



# Orange Preserves

To preserve and enhance the unique Old Towne Orange area through education, communication and community involvement.

## 2005

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## Preservationists Honored in Ceremony

“Antique Orange” was the theme for this year’s OTPA Preservation Awards Dinner, which honored the longest living residents and the oldest businesses in Orange, as well as individuals and businesses who have made painstaking efforts in the name of preservation.

“We had so many worthy nominees this year,” says Vickie Laughlin, Award Program Coordinator for this annual event, “that we even had a tie in one category!”

Introducing the winners: **Sweet, Sweet Orange Award:** Recognition for outstanding restoration and preservation of a residential

building went to **Tom and Mary Matuzak** of 340 S. Orange.

**Pitcher Park Award:** Recognition for outstanding landscape or garden enhancement on an historic site in Old Towne went to **Mike and Ann Thomas** of 545 E. Jefferson.

**See Winners, page 2**

## Large Crowd at OTPA Dinner

On Sunday, May 1, OTPA held its eleventh annual Preservation Awards Dinner at the Citrus City Grille in Orange. It was a sold out event for the first time in 11 years, as OTPA made a special presentation of the longest living residents and the oldest businesses in the city. Nine individuals and three businesses were honored.

OTPA’s annual awards dinner is for the specific purpose of honoring an individual, group or business for preservation efforts within our Old

Towne Historic District—but last year some people requested a chance to honor those who have lived in Orange a long time.

“To add a category for that would be outside of the scope of our awards ceremony,” says program coordinator Vickie Laughlin. “So the committee decided to make it the theme for our 2005 dinner.

“We put the word out that we were looking for anyone who had been in Orange since before 1950 and the research began,” she continues. “What resulted

was an evening that perfectly combined preservation with the history of our city: the people. It was a great community event.”

City councilwoman Tita Smith participated as OTPA honored her family—and others—for their years in business. Tita commented on the tie in between the houses and the people. “It was great to not only learn about the families from the early days, but to see their family homes. And then in

**See Community, page 4**

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## Winners, cont. from page 2 Preservationists Honored at OTPA Event

**Good Neighbor Award:** Recognition for a new structure or a sympathetic addition that demonstrates outstanding compatibility and harmony with neighboring historic structures was given to both nominees in this category, **Joe and Michelle Cruz** of 440 N. Shaffer, and **Shaun and Janelle Hall** of 357 N. Shaffer.

**Plaza City Award:** Recognition for outstanding restoration, preservation or enhancement of a commercial, industrial or public use property went to the **Plaza Post Office** at 310 W. Chapman.

**OTPA Special Merit Award:** Recognition of a person, group, program, process, project or building who has contributed

significantly to preservation in Old Towne went to **Tita Smith**.

**Spirit of Old Towne Award:** Recognition of a person or group who has contributed to the goals of OTPA and whose preservation efforts are made in a spirit which cultivates neighborhood pride went to the **Orange Barrio Historical Society**.

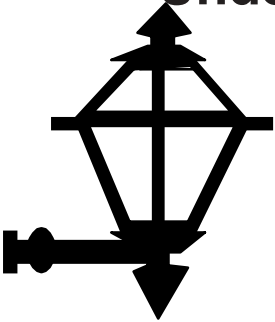
**Dale Rahn Volunteer of the Year Award:** Named after the first president of OTPA, this award was given to **Jeff Frankel**, who spends endless hours attending meetings in an effort to serve the goals of OTPA.

The evening ended with a fabulous array of door prizes put together by Patty Ricci, Community Involvement Chairperson and her committee.

The award committee acknowledges and congratulates all of the nominees for their hard work and effort on their homes, and encourages everyone to keep their eyes open for projects to nominate next year. For comments or questions, please go to [www.otpa.org](http://www.otpa.org) or call (714) 639-6840.

*For more Preservation Awards news, turn to pages 3-4.*

## Under the Porch Light: Janet Crenshaw



Janet is the secretary to the OTPA Board, and was chair of the Preservation Committee for several years. She was originally recruited as a docent for the Home Tours and then got more involved in OTPA's preservation activities.

Janet and Al just bought a home in the 200 block of N. Cleveland. The house had been deteriorating for a number of years, but they saw that it has "great bones."

The woodwork throughout the house and the unique built-ins were particularly attractive to Janet, but the front porch of

their 1914 Craftsman Bungalow speaks to her heart. Memories of her grandmother's ranch in East Whittier are rekindled in the home and neighborhood.

As with many restoration works, this is a labor of love. Janet took a break from refinishing woodwork to talk about her love for Old Towne Orange.

Janet loves to sit on the porch and see the neighbors and she enjoys walking the neighborhood and seeing others on their porches. She thinks it is the most unique aspect of living here.

Janet is a third generation Californian and a retired schoolteacher. She grew up in Palm Springs and then Burbank where both her mother and father were PE teachers and coaches. It

See *Crenshaw*, page !

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**Crenshaw, continued from page 2:  
Old Towne Sparks Memories of Home**

must run in the family, because now Janet's daughter is a teacher in the same school she retired from, and has coached the Costa Mesa High School swim team. Janet has three children and 12 grandchildren. One of the bedrooms upstairs is dedicated to grandkids' visits.

Janet has a concern that we have to continually work with the city on the importance of preservation. She is glad to see that Chapman University is working collaboratively on

the preservation of the old Cypress Street School with the Orange Barrio Historical Society. She also hopes to see OTPA working to fund a scholarship for students interested in studying preservation.

