Tara & April's-

Chit Chat

News for Home and Living

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2015



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Are We Really Sisters?

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4811 Brockton Avenue (\$695,000)

5762 Riverside Avenue (\$449,900)

5426 Brockton Avenue (\$499,900)

Win Money — Submit Your Quiz Answer

Neighborhood News:

Black History Month Parade and More Mardi Gras

Riverside Dickens Festival

Parachute Wedding Dress

In the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History is a wedding dress that was made from a nylon parachute that saved Major Claude Hensinger during World War II.

In August 1944, Hensinger, a B-29 pilot, and his crew were returning from a bombing raid over Yowata, Japan, when their engine caught fire. The crew was forced to bail from their aircraft, and suffering from only minor injuries, Hensinger used the parachute as a pillow and blanket as he waited for rescue. He kept the parachute that saved his life, and offered the material for a gown to his girlfriend Ruth, to whom he proposed.

Ruth wanted to create a dress similar to the one in the movie Gone With The Wind. She hired a local seamstress, Hilda Buck, to make the bodice and veil. Ruth made the skirt herself; she pulled up the strings on the parachute so that the dress would be shorter in the front and have a train in the back. The couple married in 1947, and years later the dress was worn by their daughter and by their son's bride before being gifted to the Smithsonian.

— adapted from Smithsonian Snapshot

In researching this story, it was apparent that many people used parachutes as wedding dress material during those years when material was scarce.



Love has no barriers. Where there's a will, there's a way.

Happy Valentine's Day

from our families to yours!

- Tara and April

Are we really sisters?

We have been asked many times during our real estate career, "Are you really sisters?"

Yes, we are, and have been our entire lives.



We also get asked "Do you live in the Wood Streets?"

Yes, we do. We have lived in the Wood Streets for over 25 years. Tara lives on Chapman Place, one of the many streets that decorates at Christmas time; her house is the one with the train that has turning wheels and real smoke that puffs from the smoke stack. The tradition of decorating Chapman Place was started in the 1950s, with Tara and her family continuing the tradition.

April lives on Brentwood Avenue, the street (in addition to neighboring Maplewood Place) that boasts a beautiful canopy of shamel ash trees. April was one of many neighbors, including Joe Deem and Vern Goodwalt, along with Council Person Mike Gardner, who saved the trees from demolition after the City thought the trees might have been diseased. The research and dedication in finding an arborist to save the trees paid off so now everyone in the neighborhood can continue to enjoy them.



Not only do we live in the Wood Streets and absolutely love our neighborhood, but we plan on living here and continue selling real estate until the new Sister Team decides to take over. Obviously Tara's girls have some growing to do, as Gracie is in 10th grade at Poly, and Brooklynn is only in 2nd grade. However, they enjoy popping into our open houses with their daddy, and sometimes they even help us hand-deliver the Chit Chat newsletter.







February is also...

American Heart Month: To raise awareness for the prevention and treatment of heart disease and stroke, which are the first and fourth leading causes of death in the United States.

African Heritage Month: A time for communities to learn about and celebrate the history, contributions and culture of people of African descent.

International Boost Self-Esteem Month: To focus on nurturing self-esteem to inspire oneself and others to reach for new challenges.





\$695,000

4811 Brockton Avenue, Riverside CA 92506

Built in 1888, this Queen Anne Victorian mansion was once owned by Dr. Wood, namesake of the "Wood Streets" neighborhood. This exquisite and historic home, which was once part of 20 acres, is now Landmark #108 and has been restored with some modern features under the watchful eye of the City of Riverside and the Riverside Historical Society. The 4-bed, 4-bath home, over 3600 sq ft, retains much of its original features, including stained glass windows, 6 fireplaces, chandelier medallions, and elegant staircase.

Too many features to list here, so visit our website to read the photo captions. The modern kitchen boasts stainless steel appliances, granite counters, warming drawer, built-in wine rack, and breakfast bar. Each bedroom has private bathroom access, including a master suite with fireplace and walk-in closet. There is a third floor which has been cordoned off, but could easily be converted back into living space to become the proprietors' quarters if the remainder of the home was turned into a bed and breakfast, an endeavor a past owner attempted (was granted permission by City, but didn't proceed forward for personal reasons). The landscaped yard is just under half an acre with koi pond, citrus trees, and wisteria-covered arbor. A stunning architectural treasure that welcomes you through an inviting doorway into the past!

