

## A Message From Our President Julie Stern

Dear Members:

As I was driving down Main Street, on my way to work as I do just about everyday, I passed by the Woman's Improvement Club and noticed the pillar was still leaning precariously as it has for the last few years. I can't remember the day I first noticed it, but each time I see it, I wonder why this significant historical structure and Corona treasure has fallen into disrepair and why it hasn't yet been repaired. After some investigation and discussion with the powers that be and the people who work on these kinds of projects in Corona, I found out that several people were working diligently to coordinate this repair.



Then this turned my thoughts to preservation and why do we do it. Why do we dedicate ourselves to community service that revolves around saving historic structures? Is it because we love old architecture? Or is it to maintain the significance of past events and celebrate our achievements?

I also asked myself, why do some people care about saving the works of others and some do not? Am I lesser of a man or just cut of a different cloth if I am for or against preservation? I realized that I could probably ruminate all the way to Orange County, through the Orange Crush, and still never come to one, true answer for all.

So, I can only expound on why I believe in preserving what is old and beautiful in Corona and what represents the history of this city. It is my belief, that by honoring and respecting the architecture of our city, we are honoring the dreams, sweat and hard work of those who built this city. In the very act of preservation, we are communicating to future generations that our works do have meaning and significance and that the work of future generations will be valued as well, when that time comes.

The act of preservation is inspirational and motivational to those that are creating history today. Why do anything significant or create anything beautiful, if

it is just to be torn down tomorrow? Preservation shows that we believe in the future, as did our predecessors.

I also ask myself, what would the founders of the city say to us today if we were to meet them? How would we explain why the Carnegie Library, Corona's first City Hall, the first Corona High School and the Plunge

were all demolished? How would I explain this to Leo Kroonen, Sr., the prestigious architect who designed some of these buildings and believed that his work would be honored and preserved? What would these successful businessmen, who were major players in the highly successful citrus industry, think of

what has replaced their downtown so far and what it will become in the future?

In closing, I would like to address a quote that appeared in the local newspaper that basically went like this, "It is people that make history, not buildings and dirt." I agree that it is people that make history, but people cannot live forever. Buildings and dirt are important because they continue for thousands of years, like Mecca, Jerusalem's Wailing Wall, the Great Wall of China and India's Taj Mahal. These ancient monuments survived, because people honored them and did not destroy them. In destroying our past, we destroy part of the memory of what made us great in the first place.

That said, onto our current work and projects in Corona: Our first Quarterly Meeting, presented by Kevin Bash of the Lake Norconian Club Foundation, was a huge success. Book and DVD sales raised \$650 to contribute to the beautiful and auspicious landmark.

We've met at various times with Mayor Jeff Miller and City Council members Eugene Montanez, Steve Nolan, Stan Skipworth and Karen Speigel to discuss the need for adoption of updated Design Guidelines for infill development within the city core. Our official position is that downtown development should maintain an historic flavor with



## President's Message *continued*

classic architectural styles consistent with the origins of the city.

We are working on our Vintage Home Tour, which will take place on May 3, 2008 and will feature five beautifully restored historic homes.

We have worked on coordinating a repair of the Woman's Improvement Club pillar. This project should be completed soon with much thanks to Doris Osko, Brad Robbins. Karen Spiegel and Darrell Talbert.

We have attended multiple City Council and Planning Commission meetings to provide input on future revitalization projects, appropriate development of downtown areas within the Grand Boulevard Circle, and

promote sympathetic development within the Historic Districts.

We have nominated three lovely vintage homes for our annual Heritage Home Awards to be presented to the owners in June.

We will provide a featured speaker at a Rotary Club event in the near future.

Georgia Lambert, one of our longtime members, was featured in a Press-Enterprise article in February for her dedication to preserving her historic home.

Yours in Preservation,

*Julie Stern*



## Vintage Home Tour Save the Date

**Saturday, May 3, 2008 1:00 - 4:30 pm**

### Questions?

Call Chris Gary at 951.734.0977  
or send e-mail to  
VintageHomeTour@aol.com.



Take a step back in time,  
see beautiful craftsmanship  
and learn more about  
Corona's unique heritage.

Event helps CHPS earn  
funds for community  
projects.

Five lovingly restored homes will be showcased on our tour.

Pre-sale tickets will be available by April 1 at Corona Chamber of Commerce (904 E. 6th St.), Corona Heritage Park (510 W. Foothill Parkway) and Zap Printing & Graphics (127 Radio Road).

Tickets \$15 pre-sale, \$18 on day of event available at 1052 E. Grand Blvd.

Antique automobiles on display





# Next Quarterly Meeting: A Visit To Nearby ...



1980s postcard of Yorba and Slaughter Families Adobe, is California State Historical Landmark No. 191 and on National Register.

