



Washington Square NEWS

Real Neighbors. Real Neighborhood.

January 2021

2021
HAPPY
NEW YEAR

2021 NEIGHBORHOOD CALENDAR

EVENTS

Dumpster Day.....3/13
Progressive Dinner,
Neighborhood Cleanup,
Wine Walk, Chili Cookoff,
Movie Night, Oktoberfest,
and Holiday Party..... TBD!

GENERAL MEETINGS

January 14

ZOOM MEETING

See Page 2 for Details
4/15, 7/15, 10/14

GARAGE SALE WEEKENDS

Mar 6/7, June 5/7
Sept 4/5, Dec 4/5



A Word from Keren Clark WSNA PRESIDENT

Another winter has come around. It is a bit stunning to me that my letter to you from this time last year was *prior* to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. It has been a crazy 12 months, to say the least! Happily, we are seeing the advent of vaccinations and, with the slow return of the sun since winter solstice, we are seeing a slow return of the light of hope at the end of this dark tunnel.

For many of us, our patience is wearing thin and our exhaustion with this pandemic is increasing. Additionally, we have survived a very contentious US presidential election and a new president will be taking office. Our neighborhood appears to have weathered the election better than most. While we voiced our preferences with political signs and other conversations, I always experienced us as being respectful of one another.

This will be my last missive to you all as president of our fine neighborhood association. I have completed my two-year term as the Washington Square Neighborhood Association President and will be stepping aside to allow another one of our amazing neighbors to step into the presidential shoes. I leave you with this: please continue to practice patience and care with one another. We are not out of the woods yet. It has been an honor to serve as your president and I will continue my involvement with Washington Square.

Be well everyone!

With respect,



Winter 2021 Alan Anderson Award 1107 Westwood *Harris and Eksha Rafiq*

by Bobi Keenan



Harris and Eksha Rafiq bought their home in October 2018. It is a 1700 square foot house built in 1942 that sits on a big lot with a big front yard and an even bigger back yard... perfect for raising their family.

Continued on page 8

Washington Square *UPDATES*

General Meeting - THURSDAY, January 14 - 7:00PM - 9PM

Join ZOOM

Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/99552101608>
or go to Washington-Square.org and click on the link



2021 WSNA MEMBERSHIP

Now is the time to renew your WSNA membership! In 2020 a record number of Washington Square households were members. In 2021, let us get that number closer to 100%!!! The association works extremely hard to keep the neighborhood clean, get involved with city issues and create fun events. We keep you informed with the quarterly newsletter, flyers, social media (Facebook) and our website (Washington-Square.org). The board and committee members are all volunteers, but we need your support every year to fund the activities, events, and neighborhood improvement projects. Take a moment to send in your check today or donate online at Washington-Square.org/Membership.htm. You will be recognized on the website!

The membership levels and dues are:

- Most Revered Friend of WSNA \$1000 or more
- Grand PoohBah Sponsor \$500 or more
- PoohBah Sponsor \$200 or more
- VIP Sponsor \$100 or more
- Sponsor \$75 or more
- Patron \$50
- Household \$20
- Senior (62 and above) \$15

The categories are cumulative for the year so if you donate \$20 now to become a Household Member and donate another \$30 later in the year, you will become a Patron Member. WSNA is a 501(c)(3) organization and your membership contribution may be tax deductible.

BECOME A MEMBER



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

Washington Square *CAR SHOW!!*

Saturday December 12, 2020. 10 am- Noon.

I heard the purr of big engines getting close, so I threw on my Santa hat and raced out the door. There they were! Nineteen cool cars were lining up on Towner Street! The First Washington Square Legends Car and Motorcycle Show had begun!!

The street was lined with cars and owners and neighbors. Everyone was busy introducing themselves and their cars, while Christmas music filled the air. Among the friendly banter there was mask wearing and social distancing. Throughout the event, neighbors were discovering old friends and acquaintances. I met a gal from Rosewood Street who shared stories about my dear deceased sister-in-law. These wonderful stories gave me goosebumps. It was so wonderful to be with neighbors again!

One of the funniest stories of the day happened in front of Mr. Hill's home. He returned home from his night shift to find cool cars all around his house. He had no clue what was going on. However, when he saw his Classic Buick Grand National parked in front of his house, his curiosity led to shock and concern. Who had entered his garage and taken out his car? He needed answers now! Uh oh! Ends up his car never left his garage! The same make and model Buick directly in front of his house belonged to a neighbor from Baker Street. They then met for the first time!

