

# Fullerton Observer

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## THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS HONORS THE FULLERTON OBSERVER WITH COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD

The League of Women Voters of North Orange County held a special recognition ceremony to honor the Fullerton Observer on September 27, 2025, for its exceptional contributions to the community over the years. The event featured Ron Kobayashi, son of the publication's founders, Roy and Irene Kobayashi, who presented awards to several key figures associated with the Observer.

Irene Kobayashi, one of the founders of the Fullerton Observer established in 1978, was recognized for her 47 years of dedicated volunteerism. The League applauded her unwavering commitment, highlighting her tireless efforts and passion that have left an indelible mark on the community.

continued on page 3



Dellan and Lian created their own reading room during the Friends of the Fullerton Library book sale. See article on page 3 PHOTO BY JERE GREENE

## Call for Action: Cold-Weather Shelters Needed in Fullerton

by Saskia Kennedy

With winter temperatures in Fullerton expected to drop between 30 and 50 degrees, advocates are calling on city officials to establish temporary cold-weather shelters for the homeless. Rain forecasts increase the risk of death from exposure by up to 40%, raising ethical concerns about the city's duty to protect its most vulnerable residents.

Outreach volunteers report that approximately 90% of the homeless individuals they encounter at night are over the age of 50, highlighting a critical need for assistance. Current shelter policies, which limit access to reservation-only systems, further complicate the situation, forcing those in need to seek distant shelters in Santa Ana, which are often at capacity.

Local organizations, including Mercy House, City Net, and the Illumination Foundation, stand ready to operate temporary shelters if a Request for Proposal is issued. Advocates emphasize that Fullerton has the funding and vacant facilities to respond to this crisis.

As temperatures drop, the urgency for action is clear. Community members are encouraged to contact local officials, including the Mayor and City Council, to address this humanitarian issue before it worsens. The loss of lives due to inaction is unacceptable.

## Collision Between Box Truck and Scooter Riders in Fullerton

by Fullerton Police Department

A traffic collision involving a box truck and two electric scooter riders left both riders with significant, life-threatening injuries on the evening of Saturday, September 27.

At around 7 pm, Fullerton Police Officers responded to reports of the incident at the intersection of Associated Road and Yorba Linda Boulevard. Upon arrival, officers found two females in the roadway suffering from serious injuries. A white box truck was situated nearby.

Emergency responders from the Fullerton Fire Department quickly transported the victims to a nearby trauma center, where they are currently in critical condition.

Preliminary investigations indicate that the two women were riding their

scooters southbound in the 2nd lane of Associated Road when they were struck by the box truck, which was traveling in the same direction and lane.

Authorities have stated that, at this stage of the investigation, alcohol and/or drugs do not appear to have contributed to the collision.

The Fullerton Police Department is seeking assistance from the public. Witnesses with information regarding the incident are encouraged to contact Traffic Accident Investigator J. Munoz at (714) 738-6812 or via email at [jmunoz@fullertonpd.org](mailto:jmunoz@fullertonpd.org).

Those wishing to remain anonymous can reach out to Orange County Crime Stoppers at 1-855-TIP-OCCS or visit [occrimestoppers.org](http://occrimestoppers.org).

## VOTE

November 4, 2025  
Statewide Special Election  
**VOTE CENTERS  
IN FULLERTON:**

**Opens October 25**  
Fullerton Public Library  
353 W Commonwealth Ave  
**Opens November 1**  
CSUF - Titan Student Union  
800 N State College Blvd  
**Opens November 1**  
Public Works Maintenance Yard  
1580 W Commonwealth Ave

## It is that time of year again! THE FULLERTON OBSERVER SUBSCRIBER DRIVE

The Fullerton Observer is an all volunteer and community-written newspaper. Established in 1978 by Ralph and Natalie Kennedy, Barbara Johnson, Irene and Roy Kobayashi, Jim and Nadine Ivens, and many volunteers. October is our subscriber drive month, and we rely on subscriptions to support our annual budget. Your contributions help us print each issue, pay for our office expenses, and keep operations running smoothly.

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JANUARY, JULY, AND AUGUST

FULLERTON  
OBSERVER  
PO BOX 7051  
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LETTERS TO EDITOR

Thanking the Young Observer Journalists

I just wanted to say how much I appreciated the recent set of articles published in Young Observers: mid-September 2025. I was truly impressed by how each budding journalist brought a new perspective to their issue.

Alicia's wonderful piece, "The Surprising Behavior of Pigs," offered a refreshing and insightful look at pigs, challenging common misconceptions and highlighting their intelligence and complex social behaviors. As someone concerned about animal welfare, I was particularly pleased to see this often-maligned species presented in such a positive light. Alicia's piece effectively encourages readers to reconsider their perceptions of these remarkable animals.

While Mateo's "National Tackle Kids Cancer Day" made it clear just how important it is to support organizations like Tackle Kids Cancer. The piece effectively conveyed the urgency of this cause and provided practical suggestions for readers to get involved and make a difference.

Declan's insightful "Fevers Should be Favored" by Declan" provided a fascinating explanation of the biological mechanisms behind fevers and their role in the immune response. This piece offered valuable information about when fevers are beneficial and when they require medical attention, empowering readers to make informed decisions about their health.

And last, but certainly not least, Omika's article shed light on the condition of alopecia with her "Alopecia Awareness Month" highlighting the emotional and social impact it can have on individuals and families. The piece effectively raised awareness about the need for greater support and understanding for those affected by alopecia and provided information about resources available through organizations like NAAF.

Great to see young journalists in the making who show how perspective is everything. With a change in perspective, we can all look at something we thought we knew like pigs or fevers, to something we fail to think enough about like support for cancer patients or diseases like alopecia, and come away not only more informed, but hopefully more open to shifting our perspective when presented with a new way to look at something we thought we knew.

Sara Crane Toronto

Pickleball

Dear Editor,

Your September coverage rightly noted pickleball's rapid growth. Fullerton needs more courts—but converting two at the Fullerton Tennis Center (FTC) is the wrong solution. It barely addresses demand while creating parking and ADA problems.

Independence Park is the best answer. Its open space could support up to 20 dedicated courts, giving both tennis and pickleball room to thrive. Many tennis players also enjoy pickleball, but we cannot afford to lose any of the few public tennis courts left in north Orange County.

As a 49-year resident, daily FTC player, and member of Friends of Fullerton Tennis, I urge the Commission on October 13 to reject the proposed FTC conversion and instead build new, dedicated pickleball courts at Independence Park. Fullerton deserves a real solution.

Charles Lindahl Fullerton

Re: Collision Between Box Truck and Scooter Riders

It is sadly no surprise to hear of this tragedy. The City considered bike safety improvements at this stretch of Associated a couple years ago, but decided not to move forward with them because of the potential for inconvenience to car drivers.

The changes they did end up implementing were nothing more than poorly-placed paint that fails to remove a point of conflict between southbound bicyclists and cars, who must negotiate in the moment instead of relying on clearly marked infrastructure.

Several years ago, the City conducted a Walk Audit of Yorba Linda Boulevard near this site, yet ignored the glaring need for major active transportation improvements.

Traffic collisions are not accidents; they are predictable infrastructure failures, caused by the decisions of human beings who chose to put car driver convenience above the safety of road users. We have been calling out the dangers of this very intersection but the City has refused to listen. And this is the result.

I wish these scooter riders a quick and complete recovery. Sadly, I do not believe the City will learn its lesson, and it will continue to build unsafe infrastructure under the premise of 'good enough' - because that's all the lives of bicyclists, scooter riders, and pedestrians are worth to the City of Fullerton.

Amy A. Fullerton

Re: Article by Jon Dobrer

Dear Editor,

On September 26, 2025, Jon Dobrer in his article “Supreme Court Rips Lady Justice’s Mask Off”, claims that, “We have never been a nation where Lady Justice truly covered her eyes so as not to see race, class or religion but only the law.” Things are not always so simple.

Yes, we are not supposed to be influenced or be biased by race, class or religion, but unfortunately we are. As to what extent is the troubling part? Unfortunately, each individual's bias or discrimination is often deeply rooted and is easily seen in one’s actions.

It’s hard to agree with the premise in the author’s claims that “Lady Justice has covered her eyes” and has only peeked when trying to not allow race, class or religion factor into the way the law is applied.

I feel that the importance is understated and does not truly tell how deeply biased and discriminatory upholding the law can be.

Randi Martinez Fullerton

Mayor Fred Jung Attends Constitution Week at IvyCrest Montessori Private School

by Rosie Webber



IvyCrest Montessori Private School was honored by Fred Jung, Mayor of Fullerton, when he made an appearance at the official Constitution Week Proclamation during the school’s Constitution Day Assembly on Wednesday, September 17, 2025.

This special event commemorated the 238th anniversary of the signing of the United States Constitution, a cornerstone of enduring American liberty and democracy.

The event was presented by the Daughters of the American Revolution, Mojave Chapter, with the Presentation of Colors demonstrated by the Sons of

the American Revolution. Constitution Week, observed nationwide from September 17–23, was designated each year by presidential proclamation under Public Law 915. The annual observance served as a reminder for citizens to reflect on the principles enshrined in the Constitution and to reaffirm their commitment to protecting the freedoms it guaranteed.

The assembly took place in KenDor Hall, part of IvyCrest’s beautiful arts facility built in 2005 on its Fullerton campus. Designed to foster creativity and community, KenDor Hall features both an indoor and outdoor stage, a dedicated art classroom, and a fully equipped dance studio. The hall serves as the heart of IvyCrest’s cultural and artistic programs, making it an ideal setting for this historic celebration.

The Constitution Day Assembly was a momentous occasion for IvyCrest and the Fullerton community, celebrating not only the history of the nation’s founding document but also a shared commitment to uphold its enduring principles.



Certified Farmers Market at Independence Park

The popular Certified Farmers Market in Fullerton is located at 801 W. Valencia Drive, every Wednesday from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Fullerton Observer

The *Fullerton Observer* is a community newspaper founded in 1978 by Ralph and Natalie Kennedy, Roy and Irene Kobayashi, and a group of dedicated friends. Local volunteers are responsible for creating, publishing, and distributing the paper across the community. As a not-for-profit organization, all revenue is reinvested to enhance our independent and non-partisan publication.

Our mission is clear: to inform Fullerton residents about the institutions and societal forces that impact their daily lives. We empower citizens to engage actively, ensuring that private and public entities serve the community in lawful, transparent, and socially responsible ways.

We offer local news coverage and a community calendar to strengthen connections and celebrate the diversity that defines our nation. As an all-volunteer newspaper, we rely on the support of our subscribers and advertisers.

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- **COO:** Mehul Desai
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- **CALENDAR EDITOR:** –Needed–
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**NEXT DEADLINE FOR WRITERS & ADVERTISERS IS OCTOBER 13. THE MID OCTOBER ISSUE WILL BE DISTRIBUTED ON OCTOBER 20.**



THE LEAGUE  
OF WOMEN VOTERS  
HONORS THE  
FULLERTON OBSERVER  
WITH COMMUNITY  
IMPACT AWARD

*continued from front page*

“Your work has inspired countless others to engage and contribute,” the League stated in their tribute.

Barbara Johnson, also a founding member of the Observer, received accolades for her vision and leadership. Her impactful role in enhancing the Fullerton community through the Observer and her many years as director of Fullerton Interfaith Emergency Services, now known as Pathways of Hope, was celebrated. “Your dedication has truly inspired others to work towards a more supportive community,” the recognition read.

Sharon Kennedy, who served as Editor-in-Chief from 1998 to 2020, was honored for her outstanding leadership and commitment to journalism. Over her 22 years at the helm, her work significantly influenced public discourse and engagement within the community.



**Back row:** Irene’s family: Marc Hertogh, Dawn and Aly Cane, Destini Copely, Grant Kobayashi, Jan Stephens, Ron Kobayashi, Lorna Hertogh, Barbara’s family: David Johnson, Emma Murphy, and Christine Murphy.  
**Front row:** Award recipients Saskia Kennedy, Irene Kobayashi, Barbara Johnson, and Sharon Kennedy

Current Editor-in-Chief, Saskia Kennedy, was also recognized for her continued dedication to quality journalism since taking the position in 2020. The League expressed appreciation for her service and its positive effects on the community.

The Fullerton Observer’s legacy, rooted in its founders’ ideals of community engagement and journalistic integrity, continues to resonate deeply within North Orange County, showcasing the power of local journalism to inspire and uplift.



Friends of the Fullerton Library  
Hosts Successful Book Sale

*by Jere Greene*

The Friends of the Library organized a successful book sale at the Fullerton Library, drawing a large crowd, this past weekend. Held three to four times a year, the book sale featured tables filled with donated books, CDs, DVDs, and posters, all categorized by genre.