In addition to her passion for quilting Janet loves traveling in Mexico. Unfortunately, the remodeling work does not leave much time for hobbies or travel. She is looking forward to resuming both when, as she says, "I can walk on the floors in bare feet." That day is coming.

**Annual OTPA Ice Cream Social--  
S w e e t !**



Pitcher Park will be the site of the annual Ice Cream Social. This event is becoming an Old Towne tradition and it is not hard to understand why: free ice cream from Watson's and Black Cows (root beer and vanilla ice cream, for the uninitiated).

This is a great community-building event and, of course, very popular with kids. The date is June 15 and the time is 6:30 p.m. We will also have members of the Orange Fire Department there with a fire truck and the Honey House will be open. All in all, this is a really wonderful evening for kids, their parents, and anyone who loves ice cream and meeting the neighbors.

**OTPA's Beginnings**

Most OTPA members have a fairly good idea of how our organization came to be, but for those out there who want a few more specifics, here is a quick summary of its inception.

In 1985, the city planned to demolish a house in order to expand the library. The last of the five children raised in the house had recently passed away. A group of people who saw the house as a piece of the architectural and historic fabric of Orange decided it needed to be preserved and protected. After all, the same people who had made Orange a thriving town built these homes and poured into them a craftsmanship that would soon vanish in the post-war building boom of the 1950s.

In spring of 1985 this small band of forward-thinking citizens organized themselves into Old Towne Preservation Association. By voicing their concerns and presenting a strong argument for preservation before City Hall, this seminal group saved the 1903 Welch home.

More homes were saved, building standards were adopted by the city, and in 1997, the U.S. Department of the Interior validated OTPA's preservation goals when Old Towne Orange was placed on the National Register of Historic Districts. It is, in fact, the largest contiguous residential historic district in California.

Here's to *all* the pioneers who have worked to create and preserve our unique town!

**Al Ricci**

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The Good Neighbor Award went to both nominees in the category, Joe and Michelle Cruz (above) and Shaun and Janelle Hall. This award recognizes new structures and sympathetic additions that demonstrate outstanding compatibility and harmony with neighboring historic structures.



Mike and Ann Thomas received the Pitcher Park Award for their outstanding landscaping enhancement on a historic site in Old Towne.



Dan Slater presented City Councilwoman Tita Smith with the OTPA Special Merit Award for significant contributions to Old Towne preservation.

## Looking Ahead to Preservation Dinner 2006

It may seem early, but making the dinner the successful event it is takes time and planning. Next year will be the twentieth anniversary of the Old Towne Preservation Association, and we are hoping to gather memorabilia from those twenty years. We will scan the materials and return them to the owners.

Patty Ricci also would love to hear from people who have memories of OTPA events, crises, accomplishments, and projects. Jot them down and send them to her at [ppshore@aol.com](mailto:ppshore@aol.com).

Tom and Mary Matuzak won the Sweet, Sweet Orange Award for outstanding restoration and preservation of a residential building.



Joan and Gene Smith, owners of Smith's Nut House and parents of Councilwoman Tita Smith, were recognized for having the longest-running family business in Orange.

**Paul Hudson**



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Philip Collin, Paul Guzman and Leo Castro, members of the Orange Barrio Historical Society, which won the Spirit of Old Towne Award.



Vickie Laughlin, the enthusiastic chair of the 2005 Preservation Awards Dinner.



Victor Wells, who attended the event with his daughter Betty, was honored as the eldest native still living in the city of Orange.



Nine individuals were honored at the dinner for living in Orange the longest. Among them were (clockwise from top left) David Hart, Jean Hart-Fairbairn, and Art Pargee.

**Community**, continued from page 2:  
**Recognizing Longtime Residents**

some cases, to see the house as it stands today.”

Presenters included county archivist Phil Brigandi, OTPA past president Bob Hitchcock, and Barbara Resnick, past president of the Orange Community Historical Society.

The honorees included Clarence “Mike” Eltiste, Art Pargee, David Hart, Jean Hart-Fairbairn, Mary Widdows, Lydia Walker-

Schroeder and Elsie Eckhoff Porter. Hilda Eisenbraun was honored as the eldest Orange Union High School graduate still living in Orange, and Victor Wells as the eldest native still living in Orange. The businesses honored were Shannon-Bryan Mortuary and Gene and Joan Smith for the longest running family businesses, and Watson’s as the oldest business in Orange.


**Membership News**

OTPA welcomes its newest members: Charles and Kathy Armendarez, Juan Diaz, Danelle Garrison, Rory Gibbs, Nicholas and Karlyne Greenro, Ursula Katz, Laurie Martin, Marli McGraw, Howard Miller, Jr., Perry & Kathleen

Rodriguez, Lorraine Torres, Amy Tucker and Jack Weisenberg.

New life members include Aleta Bryant, Patricia Cruz, Linda Greeley, and Gary and Bonnie Luther and new institution members include the Tustin Preservation Conservancy.

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# Orange Preserves

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## Happenings Around Towne

June 15	Ice Cream Social at Pitcher Park
September 2-4	Orange International Street Fair
October 27	Treats in the Streets!
December 4	Orange Tree Lighting and Choir Processional
December 11	Holiday Decorating Judging

*OTPA Hotline:  
(714) 639-6840*

Wednesdays in the Summer at Hart Park – Live Concerts at 7 PM

Second Saturday of the month in Hart Park – Rose Garden tending  
8 -10 AM

[www.OTPA.org](http://www.OTPA.org)