

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our July program was a reminder of how unique our "Plaza City" really is, being the only city in Orange County planned and built around a central plaza. In the 1970's when many downtown businesses were relocating to malls and strip centers, interest in historic preservation began to grow. People like former Mayor Don Smith started to take an interest in preserving Orange's rich cultural history. That interest grew into creating the Orange Community Historical Society in 1973. Later in 1977, the Historical Society headed by Paul Clark, began a drive to have the Plaza placed on the National Register of

"I believe our Plaza will meet and possibly exceed every criterion necessary to capture this year's award."

Historical Places. While Paul's original plan was to include only the Plaza Park, it soon grew to include 41 surrounding historic buildings

and in 1982 the Plaza Historic District was created.

In 1997, under the direction of the Old Town Preservation Association (OTPA) more than 1200 homes and other buildings in the heart of downtown



Orange Plaza ca. 1890

Orange were added to the National Register as the "Old Towne Historic District," the largest National Register district in California. A historic preservation element was added to the city's General Plan in 1983, and in 1988 the first set of design guidelines were issued for new construction and remodels in the downtown area. One of our three guest speakers, Anna Pehoushek, Assistant Community Development Director, was able to describe the current design guidelines and explain that after more than 40 years of effort, interest in preservation remains strong in Orange.

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THIS MONTH: KRIS OLSEN ON THE ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY OF CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY

Our speaker this month is Kris Olsen, Vice President of Chapman University Campus Planning and Operations. Since he joined the university in 2001, he has orchestrated



Orange Union High Orange, Cal.

more than 100 building and renovation projects, including the restoration of various historic structures and

the construction of many new buildings on campus, such as the \$20.5 million Lastinger Athletic Complex, the 4-story Leatherby Libraries and the film school's \$42 million, 76,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art Marion Knott Studios, and finally the largest and most expensive building in the university's history named the Keck Center for Science and Engineering. This \$130 million, three-story building covers 140,000 square feet and is the new home for Chapman's Schmid College of Science and Technology.

**Sept 27
7PM @
ORANGE
LIBRARY**



Under the Orange Peel

— Rev. Nathan Riley —

ART IS, "the conscious use of skill and creative imagination especially in the production of aesthetic objects"...so says Merriam Webster. My first experience with it was in first grade when I was directed to dip my hands into a bright pool of colorful



ink— "Yes, go ahead! It's OK!"— and then transfer it to butcher paper attached to a slanting easel. Ah, my cute little handprints for my mother to enjoy! As it turned out that was about the

extent of my artistic ability. Not so with my grandson, Garret, who already at ages seven and eight was producing pictures I could only imagine drawing (see example at left). But this article isn't about me or him. It's about a local celebrity whose name and talents are memorialized at the 715 seat Alexandra Nechita Center for the Arts at Lutheran High here in our fair city. Do you know Alexandra? This one time child prodigy already at the age of 11 was chosen to design a cover for the 39th annual Grammy Awards program. She is a world renowned Romanian/American

cubist painter whose paintings routinely sell for over \$100,000! She has been dubbed the "Petite Picasso" by the media and the art community and she has appeared on the NBC Today Show, the Oprah Winfrey Show, NBC Nightly News, CBS Sunday Morning to name but a few. Her works of art have been collected by such notables as Oprah Winfrey, Whoopi Goldberg, Alec Baldwin, Lee Iacocca, Melissa Etheridge, Calvin Klein, Little Richard, and others.

She attended high school here locally at Lutheran High School of Orange County and today lives in Los Angeles, is married to longtime friend and fashion designer, Dimitri Tcharfas, and has a precious daughter, but when she was yet quite young, she simply followed her passion for color and artistic display without regard to what others may have thought. She claims we all have such a passion buried inside, that we just need to pursue it with dedication and devotion which she believes will lead to our heart's great satisfaction and joy...Hmm, What do you think? Shall we give it a go?



Annual Dinner Meeting January 24, 2019: Silent Auction

It is not too early to start to think about our Silent Auction at the Annual Dinner meeting. We are asking you to donate items such as gift baskets, gift certificates, historical items, etc. Be as creative as you would like. So take a look around and start planning on what you would like to donate for our Silent Auction. Donations gladly accepted any time prior to January 17.

