



### A Message From Our President Christine Gary

Dear Members,

As I write this message, I am sitting on an antique couch in my backyard in the Joseph Brumbaugh House. I cannot imagine this fantastic house ending up in the landfill! It is so unique, like all the old 1800s houses. As I look around, I can imagine the skilled craftsman who built the house with his bare hands, no power tools back then. Supplies were brought by sea and then over dirt roads from Los Angeles to Corona. The wood is from the old growth redwoods in the Pacific Northwest, the only place they grow on the entire planet. The house has a personality and warmth emanating from the people who lived in it over the years. I have never gotten that feeling in any “new construction” house. If everyone could experience this, the efforts of our forefathers would not be torn down and taken to a landfill. Not only is it wasteful, it disrespects the men and women who worked so hard to build a future for us. CHPS wants to rectify this situation!

At the recent Antiques & Collectibles Faire, we displayed and sold architectural salvage, hardware and publications at one booth and sold fresh lemonade and cookies at another. We enjoyed renewing old acquaintances as well as spreading the word about preservation right here in Corona. The recipients of our 2009 Heritage Home Awards were announced. It always warms the heart to give recognition to owners of historic



(L-R) Christine Gary, Lauralynn Hake & Jackie Bland are seen here overseeing our booth at the recent Antiques & Collectibles Faire held at Corona Heritage Park.



(L-R) Jerry & Jean Neumann and Richard & Mary Winn are seen here ready to serve lemonade and cookies from the Society's one-of-a-kind lemonade stand.

homes who have taken the time and made the effort to act as the caretakers of historic heirlooms. Their work allows folks in the present to see the magnificent workmanship of craftsmen who put their blood, sweat and tears into creating these homes with details such as exterior sidings and trim, interior moldings, tiles, specialty wood and countless other small details that leave us wondering today, how it was done.

I invite you all to share information about the Society's Preservation Grant program with others. It can assist historic home owners by partially reimbursing them for the costs of approved preservation/restoration projects.

Our upcoming events are the July 4<sup>th</sup> Main Street Parade and the July 4th Celebration evening activities at Santana Park. Before the fireworks, we will be selling our fresh lemonade and cookies in the food court area. We hope to see you all there for the patriotic fun!

One final reminder: we will be conducting our second 'Caravan of the Markers' (a walking/driving tour of the Society's fourteen historic markers) for our next Quarterly Meeting on Saturday, September 19th starting at 10:00 A.M. Additional information regarding this event is found on page 3 in this

newsletter.

With warm regards,

*Chris Gary*



# CHPS Dedicates Historic Marker #14 by Doris Osko

On Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00 A.M. the Corona Historic Preservation Society dedicated a bronze plaque at Woman's Improvement Club of Corona (WIC) at 1101 Main Street in Corona. The plaque was the fourteenth in a series of markers begun by CHPS in 1986 to highlight places of historic significance in the community. President Christine Gary, Vice-President Mary Winn, Treasurer Richard Winn, Secretary Doris Osko and Board member Jackie Bland were on hand to unveil the plaque which was placed on the front left pillar of the clubhouse. Vice-President Nancy Fay and approximately sixty-five members of WIC, many of whom are also members of CHPS, were present to witness the special event. Cheyenne Steele, a representative of Assemblyman Jeff Miller's office, presented a special Certificate of Recognition for the event, and Mayor



History of Corona curriculum she created for Corona's third grade students.

The club's first activity was to revive the former Women's Christian Temperance Union's struggling reading room into a lending library. Club members offered their labor and donations until a library was established. The club helped the town win funds for the Carnegie Library. Several WIC

projects earned the group a considerable voice in community politics. Club members personally planted pepper trees along Grand Boulevard, irrigated and planted in City Park on Sixth Street, cleaned neglected yards and streets until a chagrined Corona Board of Trustees established a permanent Sanitation Department, and Parks Maintenance crew. Other ordinances initiated by the club involved consumer rights, street lighting, and moral legislation. The club began a school lunch program, a humane society for animals, established the Settlement House to aid disadvantaged families, and was home to the original Red Cross chapter (1913) and its first Girl Scout troop (1922.) During World War II the club offered citizenship classes. The names of early settlers in Corona are also the names of the movers and shakers who founded WIC - the Jamesons, the Joys, the Platt sisters, the Muellers, and many others.

WIC in 2009 continues its dedication to the Settlement House, its 'Bridge to Learning' literacy program at the Circle of Hope Shelter, its presentation of seventeen scholarships to local high schools, its support of the international Women in Livestock Development, Peppermint Ridge, Relay for Life, and countless other activities.

