



OLD FORT LOWELL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION, INC. *NEWSLETTER*

January 2005



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Liz Walter, Webmaster

Mailing Address

OFLNA
5230 E. Fort Lowell Road
Tucson, AZ 85712
(520) 318-0219
<http://oflna.org>

ACRONYMS used in this Newsletter.

OFLNA
Old Fort Lowell Neighborhood Assoc.
OFLLAH
Old Fort Lowell Live-at-Home Program
FLHDB
Fort Lowell Historic District Board
DNR
Department of Neighborhood Resources

OFLNA Newsletter Staff
Editor Anita Stafford
Layout Dan Perino
Assembly John Collins & Friends
Proofing Ann Branham
Jeanne & Ray Turner
Chris Boyle

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The old year has flown out the door, and 2005 is now fast upon us. Last year was a very hectic one for OFLNA, and this one will be also.

During this New Year we will complete the restoration and renovation of the San Pedro Chapel complex. We will work to ensure that local development moves forward in a manner compatible with the spirit of our neighborhood and the Area Plan. And we will continue to share the gifts of our neighborhood with the greater community through the history lectures, our La Reunión celebration, the Home Tour, and our concert series.

Great things are happening in our small corner of Tucson. Many thanks to each of you who have been active in the neighborhood this past year. Of course, there is much work left to be done! If you have been considering getting more involved, now is the time.

On behalf of the OFLNA Council, I wish each of you all the best for a prosperous and joy-filled 2005.

W. Mark Clark, President OFLNA

HISTORY LECTURE SERIES

Those of us who live and travel in the Old Fort Lowell Neighborhood are reminded daily of the most endearing quality of our neighborhood, its remarkable sense of time and place. The goal of the lecture series is for participants to gain a deeper understanding of the cultures and historical developments that have shaped and enriched the Fort Lowell area from prehistoric times to the present.

The 2005 lecture series will take place at 3pm on four consecutive Sunday afternoons, starting on Jan 16. Ken Scoville, local historian and educator, will kick off the series with a presentation on the cultural and historical traditions of Fort Lowell as the neighborhood deals with its ever-changing surroundings. On Jan 23, Dr. James Klein, a local physician with a long-term interest in the history of Tucson, will share his knowledge of the early explorations in the Santa Catalina Mountains by the soldiers of Fort Lowell and the subsequent human development in these mountains.

On Jan 30, Barry Spicer, naturalist and long-term resident of the neighborhood, will use his unique perspective to present the natural history of the Old Fort Lowell Neighborhood. In the last lecture, on Feb 6, Ann Branham, neighborhood historian, will present more of the information gathered in the Oral History Project from both the descendants of the original settlers of El Fuerte and latter-day residents who have graced this remarkable spot of land in the Old Pueblo.

LA REUNIÓN DE EL FUERTE: Saturday, February 12, 2005

Mariachi Mass: 10:30 - 11:30 am.

Once a year, San Pedro Chapel goes back to its origins for the celebration of a special Mariachi Mass. The Mass honors Los Fuerteños, the builders of the chapel and El Fuerte's original residents. A special invitation is offered to all descendants of the Fuerteños and to

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OFLLAH will be holding a training for new volunteers in January, 2005. Please call Ann Branham if you would like to attend (275-6757). This is a good way to learn about the program even if you don't become a volunteer.

Once again **Bashas Supermarkets** will return a percentage of all purchases made at any of their stores if we use the OFLLAH number (23014). Obtain a card at customer service, use it once, and from then on all your purchases will be automatically credited to OFLLAH's account. Last year we received over \$200 from this program – thanks to all of you who kept OFLLAH in mind as you shopped. It will end on March 31, so be sure to register soon. If you registered last year, you need not do it again.

* In the 1940's, a form of rhythm and blues played in the bars and clubs on Chicago's south side was called the Chicago Blues. Typically played (loudly) by small groups with guitar, harmonica, base, and piano – all electric – and drums. The melody line and vocals drew heavily on rural blues with strong, dance-oriented rhythm (information taken from the Encyclopedia Britannica).

