SPRING *and* SUMMER 2018

lookout avenue





SOCIETY NEWS & ACTIVITIES

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

HISTORY ROUNDTABLE

RECORDING LA MESA'S ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PROPERTY SURVEY UPDATE

HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN THE FLAG DAY PARADE!

SEE YOU AT THE

Annual Meeting

AND AWARDS CELEBRATION

MEMBERSHIP NEWS & ACTIVITIES

BLACKMAN'S SPECIAL GARDEN

SOCIETY EVENTS & RESOURCES

2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS SLATE

The **NEWSLETTER** *of the* **LA MESA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

La Mesa Historical Society

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2018 HOME TOUR

SUSAN STOWE
MCKINNEY HOUSE

NEWSLETTER

CHRISTINA DE PLATA
EDITOR

President's Message

This will be the last President's message I write for what has been a very good and active FY 2017-18 for the LMHS. To recap, this has been another successful year as our membership outreach continues to see the House of new members grow, the financial coffers have doubled due primarily to several members' generous donations. The last LMHS annual Historic Home Tour presented another selection of very memorable homes. We started the year with a new set of by-laws as accepted by the membership in June to meet the future and the McKinney House has received a new lease on life with a new wood shingle roof, other repairs and enhanced exterior night lighting. This last year we have also put in place a committee to focus on re-energizing the McKinney House after a number of years of declining visitation. The preliminary planning for the re-landscaping of the McKinney House site is also underway. And yes, the memorial rose garden will still be part of the new landscape and is currently proposed to be in a more prominent and expanded location. Concerns still exist over the longevity of the landmark old pine tree which was first planted in circa 1919. Efforts have been on-going to keep it for as long as possible but like everything, there is a finite life span, so the new landscape plan will be taking into account the forward outlook for its replacement along with other new outdoor active areas.

We have invested in some new electronics to keep our ever-expanding archives and data information systems up-to-date. We are also now moving more into the electronic information age with the promise to publish this newsletter to members that desire it only via emails while keeping the membership and general community more aware of our activities via social media. A new Board of Directors slate is being proposed with an expanded number of board members to fill some LMHS professional needs, particularly in legal and design matters. FY 2018-19 promises to continue the success and growth of the LMHS and the events such as the annual Historic Home Tour will continue to bring history, preservation and education to enrich our community. Yes, it has been a very active year for those involved. We welcome every member to participate in the activities, growth and change planned for FY 2018-19 and the promise of continued service to our community.

KEN D'ANGELO
PRESIDENT, LA MESA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



On The Cover

A FEATURED HOME IN LA MESA HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S 2018 HOME TOUR.

Annual Meeting and Awards Celebration!



Join your fellow La Mesa Historical Society members, board of directors and colleagues for our Annual Meeting.

The Society will continue our new Annual Meeting format a Friday evening reception event.

There will be a pre-meeting reception with hors d'oeuvres and beverages from 5:30 to 6:00 pm. The Annual Meeting will begin at 6:00 pm. In addition to ratifying the new slate for the Board of Directors, we will also be presenting our Annual Awards for LMHS Volunteer of the Year, Historic Preservationist of the Year, LMHS Institutional Partner of the Year and a current La Mesa Community "History Maker."

The evening will end with with social time and wine. A portion of the wine sales will be donated to the Society.

Please plan on attending this fun, and for the Society, "Historic Event." Check the LMHS website and Facebook site for more information.

FRIDAY EVENING
JUNE 15, 2018
6:00 to 8:00 PM
La Mesa Wine Works
8167 Center Street, La Mesa



Recording La Mesa's Architectural Heritage

UCF Historian Travels to Digitally Record La Mesa's Mid-Century Modern Architectural Heritage—including the soon to be demolished Drew Ford "Roundhouse of Values."



