

A Message From Our President Julie Stern

Dear Members:

I would like to start this letter by thanking everyone for attending our Holiday Party that was held in Chris and Glenn Gary's lovely Victorian Home on Grand Boulevard. We are very grateful that they offered their home for this annual event which means so much to us. We had a fantastic turnout of 80 members and guests throughout the evening. I heard many praises for this lovely, well-restored home which is an important part of Corona's history. Heartfelt thanks go out again to the Garys for their warm and wonderful hospitality. We also thank City Councilmember Stan Skipworth for taking time out of his busy schedule to enjoy the festivities with us.

Historically, the Gary's home is known as the N.C. Hudson Home and is where the Corona's First Baptist Church was organized in 1891.

Dentist Dr. Robert A. Todd and his family were the next occupants. We were honored to have Robert's grand-



Julie in the Gary's dining room with an array of delicious dishes contributed by our members, potluck style.

son Bob Todd and his lovely wife Irina join us at the party. He had not been inside the home since 1965 and enjoyed walking room to room and sharing his many memories.

This coming year, will be another exciting and fun year for CHPS with multiple challenges to be faced to achieve our preservation goals. We will continue to advocate to save our historic structures and neighborhoods and continue to

explore ways and means to achieve this. We look forward to working with the community on many different levels and making a difference in our community through education and advocacy.

In closing, I would like to thank all of our members for their support and interest which has made CHPS a strong organization. I look forward to an exciting New Year and seeing many members in the coming months.

Yours In Preservation,
Julie Stern



Bob & Irina Todd



Our 25th Anniversary

The Corona Historic Preservation Society will be celebrating the 25th year of our official founding in May 2008.

We are hoping to make this a very successful year for CHPS as we reach this landmark in our history.

CHPS Kicks Off Distribution of Free Dictionaries to 2007-08 Third Graders by John Wiles



On November 1, 2007, the Corona Historic Preservation Society helped make history for students at Lincoln Alternative School. Board members Christine Gary, Doris Osko, and Mary Winn were on hand to hand out free personal dictionaries to 145 third-grade Lincoln Lions -- the first such presentation in the Corona-Norco Unified School District for the 2007-08 year.

This is the third consecutive year that CHPS has participated in supporting The Dictionary Project for Corona Norco Schools, an initiative developed by native Coronan and CHPS member John Wiles to provide free dictionaries to all third graders in the Corona-Norco community. Funds for the books are provided by 21 local non-profit/service organizations, each of which sponsors one or more of the 30 public and eight

private schools served by the project.

The Dictionary Project for Corona -Norco schools is one of hundreds of local "chapters" of a nationwide program headquartered in Charleston, SC. Since 1995, dictionaries have been given to more than five million American third graders, including over 12,000 attending Corona-Norco schools. Fittingly, CHPS continues to serve as sponsor for Lincoln Alternative Elementary School, the oldest currently operating elementary school in the district.



(L-R) Chris, Doris & John

The New Heritage Room by Jennifer Marlatt

When are you traveling? Did you bring your birth certificate? Do you have checks or money orders? Please, sign-in on the clipboard. These are just a few of the phrases that researchers and local history enthusiasts have heard while visiting the Corona Public Library's Heritage Room. Why would an archive and local history room be filled with such questions? In August, 1999 the Corona Public Library became a Passport Acceptance Facility, assisting the U.S. State Department in the initial stages of the passport process. The Heritage Room space and staff were shared between the two services and the arrangement worked well for seven years.

With the enactment of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative which requires anyone traveling to Mexico, Canada, or the Caribbean to have a U.S. Passport, it has been difficult to address the needs of the Heritage Room users. Crowds filled the local history room for hours at a time, noise levels were often high, and staff members were consumed with the business of passports.