The sale began with an exclusive pre-opening hour for Friends of the Library members, which allowed them to browse before the general public gained access at 11 AM. Participants arrived early, filling the parking lot even before doors opened.

Volunteers were on hand to restock tables throughout the day, ensuring a steady selection for shoppers. At the end of Saturday, attendees could purchase shopping bags for \$3 (or two for \$5) to fill with as many items as they could fit.

Proceeds from the sale will be reinvested into the library’s operations. The Friends of the Library encourage the community to look out for the next book sale event.



Fullerton Teen Brings Rare Santoor  
to Irvine Concert

*by Mehul Desai*

At just 19, Fullerton resident Ahilan Hatti is one of the few musicians in the United States learning the santoor—a rare Indian classical instrument with a shimmering, harp-like sound.

The santoor, with its distinctive trapezoidal shape and 72 to 100 metal strings, is played by striking the strings with lightweight wooden mallets. Although centuries old, it remains largely unknown outside South Asia.

Hatti began studying the instrument at the age of 7, first under Los Angeles-based musician Paul Livingstone, before advancing to training with the renowned maestro Pandit Tarun Bhattacharya.

Under Bhattacharya, he underwent the prestigious ganda bandhan ceremony, which formalizes a lifelong commitment between teacher and disciple.

On Sunday, August 24, Hatti performed at the Mandir in Irvine during an evening of Indian classical music that brought together musicians, students, and community members.

The program opened with a workshop by Bhattacharya, a senior exponent of the Maihar Gharana (a lineage of Indian classical musicians) and recipient of India’s highest artistic honor, the Sangeet Natak Academy Award.

He guided participants through the structure of ragas, rhythm cycles, and the art of improvisation.

Following the workshop, two young musicians presented classical recitals. Flutist Rama V. Rao performed Raag Hansadhwani and Raag Bhupali, while Hatti showcased Raag Jogkauns on the santoor, moving from slow (Vilambit) to fast (Drut Teental, a 16-beat cycle) tempo.

They were accompanied on the tabla by Pandit Jyotirmay Roychowdhury. After the concert, Bhattacharya praised the young musicians.

“It is encouraging to see younger performers presenting classical traditions to international audiences,” he said. “These platforms not only extend the reach of Indian music but also foster cultural exchange.”

The event highlighted the enduring guru-shishya (teacher-disciple) tradition of Indian classical music while giving Southern California audiences a rare chance to hear the santoor performed live.

The

Pinta

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*Sending words of encouragement*

*to LGBTQ+ people to let them know they have allies*

First Saturday of each month from 9 to 11 am

First Christian Church of Fullerton

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Questions? Call Donna (714) 746-2418





• Fullerton School District Board meets at 6pm at District Headquarters, 1401 W Valencia Dr, Fullerton  
For agenda go to: [www.fsd.k12.ca.us](http://www.fsd.k12.ca.us) or call 714-447-7400

• Fullerton Joint Union High School Board: (714) 870-2800 or [www.fjuhsd.org](http://www.fjuhsd.org)

### Fullerton School District September 30 meeting

#### Trustee Thakur Resigns

FSD board member Aaruni Thakur resigned on September 30, and his 7-year tenure was celebrated at the September 16 FSD board meeting.

The remaining trustees voted to appoint an interim trustee to serve until November 2026, when FSD Area 1 residents elect a new board member.

To apply for the position, you must be 18 years or older, a US citizen, a CA resident who currently resides in the District Area located in west Fullerton, and have no legal reason impairing your ability to serve.

The board approved appointing an interim after learning that it would cost between \$200,000 - \$750,000 to hold a special election to fill the vacancy.

The interview process, trustee votes, and appointment determination will be held in public session.

Applications will be open until October 17, and the interview/appointment process will take place on

October 29 at 5 pm. Go to [www.fullerton.sdsd.org](http://www.fullerton.sdsd.org) for the district area map, job information, and application form.

#### Apple Distinction Award

In a significant announcement, Dr. Bob Pletka, Superintendent of Fullerton School District (FSD), revealed that the district has earned the prestigious Apple Distinction Status.

This achievement highlights the exemplary efforts of Assistant Superintendent of Innovation and Instructional Support, Jeremy Davis, along with the dedication of both classified and certificated staff.

FSD stands out as the only school district west of Texas where every school has been recognized as an Apple Distinguished School. This accolade signifies that all 20 schools within the district are effectively integrating Apple technology into their educational framework, fostering innovation and enhancing academic outcomes.

The district's commitment to leveraging technology for education is evident in its approach to professional development. In 2024, FSD provided comprehensive training for all teachers on incorporating artificial intelligence as an educational tool.

#### Budget Update

Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, Dr. Rob Coghlin, presented the unaudited actuals for the 2024/25 school year. This financial review compares the June 2025 year-end budget numbers with the actual income and expenses that will be reviewed by an outside auditor.

FSD ended the 2024/25 school year with a \$148 million budget, increasing income estimates by only \$60,000. After expenses, the district started the August 2025/26 school year with \$25.7 million, about \$248,000 higher than the 2024/25 school year's beginning balance. The district monitors world events, federal policy changes, state funding, and ongoing lower enrollment to recommend any necessary changes.

Trustee James Cho asked the board to consider using over half of the saved income to fund after-school activities for all students starting in January. This was not on the agenda, so it will be revisited at the next board meeting.

Trustee Cho did not ask the district

administration about any ramifications of this decision or how many administrative hours it would take to research and report on this suggestion.

At August's Trustee Protocol meeting, the trustees agreed to pare down their numerous requests from staff for research on new projects or suggestions, and to ask for real life consequences of their decisions to change previously scheduled events or programs. Most programs and budgets are created months in advance, and changes to, for example, camp schedules or after-school programs, mid-year, can have unintended consequences.

#### Measure "N" Project Update

The Facilities Bond Measure "N" is set to launch a series of projects across the district.

This initiative will commence with upgrades to 16 playground locations, enhancing playground equipment for students and families.

Additionally, a groundbreaking ceremony for the long-awaited Arts and Recreation Center at Nicolas Junior High was scheduled for September, marking an exciting development in the district's commitment to fostering creativity and community engagement.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 14 at 6 pm.

### Fullerton Joint Union High School District September 9 meeting

#### Distributing unused Proposition 28 funds

As the district nears the 3 year deadline to spend the first allocation of these funds, the unaudited actual budget numbers for 2024/25 school year resulting in a \$4 million increase in the ending balance, and a consent calendar approval to increase the payments covering three Student Resource Officers (SRO) to half a million dollars this school year.

#### Prop 28 Arts Fund Update

Dr. Sylvia Kaufman, Assistant Superintendent of Education Services, provided an update on the eventual dispersal plan for Prop 28 arts funds. The district is legally obligated to spend the 2023 disbursement of funds or risk losing them, so VAPA Teacher on Special Assignment Michael Despars presented a list of 75 stipend-paid positions that fulfill the 80% new personnel position quota required by the funding demands.

Dr. Josh Porter, Director of Education Services, stated that determining each school site's baseline VAPA budget was "incredibly" challenging during the three-year process of updating art plans to allocate this money.

With over \$2 million to use on arts education personnel and materials, and \$600,000 to spend this year, Dr. Porter

said the funds are now available for schools to access.

Trustee Lauren Klatzker specifically inquired about fund disbursement, referring to the La Habra High Marching Band parents who were frustrated by the lag time in purchasing new band uniforms they believed were promised to last year's students. Dr. Porter stated that all questions regarding spending these art funds should be directed to the Assistant Principals at each school site.

Trustee Joanne Fawley asked how the administration planned to monitor increased student participation in VAPA activities, including attending shows and performances. Dr. Porter said the district is creating QR codes for students to scan, which will verify attendance through the 5-Star app used to monitor student activities.

#### Budget Update: Unaudited Actuals 2024/25

Mr. Ruben Hernandez, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, reported on the unaudited actuals for the 2024/25 school year, with an estimated revenue stream projected in June 2025 at \$195.9 million, and the actuals revealed a \$1.1 million increase to \$197 million.

Expenditures were projected at \$195.7 million, with actual expenditures at \$191.8 million.

This nearly \$4 million reduction is due to facility construction spending delays from one fiscal year to the next, delays in spending grants such as Prop 28, and hiring delays for classified and certificated personnel to replace some of the retired staff from the retirement package offered last year. The beginning balance of restricted and unrestricted funds for the 2025/26 year increased to \$88.4 million.

#### Student Resource Officer (SRO) Raise

The trustees approved a supplemental agreement with the City of Fullerton to pay up to half a million dollars for the services of 3 SROs to serve at Fullerton Union High, Troy High, La Vista/La Sierra High, and Sunny Hills High Schools.

FJUHSd contracts with Fullerton Police Department to place a specialized police officer on campus every student attendance day with liberal jurisdiction to review school security video footage, intervene in campus incidents, investigate student conduct, pursue student absenteeism, work with staff in de-escalation and dispute mediation, and perform personal and property searches for suspected illegal activities, among numerous other job mandates.

The district pays for overtime police supervision at student events and district-sponsored activities; it is unclear if this responsibility includes the police officer watching the audience during last year's FJUHSd board meetings.

*The next regularly scheduled meeting is scheduled for October 14 at 6 pm.*

### LETTERS TO OBSERVER

#### Fullerton School District Limits Access

Dear Observer,

Last Tuesday, the Fullerton School District announced a new policy that limits access to public schools by closing and locking gates until 6 pm. This decision is claimed to be for the safety of children in the "Encore" after-school program, but it disrupts our community's direct access to school facilities, which was a key factor in choosing to live here.

We chose to move into the Golden Hill neighborhood, attend the school, and raise my family here mainly because of the direct access to the school field, playground, and general sense of community. This policy effectively eliminates that.

I know it may be the easy route for the board to shut out the community from the facilities that they already pay for, but there could have at least been a public discussion about it. We were only told after the fact that individual schools knew about this decision beforehand. However, that information was never relayed to the community at large. Our community has lost a critical part of what keeps us connected.

Regarding the necessity of a district-wide policy, there are other ways to protect the children of the after-school program without restricting access to the facilities. The childcare area can be contained within a specific part of the school, and fences could be erected to

separate it from the general public. And more staff could be hired to reduce the supervisor-to-child ratio. I am aware of these measures from over 10 years of experience running a district-run after-school program. Many years at a school similar to our elementary school of Golden Hill, in that it was a public park from the moment the after-school bell rang. Having an after-school program alongside a public park is not only doable, but has been done for many years.

When I reached out to the district concerning this matter of public access, their response was that we can reserve access through an intermediate platform named "Facilitron." Facilitron is a platform designed for formally recognized Nonprofits and Private Companies to rent school

spaces and fields for a fee. These funds are then absorbed by the district. Many I have spoken to find the closure of public tax-funded facilities, while in turn charging the community to use said facilities, is leaning on extortion.

Do I have to pay to use a playground?

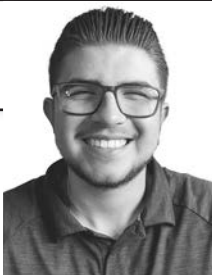
Is there a charge for my child meeting with friends to play baseball? Does a parent have to rent a basketball court to teach their child to ride a bicycle? This is all done at a time when the days are getting shorter and daylight ends near 6pm.


I urge the district to reconsider this decision and foster dialogue with the community to create balanced solutions that protect students while keeping schools accessible to the public.

