



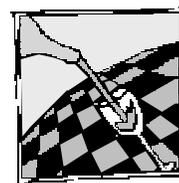
## PARK BEAT

*The Pulse of Greater Boulevard Park*

Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association • Box 163179, Sacramento 95816 • September 2009

### Annual BPNA Spaghetti Dinner

Saturday, September 12, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. • 2101 G Street



Boulevard Park's biggest annual event is our Spaghetti Dinner, scheduled for **Saturday, September 12th**.

Don't miss this terrific event. Attending this event will give you not only the opportunity to enjoy a great meal, but also a chance to meet or reunite with neighbors, and have a relaxed, entertaining and enjoyable evening. If you also plan to join the Second Saturday Art Walk, make the Spaghetti Dinner part of your evening. Come early and fortify yourself for a tour of the galleries.

Dinner will be served from 5:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. at 2101 G Street, the landmark home of Pete, Robyn and Jesse Bramson. The menu includes--surprise! -- spaghetti, the usual choice of home-made Bolognese (meat) and vegetarian sauces, green salad, garlic bread, and dessert. The main course is provided by BPNA; in accordance with a long-standing tradition, guests are encouraged to bring a favorite dessert to share with others.

This year's entertainment – for children of all ages – will begin at approximately 5:45 p.m. when a local magician, **Richard Kowaleski**, will dazzle us all with his repertoire of creative and mysterious illusions.

Tickets for the dinner are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 10. Additionally, beverages will be available for donations of \$2 and \$3.

*So note the date on your calendar, bring a dessert to share, and join your neighbors for this really fun event. We hope to see you there!*

### Annual SOCA Home Tour in Boulevard Park – Sunday, September 20

September is a very busy month for Boulevard Park residents. No sooner will we have put away the pasta plates from the September 12 Spaghetti Dinner then we will be hosting the **34th Annual Home Tour** sponsored by the Sacramento Old City Association.

Century-old homes, part of the original Wright and Kimbrough development that replaced the Union Park Racetrack in the first decade of the 20th century, will be among the eight residences open to the public for touring from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on **September 20**. Some of the homes selected for the tour are illustrated in the book by Paula Boghosian and Don Cox, *Sacramento's Boulevard Park*. For recent photographs of all eight tour sites, go to: <http://lumski.smugmug.com/Architecture/798235>.

Volunteer docents, most of them Boulevard Park residents, will greet visitors at homes at 1822 G Street, 2020 H Street, 2111 F Street, 2117 F Street, 2130 H Street, 627 22nd Street, 2211 G Street and 2401 H Street.

Tickets for the Home Tour can be purchased in advance for \$18 at the Spaghetti Dinner and other venues (see the list on the BPNA website and in the August issue of Park Beat). On the day of the tour, tickets will be sold at the fair on the 21st Street median between E, F, G, and H Streets (\$20, with a dollar discount for bicyclists). Also featured at the fair will be booths

staffed by historic preservationists, artisans, home restoration professionals, specialists in energy conservation, and others. Local musicians will entertain tour participants and other passersby throughout the day, and restored vintage cars will be parked in front of the historic homes, courtesy of the Sacramento Capitol A's automobile club, celebrating its 50th anniversary this year (1959-2009). **Don't miss this important event! You even may be in time to help with the Home Tour in exchange for a half-price ticket (\$10.00): Contact Vickie Valine ([viva2org@cwo.com](mailto:viva2org@cwo.com)) or Catherine Turrill ([turrillc@csus.edu](mailto:turrillc@csus.edu)) if you are interested in volunteering.**

#### National Night Out Progressive Potluck Dinner – Thank you!

*This year's annual Progressive Potluck Dinner was the best!* The largest number of neighborhood residents – ever – were on hand to share this really fun evening. The weather was wonderfully cool, encouraging participants to meet initially at 6 p.m. on the 22nd Street Median between F and G Streets for a large number of delicious hors d'oeuvres. This fine culinary experience was followed by a leisurely stroll to the home of Fred Hull and Susan Allair at 25th and H Streets, where dining tables and chairs were set up, for a sumptuous array of salads, bread, warm and chilled entrees, and beverages. At 8 p.m., those who had not quite partaken of enough delicious food ambled over to Marshall Park for ice cream and pie. A giant "thank you" goes to all those who contributed such terrific food, to Fred and Susan for once again offering their yard for the entrees, and to those who participated in this annual event.

