



Corona  
Historic  
Preservation  
Society

# Newsletter

July - Aug 2008

**"Preserving the Best of Corona"**

Editor: Mary Winn E-mail: Toothlady2@juno.com

## A Message From Our President Julie Stern

Dear Members:

Spring is always a time of family celebrations, community service and the renewal of life. This spring has been more than eventful with the state of our economy and almost continuous political play-by-play. The world seems to be going through great changes and we are all along for the ride, whether we like it or not. Although change can be difficult, to say goodbye to the old, the comfortable, the familiar, is always exciting and full of opportunity at the same time. Living in the historic district and striving to be a preservationist, I am confronted by change daily. People are constantly working on their homes to restore and beautify them. The downtown continues to empty, many of the familiar businesses have shut down now in preparation for redevelopment and others due to the economy. CHPS plays a vital role in all this, because we act as a voice and a reminder that with all this change, we should always remember to honor our heritage and incorporate the highlights of Corona's past into the 'new' that comes.

I would like to first thank everyone who contributed to and made sure that the repair of the Women's Improvement Club pillars and steps was completed. The project is now finished and the Clubhouse has been restored to her former majestic beauty. We are confident this beautiful and useful structure will survive another century, thanks to everyone's loving care.

This Spring, our Vintage Home Tour was a great success. We would like to thank all the docents who participated, and the owners who generously opened their homes and gave precious, personal time to make the tour a wonderful community event. I would also like to thank the many citizens who attended and learned of Corona's precious past. We had several Corona dignitaries join us including City Councilmembers Eugene Montanez and Stan Skipworth and their wives, Paula and Michel. Dr. Dina Stallings also took the time to visit these homes. The funds from the Tour will be utilized to initiate a grant program for Historic Home owners that will provide funds for worthy restoration projects. This program is under development now. The grants will encourage restoration of vintage homes rather than modification. We are already preparing for next year's tour that will be mostly

a walking tour near or on Grand Boulevard and will be held Saturday, May 2, 2009.

During this, the CHPS 25th anniversary year, we undertook the revision and updating of the Third Grade Local History Curriculum used by the Corona-Norco Unified School District. Mary Winn authored the curriculum with the assistance of Janette Neumann and others. Lessons include some 215 pictorial images in DVD format with an accompanying handbook. We are excited that new generations of students will have the opportunity to learn about our rich local history. We hope children will better appreciate their home town and perhaps be inspired to become preservationists themselves. The lessons have been enhanced with the opportunity for students to tour three local historic homes.

We also have been researching, documenting and consulting with the City of Corona on preservation efforts for vintage homes and trees to ensure that city decision makers have the most comprehensive information when making decisions affecting Corona's historic core.

CHPS presented three Heritage Home Awards this year. Two were awarded at the Old Tyme Picnic and Antique's and Collectibles Faire. The presentation was an informative and lively event. These plaques will soon be placed on the lovely vintage homes.

Our most important project at this time is the nomination of Grand Boulevard to the National Register of Historic Places. We are the only city to have a historic marker commemorating a road race venue from among the many important automobile races held throughout Southern California in the early years of the 20th century. In fact, Huell Howser dedicated a complete episode of his 'California's Gold' series to our Corona road races of 1913, 1914 and 1916. At the time, Corona awarded the largest purse outside of Indianapolis, and a perpetual Flagler Trophy was provided by one of Corona's "citrus barons." Our application is almost ready for submission, thanks to the efforts of Richard and Mary Winn. We strongly believe that Corona's Road Race heritage should be promoted and brought to the public's attention.

CHPS members also turned out to



## President's Message *continued*

complete periodic landscape maintenance on the Settlement House and Benedict House on Vicentia Avenue, across the street from the Historic Civic Center. They both are looking very lovely and the spring foliage is in full bloom.

Another very important project is the City's Building Permit Holiday that will be in effect for two months this summer. We have acted as a resource to the City in

efforts to support successful outcomes for this special event and are hoping we will see many restoration and refurbishment projects during this two month period. An informational brochure from Corona's Building Department is included with this newsletter.

These are just a few of our projects, come join us and support preservation!

Julie Stern



## 2008 Vintage Home Tour Photos by Akio Yoshikawa



To view many photos of the Tour visit  
[www.CoronaHistory.org](http://www.CoronaHistory.org)

Click on Events and then Vintage Home Tour





# 2008 Heritage Home Awards



**1140 Garretson Avenue**



**518 West 11th Street**



**1939 South Main Street**

These three homes received CHPS recognition as Heritage Home Award recipients this year. The 1910 Victorian on Garretson Avenue, belonging to Georgia Lambert was selected by our Heritage Home Award Committee, as were the 1923 Spanish Eclectic bungalow on West Eleventh Street, belonging to Jay Stemska, and the 1892 Victorian Carpenter Gothic home built for Jacob Stoner, on South Main Street, belonging to Glen and Theresa Chaffin. Ms. Lambert and the Chaffins received their plaques at the Olde Tyme Picnic at Heritage Park. Mr. Stemska was out of town on the day of the event and received his plaque separately.



## Update on Nomination Process by Richard Winn



The nomination of Grand Boulevard to the National Register of Historic Places requires geographical data, maps, historic and current photographs, descriptions of its function and use, a narrative description of its features and location, a narrative statement of historical significance and notable bibliographical references.

