Lookout Avenue

Newsletter of the La Mesa Historical Society

Winter 2018

In this Issue

President's Message
12th Annual Home Tour Recap
Roundtable Lecture Series for New Local History Book
In Memorium: Linda Keene
Generous Donation
LM Wine Works Fund Raiser
Society News & Calendar

~~~~~~~~

La Mesa Historical Society is an all-volunteer non-profit 501(c) 3 corporation charged with preserving the greater La Mesa area's history. The La Mesa Historical Society operates the Rev. Henry A. McKinney House, a 1908 house/museum located at 8369 University Ave, La Mesa, CA 91942. Open 1-4 p.m. every second and fourth Saturday of the month or by appointment. Group tours are available. Call 619-466-0197 for further information.

Newsletter:

The *Lookout Avenue* is the official quarterly publication of the La Mesa Historical Society.

Closing dates for quarterly newsletter contributions are: **Mar 1, Jun 1, Sept 1, Dec 1.**

Provide text in Word document and photos in jpeg.

Mailing address:
La Mesa Historical Society
P.O. Box 882
La Mesa, CA 91944
Send contributions to Editor at
info@lamesahistory.com



HISTORICAL HOME TOUR

Proves Another Success!

in

Highlighting La Mesa's "Brigadoon" Neighborhood:

La Mesa Highlands

Recap 2017's Home Tour inside this issue.

Save the Date: 2018 Home Tour, November 3rd


~~~~~~~~

LMHS Officers

President
Ken D'Angelo
Vice President
Tracey Stotz
Secretary
Linda Keene
Treasurer
Jeremy Martinson
V.P. Membership
Sheryl Castro
Past President
Jim Newland

LMHS Directors
Natasha Bliss (thru 6/18)
vacant (thru 6/19)
Kari Dodson (thru 6/19)
Kristin Dooley (thru 6/19)
Mickey Moreau (thru 6/18)
Susan Stowe (thru 6/18)

LMHS Committee Chairs
Archives
Donna Niemeier
Communications
George Fahouris
Development
Natasha Bliss
Membership
Mickey Moreau
Home Tour (2017)
Kristin Dooley
McKinney House
Susan Stowe
Newsletter
Editor (Jim Newland)

President's Message

By Ken D'Angelo, LMHS President

The year 2017 is now behind us and committed to the history books and our archives. Our La Mesa-Grossmont-Mt. Helix community has seen a year that has added to the richness of our lives and the future of this community and it is also a year where we have seen the loss of some of the historic and cultural values of our past.

This year we have watched the commercial center of La Mesa grow with new eateries, drinkeries and other entertaining venues that is bringing new social life to our small urban core. The support of the region in that continued urban life has fed the new entrepreneurs who are adding that social richness to our region. On the other side of the same coin however we have also now seen the loss of several important economic landmarks that were part of the foundations of our community's design, growth and success. Foremost was the iconic Catalina Pools building and its famous neon sign which fell to the wrecking crews to make way for a new, and not so iconic, public storage building. Also, La Mesa's "Sun Valley Golf Course" has closed its operations for the last time to make way for a wonderful new park as promised by the City of La Mesa.

The La Mesa Historical Society has also had a year of mixed ups and downs. Our 12th Annual Historic Home Tour proved to be another resounding success showcasing seven diverse and unique homes in the La Mesa Highlands neighborhood. We have held several very informative Round Table Discussions on various topics that has brought new insight to those that attended as to the rich history of our area. Our Annual Christmas Party at the McKinney House brought cheer and merriment to those present and showcased some of the important improvements made to the house this year. That includes the new cedar shingle roof which, through generous donations by our members and even non-members, will extend the life and usefulness of the McKinney House for decades to come.