*Mike Cooper* Fullerton



## Month by Yoyo, 8th grade





## Fullerton School District

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*\*\*Monthly charges may apply to families in the (CSPP) full-day/full-year program.*


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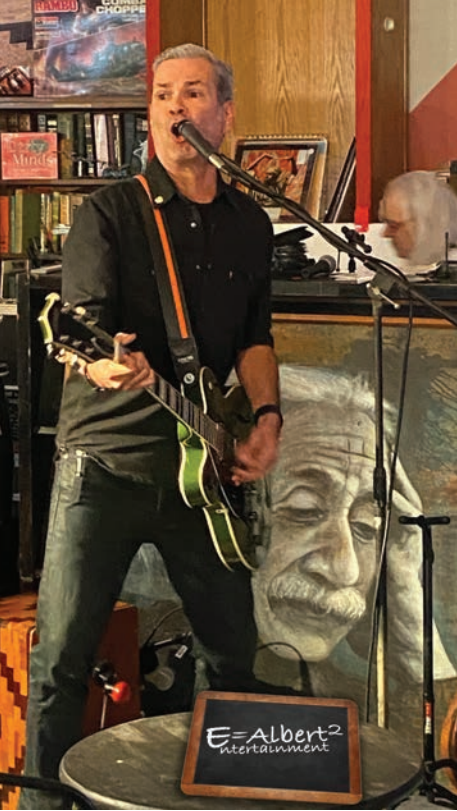
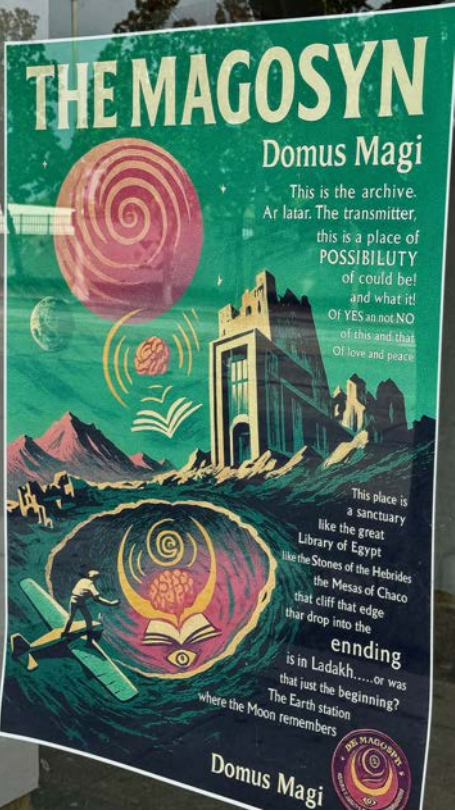






Hit The Road, Jack

Also a long-time fixture, often a favorite hangout in the past for High School students, and until they closed, the place to go if the Dodgers struck out seven or more in a baseball game. Free Jumbo Jack with the purchase of a large Coca-Cola. Gone, all gone. Not sure where Jack will go, apparently, he won't come back no more, but never fear, Peter's Gourmade Burgers is right across the street. Good news, there are many more places to get your burger fix all over downtown.



No More Mania

What is going on? We have many changes here all of a sudden. A fabled treasure is gone, as Modelmania is no more. Been there so long, maybe the Amerige Brothers were once involved, since the site is within lot 30 of their original town-site map. Actually, Modelmania appeared in 1993, and showcased model airplanes, ships, cars, and recently, a slot car track and occasional live music and & art. No word on what may be moving in. Best of luck to Pete, Emily and Mike.



Tom Greek in Leo's office

Guitars in Fullerton, Gone Too?

This is getting ridiculous, must be some good news, but we have to report that Leo's legacy guitar company, G&L Guitars, is no more. Employees were given their last checks and separation papers on Tuesday, September 30. The row of offices and shops are now shuttered, what a shame. Many continue to share their appreciation for the brand, yet, according to our sources, "The Fender Company has purchased the IP and marketing rights, but has no interest in keeping the company running. Basically, the Fender deal would pay off debts, and that's it." This is the end of a long and incredibly successful era of Fullerton-made guitars, but the accomplishments of Leo Fender will live on forever.




The Bucks Stopped Here


There is trouble brewing in the world of coffee. Along with hundreds of locations nationwide, the Starbucks on Bastanchury/Brea Boulevard, just north of downtown, is closing, but we have many solutions. As long as we continue to Shop Fullerton First, our varied coffee options downtown will continue to flourish, despite the rising costs of coffee beans, which are imported since they don't grow well here. Polly's was mentioned and since they gave away coffee with any purchase on National Coffee Day, they are included along with Lulu's. Rutabegorz has been brewing for over 50 years, but keep in mind they open at 10:30 am. Here are a few, well, many more: 525 Coffee, Made Coffee, The Night Owl, Dripp, Play Coffee, Vivot Craft Café, The Classic Café, Pilgrim's Coffee House, Quamaria Yemeni Coffee Co., Fullerton Library Coffee, Rialto Café, Monkee Business Café, Green Bliss Café, The Brownstone Café, Santa Fe Express Café, Lovetta, Milo's mobile coffee cart, and Navarro's Taqueria-coffee cart on the weekends. Years ago, downtown was a bit of a coffee desert, but now? With the help of suggestions from Fullerton Loves Food, we have compiled a list of favorites, mostly downtown. Since

Photo Quiz

Send answer to Mike at AllMedia@sbcglobal.net



Last time: Steve and Kelly were the first to recognize the halls of Fullerton High School, where Richard Nixon attended, even though he lived in Whittier. Steve also told us his Mom Fran was the librarian there in the late 60s.



This time: Where is this and why is it there?

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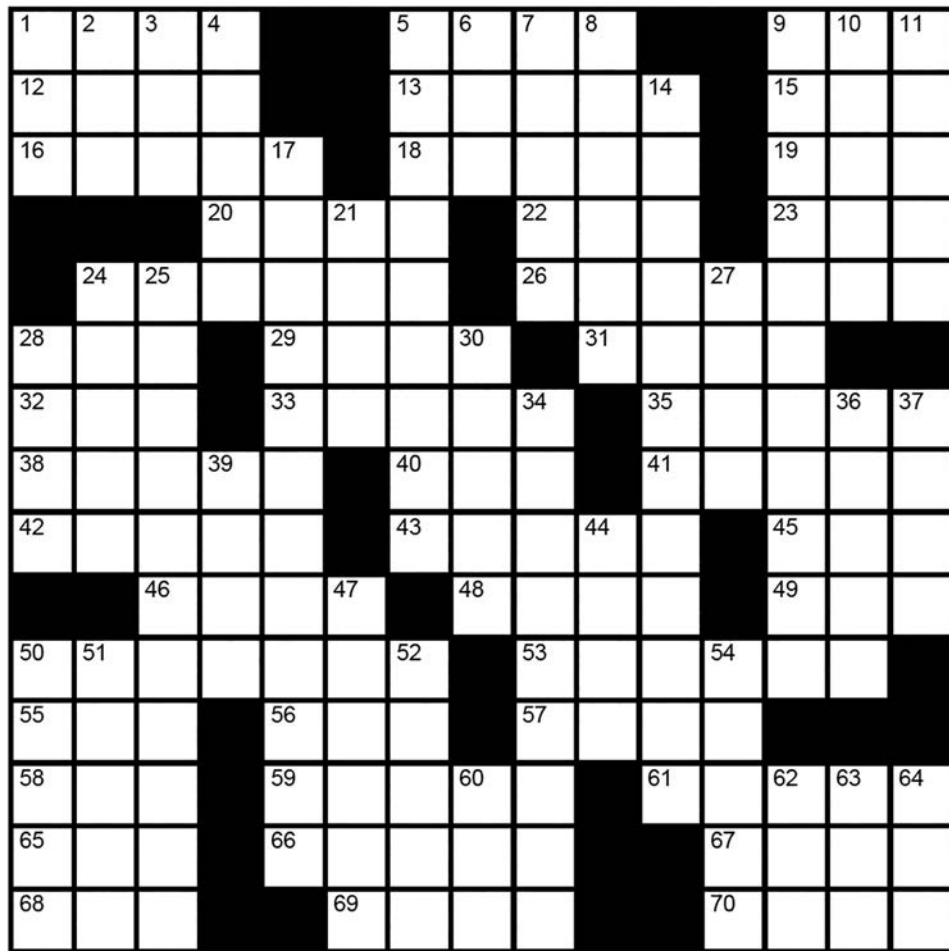
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**"BAKE OFF IS BACK!"** by Valerie Brickey (answer key on page 15)



## ACROSS

1. Eldest Brady boy
5. Tach readings
9. Capote, to friends
12. "\_\_\_ girl!"
13. "Downton Abbey" sister
15. First \_\_\_
16. Tether
18. \_\_\_ Lama
19. Good, oddly, in slang
20. Settled up
22. A little bit of work
23. 4G mobile tech.
24. Birthplace of St. Francis
26. Bagel topper
28. Stand-up comic Margaret
29. Crowd sound
31. Bread end
32. Dog or hound
33. Equal (with)
35. Cambodian currency
38. "That's \_\_\_ you"
40. Automne preceder
41. Holy chalice
42. Burial chamber
43. Fell on "Three's Company"
45. Rock guitar great Steve
46. Paint brand sold at Home Depot
48. Fiddling emperor
49. Epilogue
50. Trailblazer
53. Title role for Susan Sarandon
55. CPR pro
56. J.F.K.'s predecessor
57. Yearn (for)
58. Appropriate
59. Airport for a Bull or a Bear
61. "My So-Called Life" star Claire
65. Fullerton Union High School graduate Fender
66. D'Onofrio on "Law & Order: Criminal Intent"
67. Ricky Martin's "Livin' La \_\_\_ Loca"
68. \_\_\_ card: smartphone insert
69. Air Force NCO
70. Crafter's website

## DOWN

1. 128 oz.
  2. Short way to go?
  3. LAX info
  4. Surprised sounds
  5. \_\_\_ baby (one with a radical upbringing)
  6. Kissing in a crowd, briefly
  7. Trumpeter Davis
  8. "Take the \_\_\_ out of your sails"
  9. Dining room furniture inserts
  10. Lasso
  11. Suckling spot
  14. Superior position
  17. Supposed hangover remedy
  21. The Rolling Stones' "Time \_\_\_ My Side"
  24. Missed it by \_\_\_
  25. Something to avoid on "The Great British Bake Off," and a hint to the ends of the four longest answers
  27. Israel's Golda
  28. "Squawk Box" network
  30. Boca \_\_\_, Florida
  34. Bug spray
  36. "Big Little Lies" author Moriarty
  37. Lost traction
  39. Like some minds or marriages
  44. Ending for the ol' switch
  47. Frank's \_\_\_ (popular sauce)
  50. Rings. as church bells
  51. Louvre pyramid architect
  52. Back ends
  54. "Last Christmas \_\_\_ you my heart..." (Wham! lyric)
  60. Short rule?
  62. Lousy egg?
  63. Asner and Emberley
  64. "\_\_\_ Anything" (1989 film)
- 
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## Congressman Correa Supports Patriots and Paws Computers for Veterans Initiative

by Jere Greene

Congressman Lou Correa recently delivered 10 mini-desktop computer systems to the Patriots and Paws facility in Anaheim. Accompanied by staff members, he toured the facility, which assists veterans transitioning to civilian life.

Penny Lambright, founder of Patriots and Paws, explained the organization's mission. The facility provides essential furniture items free of charge to veterans moving into new homes. Items available include beds, couches, kitchen appliances, and a variety of household goods. Veterans can select what they need, with only transportation costs incurred for delivery.

Patriots and Paws is located at 1825 E Via Burton, west of State College Bouvard, near the 91 Freeway. The facility, marked by numerous flags and a World War II-era medevac helicopter, operates on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 10 am to 2:30 pm.

The donated computers will be refurbished by Heroes Deserve Help, a non-profit led by Nate Miller and Sergio Flores. Each year, they restore around 600 computers, providing veterans with access to Microsoft's Office 365 School Edition. These systems support veterans' educational pursuits at local institutions such as Coastline and Golden West Colleges.

# Fullerton Bicyclists Beware

Last July on a Friday at approximately 7:45 am, an experienced bicyclist riding westbound on Wilshire Ave. and crossing Harbor Blvd. in downtown Fullerton, and wearing a bright neon yellow helmet and backpack, was hit by an automobile traveling eastbound on Wilshire Ave., which suddenly made a left turn in front of the bicyclist, hitting them and knocking them to the ground.

The only witness called 911, and within minutes, three police cruisers, an ambulance, and a fire truck appeared on the scene. Thankfully, although the bicyclist chose to be taken to the ER by ambulance, they sustained no serious injuries...

However, the FPD blamed that bicyclist for the accident, because the bicyclist allegedly rode their bicycle in the crosswalk to cross Harbor Blvd., and if a bicyclist rides in any part of the crosswalk to cross any street—even if they are going straight through—they supposedly give up their right-of-way privilege (not so if the bicyclist walks their bicycle across the street in the crosswalk)...

Furthermore, even though, according to the police report, the driver did not see the bicyclist (their view was blocked by the “A pillar” of their car), that driver was not charged with negligence.

And despite the best efforts of this

bicyclist and a well-known bicycling advocate of Fullerton to plead their case, the police chief remained steadfast in his support of the police report's conclusions...

The intention of this article is not to alienate the Fullerton Police Department from anyone who enjoys riding their bicycle within the boundaries of this city, or vice versa; rather, it seeks to build a more positive relationship between the bicycling community and the FPD that, in the opinion of this writer, has considerable room for improvement.

If that bicyclist had suffered more substantial injuries or had been killed by that driver, it is assumed that the driver would still not have been charged with negligence, and that “not seeing” the bicyclist would have excused the driver, in the eyes of the FPD...Does that mean that since automobiles are larger and a more “conventional” means of transportation than bicycles, drivers are more privileged than bicyclists, and that their lives are more valuable than those of bicyclists?

My message to bicyclists is, don't assume that if you're hit by an automobile, that you will be held blameless by law enforcement...and don't assume the police will charge that driver with negligence because the driver "didn't see you", or because they didn't bother to look around their "A pillar."

