FALL 2018

lookout avenue



SOCIETY EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

President's Address
New Historic Preservation Commissioners
heART of Mt. Helix
Young Filmmakers at McKinney House
LMHS In Flag Day Parade

MEMBER EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

La Mesa Historical Society
San Diego Home/Garden
13th ANNUAL HISTORIC HOME TOUR
Modern Mud

Annual Meeting & LMHS Award Winners
Adam Arenson Roundtable
Brief History of Mt. Nebo and Eastridge

The NEWSLETTER *of the* LA MESA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

La Mesa Historical Society

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2018 HOME TOUR

VACANT
MCKINNEY HOUSE

NEWSLETTER

CHRISTINA DE PLATA
EDITOR + GRAPHIC DESIGN



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, if I can quote that master of the malaprop, Yogi Berra, it sort-of feels like déjà vu all over again. You all have appointed me back into the presidency here at La Mesa Historical Society. I really appreciate the support and kind words of encouragement. I am still quite busy with the required weekly travels all over the state for my "paid work" with the California State Parks department. However, with the talented Officers and Board, along with the dedicated volunteers of the Society, it doesn't seem such an unachievable task to steer "our ship"—at times—from afar. My first task back into this office is to thank Ken D'Angelo for his service as a Board Member, Officer, and last year's President. Although unforeseen events have Ken moving away from La Mesa, we certainly need to thank him. Ken was key to improving the quality and visibility of our home tour, assuring success with our new McKinney House roof installation, and recruiting several high-quality volunteers and board members among many other efforts. We all wish the best to Ken in his future endeavors.

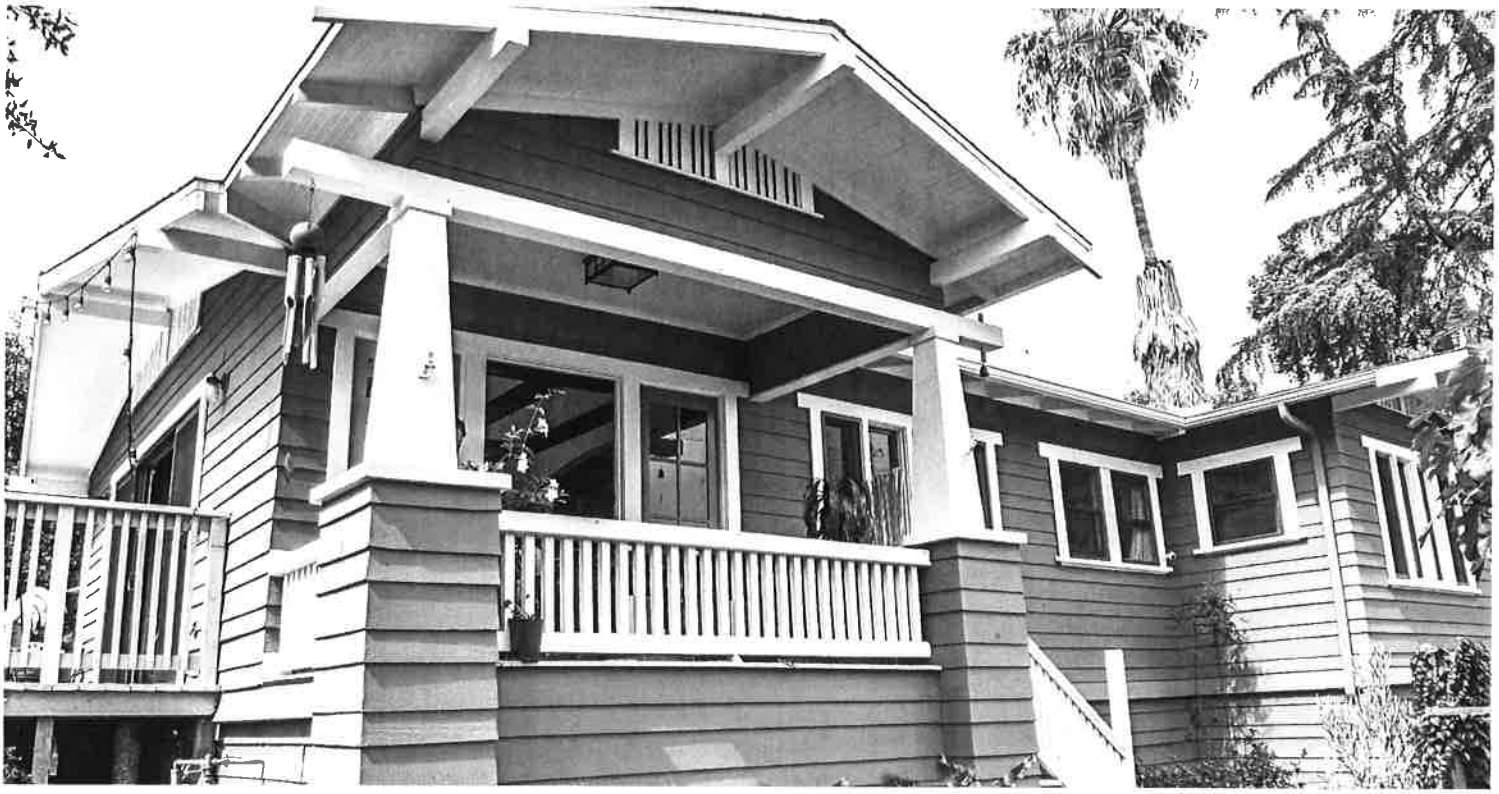
It is an exciting time for the La Mesa Historical Society. Many of the activities, accomplishments and efforts will be revealed to you as you go through the newsletter, so I won't list them all here. Some of these events have already past, but much awaits us for the Fall. We have another phenomenal Home Tour coming up on November 3rd for our Society members, hopefully you caught our intriguing Roundtable Lecture on October 6th, fun fundraisers and social events— which include the Fourpenny House on October 16th, and the McKinney Christmas Open House on December 9th! There are many opportunities to volunteer at the McKinney House Museum, the Historical Archives Research Facility, and our variety of events. Please get involved—and definitely don't miss out on this year's Home Tour and other upcoming Society activities.

JIM NEWLAND
***President*, La Mesa Historical Society**

On The Cover

INSIDE THE 1959 MOREHOUSE/SMITH HOUSE, ONE OF THE MODERN STYLE ADOBE-WALLED 2018 TOUR HOMES





A BRIEF HISTORY OF MT. NEBO AND EASTRIDGE

La Mesa's Exclusive, Custom Hilltop Residential Communities Revealed

From La Mesa's suburban origins starting in 1906, local developers and home builders knowingly eyed the steep, rocky hills that rose above the downtown village's western boundary. Recognizing the potential for outstanding home sites, these visionaries foresaw Mt Nebo and the ridges that extend west from its two peaks as the location for some of the City's best examples of beautiful, creative and exclusive homes and architecture.