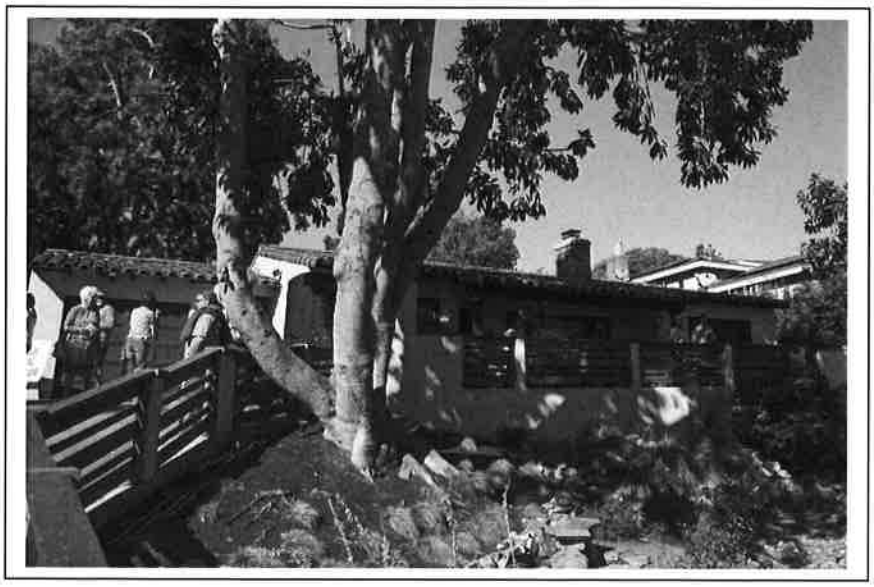
We have also aided in the granting of Historic Designations for a number of homes throughout the La Mesa-Grossmont-Mt. Helix community. Our archives have received generous and unique donations by families that have been part of this community for generations. Those include artifacts, clothing and historic photos, all for viewing by the community in our archives. We participated again in the La Mesa Flag Day Parade and gave several historic walking tours of the La Mesa Downtown area. Importantly, the bequest of the late Mr. Andrew Kitzman from his estate has provided a very generous enriching of our balance sheet and that contribution will go to provide improvements and equipment so badly needed.

Continued on Page 7

12th Annual Historic Home Tour

La Mesa Historical Society reveals gem neighborhood:

La Mesa Highlands



The La Mesa Historical Society once again revealed one of the City's hidden gem neighorhoods—La Mesa Highlands and its twin brother Boulder Heights.

Visitors were able to experience seven amazing homes—some by noted architects and builders as well as local contractors. Two pristine examples of Mid-Century Modern homes were contrasted with Contemporary Colonial, Cape Cod and Mediterranean style homes. Each home had a unique design with an eclectic landscape and décor. A constant heard from the tour guests was their unfamiliarity with the Highlands and the beautiful and eclectic homes.

Surprises abounded in this year's tour.

Here is one of the artist studios in the Savage/Heimburge Estate property.







Home Tour 2017: Eclectic, Artistic and Modern Lifestyles Presented



Special Thanks to all our Sponsors!

MODERN SAN DIEGO
modernsandiego.com

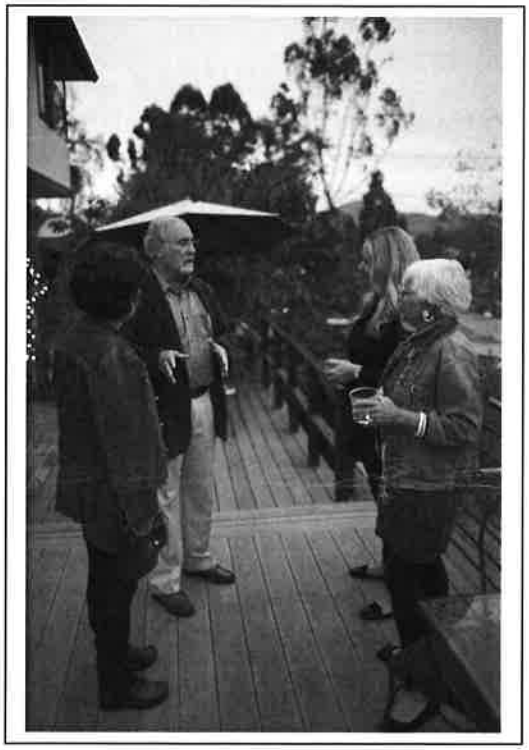
SAN DIEGO HOME/GARDEN LIFESTYLES

Keith York, Laura Lothian, Terra American Bistro, La Mesa Lumber, La Mesa Wine Works, Digigriot, Tracey Stotz, Brew Coffee Spot, Sheldon's Service Station, Mt Helix Park Foundation, City of La Mesa Historic Preservation Commission and our amazing Home Tour Volunteers!

VERY SPECIAL THANKS to our 2017 Home Tour Homeowners:
Kristine Alessio; Ellen Arcadi; Joe & Mary Braunworth; Don & Nancy Cary; Mike Deshazo; Gloria Galetka; and Trent & Maria Tilton

FRIDAY NIGHT TOUR & PRE-PARTY

The Society Board along with last year's tour homeowners joined this year's owners for a pre-tour and reception. Terra American Bistro and La Mesa Wine Works provided refreshments in preparation of the upcoming tour.



Society President Ken D'Angelo, his wife Donna and Home Tour Committee Chair Kristin Dooley socialize with homeowner Ellen Arcadi during the Pre-Party Tour.