**WE ARE A DEMOCRACY OF, BY, AND FOR THE PEOPLE  
ON OCTOBER 18, WE THE PEOPLE SAY**



**CENTENNIAL PARK, SANTA ANA**  
**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18TH FROM 2-5PM**

**JOIN US FOR A DAY OF JOYFUL RESISTANCE  
AND COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT:**

- Music from Local DJs & Musicians
- Peaceful Sidewalk Protest
- Speeches from Grassroots Organizers
- Community Organization Booths
- Food/Essentials Drive for Mutual Aid
- Free Sign-Making Supplies

## LET'S MAKE IT EVEN BIGGER THIS TIME!

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HITS & MISSES

by Pamela Mason Wagner © 2025



SPINAL TAP II: THE END CONTINUES: Two Hits

You walk into the theater with some trepidation. Can *Spinal Tap II: The End Continues* possibly match the flat-out hilarity of the largely improvised 1984 rock and roll satire *This Is Spinal Tap*? The filmmakers seem to know what they're up against—early on, they reprise greatest hits like "Big Bottom" ("My baby fits me like a flesh tuxedo, I love to sink her with my pink torpedo.").

But once those nostalgic riffs are out of the way, the movie settles into a story of its own that's surprisingly pleasurable, complete with excellent cameos from the likes of Questlove and Fran Drescher.

The conceit: the lovable heavy metal band may or may not be reuniting for one last show. (Stormy Daniels conveniently canceled *A Night with Stormy* in New Orleans, leaving a giant arena up for grabs.) Rob Reiner returns both behind and in front of the camera, again playing the genial mockumentarian Marty DiBergi.

The "quest" begins as the band's three principals are rounded up: guitarist Nigel Tufnel (Christopher Guest), yanked out of his cheese (and guitar) shop and away from his new love, Moira (Nina Conti); lead singer David St. Hubbins (Michael McKean), still in the music business, playing in a mariachi band and bragging about his "Holdie" award for best phone on-hold music; and bassist Derek Smalls (Harry Shearer), now proprietor of a London Glue Museum.

Yes, a Glue Museum.

Only a drummer is missing, and no one wants the cursed gig—past *Spinal Tap* percussionists have met untimely deaths — one by gardening accident,

another by choking on someone else's vomit. Enter Didi Crockett (Valerie Franco), whose powerhouse playing style and friendly personality win over the band. When Derek inevitably hits on her, she lets him know she's spoken for, introducing him to her gorgeous girlfriend.

Rehearsals follow, thick with jealousies, creative squabbles, and suspicions of infidelity. Relief from the "band drama" arrives in the form of cameos: Paul McCartney wanders in to ask an engineer, "Are they always like this?" and even offers to play with the band—an idea David greets with notable lack of enthusiasm. However, the film truly soars when Elton John makes an appearance. He, too, drops by the rehearsal room, offering to sit in on a song or two.

As delightful as Guest, McKean, and Shearer are in writing and performing their own material, Elton's musical talents light up the screen. Watching him in close-up—those trademark glasses, that inimitable voice, the showbiz sparkle intact—is pure joy.

When he finally takes the stage at the big concert, the film morphs from nostalgia into an enjoyable concert film, no satire required.

The laughs never stop, and while familiarity with the 1984 classic enhances the fun, it's hardly required. Without giving away spoilers, the inevitable stage disaster cranks the comedy up to eleven.

If there's one gripe, it's that Fran Drescher's cameo as former publicist Bobbi Fleckman is far too brief. Somebody, please, give her a full-blown vehicle—she's overdue to win the hearts of a new generation.

- Two Hits: Don't Miss it!
- A Hit & A Miss: You Might Like it.
- Two Misses: Don't Bother.

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301 N. Pomona Ave  
(714) 519-4461 | [info@fullertonmuseum.com](mailto:info@fullertonmuseum.com)

OCT 8 & OCT 9 FROM 6 TO 8:30PM  
**Haunted Fullerton  
Walking Tour**

Tours begin at the Fullerton Museum Center with a ghoulish cocktail mixer hosted by your ghost guides. The tour is around 1.5 miles of walking with some stairs. This will be a new route with even more haunting stories!

OCT 9 FROM 6 TO 8:30PM  
**Unplug Thursday:  
Tragically Delicious  
and Miswired**

Thursdays in October for fun vibes and drinks at our Beer & Wine Garden. What's on Tap? Only the best! Beer, wine, and mixed drinks. All proceeds benefit the Fullerton Museum Center.

OCT 11 FROM 5:30 TO 9 PM  
**"Agnew: The Story of  
a California Family"  
Plaza Screening**

If you missed the premiere, this is your second chance to experience this powerful film under the stars with fellow music and film lovers.

This is an outdoor event.  
Preferred Seating ticket holders will have chairs provided.  
General Admission ticket holders must bring their own chairs or blankets for lawn seating.  
The Beer Garden will be open throughout the event.  
Local vendors will also be on site.  
\$25 – Preferred Seating + Drink Ticket  
\$10 – General Admission (BYOC – Bring Your Own Chair)  
Don't miss this night of film, music, community, and California punk history.

OCT 12 FROM 12:30 TO 3 PM  
**"Chinatown Punk Wars"  
Screening and Panel Discussion**

Indoor Screening: "Chinatown Punk Wars" in the Wilshire Room at the Fullerton Museum Center  
Join us for a special screening of "Chinatown Punk Wars", a powerful documentary exploring the intersection of punk music and identity in Los Angeles' Chinatown scene.  
Stay after the film for a panel discussion with director Steven Kochones.  
The Beer Garden will be open throughout the event. \$10 – General Admission

OCT 15 & OCT 16  
FROM 6 TO 8:30PM  
**Haunted Fullerton  
Walking Tour**

Tours begin at the Fullerton Museum Center with a ghoulish cocktail mixer hosted by your ghost guides. The tour is around 1.5 miles of walking with some stairs. This will be a new route with even more haunting stories!

OCT 16 FROM 6 TO 8:30PM  
**Unplug Thursday:  
VantaBlue and AL G**

Join us every Thursday for fun vibes and drinks at our Beer & Wine Garden. What's on Tap? Only the best! Beer, wine, and mixed drinks. All proceeds benefit the Fullerton Museum Center.  
VantaBlue is a Fullerton-based band formed in 2019, blending lush melodies, raw emotion, and diverse influences into a sound uniquely their own.  
Fullerton resident Albert "AL G" Garcia has a wide-ranging and long history in the music scene - with covers and originals.

MAVERICK THEATER'S  
**NIGHT OF THE  
LIVING DEAD**

THE SHOW THAT CAN'T BE KILLED!

MAVERICK THEATER  
110 E. Walnut Ave., Unit B  
(714) 526-7070  
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THROUGH NOV 1  
CALL FOR TIMES

**Night  
of the Living Dead**

The zombie classic that started it all! A group of panicked survivors are barricaded in a deserted farmhouse while a horde of flesh-eating zombies hovers outside their door. Will they survive? Will you? This is a one of a kind experience, perfect for the Halloween season.

**PUP-TOBERFEST**

Saturday, October 11 | 12pm – 4pm  
Hunt Branch Library: 201 S Basque, Fullerton, CA

**Dog Races** **Dog Runway Show** **Live Music**  
**Food Trucks** **Kids Activities** **Beer Garden**



ARBORETUM AT CSUF  
1900 Associated Rd. • 657-278-3407 • [arboretum.fullerton.edu](http://arboretum.fullerton.edu)



**OCT 17 FROM 4 TO 8PM**  
**Trick-or-Treat in the Garden**

Children: \$15  
Adult Non-Members: \$18  
Dress your little ones in Halloween costumes and join us for a trick-or-treat in the garden to explore the “spookier” side of nature! As kids find trick-or-treat stations, they'll discover fun plant facts and receive nature-based treats. Visit Discovery Tables to meet friendly hissing cockroaches, earthworms, and more, learning about these fascinating creatures. Each family gets a map of the route, and registered children will receive a bag for their treats.



**OCT 10 FROM 5:30 TO 6:30PM**  
**Member Movies in the Garden are back!**  
**Beetlejuice**

After Barbara and Adam Maitland die in a car accident, they find themselves stuck haunting their country residence, unable to leave the house. When the unbearable Deetzes and teen daughter Lydia (Winona Ryder) buy the home, the Maitlands attempt to scare them away without success. Their efforts attract Beetlejuice, a rambunctious spirit whose help quickly becomes dangerous for the Maitlands and innocent Lydia.

**Fullerton Friends of Music presents**  
*Aris String Quartet*  
**Saturday, October 11, 2025 at 3:30pm**  
Fullerton First United Methodist Church, 114 N. Pomona Ave.

The Aris Quartet, established in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, in 2009, still performs with its original members. Their rapid ascent to international recognition is marked by numerous first prizes at prestigious competitions, ECHO Rising Stars honors from the European Concert Hall Organization, inclusion as BBC New Generation Artists, and five awards at the ARD International Music Competition in Munich.



**All concerts are free.**  
For more information, visit our website:  
[FullertonFriendsofMusic.org](http://FullertonFriendsofMusic.org),  
or call (562) 691-7437

**Senior Citizens CLUB of Fullerton**



Join us for a Spooktacular

**HALLOWEEN SOCIAL BASE**

**OCTOBER | 23 | 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM**  
DOORS OPEN AT 2:45

MEMBERS \$8 - NON-MEMBERS \$10  
NO BILLS LARGER THAN 20.00 - CASH ONLY!

**ENTERTAINMENT - 5 STAR BAND AND DANCING**  
SPONSORED BY BOOMERS INSURANCE

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**Costume Contest:**  
Winner gets a Prize!



# OktoBOOfest

## at the Downtown Fullerton Plaza

Join us for a fang-tastic time at Fullerton’s OktoBOOfest on October 24th from 4:30-8:30pm at the Downtown Fullerton Plaza! This spooktacular event is perfect for the whole family, featuring trick-or-treat trails for the little ghouls, a costume parade to show off your Halloween spirit, and an enchanting magic show that will leave you spellbound. Enjoy a stroll through the pop-up farmers market for some fall goodies, and adults can sip on seasonal brews in the beer garden. It’s going to be a wicked good time, so grab your costumes and head to OktoBOOfest for an evening full of fun and frights!

To learn more, please check out our social media  
[@fullertonparksandrec](https://twitter.com/fullertonparksandrec) or [@cityoffullerton](https://twitter.com/cityoffullerton)

**THE MUCKENTHALER CULTURAL CENTER**  
1201 W. Malvern Ave • 714-738-6595 • [themuck.org](http://themuck.org)  
(\$35 Non-Member; \$20 Member)

**OCT 9 FROM 7:30 TO 9:30PM**  
**Kybele**

Founded in 2003 by Artistic Director and Choreographer Seda Aybay, Kybele Dance Theater (KDT) seeks to cultivate an experience that infuses theatrical and contemporary dance with Turkish socio-cultural narratives and imagery. Drawing from a diverse tapestry of experience, Aybay uses her unique multicultural approach to craft gestural movement, syncopated rhythms, and lush curves into repertoire that abstracts and amplifies the forgotten moments of everyday life; the mundane becomes powerful, seductive, and profound.

**OCT 13 - NOV 5 FROM 7:30 TO 9:30PM**  
**The Centennial Project**

The next installment of ECT’s annual show for elementary school students honors the 100th anniversary of the building of the Muck, while giving a wink and a nod to one of America’s greatest playwrights. **Fullerton:** Our Town (A Little Bit Wilder!) will explore a day in the life in Fullerton in 1925, paying homage to one of the great American plays, Our Town by Thornton Wilder. Students will imagine a day in the life in Fullerton a century ago, exploring morning, noon, and night in the citrus groves, the oil fields, the downtown buildings, and the new Fox Theatre and Muckenthaler home.

**OCT 13 FROM 7:30 TO 9:30PM**  
**Peter Brandon**

Fullerton Native Country Singer and Songwriter Peter Brandon returns for his 16th year at The Muck! Brandon’s shows have a perfect balance of upbeat energetic songs and tender ballads that hit the heart. Join us in the tradition!

**OCT 17 - 7 TO 9 PM \$50**  
**TAP-AS: An Evening of Spanish Sabor**

**Tap-as:** An Evening of Spanish Sabor, is a one night only performance of savory tastes of Tap, Flamenco, Ballet, Jazz, Modern and Paso Doble dance highlighting the rich culture of Espana and its music. Featuring Spanish guitar as well as other traditional instruments such as claves, castanets, and the pandero, Tap-as puts percussive dance center stage.

Curated and directed by Orange County native and Muckenthaler Artist-in-Residence Ashley Sanchez-Jones, Tap-as features internationally acclaimed tap dancers Steve Zee & Dante Lara, several prestigious local dance companies such as Nannette Brodie Dance Theatre, Jazz Spectrum Dance Company, and Mestizaje Dance Ensemble, and original choreography by Sanchez-Jones including the positively reviewed ‘Via Espana’ suite supported by the Arts Council of Long Beach.

