



# ORANGE PRESERVES

Preserving California's largest historic district.

[www.otpa.org](http://www.otpa.org) • [info@otpa.org](mailto:info@otpa.org) • 714-639-6840 P.O. Box 828 • Orange, CA 92856

Spring 2015



## 2015 OTPA Board of Directors



The 2015 OTPA Board of Directors has been hard at work, planning upcoming activities such as the May 3 Preservation Dinner Gala, the Labor Day International Street Fair food booth (Irish bangers!), the November 7 and 8, 2015 Home Tours, and four general meetings, including an evening with historian Phi Brigandi at Ruby's Diner in March, a special tour of the Gamble House in May, and a preview of Chapman's Musco Performing Arts Center in November. Our new board of directors includes some old faces as well as some new ones.

- President: Sandy Quinn
- Vice President: Tony Trabucco
- Treasurer: Carol Craig
- Recording Secretary: Diana Zdenek
- Communications Chair: Mary Matuzak
- Community Involvement Chair: Amy Thai
- Education & Research Chair: Guy Hinrichs
- Fund Development: Joe Ledbetter
- Member at Large: Bob Hitchcock
- Membership: Laree Lopez
- Past President: Michelle Carder
- Preservation Chair: Jeff Frankel

Please join us in our efforts to protect and preserve our unique neighborhood by becoming a member at [OTPA.org](http://OTPA.org). Follow Old Towne Preservation Association on Facebook.



New Board of Directors. Left to right, top row: Guy Hinrichs, Bob Hitchcock, Diana Zdenek, Amy Thai, Joe Ledbetter, Mary Matuzak  
Bottom: Laree Lopez, Carol Craig, Sandy Quinn, Jeff Frankel, Tony Trabucco

## Why OTPA?

Sandy Quinn, OTPA President

When I think about my term as president, I reflect on why the Old Towne Preservation Association was created.

It's easy. Thanks to its very special charm and character, the Old Towne Historic District is one of America's most unique neighborhoods. It's protected by city, state and federal ordinances. These protections help to prevent residents, businesses, and public agencies from tearing down old structures, remodeling with materials inconsistent with the original, or building something that would violate the City's very thorough design ordinances.

A great example of our work is the recent saving of the 84-year-old Killefer School from demolition. Fortunately, entrepreneurs are already coming up with ways to preserve the school building while also adaptively reusing it for needed housing.

OTPA works hard to make sure the city's design ordinances are followed, thus protecting Old Towne's core uniqueness. Our 2015 Board of Directors is committed to that mission. We regularly meet with city officials, home owners and developers on their projects, including city plans for a new parking structure near the Plaza.

Please attend our 2015 General Membership Meetings — from a special tour of Pasadena's famous Gamble House, to an exclusive sneak preview of Chapman's spectacular Musco Center for the Arts.

To our members, thank you for your support, and please renew when asked. To non-members, please go online to [www.otpa.org](http://www.otpa.org) and sign up! 🍊

# OTPA WINS IN EFFORTS TO SAVE KILLEFER SCHOOL FROM DEMOLITION

By Jeff Frankel, OTPA Preservation Chairperson

In a victory for the Old Towne Preservation Association's efforts to save the historic Killefer School, the California State Historic Resources Commission agreed with OTPA and voted unanimously that the school should be listed on the National Register of Historic Places and protected from demolition by developers.

"The preservation association is proud of its success in assuring that Orange will continue to enjoy this landmark educational structure, which played an important part in our community history," said Jeff Frankel, OTPA's preservation chair. "This is a huge victory for OTPA and our mission of protecting, preserving and enhancing our unique character."



The 74-year-old elementary school at 541 N. Lemon Street is more than historic and significant in time and architecture: It enjoys a dramatic place in California cultural history. Killefer

is believed to be the first school in California to voluntarily integrate students before a group of Mexican American parents challenged segregation and won their case in the Mendez vs Westminster court ruling of 1944. Such cases were instrumental in the Brown vs Board of Education decision three years later.

The 1.7 acre school and surrounding property is still owned by the Orange Unified School District, which put it up for sale last year. Several developers — and Chapman University — made bids. The first bidder, the Olson Company, proposed to demolish the school and build townhouses. Olson pulled out when the Old Towne Preservation Association objected and retained preservation consultants to coordinate the process for achieving national registration as a permanent historic building.

