



A Message From Our President Wes Speake

Dear Members,

Happy New Year, 2019 is upon us!... 2018 was a great year for CHPS and Corona. We continued to direct our effort and fundraising toward the preservation and protection of Corona’s historic sites, buildings, neighborhoods and resources. To this end, we produced six very entertaining newsletters, CHPS hosted four quarterly meetings, placed three new Historic Markers, marking a total of 25! We raised money at five different events, hosted the inaugural Vintage Home Tour Kick-off Spring Gala and presented our 10th Vintage Home Tour, awarded several Home Preservation grants, added a new board member, in all CHPS board members attended over a dozen events in 2018. Whew!!!



Our Quarterly Meeting programs provided excellent educational opportunities for our members. This year our four quarterly meetings (free for members) consisted of 1) a panel discussion with retired Corona firefighters - *History of the Corona Fire Department*; 2) a tour of the Kellogg House in Santa Ana, Hiram Clay Kellogg was the engineer responsible for laying out Grand Boulevard, 3) in October, CHPS hosted a showing of 1951’s *Storm Warning* which was largely filmed on location in Corona in 1949, at the Dos Lagos Theater, and 4) our final meeting was our Holiday Party where we heard amazing music from the Corona High School Madrigals and enjoyed camaraderie while spending time together with other members of our Society.

We held our first Vintage Home Tour Kick-off Gala at Heritage Park and had five amazing homes on our 10th Vintage Home Tour, three of which were featured on the TV show “Restored”. In June, I squeezed 13 ½ gallons of lemon juice from Corona lemons for lemonade, and we gave away over 70 gallons to fair goers at the Annual Antiques and Collectibles Faire. The Home Preservation Grant Program provided funds which helped to protect, beautify and restore one historic structure. We continue to receive overwhelmingly positive feedback and support for our bimonthly *CHPS Newsletter*. Our website and social media efforts continue to grow into very effective avenues for communicating and educating.

Boy Scout volunteer efforts resulted in CHPS placing new historic markers at The Plunge, Pacific Electric

Depot and, finally, the historic Washington Grammar School.

The first steps were taken in protecting the Veterans Memorial Wall at Butterfield Park with a retaining wall and proper drainage installed. Although we remain short of our goal, at the moment, we hope to make great strides in 2019. Political history was made

this year as well; with no incumbents running, Corona had its first City Council elections by District. Additionally, the Corona City Council appointed Yolanda Carrillo to fill the unexpired term of Dick Haley. Residents of District 1 elected Jacque Casillas as their representative to the City Council. Yolanda and Jacque became the 8th and 9th women to serve on the Corona City Council. Residents of District 4 elected retired firefighter Jim Steiner as their representative. Finally, in November, we hosted a booth at the Lemon Festival that was sponsored by the Corona Art Association.

Looking forward, I hope you will join us on Saturday, February 9th for the 6th panel discussion *History of the Corona Police Department*, featuring retired Corona Police Department Chiefs and Captains and moderated by longtime CPD Historian Terry Madory. If you did not get a chance to attend the previous panel discussions, they can be viewed on our *CHPS YouTube channel*. The icon can be clicked on our website home page at the upper right. You can also simply go to <www.youtube.com> and type “Corona Historic Preservation Society.”



It has been my privilege and pleasure to serve as the president this last year and I would like to thank the Board and membership for their support, help and friendship. Happy New Year and I wish all of you a healthy and prosperous 2019.

Sincerely,

Wes



CHPS Accomplishments of Note During 2018

●**Saturday, February 10**, Our 1st Quarterly Meeting, a successful panel discussion with six retired Corona Firefighters whose experience bridged the era of volunteer fighters to professional firefighters “**A Brief History of the Corona Fire Department**” was held in the Historic Civic Center Community Room.

●**Historic Site Markers**, The granite marker for the site of the first Washington Elementary School (Historic Site Marker 24) on West Grand Boulevard was placed on the monument designed and fabricated by Boy Scout Nicholas Russell.