From the 1907 Lookout Park and 1927 Windsor Hills subdivisions to the 1956 Eastridge Estates "custom tract," the unprecedented view lots carved from these rocky pinnacles and ridges provided solid foundations for eclectic, well-crafted and cutting-edge residential home building.

Mt. Nebo's Lookout Park:

In 1907 the pioneer La Mesa developers the Park-Grable Company subdivided the north and eastern slopes of the northern peak of Mt. Nebo under the name Lookout Park. Owner Sherman Grable reportedly-naming this small peak for the place to which Moses could see "the promised land." Subtle marketing, eh? The hillside tract included a park at the lower northern peak of Mt. Nebo called Prospect Park. It also included the first pedestrian staircase walkways allowing residents to travel directly between the parallel streets cut onto the steep slopes.

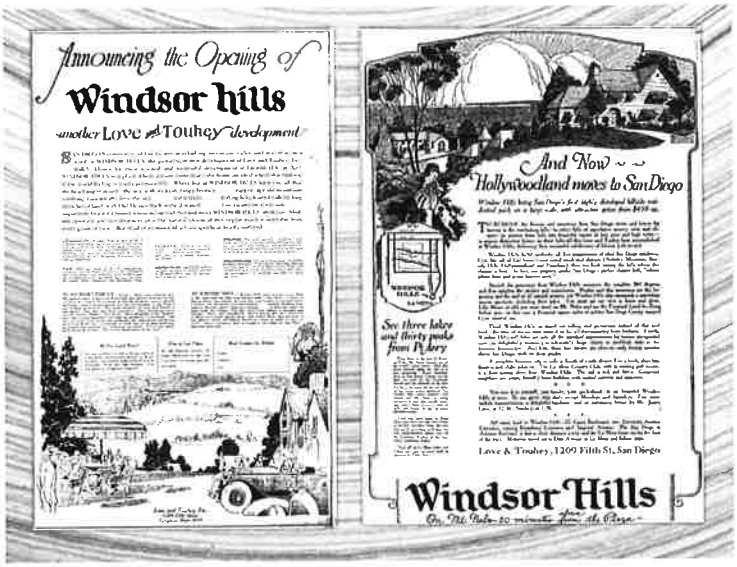
A Brief History of Mt. Nebo and Eastridge **Continued on Page 2**

A Brief History of Mt. Nebo and Eastridge **Continued from Page 1**

In the 1910s Lookout Park's hillside view lots made it the choice spot for a hillside La Mesa home. Several prominent early La Mesa citizens built large view homes in the tract. The Mt. Nebo community's status as a place for prominent residents was reflected in their establishment of the Easter Sunrise service tradition at Prospect Park prior to its move to Mt. Helix in 1917. By the early 1920s Lookout Park had several dozen homes constructed. This year's Tour Guests will get to see an exquisitely restored and updated 1917 Craftsman home, one of the older homes in the tract.

Windsor Hills: 1920s Storybook Subdivision

During the Southern California 1920s real estate boom many developers sought to establish "high-end" suburban home tracts. The San Diego firm of Love and Touhey being one. They subsequently extended Lookout Park's streets up the hill to encompass the higher southern summit—which they dubbed "Pt. Aery." Windsor Hills included high-end improvements such as concrete sidewalks and curbs, "acorn-style" street lamps, and extended the pedestrian staircases up to



WINDSOR HILL ADS, 1927



LOOKOUT PARK REAL ESTATE ADS, 1907 AND 1912

Pt. Aery. Several contractors and residents built some of the then popular revival style homes onto this new "exclusive tract." Love and Touhey's project featured an elaborate marketing campaign full of fanciful images of storybook style homes that promised an idyllic suburban lifestyle in Windsor Hills. They even included a testimonial advertisement from baseball hero Babe Ruth who was in town on a "barnstorming" exhibition tour in 1927. (This led to claims Ruth had bought a home lot in Windsor Hills— this proved not true).

Unfortunately, Windsor Hills was one of some 30 developments in San Diego County alone that would fall victim--to not only the on-set of the Great Depression in 1929—but to the State's ill-fated Mattoon Act. This infamous improvement bond act with pyramiding assessments placed the tract into foreclosure to the State of California throughout the 1930s. Until County voters passed a bond act in the late 1930s to "buy out" the foreclosed lots, no new development could occur. The City was not able to clear Windsor Hills for new development until 1941. Subsequently only a few homes were built before World War II with many homes constructed in the various Contemporary and Modern styles of the Post-

A Brief History of Mt. Nebo and Eastridge **Continued on Page 3**



A Brief History of Mt. Nebo and Eastridge **Continued from Page 2**

War era. One of those being an amazing 1962 Mid-Century Modern custom home designed by Tomas Orendain—son-in-law to noted San Diego architect Sam Hamill—that will be featured on the Tour.

Eastridge Estates: Mid-Century "Custom" Tract

La Mesa joined into San Diego County's exponential growth in the Post-WWII period. While most Post-War La Mesa developments (especially those in North City) were aimed at the larger middle-class market, a group of developer/investors eyed a different suburban fate for the rocky ridge property extending west from Mt. Nebo and Windsor Hills.

In 1956 this group of San Francisco and Los Angeles based developers obtained approvals for a new exclusive suburban tract called Eastridge Estates. The Eastridge Company looked to create a luxury custom-built tract by only selling lots to individual families and builders and not constructing homes themselves. In order to assure high-quality, high-value property they touted "architectural control" reviews and required houses be priced between $25,000 and $50,000—well above the $15,000 average tract home price of the day.

In December 1956 work was underway for what would be the initial yearlong unit one project to grade lots and install streets, sidewalks, sewers and utilities at Eastridge. The Company's initial marketing noted that Eastridge was "planned as the inland Beverly Hills of San Diego" with the "most spectacular view lots in southern California," with the plan to create a "new prestige community" in the "view-tiful hills of La Mesa," close to new schools, shopping and freeways.

A year later "custom" homes were being built and by October 1958 the first three units had been prepared for some 200 home sites. Contractors had some 45 homes completed or under construction then representing 11 distinct "custom" home-builders.

