



Washington Square NEWS

Shawn and Andrea Choisser live in a beautiful 1920s Tudor home. Since moving there in 2015, they formulated plans for both the front and back yards.

Shawn is a design manager for an engineering firm. Andrea is the lead technician for a sleep center. Both are creative and passionate about their art. Andrea enjoys painting, sewing, jewelry making and giving art workshops. Shawn bikes to work in Fountain Valley and always carries his camera with him. He has a keen eye for beauty and can turn what the average person glosses over into a work of art.

During Covid, when we were all working from home, they remodeled their backyard which now includes hang out and rest spaces, a gorgeous firepit and a spa. They, along with Andrea's brother, did the construction themselves. The backyard is artistic, eclectic and, most importantly, relaxing.

Amid our last rainy spring, work on the front yard began. What they originally had was a boring yard with a broken-down brick barrier surrounding it. They have turned it into a space that is colorful and drought tolerant, functional and fun. They grew many of the plants from seeds and cuttings. It includes a new driveway and pathway that is very cool and eye-catching.

They live at 1308 Louise Street with their five adopted pups Emmet, Scarlet, Gretchen, Zeus, and Dirty Harry. Lola, a long-haired Siamese cat, found them when she was a kitten and adopted them.

Thank you, Shawn and Andrea, for your wonderful contribution to our beautiful neighborhood.

Fall 2023 Alan Anderson Award

1308 Louise Street

Shawn and Andrea Choisser
By Sarah Covarrubias



Around the *NEIGHBORHOOD*

**WSNA
AUTUMN
GENERAL
MEETING**



**Where: Heroes School,
Multi-Purpose Room**
When: Thursday, October 12, 2023
Time: 7pm - 9pm

AUTUMN General Meeting Speakers

1. **Sean O'Harrow, Ph.D.**, President and CEO, Bowers Museum, Santa Ana
2. **Brian Sternberg**, Director, Santa Ana Public Library

Oktoberfest

is here again, join us for our 10th Oktoberfest on Saturday, October 14th. From 5-9 PM at 904 N. Louise.

Tickets are \$25 before October 13th and can be purchased by PayPal or drop your check off at mailbox 1011 N. Towner St.

Food Beer Music

Clock Tower Unveiling Ceremony

On Saturday, October 14, at 11 a.m., the new clock tower at the intersection of Flower and 15th Streets will be unveiled, with fanfare and refreshments.

The EBELL CLUB Open House

On October 18th, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., The Ebell Society of the Santa Ana Valley invites you to come and tour their beautiful Spanish Revival clubhouse built in 1924. The evening will include the history of the club, the building, and the philanthropy, all in the heart of Santa Ana.

WSNA TRASH CAN COOPERATION REQUESTED

A reminder for WSNA residents: Please do not use the neighborhood trash cans in lieu of or in addition to your own household trash cans. Our Washington Square public trash cans are meant for pedestrians and school children to use, to prevent their trash from being strewn on the sidewalks and streets. Some residents have placed household items, such as grass clippings, garden pruning, or garbage in the trash cans. IAlso, e-waste items have been found, which of course is illegal. Often, the cans are filled with bulky items that use most of the space, causing them to overflow before they are emptied on Monday mornings. A rule of thumb is if it will not fit through the hole in the lid, it should not go in the can. Your cooperation is appreciated.

WSNA 2023

Oktoberfest
Holiday Party

October 14, 2023
December 1, 2023

Saturday
Saturday

DATES!

General Meeting
General Meeting

October 12, 2023
January 11, 2024

Wednesday
Wednesday

A Word from our Co-Vice *PRESIDENT!*

I cannot believe we are already in the fall season. Movie night was a monstrous hit, and we promise there will be more hot dogs next year. Thank you to the volunteers as well as the neighbors on 16th Street who loaned us their street for the evening. Then the chili cook off - boy, do we have some great cooks in this neighborhood. Let's tip our hats to Dave Dethloff and Kristen Sketch and their crews, and to Valerie Boulter for sharing her home again. Congratulations to this year's winners Shayna & James Obukhovsky with their (Shaymes) Banging Brisket Chili.

We have the Oktoberfest on Oct 14, which is always fun. Also, the house decorating contests for Halloween and Christmas are back. If last year provided any clue, we will have great decorations, and then a visit from Santa!!!!

We are still working on gathering signatures for our park. Co-Vice President Nina Jirik and her committee have been working hard on this. As an association we need to control what is developed in our neighborhood, and this may be our last chance to do it. If you have not signed the petition as of now, please consider it.

Finally, WSNA needs a new board of directors for 2024. This is your neighborhood, and your investment of time makes this a great neighborhood. Consider being a board member. If that is not an option, consider helping with events, writing articles, and cleaning up the neighborhood, as every bit makes a significant difference.