MICHELLE ADAMS WITH LIDAR CAMERA AT MCKINNEY HOUSE, MARCH 14, 2018. PHOTO COURTESY DR. LORI WALTERS, UCF

Dr. Lori Walters of the University of Central Florida in Orlando, Florida is a historian and preservation specialist in Mid-Century Modern architecture. A award-winning professor with acknowledged interests in digital history (including Virtual and Augmented Reality and Laser Scanning), Post WWII U.S. Popular Culture, US Space History, and the architecture and cultural landscape of Post War America. She has published numerous articles on these subjects, including a book chapter on the technological influence of the 1964-65 New York World's Fair.

That specific interest drew Dr. Walters to the unfortunate story of the soon-to-be demolished Drew Ford Roundhouse here in La Mesa. The Drew Ford Roundhouse owes its design to the original Ford Pavilion at the 1964 New York World's Fair. Local designer James Hurley designed and built the "roundhouse" here for Elmer and Joe Drew based on the Ford Pavilion. (Interestingly the New York original was designed by world-renown architect/planner Welton Beckett—who was also the designer for Grossmont Center which opened in 1961. Beckett also designed the Disney Building at the fair leading to his later commission for Disney World).





NEWSPAPER ADS FOR THE NEWLY OPENED DREW FORD ROTUNDA (ROUNDHOUSE), MAY 1967

Originally known as the Drew Ford Rotunda it quickly became a commercial and community landmark upon its completion in April 1967 at the dealership's new location adjacent to the soon-to-be re-named Interstate 8 freeway. Company marketing re-dubbed it the "Roundhouse of Values" in the early 1970s. Many fondly remember not only purchasing cars but attending high school proms and other community events at the iconic building. The Penske Company received a demolition permit last year and plans to remove the building this summer to construct a new showroom (see article on Historic Resources Inventory Update).

Dr. Walters first contacted historian Jim Newland in January in an effort to help arrange a site visit to the roundhouse and complete 3-D LiDAR scanning recordation of this unique building. This is a program of building recordation that she has been doing for several years in Florida. LiDAR stands for "light detection and ranging." The process uses lasers to measure light reflection that creates digital 3-D image files. Eventually the Penske dealership provided access

to Dr. Walters for the recordation as well as Bill Drew's loaning the original building blueprints to the Society to copy. Lori and her assistant Michelle Adams came to La Mesa the week of March 11th. In addition to capturing the Drew Ford building with their special 3D LiDAR digital camera, they also recorded the Millard Sheets' designed Home Savings Grossmont Branch building (see article on our next History Roundtable)--and the exterior of the McKinney House—all at no cost to the Society or property owners.

Thanks to Lori and Michelle for their dedicated work (they actually climbed onto the roof of the Roundhouse!) to document our local history in La Mesa.



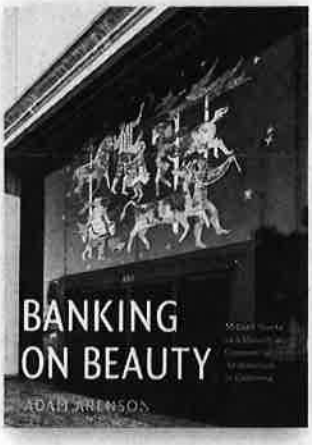
DR. WALTERS' LIDAR CAMERA SET UP FOR ONE OF THE DOZENS OF SCANS OF THE DREW FORD ROUNDHOUSE, MARCH 13, 2018. PHOTO COURTESY DR. LORI WALTERS, UCF

History Roundtable Lecture

Historian Adam Arenson will present on his new book ***Banking on Beauty: Millard Sheets and Midcentury Commercial Architecture in California***

THURSDAY EVENING AUGUST 2, 2018 6:30 to 8:00 PM Grossmont Healthcare District Auditorium

9005 Wakarusa Drive, La Mesa





CALIFORNIA HISTORY INSPIRED TILE MOSAIC ON GROSSMONT BRANCH OF HOME SAVINGS, 5300 JACKSON DRIVE. TODAY HOME TO JCS INNOVATION CENTER CHARTER SCHOOL

The Society is proud to host Manhattan College history professor and San Diego native Adam Arenson for our next History Roundtable Lecture.