(continued from page 1)

the Fort Lowell area neighbors and their friends. The Mass celebration begins with a blessing of the Capillita, followed by a procession to the Chapel. Father Christopher Corbally will say Mass, with mariachi music by Trio Gala. After Mass, a social hour will be held on the Chapel grounds. All faiths are invited to attend.

Historic Walking Tour: 12:30 - 4:00 pm.

This tour through time in the Old Fort Lowell Historic Neighborhood follows the footsteps of the Hohokam, the soldiers at Fort Lowell, settlers from Mexico whose descendants still live in the neighborhood, the Mormon farmers, and Anglos who moved into the old adobe houses. Hosts will explain the significance of each site. The 24 stops on the tour include not only buildings but natural areas important for understanding the early settlement of Tucson. The tour starts at Cottonwood Lane in Fort Lowell Park or at San Pedro Chapel and is open to the public, free of charge. The tour reviews 1700 years of human activity in this area.

Along the walking tour route there will be Mexican food booths, music, cavalry drills, and period army re-enactments as follows:

- 4th Cavalry Regimental Band, at the park
- Mariachi Chukson, on El Callejón
- Old Time Fiddlers at the Commissary
- Trio Gala, at San Pedro Chapel
- Fort Huachuca Cavalry performing drills at the park
- Mexican Food Booths on El Callejón and at San Pedro Chapel
- La Tiendita Book Store, selling books and gift items of local interest near El Callejón. This year we are introducing beautiful pewter replicas of San Pedro Chapel as key rings.

It's not too late to help!

If you would enjoy being a volunteer site host or helping put up signs early or late or doing any of the other La Reunión details, call Jeanne Turner (326-6042), Janet Marcus (327-1339), or Peggy Sackheim (327-4285). We would also appreciate donations of finger food for the After Mass Social. Just bring these with you before the 10:30 Mass.

After the tour is over, everyone who has contributed to OFLNA's activities during the last year is invited to come to the Fiesta at San Pedro Chapel, from 5:30 to 9 pm!

CHICAGO BLUES AT THE CHAPEL: February 20

On February 20, at 3pm in the San Pedro chapel, Professor Paul and Friends will present a Chicago Blues* benefit program. All proceeds will go towards refurbishing the chapel piano.

Professor Paul has been playing blues gigs since 1971. A veteran of countless garage bands and even more jam sessions in central and south Los Angeles, the professor received his moniker on a Venice, California, bandstand. He traveled to Chicago in the early 80's to jam with the surviving blues founders. He was Big Walter Horton's regular piano player in the year before Horton died, and played with many other big names in Chicago Style Blues. He is well known among local musicians as a "Chicago Blues Purist," and the truth is, it's the only music that has ever touched his heart.

This will be an outstanding program for blues lovers, as well as for those who wish to know more about this special brand of Americana. Tickets are \$10 and will be sold at the door, or for advanced reservations, call Jeanne (326-6042).



Photo by Dan Perino 2003

UPDATE FLHDB (Fort Lowell Historic District Board)

The Fort Lowell Historic District Board (FLHDB) is pleased to announce the appointment of two new Board members. Members are appointed by the City of Tucson in one of three categories: property owner, specialist, and resident. Cate Varley joins us in the first category and Bob Hastings in the second as a history specialist. Both have been involved in OFLNA activities in the past and now bring their energy, commitment, and knowledge to the FLHDB – our good fortune!

Members of the FLHDB have represented the District at statewide and local forums. In July, we presented “30 Years of Stewardship” at the Historic Preservation Partnership Conference in Phoenix. This presentation was very well received, and is available for your viewing by contacting either Peggy Sackheim or me. We also were present in November for a discussion on the architecture of the Tucson Historic Districts at Pima College. FLHD was the only district represented. Members also have been actively attending the Historic District Coalition meetings, which include representation from City Preservation staff and the boards of the other historic districts recognized by the City of Tucson. Our Board members have also been active in the meetings about the new development plans at Tucson Medical Center.