Happy Holidays.

Carol Frank



Join the Board of Directors in 2024

If you have an interest in getting involved in the Washington Square Neighborhood Association, then here is your chance through participation on the Board of Directors and/or Officers.

The primary purpose of the Washington Square Neighborhood Association is to build neighborhood community which includes neighborhood improvements, problem solving, neighborhood issues and communicating with City Hall about things that affect our neighborhood. The most important one is to get to know your neighbors through sponsoring fun events. As a member of the Board of Directors you are required to attend a monthly board meeting the first Wednesday of each month and be a paid member in good standing of WSNA. Candidates should have a sense of community interest, objectivity, caring and concern for your neighbors as well as organizational skills. The Association is vested with the duty to promote the health, safety, and welfare of all in WSNA.

A new Board of Directors (BOD) is nominated on the first Wednesday of January, at the BOD meeting, and at the general meeting in January individuals who wish to participate are invited to add their name to the slate of nominees. A final vote is taken at that time by all the attendees of January's general meeting. We can have up to seven board members. Officers are in addition to the BOD and are appointed by the Board of Directors.

We invite you to attend a Board meeting to observe how it runs. You can Email Carol Frank at chfsp2@gmail.com for time and place. Also feel free to contact any of the current board members or officers with any questions you may have.

Downtown


There is new information regarding some established restaurants in and around Downtown. I regret the places we have lost but look forward to the new food purveyors taking their places.

- There is still no update on Blinking Owl Distillery. It is still listed as temporarily closed however you can buy their distilled beverages online through a site called great American Craft Spirits, the website is gacraftspirits.com. The beverages are being sold at discount prices, so it is better for us, for now anyway.
- Pico de Gallo Restaurant on 17th Street has reopened after their remodel.
- On the other side of 17th Street, the Olde Ship has reopened as El Barco Mexican Cantina. It is a more upscale Mexican restaurant, with favorable Yelp comments about octopus over rice, al pastor fries and shrimp empanadas, which are not the typical Mexican fare.
- Electric City Butcher is converting to a high-end sushi restaurant and fish market, ShariNori, at 201 E. 4th Street. inside 4th Street market.
- If you are looking for a potential addition to the burger wars, there is much hype over Hammer Burger which has gone in at 313 North Bush Street. They feature spicy and regular smash type burgers, chili cheeseburger and grilled chicken sandwiches plus loaded fries. I am sure you need a beer wine or soda to wash them down.
- They are not the only ones with a hyped burger, as over at the old Mix Mix restaurant, the Vault Bar and Grill at 300 N. Main is featuring wagyu beef burgers, sandwiches, and food. They say come for the food and stay for the drinks. Sounds like a plan.

I hope you get to visit any of these places and let me know what you think.


Thank You, Sam Puzzo Downtown Reporter

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Can't wait to hear from you again!

Chili Cook-OFF

Holy chili powder! The 5th Annual WSNA Chili Cook Off was a tremendous success. Almost one hundred chili aficionados descended on 920 Louise Street for some gastronomic delights. Thirteen chilies lined the tables along with fixin's, and Valerie's world-famous corn cake. I loved the enthusiasm our chefs had: "you might as well give me the trophy now" and "I've got the winning entry right here"! Then the race was on to determine a chili champion! Everyone was enjoying the evening as the Francis Isais and Company band played in the background. They are a group of local musicians who helped us out by playing for chili and beer! A big thanks to Francis, Adrian, Eddie, and Luis. Their original songs seemed to blend right into the evening.



Once the tasting frenzy ended, it was time to tabulate the votes. Thirteen anxious chili chefs came forward to learn their fate/ Last year's champion, Chris Gorman, who vowed he would be the first back-to-back winner, came in a decent third place with his smoked brisket entry "Late Registration". Bret Sternad came in second with his tasty chorizo entry, "Smokeshow". First time entrants, Shayna and James Obukhovsky, took first place honors with their "Bangin' Brisket Chili". Prizes were handed out, the band played on, and s'mores were enjoyed at the back fireplace thanks to Valerie and Bob who wrapped up over sixty individual s'mores kits!



Overall, almost twenty gallons of chili was consumed, two big trays of corn cake, over fifteen gallons of beer and a mess of water and soda. I think judging by the number of empty chili pots, everyone had a great time! Thank you so much for the efforts of all our chefs! Thank you to all our set up and check-in volunteers, and special thanks to Valerie and Bob who let us use their beautiful yard and always give their help and support. Lastly, thank you to Tom and Nancy for helping me take everything down and put it all away on Sunday! My two heroes ❤️ ❤️ See you all next year! Dave Dethloff



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Our Neighbor, Ivana Unger!

