



PARK BEAT

The Pulse of Greater Boulevard Park

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

BPNA's 2021 General Membership Meeting is Well Attended

About thirty people attended the 2021 BPNA General Membership meeting on January 13. Offered in a virtual format for the first time in its history, this year's meeting featured four very compelling guest speakers. Board member Jon Marshack, acting as host, opened the meeting with a brief review of BPNA's 2020 accomplishments and activities (curtailed due to the pandemic), a few comments about the city's 2040 General Plan Update, and a short eulogy for the late Reverend Lee Page, former rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church and founder of the beloved Weatherstone coffee shop in the 1970s.

The first guest speakers of the evening were Tom Biglione and Sean Ward from Friends of Sutter's Landing Park. They described the park's many amenities as well as the challenges facing the park as it grows in popularity. Over the last year, as reported in the January issue of *Park Beat*, an increasing number of people have discovered the park's easy American River access, sandy beaches, and delightful native habitat and wildlife. More visitors, and a growing number of homeless encampments, also have created the need for more maintenance (trash removal, habitat restoration, etc.). Volunteers are always welcome to help keep the park in good shape (if you can help, send an email to: foslpark@icloud.com). For more information about FOSL, go to its website (<http://www.sutterslandingpark.org/>). Katie Valenzuela, our new District 4 City Council member, spoke next. She explained the many duties her new job entails, the many committees in which she will be involved, and the many urgent challenges she is anxious to tackle. Finding adequate safe camping and parking sites for the homeless is a number one priority for Katie, and the topic of a recent survey conducted by her office. Our last guest speaker was Bridgette Dean, Interim Director of the City's new Office of Community Response (<https://www.cityofsacramento.org/City-Manager/Divisions-Programs/Office-of-Community-Response>). As explained in an article in the January issue of *Park Beat*, Bridgette has been charged with establishing a service alternative to 911 calls that do not require a police response. In these cases, qualified personnel would be sent out to deal with situations related to homelessness, mental health, and violence prevention.

The membership meeting concluded with questions and comments from audience members about a wide range of topics, including proposed residential city zoning changes, problems created with double parking of delivery vehicles, and ideas for encouraging greater diversity of people, occupations, and lifestyles in the Sacramento's Central City. *Thanks to all our neighbors who joined us!*



We Have a Board!

The members of the Boulevard Park electorate have spoken, and, as was announced at the General Meeting on January 13, the full slate of candidates was selected for the 2021 BPNA Board. In alphabetical order, and as listed on page 3 of the newsletter (where you also will find their email addresses), this year's Board members are: **Liz Edmonds, Dave Herbert, Ellen Hunt, Catherine Turrill Lupi, Max Mack, Jon Marshack, and Sher Singh**. This will be Max Mack's first term on the Board. He and the other six candidates provided personal statements about their interests and qualifications in the December issue of *Park Beat*. The 2021 Board will hold its first meeting on Thursday, February 4. The new Board assignments will be announced in the March issue of *Park Beat*. We all are grateful to Travis Silcox for her service on the 2020 Board and wish her well in her work for the District 4 Homeless Task Force.

Trees (and Other Plants) of the Sacramento Area: Sweet Fennel

Sweet fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*) is a hardy perennial herb plant commonly found along the American River Bike Trail as well as near roadsides, along riverbanks, and in vacant lots. A member of the carrot family, fennel is native to the Mediterranean shores but has become widely naturalized in many parts of the world. It is abundant throughout California. It propagates easily by seed and is considered an invasive species in some areas. Green in color with tiny yellow flowers, fennel grows up to 8 feet tall. The leaves look similar to those of plants like dill, coriander, and caraway.

The bulb, foliage, and fruits of this highly aromatic, widely cultivated herb have many uses in many culinary traditions of the world. The bulb is a crisp vegetable that can be sautéed, stewed, grilled, or eaten raw, and has a licorice flavor similar to the flavor of anise. The small flowers of wild fennel are the most potent form of the plant. Tender young leaves have many uses in salads, stews, and sauces.