It sure was fun to team with Steve "Legends" Widdoss to bring you the show, and I felt grateful that each of these car enthusiasts would open their gates and garages to delight us with the gems they keep! We enthusiastically hope to offer more safe neighborly events!
Susan van der Roest

WS Car and Motorcycle Show Stats:

Car owner ages: 20s to 70s

#of cars: 19

of motorcycles: 1 Ducati

of electric cars: 2

Oldest car: 1954 Packard

Most Expensive car: The green one!!!

Make and model most represented: 3 Ford Mustangs



by Susan Van der Roest

Featured *NEIGHBOR*

Laurella Stearns *by Sarah Covarrubias*



For the last 5 years Laurella Stearns has been our block rep on Lowell. She delivered the WS newsletters to each home until she took a fall earlier this summer of 2020. Laurella is 92 years young and has lived in her home since 1940. She is our longest-residing neighbor. Born in Rapid City, SD, her family moved between South Dakota and Nebraska until her father, an engineer, landed a job in Orange County and brought his wife and 2 daughters when Laurella was 11-12 years old. Laurella's dad was an excellent engineer and helped to design several buildings here in the city.

Laurella attended Willard Junior High, where she played violin in the orchestra. At Santa Ana High, she abandoned her violin to pursue her passion for sports. There she played on the girls basketball team. In her last year of high school, she went to work at Daniger Gift shop, located on the corner of 5th and Main St (it is no longer there). She went to Santa Ana College for a couple years and graduated with a teaching degree from Whittier College. Her first teaching post was for the Capistrano School District. Laurella enjoyed teaching in Dana Point, where her students came from all

backgrounds including farmworkers and Vietnam refugees. She loves to reminisce about the antics of her students, the fun plays they put on and their wonderful poems.

It is immediately obvious that Laurella, who is always smiling, is a happy soul and has a sunny outlook on life. She still keeps in touch with her many friends, including childhood buddies. They have traveled together all over the world and love to socialize. She talks to her sister (in NY) daily. When her sister took ill this year, Laurella hopped on a plane and the hospital allowed her to go inside and visit.

continued on page 11

Robert Bolton (702)498-9832
 robert@arcuslending.com
 nmls: 1931013
 What's Your
Biggest Concern About
Buying A Home?
 Contact me for answers
 Washington Square Resident
 & Mortgage Broker

First Presbyterian
 Church Santa Ana
 600 N. Main St.
 Santa Ana, CA 92701
 714-542-7253
 www.fpcsac.com



Sunday Worship:

Traditional Service @ 10:00 a.m.

- *English service held in our main Sanctuary.
- *Spanish service held in McFarland Hall
- *Children's Sunday School and Nursery available during service.
- *Worship includes hymns & praise songs
- * Communion the first Sunday of the month

**Join us this Sunday,
 we would love to see you!**

Whazzup?

in Downtown Santa Ana

What's going on in and around DTSA? -- By Sam Puzzo

Covid-19 Advisory: Business operations may be affected. Due to ongoing precautionary measures, please contact the business directly for updated hours and availability.

So many restaurants in Santa Ana have done an outstanding job of complying with regulations, I hope you have been able to take advantage of their great takeout programs. My wife and I have particularly enjoyed Chapter One, Benchmark, Mix Mix, Gus' Fried Chicken and Lola Gaspar, to mention a few. There are many others, and more places keep opening!

Great News!



Electric City Butcher at 4th Street Market has been recognized as one of the top 100 butcher shops in the entire country by Food and Wine Magazine!

New!

- West End Kitchen and Pub has opened at 200 West 5th Street, featuring breakfast, brunch, and lunch, but on Tuesday they are open till 9PM per the website.
- The Golden Hot Fried Chicken has opened in 4th Street Market featuring Nashville style fried chicken in contrast to the Memphis style from Gus'. It will be interesting to try them side by side.
- Cerveza Cito is a new brewery which opened in October at 309 West 4th Street. They do not have food, but reports are they arrange for food trucks to be available.
- Smorburger in 4th Street Market offers two patty craft burgers with accompaniments and fries. They are currently open 12 to 5.



Continuing!

- The Farmers Market at 3rd and Bush happens on Tuesday, from 10 AM to 2 PM. Many small restaurants and food purveyors continue to offer a great variety of foods.
- Pop's Café, located at 112 E 9th Street, is a breakfast and lunch establishment which needs support, as do so many.
- Frida Cinema has an active film program. View scheduled events on their website at thefridacinema.org. Frida Cinema is one of many small downtown businesses that can benefit from your patronage.
- Please give shout outs to your favorite businesses and food purveyors on the Washington Square Facebook page. We can all help to support them, so they are still around when Santa Ana returns to normal.
- Check the DTSA website for updated events.



