Lookout Avenue

The Newsletter of La Mesa Historical Society

Summer-Fall 2017

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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



12TH ANNUAL HISTORICAL HOME TOUR

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 4, 2017

9:00AM TO 3:00PM

Check In/Shuttle Stop

City Lots, corner Allison and Date Avenues

Featuring La Mesa's "Brigadoon" Neighborhood

La Mesa Highlands

and its eclectic *Mediterranean to Modern* architecture and landscapes

DON'T MISS THIS YEAR'S TOUR!

Pre-Sale/Day of Event Tickets
$25/$30 LMHS Members $40/$45 Non-LMHS Members
LMHS Patron Members receive 2 tickets to the Historic Home Tour.
Purchase Tickets EARLY...Last year's tour SOLD OUT!
Shuttle Service Only; No Personal Vehicles Allowed on Tour.

Learn more on this year's Tour inside this issue.

Please also plan on attending this event, our major society fundraiser and the Roundtable Lecture on Saturday, October 28.

Check the LMHS website and Facebook page for information.
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LMHS Officers

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

LMHS Directors
Natasha Bliss (thru 6/18)
Sheryl Castro (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 La Mesa Historical Society's Fiscal Year 2017-2018 started this July 1st with the Membership's adoption of a new set of By-Laws at the very well attended and fun Annual General Meeting in June. That meeting also brought in several new Board Officers along with new members at large to the Board of Directors while seeing many dedicated prior Board Members retiring to lead committees and other active roles still within the LMHS. The prior Board Members dedication to the years they have given to the Society in its mission of preservation of and presentation to the public of the La Mesa region's rich cultural heritage, must be recognized, especially by all members of the Society and by the general population of our region.

We move forward with a new and reinvigorated level of energy and ideas still with a continuation of our mission within the new Board. The annual events that have made the LMHS what it is today, the Home Tour key among them, promise to be hallmarks of activities that promote the Society's presence in our La Mesa-Grossmont-Mt. Helix community this year.

In my role as the new President I want to bring a focus on the McKinney house itself and see it with a new and extended life for the future generations of the La Mesa region's residents for years to come. In August we completed the replacement of the 35 year old, well served historic cedar roof with a new one of the exact same, only fire retardant treated historic materials. The members, and even some non-member supporters of our greater community contributed generously to the cost of that replacement so the Society didn't have to dip too far into our limited reserve funds.

This Fiscal Year, we are also planning to reinvigorate the landscape with a design that will enhance the historic charm and character of the property and to give a new and active use to the large area that lays as vacant in our rear yard. Hopes are to see this area used for educational programs, weddings and events with other cooperating organizations. We are also planning to bring in some well needed technical equipment that is critically needed in the cataloging and conservation of our archival resources which themselves continue to grow through generous donations by long-term organizations and local families of their heritage artifacts.

Looking downstream at FY 2017-2018, I see promise of the continued growth our Society's membership roster from the large increase we had during the 2016-2017 period. I am also optimistic that as our activities and memberships increase, so will our abilities to provide additional outreaches of our local historical presence through showcases of exhibits, lectures, and events and furthering the preservation of our heritage of our community at large. We will also focus on enhancing existing community partnerships, such as in the past with the La Mesa Rotary, City of La Mesa, and to create new community partnerships that will provide a synergy to an even greater region of historic information and sharing.

Join me in welcoming LMHS's FY 2017-2018 with a sense of purpose and energy. I welcome our Society's membership to join in the activities by further contributing their time and passions to the effort that those that are already working toward the preservation and presentation of our rich cultural heritage.

Ken D'Angelo

12th Annual Historic Home Tour

La Mesa Historical Society invites all to discover another hidden gem neighborhood:

La Mesa Highlands

Annual Historic Home Tour



The La Mesa Historical Society is proud to once again associate with MODERN SAN DIEGO.com and SAN DIEGO HOME/GARDEN LIFESYTLES magazine to showcase seven architectural gems in the La Mesa Highlands neighborhood. This year's tour features two Mid-Century Modern homes along with exquisite examples of Colonial, Contemporary, Cape Cod and Mediterranean homes from the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s.

The La Mesa Historical Society Historic Home Tour follows last year's sold-out tour featuring seven Mt. Helix Mid-Century Modern masterpieces. The Society looks to continue its well-deserved reputation as one of the most popular and satisfying home tours in the county.

The highlighting of La Mesa Highlands provides another extraordinary chapter in the Society's Home Tour legacy.







MODERN SAN DIEGO
modernsandiego.com

SAN DIEGO HOME/GARDEN LIFESTYLES

"Brigadoon-like" La Mesa Highlands Revealed in Home Tour

Similar to the hidden village of Scottish lore that only appears to the lucky few who stumble upon it every hundred years within the Scottish Highlands, La Mesa Highlands is generally unknown to those who do not live in its rolling hills and large boulder strewn lots. These large view lots provide an opportunity for an eclectic, diverse and enchanted suburban/rural landscape that reflects its unique development history. The rural suburban neighborhood southeast of downtown La Mesa is one of the City's best-kept homeland secrets.