*(Information from WIC club records and Hellerstein, E.O., Hume, L.P., and Offen, K.M., Ed., Victorian Women. Stanford, California: Stanford University Press, 1981.)*



Steve Nolan's proclamation for the event on behalf of the City of Corona was read at the unveiling.

The clubhouse, which sits on the southeast corner of Eleventh and Main Streets, was built in 1913 and is the oldest secular assembly building in Corona. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on November 3, 1988. Thomas E. Preston, a Los Angeles architect, designed the building based on details of an anonymous Welsh church. The building has been in continuous use since its construction and is still vital as the group's hub for service projects. The organization, originally called "The Town Improvement Association," was founded in 1899 and is, therefore celebrating its 110<sup>th</sup>. year as a service organization. Following the dedication of the plaque, CHPS' own Mary Winn, also a member of Woman's Improvement Club, presented a special program at the luncheon meeting outlining the



(L-R) Karen Spiegel, Christine Gary and Doris Osko

# I Remember When . . . Margaret Jeffreys Pratt

Margaret Jeffreys Pratt was born in Corona at El Nido Maternity Home (once located at the southwest corner of 10th and Main) and was delivered by Dr. Wroot. Her mother and father built the Church of God on S. Main St. in 1937; mother Sallie Jeffreys was Corona's first female pastor and led the church for some 24 years.



Margaret's parents owned 5+ acres of property facing Lincoln Avenue and built the family home, of adobe, on Olive Street. This home still stands today.

## I remember when...

- Before the church was built, we met at a local lumberyard and when it rained the roof leaked so badly we had to move an old bucket around to catch the drips.
- Slips of paper were given out in my 2nd grade classroom at Jefferson School to allow less fortunate students to participate in a free lunch program.
- The front door of her family's home was always open to others who were in need of a meal as well as other types of assistance.
- Patients paid Dr. Hermann in chickens, fruit, vegetables or whatever products they had rather than in cash (no one had insurance either.)

- My sister Berniece and I had tonsillectomies done at the same time by Dr. Hermann at a special rate of \$25.00 each.

- I started school when Corona's population was 5,500.

- In the 1930s, women joined together on the second floor of the first City Hall to make quilts for the needy.

- Corona was a very ethnically segregated city.

- We walked to school at Corona Junior High School during World War

when classes were held in bungalows, and 'it was hot, hot!, hot!

- I always felt like I was a part of the community, not just a number.

- Corona's first high school building was torn down while the campus was being used as a junior high school.

- Corona's first City Hall at Eighth and Main streets was torn down in the early 1960s.

- The children's section of the Carnegie Library was downstairs in the basement; I felt so grown up when I was old enough to go upstairs to the main library areas.

- The Carnegie Library was demolished on a weekend.

## Next Quarterly Meeting/Event: Caravan of the Markers

*Mark your calendar now so you won't miss*

### **CARAVAN OF THE MARKERS\***

**Saturday, September 19**

**Meet at the Bland's home at 9:45 A.M.**

**1022 South Ramona Avenue**



We will visit all 14 Historic Markers placed so far by CHPS and then return to the Bland's home for lunch, conversation and general merriment. We will organize carpools and depart from their home at 10:00 A.M.

Brief explanations will be given as to the significance of each site as well as what determined its selection as an historical landmark.

Bring a sack lunch and we will refrigerate it to be eaten upon our return to the Bland's home. Cold drinks will be provided.

**\*Please call Jackie Bland at 734-3166 for questions and to RSVP**

## 2009 Heritage Home Awards

Owners of two fabulous Grand Boulevard homes have been recognized this year by CHPS for their conscientious efforts in preserving the beauty of older home construction craftsmanship by restoring their homes to 'near new' status. They are John & Patricia Land at 1128 East Grand and Jacob & Teresa Morris at 1107 East Grand Boulevard.



1128 E. Grand

The Land home, built in 1916, incorporates Craftsman, Tudor and Vernacular Frame architectural elements.

The Lands were captivated with the large living room, good-sized dining room with a built-in arched hutch, the telephone secretary beneath the stairwell, and all the interesting 'cubby holes' available for storage. The home was featured in our 2007 Vintage Home Tour.



John Land

The Morris home, built in 1913, incorporates Craftsman architectural elements. The Morrises have worked diligently over the past few years to restore their home to its past glory.

CHPS is pleased to recognize the efforts of both of these dedicated families and congratulates them for their accomplishments.



