://www.FloralPark.com/gallery) along with galleries of photos from past neighborhood events. Have photos you'd like to share? Send them to Communications@FloralPark.com.



Neighborhood to Create Care Kits for Wound Walk OC

Wound Walk OC is a local organization that tends to the wounds of our unsheltered in Orange County. Every Tuesday evening they visit various clusters of homeless individuals in Santa Ana to provide medical care, sandwiches and comfort kits.

Wound Walk OC was founded about four years ago and they are members of the Street Medicine Institute which provides guidance and support to programs that bring medical care to the homeless.

This April, the Care & Compassion Committee will be hosting a drive to provide comfort kits to Wound Walk OC that will be distributed on Tuesday's evenings. The drive will take place at 2221 N. Victoria Drive over two week-

ends: Friday, April 23 through Sunday, April 25 and Friday, April 30 through Sunday, May 2. from 10am-5pm.

We encourage you to participate in the drive by donating the following items:

- Small sunscreen
- Small bottled water or Gatorade
- Small packages of nuts, granola, tuna salad or chicken salad
- Cleansing wipes
- Masks
- Hand sanitizers
- Deodorant
- Small lotions

The committee will package the items in Ziplock baggies for distribution. I am optimistic that providing these comfort kits to the less fortunate will ease their worries for the day, as no one deserves to stress about where to wash their hands or where their next nutritional meal will come from.

Hopefully this small act of kindness brings these individuals relief and comfort. For information on the drive, contact Care@FloralPark.com.

Floral Park Care & Compassion Report

—Rachel Borack

Happy spring everyone. A big "thank you" to all the Floral Park residents who came to our first blood drive in partnership with the American Red Cross. The Red Cross was extremely impressed with the turnout as we were at full capacity. The blood collected saved a total of 63 lives!

One of individuals who benefited from the blood drive was a 6-year old girl who is battling brain cancer and has already received countless transfusions. The Red Cross typically has huge drives with corporate sponsors, private & public schools, and charitable organizations. Since COVID-19 halted these blood drives, I thought it was imperative to come together as a community and help those most in need. I am proud to announce that we will be continuing

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Care & Compassion Committee Director Rachel Borack joins Santa Ana City Councilperson Jesse Lopez at the Floral Park blood drive.

our partnership with the American Red Cross and we will be hosting four additional blood drives, with the next one being on Friday, May 21—please sign up at FloralPark.com. Tram Banks from the American Red Cross said, “We are so thankful to Rachel & the entire Floral Park community for putting so much time & effort to facilitate the blood drive, and to have such a

genuine partnership that will continue for the months to come.” This partnership with the Red Cross would not be possible without Marc, our communications director, who continues to go above & beyond.

This past March we once again rallied together as a community to make Easter special for the children and the families at the Boys & Girls Club of Santa Ana. The amount of donations we received was truly exceptional, and I am humbled by how generous our community is. A BIG thank you to Peter on Heliotrope for his generous donation, and to Ruth Anne Moriarty for donating 10 gorgeous Easter baskets. Not only did we collect enough goodies for the children to pack their Easter baskets, we also collected snacks, full-size toiletries, toys and games for the families to utilize.

This past week, I heard a quote, “Observe and serve.” This is truly what the Care & Compassion Committee is all about—to observe the needs of the community and find a way to be of service.



Floral Park assembled 52 Easter baskets, one for every child in the program at the Boys & Girls Club of Santa Ana.

I am hopeful that we will continue to come together to meet the needs of our community, both big and small through acts of service and kindness. We are always looking for new members and for ways to be of service to the community. Please feel free to reach out to Care@FloralPark.com if you are interested in joining the committee, or just have an idea of how we can help.





EL CORTIJO GRILL
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Floral Park To Display LGBTQ Pride in June

June is officially LGBTQ Pride month, and that means that there'll be rainbow flags appearing all throughout the neighborhood again. Last year saw record support for LGBTQ equality and even more is anticipated this year.

Free LGBTQ Pride flags will be available through local realtor Kevin Shuler (there's a link at FloralPark.com/calendar.) And when residents purchase larger Pride flags through Amazon.com's Smile program benefiting Floral Park, the company donates a percentage back to the neighborhood.

This last year, the LGBTQ Center Orange County, one of the oldest in the nation, was one of Floral Park's supported charities. Our neighborhood is said to have the highest concentration of LGBTQ residents anywhere in Orange County. So let's celebrate and let those Pride flags fly!



Neighborhood Benefits From Amazon.Smile

If you shop at Amazon.com, the company has a program that will donate to the Floral Park Neighborhood Association every time you shop.

Signing up is easy:

1. Visit smile.amazon.com
2. Log in.
3. Choose Floral Park Neighborhood Association as your charity of choice.
4. Start shopping!

We recommend you add a bookmark

for smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile. (When using a computer, you have to shop at SmileAmazon.com, not Amazon.com, for the donation to apply.)

When using the Amazon Shopping app on your phone or tablet:

1. Make sure you're signed up for AmazonSmile (use your web browser to visit smile.amazon.com.)
2. Download or update to the latest version of the Amazon Shopping app for iOS or Android.
3. Open the app and find "Settings" in the main menu.
4. Tap on "AmazonSmile" and follow the on-screen instructions to turn on AmazonSmile in the app. Select Floral Park Neighborhood Association as your charity.
4. Start shopping!

If you're shopping with Amazon anyhow, you might as well let them give back and help fund neighborhood projects and scholarships. Every little bit helps!



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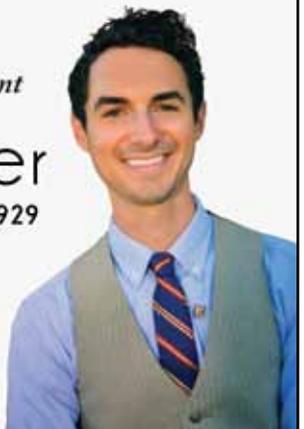
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Nomination Period Opens for FPNA Board

Sitting on the FPNA board is a rewarding way to get involved in our community, get to know your neighbors, and personally ensure that Floral Park is preserved and protected.

The Election Committee is currently accepting nominations for the following positions: first-vice president, treasurer, membership dir., social dir., home tour dir., communications dir., and parliamentarian. The duties of each officer are laid out in FPNA's standing rules at FloralPark.com/documents. If you have any questions, please reach out to Jeffrey Katz at president@FloralPark.com. Submit nominations to Elections@FloralPark.com no later than May 10, 2021 or at the May 11 special meeting.

(GARDEN TOURS continued from page 7)



MARY LOU HEARD GARDEN TOUR

The much anticipated annual tour is back this year on June 26 and 27 from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM both days, featuring beautiful gardens from Long Beach to San Clemente. Admission is free, but contributions are accepted at each garden location supporting The Sheepfold, a shelter for women in crisis and their children. For tickets and information, go to HeardsGardenTour.com.

Neighborhood Calendar

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

APRIL

Wound Walk Collection.....5/23-25

MAY

Wound Walk Collection 4/30-5/2

FPNA Election.....5/11, 7:00 PM

Blood Drive5/21

JUNE

Butterfly Garden.... 6/19, 10:00 AM

Yard Sale 6/5-6/6

JULY

Freedom Fest7/3

NOVEMBER

Holiday Tour..... 11/13



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