The diverse "custom" nature of Eastridge houses became apparent in these early homes. Several were widely noted for their unique designs, style and construction

A Brief History of Mt. Nebo and Eastridge **Continued on Page 4**

A Brief History of Mt. Nebo and Eastridge **Continued from Page 3**

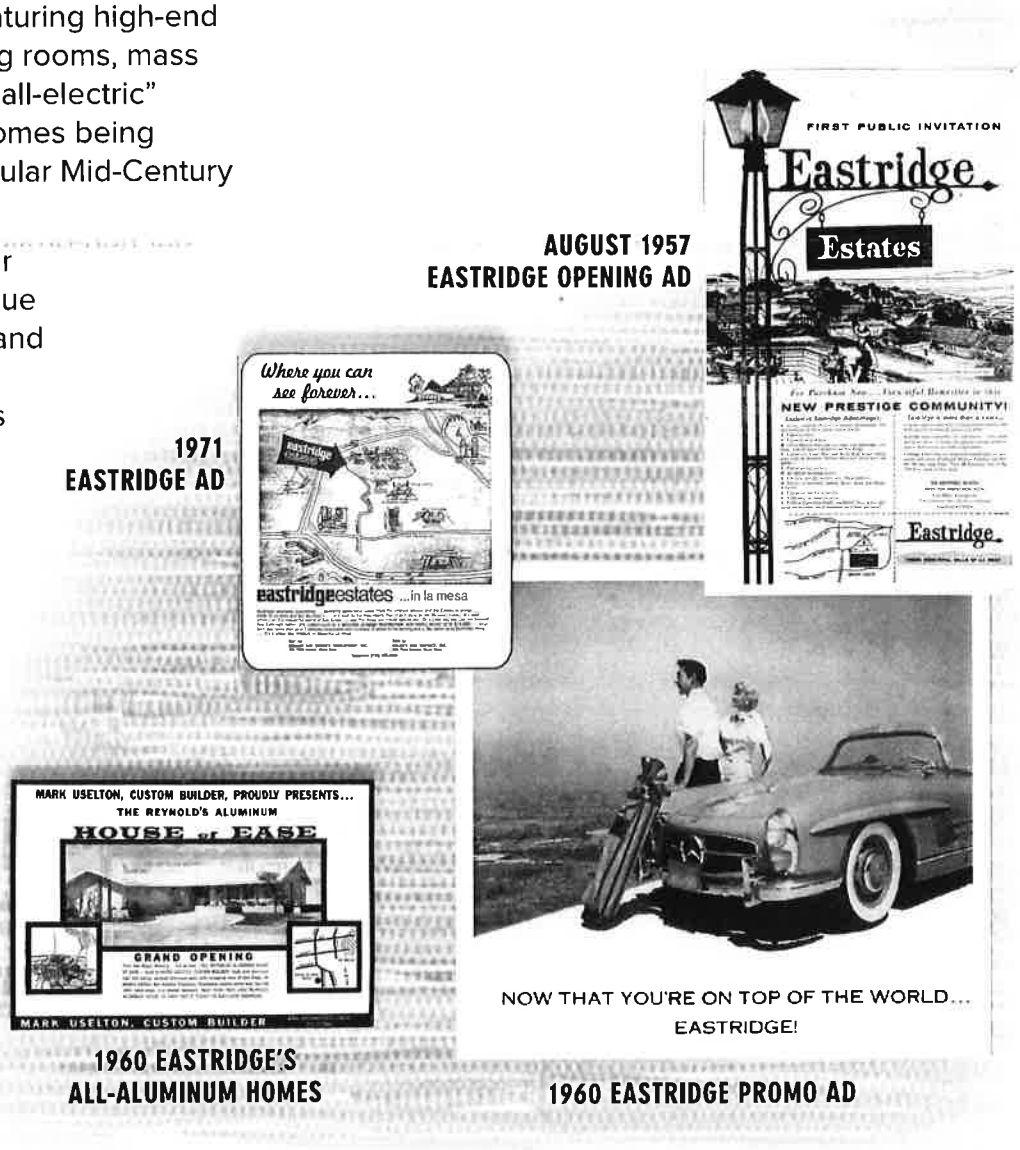
materials. These characteristics reflecting some of the cutting-edge trends of Mid-Century suburban residential design. Although many were high-end custom examples of the more typical California Ranch House type with popular Colonial or Americana styling that dominated 1950s suburban residential architecture, Eastridge had many unique examples of cutting edge Modern and Contemporary style elements.

Eastridge homes receiving attention include "unique split-level," Colonial/Early Americana style ranch, "Oriental," "Tropical Hawaiian Moderns," "ultra-Contemporary," and Modern along with models featuring high-end elements such as sunken living rooms, mass stone fireplaces and modern "all-electric" appliances. Two of the Tour homes being classic examples of these popular Mid-Century Contemporary homes.

In addition to these popular Mid-Century styles, many unique building materials were used and promoted. Steel-frame, adobe block and all-aluminum homes were touted as the latest in residential home design. This year's Tour, as found in the title theme, "Modern Mud" is reflective of these unique homes. Although Californian's are most familiar with adobe-block construction for historic 18th century Spanish Colonial Missions or 19th century Mexican-era homes (see Old Town San Diego State Historic Park) this year's Tour features two Mid-Century Modern adobe homes (constructed in 1959 and 1963). These two pristine examples being designed by noted mid-century adobe home builder/designers Homer Morehouse and Lawrence Weir. They are amazing examples of the meshing of traditional construction materials with the latest conveniences of Mid-Century "custom" residential amenities.

By the early 1970s most of the Eastridge development had been filled in, resulting in the creation of the tract as La Mesa's most unique example of high-end custom mid-century suburban

A Brief History of Mt. Nebo and Eastridge **Continued on Page 5**



AUGUST 1957 EASTRIDGE OPENING AD

1971 EASTRIDGE AD

1960 EASTRIDGE'S ALL-ALUMINUM HOMES

1960 EASTRIDGE PROMO AD

A Brief History of Mt. Nebo and Eastridge **Continued from Page 4**

residential development that was aimed for the professional home buying market.

Mt. Nebo/Eastridge Revealing La Mesa's Custom Home Evolution

The Mt. Nebo/Eastridge neighborhoods reflect a mix of architectural styles and landscaping that provides a distinctly exclusive community that lies "just above" and beyond La Mesa Village.

The Society has arranged for tour guests to experience another grouping of wonderful examples of period authenticity, tasteful updates and expansions, and creative landscaping.

This year's tour features an eclectic mix of homes from a classic 1917 Craftsman gem to a late 1960s Contemporary Early California masterpiece. Those who enjoyed last year's eclectic mix of homes will be rewarded with two Mid-Century Modern adobe-walled homes, several pristine Mid-Century Modern examples and custom Contemporary Ranch homes. Tour homes feature design, materials and craftsmanship of noted local architects and designer/builders including James Bernard, Lawrence Weir, Homer Morehouse, Ed Heacock and Tomas Orendain.

Several of the tour homes are pristine and authentically preserved while several have been updated and expanded in ways compatible with their original designs. All the homes feature the amazing views that have drawn home builders and homeowners to these steep, rocky peaks and ridges.