Ivana Unger has been a resident of Washington Square for nearly 40 years. With her late husband, Oldřich, the Ungers found their way into Washington Square by happenstance. Ivana recalls that she and Oldřich began searching for a home when the real estate market was at a high. One day while driving near the square, Ivana spotted a “for sale” sign near the corner of 10th and Flower. After challenges with the realtor, they were able to secure a loan for their Spanish style home and finally, in 1984, moved in.

The Ungers first came to the United States in 1980. They fled communist Czechoslovakia (now the Czech Republic), first making their way to Vienna, and then to New York. As non-English speakers, finding work was difficult, so Ivana traveled to Los Angeles to visit a friend who could help her secure work. Sure enough, Ivana secured a job and began working immediately. Oldřich drove cross-country to meet her. Three years later they began their search for their forever home in Santa Ana and landed in beautiful Washington Square.

Life was not exactly smooth sailing once they were homeowners, though. Their house had previously been rental property and was in disarray. The walls were standing, but there was much to do. Ivana and Oldřich made the repairs the home required, and she wistfully recalls how her late husband became a Jack of all trades, taking on plumbing issues, electrical challenges, and much more.

Their beautiful home is now a testimony to the amazing life they built together. The majestic blue walls are covered with paintings and photos, a collection of Ivana’s memories. Ivana jokingly commented that perhaps her desire to collect such a wide array of knick-knacks stems from her Bohemian background (Bohemia was a region of former Czechoslovakia where Ivana grew up).

My husband and I visited Ivana on a sunny Sunday afternoon. We spent time admiring the collection of art, as well as the many clocks displayed across her walls and shelves. Ivana commented that she was not sure when she became such a clock collector but laughed that perhaps this obsession with time is what has given her the time to collect! She also shared with us that Oldřich was commissioned to hand carve new hands for the Spurgeon Clock Tower in downtown Santa Ana. The old clock arms were given to Oldřich and are also on her wall. An amazing piece of Santa Ana history sits right in our little neighborhood!

Today, Ivana is an active member of the Washington Square Neighborhood Association. When she is not tending to her beautiful koi pond, she is surrounded by friends and neighbors at neighborhood events and gatherings. She recalls becoming involved in the association soon after moving in and has been an active member and dedicated neighbor ever since. On her wall hangs a commemorative plaque recognizing her and Oldřich’s contributions to the association from 1997. She notes that one of her favorite neighborhood events is Oktoberfest because she looks forward to the lively ambiance, pretzels, and of course, the strudel! Next time you see Ivana at a neighborhood event, say hello and *na zdraví* (cheers!).

By Fernanda Zendejas



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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Halloween Decorating Contest!

What's this treachery? It's the second annual Washington Square Halloween Decorating Contest. Put a spell on your yard and be judged by your zombie neighbors. The Committee witches and warlocks will be flying by on their brooms on the evening of Sunday, October 22nd to inspect your house of the living dead.

The categories for Scare in the Square are:

- Spookiest (PG13 please, no blood & guts)
- Best Halloween Theme
- Best Doorway
- Most Whimsical
- Best Use of Lights

You'll be singled out for torture soon after and presented with a scary yard sign to tell the world you're spooktacular and given a ghoulish prize to prove it. Start focusing on your hocus pocus and have a monstrous good time decorating.

Will you be ready?



Where to Find Stuff

your non-profit neighborhood association is **WSNA** 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
- Residents' Businesses



EL PICO DE GALLO GRILL

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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.



600 N Main St.
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Join our Facebook group: "Washington Square Neighborhood Association" We have 861 members!

WSNA Real Estate *REPORT*



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It is unbelievable that Autumn is here again, and neighbors are decorating for Halloween. As the holidays approach housing sales start to slow down. That does not mean houses don't sell, it means that fewer people are wanting to put their homes on the market. However, if we look at this year, few houses went on the market in Washington Square.

As of this time of writing, there have been only **six** closed sales in Washington Square for the year. Of the six that sold, four of them were investor sales (rental properties), two were standard sales, which is an interesting statistic. People are not looking to move unless they have compelling reasons or it is financially advantageous, as it has been this year for investors due to the high prices. WS is not alone; countywide a large majority of sales are attributed to investments, inheritances, and relocations. (An interesting note: WS had seventeen closed sales through September 25, 2022, and sixteen closed sales through September 25, 2021.)

If you think you may be in the market to sell your property in the next year, don't hesitate to contact me or Greg to discuss what you can do to optimize your sales price. We are happy to pop by to brainstorm and offer suggestions!

