



A Holiday Season to Remember

Christmas 2022 is one that the Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society will remember for years to come. For the first time ever, SAHPS joined in partnership with a number of community groups to transform the Dr. Willella Howe-Waffle House and Museum into a winter wonderland. Truly a sight to behold!

This brilliant concept was put into place after President Tina Davidson and Co-Vice President Pauline Halloran visited the lovely Bembridge House in Long Beach in December of 2021. During

their visit, they both admired how each and every room was decorated to the hilt, with a tree in every room—even the bathroom! Upon inquiry and noticing signage from different communities, Tina and Pauline were told by docents that each room of the house had been decorated by a different local community. At that moment, Tina and Pauline looked at each other and said, “We should and we can do this too!” And so the plan was set in motion.

Calls were made and emails sent to a number of local community groups to pitch the question: “How would you like to come and decorate a historic grand Victorian home in your Santa Ana community for Christmas?” We had no idea just how this would be received. To our surprise, the response was overwhelmingly, “YES!”

Each participating group was given a choice of which room or part of the house they would like to decorate. Then they came to visit and the ideas swirled in their heads. What should the theme be? What should the color palette be? When can we get started? Such enthusiasm!



Here is a list of the participating communities and groups and the rooms they so lovingly decorated:

Ebell Club of Santa Ana - doctor's bedroom

Floral Park Neighborhood Association – front parlor

French Park Neighborhood Association – 2nd parlor

Old Haunted OC – dining room

Old Santa Ana Courthouse – doctor's waiting room

Santa Ana Police Department – wisteria room

Washington Square Neighborhood Association – Lulu and Ethel's bedroom

Wilshire Square Neighborhood Association – foyer, staircase, 2nd floor landing and Ms. Julia's room

SAHPS – Pulati room, bathroom, carriage barn and gazebo

With the house beautifully adorned for the holiday season, SAHPS was all too proud to share with the public a 3-day event for all to come visit and take delight in strolling through all the decorated rooms. Guests were treated to gorgeous, delicious homemade cookies, hot cider and “decorate your own” gingerbread men. They were also given a chance to make and take a fabric ornament (and given instructions on how to do it). It was a grand event and the best way to end a fantastic year.

We gratefully thank each and every participating group for their open hearts, time, dedication and artistic flair in transforming the Howe-Waffle House into a seasonal holiday masterpiece!

Pauline Halloran



A legacy of preservation since 1974

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dearest history lovers,

I can't think of a more exciting time to be involved with the SAHPS than this year. 2023 is starting off with tremendous hope and a strength we have not seen since the pandemic took us by surprise. If these last few months are any indication of what great things we have to look forward to, I can't wait to see what we accomplish next.

Back in December we opened the house to the community by asking local groups to decorate one room each for our brand-new holiday open house event. Bringing the community together at the house had been a dream of mine for some time and, wow, did it work. From that event we realized new volunteers and gave our neighbors a chance to become comfortable with our dear 134-year-old Dr. Howe-Waffle House. So many people had driven past it but never known what a timeless treasure it was; now they've become friends.

If you live in the neighborhood, you may have noticed something new going up around the house. Yes, the security fence is finally being installed. The approval and funding took 13 months of a hard fight with the City, but in the end we won. We designed the fence to look more like an estate fence, rather than an ugly deterrent around a dignified landmark. By the time this newsletter reaches you, the fence will be complete, and the gates, which will include Victorian script initials "H W" to enhance the estate look, will be up. As long as I'm above ground, this landmark will be protected for future generations to learn from and enjoy.

The next project coming up will be a fresh new coat of paint. We had wonderful help choosing a color scheme from Dean Sharp, the "House Whisperer" from KFI radio. Dean had great suggestions on what would fit into the surrounding area, as well as traditional, tasteful Victorian colors. How are we funding this project? I have no idea, but we'll work on that.

Take care, dear friends and neighbors, and keep an eye on us as we move forward.

Tina Davidson
President
714-401-6158

FROM THE VICTORIAN KITCHEN:

British Kumquat Marmalade

Ingredients:

- * 1 whole star anise
- * 1 cup granulated sugar
- * 1.5 cup water
- * Pinch of cayenne
- * Zest of 1 lemon (pith only) + juice
- * 2 cups kumquats - cut lengthwise, quartered, & seeds removed

To Begin:

1. Remove the outer zest of 1 lemon. Then zest the pithy part of the lemon. We will use the pithy part for our marmalade only. Then juice the lemon.
2. Place all ingredients in a medium size pot, stir and then let rest for 2 hours.
3. Over medium heat, gently simmer, stirring occasionally.
4. Reduce heat and let the mixture slowly cook down to thicken. (30-35 minutes). You will be able to see bottom of the pot when you stir with a spatula.
5. Remove and let cool.
6. Place in a sterilized jar. Lasts 3-4 weeks.