## Yorba & Slaughter Families Adobe

17127 Pomona Rincon Road, Chino

Saturday, March 29, 2008

10:00 am \$2 Donation welcomed

Visit should last about an hour, minimal walking required

**Directions:** Take Highway 71 north towards Pomona/Ontario. Exit at the Butterfield Ranch Rd./Euclid Ave. ramp, turn right. Turn left at first street (Pomona Rincon Road - it is unmarked). Continue 0.8 miles. Adobe is on the right. **For questions or carpool information, call Jackie Bland at 734-3166.**

The Yorba-Slaughter Families Adobe, built 1852-53, is one of the oldest standing adobe residences in San Bernardino County. The Yorba family was very influential in the early history of the Prado Basin. José Antonio Yorba was granted the Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana, 60,000 acres between present-day San Diego and Santa Ana, in 1801. His son, Bernardo Yorba, added to the family holdings with the purchase of 18,000 acres in the Rincon area from Juan Bandini. The property was purchased in 1868 by Fenton M. Slaughter, an American born in Virginia in 1826, a veteran of the Mexican War of 1846, and later a blacksmith, surveyor, and sheep and cattle broker in the Los Angeles area. He raised cattle, introduced merino sheep to California, bred fine race horses and mules, and raised grain and grapes. The adobe became the center of a small settlement called "Rincon". One fascinating aspect of this site is the presence of original furnishings from the 19th century occupation of the Slaughter family (left photo and 2nd from right). The combination post office and general store (photo on right, taken in 2000) now contains an exhibit of agriculture and animal husbandry and was refurbished and opened in 2002. One can now step inside to experience an 1890s store complete with advertising and artifacts.



## Home Improvement Holiday by Mayor Jeff Miller

The City of Corona has always invested in its neighborhoods from creating open space and parks to having stringent building codes to ensure we have quality construction in our community. Despite our high standards, we are not immune to the fluctuations of the economy and recently we have seen a nationwide downturn in the housing market. To counteract this effect the City is creating a "home improvement holiday" to inspire homeowners to invest in their properties and in our neighborhoods.

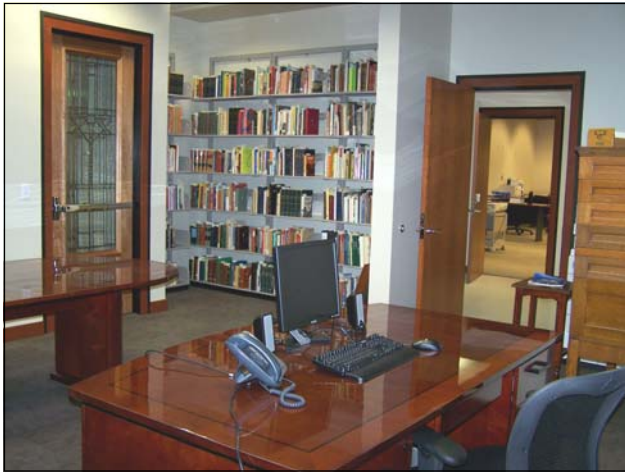


waive certain types of building fees when homeowners make improvements on their homes during the "holiday" period. The benefits of this program are that it increases a homeowner's investment in their property, helps maintain property values, and stimulates the economy through building supply purchases.

The "home improvement holiday" will allow the City to

While the City staff is still working on the details and timing for the program I hope to announce a kick-off for it in the near future and invite you to join me in supporting our community by making an investment in your home during the "home improvement holiday"!

# New Heritage Room is Now Open



The new 400 square foot reading room has a dedicated staff member, research space, and photocopier. It is now open Monday - Thursday from 3 - 7 pm.

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). The new Heritage Room is 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 telephone number is 951-279-3593.

*Photos & text courtesy of Jennifer Marlatt*

## Notes From The Board by Richard Winn

- The Society's Web site is beginning to take shape. We hope that members and non-members will seek to check it out. Under the CHPS tab you can download a membership application form. Under events you can read about our Cemetery Walks, Vintage Home Tours and Corona Beautiful events. There is an information on History Day, our Historic Marker program, and our Newsletters are available under the Education tab. You can link up to the library's Corona History page and Corona Heritage Park. During this 25th year since the organization of the Society, we plan to work diligently to put additional information on all the tabs.
- Society members are working with City staff to provide better architectural guidelines for infill development within historic areas of the city to preserve the city's historic core. Additional volunteers are welcome to assist.
- Members of the Society are working to update the local history component of the third grade educational curriculum in our local schools. Technological innovations have made it possible to share many pictorial examples of the city's founders, early economic bases and current economic bases and a timeline with the students.
- We've heard Corona's Sunnyslope Cemetery is in need of new fencing to replace the chain-link fence along Rimpau Avenue with a more appealing wrought iron fence. Since the cemetery has been kind enough to allow the Society to stage its Cemetery Walks there for more than a decade, the Board of Directors voted to donate \$250 toward the fence replacement project. We encourage our members to support this effort with personal donations.
- If you have an idea or speaker for a future Quarterly Meeting, feel free to call us at 898-2044.