# DISCOVER FULLERTON on FOOT

The Parks and Recreation Department is now offering in-person walks each month, and virtual walks you can register for at any time! Each walk is narrated by a Parks and Recreation staff member and knowledgeable community volunteers.

Please call 714-738-6575 to register for the most recent Fullerton on Foot. Or register online at FullertonEConnect. Maps and videos of virtual walks will be provided as links on registration receipts.

**Oct 18 Fullerton Mysteries**  
**Nov 15 New Deal Fullerton**  
**Dec 20 Brea Dam Recreational Area**



# City Council Notes

by Saskia Kennedy

Meetings are on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 5:30 pm. Upcoming agenda information and streaming video of meetings are available at [www.cityoffullerton.com](http://www.cityoffullerton.com) click on meetings and agenda. City Hall is located at 303 W. Commonwealth, Fullerton Contact Council at (714) 738-6311 or [council@cityoffullerton.com](mailto:council@cityoffullerton.com)

## September 16 Meeting

### Summary of Public Comments

#### Thank you City Council for sending the brief against DHS and ICE

Harry Langenbach, representing the Our Home coalition in Fullerton, expressed gratitude for joining the lawsuit against DHS and ICE and requested an update on the lawsuit's progress and expected outcomes.

Jason Phillips, a Fullerton resident, voiced his gratitude for the support on the Pedro, MO, versus OMG lawsuit brief and emphasized the importance of sharing it publicly to show community members that they were valued and cared for.

Phillips encouraged creative thinking about additional ways to support neighbors, citing Costa Mesa's allocation of funds for nonprofits aiding those affected by deportations, legal aid, and the exploration of a rental registry. He urged finding more strategies to ensure community members felt protected and supported during challenging times.

#### The intersection at Lemon and Valencia

Todd Harrison reported that the intersection at Lemon and Valencia had recently been updated with a functioning left-turn light and newly installed push-button walk lights, which improved safety for pedestrians, especially children.

While the changes had been largely successful, with better traffic flow, there were concerns about the intersection's design. The crosswalks did not connect well, creating wide gaps and requiring mobility device users to navigate diagonally into traffic.

He suggested that wider curb cuts or additional curb cuts for each crosswalk would enhance accessibility and reduce tripping hazards. There was a call for these issues to be addressed in future improvements.

Yolanda Harrison expressed concern about unsafe traffic conditions at the intersection of Lemon and Lancia, noting that the timing of the traffic lights remained problematic despite recent changes. She had witnessed dangerous driver behavior, such as turning left without a proper green light, and emphasized the lack of signage to inform drivers about these changes.

She highlighted the urgent need for safety improvements, especially with children returning to school. She stressed that schools should be safe environments for kids.

#### Walk on Wilshire

Michael reflected on his recent experiences driving through downtown Fullerton and the now-removed Walk on Wilshire, a project that had sparked controversy despite its modest scale. While some people had appreciated the walkable spaces it provided, others had criticized it for being ineffective and harming local businesses. Michael had regularly biked through the area for work, shared their personal fondness for the Walk on Wilshire, noting how it had added character and a sense of calm amidst the heavy car traffic.

#### Police and Safety

Zee expressed his readiness to assist Council Member Jamie Valencia with the installation of sidewalks and curbs on W. Page Ave, as students from Orangethorpe Elementary School often walked in the streets. He mentioned that a city email confirmed the annexation of the area in 2004 and stressed that it was time for improvements. He also hoped the district would help raise funds for the sidewalks and curbs.

Additionally, he reflected on participating in a recent community event with the police department, praising their effectiveness. He recounted witnessing a police operation that led to the apprehension of a suspected burglar and interventions during accidents. He commended the department's leadership, particularly Chief Jonathan Radus, for effectively managing the team and making decisions that protected the city.

#### Speed Limits and Traffic

Renee said, "Yesterday, I spoke with Councilman Zahra about traffic issues in Fullerton due to population growth and new housing developments. I raised concerns about the 40 mph speed limit on State College, which I believed was too fast, especially near schools and during rush hour. This speed had led to dangerous situations for drivers making turns.

"I also discussed the increase in truck traffic on Commonwealth, which was not an approved truck route according to city regulations. This traffic happened frequently from 6 am to 6 pm and worsened on busier days. I was seeking information on how we could address these issues and potentially enforce regulations against trucks using non-approved routes."

#### Trash not getting picked up

Jane Rands described a recent issue with their trash hauler, who had missed a scheduled pickup on Thursday due to a full truck and did not send an alternative. Despite multiple calls and assurances that someone would come, the problem persisted until the issue was finally resolved the following Monday.

She expressed gratitude for the eventual service but sought guidance on how to track these ongoing issues, highlighting the lack of online communication options since the trash service was city-contracted. She also wished to share suggestions for improving how people can make complaints related to trash pickup in the community.

### Remember to VOTE

November 4, 2025  
Statewide Special Election

**VOTE CENTERS IN FULLERTON:**  
**Opens October 25**  
Fullerton Public Library  
353 W Commonwealth Ave  
**Opens November 1**  
CSUF - Titan Student Union  
800 N State College Blvd  
**Opens November 1**  
Public Works Maintenance Yard  
1580 W Commonwealth Ave

#### Free Meals

Robin Woolsey runs the hot meals program at Orangethorpe Christian Church. Woolsey discussed starting programs to assist those in need, including a trailer project aimed at providing food assistance and personalized help for individuals requiring medical care. With 22 years of experience in foster care and a long history of developing food programs, Woolsey was eager to create a new initiative.

Woolsey requested funding for the trailer project. Woolsey invited everyone to a free meal on Monday at 6 pm.

#### Problems at the Fullerton Illumination Shelter

Joel Bross said, "I wanted to thank Curtis, Daisy, and Dan for their help last month. I had been living at the Buena Park Hotel and Suites since the 3rd and supported the construction of the mobile home park and Point Common Apartments for long-term housing.

"As a retired person on a fixed income, I was looking for a permanent low-income unit at the Buena Park Hotel and Suites. However, since I had checked in, I experienced pest issues and was getting bites. When I reported this on the 5th, I was told pest control came on Tuesdays, but they didn't arrive. They finally came the following Thursday, and I was still getting bites.

There were also problems with check-in, as no one was available to assist me. I was told not to approach the front desk until Friday, but after showing them the bugs, I was threatened with a behavioral contract for raising the issue.

I appreciated the support, especially from Curtis, in finding long-term housing solutions."

Holly advocated for improvements at the Illumination Foundation in Fullerton, particularly regarding the pet area, which had a mound of sand and a small patch of astroturf that had not been updated in three years, resulting in unpleasant conditions. Additionally, it highlighted the lack of adequate water access, with only two water fountains for over 140 people and no option for bottled water. The suggestion was made to provide an ice machine that generated its own ice and a water filtration system to address these issues. Gratitude was expressed for the council's past efforts.

Curtis Gamble an activist advocating for various groups, including the homeless, veterans, and low-income communities expressed specific recommendations, including pulling item 8 from the consent calendar regarding the allocation of \$750,000 from Opium settlement funds for Navigation Centers and supporting item 15, a \$102,000 agreement with RRM Design Group to assist the homeless.

He highlighted the importance of

#### Strange Sound in Parking Structure

Dominic highlighted an urgent issue concerning the parking garages on Pomona Avenue, specifically the Metrolink and SoCo parking garages. The source of a concerning beeping noise had been identified as an exposed volt line, which posed a serious risk, particularly to public transit users. Additionally, he thanked council members for their support in brief against ICE but stressed the need for immediate action on the volt issue to prevent a potential disaster near nearby schools.

tiny homes and discussed the Commons Apartments development at 1600 W Commonwealth, which was set to be available in December 2025, providing transition opportunities for clients from the Navigation Center.

He provided data on the Fullerton Navigation Center, in which the city invested approximately \$10 million, offering 150 beds at lower daily costs compared to hospitals. The speaker encouraged more individuals from the Navigation Center to participate in discussions and emphasized the need for accessible resources and information for shelter residents.

Landon: A resident of the Illumination Foundation and Navigation Center expressed concerns about systemic mismanagement and violations of care standards at the facility. The speaker highlighted the unjust removal of a fellow resident, Daniel, who was punished after being assaulted. They argued that the facility's policies created a dangerous double standard and failed to protect residents' rights. Additionally, the resident reported ongoing issues such as neglected maintenance, unsanitary conditions, and unlawful disposal of personal belongings. They were not making threats but proposed to share documentation that supported their claims and urged for a formal investigation into the facility's practices to uphold the standards set in its contract with the city.

Reverend Tonya expressed her feelings of missing her friends and shared their recent diagnosis with SARS, which had caused them to distance themselves from others. She expressed deep anger about social injustices and how certain groups were unfairly treated, likening the situation to a caste system. She emphasized that the people affected were part of their community and should not have been treated as strangers. The speaker felt imprisoned by the societal conditions at the time and stated that they would not engage in activism anymore, citing a belief that true freedom could not be achieved by appealing to the oppressors' conscience.

## Prop 50: Why Are We Having a Special Election?

California is holding a special election to decide whether to temporarily change congressional voting district lines through 2030. Typically, districts are redrawn every 10 years after the census. However, following President Trump's request for Texas to redraw districts for Republican advantage, Governor Newsom asked California to do the same for Democrats. Voters will decide in the special election Nov. 4th.

For more info visit:

- League of Women Voters: [cavotes.org/easy-voter-guide/accessible/](http://cavotes.org/easy-voter-guide/accessible/)
- California Secretary of State Cal-Access: [cal-access.sos.ca.gov/Campaign/Measures/](http://cal-access.sos.ca.gov/Campaign/Measures/)
- Ballotpedia: [ballotpedia.org/California\\_Proposition\\_50\\_Use\\_of\\_Legislative\\_Congressional\\_Redistricting\\_Map\\_Amendment\\_\(2025\)](http://ballotpedia.org/California_Proposition_50_Use_of_Legislative_Congressional_Redistricting_Map_Amendment_(2025))



## Downtown Noise Logs Show Nearly All Venues Over Proposed Limits

by Elijah Manassero

The Fullerton City Council debated adopting new noise limits for commercial properties at its meeting on September 16. Fullerton currently relies on general “public nuisance” standards; there’s no numerical limit in the code for businesses. City staff, working with consultant Dudek since 2023, recommended a framework with time-of-day limits measured 25 feet from the business, using time-averaged readings.

Mayor Fred Jung instead moved to use the Fullerton Transportation Center standard citywide: stricter thresholds, measured at the property line, with only sustained levels. He also eliminated the 30 and 15 minute sustained-noise windows, keeping only the 5 and 1 minute limits. Lastly, he requested higher fines (\$500/\$750/\$1,000), which according to the City Attorney, are the highest possible amount without triggering additional legal requirements.

We reviewed Code Enforcement’s Downtown activity logs from August-

September. The logs show most spot readings between 70-75 dB, with occasional spikes above 80–90 dB across multiple venues (e.g., Ziings, Revolucion, Back Alley, Mickey’s, Callahan’s, High Horse, Madero, Heroes, Kalaveras, Night Owl). Under the Mayor’s proposal, those levels would place nearly all of Downtown over the limit if sustained even briefly.

Noise ordinances in many neighboring cities measure sound from nearby residential properties, rather than commercial property lines. In Downtown Fullerton, many businesses subject to the proposed ordinance are not adjacent to housing, yet would be held to the same limits.

Mayor Pro Tem Shana Charles requested input from Fullerton businesses to provide their perspective.

The Council is scheduled to vote again Oct. 7 at 5:30 PM at City Hall (303 W. Commonwealth Ave).

Public comment is available in person, via Zoom, or by emailing [CouncilMembers@cityoffullerton.com](mailto:CouncilMembers@cityoffullerton.com)

Hours (Monday – Sunday)	Maximum Allowable Sound Level
Daytime 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	65 dB(A)
Nighttime 5:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	80 dB(A)
Late Night 10:00 p.m. - 1:30 a.m.	75 dB(A)
Overnight 1:30 a.m. - 7:00 a.m.*	65 dB(A)

*\*Or ambient noise level, whichever is less.*

Exterior Noise Levels (dBA) for a Period Not Exceeding (Minutes/Hour)

Time Period	30 Minutes	15 Minutes	5 Minutes	1 Minute	0 (Anytime)
7:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.			75	80	
10:00 p.m. - 7:00 a.m.*			65	70	
Friday – Saturday 10:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.			75	80	
Saturday – Sunday 12:00 a.m. - 1:30 a.m.			75	80	

### Fullerton City Council Holds Key Discussions on Waste Contract, Youth Advisory Committee, and Noise Ordinance

During the City Council meeting on September 16, Councilmember Zahra pulled two significant items from the Consent Calendar for further discussion: the Request for Proposals (RFP) related to the new waste and recycling contract; and the proposed restoration of Lions Field’s turf and amenities.