Be careful when foraging for wild fennel, however. Some related plant species, such as the very toxic poison hemlock, resemble fennel, so it is very dangerous to use the wild plants as food unless they are positively identified as edible.



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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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February 2021:

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

NOTE: As of January 21, 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). Before you go, be sure to read the current health precaution guidelines posted on the Explore Midtown website (<http://exploremidtown.org/midtown-farmers-market/>).

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/>).

Thu., Feb. 4: BPNA Board Meeting, via Zoom (6:30-8 p.m.). Planning meeting for 2021; Board member assignments also will be decided. Meeting is open to BPNA members and other interested residents. Contact Dave Herbert for information or to suggest agenda items.

Fri., Feb. 5: B Street Theatre's Six Feet Apart: Ratboys (7 p.m., followed by a Q&A with the artists). Free, but advance registration required. Website: <https://bstreettheatre.org/six-feet-apart/>.

Sat., Feb. 6: 14th Annual Galt Winter Bird *Virtual* Festival (participation is free, but advance registration is required; see article on **page 4**).

Thu., Feb. 11: "Discussing Native American Representation in Museums," free online program hosted by the Crocker Art Museum (5 p.m.). See article on **page 5**.

Places to Go, Things to Do (cont.)

Fri., Feb. 12: B Street Theatre's Six Feet Apart: Band D'DAT (7 p.m., followed by a Q&A with the artist). Free, but advance registration required. **Website:** See Feb. 5 calendar entry.

Mon., Feb. 15: Presidents' Day

Fri., Feb. 19: B Street Theatre's Six Feet Apart: Pianist Inna Faulks (7 p.m., followed by a Q&A with the artist). Free, but advance registration required. **Website:** See Feb. 5 calendar entry.

Fri., Feb. 26: B Street Theatre's Six Feet Apart: Casper Skulls (7 p.m., followed by a Q&A with the artists). Free, but advance registration required. **Website:** See Feb. 5 calendar entry.

Sat., Feb. 27: CA Museum Live: Coming to California (11 a.m. to noon): Virtual tour of several exhibits. Free to museum members, \$7 admission for others. Advance registration required. Website: <https://www.californiamuseum.org/ca-museum-live>

... *And looking ahead to early March:*

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.



Art Lovers & Book Lovers Rejoice

Amatoria Fine Art Books, a women artist-owned independent bookstore specializing in the fine arts, is in full operation at 1831 F Street. This unique business—the only fine art bookstore in the city of Sacramento—is now open six days a week (Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.). Its owners, Laurelin Gilmore and Miranda Culp, took over the site and stock of the late Richard Press, who passed away last November. The location, an historic commercial building on the northwest corner of F and 19th Street, is handsome. There are few Sacramento shop spaces more beautiful on a sunny morning than this deep, high-ceilinged, wood-paneled room filled with shelves and shelves of books. Browsing is encouraged!

Amatoria specializes in fine art books specifically, but its owners can suggest several local brick-and-mortar vendors if customers are looking for books on other subjects. Typical recommendations include **Time Tested Books** (1114 21st Street), **Beers Books** (915 S Street), and **Crawford's Books** (5301 Freeport Boulevard), each of which deals in a wide range of used books. For more information about Amatoria, go to its Facebook site:

<https://www.facebook.com/amatoriafineartbooks/>

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Galt's 14th Annual Winter Bird Virtual Festival

This year's festival, described as a "unique online experience," is being held on **Saturday, February 6**. Scheduled events and activities include a youth art contest, two 45-minute bird drawing classes (beginner class at 9 a.m.; advanced class at 1 p.m.), three tours of the Cosumnes River Preserve (two virtual tours and a self-guided driving tour), and a keynote presentation by naturalist John Muir Laws (title: "How to Build a Better Bird Brain"). Participation in festival activities is free, but advance registration is required. For more information and to register for one or more of the events, go to the festival website: <http://www.ci.galt.ca.us/about-galt/special-events/11th-annual-winter-bird-festival>



