

neighbor to neighbor

COMMUNITY NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF ORANGE

Emigdio Vasquez mural to be featured in Getty Museum's 2017 Pacific Standard Time exhibition

A restored mural on the side of a Chapman University-owned apartment building in Old Towne Orange will be part of The Getty Center's popular Pacific Standard Time exhibition in 2017.

"It tells a story of struggle, of history and of the daily lives of the people in the neighborhood," says Higgy Vasquez, son of the artist, who died in 2014. Higgy Vasquez was hired by Chapman to restore the mural after the University purchased the property as campus housing.

The late Emigdio Vasquez produced more than 400 oil paintings and 22 murals during his 50-year career. It's hoped that with the spotlight on the North Cypress Street mural by the Getty initiative, more attention will be given to the historic and cultural value of Vasquez's other murals and the need to save this fragile art form from destruction.

The North Cypress Street mural was restored in the same spirit of historical stewardship that gave new life to the 1931 Cypress Street Schoolhouse a few blocks away. That site, carefully restored by Chapman, is the last remaining Mexican-American segregated schoolhouse in Southern California. It now houses Chapman's Early Human and Lifespan Development Research Facility. The site "reminds us of where we started and how far we have all come," says Leo Castro, past president of the Orange Barrio Historical Society.



Higgy Vasquez works on the restoration of his father Emigdio's mural on North Cypress Street in Orange, 2014.

The Vasquez mural is an iconic presence in the neighborhood. It illustrates 450 years of Mexican-American history, linking it to the local community — depicting an Aztec warrior, immigrant farmers, local barrio residents, the neighborhood store, car culture, revolutionary leader Che Guevara and labor leader Cesar Chavez among its scenes.

The mural faced some tumult in its own history, as it fell into disrepair over the years. Police once believed it to be a rallying location for gang members. But that time is past, and now that Higgy Vasquez's painstaking restoration work of his father's art is complete, the mural once again shines as a beacon of heritage for residents of the historic Orange Barrio District and all who visit it.

Chapman ecology class helps prepare soil at OHG farm

Nearly a dozen biology students from Chapman University put down their pencils and picked up shovels on a blazing fall afternoon at the new Orange Home Grown Education Farm.

"Where would you like the coffee grounds?" called out one student as the group set up experimental plots to test how well different mulches improved the nutrients in the soil on the educational farm, a joint effort between Chapman and the non-profit community group Orange Home Grown (OHG).

The visit to the farm was the second of at least four this semester by the ecology class taught by teaching professor Mia Maltz, Ph.D.

"Our whole overall study is about the nitrogen levels in the soil here," said Victoria Bohush '18, a theatre

major minoring in biology who wants to work in the field of marine biology conservation. "We're using a bunch of variables like microorganisms, fungi, different types of soil, different types of inoculation. There's a bunch of variables to see if it affects growth."

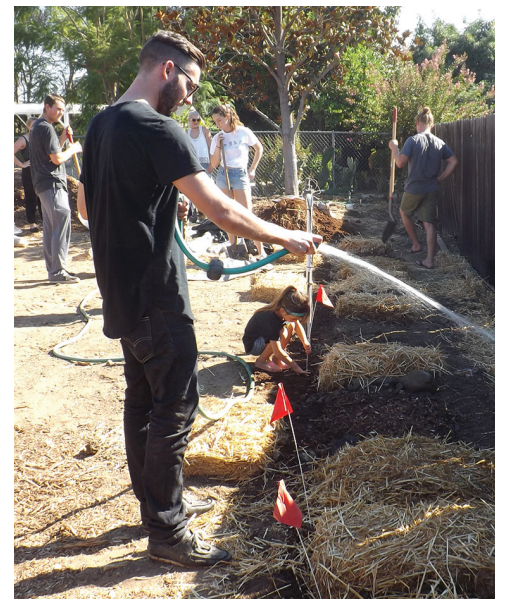
The class started its work by collecting soil samples, discovering that while the soil is mostly sandy loam, there is surprising variation across the roughly 8,000 square-foot lot, with numerous microclimates.

Next, in the lab, the students produced what is known as myceliated straw – straw that has been inoculated with a mushroom culture. Then they placed the myceliated straw in experimental plots at the farm, and later will test the soil for nutrients and compare it to soil mulched with plain straw or with wood chips, among other variables.

With the prep work done, plants are growing at the farm, which Chapman provides rent-free to Orange Home Grown (OHG), best known for the Farmers and Artisans Market held every Saturday at Chapman's Villa Park Orchards Packing House lot.