Dr. Arenson will speak on his new book about the Millard Sheets' Studios designs and artwork for Howard Ahmanson's Home Savings and Loan buildings.

Arenson's interest in the subject dates back to his childhood visits to Grossmont Center that passed by La Mesa's Home Savings Grossmont Branch on Jackson Drive with its history inspired tile mosaic murals. Adam will be available for questions after his talk and his books will be available for sale and signing.

Comprehensive Historic Property Survey Update

Historical Society Works with Historic Preservation Commission and City Staff

"Landmark" Landmark Survey

In 1982-83 the City of La Mesa took a proactive approach to identify potential historical resource properties with the completion of its initial historical property survey. The Inventory allows the City to be in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and its own General Plan Historic Preservation Element and Historic Preservation Ordnance.

With limited funds the city contracted with the University of San Diego's history department to use its graduate students to do most of the initial survey work. The results identified over 350 properties that had the potential to be eligible for nomination and listing on the City's own Historic Landmarks register. That two-volume report, the Historic Preservation Element & Inventory was completed and certified in June 1984.

Inventory Backlog

Since that time, without a dedicated funding source, the City's Historic Property Inventory has only seen a few properties added in 1987, 1995 and 2003. Now that the vast majority of properties within the City are over 50 years old (the first criteria for potential eligibility) the backlog for identification of properties that are potentially eligible for landmark listing has resulted in a huge inventory backlog.

The inventory backlog has become even more disconcerting with recent development projects that did not receive full historical review of several high-profile local properties (architect John Mock's Catalina Pools Building and the upcoming demolition of local designer James Hurley's Drew Ford Rotunda (Roundhouse of Values) because they were not included in the Inventory. Although such reviews would not in themselves have saved these buildings from the wrecking ball, their not being on the Inventory limited both City and public review as to their local historic landmark status.

The Historical Society Board as well as the City's Historic Preservation Commission, along with the City Development & Planning staff are in the process of moving forward to help remedy this inventory backlog in a cost-effective manner. The Society is looking to lead both the initial "reconnaissance survey" efforts and support efforts for subsequent "intensive survey" work to identify properties that are that are City of La Mesa inventory candidates and subsequently potentially eligible for historic landmark listing.

Benefits of Updating the Inventory

The benefits of completing the update of the Historic Resources Inventory are initially two-fold. First, is the identification of those properties that are in fact potentially eligible so that City planners and individual property owners can take advantage of the knowledge of any historical value in processing permits and improvement projects-as well as the public's ability to comment on such actions. The second is that the results of most inventories don't just identify the properties that ARE eligible, but also those that are NOT eligible.

The vast majority of properties, although they may be over 50 years old will not also meet the eligibility criteria of (1) historical or architectural significance within a documented context; or (2) the historical integrity to reflect the period of significance. However, the documentation of a property's non-eligibility is a benefit to City staff and property owners wishing to process a discretionary permit. With the subsequent due diligence documentation to prove non-eligibility, neither city staff or property owners would have to undertake those evaluations when processing permits for inventory identified non-eligible properties.

Another ancillary benefit, but one which meets the Historical Society's mission directly is that the Inventory effort will result in creation of more historical knowledge of our city and greater community. It is within the overall mission of the Society to continue research, publication and education to have more knowledge and information as to the history of our neighborhoods, homes, businesses and institutions. Such information and documentation would be available at our archives.

Myths and Realities of Inventory Inclusion and Historic Landmark Status

Most people do not understand or have familiarity with the process for identifying or listing historical resources and their association with land use planning or the development process.

Some may fear that having your property on an inventory or listed on a historic register limits their ability to live in or upgrade their own property. Others may think that every 50 year old or older property involuntarily makes their property eligible for listing and/or that they automatically get the potential benefit of Mills Act property tax breaks with an older house. Neither or these are true.