The 1928 La Mesa Highlands subdivision, and its adjacent 1927 Boulder Heights tract, both originally developed by the Grable, Francisco, Bleifuss Company, features housing stock with an eclectic mix of architectural styles and landscaping that provides a distinctly rural-suburban community that lies just a few blocks southeast of the La Mesa Village.





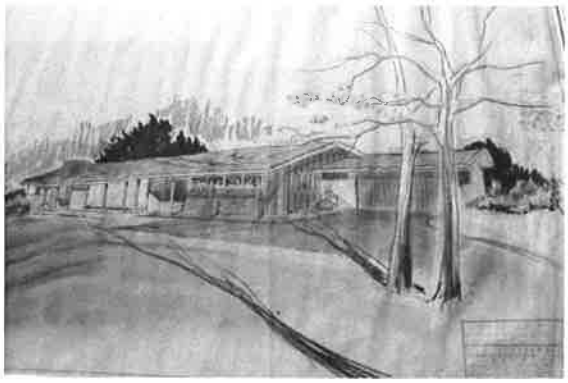


Uncovering one of La Mesa's Hidden Neighborhoods

The Society has arranged for tour guests to experience seven wonderful examples of period authenticity, tasteful updates, decor and expansions, artistic expression and creative landscaping.

This year's tour features an eclectic mix of homes from the 1940s and 1950s. Those who enjoyed last year's all Mid-Century Modern style homes will be rewarded with two Mid-Century Modern properties. One is a pristine home designed by famed and revered Mid-Century San Diego architect C. J. Paderewski and another built by noted custom builder/designer George Eckel.





The other tour homes illustrate the eclectic custom-built nature of the Highlands and its neighboring tract Boulder Heights, with excellent examples of Cape Cod, Colonial Ranch and Contemporary Mediterranean homes. Several of these homes being built for local business leaders and merchants.







Several of the tour homes are pristine and authentically preserved while several have been updated and expanded in ways compatible with their original designs. One home will remind visitors of television's Doctor Who "Tardis," in that its outward appearance does not reveal its much larger living space within. There is also a wonderful array of artwork within the architecture, décor and landscape that help display the indoor-outdoor lifestyle that the Highlands and Heights so appropriately reflect. Don't miss the artist's studios, in home distillery and private vineyard that will surprise and impress.





All in all, this year's tour will "lift the clouds" and reveal another gem neighborhood, the La Mesa Highlands.

Don't Miss it!

In Preparation of this Year's Home Tour:

History Roundtable Lecture Series

La Mesa's "Brigadoon"
The History and Architecture of
La Mesa Highlands

Saturday October 28, 2017 (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"
Keith York: producer, historian and Modern San Diego.com host

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



1928 La Mesa Highlands Advertisement



Architect C.J. Padereweski

LMHS Past President and historian Jim Newland will make a presentation on the History of the La Mesa Highlands and its eclectic cultural landscape.

Modern San Diego website host and historian Keith York will then present on the Mid-Century Modern legacy of La Mesa and its highlands, including noted architect C. J. Paderewski and builder/designer George Eckel—whose projects are featured in the Society's November 4th Historic Home Tour.

Audience members will be able to ask questions of the historians. Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about the hidden history and architectural heritage of La Mesa.

McKinney House Roof Restoration

Our McKinney House roof was some 35 years old and well beyond its life expectation. Therefore, the Board moved forward to make this a priority project for fiscal year 2017/18. The Society contracted with Professional Roofing and Solar. We also received financial support from long-standing partners at La Mesa Lumber and many generous donors. President Ken D'Angelo was instrumental in an on-time successful result.







$6,000 Still Needed to Meet Our Fund-Raising Goal

The Board set our Annual Fund Goal as $18,000 to cover the cost of the new McKinney House Roof. So far we have raised $12,000 toward our goal. By meeting our goal we will not need to dip into reserves for completing this essential preservation task for our historic property.
You can donate directly via our website to contribute to this year's cause and meet our goal.

Thank you to all who have contributed so far!

Consider Supporting 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

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Wedding Dress Exhibit Brightens the McKinney House

From the Vaults: Wedding Dresses from La Mesa's Past.

Another Don't Miss this Fall is the McKinney House's *Wedding Dresses from La Mesa's Past* exhibit. Coming see our unique collection of wedding dresses from the 1870s to the 1950s. This Exhibit features some of the beautiful and historic collections that we hold and care for at the Society. The Exhibit will extend through the Fall.

The McKinney House is open on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays from 1 to 4pm







ARCHIVES & COLLECTIONS

Recent Additions to the Archival Collections

Anita Reith & Shirley Stowers	Grossmont Community Concert Association Scrapbooks and Records (1957-2010)
Mary Morrison	Ash Tray: Anthony's Fish Grotto, circa 1964

WHY AND HOWS

La Mesa Historical Society Mission

To promote, collect and educate on and about the history of La Mesa and its area of historical influence for the benefit of the community through the McKinney House Museum, Historical Archives and public programs.

La Mesa Historical Society Vision

An organization actively engaged in preserving La Mesa's unique heritage for future generations to access and enjoy.