●**Heritage Home Awards**, Four homes were identified as recipients for 2018: 502 West Eleventh Street, 1122 Garretson, 224 Belle Avenue, and 1213 East Grand Boulevard.

●**Throughout 2018**, CHPS continued raising funds for the restoration of the **Veterans’ Memorial Wall** monument at Butterfield Park. Construction is expected to begin in 2019.

●**Throughout 2018**, CHPS responded to various invitations to comment on developer proposals that required responses under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. CHPS also responded to PRC (Project Environmental Review Committee), and DPR (Development Plan Review Committee) agenda items of possible historic interest as well as correspondence from developer consultants regarding these proposals. CHPS regularly communicated matters of historical interest or related activities to the City Council, Chamber of Commerce and Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. CHPS responded to various requests from Community Development Division for advisory opinions, on actions involving Heritage Properties, usually related to applications for Landmark status and whether restored properties met the criteria established by the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation.

●**Saturday, March 3**, members attended Riverside County History Symposium held at Benedict Castle in Riverside.

●**Friday Evening, May 11**, a successful “**Pre-Vintage Home Tour Gala**” event featuring delicious food, drink and marvelous music, was held at Heritage Park.

●**Saturday, May 12**, CHPS hosted our tenth Vintage Home Tour featuring homes located at 1108 Victoria, 1122 Garretson, 1133 East Grand, 724 West Eleventh Street and the historic library at Thomas Jefferson Elementary School located at 1040 Vicentia.

●**Saturday, June 2**, CHPS participated in the 17th Annual **Antiques & Collectibles Faire** at Corona Heritage Park. A lemonade stand and display of Corona Collectibles and for purchase of CHPS **reproduction citrus labels**, suitable for framing and hanging,

as a fund raiser were offered this year.

●**Saturday, June 23**, For our 2nd Quarterly Meeting CHPS hosted a “members only” tour of the **H. C. Kellogg House** (the engineer who laid out South Riverside’s/Corona’s streets and irrigation system), located in Santa Ana.

●**Historic Route signage**, marking the historic route of California State Highway 18 and US Highway 91 (from Green River Road along Sixth Street to Magnolia Avenue), State Highway 71 (Yorba Avenue to Sixth Street, Sixth Street to Main Street, Main Street to Ontario Avenue, Ontario Avenue east to I-15) was proposed. Its placement is still pending after approval by the City’s Infrastructure Committee.

●**Wednesday, October 16**, CHPS participated in Santiago High School’s 2019 College and Career Kick Off event, hosting a table on the topic “Community Service.”

●**CHPS Home Preservation Grant**, was awarded to Alma Cuevas for removing the modern windows mistakenly put in her historic home and replacing the windows with similar materials to the original. This home is located at 1214 Belle Avenue.

●**Saturday, November 20**, a large group attended our 3rd Quarterly Meeting, the screening of “**Storm Warning**” - a movie filmed in Corona in 1949 and released in 1951. Stars of the film, shown on the BIG screen at the Dos Lagos Starlight Theater, were Ronald Reagan, Ginger Rogers and Doris Day.

●**Monday, December 3**, Annual Holiday Party & General Member Meeting at the Clubhouse of the Corona Woman’s Improvement Club from 6:30 - 8:30 PM.

●**Support of the Corona Public Library**, with a **financial donation** and volunteer time continues.

●Work continues with research toward preservation/restoration of the **historic metal street lights poles** on West Eleventh Street.

●**Bi-monthly Newsletters**, presented numerous well researched articles on interesting topics: “The World’s Greatest TNT Explosion” (in Temescal Canyon), “Look Alike Houses in Corona”, “An Aerial View of Grand Boulevard” from the July 1949 *National Geographic* magazine, “The Story Behind Corona’s Bicentennial Gate”, “Recovery of the Flagler Trophy”, four “I Remember When...” articles from interviews with long time residents, the story behind the placement of the plaque at Jefferson Elementary School honoring its being named on the National Register of Historic Places, and many others.

