



PARK BEAT

The Pulse of Greater Boulevard Park

Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association # Box 163179, Sacramento 95816 # March 2021

Please Support Your Neighborhood Association!

In a “normal” year, when Boulevard Park can have its usual array of public events, it is easy for residents to support the BPNA by volunteering their time at our neighborhood yard sale in the spring or the spaghetti dinner in September. Their participation is also integral to the success of the progressive potluck dinner at National Night Out in August and of our annual holiday party in December. Especially now, as we still hunker down during the pandemic (earnestly hoping that we can unmask and assemble at some point this year), annual membership dues are an important way to support the BPNA.

Residents are encouraged to pay an annual fee of \$5 to \$15 per adult member of their household, but really **any** amount is welcome—*whatever you can afford*. Membership dues help cover the cost of printing this monthly newsletter, distributed throughout the greater Boulevard Park neighborhood, and members will receive a digital copy by email if they request. Membership dues and the income earned from the periodic yard sale also help make it possible for the BPNA to make occasional donations to local schools and other worthy causes. So, please don’t hesitate—fill out the membership form on the bottom of **page 6** of this newsletter and send it to the BPNA. Alternately, you can go to the BPNA website and pay online (<https://www.boulevardpark.org/membership-form>).

Thank you for your involvement in your neighborhood association!

A Brief Report from the BPNA Board

The newly elected members of the 2021 Board assembled for the first time on February 4, continuing the practice of meeting on the first Thursday of each month. The Zoom platform is still being used in lieu of in-person gatherings. February’s session began with Jon Marshack’s announcement of the 2020 winner of the George Bramson Award in Historic Preservation, Sacramento State student Michelle Trujillo (see article on **page 6**). Next on the agenda was a discussion of the most recent report submitted by Travis Silcox, BPNA’s representative on the District 4 Homelessness Task Force. This new committee, formed by Council Member Katie Valenzuela, is charged with addressing homelessness within our district. Among other things, Travis reported that the City Council has passed a budget for temporary shelter sites, weather warming stations may be opened, FEMA money reimbursement is coming to Sacramento for some homeless housing, and full funding by the City is approved for the new Office of Community Response. It will provide an alternative to a police response for resolving many homeless, mental health, and violence prevention emergency calls. Board members were pleased with what has been done but expressed concern that the garage at 21st and Capitol is being considered for use as a “safe parking facility” when venues outside overly impacted Midtown could be used for emergency housing instead.

Other topics addressed at the meeting included Board officer assignments for 2021, a possible calendar of BPNA events for the upcoming year (whether in person or online), the potential expansion of Sutter’s Landing Park as a result of the City’s acquisition of 30 acres of land near the Blue Diamond facility, and Sacramento’s eight-year housing strategy, a component of the City’s general plan (for more information about the 2021-2029 Housing Element, the topic of online workshops held in January and February, go to: <https://www.cityofsacramento.org/Community-Development>). As reported on the Community Development website, the Public Draft Housing Element will be reviewed by several City commissions in March before being brought before City Council on **April 6**.

The Trees of Midtown: Littleleaf Linden

This popular ornamental tree can occasionally be seen growing along Sacramento streets and, more dramatically, along Capitol Mall between 7th and 9th Streets. Littleleaf linden (*Tilia cordata*) is a deciduous tree native to much of Europe. It grows to a height of 40 to 60 feet and has a rounded shape on top with branches that are often very dense. Leaves are heart shaped. Growth rate is moderate, roots are deep, and the tree tends to be long lived. Littleleaf linden tolerates both heat and cold and does well in the adverse growing conditions found in cities such as Sacramento, but it is only fair in the drought tolerance department.



The tree's small yellow green flowers appear in early summer and have a rich heavy scent which is attractive to bees. In parts of Europe, linden flowers are a traditional herbal remedy and are made into an herbal tea called lime tea. Honey produced from this tree is widely used all over Europe. The young leaves can be eaten as a salad vegetable. The white fine-grained wood is not structurally strong but is popular for refined wood carvings and other lightweight projects.