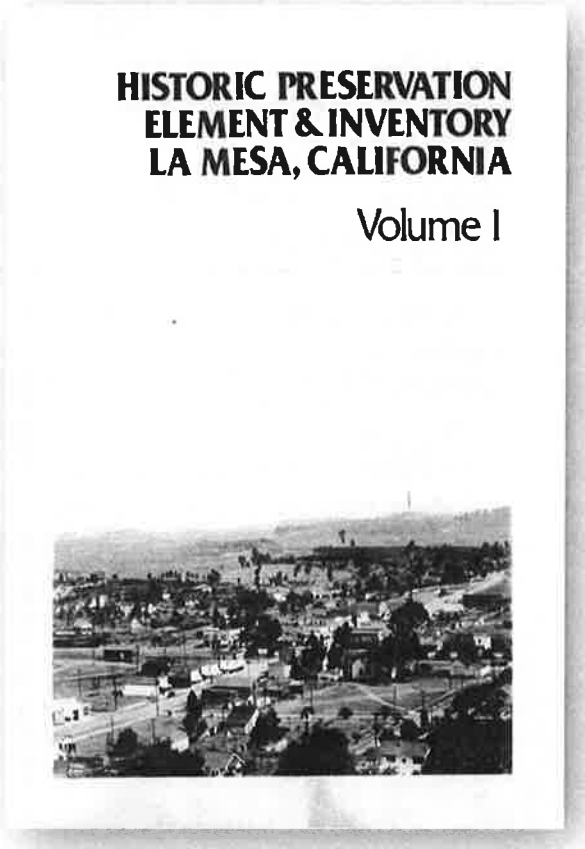
Myth: Placing my property on the Historical Inventory automatically lists it on the Historic Landmark register.

Placement on the Inventory only identifies for permitting and environmental review purposes that the property has the POTENTIAL to be eligible to nominated and listed. The Nomination and Listing Processes are separate from the inventory and require property owner approval to move forward. No one can list a private property on the City, State or National Register without the property owners' approval.

Myth: Placing my property on the Historical Inventory restricts my ability to change or upgrade it.

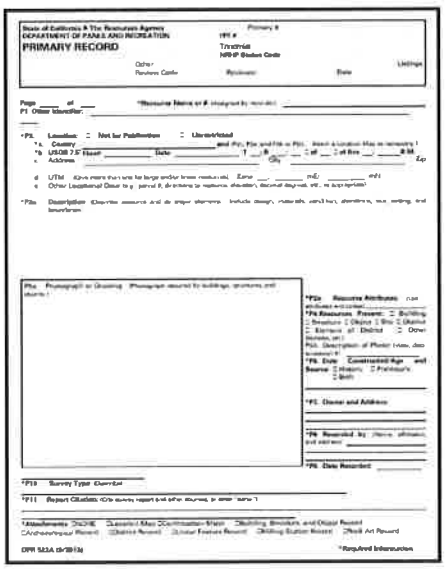
Placement on the Historical Inventory or completion of survey recordation forms does NOT place any restrictions on everyday use or maintenance of a property. If a property owner pulls a permit that requires city staff review and could trigger CEQA compliance review, then the information about its potential eligibility might require Historic Preservation Commission review, but that would depend on the nature and scope of the permit action. Such reviews still provide the property owner the opportunity to mitigate out any potential effects or move forward with the knowledge that their improvements may make the property ineligible for later listing.

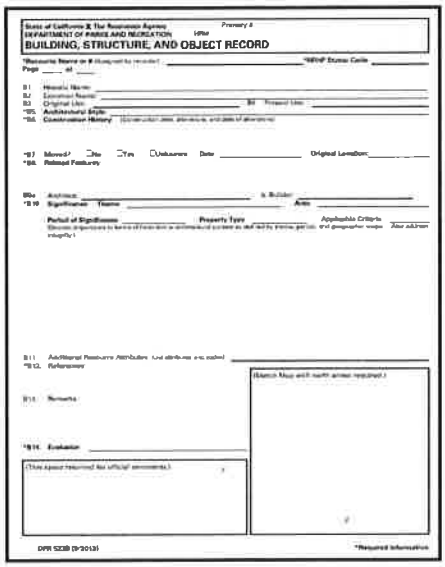
Myth: All 50-year old properties get listed on the city Historical Landmark Register and receive Mills Act Property tax benefits.