We look forward to seeing more friends here in Washington Square and a return of our favorite neighborhood events. Everyone please stay safe and healthy.



Please let me know of places in Downtown Santa Ana or close by that you have enjoyed. My email is sampuzzo@gmail.com

Residents' *BUSINESSES*

Accounting/Tax Prep.	Alex Schneider	364-5173
Arbonne Consultant	Gloria Chavez	280-5723
Attorney, Bus. Spec.	Ashley Bolduc	949-852-1800
Audio-Video Production	David Jirik	543-9079
Avon Representative	Maria Guzman	904-1973
Babysitting	Leila Rodriguez	727-8313
Computer Specialist	Randy Simons	423-0810
Consignment Store	Tiffany Miller	317-4591
Copywriting/Prfrding.	Michael Mello	948-0677
Decorative Ironwork	Marco Coronado	852-1363
DJ Service	Arnie Ruiz	287-3534
Farmers Insurance	Gonzalo Guzman	669-3930
Flooring, Floor Repairs	Tuzos Flooring	720-7793
Graphics & Signage	Kirsten Sketch	721-8795
Hardwood floors	Chris Manning	949-678-0435
Holistic Medicine	Renee Ascencio	697-0644
Landscape Maintenance	Rick Mora	721-3897
Mortgage Broker	Robert Bolton	702-498-9832
Mortgages/Loan officer	Victor Gallardo	697-7564
Notary Public	Mike Silva	317-3087
Notary/Loan Signing Agt.	Sasha Lopez	496-7969
Origami Owl Ind. Design	Jennifer Begen	606-0830
Painter	Eric Torres	292-4038
Personal Injury Attorney	Moses Yneges	591-0661
Pet Groomer/Sitter	Aurora Valent	858-2768
Prayer – FREE!	Pastor Ben	949-295-4980
Prof. Photographer	Ricardo Barrera	715-1747
Realtor	Christina Moreno	425-2311
Realtor	Sarah Covarrubias	928-1303
Rodan & Fields Cons.	Christina Moreno	425-2311
Stella & Dot rep	Jennifer Rivera	697-6025
Trash Bin Cleaning	Noah	717-1079
Trombone Instructor	Michael Briones	401-4018
Wedding Planner	Christin Wilson	337-2903
Window Coverings	Richard Wallinger	949-285-6422
Wine Club/Skin Care	Yolanda Valdivia	317-4152

The Square is Going to the *DOGS*

Meet Asher. She is a 15.5-year-old Australian Shepherd, Valerie Bolter and Bob Boulton's puppy. According to Valerie, Bob was never a dog person but now he is head over heels for Asher.

Valerie had decided that the Australian Shepherd was the breed of dog for her. A week before Asher joined the family, Asher's sister, Sydney joined the household. Then it was decided she needed a friend. Enter 10-week-old Asher.

Asher's favorite thing is to go for her daily walks and to play with her babies (stuffed dogs!). She cleans them and lies with them. When someone comes to visit, Asher proudly shows them off to whomever is at the door.

Weighing 22 lbs., Asher sleeps between Valerie and Bob at night. Valerie said that Asher always has been keenly aware of humans, and Asher has woken up Bob twice during the night when his blood glucose was dangerously low. If one of her pet parents has an injury, Asher will lie all over the area. Valerie added, "she just seems to know."

by Pat Lenahan



Sarah's Neighborhood *NEWS*

Homes for Sale		Beds	Baths	Sq. Ft.	List/Sold price	DOM*	Sale Type
817 Louise	duplex	3 & 2	2 & 1	2390	\$735,000.00	164	Flip

Welcome to Our 2020 Neighbors:

1302 N. Flower		2	1	1264	\$475,000.00	228	Standard
1115 N. Flower		3	1	1239	\$515,000.00	292	Standard
1517 N. Baker		3	2	1577	\$699,400.00	43	Flip
1116 N. Olive		2	2	937	\$610,000.00	22	Standard
1324 Louise		4	2	1951	\$682,500.00	2	Standard
1426 N. Olive		2	1	1520	\$640,000.00	43	Standard
910 N. Flower		3	2	1434	\$580,000.00	116	Standard
1001 N. Olive	duplex	1 & 1	1 & 1	1564	\$625,000.00	8	Standard
104 N. Baker		3	1.5	1561	\$685,000.00	43	Standard
1012 N. Olive		2	1	1148	\$625,000.00	11	Standard
1420 N. Olive		2	1.5	1516	\$699,900.00	7	Standard
1115 N. Olive		2	1	1162	\$595,000.00	24	Shortsale
1122 N. Towner		3	2	1604	\$765,000.00	44	Standard

THE ABOVE SOLD STATISTICS ARE FOR THE TIME PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2020 THROUGH DECEMBER 26, 2020

COMPILED FROM INFORMATION FROM THE CALIFORNIA REGIONAL MULTIPLE LISTING SERVICE AND COUNTY RECORDER'S OFFICE.

