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ORANGE PRESERVES

Preserving California's largest historic district.

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Summer 2012

OLD TOWNE PRESERVATION AWARDS

The Old Towne Preservation Association's annual Preservation Awards Dinner celebrated preservation and history at the 19th annual gala. More than 130 people watched as residents, businesses, and individuals were recognized for achievement in six categories.

Dan Slater, local realtor, awarded Joseph Peters the annual award. Joseph personally renovated his 1920 Craftsman both inside and out. He stripped paint, replaced moldings, fabricated new cabinets and restored a vintage Wedgewood stove for his period kitchen.



Sweet, Sweet Orange Awardee



Sweet, Sweet Orange Nominee

The Sweet, Sweet Orange Award given for outstanding restoration of a residential building featured two nominees: Joseph Peters at 536 Van Bibber Avenue, and Robert and Ursula Imboden at 350 S. Glassell Street. The Imbodens rescued their stately home and preserved it as a family home when other prospective buyers wanted to renovate the space into offices. While they were fortunate to have many of the home's original features untouched, their project list was still lengthy, including repairing water damage, restoring the home's extensive woodwork, remodeling the kitchen and bathrooms and repainting the home's exterior in dark, rich colors, to name a few.



Top left: Awardee, Peters' residence.

Top right: Nominee, Imboden's residence.

Above: left to right: Phil Menard, Susan Menard, Joe Peters, Kris Olsen, Michele Ohanian, Robert Imboden



Sweet, Sweet Orange Awardee



Above and right: Peters' backyard and kitchen

The **Pitcher Park Award** is given yearly and recognizes exceptional landscape of an historic site in Old Towne. Nominees Mary Anne Skorpanich and Greg Lepore, 292 N. Cambridge, captured the essence of Old Towne in their 1923 bungalow landscape which featured a drought-tolerant garden.

Glory Johnson, 2011 winner, presented the award to Phil and Susan Menard, 360 S. Orange Street, for the gardens at their 1938 provincial cottage.

The **Plaza City Award**, given for outstanding restoration, preservation or enhancement of a commercial property, was awarded to The Orange



Pitcher Park Nominee

Above: Skorpanich backyard



Pitcher Park Awardee

Above: Menard home

Assistance League at 20 Plaza Square. The 1910 building underwent a four month renovation, the first in the building's history. They restored the arched

windows, removed awnings, exposed the brick walls and added period-appropriate lighting and truly preserved a unique architectural treasure.



Assistance League

This year's program included two **Special Merit Award** recipients. The first award was given to Chapman University for restoration of Memorial and Roosevelt Halls. The neo-classical buildings, constructed in 1921 and 1928, were repaired and painted in original colors. One of the most noticeable changes is in the plaster relief detailing which was



Memorial Hall Details

highlighted. The university took great care to keep the historical details of the two halls, helping to preserve another piece of Orange's heritage.

The second **Special Merit Award** was given to Robert and Ursula Imboden for their exceptional effort and sacrifice to both renovate and preserve their spectacular Craftsman, keeping it a family home.



Imbodens home and dining area

The **Good Neighbor Award** recognizes a new structure, or a non-contributing in-fill project, that is sympathetic in design as well as materials that demonstrates outstanding compatibility and harmony with neighboring historic structures. This year's award went to Gary Luke for his infill project located at 483 S. Center.



Good Neighbor Award

The **Spirit of Old Towne Award** is given to a person or group who has contributed most to the mission of OTPA, which is to preserve and enhance the unique Old Towne Orange area through education, communication and community involvement. The 2012 award was given to Mike Escobedo, Publisher of Old Towne Orange Plaza Review.

The **Dale Rahn Volunteer of the Year Award**, is given to an individual who demonstrates a commitment to Old Towne Orange by volunteering time to programs and concerns that support the goals of OTPA. Last year's winner, Annalisa Goode, presented the award to Mike Ochs who has been OTPA's fundraising chair for three years. He organizes signature events such as the Biennial Home Tours and Street Fair booths.

