

# Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society

Celebrating 37 Years of Preserving History!



## Newsletter

Spring 2011

[www.SantaAnaHistory.com](http://www.SantaAnaHistory.com)

### California ... It's Not Just Missions!

California is steeped in history, from its man-made borders to the Pacific Ocean. From Ranchos, the gold rush, movies and jet propulsion laboratories, California has played a big part in the growth and progress of the United States.

There's no better place to learn about some of California's history than right here in Santa Ana. Take the guided walking tour offered by the Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society and you will hear about some of the colorful characters that built and lived in this fine city. Learn the historical significance of the buildings you pass everyday as the architecture and its inhabitant come to life by our informative guide.

Visit the Howe-Waffle House and Medical Museum to envelop you in the elegance of a

Please see *California* on page 4

### A Victorian Wedding Dream

Our next open house is around the corner. Keeping with our efforts to make the Dr. Howe-Waffle House a new experience each time you visit, our theme will be June weddings!

We'd love to have you stop by and check out our display of vintage and modern wedding gowns and photos. Explore the different trends and styles of wedding traditions through the decades as you stroll through the Queen Anne house. On Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, the Howe-Waffle House and Gift Shop will

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Members of the Victorian Tea Society visited the Howe-Waffle House in February. Dressed in their best Victorian attire, the ladies looked gorgeous and perfectly at home as guests of the doctor!



## From the President

As I've pointed out to our members before: we're not your grandmother's historical society! We constantly look for new ways and methods to keep our members informed and interested in our activities.

While we've had our exceptional website for years, we've recently expanded our online offerings. That's right...we've joined the social network on Facebook and Twitter!

These communication apps aren't just for college kids and celebrities; they provide us with a new avenue to immediately share stories, news, photos, and events with the public in a whole new way! And it's a two-way street--these tools also allow you to interact directly with us, even if you can't attend the board meetings.

Check out our new offerings on the web and look for other tools in the future to expand our reach to the public!

*Alison Young*  
President

The Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society's newsletter is produced by the Society for its members and other friends. We are proud to say that the Society is an all-volunteer 501c3 non-profit organization with no paid staff members. All donations and memberships go directly to our education and preservation projects.



*A Legacy of Preservation since 1974.*

### Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society 2011 Board of Directors

President	Alison Young
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#### Newsletter Editor: Colleen Williams

*Cover House illustration by Ann Berkery  
Special thanks to contributors Roberta Reed, Alison Young, April Bettendorf, Lisa Pitsenbarger, and Guy Ball.*

To contact the newsletter editor directly, please email [sahps@sahps.org](mailto:sahps@sahps.org). **Contact the editor to sign up to receive your newsletter on-line, with color photos!**

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Alison and Toni creating salvage lists of the properties in the Lacy neighborhood to be demolished. This particular property is the beloved Mnter Court, which the Friends were unable to save.

## Presenting Historic Lacy

Congratulations to the Friends of the Historical Lacy Neighborhood! They have reached a beneficial settlement with the City of Santa Ana which both saves nearly a dozen historic houses and creates a historic neighborhood around 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Street. The settlement also allows for immediate development of the area, doing away (hopefully) with much of the empty lots.

Some of the homes saved for new home-owners include a beautiful Victorian, Craftsman, and several smaller cute Bungalows. These homes, along with the few homes not yet purchased by the city will comprise a charming new historic area once the homes are restored to the agreed standards, before sale. If you're looking for a new historic home to buy, keep your eye on Lacy!

The city will proceed with a revised Station District project to revitalize the Lacy

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## Invitation from a Mouse

Who would have believed that a mouse would have led me to the Howe-Waffle House?!

It all started with an invitation from Mickey and his Disneyland friends to participate in the "Give A Day, Get A Day" volunteer program offered last March.

I was planning a trip to Orlando so I thought this would be a great way to help in the community and get a free pass to a Magic Kingdom Resort.

After an online search of volunteer opportunities one stood out above the rest: "Be a docent at the Howe-Waffle House in Santa Ana." I knew this was the match for me. I love, love, love anything Victorian so I was excited when I was accepted to be a docent at the Open House in April.

Finally the big day came. I immediately fell in love with the house and the Board Members were so knowledgeable and helpful that I was determined to convince them to have me back again.

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## Ready to be Entertained?

Long before MP3s, 3D movies, or even television, Orange County already knew how to have a good time! Join our costumed actors as they share stories of the earliest fiestas at adobe rancheros; exciting horse races at Santa Ana Racetrack; excursions to Seal Beach, the "Coney Island of the West"; Victorian social calls of the local elite; bear hunting in the local mountains; and the latest silent movie at the Yost Theatre. We're sure you'll be amused too!

The theme for our fourteenth annual cemetery tour event is "Ain't We Got Fun? Amusements in Early Orange County." We will again partner with the local Orange County High School of the Arts and Santa Ana High School to present costumed actors portraying historical figures related to the theme. As per our custom, the event will again be hosted by the beautiful historic Fairhaven Memorial Cemetery and adjoining

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beautiful Queen Anne Victorian home. See firsthand the equipment and medicines used in the late 1800s. Hear stories about the good Dr. Willela Howe-Waffle and her medical practice here in the wild, soon to be tamed, West. There is an Open House every other month and tours are offered. It's an excellent adventure for adults and children alike.