In response, the W.D. Addison Heritage Room will once again have its own space in the Library. In January 2008 the local history collection and researchers will have their own reading room separate from the Passport Services office. Located on the Heritage Room second floor of the Library, the new 400 square



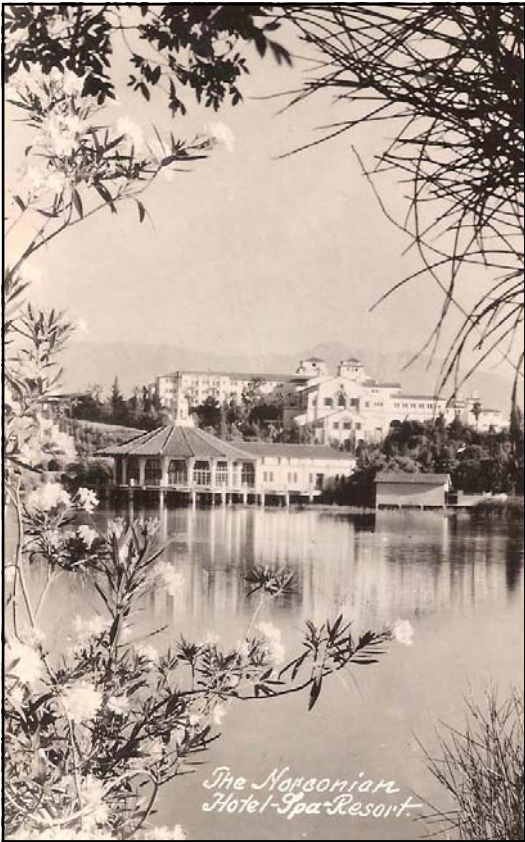
foot reading room will have a dedicated staff member, research space, and photocopier. The new space comes on the heels of the Heritage Room's 27th Anniversary which was on November 30, 2007.

A partition wall was erected giving the Passport Services office its own distinct space at the Southeast corner of the Library's second floor (original location of the Heritage Room), while the new Heritage Room will be located to the left of the elevator in the Southwest section of the second floor near the gallery and new Quiet Reading Nook. The new Heritage Room reading room was designed to protect the local history book collection from the ravages of light, heat, and humidity. UV sleeves are in place around the fluorescent lights and a dedicated HVAC system will maintain the collection at 68° F to 70° F.

Accompanying the new space are new hours, Heritage Room services will be available Monday through Thursday from 3 p.m. until 7 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Tours and additional research support will be available by appointment. Off-site reference services will continue to be offered via the Library's 'Ask a Librarian' service at www.coronapubliclibrary.org and by telephone at (951)736-2386 (a new phone number will soon be assigned to the Heritage Room).

Photos of the Heritage Room will be in next newsletter.

First Quarterly Meeting of 2008



Norco historian, author and historic preservation advocate Kevin Bash will be our featured speaker.

His presentation in slide and movie form will cover the history of:

- ♦ The Norconian Resort Supreme
- ♦ The Corona Naval Hospital
- ♦ The California Rehabilitation Center

Date: Saturday, January 12

Time: 10:00 A.M.

**Location: Community Room
Historic Civic Center
815 West Sixth Street**

Kevin is an excellent speaker and no one is more knowledgeable on these topics.

Kevin's book and the Huell Howser DVD, both entitled "The Norconian Resort", will be available for purchase and signing.

Please join us and invite your friends!

The Society's Ongoing Activities



Monthly Board Meetings
Bimonthly Newsletter
Vintage Home Tours
Historic Marker Program
Cemetery Walk at Sunnyslope Cemetery
Annual Heritage Home Awards
Oral History Program
Annual Holiday Party
Educational Seminars and Field Trips
Community Preservation Projects
Vintage Home Relocation Assistance



Historic Preservation Information and Assistance

Speakers and Slide Presentations are Available to Service Clubs
and Social Organizations for Meeting Programs

Architectural Salvage Items and Materials Available to Members

Maintenance of Historic Properties



BEFORE



AFTER

511 S. Vicentia Avenue "The Benedict House"

Pansies, lavender, roses, hollyhocks and a verdant lawn now grace the Benedict House, a sturdy yellow bungalow that was once hidden behind a waist-high crop of thriving weeds. Located at 511 South Vicentia, this house was built by Alson and Margie Benedict and stands across the street from what was once Corona's second High School for 38 years. It served as Corona City Hall for 43 years, and is now referred to as the Historic Civic Center.

