



OLD FORT LOWELL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION, INC. *NEWSLETTER*

January 2004

GET READY FOR "La Reunión de El Fuerte" 2004!

- ◆ Did you know that the historic Fort Lowell area still contains the remains of ancient Hohokam dwellings, aqueducts built by Mormon farmers, the ruins of army buildings, and the adobe homes of early Mexican settlers?
- ◆ Did you know the area was populated by Native Americans as early as 12,000 BC?
- ◆ Have you ever heard how Mt Lemmon and Summerhaven got their names?
- ◆ Are you aware that the early neighborhood was home to Mexican and Anglo families, farmers, writers, and artists?

Discover the answers to these and many more questions when you attend this year's historic lectures that take place right before and after the 23rd annual La Reunión de El Fuerte, an annual event that includes a walking tour of the area. The lectures were designed not only to be lively and interesting, but also to give you a deeper understanding of the culture and history of the area, and to prepare you for the walking tour, making your experience that much more rewarding and enriching. The lectures are sponsored by the Old Fort Lowell Neighborhood Association and funded, in part, by the Arizona Humanities Council.

We invite Tucsonans and visitors to attend this free month-long series on Sunday afternoons in January and February 2004 at the San Pedro Chapel Community Center, 5230 E. Fort Lowell Road, Tucson. You may call the OFLNA phone, (318-0219), and leave a message to request more information, or use the Website: <http://oflna.org>.

The lectures are as follows:

Architectural History of Fort Lowell and El Fuerte. Sunday, January 11, 3 pm.

Lecturer: R. Brooks Jeffery, Coordinator, U. of A. Preservation Studies. Discover the various architectural influences in the Fort Lowell neighborhood, and learn about their origins.

Hohokam in the Fort Lowell Area. Sunday, January 18, 3 pm.

Lecturer: Sharon Urban, Research Anthropologist. Learn about the earliest residents of the neighborhood, as well as about the Hohokam who lived here in 1540. Includes slides, show-and-tell, and handout materials.

The Santa Catalina Mountains, 1875-1920. Sunday, January 25, 3 pm.

Lecturer: James Klein, M.D., Physician and Historian. Discover the contributions of the Fort Lowell soldiers who explored Mt. Lemmon and the Santa Catalina Mountains, thus insuring that the mountains ultimately became part of a National Forest.



Mariposa Lily

Calochortus kennedyi

Colored pencil drawing by Margaret Pope 2002

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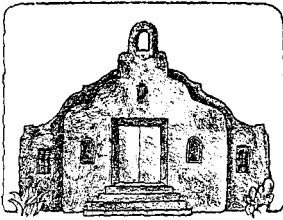
ACRONYMS used in this Newsletter

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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We need **VOLUNTEERS** for a variety of jobs for **LA REUNIÓN DE EL FUERTE** on Saturday, February 7. For example, you can be a site host for two hours. We'll provide you with a packet of information and you'll become an instant expert on the history of the site. An orientation will take place at San Pedro Chapel on Saturday, January 31 at 10:00am. Call Janet Marcus (327-1339) for more information and to volunteer.

Voices of El Fuerte through Oral Histories and Photographs, Part II: Sunday, February 1, 3 pm.
Lecturer: Ann Branham, M.S.W., Social Worker and Historian. Learn about the neighborhood residents who lived here in the early years of the 20th century and their diverse cultures. Drawn from interviews with current and former residents, this lecture includes slides of family photos and portraits.

La Reunión de El Fuerte: Historic Sites Walking Tour
 Saturday, February 7, 12:30 - 4 pm.

Medicine of the Frontier: The Fort Lowell Experience. Sunday, February 15, 3-4:30 pm.
Lecturer: Bob Hunter, M.D., Physician and Historian. Honoring 100 years of the Pima County Medical Society.

FATHER CHARLES W. POLZER, S.I., 1930-2003

We regret to announce that an old friend of OFLNA, Father Charles W. Polzer, died last month. He was a part of that small group of scholars and neighbors who conceived of the festival of *La Reunión de El Fuerte* and, subsequently, of our OFLNA community. Father Charlie will be especially remembered for the *La Reunión* morning Mass, his creation in every sense, from the idea for the Mass (thrown out at a planning meeting in 1981), to the celebration itself, over which he presided for 21 of the last 22 years. His big-hearted presence was catholic in both the secular and non-secular sense: all-inclusive, generous, joyous, ceremonial, and colorful.

What follows is excerpted from the homily delivered by Father Charlie during the first *La Reunión* Mass at San Pedro Chapel, January 23, 1982 and later printed in the *Old Fort Lowell Gazette*, April 1982:

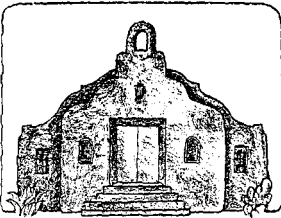
.....Most everyone today would think that the community of El Fuerte has disappeared. In one sense it has. The San Pedro Chapel was once a community center for religious worship. But the unity that was once the life of this community is still alive and vibrant throughout the greater city of Tucson. Many persons were married here, made their first communion here, or shared important moments of their lives within these small walls. The community of El Fuerte is still alive, although some of its buildings have disappeared and some of its families have moved away.

.....This reunion today is not a historical reenactment, but a celebration of life in memory and in hope. An event like this is genuinely a human activity that sees the best and rejoices in the finest hours man has shared. They may have been simple hours that passed as ordinary moments, but they have become strong in our memory — even for those of us who never knew the pueblo of *El Fuerte*. And we thank you for letting us share in the continuance of your lives and in the strengths of your past.