This year's tour promises another classic showcase for La Mesa. Each home stands as a testament to the timeless nature and unique lifestyles representing some of La Mesa's most enduring early and mid-century exclusive suburban enclaves.

Don't miss it!

ANNUAL MEETING & AWARDS CELEBRATION

La Mesa Wineworks

Well over 60 members, guests and award-winners attended our Annual Meeting/ Awards Celebration at La Mesa Wine Works in the City's Commercial Area June 15th. The Society's Annual Meeting is a required event that functions to ratify the incoming Society Board Officers and Directors of our non-profit, all-volunteer organization.

In addition this year, the Society moved its meeting off-site of its property to the meeting/event facilities at La Mesa Wine Works in the city's industrial zone on Center Street. Members were treated to delicious food from Terra American Bistro and live music from classic rock and roller Jackson Patrick as well as exquisite wines from our hosts. Jackson gracefully took a break to allow Vice President Tracey Stotz to complete the Annual Meeting business of ratifying the new slate for the Board of Directors.

Incoming President Jim Newland then oversaw the presentation of 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."

Annual Meeting & Awards Celebration **Continued on Page 6**

Annual Meeting & Awards Celebration **Continued from Page 5**

LMHS 2018 ANNUAL AWARD WINNERS

LMHS Volunteer of the Year

Awarded to an active long-term volunteer/ member of the La Mesa Historical Society. The annual award is given to an individual who has shown outstanding service to the Society through consistent long-term or continuous commitment to the programs, activities and purpose of the organization.



Donna Niemeier

A long-serving stalwart of the LMHS and the greater La Mesa community, as well as a former LMHS President, Donna also served on the board of directors for nearly two decades. Donna's passion for local history has also seen her serve as a four-term LMHS representative on the City Historic Preservation Commission. She has assisted many applicants with their historical nomination reports and has a wealth of knowledge and experience in the nomination and listing process for La Mesa historic property owners. As such she has been the most dedicated Society Archives volunteer, doggedly working to help organize and grow the archives. She is also well known for her outstanding career in the La Mesa Spring Valley School District as both a teacher and principal at both Murdock and Rolando Elementary schools. Donna is a Fallbrook native and San Diego State graduate. She and her husband Ken live in La Mesa.

LMHS Business Sponsor of the Year

Awarded to an active business/sponsor/ institution within the Greater La Mesa area whose work and efforts clearly supports the La Mesa Historical Society in preserving and educating the community to its heritage.



La Mesa Wine Works

La Mesa Wine Works, and its two partners San Pasqual Winery and Wyatt Oaks Winery have been supporters of the Society and its activities since their establishments here in La Mesa. Owners Mike and Linda McWilliams opened their first San Pasqual Tasting Room on La Mesa Boulevard in 2010. They later opened winery operations in the industrial zone. Wyatt Oaks owners Gavin and Stacey McClain started their winery in 2009 in East County. The two wineries partnered to open the La Mesa Wine Works tasting room in 2016 at 8167 Center Street, La Mesa. The operation includes wine tasting, live music and event space for rent.

Mike and Linda have been long-time supporters of the Historical Society as has Wyatt Oaks since their arrival. Both have been consistent supporters of the Society's activities as well as for the history and heritage of La Mesa. We wish to recognize the top-notch efforts of La Mesa Wine Works in supporting us, the local business community, its patrons and our mission and goals.

LMHS Preservationist of the Year

Awarded to an individual or property owner whose efforts are exemplary in the preservation of historical properties within the Greater La Mesa area.



Don and Nancy Cary

Considering the amazing efforts in La Mesa and the surrounding area of property owners' in preserving their homes, this award continues to be a challenge—since there are so many wonderfully restored and preserved homes. This year the Committee wished to acknowledge Don and Nancy Cary for their efforts in identifying and preserving a pristine Modern

Annual Meeting & Awards Celebration **Continued on Page 7**

Annual Meeting & Awards Celebration **Continued from Page 6**

residential gem—the Weatherell House. Noted San Diego modernist architect C.J. Paderewski designed the 1955 home for engineer John Weatherell and his wife Elizabeth. As such it is exquisite example of the Mid-Century Modern style. The Cary's have gone to great efforts to preserve the home's distinctive elements and furnish and landscape it to reflect that significance. Their efforts were rewarded with the Weatherell House's designation as City of La Mesa Historical Landmark #43.

For those efforts we honor Don & Nancy Cary as La Mesa Historic Preservationists of the Year.

LMHS History-Maker of the Year

Awarded to an individual/family or business/ institution that is currently making a positive influence in the Greater La Mesa community in social, civic, business or educational activities. This award the Society is looking to those doing good things for La Mesa – today.



Mt. Helix Park Foundation

This year's "History-Maker" is a group that has been cutting edge and making a difference for nearly 20 years. Created in 1999 to solve the legal challenges to preserving the iconic and at the time controversial cross at the peak of Mt. Helix, the Mt. Helix Park Association's groundbreaking role as a private non-profit manager of a public park resulted in not only in settlement of legal challenges but in the long-term preservation of this historic public asset.

In 2017 the Park Foundation helped celebrate a century of Easter Sunrise services at Mt. Helix and continues to protect and manage this public park as an extraordinary event venue and community resource. Executive Director Nicole Roberts and the Board of Directors deserve recognition for the essential role in making the greater La Mesa community a better place—by protecting one of our most significant heritage resources.

As such the Society has honored the Mt. Helix Park Foundation as our 2018 La Mesa History Maker of the Year.



MEMBERS SAMPLING TERRA BISTRO'S BUFFET DELICACIES AT LA MESA WINE WORKS



NATASHA BLISS, KARI DODSON AND SHERYL CASTRO GREET MEMBERS AT THE 2018 ANNUAL AWARDS

FOURPENNY HOUSE

DID YOU SHOW YOUR TARTAN AT THE SOCIETY FUNDRAISER?

Members and guests stopped by to enjoy some great fare, talk a bit of Society news and support one of our successful local business partners. Not only did they imbibe in food, beer and spirits in the Scottish-inspired venue but gathered with other Society members to revel in one of La Mesa's most warm and comfortable public houses.

And if that wasn't thrifty enough for you Alba-philes, Fourpenny donated 15% off sales to the Society that evening!





TUESDAY
OCTOBER 16, 2018
5:00 to 9:00 PM
Fourpenny House
8323 La Mesa Blvd. • La Mesa 91942

BOARD COMMITTEE WORKING ON NEW LANDSCAPE PLAN FOR McKINNEY HOUSE GROUNDS

Vice President Tracey Stotz is leading a Board Committee who has been charged with providing a new, updated plan for the landscaping and use of the McKinney House grounds. This effort is part of the overall efforts underway to re-examine the McKinney House programs including enhancing current programs with possible new events and uses that will best meet the needs of our members and the community.

