



ORANGE PRESERVES

Preserving California's largest historic district.

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Fall 2014

OTPA Steps in to Save the Historic Killefer School

By Jeff Frankel, Preservation Chairman

The Old Towne Historic District is home to more than 1,400 structures built before 1940 but few have the unique back story like the 83-year-old Killefer Elementary School at 541 N. Lemon Street (actually the original front facade faces Olive Street) which lies just outside the boundary of our national register district.

Besides being architecturally significant, Killefer School has an important place in the cultural history of Orange. The school was most likely the first school in California to voluntarily integrate students before a group of Mexican-American parents challenged the practice of school segregation, resulting in the Mendez vs. Westminster ruling of 1944.

Still owned by the Orange Unified School District, it was put up for sale last year for the second time, and immediately caught the eye of real estate developers as well as Chapman University.

When OTPA heard about the pending sale and the high bid of a developer who planned to demolish the school and build town homes, the association stepped in to save this important historic resource from demolition.

OTPA retained the noted preservation-consulting firm Historic Resources Group of Pasadena to coordinate the process of preparing the nomination application to place this important cultural resource on the National Register of Historic Places. This would provide protection making it very difficult to demolish the structure due the required environmental process through the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) which requires mitigating measures. It would be very difficult to impossible to mitigate the loss of a historic resource.

Members of the OTPA board met with the developer, The Olson Company, the OUSD Superintendent of Schools, the

Orange Barrio Historical Society as well as the city's Community Development Department staff to discuss the importance of this historic resource and preventing Killefer's demolition. We proposed an adaptive reuse of the historic building, but the developer felt that they were unable to accommodate that concept and still have the proposed project pencil out financially.

The school district accepted five bids when the property was put up for sale. Now that the Olson Co. has dropped out, the others will be considered. We plan to watch closely as their plans surface so we can be assured that the historic Killefer Elementary School will remain as a part of our community.



General Meetings

By Max Matuzak

The tradition of holding general meetings at a local venue, started by former Education and Research chair Sheri Ledbetter, continued this year under new OTPA chair Mary Matuzak. The first general meeting was held in April at the “Ice House,”—the 1930’s residential loft of architect Susan Secoy and her husband Dan Jensen. After wine and cheese socializing on the upper deck, Susan took the 50 attendees on a tour of the former citrus refrigeration warehouse. This hip example of adaptive reuse uniquely combines the Secoy/Jensen residence with workspace for local artists.



In August, we mixed things up a little with a Friday night meeting at a local landmark that is now the home of Robert and Ursula Imboden. The Imbodens opened up their beautiful 1915 Craftsman for a special OTPA home tour. After an appetizers and wine social hour in the atmospheric Imboden garden, nearly 60 attendees listened to Robert explain how he and his wife restored their home to its current splendor before

breaking up into small groups for tours.

The final meeting was held in October at Chapman University’s newest building, the Digital Media Arts Center, located near the Orange Metrolink and train station. Formerly the California Wire Company, the building now serves

students studying graphic arts and film. Chapman saved and restored the building’s façade while the new interior offers computer animation rooms, sound stages, and editing centers. The meeting began on the open-air patio garden with an Oktoberfest-themed social hour. Chapman provided

knockwurst and soft pretzels while the Old Orange Brewing Company donated the craft beer. Architect Bob Murrin briefly spoke about the renovation process before he took the nearly 50 people in attendance on a tour of the building.

If you missed these events, be on the lookout for our next meeting in 2015. Members get first-hand news of these events, so join today at otpa.org.

SPONSORS

This year we had several generous local businesses that sponsored OTPA general meetings by donating door prizes:

Dan Slater, realtor, Orange Realty, orangerealty.com. Dan donated a \$25 gift certificate to Rutbabegorz.

Shannon and Frank Tucker, local residents and owners of Terrace Hill Olive Orchards, donated several bottles of extra virgin olive oil. terracehill-oliveoilcompany.com

Orange residents Courtney and John Molino donated many bottles of wine for donation as well as for social hour. Thank you!

Chapman University donated visors, water bottles, polo shirts, and pennants.

Spin! Neopolitan Pizza, located in the Katella Stadium Promenade in Orange donated a \$30 gift certificate. spinpizza.com

Old Towne Eatery, a new restaurant located in the Clark building in the Orange Plaza (across from Zito’s), provided a \$25 gift certificate. OTeatery.com

Old Orange Brewery donated craft beer for our October general meeting. oldorangebrewing.com

PLEASE PATRONIZE THESE BUSINESSES THAT SUPPORT PRESERVATION IN THE CITY OF ORANGE!



SAVE *the* DATE

We're having dinner!

05. 03. 2015



The Old Towne Preservation Association's 20th Annual Preservation Award Dinner Gala is set for 5:30 p.m., Sunday, May 3 at the Woman's Club in Old Towne.

Awards will be given in recognition of significant improvements and enhancements of Old Towne homes, commercial buildings and other properties. Keep an eye open for prospective award nominations throughout Old Towne and submit a nomination on the OTPA website.

If you'd like to serve on the planning committee, please email community-involvement@otpa.org.



Holiday Home Decoration Contest

Get ready for the Holidays! It's time for the Holiday Home Decoration Contest

All Old Towne residents are invited to deck the halls and decorate your house in this annual tradition. Awards are given to BEST BLOCK, MOST OLD FASHIONED, BEST USE OF LIGHTS, MOST ORIGINAL and MOST BEAUTIFUL.

Judges will be cruising Old Towne to view the festive homes beginning at 6 p.m. on Sunday, December 14, 2014.

Join in this fun and joyful contest and add a bit of holiday spirit to the season.





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

Join OTPA and get involved!

If you are an Old Towne resident, homeowner, business owner or represent a commercial or non-profit organization, you have a vested interest in preserving the quality of your community.
Together we are protecting America's heritage for future generations.



We need membership support and your help on one or more of these committees:

Home Tours – Opens up selected historic homes and structures for the public to appreciate.

International Street Fair – Operates a food or beverage booth as an annual fundraiser.

Preservation Awards Dinner Gala – Brings the community together and celebrates preservation.

Preservation – Monitors new projects and prepares reviews.

Public Affairs – Represents Old Towne before various public agencies.

Membership – Creates outreach programs to increase our membership.

Join us today to help protect the places which matter to you and your neighborhood.



Become a member today www.otpa.org

PLEASE WELCOME OTPA'S NEW MEMBERS 2014

Mark Bowie
Kati Bye
Nicole Carroll
Carol Carson
Katherine Cozza
Katy Dyer
Mike Galli
Michael Hupka
Sandra James
Daniel Kreotel
Sandra Loughlin
Ruth McGinnis
Jeff & Sandy McNiel
Carol Mitchell
Tim Quinney
William Schuster
Richard Siebuhr
Vernon & Candace Smith