The Benedict House was erected 85 years ago in 1923, the same year that Corona High School was built across the street at 815 West Sixth Street. Margie's hobby of gardening not only beautified her home but helped her support her family during the rough economic times of the Depression years. She and her husband Alson had seven children and raised five of them in Corona.

Margie was "an avid gardener and up until the time she was 95 she was out in the garden pulling weeds," according to the *Corona Independent*. She never quit. She had a garden, raised chickens and rabbits and canned all her own fruits and vegetables. Margie lived to be over 100 years. After her death, her daughter Laura Bench and family lived in the house and continued to work the soil as her mother Margie had done.

After Laura's death, the property was unoccupied. Time, age and neglect took its toll on the 'shotgun bungalow' on Vicentia and it was nearly destined to become a parking lot a few years back. Unwilling to see more of Corona's history destroyed, admirers banded together to save this historical home. It was painted in Fall of 2003 at the 9th Corona Beautiful event. Corona's Heritage Garden Club and CHPS provided the basic shrubs, flowers and sod and a transformation occurred. It is currently used by Settlement House for storage of their donated items.

Since Summer 2003, CHPS has undertaken the task of landscaping and maintaining both the Settlement and Benedict Houses.

At Settlement House



Instead of a tangle of weeds and worn paint, the properties have become fine examples what a little TLC will do to beautify the grounds. Both structures are attractive and continue to stand where they have for many decades.

Saturday Work Party

On Saturday, November 17 a CHPS work party convened to clip, trim, edge, prune and 'deadhead' the landscaping at the Settlement House and the Benedict House. Volunteers Jackie & Bubba Bland, Aaron & Lauralynn Hake and Richard & Mary Winn brought their tools and spent a couple of hours cutting back the shrubs, edging and weeding the flowerbeds and trimming all manner of flora located at the two historic structures. There was plenty of work to go around and no one appeared to mind.



At Benedict House



Our Annual Holiday Party



On Thursday, December 6, the Society's annual Holiday party took place in the beautiful historic home of Glenn and Christine Gary. More than 80 members and guests attended this gala occasion. It was a colorful and festive event complete with a delicious buffet dinner. Appreciation is extended to all members who shared their culinary skills and contributed many delicious dishes to the meal. The variety of photographs shown here give only an inkling of who was there and what was going on, but it is clear that we had a great time.

During the business portion of the meeting the slate of directors presented by the Nominations Committee was adopted. Jacquelyn Bland, John Kane, Doris Osko and Richard Winn were elected to 2-year terms as regular Directors. Marla Benson, Janette Neumann and Ted Taylor were elected to 1-year terms as Emeritus Directors. The Board now has its full complement of Directors to manage the affairs of the Society.

After dinner, the Corona High Madrigals entertained this year's partygoers with a wide array of musical selections performed a capella.

Recognition of Historic Civic Center



CHPS Board members join Mayor Montanez & City Councilmembers after unveiling of bronze plaque



After the red ribbon was cut, all were invited to tour the Historic Civic Center & view the results of hard work by all involved to preserve and protect this architectural treasure

On Tuesday, November 6, 2007, a public get-together convened in front of the classic arcade arches in front of Corona's second High School, now known as the Historic Civic Center. The event served to celebrate the completion of the building's renovations, to dedicate the bronze marker identifying the structure as having been placed on the National Register of Historic Places, and to recognize the building's new tenants.



Richard Winn at podium

City Manager Beth Groves conducted the ceremony which included remarks from Mayor Montanez on the nature and extent of refurbishments, remarks from Richard Winn on the history of the various structures on the site, the architectural elements that set this structure apart from

others and made it a candidate for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

Following these remarks, the plaque was unveiled to the left of the main entrance doors. It compliments the bronze plaque to the right of the doors placed by the CHPS in 1996 identifying the structure as CHPS Historic Site Marker #1.