.....Let me say that this is probably the first time Mass has been celebrated in English in the San Pedro Chapel. Its walls might be more comfortable with Latin and the Gregorian chant than English and Spanish Mariachis. All I can tell you is that change is inevitable and healthy. If history teaches us anything, it is that man is forever the same and forever different. Times and languages have changed, but the vitality of the community that once prayed here is still strong and is with us today. I hope each of you can sense the Spirit that draws us together through time and space, across the barriers of language and beliefs, rituals and race. Our differences enrich us; our similarities open us up to one another and together they reflect the splendor of our Creator.



Photo by Dan Perino 2003



ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES SALE:

Our Sale was successful despite the failure of Tucson Newspapers Inc. to print the classified ad in Saturday's paper!

The gross was \$12,422; consignors claimed \$6686, expenses were \$665, and OFLNA received about \$5,000, which will fund *La Reunión* with some left over. The co-chairs wish to thank all the workers who helped, the consignors, and especially the donors of merchandise; and many thanks, of course, to the shoppers. All had a great time. It really is a fun sale. If you have not participated in a neighborhood event, you have no idea what you are missing. Come and volunteer — you'll like it!



Photo by Dan Perino 2003

MEET THE COUNCIL MEMBERS

For 33 years, Ann Hastings and her husband lived just three miles south of the Ft. Lowell neighborhood. Then, in 2001, they moved into a house here, and claim it was the best thing they've ever done. Pleased with the beautiful plantings along Ft. Lowell, the hiking trails, and the friendliness of their neighbors, Ann is happy with her new home. Here, Ann says, they don't even need kids to meet anyone!

Medicine is an obvious part of her family. Ann's father was a physician, and her husband is a retired surgeon. (She says she never intended to marry a doctor but couldn't resist the cute intern she met.) She worked briefly as a nurse before becoming a full-time wife, community volunteer, and mother to four children.

When her children were older, she returned to her interest in medicine as President of the Southern Arizona Oncology Nursing Society. Ann claims that no one else wanted the position, but she clearly thrived in it and developed a program for breast cancer patients. The program serves as an education and advocacy group for women with breast cancer and their families.

Perhaps living in Michigan inspired her love of nature — she was born and raised there. Not only does Ann enjoy gardening, but she and her husband also gave bags of wildflower seeds to those who donated trees for the Ft. Lowell plantings. She would love to see more wildflowers planted all over the neighborhood. According to Ann, you can never have too many flowers.

She is a current Board Member and has worked very hard at the last two OFLNA Antiques and Collectibles Sales, as well as at an art exhibition and sale at the Plaza Palomino. Both she and her husband have attended concerts and potlucks here, and enjoy socializing with their neighbors. In her spare time, she likes to read, cook, and do handiwork. As for her future with OFLNA, she might enjoy being on the Hiking Trail Committee or the Live-At-Home Program. For now, though, she says one thing at a time is enough!

Ann and her husband are enjoying life in their new home. Be sure to come to the next concert or potluck and say hi to both of them.

NEWS FROM OFLLAH

Volunteer training: The next orientation and training for prospective volunteers will be held on **Saturday, January 17, 2004, at 10:00 am**. This class is mandatory for all who wish to volunteer in the program, but attendance does not require that you become a volunteer.

Continuing Education: The next in our quarterly series of lectures on topics relevant to older adults will be held on **Saturday, January 10, at 10:00 am at San Pedro Chapel**. Marie Sutton, RN, of the Pima County Health Department, will talk on "**Fall prevention in the elderly, and other safety tips for the home.**" Registration is not necessary for this lecture

Grocery shopping can benefit OFLLAH. '23014' is the number to remember! Mention this number the first time you use your card at any Basha's store, and 1% of your purchases will be credited to OFLLAH. You need mention it to the cashier only the first time you use your card; after that, purchases will automatically be credited to our account.

Billboards and OFLLAH. You may be startled as you drive around town during the months of November and December to notice the Old Fort Lowell Live-At-Home Program mentioned on a billboard sponsored by Smith-Barney. Thanks to Anne Nelson, OFLLAH appears as one of forty-eight non-profits supported by their employees. There's a prize for the first one to spot the billboard!

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A big, big thank-you. The Board of Directors and all of us at OFLLAH extend our grateful thanks for our neighbors' generous response to our annual plea for funds. It's through your gifts, small and large, that we are able to continue the important work of enabling neighbors to remain living independently in their own homes. We can all feel proud of this special neighborhood for its vision and support.

Please call Program Coordinator Ann Branham, (275-6757), for more information about any of these events and to register for the Volunteer Training.

Mark your calendars for the 3rd annual **EL FIESTA DE ARTE**, an invitational, juried art show and sale. OFLNA in partnership with Plaza Palomino sponsors the event which includes, a "Meet the Artists" reception, a raffle, and silent auction on Friday, March 12, from 7:00 – 9:00 pm., and a Fiesta de Arte show on Saturday, March 13, from 9:00 am. – 4:00 pm. Tickets will be available after the first of the year and may be purchased from committee members and from Details and Green Shoelaces. For more information call Sue Adams at 326-8936.

Because of lack of space, a separate calendar is not included this month. Please note the date and times of the La Reunion Lectures, and the training meeting and lecture for OFLLAH, all of which are listed in the body of the articles.

The President and Council of OFLNA wish you all a happy, prosperous and peaceful New Year.

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