1984 INVENTORY REPORT

The 50-year old criteria in historic preservation was a somewhat arbitrary creation. The original goal being to provide some element of "test of time" to show that a property had been around long enough to justify "historic status." For historic resource management professionals such as


PRIMARY RECORD


BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION PRIMARY RECORD (FORM 523A), AND BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD (FORM 523B)

myself, this is usually the least important criteria toward eligibility-but the easiest for most to understand.

The criteria that truly weigh in for eligibility for listing are 1) historical or architectural significance and 2) historical integrity. Historical or architectural significance is established through research and documentation of the properties role in the community's history (history), or an association with a famous or significant individual (important person), and/or a representative of a specific architectural style, notable architect, designer or builder (design). Historic Integrity is the evaluation of a property's "historic condition." In other words, a property may have a great history and association with significant people or architects-but if it has been altered or changed to the point that it is not recognizable in reflecting the historical "period of significance" than it likely does NOT have Historic Integrity. Therefore, a 50-year old property without historical significance or historic integrity-the property would be determined NOT eligible.

Such a formal determination is accomplished through a property owner's creation of a Nomination Report (a separate process from the Inventory and often undertaken with the help of a professional historic resources consultant) that is evaluated against those eligibility criteria and reviewed by the City Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) to recommend listing on the City's Historic Landmark register or not. The City HPC recommendation is then sent to the City Council for approval or denial for Landmark Listing.

Only properties listed on the city's Landmark Register or the State or National Registers of Historic Properties are eligible to file for Mills Act property tax benefits.

Reality: Identification and preservation of eligible historic resources help promote community identity and appreciation.

Many studies can be cited for the economic and planning values for a consistent and equitable historic preservation program for local agencies and communities. But the ancillary values of a community's rallying to better identify, understand and protect their collective community heritage and associated cultural landscapes can provide additional points for civic engagement, pride and appreciation.

Upcoming Steps

This article is but the first in a combined public outreach and information gathering effort to inform the residents and property owners of La Mesa about the upcoming Historic Inventory Update project. A plan to partner with the City, Commission and Society for this outreach effort is being finalized. Keep an eye out for presentations, meetings and information on the Inventory Update in the coming months.

The next step is completing a systematic effort to identify and record information about potential historic resource properties-this is technically referred to as a "reconnaissance survey" (sometimes also called a "windshield survey"). This requires trained volunteers/staff to walk streets, do a quick assessment to initially identify and record properties resulting in the completion

of State Office of Historic Preservation recordation Primary Forms (often called DPR forms).

Those recorded properties with apparent or potential integrity will then be given additional historic research that results in the completion of the complementary BSO (Building, Structure, Object) form that requires some initial determination of potential eligibility. This process step is often termed an "Intensive Survey" that will result in an inventory placement determination.

City staff and the HPC would then review the completed Primary and BSO and determine if the property is potentially eligible for the City's Landmark register and forward such properties to the City Council for addition to the Inventory. If recorded properties are not deemed potentially eligible, then those forms would be filed in the city's property files for use for compliance review in any future permitting actions.

How to Help

Completing this Inventory Update includes other steps such as creating new and updated Context Studies to assist with the final determinations, nominations or listings. It is also not a short but long-term effort that requires dedicated assistance from interested Society members and the community.

If you would have any interest in helping with field-based Reconnaissance Survey, or research or historic information gathering or form completion during Intensive Survey tasks, please contact the Society at info@lamesahistory.com and provide your contact information and any experience or interests.



BY JAMES NEWLAND

Our Society Past President has over 25 years in the Historic Resources Management profession including 22 years with California State Parks leading historic preservation survey, evaluation and preservation projects. He also serves on the City Planning Commission and as an ex-officio member of the City Historic Preservation Commission.

