



ORANGE PRESERVES

Preserving California's largest historic district.

www.otpa.org • info@otpa.org • 714-639-6840 P.O. Box 828 • Orange, CA 92856 Summer 2015

Update: What's Going on in Old Towne

by Jeff Frankel, OTPA Preservation Chair

Your OTPA has been standing up for Old Towne for three decades on important preservation and renovation projects impacting our unique historic community. The following are current projects:

CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY SPECIFIC PLAN:

OTPA joins a growing number of Old Towne residents in opposing the school's ambitious plans to increase enrollment from 8,700 to 11,600 students. The plan will now be addressed in an Environmental Impact Study. OTPA submitted a four-page letter of comment to the City pointing out the inevitable negative impacts on housing, traffic, parking, over-development, noise, litter, infrastructure, and the erosion of the Old Towne neighborhood by the creation of a dorm atmosphere.



METROLINK PARKING STRUCTURE:

No one questions the need for additional parking in Old Towne, and the City is doing something about it. The Metrolink structure will replace the existing parking area at the corner of Maple and Lemon with a multi-level facility for 611 vehicles. OTPA has been frequently consulted and our input has been well received by City Community Development staff. The parking structure is a joint project with the Orange County Transportation Authority to accommodate the growing number of local Metrolink passengers and the demand for more downtown parking. Cost is estimated at \$20.4 million, with the Transportation Authority funding \$16.7 million, and the remaining \$3.7 million coming from former Orange Redevelopment Agency bond funds.

THE PATIO:

The original proposal for this restaurant, replacing the Heavenly Hostess store between Wells Fargo and Citizen's Business Bank, created a fenced barrier from the restaurant front all the way to the outer sidewalk. The Planning Commission approved the project, which resulted in an instant formal appeal from OTPA. We oppose the unprecedented closing of our public pedestrian sidewalks. Other Plaza restaurants including Bagel Me, Felix, and Two's Company, serve food and drink in the center pink-tiled areas designated for dining, but do not obstruct public use of the sidewalk. We consulted with City staff, and then presented a new plan to

the applicant. He has agreed to withdraw his request to close the sidewalk and has submitted a revised plan to the City. We plan to watch this process carefully to make sure our sidewalks remain open.

URTH CAFFE:

OTPA officials met with the owners and architects of the restaurant under construction in the two story building that housed law offices in the southwest corner of the Plaza, next to Starbucks. Originally called the Armor Block, it was built as a one story in the late 1800s. A second floor was added in 1907, and it was renamed the Ainsworth Building. The new owner is a preservationist and plans to return this historic structure to its original appearance. His presentation to Design Review Committee was one of the most thorough and preservation-minded projects that we've seen. The menu will feature organic fresh roasted coffees and signature sandwiches, salads and desserts.



THE AUSSIE BEAN:

We're sorry to see our friend Judy Schroder close her gallery and studio, but were pleased to meet with the new tenants who are restoring the building and creating an interesting coffee and pastry shop with a special roasting process. They're eager to complete the preservation correctly, and we're already working with them. Opening in September.

BLAZE PIZZA:

We are pleased that the owner responded well to our request that they keep the building's newly revealed, leaded, prism-glass transom windows in place during restoration and paint removal.

JASON'S BY THE CIRCLE:

This new restaurant is replacing Ways and Means at Shaffer and Chapman and will open in mid-July, offering a diverse menu of comfort food and cocktails seven days a week. Chef Jason, who has been one of Orange County's leading caterers for several years, did a terrific job catering OTPA's Preservation Award dinner in May. Jason has consulted with OTPA, and we have found no preservation issues in this non-contributing structure.

THE MASONIC TEMPLE AND BANK OF ITALY BUILDING:

Wonder what's going on with this historic structure at 71 Plaza Square? It's facade work to repoint the brick and make the building more earthquake stable. OTPA is glad they are using the Spectra Company, a top preservation specialist.

FOR MORE UPDATES check out our website at otpa.org and look for our One Minute Update email blasts, available to members.

Preservation Awards Honor Excellence in Old Towne Orange

By Amy Thai, OTPA Community Involvement Chair

Did you make it to the 19th Annual Preservation Awards Dinner Gala? We hope you were there and enjoyed the camaraderie with your neighbors and were invigorated by the presentation of nominees.

Nearly 200 guests greeted each other and enjoyed cocktails and hors d'oeuvres in the Women's Club garden. Later, they moved inside the historic locale to dine on a delicious dinner served by Jason's by the Circle restaurant (soon-to-be located in the former Ways & Means location) and applauded surprise performances by Orange's own Wimberly Bluegrass Band and about 70 of Orange High School Chorale's finest.



Award winners including JP and Anne McDermott for the Pitcher Park Award, Steve and Wendy Bennett for the Dale Rahn Volunteer Award, Chapman University for the Spirit of Old Towne Award, and Dan and Jill Ford for the Sweet, Sweet Orange Award.