1107 E. Grand



Jacob, Teresa and Delaney Morris

## CHPS Grant Program Update

The Grant Committee along with the Board of Directors of the Corona Historic Preservation Society has amended the Grant Program to assist applicants in a more timely manner.

We realized the need for people to get started on projects without having to wait a whole year to get reimbursed for cost that would normally be associated with a CHPS Grant. So, we will now process any application within 60 days after submittal, starting on April 1 of any year. Once a grant has been approved and reimbursement limits established, funds will be made available upon completion, inspection and on site final approval.

Now is the opportunity to do some fixing up and have part of the material cost covered by CHPS. Remember we are interested in helping people beautify



their homes for others to see, so applications are primarily for curb appeal work.

If you have a place that you feel needs help, either your own or a neighbor's, please feel free to contact me, Bubba Bland at <oobubba@ca.rr.com> or by phone (951) 734-3166 or cell (951) 833-1756. I will help in any way possible to provide information you need.

Grant applications are available at the Community Development Department at City Hall, 400 South Vicentia and the Heritage Room at the library.

Applications may also be downloaded from the Society's Web site <www.corona-history.org>. Click on the tab on the far right *Info., Links & Contacts* and scroll down. Click on *Grants*. Please feel free to share this information with others.

## Coronans Have Always Loved a Parade!



4th of July Parade in Corona circa a century ago

Complete with American flags, bunting and banners, this vintage postcard shows how Coronans celebrated July 4th some 100 years ago at the original corner of Sixth and Main Streets. Grocers' J. W. Veach and Son wagon is westward bound on Sixth Street with Corona National Bank in the background. Note the group of parade viewers atop the building wanting to get a bird's eye view of the patriotic procession. As was customary of that era, Coronans are gussied up for the community celebration and nearly everyone is wearing some type of headgear -- fashionable millinery, caps, straw hats and even a bowler or two.

## A Thank You from Corona High's Madrigal Choir

Corona High School's Madrigal Choir, directed by Amy Basilan, has performed at our Annual Holiday Parties since December 2002. Their entertainment is always much appreciated by our members as they add so much to the evening. After they perform, donations are accepted from partygoers to assist in the choir's musical activities.

The following note was written on behalf of the singing group, seen in the photo to the right taken at the 2008 CHPS Holiday Party. Our party was held at the beautifully restored historic home of Bubba and Jackie Bland:

*We Madrigals just wanted to personally thank you for inviting us to sing at your beautiful house. I had such a great experience and I know every Madrigal did. Thanks you for supporting our choir every year. We love to sing to you. I hope you enjoyed it.*

*Sincerely,  
Marissa Million & the Madrigal Choir*



## A Change in the Board of Directors

Jim Bryant, longtime member of our Board of Directors and former CHPS President, has indicated he will not be available to fill his Director responsibilities for the foreseeable future. The Board, therefore, acted on this notice and released him from the remainder of his term in office and subsequently voted to appoint Judy Hrabak as a new director to fill the remainder of Jim's term.

The Board of Directors expresses its appreciation to Jim for his valuable service and welcomes Judy onto the Board with great enthusiasm. We invite all our members to make Judy's acquaintance and support her as she fulfills her responsibilities.

## Sipping the Sour with the Sweet by John Wiles

A circle is commonly considered a symbol of wholeness, unity, and/or harmony. For over half a century, however, the Circle City of Corona was actually two disparate hemispheres - a municipality split by socioeconomic forces soured by pervasive prejudice and discrimination.

Growing up in the '50s and early '60s, I remember being aware that neighborhoods north of Sixth Street were primarily Hispanic - those south of Sixth, predominantly Anglo. I didn't realize then that those demographics were the lingering legacy of a city that had been bisected by design, its residents divided by decades of deeply-entrenched separatism.

Over the years, I've learned from Latino friends how different - and fundamentally more difficult - their childhoods were, compared to mine. I've heard accounts of demeaning disrespect, stereotypical expectations, and more detrimental forms of oppression that they and their families had to endure. It's been a shocking and sobering education — but ultimately enriching, as well.

David Aguayo, one of my best friends from high school, spent his early years in the barrio environs of Quarry Street. He recently recommended that I investigate José M. Alamillo's *Making Lemonade Out of Lemons: Mexican American Labor and Leisure in a California Town, 1880-1960*. It's an eye-opening look at Corona's history from an assertively Latino point of view. Reading this work, I learned other things I hadn't known before - how Asian and African Americans were arrantly discouraged from moving to Corona; how segregation was practiced at such popular venues as the Municipal Plunge and the Corona Theater; how government, commercial, and civic institutions collectively collaborated to perpetuate second-class citizenship for Corona's Hispanic population.