Thanks To All Who Attended The Society's Wine Works Social

Thanks to all who attended the Society's evening social and fund raiser held January 24th at La Mesa Wine Works on Center Street in the city's industrial area (and site of this year's annual meeting). We also thank our hosts (San Pasqual and Wyatt Oaks Wineries) and the Wine Works staff.

Members and guests stop by to enjoy some great wine, talk a bit of Society news and support one of our successful local business partners.



Photo courtesy of Christina De Plata

Historical Society To Participate Again In La Mesa Flag Day Parade June 2nd

The Historical Society will once again participate in this year's City of La Mesa Flag Day Parade, Saturday June 2nd at 10am on La Mesa Boulevard in the downtown Village. The Society is partnering again with the Miss La Mesa and Miss La Mesa Teen Pageant to bring Miss La Mesa 2014, Mandy Bakker, back to ride along with our parade entry. Our historic Miss La Mesa will be driven in a 1924 Model "T" hotrod by owner and La Mesa resident "Hotrod Danny" Beardon.

The Society is also represented this year with historian/author, and Society Past President, Jim Newland who is being honored as Grand Marshal for this year's parade.

Don't miss this great annual community event.



LAST YEAR'S HISTORICAL SOCIETY ENTRY WITH MISS LA MESA 1955 MARY YOUNGBLOOD QUALLS AND DRIVER DANNY BEARDON



MISS LA MESA 2017 HEATHER BARDIN WITH MISS LA MESA 1955 MARY YOUNGBLOOD QUALLS PRIOR TO LAST YEAR'S FLAG DAY PARADE

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

We are in need of additional volunteers to help with Docenting at the McKinney House and with the Historical Archives.

If you are interested, please email info@lamesahistory.com

Former President Ed Blackman's Special Garden

Mid-Century Modern and a Garden: A Visit with Former La Mesa Historical Society President and Board Member Ed Blackman

BY KARI DODSON, BOARD OF DIRECTORS



ED BLACKMAN IN HIS NEW GARDEN IN IRVINE, CALIFORNIA

Nestled in the tree-lined avenues and spacious, public park oasis of the Northwood neighborhood of Irvine, resides former La Mesa Historical Society President and Board Member, Ed Blackman, and his wife Beth. Together, they have carefully remodeled and restored their home into a celebration of Mid-century modern furnishings and decor. From the 1960's bossa nova jazz playing softly in the background, to the breezy and sunlit rooms, their home embodies their unique positivity and thoughtfulness to detail in all they do.

Following a life changing spinal cord injury, Ed found the need to continue his love of gardening, but with ADA accessible raised planting beds, automated watering and drainage systems, and reinforced leveled paving for safer wheelchair maneuverability. With the help of Ed's brother, Jerome Blackman, they set out to create such a space. The journey they embarked upon would ultimately create a culture of inclusion, and inspire other mobility challenged persons to return to the hobbies they once enjoyed before their injuries.

Ed's love of landscape design began early on, when he studied horticulture at Southwestern College in Chula Vista. He continues to share his impressive knowledge of plants and trees from a lifetime of dedicated self-study. Ed often speaks of the importance of maintaining California native plants, historic heirlooms, and drought resistant garden designs.



ACCESSIBLE PATHWAY THROUGH ED'S GARDENA



THE BLACKMAN'S "NEW" MID-CENTURY IRVINE HOME

A frequent visitor to home and garden expos, Ed recently found a Shark Tank award winning company, Vegepod, from Australia, selling raised bed kits that could be assembled. The frame is built of lightweight powder-coated steel in either straight or arced shapes, which are covered in tightly fitted mesh to keep out insects. Cable ties keep the frame secure during high winds, and can be opened for full sun, harvesting or rotating crops. For aerial misting, Ed designed a drip irrigation line to run along the interior roof of the frame, to provide additional water needs during hot weather. Ed explained, "Excess water is eliminated through weep holes, which drain onto the gravel floor. One to two inches of water remains in the base of the reservoir, similar to a self-watering pot. The plants take up the water they need from their roots in the tank of the planter bed." Jerome installed the geometric brick pavers, using recycled materials - another priority to their overall goal to minimize landfill waste.