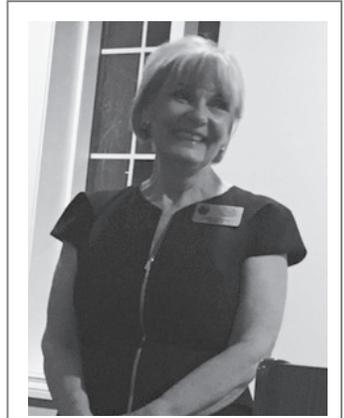
Please contact Lisa Ackerman at (714) 998-5442 or Jan Drinkgern (714) 767-8526 if you have something you would like to donate. We will keep it for the meeting in January. Thank you for your participation in this fun event.

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We also learned that the Plaza Square is being considered for the “2018 Great Places in California” award from the California chapter of the American Planning Association. To be considered a “Great Place” a city should exemplify nine characteristics that contribute to resident’s day-to-day quality of life and encourage human contact and social interaction. I believe our Plaza will meet and possibly exceed every criterion necessary to capture this year’s award. We hope to hear the winning announcement sometime in mid-August.

Lastly, Al Ricci, 2018 President of the Orange Chamber of Commerce announced tentative plans to reintroduce the annual May Festival Parade. If you lived in Orange 30-40 years ago you already know this was the biggest celebration in town for many years. We heard loud cheers of encouragement from the audience which is a very promising sign.

Please join us in September, at the library, for our annual “Ice Cream Social” – remember none of this would be possible without your valuable membership and participation.



OCHS President Jane Owens

WELCOME!

NEW LIFETIME MEMBER

AL RICCI

UPCOMING EVENTS

Every Thursday at 11am

Hilbert Museum

Museum tour led by founder Mark Hilbert (when available) and director Mary Platt. Free and open to the public -- no reservation necessary unless you are bringing a group of 20 or more (call 714-516-5880 to reserve for large groups).

September 27, 2018

7:00 pm at Orange Public Library

Program: Kris Olsen on the architectural history of Chapman University

October 20, 2018

11am-1pm at Santa Ana Cemetery & Fairhaven Park

Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society will hold its 21st annual historic walk on the grounds of Santa Ana Cemetery and Fairhaven Memorial Park. During the tour, costumed actors portray scenes from personal stories and interesting moments in Orange County history. As the event draws closer more information will be available online.

November 10-17, 2018

Orange Field of Valor

Handy Park in Orange (NOT Hart Park)

More Info: www.communityfoundationoforange.org

November 15, 2018

7:00 pm at Orange Public Library

January 24, 2019

6:00pm at TBD

OCHS 2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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(949) 873-3779

OCHS MEMBERSHIP

Application for Membership Year 2018 (Membership Year covers January-December)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____

Email _____



Please return application and check to:
Orange Community Historical Society
P.O. Box 5484, Orange, CA 92863-5484

OCHS is a 501(c)(3) organization, ID #33-0416234.
Contributions are tax deductible to
the fullest extent permitted by law.

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP (check one)

NEW RENEWAL

Individual - \$20.00

Family - \$25.00

Life - \$300.00

Business/Organization - \$100.00

Donation - \$ _____

Orange Community Historical Society Members enjoy: programs and newsletters, opportunities to support and contribute to the preservation of Orange history, contact with members of the community knowledgeable about Orange history, and discounts on OCHS merchandise.

Our Mission

The mission of OCHS is to commemorate the rich heritage of our community. Our purpose is to collect photographs, written materials and related ephemera, promote research, events, activities and programs celebrating Orange history, and sponsor local history endeavors. We remain self-supporting through memberships, donation bequests and special projects.

We welcome everyone.

LOCAL HISTORY QUESTIONS?

(714) 288-2465 | history@cityoforange.org

Check out the Orange Public Library's
Local History and 24/7 Reference Service
www.cityoforange.org/library

The City of Orange website provides a brief history of Orange, as well as demographics and contact information for schools, businesses and organizations in the area.

ORANGE HISTORIC AFGHANS

Red & White or Green & White Afgans:
\$45.00 with Membership, \$55 without

Contact Katie Schroeder: (714) 742-9375

If undeliverable please return to:

ORANGE TRIBUNE
Orange Community Historical Society
P.O. Box 5484
Orange, CA 92863-5484