



Real Neighbors. Real Neighborhood. January 2023

Washington Square NEWS



BEST STREET
Towner



CLARK GRIZWALD AWARD
1101 Washington

WSNA's
2nd Annual
Holiday
Decorating
Contest
WINNERS!!!



BEST USE OF LIGHTS
1015 Towner



MOST WHIMSICAL
1020 Lowell



BEST DECORATED DOOR
919 Freeman

Around the Neighborhood

WSNA WINTER GENERAL MEETING



**Where: Heroes School,
Multi-Purpose Room**
When: Thursday, 1/12
Time: 7pm - 9pm

GENERAL MEETING NOTICE

The Washington General Meeting will be held January 12, 2023, 7 - 9 PM at Heroes School. Elections of board members and officers will be held. There are seven board member positions, and the officers consist of: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact President Alton Hitchcock at 775-0779 or at kingoftoast@yahoo.com. Board meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month and requirements to hold office one must be a paid member of the association, attend board meetings and WSNA events, if possible.

There will be two speakers from the city's Public Works Agency. One speaker will be the Water Resource Manager speaking on our water system, quality of water, and what we can expect with the drought conditions affecting our State and City.

The other speaker will be talking about our city's urban forest, the trees that line our streets. As you know, many of our trees are quite old and are suffering from disease and wind damage. We will hear about options going forward and types of trees and their care and what the future holds.

And remember pizza will be served at the meeting, and a gas card from G&M Oil (Bristol & CC Drive). A door prize will be drawn from amongst those present.

by Tom Lutz

WSNA 11th Annual Progressive Dinner is Coming up on March 25!!

The Washington Square Progressive Dinner has been a neighborhood favorite since its inception. It is a unique opportunity for you to show off your culinary skills and enjoy dinner with your friends and neighbors. This annual potluck will be hosted by three residents who volunteer their homes: we start with appetizers and salads at the first home; we then make our way to the second home for entrees; desserts are at the third. A sign-up list will be emailed for participants to sign up and indicate the dish that you will provide. This adult only event is extremely popular and limited to fifty (50) people. We look forward to seeing you for dinner! Contact javier@washington-square.org to volunteer as a host.
By Javier Garcia, WSNA – Progressive Dinner Committee Chair



A Word from our *PRESIDENT!*



I was twenty-seven and I was in the windy city. I was walking down a busy street at about 10 PM. It was a fall evening, and the air was sharp and clean. I was finished with work for the day, and I was only in town for the next 12 hours. A playful older couple passed me on the sidewalk. "Excuse me." They turned, the woman clutching at her scarf and her husband, both squinting into the autumn wind. "Can you tell me; is there any place I can listen to live music in the city?" The older gentleman chuckled softly as if rounding out an esoteric joke between them to which I was

not privy. "See that alley there on your right? Take that to the end. There is a little blue neon sign that says UNDERGROUND. Some of the best jazz in the city." I said thank you and waved. They watched me back away. It was contemplative. "Be

JAZZ IN THE CITY



careful. It's easy to miss."

That cold Chicago night started something in me. I discovered jazz or it discovered me, I cannot be sure. I just know that it was more than the music. There was an energy to that smoky bar. That soft light, the piano player who never opened her eyes and the trumpet that cooed "So What" so sweetly; it left me a little different than it found me. Jazz is so free. Like the spirit of music itself stepped outside its own constraints and let its hair down. I am left with a feeling that jazz is what music is when its parents are on vacation, when it's home alone. Jazz is what music sings into a hairbrush as it watches itself in a mirror. Freedom.

I sat in that bar for nearly three hours. It was like taking a hot bath on a cold night. The whiskey might have helped. Either way it was sublime.

I have fallen in love with jazz since then. More than that, I have been ever looking for other nights just like that one. Not nights filled with jazz (although I am not opposed to that), but nights filled with beauty. Perhaps it's the other way around. I am looking for nights to fill with beauty. I am looking for nights that hold possibility and color, nights that uncover that something in me that I did not know was there. What is there right now that I have not found? What is there just under the surface that a passing stranger might gift me, or a soft trumpet arouse? What else is out there that I am missing without missing it?

We all have longing inside us. My concern is for the longing I do not know I have for the things I have not discovered. I hope I find them. As we prepare for a new year will you be looking for yours? I will... and if you pass me on the street in the Square, I am happy to give directions to any destination.