Some Safe Cycling Tips

As more and more people ride their own bicycles or rent shared ones, it is important for every cyclist to be on the same page for the safest and most enjoyable trips and rides.



As stipulated by the California vehicle code (Division 11, Article 4, n. 21200), anyone riding a bicycle on a highway must follow all of the traffic laws and rules that apply to motor vehicle drivers. Here are the top three tips for safe cycling:

- (1) Bicyclists must ride in the same direction of vehicle traffic.
- (2) Bicyclists must stop at all stop signs and lights.
- (3) When riding at night, bicyclists must have front and rear light.

For more information about recommended cycling practices, go to the DMV's website page for "Bicyclists & Pedestrians" (<https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/driver-education-and-safety/special-interest-driver-guides/bicyclists-pedestrians/>).

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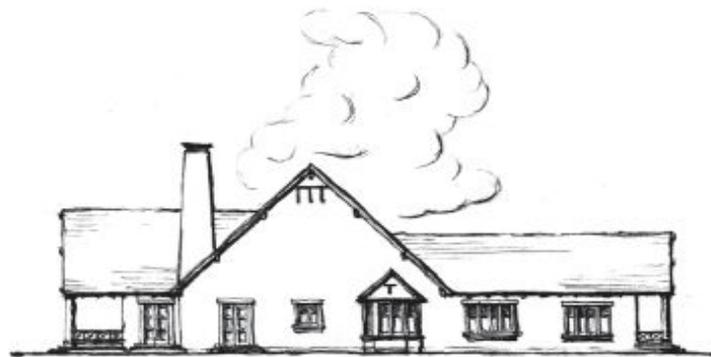
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Catherine Turrill Lupi	turrillc@csus.edu

Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association's purpose: The BPNA was created to support, promote, and improve the quality of life for the residents of the greater Boulevard Park neighborhood. By achieving this goal we strive to improve the quality of life for others who work and live in and around Boulevard Park, and therefore in Sacramento as a whole.

Committees

Membership:	Ellen Hunt
Preservation, Planning, and Land Use:	Jon Marshack

Park Beat Production Team

Newsletter Editor: Catherine Turrill Lupi
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March 2021:

Places to Go, Things To Do (Really & Virtually)

NOTE: As of February 19, very few live public events were listed on the City's Sac 365 website (<https://www.sacramento365.com/>). Check individual organization websites for announcements and updates. Below are a few events, programs, and dates to remember.

Every Wednesday: "Wednesdays at Winn," a certified farmers' market in Winn Park (food trucks also present; 28th and P Streets, 3:00 - 7:00 p.m.; website: <http://exploremidtown.org/wednesdays-at-winn/>).

Every Saturday: Midtown Farmers' Market (9 a.m. to 1 p.m., 20th Street between J and K).

Online and streamed events in Sacramento: Go to Sac 365's Online/Virtual space site for information about online programs (<https://www.sacramento365.com/venue/online-virtual-space/>).

Mar. 3-24: Sacramento Jewish Film Festival 2021, with 24 feature films and numerous short films, live chats with filmmakers and actors, and other events, all online (fee charged; single film and multiple film ticket packages are available). Website: <https://sacjewishfilmfest.org/>

Thu., Mar. 4: BPNA Board Meeting, via Zoom (6:30-8 p.m.). Open to BPNA members and other interested residents. Contact Dave Herbert for information or to suggest agenda items.

Mon., Mar. 8: International Women's Day, with the theme "Choose to Challenge" (website: <https://www.internationalwomensday.com/>)

Thu., Mar. 11: "Spotlighting Local BIPOC Artists," part of the Crocker Art Museum's Equity in Museums series, conducted via Zoom (5 p.m.; free, but advance registration is required). Website: <https://www.crockerart.org/event/2566/2021-03-11>

Places to Go, Things to Do (cont.)

Sun., Mar. 14: Daylight Savings Time begins.