These challenges are not uncommon for most historic house museums across the nation. President Jim Newland has been involved in these discussions on how best to utilize historic properties throughout his three-decade career as a consultant and with State Parks. Jim along with Board Members Kristin Dooley (event planning) and Alex Quintero (architect) bring a variety of expertise and perspective to the Committee.

The goals of the Committee are to find a way to continue providing and enhancing our current Saturday afternoon Open House Program with additional educational and community serving activities at our unique historic landmark property. As with public programming at any historic landmark property the key is balancing the historic preservation with compatible adaptive uses. Most commonly this means ensuring use (abandonment being the greatest threat to preserved properties), without over or mis-using a property that degrades its historic status.

"Historic Landscape" at McKinney House

The current design of the McKinney House landscape was the result of an informed Society Committee including Ed Blackman, Betty Teague, Brenda Neill, Beverly Decker and landscape planner Kim Stillson. The Committee completed planning and installation in 1995. The Committee followed a typical set of goals that complemented the McKinney House's preservation plan of interpreting the site from the house's construction in 1908 to pre-1920. They based the plan on:

1) Documented research into the actual, documented on-site land use, buildings, vegetation and plantings from the interpretive period (1908-1920)
2) Similar research into La Mesa and surrounding landscape elements
3) General research into the period

Since this Committee completed its work in 1995, the Historic Preservation Profession has enhanced its guidelines for preserving, rehabilitating and reconstructing historical landscapes. The Secretary of the Interior now has Preservation Standards and Guidelines for landscapes similar to that for buildings and structures. These standards will be an important set of professional guidelines and recommendations for the committee.

The current committee plans to use the basic goals and standards listed above while also enhancing some of the "non-historic" features of the property (such as our Commemorative Rose Garden) within the historic period aesthetic that is appropriate for this City Historic Landmark. In addition, there is clear Board direction to ensure that the historic landscape elements including vegetation, circulation features and use areas

New Landscape Plan For McKinney House Grounds **Continued on Page 10**

New Landscape Plans For McKinney House Grounds
Continued from Page 9

also allow for a variety of Society and Community benefitting uses.

The current condition of the 1995 landscape has gone through some serious challenges over the last few years. The extensive drought required the Board to cut off the water to our large turf areas—some of which have not recovered. Also our irrigation system is need of major overhaul as with other aging landscape infrastructure.

The most notable challenge is one that has many gravely concerned—our over 100-year old pine tree. It has well out-lived its typical lifespan but was saved some 6-7 years ago with an extensive treatment program. Just in the last month, the tree has turned markedly for the worse. The current drought, along with drying climate, unseasonably excessive hot spells, and rampaging pests and diseases have put significant stress on this—and many older trees in this area. Just a few weeks prior to publication the Society started a new treatment and watering plan with the hope of reversing our beloved tree's decline.

Subsequently the Committee has recognized that the new plan will have to consider the McKinney House landscape both with and without this iconic tree.

Please feel free to send comments and thoughts on the McKinney House Landscape to **info@lamesahistory.com** or mail to:

Attn: Landscape Committee
La Mesa Historical Society
P.O. Box 882
La Mesa, CA 91944

Historical McKinney House Facts

1907
Rev. Henry McKinney Purchases Several Acres in Lot 72, La Mesa Colony Tract

1908
McKinney House Completed

1909
McKinney Family's New Home



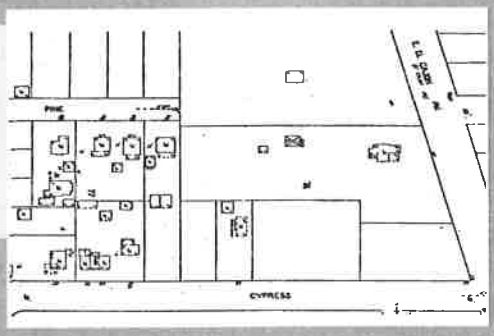
1920
Kinney Pine Tree





1920
Coup and Grape Arbor, Rear Property

1929
Map Showing McKinney Property Upper Center



1980
LMHS Purchases McKinney Property

1984
McKinney House Becomes City Landmark #1

Your Input is Requested

The Committee has solid expertise and knowledge, but we also want to hear from the Society members. Recognizing some limitations of the building for accessibility, lack of off-street parking and restroom facilities the following questions:

① What kind of educational programs and uses would you like to see at the McKinney House and grounds?

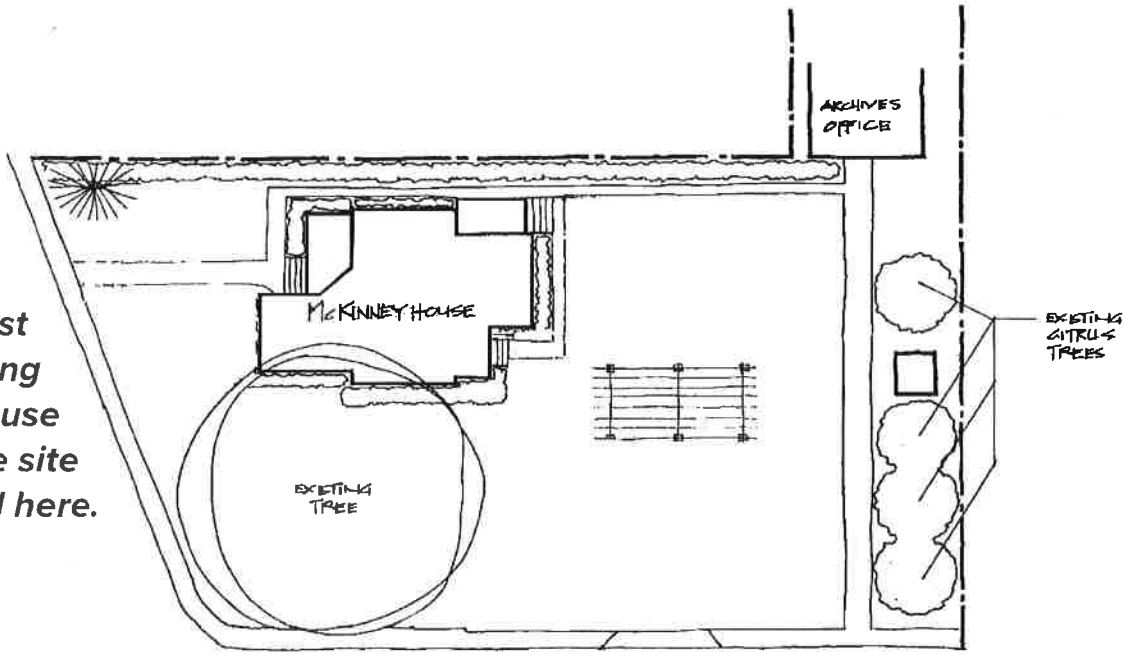
② What new or different uses/events would you like to see?