But most of all, the presentation of nominees in all six categories inspired the entire assembly! All of the contenders poured passion and enormous effort into their restoration, preservation, and beautification of their homes or properties. They all deserved the honor, and OTPA was delighted to highlight their contributions to our unique community.

Here is a list of nominees and winners in each category:

Sweet Sweet Orange

Mike and Bonnie Gracia, 436 S. Orange Street
Chris and Becky Glos, 816 E. Culver Ave.
Winners: Dan and Jill Ford, 265 S. Orange Street



Brother architects Steve and Walter Jones, with Henry Versendaal representing Urth Caffe, and Amy Thai, OTPA Community Involvement Chair

Pitcher Park Award

Ruth Mc Guinness, 205 N. Harwood Street
Co-Winners: JP and Anne McDermott, 405 S. Grand Street
Steve and Kristi Colburn, 205 N. Pine Street

Plaza City Award

Chapman University, the California Wire building, now the Chapman Digital Media Arts Center
Winner: Dara Maleki, The Pizza Press, 155 N. Glassell Street

Spirit of Old Towne Award

Orange Home Grown Farmer's Market, 304 N. Cypress
Winner: Chapman University, The Mennonite Church and Parsonage, 145 N. Sycamore

Special Merit Award

Winner: Hugh Siler, the Shaffer Street Apartments at 373 S. Shaffer Street

Dale Rahn Volunteer of the Year

Winners: Steve and Wendy Bennett

Next May will be the 20th year of the awards gala and the 30th anniversary of the Old Towne Preservation Association. Plans are already in the works, and it's going to be our best celebration yet! Get your projects underway now. We'll be looking for nominations early next year. 🍊

OTPA Takes a Trip to Pasadena

Guy Hinrichs, OTPA Education Chair.

OTPA Members hit the road for the second general meeting of the year. Twenty six residents took an excursion to the Gamble House in Pasadena to see what is considered one of the three “ultimate bungalows.” Designed in 1908 by the architectural firm of Charles and Henry Greene, the Gamble House embodies the Greenses at the absolute pinnacle of their creative process and has been referred to by many as the one of the finest examples of Arts & Crafts architecture anywhere in the world.



OTPA members take a special tour of the Gamble House.

Members were treated to a special introduction by Ted Bosley, director of the Gamble House. Ted supervised the exterior renovation, which took seven years to plan and cost over \$3.5



Gamble house garage

million. Ted explained the many challenges of exterior restoration. “Do no harm” was the philosophy of the renovation. He explained that during a renovation, it is important to always restore in manner that can be reversed because, since technology is always changing, better preservation methods often become available. During the renovation, Bosley and his crew tried to always repair instead of replace because original materials such as lumber from old growth trees, which is more dense and long lasting than today’s wood, aren’t available. Members certainly related when he explained that another project is always on the horizon. For the Gamble House, next up is landscape restoration. 🍊

Tour Historic Old Towne Orange Residences

2015 Home Tour

On Saturday and Sunday, November 7 & 8, 10am - 4pm, visitors are invited to a taste of Orange. Come and see what what makes this quaint historic district a cultural treasure, a desirable neighborhood, and a favorite tourist destination.

This year, the gracious owners of five beautiful homes will open their doors to friends old and new. But, we need YOU! Volunteers are an essential element and, for your time, a complimentary tour ticket will be given in exchange for working no more than three hours. If you enjoy older homes, a bit of history and volunteering to support our community, email info@otpa.org or call the hotline at (714) 639-6840.





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An official publication of the Old Towne Preservation Association. Editor: Mary Matuzak, matuzakmary@gmail.com

OTPA Needs You for OIS

OTPA will be back on Irish Street this year for the Orange International Street Fair. Friday-Sunday, September 4-6, we'll be serving up Irish bangers and could use volunteers. If you would like to help out, please email us at info@otpa.org or call the hotline at 714 639-6840.

Keep up with all the latest Old Towne Preservation Association news by following us on Facebook.



OTPA's Sneak Peak of Chapman University's Musco Center for the Arts

Saturday, November 21 • Chapman University

Mark your calendars for OTPA's final 2015 General Meeting, Saturday, November 21.

OTPA Members will be among the first to tour the new Musco Center for the Arts on a tour led by Kris Olsen, Vice President of Campus Planning. Afterward, a reception and refreshments will be served in the Fish Interfaith Center.

Please Welcome OTPA's Newest Members



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| Mickie Ambritz | Doug & Martha Turner |
| The Potting Shed | Black Hill Press |
| Philip Disbrey | Book Carnival |
| Sherry Elkins | Lauren Peterson |
| Sy & Michelle Everett | Cheryl & Rich Gale (Roberts) |
| Megan Henderson | Nancy Paul |
| Beverly's House, a program of Orangewood Children's Foundation | Wendy Salmond |
| Scott & Lisa Michaelis | Patrick Smith |
| Kimberlee Nichols | Deanna Spangler |
| Jerry & Dawn Price | Carol Tallichet |
| Immanuel Lutheran Preschool | Richard & Sylvia Turner |
| | Marceline Wright |