## Places to go, people to see

**September 7 – Neighborhood Response Team (NRT) – 7:00 p.m.,** home of Jan Seaman, 1822 G Street. Are you aware of illegal dumping, parking problems, or other city code violations in your area? Come see what can be done about them. *For more information or to report a code violation, contact Jan Seaman at janseaman42@comcast.net.*

**September 10 – BPNA Board Meeting – 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.** Contact Rob Sperling at 444-8147 for location and to add items to the agenda. *Open to BPNA members and other interested neighbors.*

**September 12 – Second Saturday Art Walk –** Each month, galleries around town stay open late into the evening to showcase specific artists and new showings. Many serve wine and hors d'oeuvres. *Check out their web site at [www.sacramento-second-saturday.org](http://www.sacramento-second-saturday.org).*

**September 12 – Annual BPNA Spaghetti Dinner – 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.** Come spend time with your neighbors and enjoy great spaghetti! *See details on page 1.*

**September 15 – Copy and Ad Deadline for October issue of Park Beat.** To submit articles and calendar entries, email Asha Jennings at [ashajennings@gmail.com](mailto:ashajennings@gmail.com) or call her at 803-7409. To place an ad, call Rob Sperling at 444-8147.

**September 19 – Great American River Clean-Up – 9:00 a.m.,** Sutter's Landing Park. *See details on page 4.*

**September 20 – Annual SOCA Home Tour in Boulevard Park – 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** Start at the street fair on the 21st Street medians between F, G, and H Streets. *See details on page 1.*

**September 21 – Area 1 Neighborhood Advisory Group (NAG) Meeting – 6:15 to 8:30 p.m.,** Hart Senior Center, 27th and I Streets. *Contact Janine Martindale at 808-8193 or at [jmartindale@cityofsacramento.org](mailto:jmartindale@cityofsacramento.org) for information.*

**September 24 – Friends of Grant Park Sponsor “Crafty Kids at the Park” (10:00- 12:00 noon).** *See details on page 4.*

**September 26 – Green Thumb Brigade – 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.,** meet at 711 22nd Street. Come help keep our traffic circles in tiptop shape! We also need volunteers to water the traffic calming devices. *Please contact Sally Flory-O'Neil at 446-3390 or [sallyfo@hotmail.com](mailto:sallyfo@hotmail.com) if you would like information on traffic calming devices in need of watering – some of them may be near your home!*

**Every Monday – Monday Night Skate – 7:00 p.m.,** Meet at the parking lot at the corner of 3rd and S Streets. *For more information, go to [www.sacramentoskating.com](http://www.sacramentoskating.com) or call Brian Malone at 715-2808 or Bernard Scoville at 447-8288.*



**CRESS PAINTING**  
“When it's worth doing right”

**TOM CRESS**  
**(916) 203-9674**

residential, renovations  
apartments, commercial  
free estimates  
Contractor's Lic. #539004

## Historic Homes of Boulevard Park

### 610 22nd Street, Thomas Madeley House

This unusual house has Mission Revival details – such as the deep arched entrance porch and upper parapet wall – applied to the typical Colonial Revival cube form. The bay windows are another style variant not usually found with Mission Revival. The cement finish was very modern for 1912, when this house was built by Thomas W. Madeley, one of the founders of the California Fresh Fruit Exchange.