Fall 2023

	Beds	Baths	Sq. Ft.	List/Sold \$\$	DOM*Sale	Type
Homes for Sale						
1113 W. 15th St	3	2	1575	\$ 900,000.00	90	Standard
Homes in Escrow						
None						
New Neighbors (SOLD)						
919 Louise St	2	1	1260	\$ 931,000.00	6	Trust
1407 N. Towner	3	2	1900	\$ 4,360.00	13	Lease
1330 N. Olive	3	2	1432	\$ 905,000.00	3	Standard

Above Statistics are for the time period of June 6, 2023 through September 29, 2023 compiled from information provided by the California Regional Multiple Listing Service and the OC Recorder.

*Days on Market



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DOG S in the SQUARE!

MEET THE SHEEPADOODLES OF TOWNER ST.

Winston (three years old) and Pierogi (two and a half years old) own Ivy and Jay Pogi, who have lived in Washington Square for 10 years. Their daughter, Juliana, is a senior at the University of San Francisco.

Sheepadoodles are a cross breed of Old English Sheepdogs and Poodles. The Pogi pups are very loyal, have different barks for different sounds they hear, and have two distinct personalities. While the two fight, they cannot exist without each other, choosing to sleep in the shower (it is cooler) side-by-side with at least one paw touching the other. And they love wearing bandanas!

Winston loves the chickens and alerts Jay and Ivy to any problems with them. He wants them to stay in their pen. He is smarter than Pierogi, who is crazy and just wants love. They engage in corn cobbing which is part of their herding instinct. Corn cobbing is when they nip on each other as if they were eating corn on the cob.

The Pogis say that both dogs are mischievous and one of them (to remain nameless in this article) ate an entire chocolate cake!

The dogs will, however, tell you when they have done something wrong, and then it is your job to figure out what they did!

Winston and Pierogi are delightful pups who may honor you by presenting you with a toy. Honestly, I did not throw a toy in the house.

by Pat Lenahan



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Bowers Museum *PRESIDENT!*

Meet Sean O’Harrow, Ph.D., President, and CEO of the Bowers Museum



I had the privilege of meeting Dr. O’Harrow on his fourth day at the Bowers Museum, as we were entering the building at the same time, and he introduced himself as Sean. As you will see when you meet him, Dr. O’Harrow is an engaging and enthusiastic gentleman.

Dr. O’Harrow is from Hawaii, where both of his parents were professors (he has an Irish father and a French Vietnamese mother). Dr. O’Harrow is married to a French metal artist and have two sons. The eldest son is a researcher of ALS at the University of Pennsylvania and the youngest is an artist in Virginia.

Dr. O’Harrow developed his interest in art and music at a young age and played both the harpsicord and the viola. His

musical skills earned him a scholarship to Harvard, but at age 19, he changed his major to art. He received a PhD in art history from the University of Cambridge in 1997.

Prior to joining the Bowers, Dr. O’Harrow served as the Executive Director of the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art in Kansas City, the CEO of the Honolulu Museum of Art, and the CEO of the Iowa Museum of Art in Iowa City. He also served as an adjunct assistant professor at the University of Kansas City in the School of Medicine, teaching a required art program for medical students in humanities.

Dr. O’Harrow follows 30-year CEO/Director of the Bowers Museum, Dr. Peter Keller, who died in November 2022. Dr. O’Harrow has exciting new ideas for updating existing displays, he is open to your feedback, and I am convinced the Bowers Museum has made a great decision in recruiting him.

I have met with Dr. O’Harrow on a few occasions. He greets you with his broad smile and before you know it, you are involved in a discussion of art, artists, museums, and travel. Meet him yourself at the October 12 General Meeting.

By Pat Lenahan



Holiday Decorating *CONTEST!*

WSNA’s 3rd Annual Holiday Decorating Contest

The Holiday Decorating Contest has been a big hit the last two years, and it’s baaaack!.

The categories this year are Best Door, Best Use of Lights, Clark Griswold Award, Most Creative and Jingle Bell Rock Block. That’s right, we’re going to recognize the best decorated block in the Square. Talk to your neighbors and decorate for the bragging rights. Judging will take place on the evening of Sunday, December 17th and the winners will again be recognized with a yard sign and a special keepsake. Check our Facebook group for contest updates and winners.



Sarah Covarrubias Greg Hendrickson

Forging a New Path

Sarah's decades of experience and intrinsic knowledge of Washington Square blended with Greg's modern, innovative approach to buying and selling homes yields a powerful real estate duo.

Sarah, a long-time resident of Washington Square, is passionate about the community and the history it holds. Greg, an Orange County native, has years of experience in the business servicing highly sought-after zip codes. Together, their one size *does not* fit all view of real estate, is what makes them rise above the murky sea of other agents.

So, what does "home" mean to you?
We'd love to find out!

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