



Whittier Historic Neighborhood Association

NEWSLETTER

May 2007

Volume VIII, Issue 2

WHNA Annual Meeting

Thursday, May 17, 2007, 7:00 P.M.
Whittier Art Gallery
8035 S. Painter Avenue, Whittier

Join your neighbors to hear
Don Dooley, Whittier Planning Services Manager speak about

Historic Preservation in Whittier

Learn about and have your questions answered regarding
Historic Ordinances - Certificates of Appropriateness - Historic Tiers

Refreshments

Elections

Your Support Makes WHNA's Achievements Possible

The Whittier Historic Neighborhood Association is currently working on several neighborhood projects, including construction of a third stone monument sign, standardized house plaques stating the year a home was built, neighborhood tree planting, and historic neighborhood street signs.

Since its formation nine years ago, WHNA has moved steadily forward. A few of our many accomplishments include the design and construction of two neighborhood stone monument signs; publishing a neighborhood newsletter; addressing issues of local concern; holding general meetings

that cover a wide variety of topics; and annually sponsoring a neighborhood yard sale, home tour and holiday decoration contest. We have also made donations to Hoover Elementary School, the Women's and Children's Crisis Shelter, the Whittier Public Library and the American Red Cross.

These achievements were made possible through the steadfast support of our members, neighbors like you who love and appreciate our neighborhood's architectural heritage and sense of history with its friendly and diverse social, ethnic and economic make-up.

With this in mind, we invite you to become a member of the Whittier Historic Neighborhood Association. Membership is open to all residents living within our boundaries, both homeowners and renters 18 years old and older. Your support is important in helping WHNA continue its work of making our neighborhood a safe, comfortable and enjoyable place for all of us to live. So won't you please complete the membership form on the back page and mail it along with a \$10 check for your annual dues to: WHNA, P.O. Box 754, Whittier, CA 90608.

May is WHNA Membership Month . . . Join Today!

Calendar of Events

Weds., April - Oct. 5- 9 P.M.
Uptown Family Fair & Farmers' Mkt.

Sat., May 12 9:30 A.M. - 2 P.M.
Founders' Day Celebration
Central Park

Thurs., May 17 7:00 P.M.
WHNA Annual Meeting
Whittier Art Gallery
8035 S. Painter Avenue

Thurs., June 21 7:00 P.M.
WHNA Board Meeting
6211 Bright Avenue

Mons., July - August 7:00 P.M.
Concerts in the Park
Central Park

Thurs., July 19 7:00 P.M.
WHNA Board Meeting
6031 Bright Avenue

Tues., August 7 7-10 P.M.
National Night Out
Turn on your porch light as a symbol of neighborhood unity. Send the message that we are watching, listening and will call the police if anyone brings criminal activity into our neighborhood.

Thurs., August 16 7:00 P.M.
WHNA Board Meeting

Sat., August 18
Uptown Whittier Car Show
Greenleaf Ave. & Philadelphia St.

Sat., Oct. 27 10 A.M. - 4 P.M.
WHNA Home Tour

Meet Your Neighbors

By Rosie Seelt

Washington Avenue neighbors Barrie and Ruth Cruickshank returned home from vacation and were preparing to set out for San Diego when their beloved home began to shake violently. Walls cracked, plaster fell and their belongings spilled out across the house. That was almost 20 years ago, on the morning of October 1, 1987. That devastating event is now referred to by most longtime Whittier residents as "THE EARTHQUAKE."

After the dust settled, and the couple was able to take stock of the extensive damage done to their 1904 bungalow, they were advised by "experts" to demolish it.

Barrie and Ruth's home was the first to be constructed on their block and one of the earliest built in our neighborhood. The couple was immediately enchanted by the home's charms when they first looked through its windows in November 1970 and Ruth declared the large, empty living room would make a great concert hall. Despite the unfavorable "expert" advice they'd received, the two decided to forge ahead and repair their wonderful, old bungalow. When making that decision, however, they never imagined they were about to begin a five-year long project that would also include taking the whole top of the house off so an additional three feet could be added to turn useless attic space into a three-room, second story. Barrie and Ruth lived in their home throughout the entire reconstruction process, all the while keeping a watchful eye out for any treasures previous residents may have left behind. Sadly, they found nothing

but an envelope from Whittier Emporium dated 1909 and a few other bits of paper.