Finally, OTPA awarded the **Anne Siebert Scholarship Award** to a graduate student pursuing a degree in preservation studies. Robert Imboden presented this year's award to Michelle Lorimor,



Recipient Mike Ochs with 2011 recipient Annalisa Goode

a third-year PhD. student at UC Riverside. Her interest and research revolves around the California missions, the interconnectedness of the local Native Americans, and the impact of the early preservation and public presentation of those sites. 🍊

ZONING UPDATE

By Jeff Frankel

This rezone is important - All areas in the NE and SE quadrants designated low density residential have now been rezoned to R1. This has been an OTPA goal for over 15 years.

At the May 8th City Council meeting, OTPA representatives addressed the NE quadrant R1 rezone and the revised 50% cap/accessory structure/non-conforming uses ordinance revision. This also included the rezone of S. Harwood and S. Pine as these areas were inadvertently left out in the previous vote to rezone the SE quadrant.

When the ordinance revision came up for discussion, it was suggested the language be revised. The item was continued along with the NE quadrant rezone to the next meeting scheduled on May 22nd at the 4:30 session. The public hearing was never opened for the accessory structure item at the May 8th meeting. As OTPA representatives were unavailable to comment at the May 22nd, comments were sent to council prior to the hearing.

It was reported everything went well until the NE quadrant rezone vote came up. To pass, three votes are required. Council members Tita Smith and Fred Whittaker had to recuse themselves as both own homes and reside in this quadrant. Councilmember Jon Dumitru fell ill which prevented the vote to be taken at that time. The item was approved after he returned later in the meeting. Finally, after many months of discussion and a negotiated compromise, the rezone for the NE and SE quadrants were finalized.

Next up is the rezone of NW and SW quadrants. Conditions are a little more complicated in these quadrants as a major portion of the area is included in the Depot Specific Plan Update and are more diverse regarding land use designations. Watch for future updates and developments. If you have any questions or would like to find out how you can make an impact on these important community issues, please contact us at info @otpa.org or 714.639.6840. 🍊

RESTAURANT ROW OR ANTIQUE ROW?

President's CORNER

During the past six or so years, antique shops in Old Towne Orange—the self-proclaimed Antique Capital of California—have been losing their presence, slowly being replaced by one restaurant after another. Our town is becoming a hip nightlife destination, with exotic cars parked outside eateries requiring up to a two hour wait for fancy taquitos or a 1,500 calorie gourmet super burger. It's a free world and there is not much OPA can or should do about the types of businesses inhabiting our old buildings. We are a brick and mortar organization.

But we can share a story.

Two years ago, my husband, Mike, and I were trolling through one of the large antique malls (which some people refer to as “junk malls”) in town. This is something we LOVE to do as much as we can. In any event, on one of our post-Bloody Mary sojourns, we stumbled across an interesting little piece of art in one of our more favored antiquing destinations. We are art collectors, but we fall squarely within the category of what genuine art collectors refer to as “the trailer trash cruise ship buyers of the art world.”

Not on that Saturday.

The little piece we bought cost about \$70. The frame was pretty cool, and I knew at first glance

the frame job alone was worth twice the purchase price. Mike thought the image, which looked like a sketch or a print, had a real “Old World” feel to it. I agreed, and we shelled 70 bucks without even attempting to negotiate.

Fast forward two years and we have an appraiser at our house updating the values on all of our cruise ship art. I pulled the little sketch or whatever it was off the wall and asked the appraiser to take a look-see. She did, and then she started to get a little pale in the face. After examining it closely with her magnifying glass, she announced, “Well, you may have something here.”

After a month's worth of research and investigation, she returned her opinion. It is a 375-year-old Rembrandt lifetime etching. It cost \$70. We cannot even get out of some of those downtown restaurants for \$70, even if we drink the cheap wine.

So the next time you stop and think, should our antique malls give way to dining establishments, ask yourself this. What are the chances of biting into that oyster soufflé and finding a pearl? 🍷



Michelle L. Carder, Esq.