~ for color photos of this home and more information, go to www.TheSisterTeam.com ~



\$499,900

5426 Brockton Avenue, Riverside CA 92506

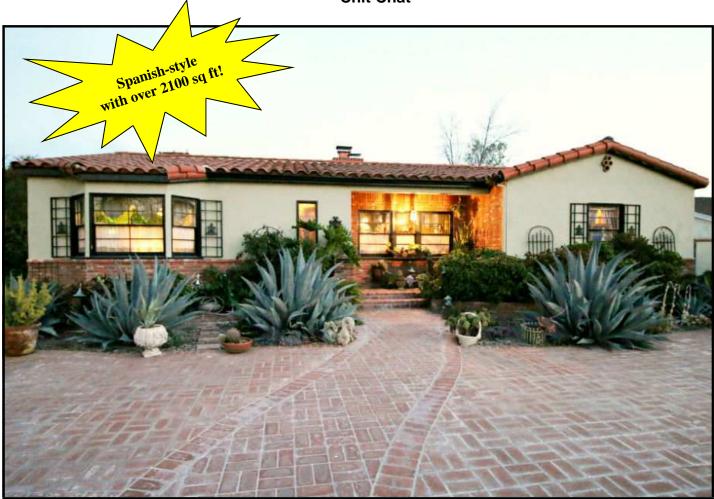
This stunning turn-of-the-century "Wood Streets" Craftsman which evokes true old-world craftsmanship with modern amenities on a private double lot with room for a pool, will make your senses tingle!

The original house was built in 1913 and is approximately 2300 sq ft.

In addition, you'll be amazed to find a large permitted bonus room that would be ideally used as a large family room/sports den, or a wonderful business opportunity (a yoga studio, photography studio, or home office, in which the City has provided a conditional use permit in the past). Brand new exterior paint, updated electrical and plumbing, two A/C units, 9-yr-old roof, main floor bedroom and bathroom for guests, in addition to 3 upstairs bedrooms, bathroom and laundry! Updated eat-in kitchen with sile stone counters, dishwasher, gas stove, refrigerator, and walk-in pantry. Large formal dining room with gorgeous original built-in glass-fronted hutch, plate rails, and hardwood floors. Private yard (just under half an acre) boasts old growth shade trees, dog run area, spa area, basement, and lovely wraparound porch!

~ for color photos of this home and more information, go to www.TheSisterTeam.com ~





\$449,900

5762 Riverside Avenue, Riverside CA 92506

"Wood Streets" 1941 Spanish-style with a very large family room, living room, sun room, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, and over 2,100 sq ft not including the sun room.

Living room and family room both have original hardwood floors and wood-burning fireplaces.

Open and bright sun room with wood-beam ceiling. Lots of storage throughout the home.

In addition to a formal dining room, there's a breakfast bar and desk area in the kitchen with lots of cabinetry, newer farm sink, dishwasher, recessed lighting, and pantry.

Central air/heat, separate indoor laundry room, Spanish tile roof, alarm system, and newer appliances are just some of the modern upgrades to this custom 1941 home that was built for the patriarch of Moss Bros. Motors.

Spacious grassy area in backyard, as well as a poured cement area for patio table and chairs and/or above-ground spa. The front yard is a potpourri of drought-tolerant landscaping, and the total lot size is 10,019 (.23/acre).

Conveniently attached 2-car garage with auto roll-up door.

~ for color photos of this home and more information, go to www.TheSisterTeam.com ~

Welcome New Clients!

Friends Referring Friends:

A great referral is when you introduce someone you care about, to someone you trust...

Gretchen Cheney

John Leamon and Zophia Bernabe

Ferris Pacheco

Sara Sinatra (past and treasured client)

We love giving recognition to our new friends and our wonderful existing clients who are kind enough to refer their friends and relatives to us. Absolutely NO ONE sells more homes in The Wood Streets neighborhood than "The Sister Team"!!

we **LIVE** in the neighborhood, we **WORK** in the neighborhood, we **KNOW** the neighborhood, we **SELL** the neighborhood!!!

www.TheSisterTeam.com

Jan/Feb Quiz Question

Monarch butterflies cannot survive without what type of plant? This plant is the only type that their caterpillars will eat.