With recent assistance of the Corona Police Department to obtain a current aerial photograph of the Grand Boulevard circle, the nomination is almost ready for submission. We will shortly ask the City Manager to sign the statement of ownership, indicating that the owner is agreeable to the nomination and then it will be

sent to the California State Office of Historic Preservation for consideration. This has been a challenging task and we'll keep you posted on progress.



# The Clock is Still 'Hanging Around' Today!



**1915 on SW corner Corona National Bank**



**1952 on NW corner First National Bank**



**2008 near NE corner of Sixth and Main Streets**

When we published the tidbit about the presence of the clock on the Corona National Bank on the southwest corner of Sixth and Main Street, we received more detailed information about this clock from Raymond Harris, a long-time Corona resident and businessman.

At various times it adorned different buildings on three of the four corners at Sixth and Main Streets. Although it is not keeping correct time today, it is still attached on the Sixth Street side of SGC Japanese Restaurant located on the northeast corner.

On the early versions of the clock, the name of the bank appeared above the clock face. On the current clock, this space is decorated with a Japanese Shogun helmet or headpiece with a shadowed head profile under the helmet. We can only wonder what other relics remain that could be preserved.

## Electronic Subscription to This Newsletter

Our editor would like to offer any member who would prefer an electronic copy of the CHPS Newsletter, rather than the current 8-page paper version, to e-mail her at [Toothlady2@juno.com](mailto:Toothlady2@juno.com) to request e-mail delivery. We encourage you to con-

sider this option as this is a way to preserve trees and save postage! An electronic copy of this newsletter will be sent to your e-mail address every other month...and it will be the full color version instead of black and white!!

## Save the Date for Quarterly Meeting

Our third Quarterly Meeting will be held on Saturday, October 18th at 10 AM. We will be visiting historic Lemon Grove and learning all about its unique history. We will have the opportunity to visit the Carriage House as well as the former packing

house which has been converted to a residence. In addition, there are many specimen plants and trees to examine. More information will be provided in the next CHPS newsletter but please mark your calendars now!

## Road Race Posters Available



For those who may be interested in Corona collectibles, the Friends of the Library BookShop has copies of two colorful Corona Road Race posters for sale.

The 1913 poster of the lady in the circular skirt is available with its original colors or touched up with deeper coloration. The 1914 poster of the flagman and a racing automobile is available in its original colors only.

The smallest size (12' x 18") is available in the Friends BookShop in the Corona Public Library. Larger versions (18' x 24', 24' x 36' and 36' x 54") must be ordered through the Friends of the Library Bookshop.



## Architectural Salvage Shoppe



CHPS runs a salvage  
rescue program.

To donate or find the  
salvage you need at a  
reasonable price

Call 951.898.2044

and leave a complete message

## Antiques & Collectibles Faire





# Historic Marker Sites

*Periodically we include this map in the newsletter so members and friends can visit these locations and glean interesting tidbits about Corona's rich history.*



CHPS has had a formal Historic Marker Program since 1996. Thirteen historically significant sites have been recognized by a bronze or granite plaque placed on the wall of the building or by a monument bearing the plaque. All but three of the markers have been placed by Boy Scouts as part of their requirements to attain the rank of Eagle Scout.

The collaboration between local Boy Scouts and the Corona Historic Preservation Society has been a very productive one over the past twelve years.

## MARKER LOCATIONS

- 1 Historic Civic Center
- 2 First Congregational Church

- 3 Site of Marshal G.C. Alexander's Murder
- 4 Thomas Jefferson Elementary School
- 5 Corona's first Fire Station
- 6 Old Lincoln School (now Victoria Park)
- 7 The Victoria Hotel aka the Hotel Del Rey
- 8 Corona Hospital
- 9 Corona's First High School and First Junior High School (at current CFIS site)
- 10 The Start and Finish Line of all three Corona Road Races 1913, 1914 & 1916
- 11 First Baptist Church
- 12 Corona Foothill Lemon Ranch at Heritage Park, 510 W. Foothill Pkwy, Corona
- 13 Corona Santa Fe Railroad Depot at 150 Depot Drive, Corona

# Membership Information

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

Individual Member	\$20.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>I'd like to volunteer for:</b>	
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

Jennie & Ann Adamo

Barbara Becker

Roger & Janet Becker

Dr. Robert Brandt Benson

Roger & Noella Benvenuti

Anita Boillin

Richard & Mary Jo Boller

Jim & Cathleen Bryant

Glen & Theresa Chaffin

Lloyd & Joy Dunn

Margaret Stanley Freeman

Glenn & Christine Gary

Nita Grantham

Linda Hawkins

Heritage Room of Corona Public Library

Katherine Hyett

Robert Joor (Life Member)

John & Laura Kane

Robert & Ruth Kremer (Patron Members)

Art Masters

J.D. & Debbie McBriety

Robb Ring

Harry & Paula Ruscigno

Michael & Tamie Segert

Darrell, Kym & Haley Talbert

David & Lynette Tougas

Larry & Marcelle Turk

Michelle Watts

Don & Marina Williamson



## Board of Directors

President - Julie Stern  
Vice President - Christine Gary  
Secretary - Doris Osko  
Treasurer - Richard Winn

### Directors

Jackie Bland  
Jim Bryant  
Aaron Hake  
John Kane  
Mary Winn

### 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 17, 6:30 at CHPS office**

**Thursday, Aug 21, 6:30 at CHPS office**



**Visit us: [www.CoronaHistory.org](http://www.CoronaHistory.org)**



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



**Corona Historic Preservation Society  
Celebrates 25 years in 2008**