③ What kinds of activities would make you want to visit more often? New exhibits, presentations, group events, etc?

④ What current landscape features do you want to see preserved? Rose Garden, Lemon Trees, Wisteria Arbor, the outhouse, etc?

⑤ What other features or improvements would make the site more used or usable?

To help assist you in organizing your thoughts, use McKinney House site plan provided here.



MICROFILM NEWSPAPER COLLECTION DIGITIZED!

Unbelievable Generosity, Unprecedented Research Tool, Invaluable Legacy – Thanks To Esther Drew Long

When Esther Drew Long dropped by the Archives for a research visit in November 2016, we could not have understood what an important role she would provide the Society's Archives and her former home town's history. Esther is the daughter of Elmer and Violet Drew of the Drew Ford family. She had come to view the La Mesa Scout newspapers in our Archives (we and the California State Library having the only microfilm copies) as part of her research for a family history. Esther grew up in La Mesa, graduated from Grossmont High School but had moved to Colorado with her family many years ago.



LA MESA SCOUT FEBRUARY 16, 1949 ISSUE WITH WORD SEARCH FINDER

After struggling with our aging microfilm reader-printer (itself being close to becoming a historic artifact), she asked Jim Newland to look into the cost of digitizing the Society's microfilm newspaper collections. The previous estimated costs of such a project having been prohibitive. However, with the recent advances in digital scanning technology the cost had recently come down significantly. When approached with the cost, Mrs. Long wasted no time in providing funding for the digitization and extra for shipping expenses of all our microfilmed newspapers.



EL CAJON VALLEY NEWS JUNE 4, 1892 ISSUE ECVN



MARCH 16, 1908 ISSUE LA MESA SPRINGS SCOUT COVER PAGE WITH WORD SEARCH FINDER

In late June the Society's 76 rolls of microfilmed

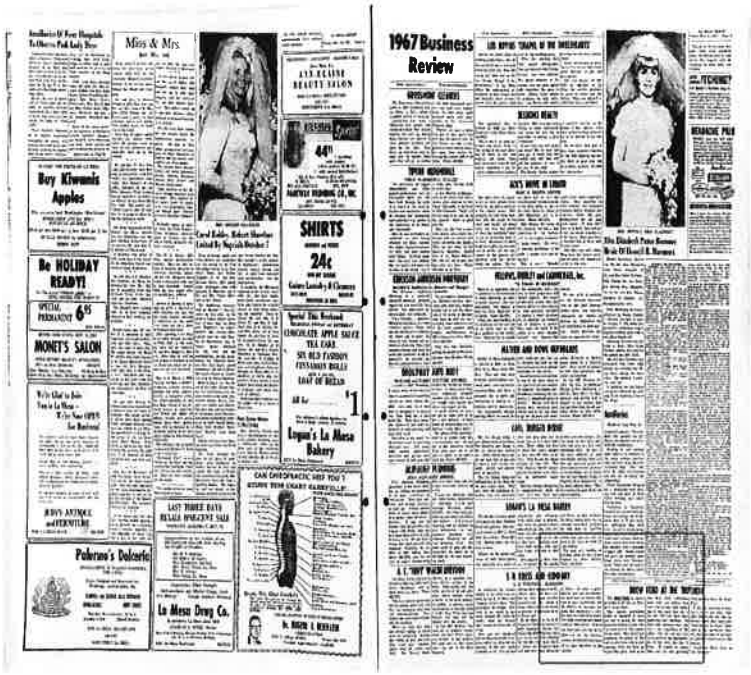
Microfilm Newspaper Collection Digitized! **Continued on Page 13**

Microfilm Newspaper Collection Digitized! **Continued from Page 12**

newspapers covering the La Mesa Scout collections (1907-1985) and our copies of the El Cajon Valley News (1892-1952) were shipped to a company in Utah. Within a month the film was returned along with word-searchable digital files!

We are in the process of setting up a separate research computer that will replace our long-serving and worn out microfilm reader/ printer (which has been an essential tool to researchers for well over a decade--thanks to a previous generous donation of Bob Duggan).

As someone who has spent "thousands of hours" visually scanning microfilm during my career, this is a research tool of exponential benefit. Now we, and researchers, will be able to word search these newspapers—saving untold time with added discoveries.



LA MESA SCOUT FEBRUARY 16, 1949 ISSUE WITH WORD SEARCH FINDER

We owe a great debt of thanks to Esther Drew Long for her generous donation that will provide an invaluable legacy for the Society and La Mesans for many decades to come.

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

La Mesa Historical Society's Christmas Open House at The McKinney House

Sunday
December 9th
2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

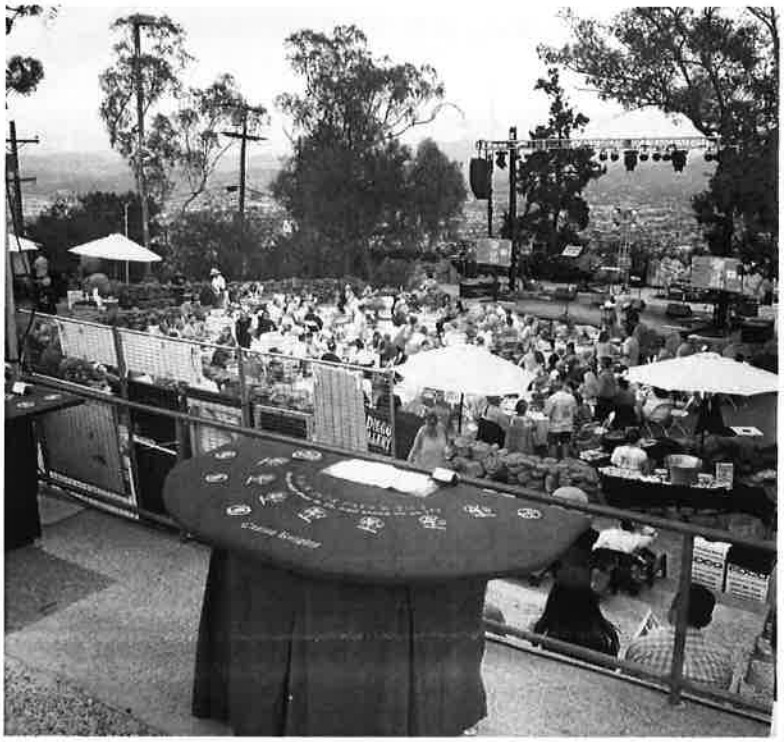
Come Enjoy The House Decorated
For Old Time Christmas,
Connect With Other Members



SOCIETY FEATURED AT

heART of Mt. Helix EVENT

The Historical Society was once again featured at our partner Mt. Helix Park Foundation's big gala fundraiser heART of Mt. Helix benefit on Saturday August 11th. The Society's booth, featuring the initial preview for the coming Home Tour was a popular stop amongst the event's local artists, exquisite food/drink, music/dancing (featuring the Motown to Classic Rock stylists The Mighty Untouchables), and all-around wonderful event. Mt. Helix Board President Norm Hapke also invited LMHS President Jim Newland on-stage to acknowledge our similar missions and partnership in support of the greater La Mesa community. Congratulations once again on a great event and thanks to Executive Director Nicole Roberts and the Board, Staff and Volunteers of our "award-winning" partners at the Mt. Helix Park Foundation!







