



West Floral Park NEWSLETTER

WHERE NEIGHBORS TURN INTO FAMILY & FRIENDS

WFP ROOTS – GEM OF A NEIGHBOR: JANE CLARK

Submitted by Steve Fryer

It is no coincidence that one bedroom of Jane Clark's home has three closets. Jane and Tom had three sons when they had their house on Westwood built to order in 1957.

A bathroom is large enough and suitably designed for three girls. Indeed, the Clarks also had three daughters in the family.

A tour through the Clark home is a tour through a family's history.

Dr. Tom and Jane Clark had already lived in the neighborhood, further south on Westwood and just north of Seventeenth Street, when they purchased a lot on the north side of Santa Clara. The lot was part of an orange grove.

"I believe it was the first house built on this part of the street," recalled Jane, 92. "We wanted a bigger house, with larger rooms."

Large they are. That boys' bedroom is so large, Jane calls it "the boys' dormitory." The girls' bathroom is not one rectangular space but instead winds into three parts separated for privacy. There is an abundance of beautiful wood, with wood covering at least half of the walls in some rooms and all of the walls in others.

The backyard is huge, anchored by a large, well-trimmed elm tree. The backyard, too, has a clever feature: a gas grill, with chimney, under the extended eaves of the patio. If you want to have a barbecue on a rare day when the weather is uncooperative ...

Jane is another of our neighbors who would be terrific in a TV commercial for West Floral Park.

"I love the neighborhood," she said. "I like the big old trees, and all the homes are so different. We've always had the nicest neighbors here, too."

The Clarks always planned on having a big family and a big house. Tom Clark and Jane Benjamin had been high-school sweethearts in the Garden State, and continued to date when they went their separate ways in college, with Tom at Columbia in New York and Jane at Rutgers in New Jersey.

"After we finished college," Jane said, "I went into nursing school and Tom went to medical school. That's when we became engaged."

They married, in New Jersey, in 1944. The children the Clarks longed for began arriving, starting with Patricia. The Clarks moved to California in 1950, setting up house in the home on Westwood near Seventeenth. The births of two more daughters, Susan and Diane, followed.

"Three girls," said Jane, smiling. "Tom never thought he'd get a boy. Then I had four boys."



Continued from page 1

Todd, Craig and Brian Clark were the first three. Craig was born when the Clarks lived in Nuremberg, Germany, where Tom was in the United States Army Medical Corps in the mid-1950s.

While in Germany, the Clarks leased out their home to a name famous among long-time Santa Ana residents – Clark Dye, whose long-gone Clark Dye Hardware on Main Street became legendary for its amazingly diverse and high-quality tools and hardware.

“We played bridge with the Dyes,” Jane said. “They lived on the floor above the store, and they were building a home on Heliotrope. They rented ours while we were in Germany, which was very convenient for us.”

The Clarks returned to Santa Ana, and soon started on the house that became their home on Westwood, just south of Riviera. Jane had a significant hand in the design of the house.

“They told us we could make the house and the lot as big as we wanted,” Jane said. “It was just this orange grove here. Our children used to play in the orange trees here when we lived in the old house.”

They had the six children, and planned the house around that in '57.

“Then Stephen came, three years later,” Jane said.

The children are grown and have their own families, some in Orange County and many in northern California. Jane has 14 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, with a fifth great-grandchild due in July. The Clarks had been married 57 years when Tom passed away in 1983.

Dr. Clark was a well-known surgeon in Santa Ana; among his patients was the author of this story. He also was the team doctor for Mater Dei's football team.

The Clark family traveled a great deal to all parts of the globe. Jane still has the travel bug, and was part of a large family excursion to Maui last year.

A photo album of the Maui trip, and a wall calendar featuring photos of Clark family members, are on a table and always ready to be shared. Family photos from years past decorate the home's big, airy rooms.

The Clarks' home indeed tells the story of a family's history. And as a respectful nod to the history there before the house was built, there remains in the backyard a thriving orange tree – a remnant of the orange grove that occupied the space long ago.

Calendar

Dumpster Day- April 2 8 a.m.-Noon

Neighbor Walk- April 3 4-5 p.m.

Board Meeting--April 6 7 p.m.

Easter Hunt - April 9

Wine Walk - April 30

Neighbor Walk- May 1 4-5 p.m.

Board Meeting--May 4 7 p.m.

General Meeting May 11 7 p.m.

Open Garden, May 14 10 a.m.-4p.m.

Board Meeting--June 1 7 p.m.

Neighbor Walk- June 5 4-5 p.m.

