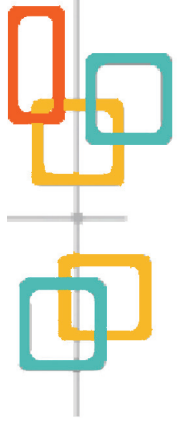


WINTER 2020



lookout avenue



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NEWSLETTER

VANESSA RODRIGUEZ

ALEXANDER QUINTERO

MEET UP AT



**THURSDAY, MARCH 26
FROM 6:00 - 8:00 PM
MEETING ON THE PATIO**



**IT IS ALSO TRIVIA NIGHT,
SO FEEL FREE TO JOIN
SUNSET TRIVIA INSIDE.**

**8167 CENTER STREET
LA MESA, CA 91942
*IN LA MESA'S INDUSTRIAL AREA**

JOIN OR RENEW YOUR

LMHS MEMBERSHIP

**FIND MORE INFORMATION
GO TO LAMESAHISTORY.COM
AND VISIT OUR MEMBERSHIP TAB**

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

NEW YEAR WITH MUCH ADO
ABOUT MUCH TO DO

The Society had another great year thanks to our supportive membership, community-minded volunteers and dedicated Board of Directors.

Thanks to Committee Chair Steven Christiansen and our generous homeowners, the 2019 Home Tour was another amazing success. Not only does the Tour allow the Society to share its mission with the Greater La Mesa community but provides necessary operating funds for our non-profit organization (see more on the Tour inside this issue).

Our Archives continue to be busy with researchers wishing to learn more about their homes, families and community's stories. Our volunteers including Archives and Collections Chairs Veronica Martzahl and Melody Andrews leading the way on processing, cataloging and making available our holdings.

The Society's efforts to work with both the City of La Mesa and SDSU on the Historic Property Survey update continues. This year should lead to significant additions to the City Historic Property Inventory.

The year 2020 promises to not only continue these great Society projects and programs but the continuation of our popular Roundtable History Presentations, Society Meet Ups at local business partners, and our wonderful events such as the Annual Meeting (June), participation in the Rolando Street Fair (March 22nd) and Flag Day Parade (June 6th).

But the most active project early in 2020 will be the McKinney House Historic Landscape Renovation. Demolition began in January and February-March promises to be very busy with infrastructure work, grading and installation of groundwork, new sign, historic fencing—and thanks to a generous anonymous donor—planting of a new pine tree (keep an eye out for our progress). Soon after the grading is completed, we will also be having the McKinney House repainted.

You can also help us with the Landscape by raising funds and honoring yourself, your family or a historic La Mesan with our Buy-A-Brick program (learn more in the Landscape Article). More funds will need to be raised to complete the planting and interpretive aspects of the Plan. For more information on how to help, contact Vice President Tracey Stotz.

As always, thanks for your efforts, hope to see you all soon and feel free to contact me at info@lamesahistory.com with your thoughts.

Jim Newland

Jim Newland

President, La Mesa Historical Society

FOR THE RECORD

ARCHIVE'S REPORT

Our Archives and Research Room continues to be a scene of activity each Saturday.

Researchers wanting to know more about their homes, families, businesses and neighborhoods in the Greater La Mesa area. The geographic scope of "Greater La Mesa" includes not only the City but the College Neighborhoods, Del Cerro and San Carlos to the west and the unincorporated areas of Fletcher Hills, Grossmont, Mt. Helix and Casa de Oro on the east.

The La Mesa Historical Society's archives include secondary sources (books, magazines, City Directories, manuscripts) and many primary source collections. These include the La Mesa Scout (1907-1985) and El Cajon Valley News (1892-1950) and other local newspapers; thousands of historic photographs and media collections, copies of public records (Census data, City Tax Records, Great Registers) etc. as well as private organization collections such as the La Mesa Women's Club, Grossmont Women's Concert Association, and La Mesa Methodist Church to name but a few. Private collections of numerous families and prominent individuals are also in our care.

Recently the Society obtained access to a new state-of-the-art Archival Collections Management System (ACMS). This system will allow us to properly identify and catalog our collections and make them more accessible for researchers.

Examples of some needed funds beyond the dedicated labor of our volunteer archives volunteers are listed below. Note that such assistance can be dedicated to specific items or assigned in general to the Archives Committee.

There are many jobs and tasks from complex to repetitive activities that are helpful in caring for and making available the archival or museum collections. If you are interested in helping in the Archives, please contact us at info@lamesahistory.com or drop by the Archives Saturday afternoons.