Enjoy ❤️

DID YOU KNOW?



In the late 18th century New England farmers started applying protective varnish to seal barn surfaces. The varnish would usually contain a mixture of linseed oil to seal the wood and iron oxide, which under the sun would turn into the red ochre that has become so familiar today.

Rust was plentiful on farms and, because it killed fungi and mosses that grew on barns, it was a very effective deterrent to the harmful

effects of harsh weather. When paint became more readily available, many farmers chose red paint for their barns in honor of this tradition.

Lynn Warner

The Wisteria Room Welcomes a New Addition



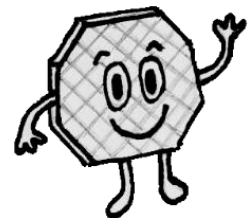
In February, the House received the donation of a new quilt for the Wisteria Room. This wonderful quilt was pieced in 2019 by Judy Dimmick, a new volunteer and attendee of our Victorian Maker Days. It is a Bonnie Hunter Quiltville pattern called Pineapple Blossom. The machine quilting was done by Karen Miller of Cosmic Quilting in Lake Forest, in a pattern known as "Baptist Fan." Judy used 1800s reproduction prints in a variety of colors. Be sure to come to the House and view this lovely piece of modern craftsmanship that melds seamlessly into our Victorian setting.

Jessica Basciano

Where's Waffie?

Meet Waffie, our friendly waffle mascot created by Marilyn Mandell. Waffie likes reading historical articles and is hidden somewhere in this newsletter.

If you find him, let us know where by emailing SantaAnaHPS@gmail.com. If you're correct, we'll post a special shout out online featuring you!



A Holiday Season to Remember (pictures continued)



WE ALL SCREAM FOR ICE CREAM

Raise your hand if you like ice cream! You probably do and so do our new volunteers. We treated them to an old-fashioned ice cream social in February and what a good time we had. The holiday open house had sparked new interest in volunteering with the society so, of course, we threw a party for potential volunteers. We turned the dining room and gift shop into an ice cream parlor. Some of us dressed in white shirts, black pants, aprons and soda jerk hats, and I have to say that we looked cute.

I want to give a HUGE shout-out of thanks to Fred B., owner of the Baskin Robbins on 17th St. in Santa Ana and the Tustin store on Newport Ave. and Main St., for his generosity in donating the ice cream for this event. Fred's desire to help his community was overwhelming. He called the day before to see if we needed additional ice cream and visited us on the day of the event. He brought coupons to hand out with a genuine giving spirit. An added bonus is that Fred will be decorating a room for our next holiday open house, making it into a Christmas ice cream parlor. We can't wait.

Please, please visit either of his stores, buy ice cream and let him know how much his contribution meant to us. Thank you, Fred; you are a true hero.

Tina Davidson

The Rise of Women in the Legal World

In today's world it's commonplace to see women in courtrooms, acting as defense or prosecuting attorneys, as well as being seated in the Supreme Court. Yet, as in other professions, it took a long time and many hurdles had to be overcome before women were recognized for being competent enough to handle a career thought to be suited for men only. In the 19th century a woman's proper "place" or "station" in society was considered to be either a teacher or wife and mother. They were thought to be incapable of handling more. However, some brave women, such as Dr. Willella Howe-Waffle, who used her skills as a physician, pushed forward with strength and determination to pursue their dreams, and their desire to rise above the stereotypical attitudes of a patriarchal society grew stronger. The barriers were destined to be destroyed.

One woman who helped tear down the wall was Myra Bradwell. In the mid-1850s she learned the fundamentals of the legal profession from her husband. This enabled her to help run the law practice he'd opened in Chicago. Her interest expanded when, in 1868, she became the first woman to edit and publish a nationally circulated legal publication, the *Chicago Legal News*. (She continued to manage the newspaper, reporting on the progress of women entering the legal profession, which occupied her time until her death in 1894.) Doing this provided her an outlet for her views on women's rights. To fulfill her role as editor-in-chief and publisher, she had to obtain a special charter from the Illinois legislature, allowing her to own and operate a business as a married woman. Contrary to the law at the time, she was allowed to enter into contracts without involving her husband and keep her earnings. In that same year she became the first woman to pass the Illinois bar exam but the State Supreme Court denied her a license to practice because she was married. Her lawyers argued that the state had violated her rights under a clause of the U.S. Constitution's 14th Amendment. In an 8-1 decision the court disagreed. Concurring opinions, joined by those of other justices, summarized the prevalent views of women's roles at the time: "The paramount destiny and mission of women are to fulfill the noble and benign offices of wife and mother." Chief Justice Salmon P. Case was the lone dissenter in the case.