Teachers may want to encourage students to learn about Dr. Willela and her husband Dr. Howe, a doctor and the second major of Santa Ana. Mr. Waffle, her second husband, was also a prominent citizen in this city.

The annual cemetery tour held in October will introduce you to the spirits of our past; the Spirit of Orange County. Those that came before us to make many contributions to our state and nation are now laid to rest in our local cemeteries.

You're surrounded by many enjoyable and educational opportunities right outside our front door.

To learn more check out our website at [www.SantaAnaHistory.com](http://www.SantaAnaHistory.com).

April Bettendorf

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Neighborhood. Work on the project will begin immediately. Unfortunately, not every property cherished by the Friends was able to be saved, but for those homes to be demolished, SAHPS has begun extensive salvaging to save those items of historic interest to local historic home-owners. Keep your eyes on the salvage email list and website for information regarding potential future salvage sales.

Through the hard work of the Friends, not only were homes saved, but a loan fund was set up for those in the neighborhood and surrounding blocks. If you think you might be eligible for funding for exterior repairs, contact the City for more information! In this way, both the City and the Friends hope to bring the Lacy area back to its vibrant and beautiful former glory, just like many of the other surrounding neighborhoods.

We tip our hats to the dedicated folks of the Friends of Lacy and wish them well in their endeavors!



One of the beautiful homes saved by the Friends of Lacy to be rehabbed and resold to create the new Lacy Historic area.

## ***SAHPS Losing a Gem***

We on the Board of Directors are terribly conflicted in announcing the departure of Board Secretary and Newsletter Editor, Colleen Williams. On one hand, we are extremely happy for her opportunity to use her years of training in a new position as an intern with the Southern Florida Collection Management Center in the Everglades National Park, Florida. But Florida's gain is a huge loss to the Society.

Colleen joined us as a volunteer in early 2008 and became a Director the following year. As our youngest Director, her energy and enthusiasm have been greatly appreciated as she worked on countless projects, organized docents and worked with student volunteers—all the while working, and pursuing her Masters Degree! Colleen is a true preservationist, having worked with the Friends of Lacy group in their successful efforts to save Santa Ana's historic structures.

I feel privileged to have worked with Colleen for over three years, and to call her a friend.

Colleen, best of luck--we will miss you! And remember, if the GIANT BUGS in Florida get to be too much for you, California and SAHPS look forward to having you back with us.

Alison Young

## Open House Recap

Our April Open House with an Easter theme was a smash! We had a number of new guests to visit the exhibits and learn our illustrious history! We had beautiful displays of Easter-themed soaps and vintage decorations. Dr. Howe-Waffle took a break from her medicinal duties to decorate the rooms for spring and the holidays, creating a joyous atmosphere for all her visitors!

We also had lovely decorated cookies and snacks to accompany our usual, excellent Victorian Tea. We even picked up a few new volunteers! The Downtown Walking Tour was a smash, with a large group meeting at the Howe-Waffle House to explore the architecture of downtown Santa Ana.

For those of you that missed the last Open House, our next Open House is June 4<sup>th</sup>! Stop back by the house to see our next donated additions. For those that missed the Walking Tour, due to the summer heat, the tour is postponed until September.



Our lead docent, Ray, guides the Victorian Tea Society through the Howe-Waffle House in February. We host special tours for groups throughout the year when pre-arranged. These ladies were right at home in their Victorian garb and mid day tea!

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One of the unique, antique properties the Friends saved. This property will actually be moved onto 5<sup>th</sup> Street to fill in some of the empty lots! Of course, the new owner may choose to modify the color scheme!

be open from noon until 4 pm for tours. No reservations are required, so just drop by to join a tour! Vintage gowns will be on display through out the house and the doctor has her home decorated for a home wedding reception!

This summer we are also offering a new opportunity. The society is participating in the Blue Star Museum Program, in conjunction with the National Endowment for the Arts, to support our military! Active military and their immediate families receive free admission to the House and other participating cultural locations across the nation from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Bring your service card for free admission to the house on June 4<sup>th</sup>!

This program runs through Labor Day, so our August Open House will also be free to active military. Please visit [www.bluestarfam.org](http://www.bluestarfam.org) to see more locations participating in the Blue Museum program.

A reminder that the Downtown Walking Tour is on hiatus during the hot summer months. Look for our next Walking Tour in late September during the Smithsonian Museum Day!

## Salvage and Donations

Do you have anything antique that no longer fits into your decor? Do you have an antique that's been collecting dust in your attic or shed and could use a better home? Perhaps you have some of grandma's left over china or a piece of art that no longer is your taste.

Or, are you looking for that perfect antique picture rack? Are you replacing your windows or tubs in your old home? Maybe you are just a curious local looking to fix up your home.

If so, you should call us! We are always looking for new antiques to sell to local customers in order to finance the upkeep of the house and events. We also have a large amount of salvage, thanks to the efforts of the Friends of Lacy, that we'd love to put to good use in the community!