*DAYS ON THE MARKET

Goodbye 2020!!! Although many had some wonderful events, which we are grateful for, it was a really tough year. And it really has affected the real estate market overall.

Here in Orange County, we have been insulated from what is happening in many areas of SoCal. Due to low inventory, continuing high demand and extremely low interest rates, prices have increased more than 10% since this time last year. In the schedule above, I have posted **all the sales in Washington Square for 2020**. The majority of WS sales for 2020 are solidly in the \$600Ks--13 confirmed sales vs 22 sales in 2019. Due to uncertainty right now, homeowners are preferring to stay in their homes rather than selling. The Inland Empire market is having a harder time. We can see an uptick of pre-foreclosure homes, because many people have lost jobs, or have been furloughed.

Mortgage lenders are still offering forbearance options for borrowers who have lost their income and are struggling to make their payments. If you are having difficulties due to the current COVID-19 climate or have lost your source of income, **please contact me**. Also contact me if you want to look into lowering your interest rates and your monthly payments. You have options, you just need to know where to look, and I'd like to help point you in that direction.

Blessings to all our neighbors and their families and may we all have a happy and prosperous 2021!



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Alan Anderson AWARD.....continued from page 1

Harris was born in Pakistan and lived in Morocco until he was 14, when his family settled in Mission Viejo. Eksha was born in India and came to the U.S. when she was 16. They met as students at Cal State Fullerton. Harris went on to get a graduate degree from USC and is a specialty corporate investment and loan banker. Eksha is a CSFU graduate, as well as a cosmetologist; she and her mother own a salon in Diamond Bar. They married in 2012, now have 6-year-old son, Ari, and daughter, Ziyah will soon be 3 years old. Eksha stopped working when she became a mother so she could be with the kids full time.

The Rafiqs desired a home that would meet the needs of their family, had character, lacked the Orange County tract housing vibe, and was close enough to Harris's work so he had a short commute and could spend more time with the family. A big yard for the kids to play in was a must. Washington Square was found by accident and 1107 Westwood checked all the boxes on their wish list, and yet, they were hesitant. The front and back yards needed a LOT of work! Were they willing to invest the time and money on these projects? Fortunately, they decided yes.

Their large back yard had been divided in two by a fence. One part was filled with pavers, artificial turf, and a fountain, while the other part had piles of mulch and junk and rats. They got to work right away, cleared everything out, installed irrigation, grass, plants, and a concrete patio. Harris did most of the work himself.

In the front, the first thing was to remove unsightly elements. The yard was poorly planned with an unattractive xeriscape, when what they wanted was something lush and green while still environmentally friendly. Harris took it all out... and moved some of the drought tolerant plants and much of the river rock onto the parkway. Grass was planted, irrigation was installed, and new plants were added around the front. There were large rocks scattered randomly around the front, and Harris moved them to add interest to the new planting scheme. It all looks SO much better!



Harris says his family loves the feel of the neighborhood. They love riding their bikes together around the streets in Washington Square, and since there is a cul-de-sac at the end of the street, it is very safe. Ziyah can ride along with her mom, dad, and Ari on her own little pink bike.

The neighbors are a big plus, too, as they were immediately welcoming and so friendly. Harris says they are very happy to live in Washington Square. We are happy for them, and for us. They are great neighbors!



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Can't wait to hear from you again!

