



# OLD FORT LOWELL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION, INC. *NEWSLETTER*

February 2005



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## *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

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## **CHICAGO BLUES AT THE CHAPEL: February 20**

A reminder that on February 20, at 3 pm in the San Pedro Chapel, 'Professor Paul and Friends' will present a 'Chicago Blues' program. Professor Paul, none other than our own neighbor, Paul Clinco, has been playing the Blues since 1971. 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. 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. Join us for a lively afternoon!

Tickets are \$10 and will be sold at the door, or for advanced reservations, call Jeanne (326-6042). All proceeds will go towards refurbishing the chapel piano.

## **OFLNA HOME TOUR: Saturday March 12, 2005**

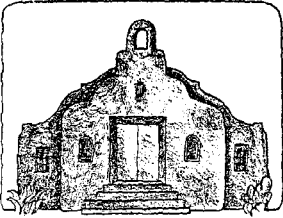
Three historic adobe homes of great charm will open hand-carved doors to the public, two for the first time, on Saturday, March 12, 2005, from 10 am to 3 pm. These homes are crafted of adobes made in the neighborhood, and each one has been expanded and embellished by successive owners, contributing to the unique identity of the Fort Lowell Historic District. Two of the homes are on the State and National Historic Registers.

**The Old Post Trader's Store**, 5425 E. Fort Lowell Rd., was built in 1873 by J.B. "Pie" Allen to serve the new fort. The building along the old wagon track was empty and in ruins when Pete, Nan, and Charles Bolsius bought it in the 1930s to create their version of a New Mexico hacienda. Today this home is noted for its Santa Fe style roofline, gargoyles, and projecting vigas. Within the shell of the old store, the Bolsius family literally raised a roof, adding bridge timbers to hold ceilings, and Nan Bolsius carved thirty-two corbels to support the vigas, and twelve doors, each unique.

The current owners, after purchasing the home in 1973, used antique architectural elements from Mexico and old Tucson to expand living spaces. The koi pond and swim pool have been designed to appear as part of the original complex, and the informal Sonoran gardens beckon cactus aficionados. This unique house was last open to the public 20 years ago.

**The Bolsius House**, at 5495 E. Fort Lowell Rd., was constructed by Charles Bolsius from the adobe shell of the 1880's Fort Lowell Commissary storage building. Starting in 1948, he carved all the woodwork, built pueblo fireplaces, laid adobe and burnt bricks, and crafted his own furniture in a unique southwestern arts and crafts style. Hand detailing

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**The Art Group (TAG)** announces that the next art show, to be held at San Pedro Chapel from April 20 to 26, will feature the paintings of Jon Lightfoot, a well-known Tucson artist. There will be many opportunities for volunteer helpers! More about this show in the next Newsletter.

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includes thirty-four carved corbels and twelve carved doors of various sizes and shapes, many *nichos*, and stained glass windows - all within a territorial exterior. The current owners have acquired some of the original Bolsius family furniture.

**The Duarte House**, at 2902 N. Beverly Ave., had its origin in a simple hand-built 1942 adobe house of three rooms, built by the Vicente Duarte family. The year 1942 was a time when the El Fuerte neighborhood was experiencing an 'Anglo' invasion as Tucson grew and losing its identity as an old Mexican village. Tour visitors will be treated to a quintessential Sonoran ranch house with handmade touches: uncovered walls of adobes made on site, hand-plastered walls of mud, and hand-carved corbels and woodwork. Cupboards and screen doors have been added by the current owner. Floors range from original burnt pavers to bricks set in sand.

**Tickets** are \$25 and can be purchased in advance at Details & Green Shoelaces, Cele Peterson's, Arizona Inn Gift Shop, and Copenhagen. They may also be purchased the day of the tour at each home. Proceeds from this home tour will fund historic preservation projects. For further information, call 318-0219.

## **MICHAEL HOPPE IN CONCERT**

**Sunday March 20, 3 pm, at San Pedro Chapel**

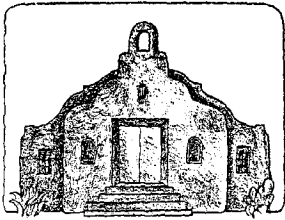
OFLNA is delighted to present Michael Hoppe and friends in Concert for an afternoon of beautiful melodies at the Chapel. Michael is a nationally known composer, pianist and musician 'extraordinaire,' invited here from Los Angeles by a Tucson friend who happens to be one of our neighbors, and we are privileged that this will be his only concert in Tucson.

Look for more details and a biography to follow in the March Newsletter. Tickets are \$10 and may be purchased at the door or by calling Jeanne (326-6042), or Donna (320-1302).

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This month we honor our sister association, *The Old Fort Lowell Live-At-Home Program* or OFLLAH, as it is known, now entering its sixth year of service to the neighborhood. Staffed by a part-time paid coordinator and many volunteers, OFLLAH serves as a model of a community caring for itself, and as a mentor to other Tucson neighborhoods wishing to set up similar programs.

**WHAT IS OFLLAH?** - *A note from the Program Coordinator Ann Branham who welcomes your calls and inquiries at 275-6757.*

**The Old Fort Lowell Live-At-Home Program, Inc.**, is a unique neighborhood-based program whose goal is to enable neighborhood residents to remain living independently in their own homes as long as possible. Since its inception in November 1998, we have provided help to over 80 of our neighbors. The program is financed by grants, donations, and fund-raising events (see below); and all of our clients, volunteers and board members must live or work within the neighborhood boundaries. (continued on page 3)



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Our volunteers are many, with diverse backgrounds. Most are retired. They choose the activity they would enjoy doing, from visiting to providing transportation, from minor home fix-up to occasional meal preparation. All volunteers are trained before serving and receive support and information from the Program Coordinator.