Plumbers' Corner



Right: *The minister uses a plumber's wrench to tighten the marital union between Ralph Francis and Rose Earle (Bee, January 1968)*

Left: *205 and 217 22nd Street*



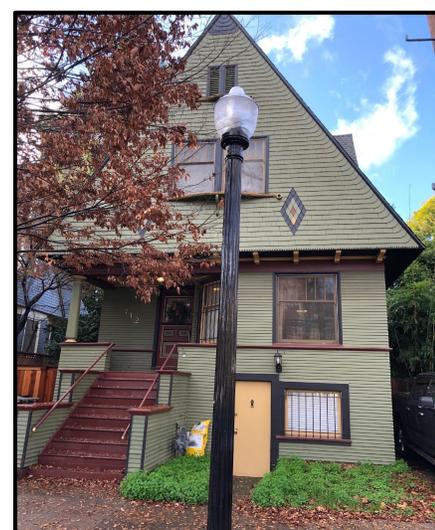
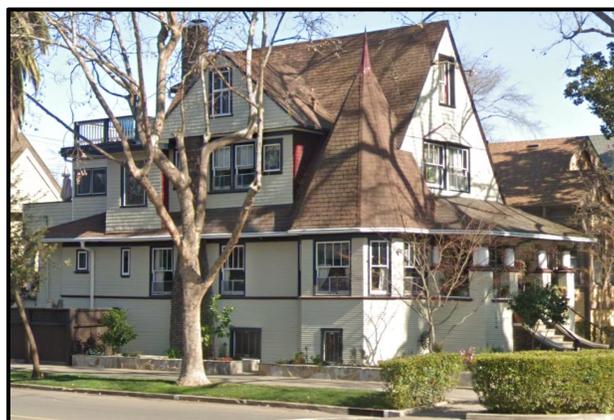
Standing at the corner of 22nd Street and Blues Alley are two structures with intertwined histories: the former home of plumber Otis Robert Earle and his wife Rose Pierini Earle (217 22nd Street) and the building occupied by ABC Plumbing, one of the oldest continuously operated businesses in our neighborhood (205 22nd Street). However, Earle Plumbing Co., once located behind the Earle home, had an even longer history. Founded by Henry W. Earle in 1859, the business was inherited by his sons in the 1890s, with Otis Earle taking full control of the family firm by 1908. Otis and Rose built their Craftsman style bungalow—described as a "\$2,500 dwelling" in the permit—in Boulevard Park in 1911. Six years later, they secured a building permit for a one-story shop on the lot behind their home and moved the plumbing business there from its downtown location (827 I Street).

After Otis died in 1930, his widow Rose took over the business, becoming the first licensed female plumber in California. She continued to run it as a family firm, with her brother Alberto Pierini serving as foreman. In 1959, after a century of operation, the Earle Plumbing Company was admitted to the state's 100 Year Club. Three years later, Rose retired and closed down the business. Her 1968 marriage to another retired master plumber, Ralph T. Francis, was the topic of several news stories in the *Sacramento Bee* (the newspaper photograph above was taken at their wedding). Following Rose's death a few months later, John J. Lessman secured a permit to construct storage buildings and an office space for his family firm, ABC Plumbing and Heating, on the other side of the alley from the Earle house. He was succeeded in the business by his son Robert and then his granddaughter Karen. Although no longer owned by the Lessman family, ABC Plumbing continues to thrive, sending its distinctive vans out into the Boulevard Park neighborhood and beyond.

What Style Is My House? Eastern Shingle Cottage by Jon Marshack

Residents of northern Midtown are fortunate to live among a variety of architectural house styles, which together create a rich heritage. Have you ever wondered about the style of your house? This is the sixth in a series to explore Boulevard Park and New Washington School house styles. In this article I present a style that is not as frequently encountered in our two historic districts, *Eastern Shingle Cottage*. This style shares Classical and Colonial Revival influences with Classic Box (American Foursquare), Neoclassic Rowhouse, and Dutch Colonial Revival styles that were the subject of my October, November, and January articles, respectively.