## Our First Quarterly Meeting of 2008 by Doris Osko

The First Quarterly Meeting (January 12th) of 2008 featured author and historian Kevin Bash who presented a call to action to preserve one of the nation's most beautiful and historic compounds, that just happens to be located in Corona's back yard. He dubbed it the "Norconian Resort Supreme" and it currently is on the National Register of Historic Places. The Norconian Hotel / Lake Norconian

Club / Naval Hospital, according to Bash, has been called "one of the most endangered buildings in the U.S." Mr. Bash presented slides and information that document an exquisite building with a history well worth preserving.

Rex Clark, the founder of the city of Norco and the Norconian Resort, utilized his wealthy wife's money inherited from the Scripps Estate to create a 700 acre resort with boating on a lake, horseback riding, two Olympic swimming pools, the first all-grass golf course west of the Mississippi River, mineral baths, and an airfield. Bash's slides showed classic paintings by Anthony B. Heinsbergen, vivid Catalina tiles, intricate and lovely wrought iron gates and magnificent chandeliers. Bash reported that in its heyday Amelia Earhart would take off and land at the airport. Wiley Post and Will Rogers visited many times.

Through the years after Rex Clark sold the property, it served as a Naval Hospital with the nation's first West Coast polio facility, with the first penicillin given at the site. With the addition of CRC (California Rehabilitation Center) Bash stated that the facility offered the first drug rehabilitation program in California. The list of notables who visited the Norconian is endless, but Bash did recount a couple of anecdotes of note: Walt Disney had a big shindig there commemorating the release of the Snow White animated



After the presentation, Kevin Bash signed and sold books and DVDs to many attendees.

feature and an incident involving Hollywood stars and former Olympic swimmers Johnny Weismuller and Buster Crabbe giving a diving exhibition fully clothed. The hotel, unfortunately, is a building deteriorating from the inside out as a result of water damage and neglect.

Bash noted that the Norco Land Conservancy has been created to preserve the unique and

beautiful building, its artifacts and environs. Membership is open to all.

Bash autographed his book co-authored with his wife, noted photographer, Brigitte Jouxte, entitled THE NORCONIAN RESORT, and stated all profits from the book, membership in the Conservancy, and sales of Huell Howser's DVD on The Norconian Resort would benefit the Conservancy.



The City of Norco is supporting the Conservancy's goals. The state Office of Historic Preservation and the National Trust for Historic Preservation are being asked to throw their weight behind the Conservancy's efforts. Bash gave credit to audience members Raymond Harris, Rudy Ramos and his wife Doris who provided some of the information for his research. Raymond as a former Corona businessman who had visited the facility. Rudy, as the premier Corona photographer for more than forty years, and Doris, as a former nurse at the Naval Hospital. Bash noted that as he pursued dark and mysterious tunnels throughout the prison building, he was aware of all the ghosts that had filled the corridors of this amazing and wonderful complex. It is his hope that in the near future thousands will have the same opportunity.

**For further information, please visit:  
[www.lakenorconianclub.org](http://www.lakenorconianclub.org)**

# The Jefferson Fire Drill by Gilbert Belcher

Our family moved to Corona, CA during the Christmas Vacation of 1938, so in January of 1939, I started the last one half of the sixth grade at Jefferson Grammar School, on the west side of town.



Pupils in the 5th and 6th grades got to ring the "schools out" bell each day.

The teachers kept track of whose turn it was. When it was my turn, the teacher called me to the front of the room and told me to go to the office and ring the bell. At the office, I was shown the button and a big clock.

When the big hand reached a certain mark, I was to press the button.

At the time, this was really a big deal in one's young life.

The practice fire alarms were rung fifteen minutes before school was out. The front side of the building was all window. Students were assigned to quickly close the windows and then stand by their desks. They then filed out like soldiers to the front lawn. The teacher was the last to leave and had the class roll book with her.

The Fire Department arrived without the red lights and siren. They stayed on the fire trucks until the "all clear" signal was given. All the school adults and the fire de-

partment knew of the fire drill in advance.

When it was Jack Murphy's turn to let the school out, he rang the fire alarm. It was not a scheduled alarm, very few windows doors got closed, and the teachers fled without their class roll

books. Kids were all over the lawn, some were running around the building looking for smoke.

The fire truck had the red lights and sirens on, which added to the excitement. The first fire truck dropped off a man and bundle of hose at a hydrant. A wet hose lay was made to the school's main doors. A ladder was put up to the roof.