Society Store On-Line

Don't forget that you can purchase Society books, DVDs and even sign-up or renew your membership on-line on the Society's website lamesahistory.com. The Store is also open each Saturday in the Research Archives at the rear of the McKinney House property at the corner of University Avenue and Pine Street. Here you can also purchase historic photos and do research on your house, business or events of La Mesa and the surrounding region's past.

LMHS Likes Facebook!"

Visit us on Facebook today and let us know you like us!

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.

Events & Resources for the Historical Society Community

2017 Events Calendar

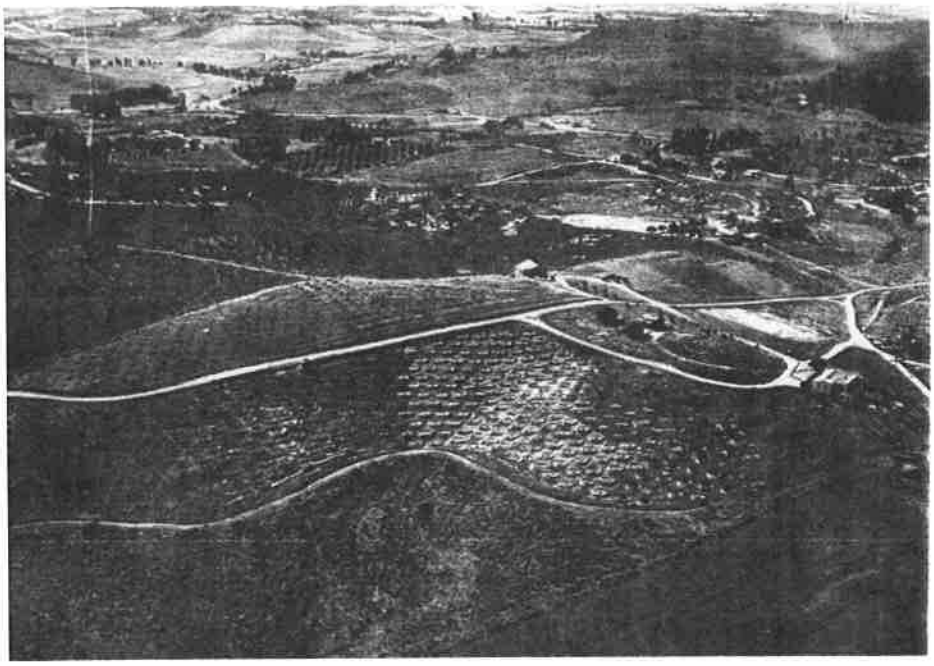
Have an event/resource to report to the historical society community?
Send your information to
info@lamesahistory.com

History Roundtable Lecture
Saturday, October 28th 10am to 12 noon
Grossmont Healthcare District Auditorium, 9005 Wakarusa Drive, La Mesa

2017 Home Tour – La Mesa Highlands
Saturday, November 4th 9am to 3pm
Check In/Shuttle Stop: NE corner Date and Allison Avenues, City Parking Lots

McKinney House Research Archives
Every Saturday
Research — Archives open every Saturday from 1 to 4 pm (except holiday weekends).

McKinney House Museum
2nd & 4th Saturdays each month
McKinney House Museum is open the 2nd and 4th Saturdays from 1 to 4 pm (except holiday weekends).



Aerial View of La Mesa Highlands, circa 1935
Alpine Avenue passing east to west through middle of shot.

McKinney House Museum and Archives
8369 University, La Mesa, CA 91942
Mailing address: P.O. box 882, La Mesa, CA 91944
619-466-0197
www.lamesahistoricalsociety.com

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La Mesa Historical Society

Reverend Henry A. McKinney House 1908

12th ANNUAL HISTORIC HOME TOUR

featuring La Mesa's "Brigadoon" Neighborhood

La Mesa Highlands

and its eclectic *Mediterranean to Modern* architecture and landscapes

The La Mesa Historical Society is proud to associate with MODERN SAN DIEGO.com and San Diego Home/Garden magazine to showcase seven hidden gems nestled within the hills and glens of La Mesa Highlands.

MODERN SAN DIEGO
modernsandiego.com

SAN DIEGO HOME/GARDEN LIFESTYLES

Saturday
November 4, 2017
9am to 3pm

Pre-Sale/Day of Event
$25/$30 LMHS Members $40/$45 Non-LMHS Members
Join LMHS as a Patron Member to receive 2 tickets to the Historic Home Tour.
Purchase Tickets EARLY...Last year's tour SOLD OUT!
LMHS is a non-profit 501c3 organization, profits go to support the Society.
Shuttle Service Only; No Personal Vehicles Allowed on Tour.

Tickets are available only through the La Mesa Historical Society.
Order Tickets or Memberships On-Line at lamesahistory.com or
Mail Check for Ticket Payment to La Mesa Historical Society, P.O. Box 882, La Mesa, CA 91944

Number of Tickets _____ Amount Enclosed _____ Member? Yes ____ No ____
Name: _____ Telephone: _____
Address: _____ Zip Code _____
Email: _____

Questions? Contact us at: 619-466-0197, or Email to: information@lamesahistory.com