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

Submitted by Gaylene Galliford

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This year proves to be another exciting one with all the events and activities planned throughout the neighborhood. Your contributions help us to not only host great events, but donate funds to support our local school and other neighborhood improvement and beautification projects. This year, the board has approved an operating budget of \$21,000 which is the same as last year's.

Our balance sheet, as of March 12, 2011, shows \$14,910.97 in both our savings and checking accounts which is an 18.1% increase over last year at this time.

At the last General Meeting, some great ideas were put forward on how to re-invest the money back into the neighborhood. Thank you for your ideas and again for your contributions.

PRESIDENT'S
CORNER*submitted by Mel Steiner*melsteinersar@aol.com

From childhood through our adult lives, we have all heard the saying; "It is better to give than to receive." To me this is much like the Golden Rule; it will be in our hearts and minds all the days of our lives.

As many of you may know, our WFPNA donated \$500 to the Santiago School Library at the end of 2009 and again in 2010. Over the past couple years, the WFP treasury has grown.

Not that it is an enormous amount, but our monthly balance is at a record high. With that said, the 2011 board has decided to give back some of the bounty to our community. At our February 2011 General Meeting we had our first open forum with the membership at large to discuss just how we might give generously to those in need.

One suggestion lead to another, and by the end of the meeting we had quite a list. Then at the March board meeting, the board reviewed the list and categorized it into four groups: Neighborhood Improvement, our WFP Seniors, Local School & Students and charities of the area.

Over the next few months, the board will refine the list through summer and into fall. We'll then have a look at our financials and make a determination of how much and where to give.

And you ask how have we grown our bottom line? Well, over the past couple of years, we have sponsored some wonderful social events, with higher attendance, reduction of costs, increased revenues from raffle prizes and of course through a small increase in voluntary membership donations. What better way is there to grow the revenues than through generous donations to membership.

For the next update on our giving program, please join us at our next General Meeting @ Santiago Elementary School on Wednesday, May 11th at 7 PM.

Your continued support of the WFPNA community will help to help those in need.

OUT & ABOUT WITH
OUR V.P.*Submitted by Donna Layne*a.layne@sbcglobal.net

Spring is in the air! The weather is beginning to warm up and it's time for spring gardening. As I prepare my yard for all the upcoming outdoor activities and events, I once again am appreciative of this time of renewal. I have the privilege of working on our Open Garden Day committee and we have been planning this event since January. I am so excited about the new additions to this event and seeing 12 of our lovely gardens. I hope our entire neighborhood turns out to this glorious spring event!

Spring in our neighborhood started with a New Neighbor Cocktail Hour on March 24. People who have moved into our neighborhood in the last six months were invited to come meet the WFPNA Board and other interested neighbors. This is always such a good time—a chance to meet new people in an informal, intimate setting. Although our cocktail hour is a small gathering, any interested neighbor is invited to join us.

Membership

The WFPNA Membership Campaign in February and March was very successful. Thank you to all who contributed. Remember it's never too late to donate. Your voluntary contributions will help fund prospective new projects as well as support our many continuing projects and events. My goal is to get 18% of our households contributing this year. Remember the corporate, benefactor, and gold levels get

to choose their free social events and our friendly neighbor level (\$50 donation) gets one free ticket to Open Garden Day.

Outreach

Our Neighbor Walk on March 6 featuring "House Stories" on Riviera Drive was a huge success! Ten of the houses along Riviera Drive were featured and we even had old photos of the Santiago Creek flood of 1969 (courtesy of Tim Healey). About 35-40 walkers came out to enjoy the day and meet/greet neighbors. Our dogs loved being out as well! Although the day turned cold, people enjoyed the leisurely walk down Riviera reading about the featured houses. We even had visitors from Floral Park and Jack Fisher Park!

The next Neighbor Walk on April 3 will feature "House Stories" on Towner Street. We already have several fascinating stories full of history and famous people. Don't miss out on this one!

New Neighbors

Welcome to the following new neighbors who have moved into our neighborhood.

Lizzie, Darren & Madelyn Boyle on 21st Street

Brent & Adriana Griffith on 18th Street
Mark Rees on 21st Street

Michael & Angelica Christensen on 19th Street

Miller Family on 21st Street

Rick & Mary Griffin on Louise Street

Isaac & Katie Novella on Towner

Mark & Claudia Calvillo on Olive Street

John & Victoria Dollbaum on Baker Street

Tricia, Steve & Betty McKee on Westwood

If you know anyone who is new to the neighborhood and who is renting/leasing, please let me know so WFPNA can officially welcome them. Thank you!