The Fruit Exchange was a very powerful institution with its headquarters located at 10th and N Streets (now on the National Register of Historic Places), directly across from the Capitol. By 1910, practically all the deciduous fruit of the State was shipped through Sacramento; 85% was grown within a 90 mile radius of the city. Two other important exchanges that emerged in these years were the Pacific Fruit Exchange (whose general manager, Willson C. Walker, built his home at 614 22nd Street in 1911) and the Pioneer Fruit Exchange. Another Boulevard Park neighbor in the produce business was William Lincoln Pritchard, Jr., Manager of Ennis-Brown Wholesale Produce, whose 1910 home at 627 22nd Street is on the SOCA Home Tour this year.



*[Adapted from “Boulevard Park: A Walking Tour” by the Historic Boulevard Park Committee.]*

## Streetcar Desired

By Margaret Buss

As reported in the July and August issues of Park Beat, Regional Transit has developed a long-range plan that includes the possibility of a streetcar line from the Sacramento Railyards through midtown to East Sacramento and beyond. A map included in the plan indicated the streetcar alignment to be along H Street, which is residential, but the text indicated the alignment would be J Street, which would provide more access to businesses along the route. When asked for clarification about the conflicting information, staff at RT said that, because the streetcar line would not become a project in the foreseeable future, there has been no decision about which street would carry it – so, in that sense, both the text and the map are right.

J Street might now be the preferred alignment from the point of view of residents and businesses, but, interestingly, H Street was an important streetcar route in the past. The first step was taken back in the 1870s with the construction of a horse-drawn streetcar line from the Central Pacific Railway depot on Front Street to the Union Racetrack at 20th Street, the original site of Boulevard Park. The streetcar line later was extended to East Park (McKinley Park) on 31st Street. The line was electrified in the 1890s.

In the late 19th century, H Street was considered a posh address, and the streetcar provided both service to the homes and easy access to the racetrack. When the racetrack was moved and Boulevard Park developed in its place, in the early 1900s, H Street remained a desirable location due to its proximity to the trolley line. Some of the finer homes of the new neighborhood were built on lots near it. The H Street line was abandoned in the late twenties or early thirties, according to William Burg, author of *Sacramento's Streetcars*, though the north side of Boulevard Park continued to be served by the C Street trolley line for several more years.

## BPNA Board of Directors 2009

CHAIR	<b>Rob Sperling</b>	444-8147	robsperling@sbcglobal.net
SECRETARY	<b>Catherine Turrill</b>	278-5786	turrillc@csus.edu
TREASURER	<b>Hal Edmonds</b>	599-5814	capnhalt@gmail.com
<b>Margaret Buss</b>		448-6246	mbuss@jps.net
<b>Marc de la Vergne</b>		448-6909	marcangela@comcast.net
<b>Sally Flory-O'Neil</b>		446-3390	sallyfo@hotmail.com
<b>Dave Philipp</b>		212-1322	dave@davephilipp.com

*Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association purpose: The BPNA is 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 thereby to improve the quality of life for others who work and live in and around Boulevard Park and for Sacramento as a whole.*