A symbolic "ribbon cutting" took place and the building was open for visitors. The public was invited to visit tenant offices, view exhibits on Corona's history and partake of refreshments in the Community Room.

Renovations to the Auditorium were extensive and involved the construction of a new stage, replacement and upgrade of the lighting and sound systems, seating and the sound booth.

Other renovations included changes to the first floor paint, lighting and other amenities. Refurbishment of the ticket booth will enhance use of the renamed "Historic Civic Center Theater". Other improvements include exterior painting, roof repairs, extensive restroom improvements, new doors and windows, enhancement of original flooring, lighting and necessary ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) improvements.

Above photos courtesy of Jim Dorsey



Membership Information

When joining or renewing your membership, please make out your tax deductible check to CHPS.

Individual Member	\$20.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	I'd like to volunteer for:	
Family	\$30.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Programs	<input type="checkbox"/>
Student	\$10.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Membership Activities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Business	\$50.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Relations	<input type="checkbox"/>
Patron	\$100.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Board of Directors	<input type="checkbox"/>
Life	\$500.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other _____	

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Gift from _____

Membership Status: Renewal New

Please complete and mail to:

CHPS

P.O. Box 2904

Corona, CA 92878



We Welcome Our New & Continuing Members

David J. Aguayo
 Richard & Carol Appel
 Patricia Markowitz Barker
 Benny & Marla Benson
 Dorothy E. Erick
 Lee Hansen
 W. Raymond Harris
 Margaret H. Jameson
 Steve & Tracy Lech

Kent & Ginette Lilibridge
 Raymond and Cheryl Monteon
 Jerry & Jean Neumann
 Carl & Sue Simmons
 Jay Stemska
 Ted Taylor
 Peggy Temple
 Carlton & Patricia Wallace

The city's purpose in initiating these renovation/restoration efforts was to preserve the architectural integrity of this remarkable landmark and to have it continue to be a facility that the community can utilize and enjoy for many years to come.



Corona High School postcard c. 1920s

Current tenants: Parks and Community Service staff, Foundation for Community and Family Health, Corona Firefighters Association, Today's Youth, Corona Youth Sport Foundation, United Way of Corona/ Norco & Corona Historic Preservation Society.



Board of Directors

President - Julie Stern
Vice President - Christine Gary
Secretary - Jim Bryant
Treasurer - Richard Winn

Directors
Jackie Bland
Aaron Hake
John Kane
Doris Osko
Mary Winn

Directors Emeritus
Maria Benson
Janette Neumann
Ted Taylor



To contact us call
951.898.2044
Please leave a message



Our Mission Statement

The Corona Historic Preservation Society (CHPS) is a nonprofit tax-exempt organization dedicated to preservation and revitalization of Corona's historic buildings, neighborhoods and sites.

Through education, legislation and organization, CHPS acts as an advocate for the preservation of Corona's historic resources.

Monthly Meetings

CHPS Board meetings are held each month to transact Society business, discuss issues affecting the Society and preservation of local historic resources.

All members are invited to attend.
The next meetings will be

Thursday, January 17, 6:30 at CHPS office

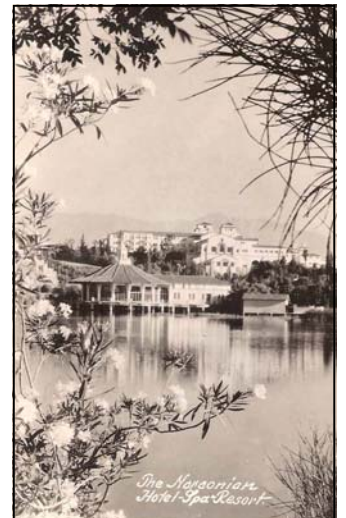
Thursday, February 21 at CHPS office



Visit us: www.coronahistory.org



P.O. Box 2904
Corona, California 92878-2904



Quarterly Meeting - January 12, 2008
The Norconian Hotel/Spa/Resort See page 3