We are requesting antique or vintage items: from jewelry to knick-knacks to furniture. We have a number of home repair items like those listed above to sell on a first come, first served basis. Call Lisa Pitsenbarger at 714-788-9148 to arrange for your donation or salvage purchase. Donations are tax-deductible and we provide receipts for all contribution and sales.

Rest assured all donations will go directly to the SAHPS to benefit the Howe-Waffle house. Of course, this means you'll want to stop by our gift shop during events to see what fascinating new antiques we have to sell as well!



Top: The Easter decoration display in the Evalene Pulati Santa Ana Room for the April Open House.

Bottom: Our wonderful docents, decked out for their duties. From left to right: Klara, Judy, Oscar, and Jean. Come meet them at the next Open House!

## Modjeska Tour

The Society recently toured the beautiful historic Modjeska House! Our board arranged a tour of the Modjeska property in support of local history and to gain idea for our own offerings.

If you've never been, we highly recommend reserving a spot on their next tour! The property is nestled back into Modjeska canyon, up a beautiful winding road where you can almost picture the family and friends in the carriage heading up from a visit to the beach.

Once you arrive, you are directed to the house porch for an informative video before being led through the home, grounds, and their amazing history. Madame Modjeska had an interesting life and background, and the house reflects the interests of the couple and the turn of the century amenities afforded to connected individuals.

The entire board was thrilled to visit, or revisit, a fellow local museum and we spent the morning expanding our knowledge of local history. We highly recommend the tour and perhaps a slow drive through the canyon reminiscing on days of yore!



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I did two or three tours that day and was pleasantly surprised at how enthusiastic and interested the visitors were. I felt as if I were in my own house talking to friends. I was hooked and since that day almost a year ago I have docented at several open houses and joyfully helped decorate the house for Christmas! At the end of the year I was asked to join the Board of Directors. Over the months I realized it wasn't all about docenting; there was important work to be done. So I readily accepted the challenge.

I'm ecstatic about learning more about the history of Santa Ana, the house, and Dr. Willella Howe-Waffle. I've always had a concern about historical preservation and have now found a place where I can act on those concerns.

And to think it all happened because I accepted an invitation from a mouse!

April Bettendorf

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Santa Ana Cemetery.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 22 to save the date for this popular event. Come again or start a new family tradition by inviting friends and relatives along!

Follow our website, Facebook, and emails for more information on when ticket sales open and potential tour times. You won't want to miss this exciting tour!

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## Upcoming Events

**SAHPS Board Meeting:** All are welcome! Please RSVP to the editor so we can add your name to the guest list! **Tuesday, June 21, July 19 Aug 16 at 6:30pm**

**Downtown Walking Tour:** From the Howe-Waffle House. **On Hiatus for the Summer until Saturday, Sept 24 at 2:30 pm.**

**Howe-Waffle Open House:** Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors/SAHPS members, \$3 for students. Special for June and Aug: FREE for active military with ID. **Saturday, June 4 and Aug 6 from 12:00-4:00 pm.**

**14<sup>th</sup> Annual Cemetery Tour:** Tour Orange County's past with historical reenactments through historic Fairhaven Cemetery. Tickets on sale in fall for tour reservations. **Saturday October 22<sup>nd</sup> from approx.. 10:00-3:00pm.**

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## Help us continue our efforts to preserve, to educate, and to celebrate Santa Ana and early local History

*Renew or join at the \$100 level (or above) and receive a copy of Santa Ana: 1940-2007, Early Santa Ana, Santa Ana in Vintage Postcards, Logan Barrio, Civil War Legacy in SA, or Orange County Blossoms as a free gift as our thanks for your extra support.*

Membership Dues: *Individual/Family - \$15-49; Business - \$20-100; Supporter - \$50-99; Patron - \$100-249; Benefactor - \$250-1,000;*

Enclosed is a check for (or charge) \_\_\_\_\_ for a \_\_\_\_\_ membership.  
(If \$100 or over, please circle the book above that you would like us to send you.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society, 120 Civic Center Dr. W., Santa Ana, CA 92701-7505

## Book Order Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

City and Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Qty	Title (all prices include sales tax)	Price
	Images of America: Tustin by Guy Ball (NEW) \$24.00	
	Santa Ana: 1940-2007 by Roberta Reed \$21.50	
	Early Santa Ana by Guy Ball, Marge Bitetti \$21.50	
	Orange (the City) by Phil Brigandi (NEW) \$21.50	
	Vanishing Orange County by Chris Epting (NEW) \$21.50	
	Civil War Legacy in Santa Ana by Gordon Bricken \$14	
	Orange Crate Labels of Orange County by Alison Young \$14	
	Orange County Almanac of Historical Oddities by Jim Sleeper \$13.00	
<b>Shipping</b> – \$5 – flat rate for entire order.		<b>\$5.00</b>
<b>Total</b>		

If paying by credit card, please circle: Visa, Master Card, or American Express.

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society, 120 Civic Center Dr. W. Santa Ana, CA 92701-7505



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