Portfolio II, a compilation of articles and documents important to the Historic District, is now available for sale. The cost is \$70 for the complete collection, but each of the articles can be purchased separately for \$1 to \$35.

Under the auspices of the OFLNA, the FLHD will be promoting the Home Tour on March 12. If you are like me, you probably have been curious about the wondrous architecture and interiors of these special adobes, so join us to host a site or purchase a ticket to support our endeavor.

The FLHDB meets the 4th Tuesday of each month, and is bound by open meeting laws. Our agenda is posted on the announcement board at the driveway entrance to San Pedro Chapel, and our minutes are posted to the OFLNA website. Feel free to contact one of our co-chairs if you have inquiries about the Board and its work: Peggy Sackheim (327-4285) or Mary Lou Nuttall (325-6907) or email: marylouf@theriver.com.

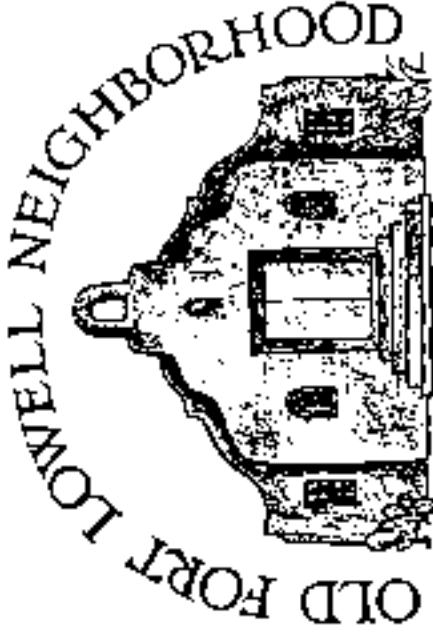
Mary Lou Nuttall, Co-chair FLHDB

FORT LOWELL HISTORIC DISTRICT ADOBE HOME TOUR

Three historic adobe homes of great charm will open hand-carved doors to the public, two for the first time, March 12, 2005, from 10 am to 3 pm. The Tucson homes, of Southwestern style, share common elements: they are all crafted of adobes made in the neighborhood, and all have been expanded and embellished by successive owners. Together, they illustrate the unique identity of the Fort Lowell Historic District. The three houses, two of which were raised from the ruins of Fort Lowell, span several architectural periods in the history of the neighborhood. Tickets will be \$25, and proceeds will benefit the preservation activities of the FLHDB including education and publication.

The February Newsletter will provide a full description of the tour. Further information can be obtained by calling (318-0219).

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LA REUNION DE EL FUERTE

**Saturday, February 12, 2005
12:30 ~ 4:00 p.m.**

Old Fort Lowell Neighborhood Historic Sites Tours
from Hohokam to Twentieth Century
Admission is Free



Self-guided walking tours start at any of these locations:
Cottonwood Lane, Fort Lowell Park Main Parking Lot
Fort Lowell Museum in Fort Lowell Park
San Pedro Chapel, 5230 East Fort Lowell Road

For information, call 318-0219, or www.oflna.org

**Fort Lowell Road between Craycroft and Beverly
will be closed between noon and 4:30 p.m.**



Mariachi Mass at 10:30 a.m.
for neighborhood residents & invited guests
at San Pedro Chapel, 5230 East Fort Lowell Road
After-Mass Social, 11:30 a.m.

Old Fort Lowell Neighborhood Association, Inc.

with the help of
City of Tucson • Arizona Historical Society Fort Lowell Museum
B Troop, 4th US Cavalry Regiment (Memorial) Fort Huachuca
Tucson-Prima County Historical Commission • Arizona Humanities Council
Tucson Parks and Recreation • City of Tucson Department of Neighborhood Resources
Otis H. Chidester Scout Museum of So. Ariz. • O'Riely Chevrolet
4th US Cavalry Regimental Band, Tucson • Enterprise Rent-A-Car
Fort Lowell Historic District Board • An Army of Volunteers
Myriad Anonymous Donors

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Department of Neighborhood Resources
P.O. Box 27210
Tucson, AZ 85726-7210