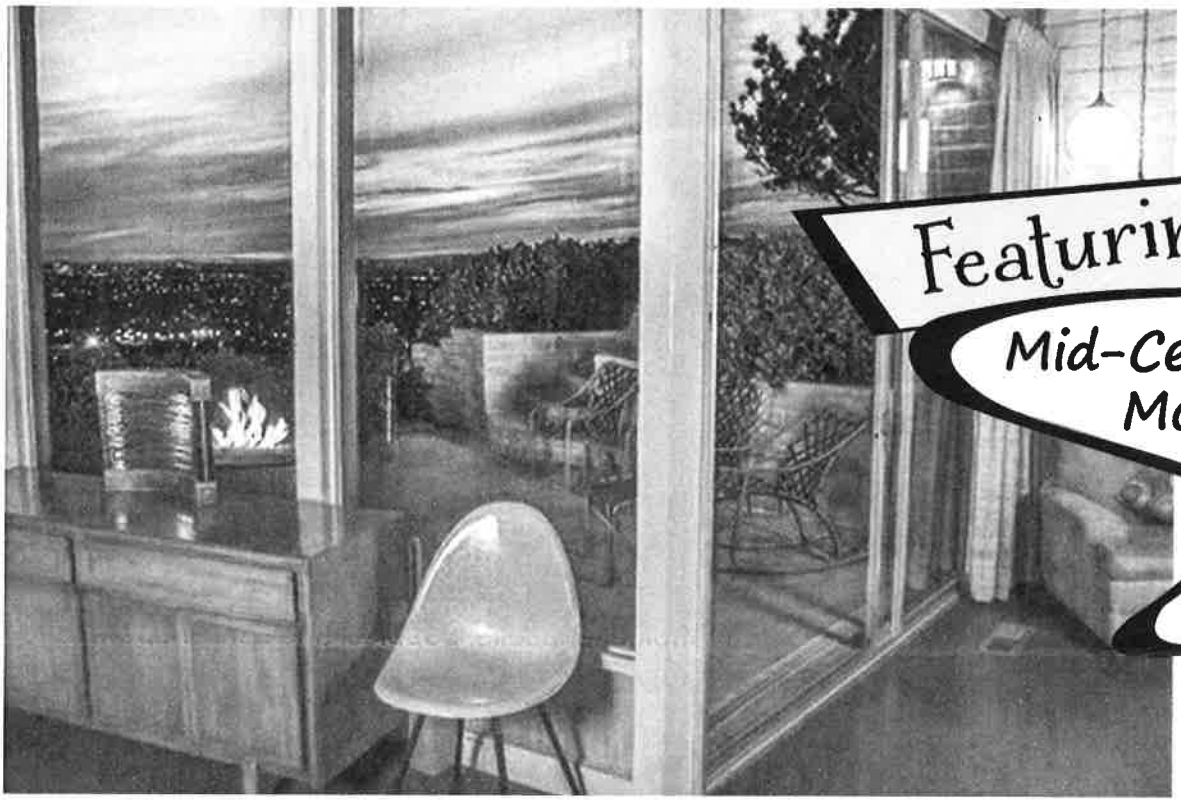
Ed and Beth are enjoying a thriving organic vegetable garden, providing farm to table arugula, rainbow carrots, lettuce, onions, celery and more. He has additional plans for the garden border: potted dwarf fruit trees, or vines. This spring, lupine, phacelia, poppies, and mini snapdragons bloom in bright colors with height contrasts for visual fireworks along the perimeter of the vegetable garden. They receive water from a separate irrigation line of micro sprinklers in the soil, powered by a timed meter. Another of Ed and Jerome's installations was to make the hose attachments and timers raised, for easier access.