JIM NEWLAND AT LMHS BOOTH

HISTORIC PRESERVATION NEWS

PUBLIC OUTREACH PROGRAM FIRST STEP IN INVENTORY UPDATE

As reported in the last issue of Lookout Avenue the Society is working with the City of La Mesa's Historic Preservation Commission and City Planners on an update of our comprehensive historic property inventory. One of the first efforts will be a community outreach and awareness program. The Society along with its historic preservation partners and volunteers will be out and about throughout the Fall and Winter. The Society is also meeting with professors at San Diego State on the potential for internship and class projects that may also assist with inventory, mapping, research, and context development.

Keep an eye out for update activities and contact us at volunteer@lamesahistory.com and let us know if you are interested in working on the survey.

Two New Society-Nominated HPC Commissioners

The Society Board recently had to nominate two new commissioners to the City of La Mesa's Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) as allowed per the municipal code. This was due to long-standing Commissioner Tom Hart retiring and the resignation of Ken D'Angelo. The Society thanks both of them for representing the Society in the protection and stewardship of historical resources in La Mesa.

The City Council subsequently confirmed the nominations of the two following, highly qualified individuals. The Board is very pleased to bring these two experienced cultural resource/historic preservation professionals onto the HPC. Here's a little introduction to these talented individuals. Thanks to both for their willingness to serve our community and Society.

Dr. Issac Ullah, PhD.

Issac Ullah is currently an Asst. Professor of Anthropology at San Diego State University. A professional archaeologist, he is a graduate of UC Davis, University of Toronto and Arizona State University. He oversees the Department's internship program and is an expert in cultural resource management. Issac and his wife recently moved to La Mesa, purchasing a potentially eligible home in the Village—where they just welcomed their first child-Talia.

Ms. Carmen Pauli

Carmen is a Principal Architect with the renown San Diego historic preservation firm Heritage Architecture & Planning. A graduate of Cal Poly San Luis Obispo she has overseen many major historic preservation projects throughout San Diego and the state. A former Save Our Heritage Organization (SOHO) board member and City of San Diego Commissioner, Carmen brings extensive knowledge of preservation architecture to the Commission. She, her husband Todd and son Finn live in an immaculately preserved 1958 Lloyd Ruocco home that was featured in the 2016 Home Tour.

FOR THE RECORD
ARCHIVES REPORT

The Archives have had a very busy Summer. In addition to long-standing volunteers Donna Niemeier and Melody Andrews, we welcomed some new regular volunteers in Julie Dement, David Kesner and Veronica Martzahl. Julie has jumped in to help with some long-standing research projects. David recently retired from UCSD libraries audio collections and is helping digitize our old oral history and audio collections. Veronica is also a professional archivist who recently moved here with her family from the East Coast and is working on some of our unprocessed collections.

Also of note have been Steven and Patricia Churchill. First, they helped bring Wi-Fi to the Archives and McKinney House. Now Patricia is helping develop our new Archival cataloging database. These improvements will provide long-term benefits to our researchers and collections.

Select List of Recent Donations:

- Palm Fountain Restaurant Photographs and Records (1940s-50s); donated by Ralph Houk
- Valle de Oro Planning Group Records (1970s-1990s): Jack L. Phillips Collection; donated by Ellen Phillips
- La Mesa Community Welfare Association Cookbook (1974): donated by Judy Jo Beardslee





SHOWN ABOVE: RECENTLY DONATED PALM FOUNTAIN RESTAURANT PHOTOGRAPHS, HOUK COLLECTION

LMHS PARTICIPATES AGAIN IN
LA MESA FLAG DAY PARADE

The Historical Society once again participated in this year's City of La Mesa Flag Day Parade, Saturday June 2nd on La Mesa Boulevard in the downtown Village. The Society partnered again with the Miss La Mesa and Miss La Mesa Teen Pageant to bring a former Miss La Mesa back to ride along with our parade entry. Miss La Mesa 2014 Mandy Bakker joined La Mesa resident "Hotrod Danny" Beardon in his 1924 Model "T" hotrod.

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



MISS LA MESA 2014 MANDY BAKKER IS PICTURED IN THE LMHS ENTRY DRIVEN BY DANNY BEARDON IN THE 2018 FLAG DAY PARADE

YOUNG FILMMAKERS AT THE McKINNEY HOUSE

The McKinney House got some unique use on Saturday June 9th. A group of young filmmakers participating in the San Diego 48 Hour Film Project requested use of the McKinney House as a period set for their short film, "The Kid's Table." The 48 Hour Film Project is a national film contest in which production teams randomly choose a genre, along with a character name, prop and line of text that must be incorporated into their 4 to 7-minute film. The teams are given their genre at 7pm on Friday and must turn in their completed film by Sunday at 7pm.



PREPPING A SCENE IN THE MCKINNEY HOUSE PARLOR FOR "THE KID'S TABLE"



L TO R: GABRIELLE STRYKER, HALEY DUNNING, LINDSAY NEWLAND, CHRISTOPHER GOODMAN, ELAINA SASSINE, WILLIAM LOVE; CAST AND CREW OF "THE KID'S TABLE."

Newlandia Productions, a group of La Jolla Country Day students and recent graduates requested use of the McKinney House for filming their entry. They had received "drama" as a genre and decided to use the Society's period furnished parlor as their set. Director Lindsay Newland, her crew and cast spent all Friday night writing the script, then all day Saturday setting the shooting schedule and acquiring period costumes and props. They arrived at the McKinney at 7pm Saturday night (with LMHS monitor Jim Newland) and completed filming around 12:30am. After grabbing a few hours sleep, they spent all day editing and processing the four and a half minute drama that was turned in with 2 minutes to spare Sunday evening!

The Kid's Table tells the story of a group of teenagers in 1920 who have been sent to the back room while the adults hear the reading of a wealthy relative's will in another room.