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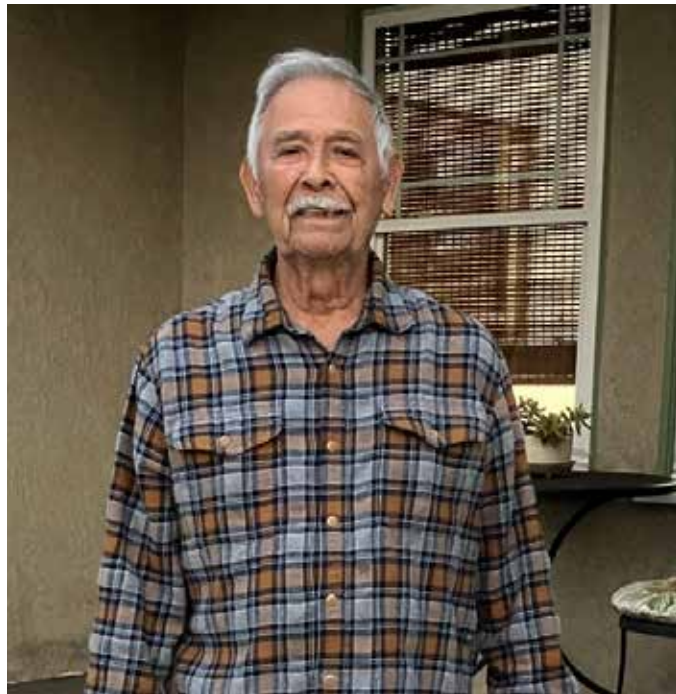
Our NEIGHBOR

On a calm December afternoon, a neighbor and I approached a tidy home on Louise. We knocked and a friendly gentlemen answered the door. We asked Tony Gomez if he would let us interview him for the newsletter. He hesitated at first, but after a little chatting he opened-up and gave us this brief synopsis of his joy filled life.

Our neighbor Tony Gomez moved to Washington Square in 2006. Tony was born in Wichita Falls, Texas. Shortly after he and his father moved to Zacatecas, Mexico where Tony's extended family lived. He grew up in the beautiful mountainous regions of Aguascalientes and Guanajuato.

Then at the age of 17 he moved North to El Monte, California. El Monte was known as the "End of the Santa Fe Trail." At this time, the area was crisscrossed with farms and dairies producing bountiful crops of fruits, vegetables, and walnuts. Tony began working at Marshall Farms also known as "The King of Carrots." When we asked Tony to describe the crops his eyes lit up as he passionately described the multiple varieties of lettuce and tomatoes. It made me think of how fresh grown food tastes so good! This is also where Tony met the love of his life Margarita and together raised seven children (five daughters and two sons),

Then the Gomez family moved North to Santa Maria and Tony went to work for Occidental Oil, and Margarita worked at Hancock College. Occidental Oil was then purchased by the JR Simplot Company. Tony sold and implemented fertilizer to the farms and ranches from Santa Maria to Lompoc and Guadalupe. Tony started to make a name for himself. One client, the Freitas brothers had eighteen acres of broccoli and an irrigation/fertilizer problem. Tony provided a solution to the problem and changed the irrigation lines. This was a gamechanger for the Freitas brothers and from then on, they requested Tony and only Tony to help them. All things eventually end, and Tony retired from Simplot on December 27th, 1999, at the age of sixty-five.



Tony and his wife, retired after years of arduous work. They traveled to Lake Tahoe, the Mexican Riviera, the Virgin Islands, Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Cabo San Lucas, Cabo San Jose, Europe, and Hawaii. Unfortunately, Margarita

passed away after a bout with cancer. Tony lovingly remembers the sixty-three years they shared and the beautiful family they built. Their children are located around the state of California from Redwood City to Aliso Viejo.

Tony is a great guy, and we are so happy to have him as our neighbor. If you ever see him walking on Louise, say, "Hi Tony!" I am sure he will greet you with his friendly smile. Tony, we are so happy you moved here to Washington Square. Real Neighbors. Real Neighborhood!

by Mike Maguire

**Things
will be
great
when
you're**

Downtown Downtown

THE ARTWALK

Join us the first Saturday of each month for our upcoming #dtsa Artwalk.

Center of Artwalk: 125 N Broadway, Santa Ana, CA 92701

Artwalk is a community-based arts showcase across downtown Santa Ana from 6pm-10pm on the First Saturday of each month.

There are outdoor festival areas with vendors, pop-up artists and performances, dancing under the stars and over 20 art galleries and studios with rotating art shows and performances and live music.