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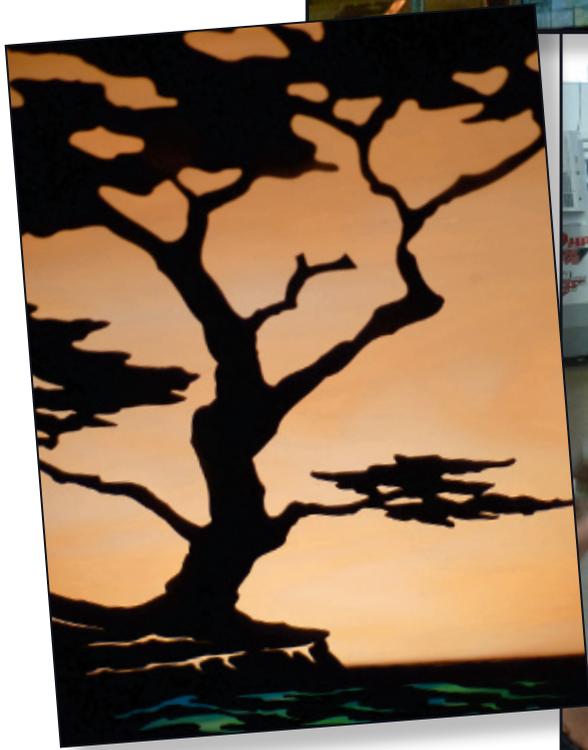
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GENERAL MEETINGS

By Sheri Ledbetter

Over 50 attendees enjoyed the kick off OTPA general meeting in April at Old California Lantern where proprietor Tom Richard and his son, Craig, graciously hosted us in their new showroom, gave tours of the on-site facility where all their lighting and other products are made, and shared the history of the family business in Orange.

The June General Meeting at Ruby's featured Gary and



During back stage tours, attendees learned how each piece is created by hand by local craftsman.



Diana Zdenek who spoke about the 5 plus year restoration of their 1919 bungalow. It was a standing room only crowd at the Ruby's banquet room. Attendees enjoyed appetizers and drinks, as well as a video depiction of the Zdenek's restoration process – adequately sprinkled with a dose of “restoration humor.”

Please be sure to join us at the next General Meeting on August 8 at the Sunkist Fruit Exchange on Glassell, where we'll hear from local historian Phil Brigandi who will discuss his latest book, as well as do a book signing. 🍊



Zdenek home before (top image) & after (above)

ORANGE INTERNATIONAL STREET FAIR OTPA IRISH BEER BOOTH

Get ready to dance a little jig at the annual Orange International Street Fair. Starting Friday, August 31 and running thru Sunday, September 2nd, OTPA will be manning the Irish Street Beer Booth & band.

To volunteer please contact info@otpa.org or 714.639.6840. 🍊

Steve Bennett at the 2011
food both on Irish Street



Now members and “friends” can follow us on Facebook. Old Towne Preservation Association is happy to announce yet another way our members can stay in touch.



ORANGE PRESERVES

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An official publication of the Old Towne Preservation Association. Editor: Guy Hinrichs, guy.oldtowne@yahoo.com

OTPA Honors Neighborhood Improvements

By Sandy Quinn

More than 130 Old Towne friends and neighbors gathered June 3 for the OTPA Preservation Awards dinner gala.

Chapman University supported the award presentation as Official Host Sponsor. Orange Realty, Citizens Business Bank and Cross Design & Construction signed up as Orange Sponsors.

For 18 years, OTPA has recognized quality improvements in Old Towne homes and buildings, and exceptional volunteer service by individual residents. This year, 8 handsome ceramic plaques portraying the historic Plaza fountain and created by Schroeder Studio Gallery, were awarded to honorees. In early Spring, applications are distributed and the community is invited to propose nominations in OTPA's traditional categories of recognition.

Outside judges, qualified in architecture, landscape, design and related fields, are asked to review and inspect the various nominations and vote on who to honor.

The event was held at the Orange Woman's Club and is not presented as a fund raiser, but as a public service enabling association members and others to enjoy an evening of fun and fellowship together while saluting major community improvements.

Dinner committee members included Jeff Frankel (award coordination), Guy Hinrichs (event production), Mary Matuzak (script), Diana Zdenek (ticketing), Wendy Bennett (hospitality), Sheri Ledbetter (door prizes) and event chair Sandy Quinn. 🍊