At the new farm – formerly a vacant lot – OHG has launched educational programs for the community, including a recent session on cool weather vegetables.

There also are community workdays on Fridays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., where skilled or unskilled gardeners can drop by to work and learn as OHG prepares for the first season's crop, which will include a variety of beans, carrots, collards, leeks, beets, celery, chives and greens, among other vegetables. New fruit trees and flowers face the street.



Chapman student William Rutherford prepares an experimental plot at Lemon Street Community Farm with help from 5-year-old Vivienne, the daughter of Orange Home Grown farm coordinator Amy Thai.

Some of the harvest will be donated, but the bulk will be sold to local chefs and restaurants to raise funds to sustain the farm.

"It's exciting to be to this point where there's a lot of shoveling and hoeing, where we're about to get to see things growing," said Amy Thai, the farm coordinator for OHG who watched with her young daughters as the students worked.

"The purpose of the farm is to educate. We're excited to see it come full circle and connect to the community."

Did You Know?

Teams of Chapman University students conduct weekly litter patrols throughout Old Towne, including both the business district and neighborhoods. Last year they tallied a whopping 23,646 pieces of litter, including many cigarette butts and plastic bags. If your street needs prompt attention, please contact neighbors@chapman.edu.

Need to report a concern?

- Please contact Chapman University at (714) 997-6763 or email neighbors@chapman.edu.
- To report a disturbance that needs urgent attention, please call City of Orange PD dispatch at (714) 744-7444.

YOU'RE INVITED!

Save these dates and join us for music, theatre and more!

There are many terrific Chapman University and community events planned this month. Here are just a few. Find more Chapman events at the University's online events calendar, www.chapman.edu/events. Advance tickets for performing arts events may be purchased online at www.chapman.edu/tickets.

Intimate Apparel, a play by Lynn Nottage

Thursdays-Saturdays, Dec. 1-3 and
Dec. 8-10
Waltmar Theatre

Set in 1905, this award-winning drama co-commissioned by South Coast Repertory in 2003, tells the story of a young African-American woman who travels to New York to pursue her dreams, becoming an independent woman as a seamstress. Directed by Jaye Austin Williams, Ph.D. Performances at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 1- 3 and 8-10; and at 2 p.m. on Dec. 3 and 10. Purchase online at www.chapman.edu/tickets or call the University Ticketing Office at (714) 997-6812.

Fall Dance Concert

Friday and Saturday, Dec. 2-3
Musco Center for the Arts

Six new, innovative pieces showcasing the extraordinary talents of the dance majors premiere in this concert, including a piece by guest artist Ido Tadmor, Israel's Dance Ambassador and former member of Batsheva Dance Company. Performances: 7:30pm Dec. 2-3; and at 2 p.m. on Dec. 3. Purchase online at www.chapman.edu/tickets or call the University Ticketing Office at (714) 997-6812.

53rd Annual Holiday Wassail Gala

Saturday, Dec. 10, 8 p.m.
Musco Center for the Arts

Celebrate the season with a magnificent concert of international holiday favorites, held for the first time in the acclaimed Musco Center for the Arts! The program features the gifted Chapman University Singers, University Choir and Women's Choir along with spectacular music by The Chapman Orchestra. Tickets \$15 to \$25. Purchase online at www.chapman.edu/tickets or call the University Ticketing Office at (714) 997-6812.



ONE UNIVERSITY DRIVE
ORANGE, CALIFORNIA 92866
1204-12040



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Community joins forces for Field of Valor!

A sea of American flags filled Handy Park this month as part of the Community Foundation of Orange's second annual Field of Valor tribute to veterans and active service members.

The remarkable display was comprised of 1,940 flags, each sponsored with a \$35 donation. Proceeds of the fundraiser benefit a variety of assistance and support programs for veterans.

Volunteers from clubs, student groups and civic organizations throughout the City of Orange helped prepare the flags and place them at the park for the weeklong display, Nov. 6-11. Joining them were several Chapman University students and alumni, including Shauna Fleming '11, founder of A Million Thanks, a support group that has sent nearly 8 million letters to U.S. troops around the world.



Joining in the Field of Valor tribute are, from left, Shauna Fleming '11, founder of A Million Thanks, and current students and veterans Ryan King, Matthew Gonzalez and Cullen Fair, and Michael Pelly, Chapman's vice president and dean for enrollment.

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