BRISTOL ST. UPDATE:

The latest update on the widening of Bristol between Civic Center and Washington is SoCal Edison has acquired the monies for the under grounding of utilities on the west side of Bristol and waiting for the permit to be issued. They expect to commence work in the first quarter of 2023 and with an expected 3-month completion. Once the under grounding is complete the block wall (sound wall) will be installed and at its completion the actual widening of the street, sidewalks, and medians will take place. Estimated completion is one- and one-half years.

WASHINGTON SQUARE MONUMENT CLOCK TOWER:

You are all aware of the sewer replacement construction on Flower St. It will be wrapping up shortly, and a new center median will be installed at Flower and 15th Streets. Additionally, Flower St. from Civic Center Dr. to 17th will be repaved. In the center median strip, the city will be installing a monument clock tower. Your WSNA Board Members met with Public Works personnel to discuss designs and the installation of the four-sided monument clock. The clock will show our WSNA logo and name on the side facing WS, and the Willard Neighborhood's logo and name will be facing their neighborhood. The four-sided clock face and the neighborhood names will be lighted at night. This will be a first for any of the neighborhoods in the city. Details on the project: Approximately fifteen feet tall, bollards around for protection, metal construction with marine paint to dissuade vandals and graffiti, boulders and drought tolerant landscaping, and the above-mentioned nighttime lighting. The center median at Flower and 10th St. will remain the same. Estimated time of completion is two to three months.



Washington Square Neighborhood Association MISSION STATEMENT

The Washington Square Neighborhood Association is an organization working to foster a sense of community by promoting public awareness, developing an appreciation of the historical significance of our homes, bridging the cultural, generational, and economic diversity of our residents and bringing about communication between the community, local businesses and city officials.

The Washington Square Neighborhood Newsletter is published quarterly by the Washington Square Neighborhood Association. WSNA is a non-profit mutual benefit community association established in 1985. Washington Square is an officially recognized neighborhood by the city of Santa Ana, California. The volunteer Newsletter Committee is looking for neighbors who want to contribute! If you have suggestions or story ideas, or know InDesign and want to help with layout, you can email us at newsletter@washington-square.org

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Residents' *BUSINESSES*

Accounting/Tax Prep.	Alex Schneider	364-5173
Arbonne Consultant	Gloria Chavez	280-5723
Attorney, Business Specialist	Ashley Bolduc	949-852-1800
Audio-Video Production	David Jirik	543-9079
Avon Representative	Maria Guzman	904-1973
Baby Sitting	Leila Rodriguez	727-8313
Computer Specialist	Randy Simons	423-0810
Decorative Ironwork	Marco Coronado	852-1363
Editor	Maureen Tiritilli	309-2229
Farmers Insurance	Gonzalo Guzman	669-3930
Flooring, Floor Repairs	Tuzos Flooring	720-7793
Graphics & Signage	Kirsten Sketch	721-8795
Heating and Cooling	Adam Garcia	263-6443
Insurance Agent	Albert Durazo	657-667-0225
Landscape Maintenance	Rick Mora	721-3897
Mortgages/Loan officer	Victor Gallardo	697-7564
Natural Healing Center	Renee Ascencio	599-4435
Notary/Loan Signing Agt.	Sasha Lopez	496-7969
Notary Public Comm#:2333888	Robert Bolton	702-498-9832
Origami Owl Ind. Design	Jennifer Begen	606-0830
Painter	Eric Torres	292-4038
Personal Injury Attorney	Moses Yneges	591-0661
Prayer – FREE!	Pastor Ben	949-295-4980
Prof. Photographer	Ricardo Barrera	715-1747
Realtor	Alton Hitchcock, Jr.	775-0779
Realtor	Sarah Covarrubias	928-1303
Realtor	Christina Moreno	425-2311
Rodan & Fields	Christina Moreno	425-2311
Trash Bin Cleaning	Noah	717-1079
Wedding Planner	Christin Wilson	337-2903
Window Coverings	Krystal Wallinger	632-7744
Wine Club/Skin Care	Yolanda Valdivia	317-4152

Unless otherwise noted, all area codes are 714

Members of WSNA

Where to Find Stuff

WSNA your non-profit neighborhood association is CELEBRATING 37 years strong!!

Are you missing some information usually included in this newsletter? Check out The Washington Square website at <http://www.washington-square.org>. for these and more:

City Contacts
Block Representatives
Photos from prior events



First Presbyterian Church
of Santa Ana



Our Mission

Celebrating that which unifies us and that which makes us unique, we are intentionally building an intercultural, intergenerational community of faith in Jesus Christ that cares for, and serves, one another and our city.