Block REPRESENTATIVES

Area 1: Louise North of Washington	
Randy & Tracy Simons	423-0810
Area 2: Louise South of Washington	
Bobi Keenan	206-2530
Area 3: Baker North of Washington	
Laura Ruiz	568-1660
Area 4: Baker South of Washington	
John McGuinness	836-1971
Area 5: Rosewood	
Barbara Holmes	619-851-8123
Area 6: Westwood North of Washington	
Noe Vasquez	851-6767
Area 7: Westwood South of Washington	
Karen Blue Wevers	949-295-4979
Area 8: 16th/Towner North of 15th	
Gil Melendez	542-3398
Area 9: Towner North of Washington	
Russ Bartlett	564-9080
Area 10: Towner South of Washington	
Ivy Poggi	925-554-2214
Area 11: Freeman North of Washington	
Margaret Klase	972-8951
Area 12: Freeman South of Washington	
Jason & Elise Athas	270-4654
Area 13: Lowell North of Washington	
Gilbert Ochoa	562 884-7193
Area 14: Lowell South of Washington	
Carina Franck-Pantone	675-3653
Area 15: Olive North of Washington	
Adam & Allegra Kleifeld	323-428-9705
Area 16: Olive South of Washington	
Connie Major	547-7404
Area 17: Bomo Koral	
Juan Miramontes	309-6491
Area 18: Washington St.	
Kurt & Jen Preston	547-4895
Area 19: 10th between Westwood and Baker	
Cheryl Yarnall	542-7512
Area 20: Flower St. between Wash. and 15th	
Delilah Mendez	725-6357
Area 21: Flower St. between 10th and Wash	
Maco Long	949-387-4446
Area 22: Flower St. between Civic Center and 10th	
Jose Palacios	835-0980
All numbers 714 unless otherwise indicated	

City Contact Information

Police Services West End Office	647-5062
Police (non-emergency)	834-4211
Police admin. business	245-8665
Police and Fire (Emergency)	911
Animal services (lost pets, barking)	245-8792
Code Enforcement	667-2780
Graffiti Hotline	877-786-7824
Obstructing Trees & Bushes	647-3380
Permit Parking (Frank Orellana)	647-5614
Permit Parking Complaints	245-8225
Potholes (Public Works)	647-3380
SAUSD School Police	558-5535
School Traffic Concerns	647-5619
Street Cleaning (Public Works)	647-3380
Street Lights (Edison)	800-655-4555
Street Lights (City)	647-3380
Traffic Engineering	647-5619
Traffic Signals	647-5620
Trash Pick Up (Waste Mgmt.)	558-7761
Tree Trimming	647-3380
Vector Control (County)	971-2421
Water Bill	647-5454
Wilson School	564-8100

All numbers (714) unless indicated otherwise

A more complete listing can be found on the WSNA website.

If you have a smartphone or a tablet, you'll want to download the free "My Santa Ana" app from the Apple App Store or Google Play. With it you can report graffiti, street light problems, potholes, tree issues, water wasting, etc as well as get phone #'s

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WSNA Annual DUMPSTER DAY !!

Saturday, March 13th 8AM-Noon

Dumpster Day logistics: Masks are REQUIRED, social distancing is recommended. Wear gloves to handle your stuff. We're planning 3 to 7 dumpsters for your trash and large items (no hazardous waste) and eWaste disposal. We are looking into document shredding. YAY!!

You will get a flyer in the mail mid-February with all final details, and there will be updates on Facebook, Nextdoor and the WSNA website. Clean out your JUNK!!



Visit us at our Chevron ExtraMile station
801 N. Bristol Street at W. Civic Center Dr.
Santa Ana, CA 92703



G&M is taking all precautions to ensure that our locations are stocked, sanitized, and staffed. We are committed to serving the communities we live and work in.

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MEMBERSHIP! cont. from pg. 2

To pay online, go to the WSNA website at Washington-Square.org and you can pay with your credit or debit card! Follow the instructions as posted. Also, if your credit card billing address is not the same as your Washington Square address, please list it in the comments so we can keep track of who lives where. If you are a landlord, just let us know the address of the property you own in WSNA.

To pay by check now, download and fill out the WSNA Membership application. If you want to wait, you'll receive an application and return envelope in the mail in late February with the Dumpster Day announcement. We would like your email address to be able to send updates and we would like any comments or concerns you have about the neighborhood and what you would like to see WSNA focus its efforts on. Please let us know how you would be willing to help. Send the form and your check to:

WSNA Membership
P.O. Box 4435
Santa Ana, CA 92702-4435

Your neighbors thank you in advance for your support.



NEIGHBOR! cont. from pg. 4

Currently, Laurella has a wonderful caregiver, Heather. Laurella was a "visiting teacher" to Heather's grandparents. She not only spoke to them on matters of their faith (Mormon), but became a helper and companion to them until their passing. She also became a visiting teacher to Heather and her large family of seven children.

Be sure to wave at Laurella, if you see her out walking alone or with her caregiver. She would love to have a chat with you. Thank you, Laurella, for being one of our neighborhood treasures!



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I am committed to this wonderful neighborhood because, like you, I cherish the uniqueness of our community. And working with you will be my pleasure!



SARAH COVARRUBIAS
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SarahCRealtor@gmail.com
www.sevengables.com
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