PRESERVATION POINTS- OUR HOUSE STORY

*Submitted by Historic & Preservation Chair, Tom Cannon,
tcannonwfpna@gmail.com*

When we first bought our house we wondered who had built it and who had lived here before us. We started our search at the history room at the Santa Ana library by going through the directories. There we learned the names of the original owners, Stanley and Betty Goode, and that Stanley had an appraisal business with his son. We looked in older directories and found they had been long time Santa Ana residents living at various addresses. We found Stanley had several jobs over the years from auto mechanic, to car salesman, to selling real estate and then as an appraiser. We also learned that they had 2 children Stanley Jr. and Betty.

We had some questions about some things inside the house. We noticed there was no place for a refrigerator in the kitchen yet there was a California cooler in the pantry area and one wall of the kitchen had no cabinets, just some funky shelves that appeared to have been added at a later date. There was also an oddly placed electrical outlet right next to the doorway into the kitchen about half way up the wall. Through a conversation with our neighbor, an original owner, we learned that where the odd, open shelving was hanging there was originally a horizontal wall-hung refrigerator; an unusual choice. She also told us that some years later Betty made a change to a more traditional fridge so she closed the pocket door between the entryway and the kitchen and had an electrical outlet installed halfway up the wall for a new fridge.

We also learned from the neighbor that Stanley had given Betty total freedom in designing and decorating the house. Betty loved pink! Both the kitchen and the two baths had pink linoleum floors and pink tile counter tops. The tub, toilets and sinks, too, were pink as were the walls throughout the house. Despite the trend at the time away from formal dining rooms, Betty insisted on having one. We also learned from the neighbor that Betty was an artist and taught art classes from her house. This explained the large room behind the garage with picture railing along one wall – it was her studio. We also learned that Betty was an exceptional gardener and had beautiful gardens in the front and back yards and that these landscapes were used as painting subject material for her students.

We learned more about the family through ancestry.com and who the builder was through permit records at Santa Ana city hall. We continue to search for more information about our house wherever we can. I hope this article will inspire you to learn about the house you live in.

If you have a house story you would like to share, please forward it to me.

ARTS & CULTURE IN SANTA ANA

Things to do that are free to you!

The city of Santa Ana offers Santa Ana residents many opportunities to enjoy our galleries and museums at no cost. We hope everyone takes advantage and enjoys the Arts & Culture in Santa Ana.

Bowers Museum - Offers Santa Ana residents to visit the museum on the first Sunday and Third Tuesday of every month between 10am and 4pm, free of charge.

Heritage Museum- Offers Santa Ana residents free admission on the first Sunday of each month.

Santa Ana Artist Village- Offers entertainment and open galleries on the first Saturday of each month.

Santiago Street Loft Artwalk – Hosts their monthly Art Walk with live music and DJ's on the third Saturday of the month. Most Galleries offer fine wines and cheeses. Galleries are open from 7pm to 10pm.

Santa Ana Zoo - Offers free admission to Santa Ana residents on the third Sunday of each month.

Discovers Science Center- Offers free admission to Santa Ana residents on the first Monday of the month.

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PRIDE IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Submitted by Danny Quon

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West Floral Park, what a wonderful place to live! I've been driving around the neighborhood and seeing that everybody has taken more pride in their yards. Everyone should give yourself a pat on the back for doing a great job, maintaining the integrity of the neighborhood. Thank you all.

The Beautification Committee has selected WPF gardens for the months of January, February and March. Congratulations to these neighbors for taking exceptional care of their gardens!



January 2011
Claudia Scholtz
1226 18th Street



February 2011
Mike & Maggie Miller
2340 N. Baker Street



March 2011
Tony & Chris Trombino
1015 18th Street

Our Annual Dumpster Day, Sponsored by the City of Santa Ana is April 2nd, from 8am until 12 noon. This is our newsletter distribution weekend so we hope that everyone will or did, take advantage of this opportunity. Dumpster Locations: Olive Lane @ 916 W. Riviera Dr; 2306 N. Rosewood; 1902 N. Towner; 1950 N. Westwood; 2029 N. Olive. If you missed this year then there is always next year!

Open Garden Day is "West Floral Park's signature event." This is our 5th year with great success and the event has grown by leaps and bounds. We have visitors from all over Orange and L.A. Counties.

We will have 12 gardens on tour and will include a bazaar area with garden related items for sale. The event is scheduled for Saturday, May 14th at 10:00am till 4:00pm. I encourage our neighbors and their friends to support our neighborhood event.

The City of Santa Ana is having its 24th Annual Most Beautiful Yard Contest. The contest will conclude in June and the West Floral Park winner will be notified. The winner will be invited to a combined reception at the Com-Link Forum. The result will be posted on our web site and newsletter. The Beautification Committee has nominated three yards to represent

West Floral Park. The yards are as follows:



Ms. Linda Charter
901 W. Riviera Drive



Manuel Villalobos
2124 N. Olive Street



Phil & Laurie Schaefer
1141 West Riviera Drive

IN THE KNOW WITH WFPNA

Submitted by Cathie Lentz Fryer
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Your WFPNA Communications Team is busy working to ensure that all WFP Neighbors are "In The Know."