As I encountered page after page of documented injus-



**MAKING  
LEMONADE  
OUT OF LEMONS**  
Mexican American Labor and Leisure  
in a California Town 1880-1960  
José M. Alamillo

tics, I had to remind myself that I was not reading the history of some distant hamlet in the Jim Crow South. This was Corona, my own hometown, the seemingly congenial community in which I'd been raised to believe that all people were created equal, and should naturally be treated as such. It was depressing to be making such unpleasant discoveries.

Happily, Corona has come a long way since the end of World War II - with most ethnic barriers officially eradicated by the middle of the twentieth century. Even David recalls the Corona of our high school years as an environment in posi-

tive transition, a city gradually exhibiting more enlightened attitudes and behavior. Much of this progress was due to the courageously insistent efforts of Latino leaders, some of whom are still active members of the Corona community today.

After finishing Alamillo's book, curiosity led me to peruse the street index of the city map. I knew, of course, that I'd find names like Garretson, Jameson, Joy, Kellogg, Merrill, Rimpau, and Taylor among those gracing Corona thoroughfares. I looked in vain, however, for a single avenue, boulevard, circle, court, road, street, or via christened Acevedo, Altamirano, Aparicio, Balderas, Barba, Becerra, Canchola, Cruz, Delgadillo, Dominguez, Enríquez, Felix, Hernández, Martínez, Mejia, Ortiz, Ramírez, Ramos, Ruiz, Sánchez, Uribe, Villa, Zaragoza, or Zuñiga. There's history associated with each of those names that merits commemoration.

It would be a worthy gesture of appreciation for the city to honor its prominent Hispanic leaders by literally putting them "on the map." Preserving historic buildings is a fine and admirable mission - but it would serve at least as noble a purpose to pay permanent homage to individuals from both sides of Sixth Street who helped Corona outgrow its bittersweet beginnings.

## Glimpse of Our Visit to Library's Heritage Room



**More photos and details will appear in the Sept-Oct 2009 issue of this newsletter.**

# Membership Information

**When joining or renewing your membership, please make your  
tax deductible check payable to "CHPS"**

Individual Member	\$20.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>I'd like to volunteer!</b>	
Family	\$30.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hospitality refreshments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Student	\$10.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Newsletter writing articles	<input type="checkbox"/>
Business	\$50.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vintage Home Tour	
Patron	\$100.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	docent / volunteer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Life	\$500.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Board of Directors	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

Jenny & Ann Adamo  
David J. Aguayo  
Roger & Janet Becker  
Benny & Marla Benson  
Dr. Robert Brandt Benson  
Roger & Noella Benvenuti  
Bob & Helen Dewaide

Lloyd & Joy Dunn  
Jim & Marilyn Hybiske  
Ken & Carol Kammeyer  
Robert & Ruth Kremer  
John & Trish Land  
J.D. & Debbie McBriety  
Jacob & Teresa Morris

Dottie Reichard  
Paula Rusigno  
Bill & Karen Stein  
Peggie Temple  
David & Lynette Tougas  
Larry & Marcelle Turk  
Don & Marina Williamson

## Are You Familiar with Old-House Journal ?

This magazine is available in the Corona Public Library courtesy of the Corona Historic Preservation Society. Owners of historic homes who haven't seen this magazine ought to drop by the library and check it out. The Old-House Journal (OHJ) is chockfull of articles and lists of resources of benefit to historic homeowners. It's also a 'fun read' for those of us who live in homes built of more modern construction.

The May-June 2009 edition of the OHJ features two photographs taken at the Society's 2008 Vintage Home Tour. They are found on pages 37 and 39 and were taken by our very talented CHPS photographer, Akio Yoshikawa, seen here with his wife, Helen, when they served lemonade at the Antique Faire at Heritage Park.





## Board of Directors

President - Christine Gary  
Vice President - Mary Winn  
Secretary - Doris Osko  
Treasurer - Richard Winn

### Directors

Jackie Bland  
Thurston "Bubba" Bland  
Lauralynn Hake  
Judy Hrabak  
John Kane

### Directors Emeritus

Marla 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, July 16, 6:30 at CHPS office**  
**Thursday, August 20, 6:30 at CHPS office**



**Visit us: [www.corona-history.org](http://www.corona-history.org)**



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



Mark your calendar now for *Caravan of the Markers*  
Saturday, September 19th! See page 3