Although Bradwell never practiced law, in 1890 she was admitted to the bar of the Illinois Supreme Court and, in 1892, the U.S. Supreme Court.

Interest in law took another female legal pioneer, Belva Lockwood, from upstate New York to Washington, D.C. in 1866 and later that year she became part of a community of women activists participating in the temperance and suffrage movements. In 1871 she and other women enrolled at the National University Law School. However, after they completed the program the administration would not allow them to receive diplomas. She appealed to President Ulysses S. Grant (who was a Chancellor ex-officio of the University) and received her diploma one week later.

A Washington lawyer moved for Lockwood's admission to the Supreme Court Bar in October, 1876 but it was denied, announcing that "none but men are admitted to practice before the court as attorneys or counselors..." The matter was heavily debated several times by both the House and Senate, and her request was eventually granted. President Rutherford B. Hayes signed the "Lockwood Bill" into law; on March 3, 1879 her admission was accepted and she was admitted to the Supreme Court. In November, 1880 she appeared and argued a case, *Kaiser v. Stickney*, and, although she lost, Lockwood made history.

The desire and determination of Belva Lockwood and other bold women like her paved the way and set the precedent for women to become their "own person," gaining power to make decisions about their own lives. For example, thanks to the efforts of the suffragettes, a monumental progressive change was made in August of 1920, when women gained the right to vote.

Marilyn Mandell

Who was Jack Fisher?

Toward the north end of Flower Street in Santa Ana, next to the Santiago creek, sits a small neighborhood park, the scene of many picnics for my family during the 1950s. Back then I knew what it was called, of course, but never questioned who Jack Fisher actually was. Now I know more about this local hero, which I'd like to share.

Jack, whose real name was Jacob, was born in 1899 and grew up in Santa Ana with his parents and sister, Mary. In April of 1917, when he was 18 and the Great War was raging in Europe, he enlisted in the National Guard, which subsequently became the 160th Infantry Division. He was sent overseas and fought in four major battles in France: Chateau-Thierry, Belleau Wood, Verdun and the Argonne Forest, for which he received a number of medals. During Argonne, the last great battle of the war, he was severely injured, having been gassed and having his leg shattered by an exploding enemy shell. He lay, unattended, for two days. When he was found, he was immediately given water that had collected in a nearby shell hole. However, the water had been contaminated by mustard gas, causing serious damage to his lungs and stomach. After reaching the field hospital he developed pneumonia. Doctors gave him little chance to survive but he had a great will to live and overcome his injuries.

Jack returned to the United States. We know that Dr. Willella treated many returning World War I veterans, but apparently Jack was not one of them. He was sent to a military hospital in San Francisco, where his health improved somewhat. While recuperating, he studied art and cartooning and subsequently went to work for the *San Francisco Examiner* as an artist.

Jack eventually returned to Santa Ana and married Frances Baker in June of 1927. He began working for the *Santa Ana Register* as an artist and cartoonist and remained there until his death in March of 1929.

In addition to the above, Jack spent many hours volunteering at the Santa Ana chapter of Disabled American Veterans and became its second commander. Following his death, the chapter was renamed in his honor.

Jack Fisher is buried at Fairhaven Cemetery in Santa Ana.

Louise Hoffman



Thanks to the Fisher Park Neighborhood Association for providing information on Mr. Fisher.

VICTORIAN MAKERS DAY

Santa Ana Historical Society was pleased to host its first Victorian Makers Day on Jan 28, 2023. For a small fee crafters were encouraged to bring and work on their own projects in an authentic Victorian environment. This first event was well attended, with crafters working on everything from sugar cube decorating to smocking. Guests were served tea, tea sandwiches, cookies and scones with homemade kumquat marmalade. (Recipe on page 3)

In addition to the March 25th Victorian Makers Day, the society will be hosting a Decorate a Victorian Hat class. Participants will provide their own hats. Flowers, ribbon, lace etc. will be supplied by the event coordinator for a small fee. Make an Easter bonnet and then wear it to our Easter open house on April 1st. See website for details.

The Victorian Makers Day will be held the last Saturday of each month. Join in the fun and purchase tickets on our website at santaanahistory.com



Lynn Warner

UPCOMING EVENTS

Victorian Makers Day: March 25

Decorate a Victorian Hat: March 25

Easter Bonnet / Open House: April 1

Breakfast at Tiffany's Tea Date: To be announced

See website at santaanahistory.com

Events subject to change

WORD SEARCH

umbrella

history

rain

ice cream

volunteer

crafts

quilt

barn

appreciation

museum

decorate

marmalade

V	H	L	E	O	M	D	U	C	I	H	T	N	U	X
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D	M	B	F	M	P	Z	K	N	G	L	Y	A	E	R
G	E	V	D	N	S	R	A	I	N	P	M	P	K	Y

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