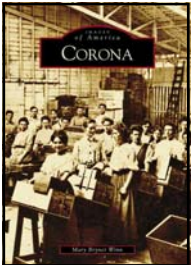
Firemen made a search of the building and the "all clear" signal was rung. Lots of rumors started and we kids got our first look at pandemonium.

Jack Murphy, a real hero, got to stand in the hall for days.



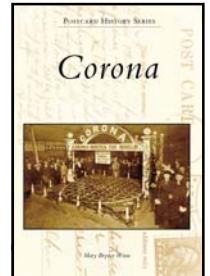
*Note: Mr. Belcher is a CHPS member. He graduated from Corona High in 1945 and continues to attend class reunions. This photo was taken in 2002.*

## Arcadia Author Extravaganza on March 1st



A mass signing of local history books, published by Arcadia Publishing, will take place March 1st at Corona Barnes & Noble from 1 - 5 pm. Forty-one authors are slated to attend and will represent many nearby communities. For collectors, this is a great opportunity to pick up signed copies. Mary Bryner Winn, author of Corona books, will be on hand.

The voucher below is good during business hours 9 am - 11 pm. Proceeds will benefit our sister organization, Lake Norconian Foundation, which is dedicated to the preservation of the Norconian Resort.



**Barnes & Noble  
Bookfair Voucher  
Supporting**

**Lake Norconian Club  
Foundation**

**Saturday March 1, 2008  
Barnes & Noble  
2470 Tuscany Drive  
Corona, CA 92881**

Simply present this voucher at the cash register at the time of purchase. A percentage of the net sale will be donated to your organization.\*

OFFICE USE ONLY

Register #: ..... Transaction #: .....  
Amount of sale before tax less purchase of Gift Cards, Membership Cards, and Café consumables. \$ .....

\* THE FOLLOWING TRANSACTIONS ARE NOT INCLUDED IN BOOKFAIR TOTALS: THE PURCHASE OF GIFT CARDS, MEMBERSHIP CARDS, AND CAFÉ CONSUMABLES. NON-PROFIT AND BUSINESS ACCOUNT DISCOUNTS MAY NOT BE APPLIED TO BOOKFAIR PURCHASES.



# 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

**Jim & Patti Anderson**  
**Beverly J. Bloch**  
**Jim & Marie Cambruzzi**  
**Mary Cox**  
**Jerry & Sandra Fleming**  
**Margaret S. Freeman**

**James Hughes**  
**Kammeyer & Associates**  
**Tom & Paula Muñoz**  
**Shirley Stemska**  
**Terry & Nancy Wilkeson**

## 2008 Approved CHPS Budget

LINE ITEM	AMOUNT		
Telephone Charges	225.00	Liability Insurance Policy	1,000.00
P. O. Box Rental	60.00	Historic Markers (no. 14, 15)	1,100.00
Corona Chamber of Commerce M'ship	195.00	Cemetery Fence Replacement	250.00
Secretary of State filing (bi-ann)	50.00	Olde Tyme Picnic	20.00
Board of Equalization (sales tax filing)	400.00	July 4 Parade entry	25.00
History Day Awards	100.00	Lemon Festival	
Newsletter Printing	700.00	Exhibitor fee	40.00
Postage	500.00	Lemonade Supplies & Ingredients	55.00
Printing, Other	600.00	Antiques & Collectibles Fair	50.00
Stucco Flyer	0	Quarterly Meeting Refreshments	100.00
Membership Flyer	0	Holiday Party	140.00
Stationery	0	Arcadia Publishing (Images . . . Corona)	2,000.00
Vintage Home Tour Banner	75.00	Supplies (office, etc.)	50.00
Walking Tour Brochure reprint	155.00	Historic Home Improvement Grant Pgm	1,000.00
Vintage Home Tour tickets & Booklet	700.00	<b>Total</b>	<b>10,945.00</b>
Website maintenance and development	680.00	Donations	
Office maintenance Fee (City of Corona)	450.00	Corona Public Library	25.00
Office Equipment	0	Olde House Journal Magazine	
Settlement House/511 Vicentia support	50.00	Corona High School Madrigals	250.00
Recognition Awards (officers/other)	175.00	3rd Grade Dictionaries Lincoln School	240.00
		Community Improvement Project(s)	250.00
		<b>Total</b>	<b>11,710.00</b>





## 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  
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, March 20, 6:30 at CHPS office**

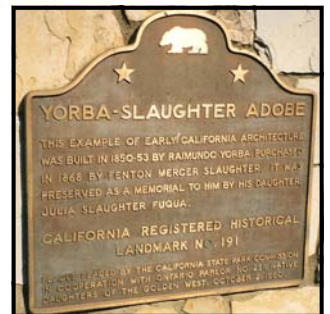
**Thursday, April 17, 6:30 at CHPS office**



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



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



**Visit the Yorba & Slaughter Families Adobe  
with us on March 29 See page 3**