## Committees

**Membership:** Sally Flory-O'Neil, 446-3390

**Preservation:** Margaret Buss, 444-0406

### Park Beat Production Team

**Editor:** Asha Jennings, 803-7409, ashajennings@gmail.com

**Advertising Manager:** TBA

**Graphic Designer:** Katworks, 707-865-2899, katworks@comcast.net

**Repro:** Grady's Copy Shop, 1228 H Street, 444-6166

**Block Captain Coordinator:** Leo Pauly

**Great ad rates! Call 444-8147 for details.**

**The deadline for ads and copy for the Oct. issue of Park Beat is Sept. 15th by 5pm!**

## Our Boulevard Park Centenarian

Our much-loved neighborhood friend, **Louise Barbato Barbosa**, celebrated her hundredth birthday on July 29. The oldest daughter of Vito and Francesca (Stassi) Barbato, Louise (Luigia) immigrated to the United States from Sicily with her mother and two sisters, Rose (Rosalia) and Vita, when she was six years old. The Barbato and Stassi families came from the Sicilian village of Piana degli Greci, or "Plain of the Greeks," as it was known then. The Barbato name had a long history in that region. Giovanni Barbato was one of the first Albanians to settle there in the 1400s. According to local histories, he and other early settlers had been driven from Albania to Italy by Turkish forces. With time, their Sicilian village, located on the slopes of Mount Pizzutta outside Palermo, came to be known as Pian degli Albanesi. However, in the local Albanian dialect, the town was called "Hora e Arbëreshëvet," or "Home of the Arbëresh."

Vito Barbato sailed from Palermo to Boston in 1911 and traveled overland to Illinois, where he initially worked as a miner. He made one return voyage to Sicily before his wife and three daughters were able to join him in the United States. According to her grandchildren, Francesca sold everything the young family owned in order to buy passage on a newly-launched steam-ship, the SS. Giuseppe Verdi, in November 1915. It was a courageous venture. With World War I underway and ships under attack by German and Austrian submarines, traveling by sea was very risky (the Lusitania had been sunk only five months before, in May 1915). Francesca's family feared at one point that her ship had been torpedoed while passing through the Straits of Gibraltar. The SS. Giuseppe Verdi escaped attack that Fall, but she made headlines prior to her return voyage to Italy in January 1916 when she was outfitted with guns for defensive purposes.

The Barbato family remained in Illinois for nearly a decade before moving to Sacramento, where Vito took a job with the Southern Pacific Railroad. By then there were three more children, all born in Illinois: Josephine, Joseph, and the youngest, George.

The Barbato family was very close. Looking back at those early years in the Boulevard Park home on C Street, Louise recalls the lively family meals in the dining room, where her brother Joseph kept everyone laughing. During the hot summer months, they often gathered around the large table in the basement kitchen downstairs. Vito and Francesca grew much of what the family ate in the deep garden plot behind the house and they also kept chickens.

*Please patronize our advertisers!*

By Catherine Turrill

The family also was united by a strong work ethic. In the 1930s, for example, Vito was a laborer with the Southern Pacific Railroad, Francesca had a job in one of the canneries (where her three older daughters also had worked as teenagers), Louise was a bookkeeper, Rose was a telephone operator, Vita was a seamstress, Josephine was a typist, Joseph was a clerk, and George was a messenger. Both Louise and Rose worked for the Postal Telegraph Cable Company, where Louise went from bookkeeper to branch manager. Her office was in the old Hotel Senator on L Street, overlooking the Capitol. Louise, Rose, and Vita also were active members of the "Business Girls Club" of the Y.W.C.A. during these years.

Louise later lived in Dallas, San Francisco, and Healdsburg, but finally returned to the family home in Sacramento in 1994 after the death of her brother George. She often has shared her childhood memories of Boulevard Park with her neighbors and takes great pride in her "Arbëresh" heritage. We all wish her a happy hundredth birthday.

*"Mille Grazie" to Louise's nieces, Kareen Bibby (Vita's daughter) and Irene Price (Josephine's daughter), for their help with this article.*

## BPNA Is Now on Facebook

Readers of the August issue of *Park Beat* already knew that our neighborhood website was up and running ([www.boulevardparkna.org/](http://www.boulevardparkna.org/)), but did you also know that BPNA is now affiliated with Facebook? It's easy to become a "fan" of BPNA if you already are registered with Facebook. Just type "Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association" in the "search" block, click, and you will become a fan, with access to any information shared via Facebook by other BPNA residents who are registered as fans.

### BNPA New & Renewing Members

**July 16-August 15, 2009**

Tracy Fairchild

Asha Jennings & Jim Younkin

Colleen Whalen

### Etc.

Not getting your *Park Beat* newsletter regularly or can't remember where you put it? You can be added to the email distribution of the newsletter, just send an email to Rob Sperling at robsperling@sbcglobal.net. You will still receive the paper copy, as usual.