We would like to acknowledge and give a big THANKS to our Distribution Team. These neighbors distribute all WFP flyers and newsletters. Their commitment to WFPNA is greatly appreciated: Mary Kelly, Rick Amborski, Donna Layne, Guida Quon, Sara Gerber, Glen & Debbie Lawler, Ed Flohra, Steve & Jessica Brownsell, Michale Buss, Ric & Eulene Greenwood, Steve Tancredi, Ann & Gordon Niedringhaus and Charlene Guerami. If you are interested in assisting please get in touch with me.

We also wish to send a THANK YOU to our web master, Dennis Heathcock. Dennis works hard to ensure that our website is current with everything our neighbors need to know. Visit www.westfloralpark.com and view our photo gallery, catch up on past newsletters, review our calendar of events and stay in touch with WFPNA. New this year is the option to pay online for events and for your voluntary membership donation. Check out it out!

We can't miss the opportunity to thank our WFPNA Photographer, Michele Chatelle and our Newsletter Editor, Brian Daley. Together they ensure that our neighborhood events are well documented and WFP photos and news are made available to all.

Our WFPNA Newsletter reaches over 650 neighbors. Advertising costs are very reasonable. There will be a Summer and a Fall issue, so if you are interested in advertising, please let me know.

We are looking for some additional assistance on our Communication Team. We are in need of a Distribution Team Leader. The duties involve dividing up flyers and newsletters for our distribution team and delivering to each team member. In addition to our quarterly newsletters, WFPNA emails a Weekly Update! This keeps neighbors informed if all the WFP happenings. If you wish to be added to the email list please email me.

I look forward to seeing everyone around the neighborhood. If you wish to volunteer or be added to our Weekly Email Update, please contact me.

SOCIAL BUZZ

Submitted by Joe Chatelle

Your social committee is hard at work organizing our upcoming events. If you would like to help our team in any of the



following areas please contact me and I will put you in touch with the appropriate sub-committee chair: Food/Beverage, Event Day Registration, Set/Clean Up, Decorations, Raffles.

Easter Egg Hunt 4/9/11 11 am - 2 pm at Fisher Park
 This event will be fun for the whole family! Join us for crafts, a cake walk, a petting zoo, face painting, a scavenger hunt, refreshments, and a special visit from... The Easter Bunny who will be delivered by our friends at the Santa Ana Fire Department! If you are willing to donate a cake for the event please contact Jade Chiarini (jadechiarini@yahoo.com).

Wine Walk - Save the date 4/30/11 at 6 pm
 An Evening at the California Wineries - We are excited to be offering a sampling of some phenomenal California wines. At the first house we will taste wonderful California white wines from the Foley Family Wineries (\$15 - \$35). At our second house we will be featuring fine California red wines from the Guenoc Winery (\$17-\$25). This winery is one of the largest wineries in terms of acreage in California, having a size that approximates the entire city of San Francisco. At both locations light hors d'oeuvres will be offered that compliment the featured wines. Finally, we will finish the evening with a surprise wine that will tantalize everyone's palate. We look forward to an evening of great neighbors and great California Wines.

Reserve your spot early!! Tickets are \$35 per person if paid for on or before April 25th., after that date, any remaining tickets will be offered at \$50 per person. Tickets are limited to the first 110 people. Please make checks payable to WFPNA and return to WFPNA, c/o Joe Chatelle 2323 Westwood, Santa Ana, CA 92706

The Progressive Fiesta Dinner - Save the date 6/11/11
 We are in the planning stages for this annual neighborhood favorite. This year our event will have a Mexican flair so dust off your favorite salsa recipe and be prepared to enter our competition to see who has the best salsa in the neighborhood. Mark your calendar and plan on joining us at the Cantina for an evening of fun and friends. Please be on the look out for more information in upcoming communications.

Take advantage of your WFPNA membership. Don't forget if you are a member of WFPNA, depending on your level of membership, you are entitled to receive complimentary entrance to one of our many social events. However, we still need to plan for your attendance so please RSVP as soon as possible.

OPEN GARDEN MEETING

Our Beautification has been busy planning the upcoming Open Garden Event on May 14th. Don't miss it!

If you'd like to get involved in this or another committee, please email a board member.



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NEIGHBORHOOD WALK MARCH 6

The next Neighbor Walk on April 3 will feature "House Stories" on Towner Street. We already have several fascinating stories full of history and famous people. Don't miss out on this one!



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