The film included the required character: Fernanda the lifeguard, a cardboard box (the prop) and the line "That's outside my comfort zone." It was screened at the AMC Mission Valley 20 on June 25th along with 15 other of

Young Filmmakers At The McKinney House **Continued on Page 18**

A Brief History of Mt. Nebo and Eastridge **Continued from Page 17**

the close to fifty contest entries. The short-form drama received many kudos from the judges and other teams, many who are full-time professional filmmakers. Sometime at a future LMHS event we hope to schedule a showing—so you can see the McKinney House's big screen debut.



LOBBY POSTER FOR THE KID'S TABLE

VOLUNTEER WITH THE SOCIETY!

Whether You Have Three Hours A Week Or Three Hours A Year—LMHS Could Use Your Help! Opportunities To Help As Home Tour Docents, McKinney House Docents, Archives Volunteers, and More!

If you enjoy giving tours to visitors, learning about the history of La Mesa and our greater community, working on cataloging or processing historical records and images, assisting people in researching their homes, businesses, or families, helping with maintaining the museum and grounds, or at one of our events—***we value your efforts!***

Training is provided and we can use your assistance at any time! Many volunteer jobs or tasks can be accomplished on your schedule, whether it be once a week, or once a month.

If you are interested in becoming a trained docent/volunteer, or want more information on other volunteer opportunities, contact: volunteers@lamesahistory.com.





ARCHIVES VOLUNTEERS JULIE DEMENT, DONNA NIEMEIER AND VERONICA MARTZAHL PROCESSING ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS—AND ENJOYING IT!

HISTORY ROUNDTABLE REVIEW

HISTORIAN ADAM ARENSON WOWS AUDIENCE

With Roundtable Lecture On His Book, *Banking On Beauty: Millard Sheets and Midcentury Commercial Architecture In California*

The Society proudly hosted Manhattan College history professor and San Diego native Adam Arenson at the History Roundtable Presentation on Thursday evening August 2nd at the Grossmont Healthcare District auditorium. Dr. Arenson presented the story of the Millard Sheets' Studios designs and artwork for Howard Ahmanson's Home Savings and Loan buildings in California and throughout the United States.

Arenson's interest in the subject dated back to his childhood visits to Grossmont Center that passed by La Mesa's Home Savings Grossmont Branch on Jackson Drive with its California history inspired tile mosaic murals. Although a specialist in Civil War History Adam had started a blog about these iconic California commercial buildings and integrated artwork some years back that led to this beautiful book. Arenson's research finding that these common suburban California commercial buildings had a much larger impact on communities across the nation.

Adam finished his lecture to a rapt audience—that included his mother, brother and Millard Sheets' daughter—who also lives in San Diego. He answered questions and signed books before taking advantage of the opportunity for an authentic California Mexican food dinner! Thanks again to Dr. Arenson for making the effort to share this great story of our common Mid-Century landscape.

The Society still has a few copies of his book available for sale (check our website or stop by the Archives on a Saturday and pick one up).



DR. ADAM ARENSON



THE LECTURE, DR. ARENSON MET ROUNDTABLE GUESTS AND SIGNED BOOKS





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







La Mesa Historical Society

SAN DIEGO HOME/GARDEN

13th ANNUAL **HISTORIC HOME TOUR**

Modern Mud

Sneek Peek!



SATURDAY • NOVEMBER 3, 2018 • 9:00 to 3:00 PM

TOUR CHECK-IN: CITY PARKING LOTS NORTHWEST CORNER OF DATE AND ALLISON AVENUES

La Mesa Historical Society

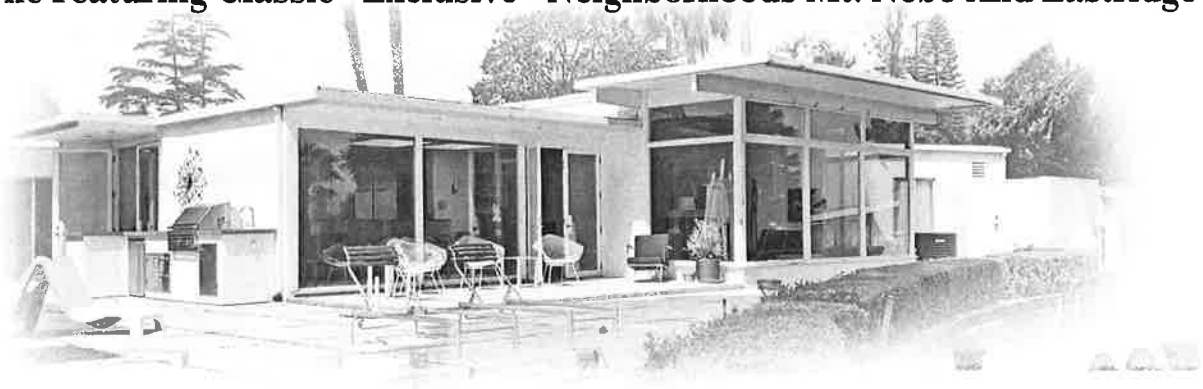
SAN DIEGO HOME/GARDEN

MODERN SAN DIEGO

13th ANNUAL **HISTORIC HOME TOUR**

Modern Mud

The La Mesa Historical Society Historic Home Tour Follows Last Year's Popular Tour With One Featuring Classic "Exclusive" Neighborhoods Mt. Nebo And Eastridge



The La Mesa Historical Society is proud to associate once again with MODERN SAN DIEGO.com and SAN DIEGO HOME/GARDEN LIFESTYLES magazine to showcase six architectural gems. This year's tour features two outstanding Mid-Century Modern adobe homes along with a 1917 Craftsman and several other mid-century Contemporary and Modern residential masterpieces.

Tour Guests will board our continuously running shuttles which are included with admission to gain access to the homes. Due to narrow streets and minimal parking at the homes, no personal vehicles can be allowed on the tour.

The home tour is not ADA accessible and guests will be required to walk up and down lengthy driveways and staircases to access and tour several homes.

Tickets available only through the La Mesa Historical Society.
Tickets to the event can be ordered online at www.lamesahistory.com

or, by mailing a **check payment** to:
La Mesa Historical Society
P.O. Box 882
La Mesa, CA 91944

The deadline for payments made by check is October 27, 2018. Tickets will not be mailed. Tickets will be made available on the day of the home tour. Visit the Tour Check-in booth for details.

Presale Ticket Prices
$25 LMHS Members • $30 General Admission

Day of Home Tour Ticket Prices
$40 LMHS Members • $45 General Admission

For more information, call **619-466-0197**, or, email: **info@lamesahistory.com.**

SATURDAY • NOVEMBER 3, 2018 • 9:00 to 3:00 PM
Tour Check-in: City Parking Lots
Northwest Corner of Date and Allison Avenues

La Mesa Historical Society

McKINNEY HOUSE MUSEUM
AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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 the Historical Society 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