2016 Tour Homeowner Alums mingle with this year's owners.



Tour Photos courtesy
Killian Whitelock Photography

Friday Evening Pre-Tour

History Roundtable Lecture Series

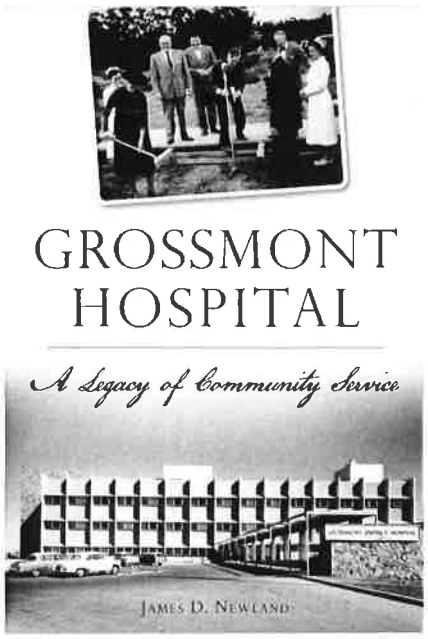
Grossmont Hospital: A Legacy of Community Service

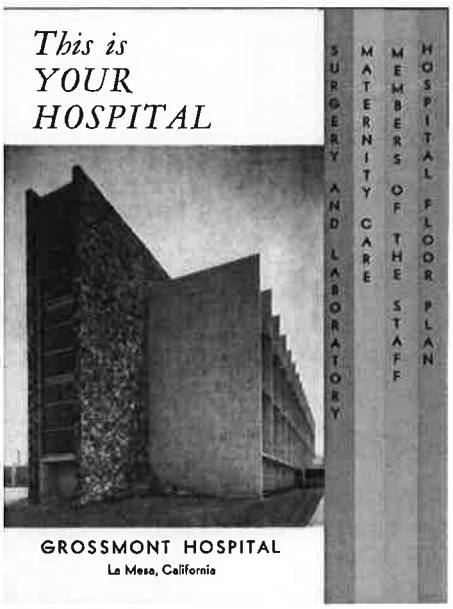
Saturday January 20, 2018 (10am to 12 noon)
Grossmont Healthcare District Conference Center Auditorium
9001 Wakarusa Street La Mesa, CA 91942

James Newland: historian and author of "Around Mt. Helix" and "La Mesa" will present on behalf of his new book

Grossmont Hospital: A Legacy of Community Service

Free for LMHS Members $5 donation requested from Non-Members





LMHS Past President and historian Jim Newland will make a presentation based on his newly released book on the history of Grossmont Hospital. Books will be available for purchase and author signing.

Audience members will also be able to ask questions and share their memories of Grossmont Hospital. Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about the history of one of East County's most revered community institutions.

President's Address continued

On a sadder note our Society has seen the loss of two people that added greatly to who we are and what the Society stands for. Mr. Gordon Jones, long time former President passed away earlier in 2017. He must be given credit for almost single handedly saving the La Mesa Historic Society from being only part of the history books when it needed leadership and direction. By giving years of his time, energy and management skills he and the other key volunteers kept it alive, gave it new purpose and generated new growth

We also lost an officer on our Board of Directors with the sudden and recent passing of Mrs. Linda Keene. Linda's tireless efforts with the archives and serving as Secretary on our Board is already being missed but more so was her smile and always willingness to give a hand at anything that needed to be done.

Looking forward to 2018 brings continued promise of achievements but also promises more work. There is a quiet effort underway to help save the old "Drew Ford Roundhouse of Values" which is slated for demolition later this year. (https://www.sandiegoreader.com/news/2017/dec/12/stringers-wrecking-ball-drew-ford-roundhouse/#) How it got to the approved "wrecking ball state" is unclear, but what is clear is that there might be an opportunity with the community's efforts to possibly relocate the building and to repurpose it. Perhaps possibly in the "new" Memorial Park near the old "Sun Valley Golf Course" and adjacent to the freeway so that this commercial landmark remains part of our community's heritage.

The McKinney House grounds are also planned to be re-landscaped and given some new "curb appeal" and functionality this year. Funds for that effort are going to be sought--so get your checkbooks out in 2018.

Looking ahead, the 13th Annual Historic Home Tour is already in discussion as to the genre of homes and the neighborhood to showcase. This year will also see a continued growth in the total number of our membership and the services, exhibits and historic archives for the interest of our members and community at large.

But all that still needs volunteers to help put it together. People are more important than just filling our coffers with money to make the La Mesa Historical Society even better than it is. If you want to be involved and take pride in your community, have a sense of culture and history, and what it can add to our community heritage for generations to come, then volunteer with us.

Please join in and help—archives, docenting at the Museum, one of our events, etc. We have a rewarding and worthwhile roll for you. Thanks again.