Everyone (any age) responding by calling or e-mailing us with the correct answer will be entered into a drawing for:

a \$25 VISA gift card to use wherever you like, just like cash!

Drawing to be held on 2/28/2015

December Quiz Answer

Question: Mace is one of the spices obtained from the evergreen tree, Myristica Fragrans. What is the other?

Answer: Nutmeg is produced from the dried, ripe, inner seed, and mace from the seed coat that separates the seed from its outer husk.

Congratulations to **Edward Fielman**

Your name was selected at random from all of the correct quiz entries and you'll receive a \$25 VISA gift card!

Saturday, February 14, 2015 10 am to 5 pm

The 36th annual Black History Expo, "The Gift of Legacy—Our Family, City, and Community" will be held outside of City Hall at 3900 Main Street in downtown Riverside. There will be a PARADE and over 40 different vendors offering food, artifacts, clothing, books, info booths, recruitments, and giveaways, plus an event stage with local entertainment.



The parade will start at Riverside Community College and end at City Hall. Contact 951-684-0805 or visit www.riversidecvb. com/event/ black-historyexpo-parade

Tuesday, February 17, 2015 6 pm to 9 pm

"Community Connect" cordially invites you to Mardi Gras 2015 at Crestmore Manor on Fat Tuesday for jambalaya tasting, hors d'oeuvres and drinks, silent auction and raffle, live music, and costume contest. Cost is \$60 per person. Help Community Connect continue to serve over 266,000 individuals and hundreds of nonprofits annually throughout

or becoming a sponsor. Crestmore Manor is located at 4600 Crestmore Road. Contact 951-686-4402 or visit www.connectriverside.org/ calendar-of-events/

mardi-gras-2015/



Neighbors of the **Wood Streets Association (NOWS)**

NOWS belongs to YOU (the Wood Streets residents). It is a fantastic resource for neighborhood and citywide information and

news. If you're unable to the meetings, attend which are held every other month on the 3rd Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at the RCC Alumni House at 3564 Ramona Drive. then please sign up to be



on the email monthly newsletter list at nowsnews1@gmail.com so you can be kept informed of guest speakers and other upcoming agenda. The next meeting will be March 19, 2015.

YARD SALE SIGNS (free for your use)

For years, we've put up signs for local residents to help direct traffic to their yard sales.

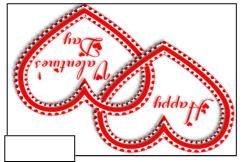
Just a reminder that our signs are still available for your use, year round. Give us a day or two notice...





Saturday and Sunday, February 21st and 22nd, 2015

Now in its 22nd year, the literary festival emphasizes the 19th century works of English and American authors, with Charles Dickens being the central figure, in downtown Riverside at the Pedestrian Mall near City Hall. Through drama, art, music, dance and cultural events, the festival portrays the life and times of another era. Please visit www.dickensfest.com for a complete schedule of events, including a marketplace with vendors to meet your every need, from costumes to sheet music.





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Chit Chat

Happy 13th Birthday, Chit Chat!

This 8-page Chit Chat newsletter, that we have been personally writing and distributing door-to-door to over 2,100 homes every issue, is celebrating its 13th birthday!!

For those of you who have not been in the neighborhood as long as us, you'll be surprised to know that we were delivering real estate tips, sales stats, American flags, and lots of goodies (candy, note pads, calendars, etc.) for more than 5 years *before* the inception of the Chit Chat. This means we've been a full-time **real estate presence** in this neighborhood for **18 years**!



No other Realtors come close to our success here. Absolutely no one lists *and* sells more homes in the Wood Streets than "The Sister Team". This is due to our full-time and long-term commitment to the real estate industry (27 years), our knowledge of the Southern California real estate market, and our personal involvement with every single transaction.

Not only do we live here and work here, but we ride our bikes and take walks throughout this amazing and wonderful neighborhood!