Sun., Mar. 14: Sacramento Antique Faire, held under the freeway on the second Sunday of every month, rain or shine (2100 X Street; 6:30 a.m.-3 p.m.). Masks and social distancing required. Website: <https://www.sacantiquefaire.com/>



Wed., Mar. 17: St. Patrick's Day

Sat., Mar. 20: First day of Spring

Sat., Mar. 27: Passover begins at sundown

Sat., Mar. 27: CA Museum Live! "Women Inspire: California Women Changing Our World" (11 a.m. to noon): Live, interactive tour of the exhibition. Free to museum members, \$7 admission for others. Advance registration is required. For more information, go to: Website: <https://www.californiamuseum.org/ca-museum-live>

Sun., Mar. 28: Palm Sunday

... And looking ahead to early April:

Thu., Apr. 1: BPNA Board Meeting, via Zoom (6:30-8 p.m.). Open to BPNA members and other interested residents. Contact Dave Herbert for information or to suggest agenda items.

Fri., Apr. 2: Good Friday

Sun., Apr. 4: Last day of Passover; Easter Sunday

Seasonal News from a Century Ago



In February 1911, the state assembly failed to pass a resolution making Saint Patrick's Day a legal holiday in California. Nonetheless, Sacramento and other cities around the state held their own festivities, as shown in this story printed in the *Sacramento Union* on March 9, 1911:

**Harp of Erin to Wake on Night of St. Patrick's Day
 SONG AND ORATORY ON BIG PROGRAM
 Hibernians' Committees Have Plans for Event of March 17.**

St. Patrick's day in Sacramento will be celebrated this year on a far more elaborate and brilliant scale than has ever before been attempted, and the general committee in charge of the arrangements, headed by the Rev. Father John F. Ellis; William J. O'Brien, county president of the Ancient Order of Hibernians; James Kearns, past president; M. O'Connor, county vice president, and a host of willing workers, just completed one of the most talented programs ever presented in this city. The general committee has spared no effort to obtain the best talent for the musical and literary exercises at the Clunie theater on the night of March 17. It has required weeks of work to complete the program, and bring it to its present state of perfection, and every Irish society in the city and lover of the land of the harp, will be present to hear the musical gems. The Rev. Father William F. Ellis has been selected to deliver the oration of the evening, entitled, "Ireland, a Nation." The college orchestra, under the direction of Brother Leo, will render selections during the evening.

New Historic Districts in the Works

by Jon Marshack

Most of Sacramento's historic districts are inside the Central City, the area between the Sacramento River and Alhambra Boulevard, from the American River to Broadway. Three new historic districts outside this grid are currently in the planning stages.

In 2017, City Planning staff and members of Sacramento Modern completed an award-winning project that established a framework for understanding buildings from the mid-20th century. They also did a citywide survey of these resources. This architectural period, also known as "Mid-Century Modern," begins after World War II and lasted until the early 1970s.

As an outgrowth of this project, the City is now working with local residents to develop a new historic district in South Land Park Hills Unit No. 7. This development, located along South Land Park Drive, Fordham Way and Oakridge Way, was built in 1955-56 by Joseph Eichler and his firm, Eichler Homes, Inc. He also retained the services of the architecture firm Jones & Emmons to assist with the design. Jones & Emmons became internationally renowned during their 18-year partnership with Eichler.

Eichler offered his modern homes at moderate prices to any buyer without regard to race, religion, or national origin. Eichler was the most prominent homebuilder in the country during the 1950s to practice such nondiscrimination policies.



Don Cox and Paula Boghosian of Historic Environmental Consultants are working with area residents and City staff to create another new historic district, this time in the Curtis Park area. Montgomery Way between Franklin Boulevard and East Curtis Drive formed the gateway to the South Curtis Oaks development in the early 1920s. Several model homes, designed by locally prominent architects Charles and James Dean and furnished by the John Breuner Company, were featured in this development by the Carly Company. Twenty-three homes on this street were built the 1920s and 1930s in eclectic revival styles, including Italian Renaissance Revival, Spanish Mediterranean Revival, American Colonial, French Revival, and Tudor.



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Many prominent Sacramentans owned homes along Montgomery Way, including the developer J.C. Carly (*house in the photo, lower left*) and two of his business partners. The idea for the new historic district arose out of two landmark nominations to both the Sacramento Register of Historic and Cultural Resources and the National Register of Historic Places that were sponsored and funded by the owners of these two homes. A signature gathering effort showed that a majority of residents either supported or would not oppose the formation of a new historic district.