OFLLAH offers **quarterly educational lectures**, which are free and open to the community. We have a **loan chest** of home medical equipment, available free of charge to neighborhood residents. We hold annual **flu vaccination clinics** at San Pedro Chapel (2004 excepted) with the help of our district nurse from the Pima County Health Department. We are also committed to providing **social activities** for our clients. In 2004 we held two events: a brunch, and a trip to the butterfly exhibit at the Tucson Botanical Gardens, thanks to a United Way Compassion grant. This year we will host a brunch in the spring and a tea in the fall.

**Board of Directors:** The Board meets monthly and is charged with setting policy and fund-raising. We have an active board with a diversity of backgrounds. Our president worked in human resources, the vice-president is a retired nurse who also volunteers at Pima Council on Aging, our secretary is a geriatrician who also sings, and the treasurer works for a CPA. Other members include the founder of OFLLAH, who owns a home care provider service; a nurse who teaches at the UA College of Nursing; a former interior designer; and a former office manager who is a CASA volunteer. Our ex-officio advisor is also a nurse who formerly taught at the UA College of Nursing and was one of the founders of OFLLAH. In addition to their board duties, most members also volunteer for OFLLAH.

If you might be interested in becoming a board member, call board President Kate Flasch (327-9392).

**Outreach:** This fall and winter OFLLAH focused on reaching out to all those eligible for our services. With support from a grant from the Community Foundation of Southern Arizona, we published a newsletter, distributed information in the Glenn Aire subdivision to promote greater awareness of the program, and extended our service area south of Glenn to Grant. These three projects have been very successful, resulting in eleven new people enrolling as clients. Thirty-seven volunteers stuffed envelopes or walked the neighborhoods to deliver informative letters and brochures.

**Fund-Raising:** In 2003, OFLLAH took over the management of the Annual Flea Market from OFLNA to help raise money for our programs. **\*Please note\*** that the **20<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL EL FUERTE FLEA MARKET** will be held at San Pedro Chapel, from **Thursday to Sunday, April 7-10.**

**We rely on you**, our neighbors, to be generous with your donations to this important event. Time to clean out those closets and empty the garage! Dig out the sporting goods you no longer use, the books, toys, gardening tools, kitchenware, dishes, office equipment, electronics, gadgets, jewelry and furniture which gather dust and take up space. Please no clothing or shoes; donate those to another organization. Also note that we no longer accept consignment items.

Donations will be accepted at the Chapel during the week of Monday, March 28, through Saturday, April 2. Details will be provided in the March Newsletter.

**We've lost a friend:** It is with great sadness that we must tell her neighborhood friends that **Jean Wiener** died unexpectedly on December 22 of complications following surgery. She was a tireless contributor to our neighborhood life, whether in Orchard River, where she lived, or at OFLNA events. She was a ubiquitous presence at all the fund-raising events at San Pedro Chapel and had served as a site host at La Reunión de El Fuerte since 1987. Jean had a special relationship with the Old Fort Lowell Live-At-Home program, serving on the Board of Directors since 1999, as Vice-President for the past four years and as a volunteer. She was a tremendous source of information and guidance for OFLLAH and for the Program Coordinator. Jean was an unassuming person, and, although we knew and respected her for her gifts to neighborhood life, many had no idea that her passion for assisting the aging population extended beyond our boundaries: to Jewish Family and Child Services, to the Pima Council on Aging, where she spent most of her professional career, and finally to Phoenix, where she served as Chair of the Governor's Council for Aging. She will be greatly missed.

## OFLNA CALENDAR 2005

### OFLNA Home Tour: Saturday, March 12, 10 am - 3 pm

You may start the tour at any of the following houses:

5425 E. Fort Lowell Rd.,

5495 E. Fort Lowell Rd.,

2902 N. Beverly Ave

### The Healing Power of Music: Benefit Concert with Michael Hoppe

Sunday March 20, 3 pm, at San Pedro Chapel.

### El Fuerte Flea Market Sale:

Thursday, April 7, 6 - 9pm,

**OFLLAH and OFLNA members-only preview**

Friday, April 8, 10am - 2 pm - open to the public

Saturday, April 9, 9 am - 3 pm - open to the public

Sunday, April 10, 12 noon - 3 pm - open to the public,

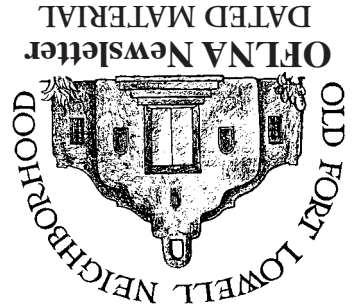
half-price day

### Galleria San Pedro: Art Show with Jon Lightfoot: April 20-26

Opening hours to be announced in March Newsletter.

The OFLNA Council meets the third Tuesday of the month at the Adobe House at 7 pm. Open to the public. For info call 318-0219.

The Fort Lowell Historic District Board meets the fourth Tuesday of the month. Call Mary Lou Nurtall (325-6907) for time and place. Open to the public.



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