#### Youth Advisory Committee

After public comments and other routine agenda items, the Council made changes to the structure of the Youth Advisory Committee. Future appointments will be limited to nine members and will be made solely by the Council. Each Councilmember will have one direct appointment along with four at-large appointments. Parents of students aged 13 to 18 who live in or attend school in Fullerton are encouraged to submit applications for consideration in October.

#### Noise Ordinance

Finally, the Council addressed the need for a noise ordinance in Downtown Fullerton, as current regulations exist only at the Fullerton Transportation Center (FTC). Staff presented a proposed policy that would extend FTC noise regulations to the entire Downtown area. The Council directed staff to draft an ordinance based on this alternative approach, incorporating adjustments from Mayor Jung, which included removing several timing columns and ensuring noise levels would be checked at the property lines of establishments.

This new noise ordinance is expected to be discussed again at the next Council meeting on October 7. Charles expressed her support for the ordinance but remains open to feedback from local businesses regarding its potential impact on business operations. *(See article above for more)*

#### Lions Field

Council members were presented with a comprehensive overview of the upcoming renovations at Lions Field, a key facility in the community. The \$2 million project is part of the fiscal year 24/25 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) budget, which has already been approved.

Another \$2 million is also designated for Independence Park, but progress on both projects is on hold until park dwelling funds from the HUB project are secured.

The Lions Field renovation will focus on replacing the field at an estimated cost of \$1.5 million, with additional enhancements like dugout benches, scoreboards, a conference

room update, and bleacher shade structures. City officials stressed the need to include bleachers in this phase to prevent future damage to the new turf. The goal is to complete renovations with minimal disruption and aim for installation around Thanksgiving, although scheduling challenges may arise.

The discussion on these renovations highlighted concerns over equity in the city. While the field serves a large regional audience, other parks, such as Chapman and Nicolas, are in need of repairs as well. City staff indicated that any unspent funds from this project would be directed toward these other fields.

#### New Waste Management

Zahra said, "The reason we originally postponed the vote on this item was due to the absence of the proposal.

My question regarding the RFP is about labor requirements. I had a discussion with Director Bise earlier, but I didn't receive a confirmation on this matter, so I will just ask it now. Can we include a requirement for labor or a unionized company in the RFP?"

Special Counsel on Solid Waste Issues Attorney Patrick Munoz said, "The law stipulates that if there is a union contract in place—which there is currently—and there is a changeover, the employees of the former company must be given the opportunity to work for the new company. There are some limitations to this, but that is the general rule. Your contract specifically includes this, and I can inform you that, practically speaking, almost all of the companies providing solid waste services in the Orange County area employ Teamsters, which is the union that contracts with them."

Munoz continued, “The contract does not specifically require that it be a union contract, but practically speaking, I would be surprised if it didn't turn out to be one."

Zahra said, "I appreciate your efforts to explain the situation. I want to clarify this. Not all the haulers are members of a union, so I just want to confirm: is it legally permissible to make union participation a requirement in the RFP or at least provide bonus points for it in the selection process?"

Munoz said, "Yes, that can be done. "

One of the main points of contention during the discussion by the public and Council on the waste and recycling contract was a request from representatives of organized labor in Orange County to include a guarantee for union labor in the RFP.

Aiden Alvarez, Communications

Director for Teamsters Local 396 said, “I represent thousands of sanitation workers across Southern California, including the hard-working men and women who serve right here in Fullerton. For years, Republic Services has been a reliable partner to the city. The teams for members who drive the trucks, maintain the equipment and keep our streets clean are not just employees—they are members of this community, they’re parents, neighbors and taxpayers who take great pride in keeping Fullerton safe, clean and healthy.

These workers are backed by a strong union contract that ensures good wages, healthcare and retirement benefits. That stability means low turnover, experienced drivers who know their routes, and the level of safety and professionalism that benefits every resident of this city.

When the Covid-9 pandemic hit and so many things in our world came to a halt, waste collection never stopped. Our members showed up every single day because keeping trash off the streets isn't just a service, it's a public health necessity. And that dedication deserves to be recognized and protected. And tonight, I urge you to retain Republic Services as Fullerton's waste hauler. Doing so is not just about business. It's about supporting good union jobs, protecting public health, and ensuring that this community continues to be served by the workers who know it best.”

However, City staff remained divided on the potential impact of this requirement; while some believed it would not limit the pool of applicants, others, including the Director of Public Works, cautioned that it could indeed restrict options. The original motion to release the RFP passed with a vote of 4-1 (Zahra no).

#### How to contact your District Representative

- **Mayor District 1: Fred Jung**  
(714) 738-6311  
[fred.jung@cityoffullerton.com](mailto:fred.jung@cityoffullerton.com)
- **Mayor Pro Tem District 3: Dr. Shana Charles**  
(714) 738-6311  
[shana.charles@cityoffullerton.com](mailto:shana.charles@cityoffullerton.com)

- **District 2: Nicholas Dunlap**  
(714) 738-6311  
[nicholas.dunlap@cityoffullerton.com](mailto:nicholas.dunlap@cityoffullerton.com)
- **District 4: Jamie Valencia**  
(714) 738-6311  
[jamie.valencia@cityoffullerton.com](mailto:jamie.valencia@cityoffullerton.com)
- **District 5: Dr. Ahmad Zahra**  
(714) 738-6311  
[ahmadz@cityoffullerton.com](mailto:ahmadz@cityoffullerton.com)

#### City Meetings

**October 7 at 5:30pm**  
City Council  
**October 8 at 6:30pm**  
Planning Commission  
**October 13 at 6:30pm**  
Parks and Recreation

**October 15 at 5:30pm**  
Active Transportation  
**October 16 at 5:30pm**  
Investment Advisory  
**October 20 at 5pm**  
Infrastructure





OPINION: **Out of My Mind**

by Jon Dobrer © 2025 • [Jonathandobrer.substack.com](http://Jonathandobrer.substack.com)

**The Silencing of the Lambs:  
Not Just About Kimmel and Colbert**

Pastor Martin Niemoeller famously wrote, “First they came for the socialists, but I was not a socialist, so I said nothing.” Any allusion to Pastor Niemoeller instantly summons the history of how in the 1930s the Nazis rapidly eroded the freedom of the German people and brought down their fragile democracy. Such comparisons are frowned upon these days. They are considered overblown and hysterical. There can be nothing that compares with the unmitigated evil of the Nazis. True. However, I am not comparing us to 1941 Germany. I am referencing how Germany devolved from the hopes of 1933 and how the downhill road they took condemned them to arrive at 1941. We must seek an off-ramp from this road that I believe we are already travelling.

A modern version of the Niemoeller litany might be: First they came for the recent immigrants, but I am not a recent immigrant, so I said nothing. Then they came for the peaceful protestors, but though I’m a peaceful protestor they didn’t get me, so I said nothing. Then they came for our Fools, the comedians and satirists—and that is deeply personal. I am a political commentator, a satirist and an aspiring Fool.

When a government comes for a segment of society that it finds threatening, it usually starts with the weakest elements and works its way up to those whose criticism might actually threaten them. So, when they came for the immigrants, it was low hanging fruit but now they’ve come for the Fools, the social satirists who mock them and make them objects of derision. They don’t like being laughed at.

Being a Fool is an honorable profes-

sion. It involves speaking the truth in a way that brings laughter and, more importantly, insight. The Fool’s job is to use humor to open the minds of those in power. Importantly, it is also the Fool’s job to tell the truth and still survive. Though King Lear’s Fool dies, in most literature he survives to joust with pointed jests against the power of the King or State.

It is the mark of thin-skinned and insecure supposedly powerful people to turn in anger and fear against society’s marginalized people and the Fools who often stand apart on polite society’s fringes. This is what is happening now to us, our society, our immigrants, minorities, dissenters, protestors and Fools. While they are being rounded up, deported without due process, isolated and disappeared, the government seeks to eliminate the reporters who tell us what is happening and the Fools who meet the threats of the powerful with derision, laughter and insight, producing truth.

They started with Stephen Colbert and went on to Jimmy Kimmel. Today they’re targeting Jimmy Fallon and Seth Meyers by name, and we know Jon Stewart will heave into range shortly. Get rid of the comic commentators and Niemoeller’s observation is completed; so, when they come for the rest of us, there will be no one left to speak on our behalf.

I don’t blame Trump, at least not completely. No leader, hell, no person, enjoys criticism or worse mockery. Every president believes that he is being mistreated, misquoted and misrepresented by the media. This is not a

left or right complaint. John Adams attempted to criminalize criticism of the president—and at least in this one thing Trump would follow Adams. Trump’s desire to stifle the laughter and mockery is understandable, and while I don’t like it, I expect no less.

What I don’t expect or accept is the clear cowardice of our institutions that caved without resistance to the threats and demands of this bully. How could they not know that if they paid blackmail, they would have to pay it again? How could they not know that if they caved to a bully, they would only empower and encourage the bully to their own detriment. Yes, I’m mad at Trump, but worse, I’m disappointed in the academics who folded and paid Trump’s monetary demands—as if money could remediate antisemitism, or if Trump actually were trying to remediate antisemitism as opposed to

finding an entry point to weaken academia.

I’m angry and disappointed at the law firms that, when threatened with loss of government contracts,

shrank into pathetic servility and offered to work out their extorted fines with pro bono work for Trump causes.

Worst of all is our media, the Fifth Estate, the guardians of our democracy who sold out by paying for protection. First Jeff Bezos killed the Washington Post’s presidential endorsement of Biden when threatened with higher postal fees for his company Amazon. Then Patrick Soon-Shiong killed an LA Times Biden endorsement, most likely to protect his government contracts with the medical branch of his empire. Then CBS settled a legally frivolous lawsuit against 60 Minutes because of the allegedly unfair editing of an interview with Kamala Harris. I don’t know what Trump’s theory of damages might have been since he won the damn election! CBS rolled to protect a sale and a merger. Then ABC settled a ridiculous suit over George

*The Fool’s job is to use  
humor to open the minds  
of those in power.*

OPINION: **AT HOME WITH THE HOMELESS**

by Andrew Williams © 2025 [WWW.PATREON.COM/C/THEEOPINIONATOR](http://WWW.PATREON.COM/C/THEEOPINIONATOR)

**We need to talk about shelters again**

*“Everything that needs to be said has already been said.*

*But since no one was listening, everything must be said again.”—Andre Gide*

In the mid-September letters column for the *Observer*, John H. made several good points, including one I’ve been hammering on for years: “Housing first, so you can BEGIN to solve the problems.” And further: “Housing as some type of reward for good behavior (is) not a problem-solving attitude.” I could not possibly agree more.

In the interim, we have to deal with the solutions, imperfect as they are, that are already in place. That primarily means homeless shelters. As indicated, this columnist has dealt with their shortcomings and advantages before, so some of this will be rehashed observations and facts with new input added.

The two biggest names that come up when it comes to addressing homelessness in Orange County are the Illumination Foundation (IF) and Mercy House (MH). Combined, they receive around \$45 million from city and state governments to fund shelters and housing projects.

Mercy House, according to its annual report for 2024-2025, believes “that shelter is not the end goal...it’s the first step. A safe place to sleep is where

healing can begin, stability can take root, and the path home becomes possible.” Fine-sounding words, but they ring hollow in these ears and those with whom I’ve shared shelter these past three years. Sleeping in congregate Housing can be difficult or outright impossible, especially if lights are left on all night. And without good sleep, everything—from making simple to do lists to executive decision-making—becomes equally problematic.

In this same report, Mercy House makes the astonishing assertion that their rapid rehousing program has a success rate of 92 percent, with the average time in shelter being around eight months. But what of those who spend years waiting, dealing with the turnover in housing navigators (I’ve had 6 in my 3 years) and the grinding, endless, banal routine that can lead to depression, stagnation and bed-rotting? What of those of us who start out with the highest of hopes, only to become more jaundiced as “clients” (the preferred terminology in the shelter industry) who’ve been sheltered for mere weeks are given Housing, while the rest of us are like the refugees in

*Casablanca*, lacking letters of transit? They also claim to have served 9,043 individuals during the past year, but provide no data as to how many of these individuals received permanent supportive Housing.

The Illumination Foundation makes many equally laudable claims in its latest report: 91¢ of every dollar goes directly to programs; they maintain a 97% Charity Navigator rating; their financials are independently audited each year; oversight is provided by a highly engaged Board of Directors and finance committee. But some of these numbers tell a different story. For instance, IF reports that they served 7,282 clients last year, but only 1,211 ended up in permanent supportive Housing. That’s literally 1 in 7—a 14 percent success rate. Not something to brag about.