The couple first met on a blind date to the Rose Bowl in 1967 and married the following year. Barrie was

born in Pennsylvania and moved to San Bernardino when he was nine years old. He served in the US Navy and was in the Tonkin Gulf aboard the destroyer USS Brush in August 1964 when the first shots of the Vietnam War were fired. He



Ruth & Barrie Cruickshank

received his degree from Cal State LA, then spent the next 35 years working as a research chemist for Pilot Chemical in Santa Fe Springs. He retired last year when Pilot moved to Cincinnati, Ohio. These days, he can often be found under the brim of a straw hat hard at work in his immaculate yard.

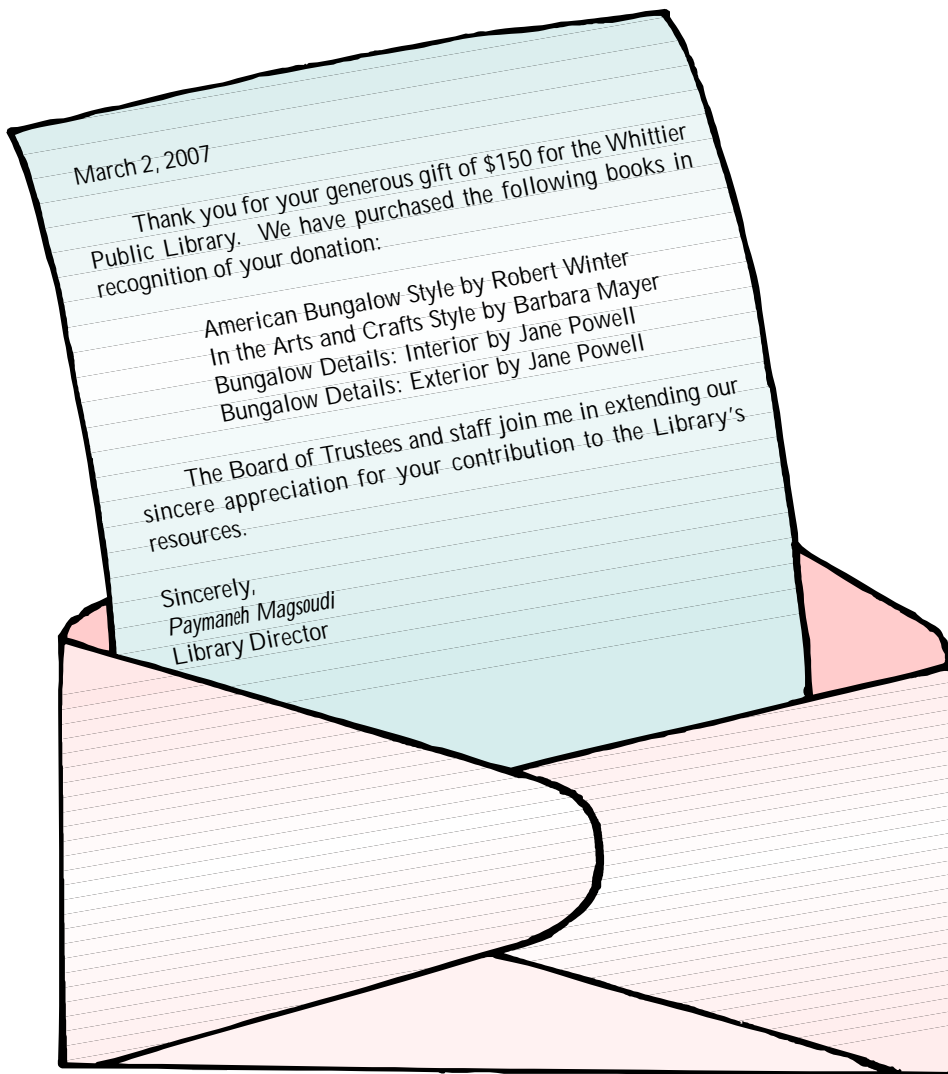
Ruth was born in Sacramento and raised in Montebello where her father had a camera shop. She plays a number of musical instruments. But it is the piano, which she began playing at eight, that has been her lifelong passion. After graduation from Whittier College she taught for two years in Los Nietos where she also directed both the band and orchestra. Since then, she has been giving private piano lessons in her home. Over the course of her career she has taught hundreds of local students, both children and adults, some of whom have gone on to earn music scholarships and become music teachers. She has played for weddings and the Rio Hondo Symphony, accompanied contestants in competitions, and performed at many