**Friends of Grant Park and Friends of the River Banks:  
September and October Events**

**Saturday, September 19 – Great American River Clean Up**, with participation by Friends of Grant Park and Friends of the River Banks. Starting at Sutter's Landing Park (north end of 28th Street) at 9:00 a.m., this event replaces FORB's usual Second Saturday nature walk. It offers everyone an opportunity to give back and make the river a better place for all of us. It also will be fun for the whole family, and all ages are welcome, but remember that those under 18 will need a consent form signed by parents. To make the day more enjoyable, please be on time, leave the dogs at home, and bring gloves, sunblock, mosquito repellent, drinking water, and a snack. You also might want to wear a hat, long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, and sturdy shoes. *For more information on the Great American River Clean-up (including a copy of the consent form mentioned above), please go to: <http://www.arbf.org/garcu.shtml>*

**Thursday, September 24th (10:00 am to 12:00 noon)**  
Friends of Grant Park will sponsor another "Crafty Kids at the Park" event, as on August 27. Wear something that can get messy and join us for some fun crafts and play in Grant Park!

**Save the date on Sunday, October 4th, for the Fifth Annual Midtown Children's Fair in Grant Park, noon to 3:00 p.m.**  
Don't miss this wonderful family event that includes entertainment, resource tables, food, and fun for the whole family! This is a great opportunity to meet your neighbors, find out about area resources, and make new friends.

All of the events sponsored by the Friends of Grant Park are funded by First 5 Sacramento, the Prop 10 tobacco tax that provides funds to promote the healthy development of children under five. For more information about events sponsored by the Friends of Grant Park, go to [www.friendsofgrantpark.com](http://www.friendsofgrantpark.com). To be added to the e-mailing list, send a message to: [info@friendsofgrantpark.com](mailto:info@friendsofgrantpark.com). *For more information about Friends of the River Banks and its monthly activities, contact Laurie Litman (e-mail: [llitman@pacbell.net](mailto:llitman@pacbell.net); telephone: 916-443-2976).*

**LOUIE**

**DONALD J. LEWIS, JR.  
GENERAL CONTRACTOR  
HOME IMPROVEMENTS  
REPAIRS  
HANDIWORK**

AFFORDABLE HOURLY RATES  
FOR SMALL JOBS  
LOCAL TO THE MID-TOWN AREA

**916-443-6617  
916-443-6618 FAX  
916-838-5677 CELL**

[lcnlw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lcnlw@sbcglobal.net)      [louie1250@vzw.blackberry.net](mailto:louie1250@vzw.blackberry.net)

WINDOWS AND DOORS  
CARPENTRY  
PLUMBING  
ELECTRICAL  
ETC.

KITCHENS AND BATHS  
DRYWALL AND PAINT  
CONCRETE AND STUCCO  
DECKS AND FENCING  
ETC.

Licensed, Bonded, and Insured  
CSLB #662431

**EDMONDS AND PHILIPP: *Your Way Home***



Whether buying or selling, call the team that lives & works in Boulevard Park.  
Recycling vintage homes in record time is our specialty!

*Dave Philipp*  
**REALTOR**  
916.212.1322  
[dave@davephilipp.com](mailto:dave@davephilipp.com)



*Liz Edmonds*  
**REALTOR**  
916.838.1208  
[liz@lizedmonds.com](mailto:liz@lizedmonds.com)



**Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association Membership Form**

Send form with your \$5.00 to \$15.00 check (less than 4 cents a day per household!) for the remainder of the calendar year to:  
P.O. Box 163179, Sacramento, CA 95816-9179

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

- New Member**       **Renewing Member**       **Yes! I want to help. Call me.**  
 **Would you like to receive the newsletter by email, as well as home delivery?**