At the urging of the preservation community and with the support of City Council members, the National Register-listed New Helvetia Housing Complex, also known as Alder Grove Apartments, will soon be nominated to the Sacramento Register, providing greater protection for this low-income housing project built in the 1940s. Once destined for demolition, this development is just south of Broadway and west of the Old City Cemetery. The complex is associated with Nathaniel Colley, the first African American attorney in Sacramento, who had a significant role in the effort to implement fair housing practices.

What Style Is My House? Craftsman

by Jon Marshack

The seventh in a series of essays that explore the rich heritage of house styles in the Boulevard Park and New Washington School neighborhoods, this article is the first of two about Craftsman houses. It focuses on larger examples; the second article will be about the more common Craftsman bungalow.

The Craftsman style, popular from 1900 to 1930, is an early modern style rooted in the Arts and Crafts movement. The style was a reaction to the excesses of the Victorian era, with an emphasis on simpler horizontal lines, natural forms and high-quality craftsmanship. The structure of the Craftsman house is emphasized, rather than added decoration. There is a focus on natural materials—shingles, redwood, rough stone, clinker brick, and river rock.

Craftsman houses have gabled roofs with broad overhanging eaves, which are sometimes flared, exposed and projecting rafter tails, purlin tails and roof beams, the latter supported by triangular knee braces. Protruding rafter tails are often cut on a diagonal or in a Swiss or Japanese motif.

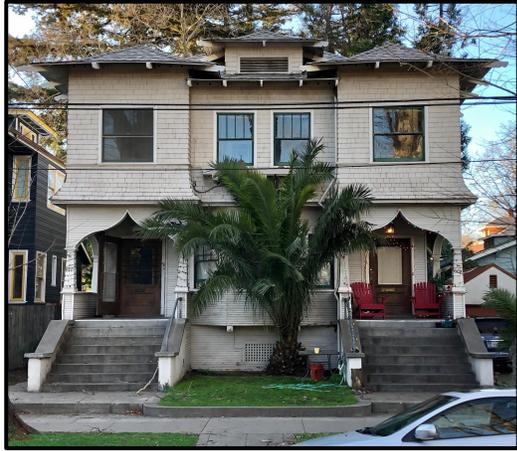
Craftsman-style roofs often have gabled or shed dormers to accommodate upper floor windows. The roofs of large first floor porches and upper floor sleeping porches are supported by square or tapered “elephantine” columns made of wood, river rock, or rough clinker brick.



2215 I Street (Landmark; 1910)



2101 G St., Cranston-Geary House (Landmark; 1909)

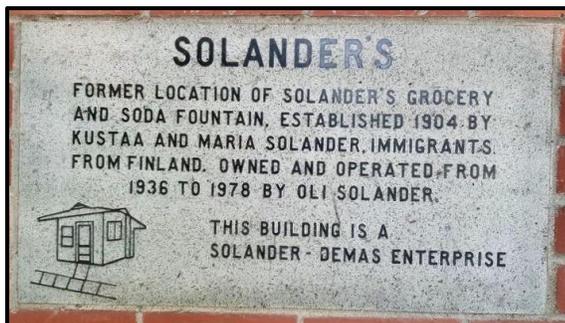


608-610 21st Street (Landmark; c. 1908)

Double hung windows have multi-pane upper sashes over single pane lower sashes. Casement windows, often grouped in twos or threes, are common. Most Craftsman homes have extensive interior woodwork (originally unpainted), along with built-in bookcases and china cabinets with leaded glass doors. The floor plans also are more open than those in Victorian homes.