Continued on page 4...

Do You Know?

Do you know it is well documented by statistics gathered in communities throughout the country that historic designation of a neighborhood increases its property values and sales potential, leads to rehabilitation of older and historic homes, infuses new vitality into a community's historic character, and plays a principal role in neighborhood revitalization?

WHNA Mail Box



Be the first on your block to greet a new neighbor!

Life's Little Instruction Calendar:
All-time Favorites

2007/2008 WHNA Officer Nominees

The WHNA Nominating Committee has submitted the following slate to the Board of Directors for elections to be held at the WHNA Annual Meeting on May 17, 2007:



President
Joseph Aguilar



Vice President
Araceli Ortiz



Secretary
Diane Parra-Wilcox



Treasurer
Don Mathews

Whittier Historic Neighborhood Association
P.O. Box 754, Whittier, CA 90608
www.whittierhistoric.org

The Whittier Historic Neighborhood Association is a nonprofit membership organization.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rosie Seelt, President 698-1457
Joseph Aguilar, Vice President 693-1208
Molly Mendoza, Secretary 261-5329
Karen Bennett, Treasurer 696-4458

BLOCK REPRESENTATIVES

Doris Arcadi, Karen Bennett, Deba Canham,
Fran Coeur, Kathy Goldman, Shylo Gray,
Janice Harbin, Myra Hilliard, Molly Mendoza,
Sabron Newton, Araceli Ortiz,
Diane Parra-Wilcox, Jo Sarachman,
Risha Schodlbauer, Rosie Seelt,
Margo Smith, Bob & Karen Stoltz,
Gwen Woirhaye

BOUNDARIES

North: Orange Drive
West: Greenleaf Avenue
East: Painter Avenue
South: Central Park Historic District

DUES are \$10 per year (June 1-May 31)
per household.

The WHNA Newsletter is published three
times per year in January, May and September.

Meet Your Neighbors Cont.

private and public events. In addition to the 60 students Ruth currently teaches, this passionate and talented musician also regularly plays the piano at her church where she is the music director.

Barrie and Ruth enjoy traveling and hope to do more now that Barrie is retired. They have been to Hawaii three times and made two trips back east where they visited New York and Washington D.C. They took a cruise to Mexico last year, and are planning a trip to Alaska next year.

Neighborhood Notes

Welcome!

WHNA extends a warm welcome to Fran Coeur, its new block representative for the 5800 block of Washington Avenue.

Thank You!

WHNA would like to thank all of our neighbors who are helping in the fight against graffiti by diligently removing the small spots of graffiti they find throughout our neighborhood. We would also like to thank those who take the time to call the City and report the locations of larger graffiti incidents. We all benefit from their efforts to eradicate this unsightly blight from our neighborhood. A clean, good-looking environment goes a long way in helping provide a good quality of life for all of our neighbors.

If you would like a free graffiti removal kit so you too can help in this ongoing battle, please call 693-4119. The kits are for use in removing small taggings only. For larger incidents continue to call the City's Graffiti Removal Hotline at 464-3540.

Join Today! Annual dues of just \$10 per year (June 1-May 31), per household, help WHNA pay for flyers, three yearly newsletters, cost for general meetings, the Annual Holiday Decorating Contest and miscellaneous administration costs for its ongoing operation.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Please make check payable to: WHNA
P.O. Box 754
Whittier, CA 90608

2007/08