The only opposition came from the Orange Unified School District, which voted in a closed session not to support the school's listing as a historic landmark. The District had a representative in attendance at the State Historic Resources Commission hearing on Jan. 28 in Sacramento as did OTPA. The commission is a nine-member review board appointed by the governor for identification, registration, and preservation of California's cultural heritage. Its recommendations are reviewed and approved by the National Park Service for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, which is the next step for the Killefer School.

The listing will ensure that the school building cannot be demolished, but the structure can be adaptively reused by the property owner.

Other bidders are now exploring possibilities. 🍊

## Results from the 2014 OTPA Holiday Decorating Contest

**Best Block:**

200 N Pine

**Most Original:**

Bret and Michele Jackson  
253 Harwood

**Most Old Fashioned:**

Richard and Kristine Rohm  
181 N Pine

**Most Beautiful:**

Robert and Diane Von  
Gerichten  
340 E Palmyra

**Best Use of Lights:**

Pamela Daniels  
225 S Olive

**Honorable Mention:**

Jeff and Shirley McNeil  
304 N Pine



Pine Street neighbors and the Orange High a capella choir celebrate as Pine wins Best Block

# LET'S CELEBRATE!

05. 03. 2015 ▸ 5:30PM

## *The Preservation Dinner Awards Gala!*

Old Towne Preservation Association's 19th Annual Preservation Award Dinner Gala is set for 5:30 PM, Sunday, May 3, 2015 at the Woman's Club at 121 S. Center Street in Old Towne Orange. Our last award gala drew more than 150 Old Towne neighbors and community leaders for an evening of great food, fun and fellowship. Awards will be given in recognition of significant improvements and enhancements of Old Towne homes, commercial buildings and other properties. **Keep an eye open for prospective award nominations throughout Old Towne and submit a nomination, accepted until March 30.** You can make nominations as well as purchase tickets on the OTPA website: [www.otpa.org](http://www.otpa.org). Tickets are priced at cost, \$40 per person, since the awards dinner gala is not a fundraiser but an opportunity for members and others who live or work in Old Towne to come together socially. If you'd like to serve on the planning committee or donate a door prize, please contact chairperson Amy Thai at [info@otpa.org](mailto:info@otpa.org).

## 2015 Historic Orange Home Tour

**NOVEMBER, 7<sup>TH</sup> & 8<sup>TH</sup>**

Save the date and plan on joining OTPA for our historic home tour, Nov. 7 and 8, 2015, from 10 am to 4 pm.

10 am-4 pm. Once again, the gracious homeowners of beautiful, historic homes in Old Towne Orange will open their doors to you. Visitors are invited to sample a taste Orange's rich past and experience what makes this quaint historic district a cultural treasure, a desirable neighborhood in which to live, and a popular tourist destination.

Volunteers are essential, and we need you. A complimentary tour ticket will be given in exchange for your time. If you enjoy older homes and would like to volunteer, email [info@otpa.org](mailto:info@otpa.org) or call the hotline (714) 639-6840.

*Save the Date!*

OLD TOWNE ORANGE  
**2015**  
HOME TOUR

Sat & Sun  
Nov 7 & 8  
10 am - 4 pm

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





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An official publication of the Old Towne Preservation Association. Editor: Guy Hinrichs, [guy.oldtowne@yahoo.com](mailto:guy.oldtowne@yahoo.com)

## March 25 General Meeting - Orange Stories You (Probably) Don't Know

The Old Towne Preservation Association invites you to the first general meeting of the year on March 25 6:00 p.m. at Ruby's Diner Orange, 186 N. Atchison St.

Step back in time and join us as notable Orange historian Phil Brigandi recounts anecdotes about Orange's historical heritage. The master storyteller will share stories of other crops, communities, enterprises, and even civic arson that are also part of the history of Orange we all know.

OTPA Reception featuring Rubys' appetizers begins at 6pm, no-host bar. Presentation begins at 6:30pm.

Why not start the fun early and take advantage of Ruby's Happy Hour pricing for a no-host reception from 5:30-6pm?

Phil Brigandi has been researching and writing local history since 1975, with a special emphasis on his hometown of Orange. He is the author of two dozen books, some of which he will have on sale at this meeting (cash or checks only, please), including his book on historic homes in Orange, "A Place Called Home, Orange's Architectural Legacy."

Please RSVP by March 22, 2015 at [guy.oldtowne@yahoo.com](mailto:guy.oldtowne@yahoo.com)

## Please Welcome OTPA's Newest Members



Book Carnival

Lauren Peterson

Cheryl & Rich Gale  
(Roberts)

Nancy Paul

Wendy Salmond

Patrick Smith

Deanna Spangler

Carol Tallichet

Richard & Sylvia Turner

Marceline Wright