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EL PICO DE GALLO GRILL

- YOU'RE INVITED -

Join us for Washington Square's monthly Game Night! Bring a board game, a friend, meet new people, have a drink, share dinner - and have some fun!

Every third Wednesday of the month

AT 6PM

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Join our Facebook group: "Washington Square Neighborhood Association" We have 819 members!



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SEVEN GABLES
REAL ESTATE

Right before Christmas I picked up my daughter from LAX--she goes to college in MA. As we drove into Orange County, she remarked, "It's really pretty here." And then she started commenting about the greenness of the trees as if she had never seen them before. I realized that back East right now the trees are bare, and things are looking a bit bleak. I am not knocking the Eastern part of the US, because they actually have four seasons and lots of **water**. But we do live in a beautiful state, beautiful neighborhood, and we definitely have great weather. And so goes housing prices...

There has been a bit of a slowdown of home sales nationwide, and the economists predict that prices will drop. But we are not seeing that happen locally. There is still a shortage of homes on the market, and as you know most everything well priced in Washington Square sells. Yes, rates are hovering the 5.5%-7% range (depending on type of loan), and although the buyer pool has gotten smaller, homes continue to sell. I do not expect a significant increase in home prices this coming year, because we just cannot sustain the fast-paced sales with skyrocketing prices that we experienced last spring. But that said, our neighborhood had three sales over one million dollars in 2022!

Spring will be here in less than 3 months, and that is typically when the real estate buying season starts!

Winter 2022-2023						
	Beds	Baths	Sq. Ft.	List/Sold \$\$	DOM*	Sale Type
Homes for Sale						
1521 N. Rosewood	3	1	1602	820,000.00	90	Standard
Homes in Escrow						
1028 N. Olive	3	2	1372	869,000.00	43	Standard
1104 N. Flower	3	1	1448	675,000.00	73	Standard
New Neighbors (SOLD)						
1004 N. Baker	3	3	2333	720,000.00	22	Standard
1302 Freeman	3	2	1686	899,900.00	70	Standard
1014 Louise	3	2	1812	950,000.00	23	Standard
1417 N. Towner	2	2	1520	950,000.00	0	Standard
1411 N. Towner	4	1.5	2146	1,049,000.00	6	Standard
The above SOLD statistics are for the dates September 28, 2022 through December 22, 2022 compiled from information provided by the California Regional Multiple Listing Service and the OC Recorder.						
*Days on Market						

Around the Neighborhood

Godinez Choir

Thank you, Jeannette McMahon, Godinez High School Choir Director and WSNA Neighbor!



Car Show

We had a fantastic turnout for our 3rd Annual Washington Square Legends Car-Truck-Motorcycle neighborhood show on December 17th on Towner Street. The WS neighbors brought their cool, classic, vintage cars, trucks, motorcycles - more than last year! Our first year we had nineteen participants, and the second year we had twenty-four participants. This year was a hit with twenty-six cool, classic, vintage cars, trucks, and motorcycles from our neighbors. Christmas music was playing from Washington to 10th, and Santa was super popular with the neighborhood kids. Thank you, Mr. Sternad! In the brief two hours, everyone had a good time. Who knows how many will participate in and attend our 4th Annual Washington Square Legends cool, classic, vintage show?!

Thank you to all!

Steve Widdoss and Susan Van Der Roest



What is this called???



Santa!!



A Bit of Neighborhood *HISTORY*!!

Washington Square, a neighborhood northwest of downtown Santa Ana, is bounded by North Bristol Street, North Flower Street, Civic Center Drive, and West Washington Avenue. Most of this area was owned by the family of Jacob Ross, who had purchased portions of the Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana in 1868 and 1869. Walnuts and other crops were grown in the area during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, with few farmhouses dotting the landscape, most notably the Ross-McNeal House at 1020 North Baker Street.

By 1905, Baker and Towner were the only streets in the neighborhood, which extended from Hickey (now Civic Center) only as far as Washington and which contained about a dozen homes. This had not grown much by 1915, when a brick yard was located at the northern terminus of Olive Street at Hickey. In 1925, the beginning of the development that would convert this largely agricultural area into a middle-class neighborhood of single-family homes over the next 25 years had begun. In the late 1920s and early 1930s, the Tudor Revival and Spanish Colonial Revival homes were the standard, with American Colonial Revival saltboxes and ranch style homes favored in the years before and after World War II. During the 1930s, many of the homes were built by local contractor Emmett Rogers, who sold lots and built homes according to standard plans, which individual property owners could customize to their tastes ("Washington Square: A Neighborhood of Pride," Washington Square Neighborhood Association). With the return of servicemen following the war and the accompanying demand for homes in Southern California, the development of Washington Square was completed.

by Frank Bejarano/Santa Ana Associate Community Planner

Neighborhood *NOTICES*!