Neighborhood Treat: Solander's Marker

Anyone who has walked from Boulevard Park to McKinley Library along the north side of F Street may have noticed the words roughly scrawled into the sidewalk near the corner of Alhambra: “Solander's, from 1904.” The explanation for that inscription is provided by the plaque installed on the outside of the 1980s commercial building at 3031 F (designed by architect Dean Unger). Members of the Solander family operated a grocery and then soda fountain in a frame building on this site for about 62 years. Finnish immigrant Gustavus (Kustaa) Solander worked several years as a carpenter and cabinetmaker for the Southern Pacific before deciding to open his own business just down the street from the family home in 1915. His widow Maria and then his youngest son, Oli (known as O.J.), ran the store after him. Called the “Squire of McKinley Park” by some residents, O.J. held court at Solander's Soft Drinks for 40 years. His customers included notables such as boxer Max Baer and movie star Buster Keaton, who enjoyed a dish of Peerless ice cream at the shop while making a movie in Sacramento. In the *Bee* photo below, O. J. is shown at the doors of his business in 1977, not long before its closing (courtesy of the Center for Sacramento History).

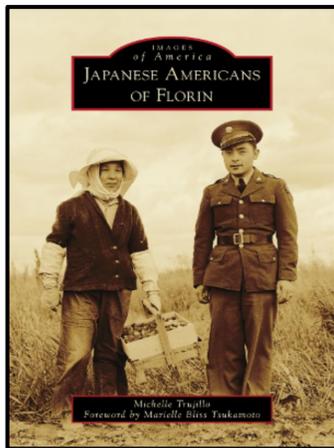


New Book Highlights Little-Known Florin History

Building Blocks of Urbanism: An Introduction by Enzo Arona

First-generation Japanese Issei immigrants arrived in Florin in the 1890s, after attempts at profitable strawberry cultivation by Florin landowners had failed. By 1905, Issei farmers had developed effective techniques for growing strawberries that delivered a resurgence of the crop and led to the crowning of Florin as the “strawberry capital of the world.” But Japanese successes were hard-earned in the face of racist discrimination, including the Presidential order that led to the forced removal of Japanese Americans to concentration camps between 1942 and 1945.

This is the subject of Michelle Trujillo’s new book, *Images of America: Japanese Americans of Florin* (Arcadia Publishing, 2021). Produced in conjunction with her master’s thesis in Public History, Michelle’s book increases the overall understanding of the plight of Japanese Americans in the Sacramento area. Her book and MA thesis also resulted in her receiving the George Bramson Memorial Award in Historic Preservation (2020).



I’m Enzo Arona, your neighbor here in Boulevard Park, and I’m delighted to introduce my new monthly column, “Building Blocks of Urbanism,” to the readers of *Park Beat*. In this series, I aim to pull back the curtain to show what makes our neighborhoods tick, as well as introduce you to both quick, easy fixes and long-term endeavors that will help mend and care for the delicate fabric of our public space. While I recognize that there will be times when my opinion will not be one shared by all readers, I will always endeavor to properly evaluate and present scientific data with full transparency about the thought process behind my conclusions.

A few ideas you might see discussed in future articles include, but are not limited to, the consequences of urban sprawl and commuter towns, and the health and environmental impacts on cities that rely on such a structure; the concept of utility cycling, safer streets, and public transit as the defining mode for a cleaner future; and, in the interests of a properly intersectional perspective, the extensive history of redlining in Sacramento and the modern class and race-based segregation that came in its wake. With these, I hope to inspire awareness of and discussion about what I feel are the most relevant and pressing urban problems we experience in our neighborhood.

Offered for the first time in 2004, this award honors Sacramento State students’ achievements (as demonstrated in a project or written paper) in the field of historic preservation in California. It takes its name from George Bramson, a noted historic preservation activist in Sacramento and a beloved Boulevard Park resident (died in 2003).

Like other books in the *Images of America* series, copies of Michelle Trujillo’s book are available at local businesses and online (<https://www.arcadiapublishing.com/Products/9781467105910>).

Like many of us in Boulevard Park, I am not a resident defined by a single mode of transportation; rather, I make decisions based on practicality and convenience. I look forward to discussing as a community what a multi-modal future could look like in our neighborhood with more equity for all users of the streets. I offer many thanks to *Park Beat* editor Catherine Turrill-Lupi for hosting my column. I welcome any and all input at this email address: enzoarona@outlook.com.

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