Select List of Archival Committee Needs:

- \$100 – For Legal Size 4-drawer Filing Cabinet
- \$300 – Custom Archival Box for James Tank Porter sculpture
- \$500 – Digitizing 1,000 slides or images
- \$1,000 – Fire Safe File Cabinet for protecting media collections
- \$1,100 – One Time Set-Up and Licensing Fee for ACMS
- \$3,200 – Archival Boxes and Supplies for La Mesa Women's Club Collection



Rene LaFrance, local photographer—and local lounge performer, most notably at the old Bronze Room. LaFrance Collection, LMHS Archives.

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

AT THE MCKINNEY HOUSE

The McKinney House looked festive! Everyone enjoyed home baked goods and hot apple cider provided by the board.

Members and guests toured the home and visited the Archive building.

The board always enjoys hosting the Holiday Open House each year. Thank you!



ROLANDO STREET FAIR

LA MESA HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO PARTICIPATE AGAIN

The Society mission covers the collective history of the Greater La Mesa area. This includes our direct historical neighbors in the adjacent City of San Diego's College Neighborhoods. As such the La Mesa Historical Society has taken on the College Neighborhoods History Project started by our current LMHS President Jim Newland when he and his family lived in Rolando in the 1990s.

For the 3rd year in a row, the Society will have run the popular "History Booth" at the Rolando Street Fair. The Street Fair dates back to 1997 and is considered one of the most family-friendly community events in the region. The event, located on Rolando Boulevard south of El Cajon Blvd features live bands, a Beer Garden, kids area and over 100 vendor booths.

Over the years the History Booth has been a favorite stopping point for College Area residents to view historic ads, articles, and photographs of their neighborhoods while looking up their homes in the History Project's Historical House Database.

Join us as we help celebrate the collective history of our historic neighbors and enjoy the hospitality of Rolando.



10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

More information at:
rolandocc.org/street-fair/

GMIA WALK UP MOUNT HELIX



LMHA's booth at the GMIA Walk Up Mt. Helix Event. The Society once again participated in the Grossmont-Mt Helix Improvement Association's (GMIA) annual "Walk Up Mount Helix" event on Saturday January 4th, 2020. President Jim Newland and Membership Chair Sheryl Castro manned the booth at the historic Mt Helix Park Amphitheater. Thanks to our GMIA community partners for inviting us for this always friendly and productive annual event.

STAY TUNED

HISTORY ROUNDTABLE LECTURE SERIES

This Spring, the La Mesa Historical Society returns with another great lecture series.

Be on the lookout for our upcoming dates.



Recap of our Previous Roundtable Lecture



LMHS President and historian Jim Newland and Modern San Diego's Keith York educated and entertained a full house at the Grossmont Healthcare District's Auditorium Saturday October 19th. Newland provided a lecture on the Grossmont and Mt. Helix community development history and its architectural heritage. Mr. York then presented on his knowledge and expertise on the art and architecture of renown artist/designer John Dirks.

Questions and commentary with the audience followed. The Fall Roundtable Lecture serving as a great primer for the Society's Annual Home Tour.

14TH ANNUAL HOME TOUR STONE AGE TO SPACE AGE

TRANSCENDS EXPECTATIONS

Society members, participants, homeowners and volunteers of our 2019 La Mesa Historical Society Home Tour...Thank you! What an event! What a success! We couldn't be prouder of the accomplishments of this past years' annual event and the Home Tour team that made it happen.

Once again, the Society reached out to our Grossmont/Mt Helix neighbors to showcase seven amazing examples of architecture, landscape and community-minded owners. From a 1928 vernacular stone arts and crafts masterpiece, authentic and tastefully enhanced 1930s Revival Style gems to Mid-Century Modern landmarks our visitors were treated

to another memorable community celebration. These seven amazing homes exemplified the breadth of the eclectic periods and styles that make our communities such wonderful places to live, work and play!

In terms of event operations, we not only improved in our attendance to well over 500 guests but also in increased Sponsorships. The funds and good-will generated helping to support our efforts to sustain not only the Society's community driven events that further develop our cultural heritage, but also the support and sustainability of our beautiful McKinney House Museum and Research Archives.



A very special thanks

to all our sponsors for everything from the shirts on our backs to the coffee that kept us hustling!

Tracey Stotz Real Estate
Alpine Windowerks
Keith York, Modern San Diego
San Diego Home/Garden Lifestyles Magazine
EDCO
RCP Block & Brick
Nikki Kreibich, Whissel Realty Group
The Lingg Team, Cynthia Lingg & Michelle Park
DigiGriot
Andrea Flint-Gogek, Realtor
Jim O'Donnell, Realtor
Peggy Buffo, Aztec & Baron Insurance Agency
Laura Lothian Real Estate (& Shuttle Service)
La Mesa Lumber
Copy-It
FBS Property Management
Cardenas Internal Medicine
Friends of the La Mesa Library
Ken Baer, Realtor
Nick Rotsart, Realtor
Steve & Janelle Clay, Postal Annex
Copyscan, Inc.
Daniel Potter, San Diego Snapcast
San Pasqual Winery/La Mesa Wine Works
Donna Niemeier
Bekkers Catering
Ethan Allen, San Diego
Highline Charter
City of La Mesa Historic Preservation
Commission
Mt Helix Park Foundation
Grossmont/Mt Helix Improvement Association
The 2019 Tour Homeowners
The 2019 Tour Docents



We once again, sincerely thank you and welcome your involvement again in this year's 2020 La Mesa Historical Society Home Tour scheduled for November 7, 2020. Contact us today to plan your involvement in this year's event!