The design principles of Ed's garden utilize technology to accommodate human ergonomic needs. He hopes implementing adaptive gardening techniques will inspire others to achieve greater quality of life satisfaction in living the way they want to. Ed encourages people to actively seek new inventions to accommodate their mobility restrictions to get back into the outdoors; enjoy life to the fullest; and appreciate how regeneration and renewal can be seen through the examples of nature.

In keeping with their warm and welcoming personalities, the Blackman's indoor and outdoor living spaces provide a relaxing pace. Where life is sweeter and conversations linger, in their mid-century modern home and garden.

SAVE THE DATE!

LA MESA HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S 13TH ANNUAL HISTORIC HOME TOUR
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 3RD • 9AM TO 3PM



Featuring:
Mid-Century Modern Gems of MT. NEBO & EASTRIDGE



Beautifully authentic and impressive homes built by custom designer/ builders and noted architects once again will dominate this year's tour.

Keep up on the latest on our Society website lamesahistory.com and Facebook page and don't miss this annual celebration of La Mesa's architectural heritage.

Mt. Helix Park Foundation Benefit

the heART of mt helix

SATURDAY EVENING
AUGUST 11, 2018
5:00 to 11:00 PM
Mt. Helix Park

Join the Society in support of our partner non-profit community-based organization the Mt. Helix Park Foundation. The Park Foundation's 11th annual fund raiser gala, heART of Mt. Helix, will be held Saturday, August 11th from 5 to 11 pm.

The annual gala features local artists, exquisite food/drink, music/dancing (this year featuring the Motown to Classic Rock stylists The Mighty Untouchables), raffle drawings, fabulous auction items, casino game play (new for 2018), and an all-around wonderful event. The Society will once again join in with its own booth.

Tickets available June 1st at www.mthelixpark.org



ATTENDEES ENERGIZE THE NIGHT WITH DANCING UNDER THE STARS TO THE MIGHTY UNTOUCHABLES HEADLINING THE HEART FOR THE 4TH YEAR IN A ROW

Hats From The Past Exhibit

The McKinney House has a new exhibit for your enjoyment. On display are a variety of men and women's hats ranging from the late 1800s to the 1950s. The majority of the hats are from LMHS's own museum collections plus a few are on loan from our generous members. Many of the hats are displayed on old wooden millinery hat forms, stands and a variety of hatboxes.

Please stop by any 2nd or 4th Saturday of the month, starting April 14th from 1 to 4pm.

On the 4th Saturday, one of our docents, Carol Lockwood will be happy to share her knowledge of hat making.



Experience A Hundred-Year Old History Presented in Ladies Lids!

Per the Society By-Laws the following slate for election of Officers and Directors is nominated for vote of the membership at the Annual Meeting Friday June 15, 2018.

La Mesa Historical Society
2018 Election Slate

OFFICERS
(1-Year Terms)

President - James Newland

Vice President - Tracey Stotz

Secretary - Natasha Bliss

Treasurer - Jeremy Martinson

VP Membership - Sheryl Castro

Past President - Ken D'Angelo

DIRECTORS
(1 and 2-Year Terms)

Melody Andrews

Steven Christiansen

Steven Churchill

Kristin Dooley

Michelle Greenberg-McClung

Mickey Moreau

Alex Quintero

Kari Dodson

McKinney House Museum and
Historical Archives Research Facility
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La Mesa, CA 91942

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Change Service Requested

The La Mesa Historical Society is an all-volunteer non-profit 501(c) 3 corporation charged with preserving the history of all the greater La Mesa areas. The La Mesa Historical Society operates the Rev. Henry A. McKinney House, a 1908 house museum and historical archives research facility located at 8369 University Avenue in La Mesa, California.

HOURS OF OPERATION:
SATURDAYS 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
GROUP TOURS ARE AVAILABLE.
CALL (619)466-0197 FOR INFORMATION.

The *Lookout Avenue* is the official quarterly publication of the La Mesa Historical Society. Closing dates for submitting contributions are the 1st of every March, June, September, and December. Word document and jpeg image files preferred.

Submit contributions via mail, or email the Editor at info@lamesahistory.com