!!!UPCOMING DATES!!!

Event	Date	Day
Dumpster Day	3.11.23	Saturday
Progressive Dinner	3.25.23	Saturday
Neighborhood Cleanup	4.15.23	Saturday
Spring Wine Garden	5.20.23	Saturday
Movie Night	8.26.23	Saturday
Chili Cook Off	9.16.23	Saturday
Oktoberfest	10.14.23	Saturday
Holiday Party	12.10.23	Saturday

!!! BLOCK REP NEEDED FOR OLIVE STREET !!!

A Block Rep is needed for the north end of Olive St. between Washington and 15th. Duties are to distribute the quarterly newsletters, occasional flyers, and let the board know of any issues taking place on your block.

Contact Tom Lutz 836-9110 for more information.

The Square is Getting YUMMY!!

FUN FACT This style of handwriting is known as the Palmer Method. Many of our parents and grandparents were taught this. The translation is below.

Sugar Cookies by Muriel Baker

- 1 cup butter
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- Cream these 2 ingredients together
- Sift together, then add to above:
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp cream of tartar
- 2.5 cups of flour
- 1 egg, beaten
- ½ tsp vanilla
- ½ tsp almond extract

Roll part of dough on floured pastry cloth. Roll very thin, cut out shapes, then place on greased cookie sheets.

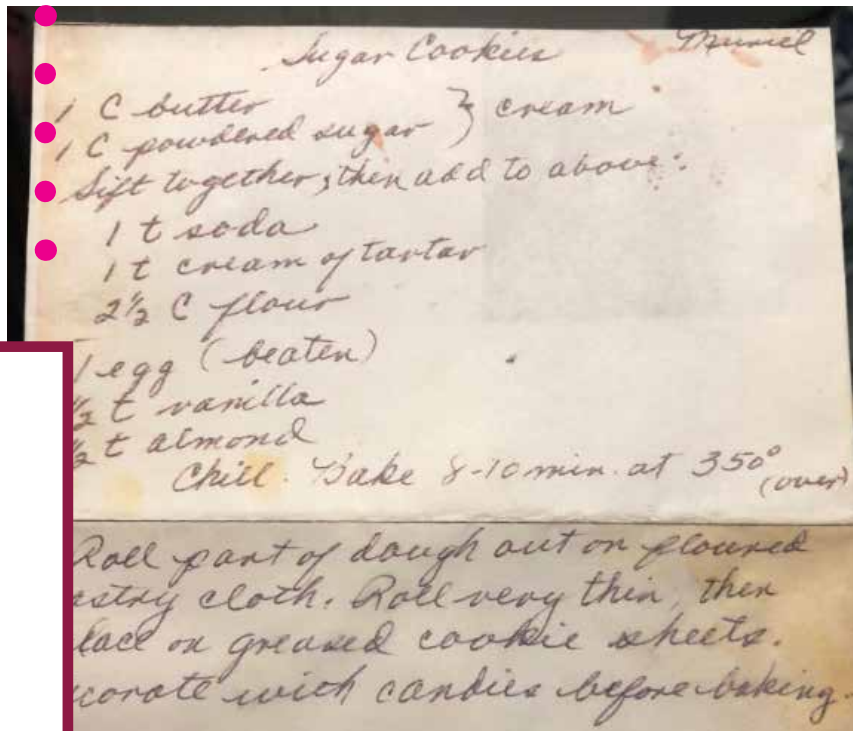
Chill.

Decorate with candies before baking.

Bake 8-10 minutes at 350°F.

The key is to make the dough 24 hours in advance, chill, and completely cover in sugar as you see in the photo. The recipe is from Muriel Baker, my grandmother.

Courtesy of Blair Baker Sternad





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I am passionate about my profession and the clients whose properties I am entrusted to represent. When you hire me to assist you in the sale or purchase of your home, you're not only benefiting from my local knowledge & experience, but from the support services provided by my expert team.

I cherish my neighbors who make up this wonderful community steeped in history, beautiful homes and gardens. As a proud resident, it would be my pleasure to work with you!



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