Popular between 1880 and 1915, the Eastern Shingle Cottage house style is a subset of the broader Shingle Style. Houses in that style have a substantial portion of their sides covered in shingles and with restrained ornamentation. In Eastern Shingle Cottage style houses, the first floor is similar to the Neoclassic Row house with its raised first story, narrow clapboard or ogee wood siding without interruption at corners, recessed porch with classic columns, and shallow bay window to one side. The second floor is very different, forming a large, steeply pitched, A-shaped gable that is twice the height of the first floor. The gable ends are covered in shingles with the bottom row of shingles often cut into a sawtooth design. Roof eaves are enclosed and extend considerably beyond the first-floor walls. The second floor normally has dormers projecting from either side of the sloping roof, allowing for the introduction of additional second floor bedroom windows. Eastern Shingle Cottage style homes can be thought of as Dutch Colonial Revival with the A-frame roof shape replacing the Dutch Colonial's gambrel shape.



From left to right: 714 18th Street (1900); 2401 H Street (c. 1899), and 712 18th Street (1900)



Equity in Museums: A Virtual Discussion Series Hosted by the Crocker Art Museum

This year the Crocker Art Museum is offering a virtual discussion series about racial and social equity in museums and cultural institutions, with programs scheduled in January, February, and March. The second program in the series, offered at 5 p.m. on **Thursday, February 11**, is about “Discussing Native American Representation in Museums.” According to the description posted on the Crocker’s website, the series is intended to “open the conversation up to the wider public through attendee participation.” Each hour-long program features new panelists from the cultural sector and will be recorded for future distribution. Participation is free, but advance registration is required. For more information and to register online for the program, which will be conducted via Zoom, go to the Crocker Museum’s website

<https://www.crockerart.org/event/2565/2021-02-11>.



Fritz Scholder, *Bicentennial Indian*
(color lithograph, 1975; Crocker Art Museum)



Photos courtesy of the Center for Sacramento History (left) and Robert Kuchman (above)

The Boys, the Band, and the Boulevard

Alexander and Otto Noack, younger brothers and business partners of jeweler Charles J. Noack Jr., both built large homes in Boulevard Park in the first phase of its development. They also were talented musicians, performing with several Sacramento bands in the 1880s and 1890s, among them the Artillery Band, the Sacramento Hussars Band, and the Foresters' Band. Otto even had his own orchestra, Noack's Orchestra, which he directed for many years (see the photo at the upper left). Historic photographs of the Noack brothers' jewelry business, which operated at different sites in downtown Sacramento over the years, are included in the "Retail and Services" chapter of the book *Sacramento's Boulevard Park*.

Alex Noack secured a permit to build his "\$3,700 two-story dwelling" in September 1906 (2119 G). It was just the third house to be built on the block bordered by 21st, 22nd, F, and G Streets. A "foursquare" residence in a Neoclassical style, it has Ionic pilasters on its corners, two columns in its front porch, and symmetrically arranged windows. Otto Noack bought a lot around the corner from his brother in 1908 and applied for his building permit two years later (March 1910). Described as a "\$6,500 eight-room frame building" in the permit, his house also has a Neoclassical look, with its stucco walls and the four tapering pillars in the front porch (617 21st Street). It is a spacious residence, intended from the start to serve two households: Otto and his wife Katherine, a department store manager; and the family of Katherine's sister, Pauline Kuchman (wife of Charles Kuchman). For nearly twenty years, from 1910 to 1929, the east side of the 600 block of 21st Street was occupied only by Otto Noack's house and two even more imposing houses to either side, owned by Joseph Marzen (2100 F, built in 1910) and Robert Cranston (2101 G, built in 1909). All three residences are shown in the photo above, probably taken in about 1911.

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