Being in a shelter in Orange County is like being in the lowest-caste in India—the “dalits,” or untouchables. And we are constantly made aware of our lowly status, while being expected to be thankful for congregate shelter and the numerous risks therein—rampant viral spread, sexual and verbal abuse, and filthy conditions among them.

Then there’s the issue of just getting into a shelter. There are around 4000 shelter beds in Orange County, but availability is low. It is estimated that, currently, around 1300 of these beds are occupied, yet a homeless person

Stephanopolis saying Trump was convicted of criminal rape when it was only civil sexual assault with penetration.

Did these media giants and moral cowards learn anything from their craven capitulations? Of course not. Trump went right back after CBS and Colbert, and again CBS folded. Then he again went after ABC and yes, again ABC surrendered. Do you think any of these media giants believed that Trump had a case? Of course not. But they did believe that he would block their business interests and expansion plans. They believed he could hound and harass them and that it would be easier and cheaper to give in. But, alas, it doesn’t work. It hasn’t worked. It cannot work. Like the Terminator, “He’ll be back!”

An insecure bully is never satisfied. He is an open pit that cannot be filled. These leaders delude themselves and will ultimately weaken themselves while also weakening our democracy. Benjamin Franklin is quoted as saying “Those who would give up essential Liberty, to purchase a little temporary Safety, deserve neither Liberty nor Safety.”

These core institutions, these guardians of our democracy, this Fifth Estate has gone morally bankrupt, trading their core mission for short-term profits. Perhaps, if the media were owned by media people and not just reside in the small corners of the portfolios of giant companies with many business interests (and concomitant vulnerabilities), they could choose to take a stand and defend their important calling to bring truth to the people. If democracy depends on an informed electorate and the government destroys the source of information, our democracy will fail and fall.

Is this hopeless? Is it already too late? Has the bully won? Do we have a chance? Only a Fool would still have hope, which is why, now more than ever, we need to fight for and protect our Fools.

can expect to wait days, even months, just to get a bed in a shelter.

Add to that the daunting prospect of having to approach the local police department to speak with their homeless liaison officer, and doing so during banker’s hours. Most homeless people want zero contact with the police, for obvious reasons.

As far as permanent Housing goes, the news is even bleaker. Community Partners Realty, in their July 2025 report on housing availability in Orange County, noted that renters need to earn more than three times the minimum wage to afford the average rent on an apartment.

I have no reason to doubt the sincerity of Mercy House’s and the Illumination Foundation’s core mission. Where I have issues is on the ground floor, where we, the unhoused, must keep body, mind and spirit together despite all the aforementioned obstacles and indignities dropped in our paths. Perhaps if more of those millions went into actual Housing, as well as improving the upkeep of shelters and hiring of adequately trained personnel (like on-site psychiatric social workers and addiction counselors), the problem of rehousing would be less time-consuming and dispiriting. Until things change, this columnist will continue to heed Andre Gide’s wise words and persist in hammering away at the walls that separate the homeless from having homes.



Balance & Change

by Michelle Gottlieb, Psy.D., MFT, LPCC © 2025

A Time to Slow Down and Reflect

I love the fall. It is truly one of my favorite seasons, even in California, where we hardly see any change in the leaves.

Fall just seems to be a time when we begin to slow down. The most appropriate thing is to curl up on a couch with a blanket, a pup, a book and a mug of hot chocolate.

It is a time to just pause and look out the window, contemplating life. We have finished the hectic summer season. We are not yet at the hectic time of the holidays.

So, my challenge to you is:

How and when will you slow down? When will you give yourself time for that contemplation?

I like getting up early, before anyone else is up. The house is quiet. The neighborhood is as well. I can get myself centered for the day.

Some people need to do that the last thing at night, right before they sleep. And some people can make that happen in the middle of an otherwise busy day.

Do you need to be in nature to make this happen?

Or just have the quiet?

Where can you truly slow down and take in the fall?

Ask yourself and notice how you react depending on your surroundings. Once you are aware of when and where that is, make it a regular occurrence.

Life can be difficult. Giving ourselves these moments allows us to deal with everything.

Remember to take care of yourself!



Healthy Awareness

by Jo Ann Brannock, Ph.D. © 2025

SOCIAL MORALITY AND DEMOCRACY

Nelson Mandela once said, "No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite" (Long Walk to Freedom). This sentiment resonates deeply in the context of America's ongoing struggle with racial and social divisions.

The reality of this struggle hit home for my family as they left Maryland during the racial unrest of the 1960s, driven by violence against Black Americans.

Upon relocating to California, they committed to raising their children without racial prejudice, fostering connections with people from diverse backgrounds. Through a YMCA program called Friendship Families, they hosted international students, providing mutual support and nurturing understanding our shared humanity. Over the years, we welcomed students from India, Africa, China, and other countries into our home.

My children also grew up learning that international students were human beings with the same hopes and feelings. Mandela's love over hate was affirmed in these interactions. My children learned that differences enrich our lives. They are not the reasons for anger.

One of my relatives back East worried that I was exposing my children to danger by welcoming international students into my home. But when I explained how valuable these experiences were for teaching acceptance and understanding, she began to see the benefits and that they were not in any danger.

Twenty years ago, I joined Fullerton College students Alex Tijerina, Delia Maldonado and Randy Thomas to address bullying in schools.

Bullying manifests in anger, abuse, and exclusion. Teachers and principals, already overwhelmed, often lack the time and resources to address bullying effectively, sometimes dismissing it as "kids being kids."

In response, we designed an after-school program to educate the community about the importance of self-advocacy in children to create inclusive environments. We wanted a society where people do not bully others because of differences in skin color, abilities, religion, or sexual preferences.

Currently, the nation faces a worrying trend of polarization akin to bullying. Many of our representatives in Congress seem too fearful to speak up on our behalf. As citizens, we must unite as a nation, engage with one another, and work together to negotiate our differences instead of thoughtlessly following authoritarian paths.

Friends and family often refuse to discuss their differences, and freedom of speech has been compromised as a result. Open dialogue about the policies and decisions that shape our nation should be a central topic of discussion. Division and a balance of power were built into our democracy as safeguards against authoritarian rule. Sadly, this safeguard is faltering. Too often, disagreements escalate into hostility, and in extreme cases, some believe violence or even assassination is the only solution to opposing viewpoints.

The organization, Moral Courage, reminds us that it is every person's responsibility to reach thoughtful moral conclusions about the issues we face. They advocate for skills that allow us to listen and speak respectfully without reacting emotionally or defensively to our differences.

To truly reach the truth, we must seek full context from multiple media sources, rather than soundbites, from just one media source.

You can learn how to use these tools more effectively by visiting:

[www.moralcourage.org](http://www.moralcourage.org)

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The Dental Corner

Understanding Gum Recession: Causes and Consequences Pt. 1

Gum recession is a dental concern that can affect the health and appearance of your smile. While mild cases may not significantly impact oral health, more severe instances require urgent attention. This condition occurs when gum tissue pulls away from the teeth, revealing the roots and potentially leading to sensitivity and other complications.

The gums, a crucial layer of tissue covering the jawbone, play an essential role in anchoring the teeth and maintaining overall dental health. Healthy gums not only contribute to an attractive smile but also help fend off tooth sensitivity and reduce the risk of periodontal disease.

One of the primary culprits behind gum recession is uncontrolled periodontal disease. As bacteria build up

around the gums without regular dental cleanings, inflammation ensues, leading to loss of both bone and gum tissue. This makes routine dental visits vital for maintaining gum health.

In addition to periodontal disease, lifestyle factors can also contribute to gum recession. Piercings in the lips and tongue may cause severe damage through persistent friction against the gums. Furthermore, improper brushing or stiff bristles—can exacerbate the problem. Excessive teeth clenching and grinding can also lead to minor gum recession. Prioritizing gum health is essential for maintaining a healthy and confident smile.

Stay tuned for more insights on this important topic in our next article!

Eric Kim, DMD: Family Dentistry

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Nixon Borah 1940-2025



Nixon Borah, 87, passed away in San Diego, California, on September 4, 2025. Nixon was an accomplished artist, educator, and poet.

Nixon grew up in San Luis Obispo and earned degrees at UC Santa Barbara (B.A.), University of Washington (M.F.A.), and Claremont Graduate University (Ph.D.). In 1959, he married Esther J. Gonzales, and they moved to Fullerton, where they raised two children, Farfalla and Vincent. Following their divorce, Nixon moved to Los Angeles and then retired to Atascadero in 2003. During that time, Nixon had a loving 35-year relationship with Edward Smink, and they married in 2022 before moving to San Diego.

Nixon enjoyed a career as an exhibiting Southern California artist and Professor of Art at Fullerton College. He retired from teaching in 2003 and moved to the Central

Coast, where he continued to make art and pursued a passion for poetry. The range of art that Nixon has produced and exhibited encompasses a wide spectrum of media, including drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, and photography. His work has been shown in numerous galleries and museums and is included in private collections on both coasts. Nixon’s most recent solo exhibition was at the San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, and his work is currently featured in a permanent collection exhibition at the Fullerton College Art Gallery. Nixon taught studio art courses for the Fullerton College Art Department from 1962 to 2003. He helped create the Fine Arts Honors Program and founded the printmaking program. He is fondly remembered by many

former students and colleagues at the College. As a poet, he has been a featured reader at several Central Coast poetry venues during the past 15 years, including periodic readings at the annual San Luis Obispo Poetry Festival. Nixon published a collection of his poetry entitled “Time Zones,” published by Penciled In, 2019. Nixon is survived by his husband, Edward, daughter, Farfalla, brother, William, grandchild, Roz, and William’s daughter, Shelli, two granddaughters, and great-grandchildren. Nixon was preceded in death by his son, Vincent, and nephew, William. A private family gathering will be held in San Luis Obispo at a later date.

Lisa Ann Ganley-Owen 1967-2025

Lisa graduated from CSUF, with a bachelor’s degree in business, and graduated from Western University of Health Sciences in Pomona with her Physician Assistant license. She utilized her license in a variety of medical practices, including plastic surgery, wound therapy, and family practice, serving as a wellness coordinator. She went on to further support her profession by working on a panel as an advisor for incoming PA students and teaching classes at Marshall B Ketchum University. In addition to her professional career, she became a yoga instructor.

She taught yoga, hosted retreats, and ventured out on paddle boards to mix it up. She ran several 5K-10 K runs and completed the New York Marathon. There wasn’t anything she couldn’t do. For everything she wanted, she found a way to make it happen, including reconnecting with her high school sweetheart, John Owen, whom she would later marry. She had faith, a lasting love, and welcomed challenges with open arms. Those challenges brought her more strength as a woman, wife, sister, daughter, Aunt, and friend. She would

want anyone who has a dream, passion, interest to “Go for it”, “Keep on keepin’ on”, “Life is scood (so good). That is how she lived her life. Even though she is not physically with us now, let’s keep her legacy thriving through us while we fulfill our own destinies. We will miss you, Lisa, but know you are not far away. So, when any of your senses remind you of Lisa, welcome them, cry, laugh, or even scream if you need to. She is just



saying be present with me for those moments, for I am still here. Lisa is preceded in death by her father. She is survived by her amazing husband John, present mother, her only sibling Holly, nephew Colton, niece Kelly, and all of her loving extended family. The memorial service will be held at 11 am on Saturday, October 11, 2025, at McAulay & Wallace Mortuary in Fullerton.

Nathaniel "Neil" N. Reich 1928-2025

Neil passed away peacefully on September 7 at the age of 97 at Oakmont of Fullerton. Born in Queens, NY, in 1928, Neil was a longtime resident of Fullerton. Neil enlisted in the US Marine Corps at the end of WWII and went on to serve as a Major in both Korea and Vietnam. After retiring from the military, he worked as a deputy sheriff in the Orange County Sheriff's Reserve. Deeply passionate about serving his country, Neil continued helping his



fellow veterans well into his 80s/80's as a Veteran Support Officer with the Orange County Veterans' Service Office. A memorial service will be held at Loma Vista Memorial Park, Fullerton, California, on Friday, October 17. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Legion, an organization that was near and dear to Neil's heart. <https://mylegion.org> Neil will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

Dorothy Holin Sailor 1929-2025

Dorothy Holin Sailor, 96, a beloved mother, educator, and friend to many, passed away on September 22 after a brief illness. Born in Evanston, Illinois, on January 30, 1929, she engaged everyone she knew with charm, intelligence, and an indefatigable optimism. A passionate educator, Dodie joined the Department of Home Economics at Fullerton College in 1965, where she happily taught child development for more than thirty years. The culmination of her academic career was the publication of the textbook, “Supporting Children in Their Home, School, and Community,” which emphasized how the various parts of a pluralistic society impact child development. Dodie was a well-known figure on campus, where she was active in the faculty union and organized campaigns to elect more progressive candidates to the board of the North Orange County Community District. Much of her political activism and service grew out of her commitment to the welfare of children. She was active in the World Organization for Early Childhood Education (OMEPE). Her service to OMEPE continued in retirement from Fullerton College and included stints on the World and US National Committee boards. Locally, she served as President of the Coalition for Children and Families, Inc., which obtained grants that culminated in the establishment of a Late Day Care Center. Most recently, Dodie enjoyed collaborating



with lifelong friends from the United Congregational Church and Pathways of Hope to address hunger and homelessness in Orange County. Travel was one of Dodie’s lifelong joys. She traveled to every continent save Antarctica. In the sixties and seventies, she camped across Western and Eastern Europe with her husband, Dan, and their three young children. In the eighties, she and Dan traveled to China and Asia. In the nineties, she and Dan sailed on their sailboat through much of Central America and the Caribbean. She continued to take yearly trips abroad with friends and family and at the age of 86, she travelled with friends to Myanmar. She is survived by her sons, Kevin Sailor and his wife Mimi Sioufi, and Dory Sailor; her grandson, Evan, her sister Joan Strawn, and her son-in-law, Kevin Howard, the husband of her late son, Timothy Sailor, who predeceased her. She will be remembered for her boundless energy, her determined advocacy for children, her love of family and friends, and her enduring optimism.