Thanks Again!
 Steven Christiansen, Chairman
 La Mesa Historical Society Home
 Tour Committee

McKINNEY HOUSE LANDSCAPE PROJECT UNDERWAY

When you drive by the McKinney House you may have noticed things are moving forward on the new landscape plan. The land surrounding the house has been primarily turf for many years. As the Society works to engage more community members, the Board decided it would be better to develop the site in a way to allow for more on-site programming while still giving a nod to the home's original citrus ranch functions.

Drawings have been finalized. Initial demolition has started including the removal of the lovely, but beetle-ridden, deceased old pine. The Society sign and an unused trellis are gone. New elements will be installed this spring including a new pine of a different type slated for planting in the front yard and the construction of a trellis closer to the house to provide shade for programming. A retaining wall that has elements that reflect what would have been found on site during our interpretive period (1908-1920) will be added to the front of the house. The plan also includes a new historically reflective Society sign, a memorial rose garden, an exterior display case and exterior interpretive signage. The house will also be painted, a new water line installed, and new irrigation added. "All those elements won't be installed right away," said Landscape Chair Tracey Stotz. "Our plan is to build out the site in phases as donations permit." The Landscape Committee, comprised of Board members Kristin Dooley, Jim Newland, Alexander Quintero and Stotz have been working on the plan and donations. "All of

this costs money," said Stotz, "so we welcome community support for the project."

The project is being funded by donations and includes a "Buy a Brick" fundraiser. The inscribed bricks will line a new path winding throughout the front yard of the property. The cost is \$100. They can be purchased online at lamesahistory.com.

Several gracious donors, including Rotary Club, former LMHS President Donna Niemeier and an "anonymous" Society member have already sent in gifts providing for the first phase of the project. RCP Block and Brick is also helping with materials. For more information on the plan go to lamesahistory.com.

Author Tracey Stotz, LMHS Vice President



The enormous pine tree root pulled during demo.

VALENTINE BUY A BRICK AND SAY “I LOVE YOU”



Plans are moving forward on the La Mesa Historical Society's McKinney House landscape. As a member you probably know that the house site, located at 8369 University Ave, in La Mesa, serves as a museum as well as the location for the non-profit Society's research archives. The land surrounding the house has been primarily turf for many years. As the Society works to engage more community members, the Board decided it would be a better use of the space to develop it in a way to allow for more on-site programming while still giving a nod to the home's original citrus ranch functions.

Drawings have been finalized. Initial demolition has started including the removal of the lovely, but beetle-ridden, deceased old pine. A new pine of a different type is slated for planting in the front yard as part of the plan.

The plan also calls for as follows:

- A flex-use area in the backyard available for educational programs and events
- A large display case near the Archives Building to permanently display large objects such as a printing press from The La Mesa Scout and historic signage from the La Mesa Pharmacy
- Interpretive signs throughout the site
- Historically accurate fencing and plantings

The project is being funded by donations and includes a "Buy a Brick" fundraiser. The inscribed bricks will line a new path winding throughout the front yard of the property. The cost is \$100.

For the month of Feb only we are offering special engraved bricks with hearts. Buy your Valentine a brick which will last much longer than flowers or chocolate!

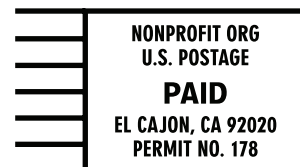
Your support is much appreciated.

Sincerely,
The La Mesa Historical Society Board of Directors



McKINNEY HOUSE MUSEUM
AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ARCHIVES RESEARCH FACILITY

8369 University Avenue
La Mesa, CA 91942



LMHS MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 882
La Mesa, CA 91942

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

HOURS OF OPERATION:
SATURDAYS 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Group tours are available.
Call (619)466-0197 for information.



lamesahistory.com



[LaMesaHistoricalSociety](https://www.facebook.com/LaMesaHistoricalSociety)



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The La Mesa Historical Society is an all-volunteer non-profit 501c3 corporation charged with preserving the history of the greater La Mesa area. 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.

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 email, or email the Editor at info@lamesahistory.com