Ken D'Angelo

In Memorium
Linda L. Keene

It is with great sadness and a heavy heart that we report that our good friend, neighbor, community-minded volunteer and La Mesa Historical Society Secretary Linda Keene passed away on Tuesday November 13, 2017. A Michigan native Linda had moved to La Mesa in the early 1970s with her husband, U.S. Navy veteran Joseph Keene. Joseph and Linda were married 51 years prior to his passing in January 2015.



Our forever young-at-heart LindaKeene during her Michigan school days

Retired after a 40-year career with Sempra Energy/SDG&E, Linda made a difference in La Mesa with a never-ending positive attitude, pleasant demeanor, and can-do attitude to contribute among a great variety of community-based activities and service.

She was a long-time Flag Day Parade Committee member, served with distinction on the City of La Mesa Centennial Committee, City Planning Commissioner for 20 years and most recently as a dedicated archives volunteer and Secretary for the Historical Society.



Joe and Linda Keene's Wedding, 1964

All those that had the pleasure of spending time with Linda know the difference she made in so many community activities, organizations and individual lives in La Mesa and beyond. Her sweet smile and personal warmth will be missed not only by her family and close friends but all who had the privilege of crossing her path. The Society placed a wreath on the McKinney House door and a small tribute at the Christmas Open House as a small token of our appreciation for an invaluable member of our La Mesa community family

—Linda Keene.

$50,000 Donation Made to Society

The La Mesa Historical Society has become the beneficiary of a very generous donation in the name of long-time member, the late Andrew Kitzman (1914-2009). Andrew's parents Joseph and Helen Kitzman arrived in La Mesa in 1916 and raised their four children, include Andrew, here. Andrew graduated from La Mesa Grammer School and Grossmont High School (Class of 1934). Andy and his wife Hazel Lloyd Kitzman started a very successful plumbing business in 1942. At one time Kitzman's Plumbing employed 300 with work throughout the U.S.

Andrew was a pioneer member of the Society and made provision in the family estate to provide the Society with $50,000. This donation will more than double the Society's reserves. The Board will be determining the best use for these funds in fulfilling our Mission to preserve and educate on our community's history and heritage.

A Great Thank You to Andrew Kitzman and his family for this generous donation.

Consider Long-Term Support for the Society

If you or your family would like to remember the Society in your estate, or with other long-range funding opportunities in support of the Society, please contact our Development Committee Chair Natasha Bliss at info@lamesahistory.com

FUN AND FESTIVE FUND RAISER!

WHERE: **LA MESA WINE WORKS**
8167 Center Street, La Mesa

WHEN: **WEDNESDAY JANUARY 24TH, 6:00 to 8:00PM**

WHY: **MEET WITH FRIENDS, ENJOY LOCAL WINE & REFRESHMENTS**

HOW: **Our Friends at La Mesa Wine Works (San Pasqual & Wyatt Oaks Wineries)**
will donate $1 to the Society for each glass of wine purchased at the event.

DON'T MISS OUT ON A GREAT EVENING OF GOOD WINE FOR A GOOD CAUSE!

LA MESA WINE WORKS

Are You a Member? Then,
Why Not Join the La Mesa Historical Society

The Society depends on membership dues, bequests, and fundraising activities to support the restoration and preservation of local history. We are an active organization that is fulfilling our mission to preserve, promote and educate on the history of the greater La Mesa area.

The all-volunteer La Mesa Historical Society operates the Rev. Henry A. McKinney House, a 1908 house/museum located at 8369 University Avenue (at the corner of Pine Street) in La Mesa. The Museum is open 1–4 p.m. every second and fourth Saturday of the month or by appointment. Group tours are available. Our Research Archives are open each Saturday from 1 to 4p.m. (except holidays). Call (619) 466-0197 for further information.

Our address is:
La Mesa Historical Society
P.O. Box 882
La Mesa, CA 91944

New Annual Personal Membership Levels:

- $1000 Jewel Lifetime
- $250 Benefactor
- $100 Patron
- $25 Family
- $20 Individual
- $10 Student

Business/Organization Sponsor/Memberships:

$250	Basic Sponsorship
$500	Entrepreneur Sponsorship
$1000	Premium Sponsorship
$1500	Silver Sponsorship
$2000	Gold Sponsorship
$3000	Platinum Home Tour Sponsorship

Join or Renew On-Line!

You can join or renew on-line at www.lamesahistory.com

We also are looking for additional volunteers as Museum Docents, Society Events (including the annual home tour), Archives, Historic Preservation Surveys, etc.

Let us know if you have any questions or comments about your membership with LMHS, or any ideas to improve upon our mission. Again, thanks for supporting LMHS.