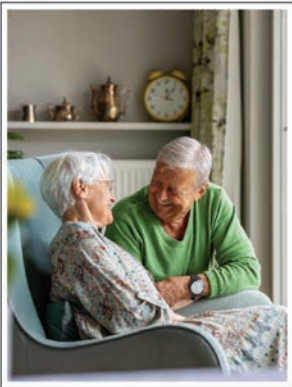
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Ecclesiastes



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WED	October 8, 2025	6:00 – 7:00 PM	English
SAT	October 11, 2025	9:00 – 10:00 AM	English
TUE	October 14, 2025	9:00 – 10:00 AM	English
FRI	October 17, 2025	6:00 – 7:00 PM	Spanish
SAT	October 18, 2025	9:00 – 10:00 AM	Vietnamese
THU	October 23, 2025	6:00 – 7:00 PM	English
SAT	October 25, 2025	9:00 – 10:00 AM	English
TUE	October 28, 2025	6:00 – 7:00 PM	Spanish



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## City of Fullerton Employment

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<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/fullerton>

### Associate Planner

Salary: \$83,185 to \$106,169 Annually  
Job Type: Regular Full-Time  
Job Number: 2025-00129  
Department: Community and Economic Development  
Division: 2312-Planning

The Planning team is looking for an Associate Planner who’s ready to take on exciting, hands-on work that makes a real difference in our community. This is a journey-level role where you’ll dig into complex projects, work with great people, and see your efforts take shape in the neighborhoods, businesses, and public spaces around you.

### Community Services Leader Series - Community Center

Salary: \$16.50 - \$17.00 Hourly  
Job Type: Non-Regular (At Will/Non-Benefited)  
Job Number: CSL-CC-2023  
Department: Parks and Recreation

Applicants selected for Fullerton Community Center positions will have the exciting opportunity to deliver the highest quality customer service to a diverse group of patrons. The Community Center acts as the front line and resource center for the Parks & Recreation Department.

### Community Services Leader Series - Park and Trail

Salary: \$16 - \$16.50 Hourly  
Job Type: Non-Regular (At Will/Non-Benefited)  
Job Number: CSL-PT-2023  
Department: Parks and Recreation

Park and Trail staff may work at the front counter of a sports facility and/or provide supportive services to multiple facilities. Hours worked per week may vary and include evenings/weekends.

### Community Services Leader Series Youth Services Division

Salary: \$16.50 - \$17.00 Hourly  
Job Type: Non-Regular (At Will/Non-Benefited)  
Job Number: 01 - Youth Svcs Div  
Department: Parks and Recreation

Applicants selected for the Youth Services Division will have exciting opportunities to make a significant impact in the lives of children and families participating in the City’s many after-school, teen, and summer programs. Duties in this division cover a broad range of experience, and may include a lead role in planning and implementing special events, creating marketing publications and social media posts, coordinating donations, planning and supervising youth and teen programming, data collection and analysis, and coordinating the work of City volunteers.

### Director of Administrative Services


Job Type: Regular Full-Time  
Job Number: 2025 - Dir of AS (#2)  
Department: Administrative Services  
Closing Date: Continuous

The City of Fullerton is recruiting for a highly experienced Director of Administrative Services to manage the day-to-day activities of the Administrative Services Department. The successful candidate will have a broad background in municipal finance and a strong track record of success in managing a multi-faceted organization. The new Director will work closely with the City Manager’s Office and will be directly responsible for a 31 full-time employees, with an operating budget of \$5.6 million.

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ANSWER KEY TO “BAKE OFF IS BACK!” on pg 7:



**PUZZLE MASTER Valerie Brickey**  
was born in Fullerton and returned to raise her family here. She has contributed puzzles since 2014.

G	R	E	G		R	P	M	S		T	R	U		
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VIDEO *OBSERVER*

by Emerson Little © 2025

See videos on YouTube @emersonlittle1901

Remembering Artist Nixon Borah

Inside a glass display case outside Room 1004 at Fullerton College, candles of varying sizes sit in front of a small commemorative display memorializing multimedia artist and former Fullerton College faculty member, Nixon Borah. His silver-print piece, titled “Dark Room Dancer 1,” inspired the College Art Gallery’s current exhibition, “Dark Room: Selections from the Fullerton College Art Collection.” Sadly, Borah passed away the same day the gallery’s permanent collection showcase opened. After receiving word about the artist’s death from gallery technician Seija Rohkea, I decided to interview Jasmine McNeal, Professor of Museum Studies at Fullerton College, and art gallery curator, and Stephen Klippenstein, Fullerton College Art Department Chair, about their memories of Nixon Borah, and how his work inspired and informed curatorial decisions behind the “Dark Room” exhibition.

Borah, who worked across a wide array of media ranging from drawing and painting to printmaking and photography, passed away at the age of 87 in San Diego on September 4, 2025. He taught different studio art classes at Fullerton College for 41 years and founded the Art Department’s printmaking program in the 1970s. From many accounts, he seems to be fondly remembered by former students and colleagues. Text from former faculty member Bob Jensen displayed in the memorial outside the gallery explains that, among Borah’s many accomplishments, he taught the first Honors Creative Arts class with Jim Henderson (Theatre) and Darwin Frederickson (Music). Borah and his classes also designed and produced masks for the Fullerton College Theatre production of “Oedipus Rex.”

“Nixon was a long-term faculty member, and we have many works by him in our permanent collection – two of them featured in this exhibition, with one of them as the title of the exhibit,” wrote Rohkea via email.

McNeal, who curated “Dark Room,” explained that Borah started teaching at Fullerton College in 1962 and retired in 2003.

She said, “We have “Dark Room Dancer 1” and “Kali Surfer” in the show. I believe both works feel a bit more figuratively abstract and high-

light a more deconstructed view of the human form. I enjoy how Borah’s work feels honest and also playful. Personally, I did not get the pleasure of meeting him, but for this show, I do believe I got a better understanding of his practice as an artist. He was amazing at showing the vulnerability of life and seemed interested in the human form. I would describe Borah’s work as expressive, honest, layered, and vulnerable.”

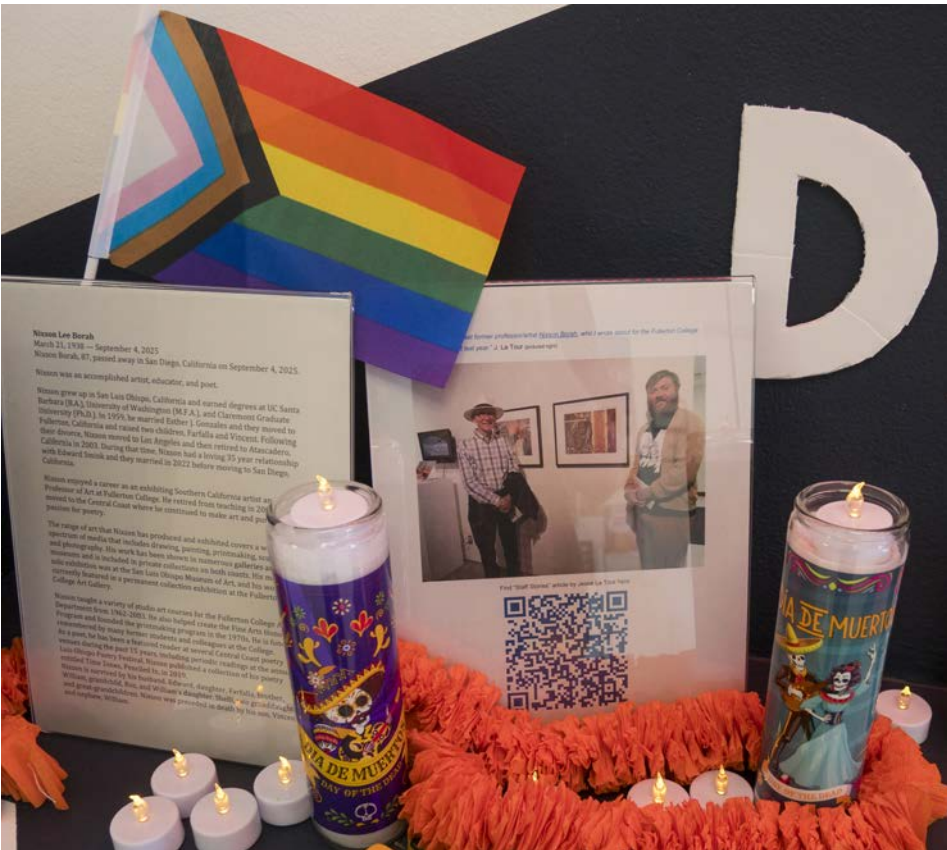
When asked why she decided to title this gallery exhibition after one of Borah’s works, McNeal responded, ““Dark Room Dancer 1” really caught my eye when curating the show. I love the detail of the man in the forefront and this figure (whether man, or creature, or spirit) sort of lurking behind it. I believe it set the tone for the show, highlighting the ebbs and flows of humanity and the many moments where being human feels otherworldly. I also wanted to highlight how diverse our collection is, not just through medium, but also content.”

Since 1971, Fullerton College has had a permanent collection of art for the gallery to draw on. Current Art Department Chair Stephen Klippenstein remembers Nixon Borah as his neighbor.

“His family grew up on the same block as I did, so I was friends with his daughter. Later on, when I was a student here at Fullerton College, he was my life drawing instructor,” said Klippenstein. “He was just a really great mentor. I got my degree here at Fullerton College, and I went on to get my Bachelor’s Degree at Art Center. I think without Mr. Borah’s help, I don’t know that I would’ve gotten into art school, so I’m deeply grateful for that.”

When asked what Borah was like as a teacher, Klippenstein said, “He was a character; always very, very warm and welcoming. Very much a mentor to everyone. My one memory of him was I had him for a life drawing class, and I was really, really struggling to draw hands. Mr. Borah came up behind me and whispered in my ear and said, ‘if you can draw hands and feet, you can draw anything.’ He was just a very warm, welcoming man.”

“His artwork if you look at it just spans a lot of different media. He was always very experimental in what he wanted to do. The piece we have here



Above: Close up of Nixon Borah memorial at Fullerton College art gallery.  
Below: Stephen Klippenstein, Fullerton College Art Department Chair, discusses Nixon Borah’s piece Dark Room Dancer



in the gallery with our show, which is very much inspired by his work, melds photography with also hand drawing,” said Klippenstein while examining Borah’s 20 x 16 inch black and white silver print, “Dark Room Dancer 1.”

Klippenstein specifically sought out Borah’s work from the art department’s permanent collection to hang in his office because Borah was such a mentor to him. He said, “I always want to kind of remember who got me to where I am. The pieces I have in my office right now are essentially drawings, so he spanned many different mediums. When I was a student here, he was always experimenting. I remember doing many projects with a Xerox copier...He was always just intrigued by new media and tried to work it into the curriculum.”

When I asked McNeal what she hopes people will take away after

viewing the Gallery’s exhibition, she said, “I hope viewers see how expansive our collection is, but also how diverse in content it is as well. I hope people use the space to feel something, and mostly, I hope they feel welcomed in the space and know that art is truly for everyone. I really hope they can feel Borah’s presence.”

The exhibition, “Dark Room: Selections from the Fullerton College Art Collection,” will be on view inside the Fullerton College Art Gallery until October 25.

The Gallery is open Monday to Thursday from 10am to 12pm and 2pm to 4pm. Admission is always free.

**A remembrance ceremony for Nixon Borah will be taking place on October 8, 2025.**

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