All of this wouldn’t be possible without outstanding board members, wonderful volunteers and continued member support. All in all, not a bad resumé for just \$30 per year!

1st Quarterly Meeting: History of the Corona Police Department*

The **Corona Police Department** was first formed in 1914, after the untimely murder of City Marshal Alexander in December 1913. While the basic mission of preventing crimes against persons or property has remained the same, the manner in which that mission is achieved has been evolving and becoming more capable ever since. From a single red light suspended above the town's main intersection at Main and Sixth streets which, when activated by the public or local businesses, summoned a police response, modern technology has improved our communications and response capabilities. The law enforcement professionals of today have sophisticated policies and practices to handle just about any emergency.



This year, CHPS is proud to present "The History of the Corona Police Department" as told by a panel of retired Corona Police Officers who helped shape the department over many years. Our Panel includes: former Chiefs John Cleghorn and Richard Gonzalez, former Captains Sam Spiegel (Chief, Folsom PD), Ray Cota (Chief, Sedona PD), John Dalzell, and Roy Vanderkallen. The panel moderator will be retired Corona Police Corporal and CPD Historian Terry Madory.

The focus will be on the transition from small town policing to a modern professional organization, influenced by the hiring of LAPD command staff.

The stories these men share will likely result in the audience recognizing that the highs and lows in their courageous duty protecting public safety, are an intriguing and significant part of Corona's history.



WHEN: Saturday, February 9, 2019

TIME: 10:00 AM

WHERE:

Community Room at the
Historic Civic Center
815 West Sixth Street



***THIS MEETING IS FREE OF CHARGE AND IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Refreshments will be provided

Results of Annual Election of Board of Directors

At the Annual Meeting held December 3, 2018, the following four Directors were elected to two-year terms: Eric Bergreen, Chris McCoy, Paula Muñoz, and Mary Winn.

At that same meeting, the following three former CHPS officers were elected to one-year terms as Advisors: Marla Benson, Tom Richins and Ted Taylor.

This election was held in accordance with bylaws of the Corona Historic Preservation Society.

Recapping the 2018 Lemon Festival By Eric Bergreen

For many years, Corona was known as the “Lemon Capital of the World.” Our growth came about from the combination of perfect climate and weather in which to grow lemons and other citrus. Our town was built on an alluvial plain that slopes to the north toward the Santa Ana River and in between the Temescal and Santa Ana Mountain ranges. This meant that gravity did most of the work when water was brought in and the winds coming in off the Pacific kept the fruit practically frostless all year round.

At the height of production, in 1935, 2,406 acres of lemon groves were harvested filling 1,138 railroad cars for delivery to market. Not a big surprise why Corona earned the title.



Naturally, a community gathering formed to celebrate Corona’s biggest accomplishment and the resulting Lemon Festival grew into a three-day event featuring parades, pageants, dances and carnivals. It

eventually came to an end in 1948 as the reign of Lemon Capital fell to other parts.

As a new century began to unfold, so too did a resurrection of the memories that helped build Corona. The festival was revived on Oct. 3, 1999 by Corona’s Heritage Park and Museum and took place on the front lawn of the Historic Civic Center. For nine years it once again drew vendors, displays and



Two Irish dancers
Courtesy of Eugene Montanez

visitors, but was discontinued after 2008 due to the area’s economic downturn.

On Saturday, November 17th, 2018, the Corona Art Association once again revived Corona’s Lemon Festival, hosting the event for one day at the Historic Civic Center on Sixth Street. There were arts and crafts, vendors, a live band, food trucks from local restaur-

rants, Irish dancing and opportunity drawings. Corona High School held an art show and there was face painting, activities and games for smaller children. There was even a bake-off contest for best tasting recipe using lemons as a major ingredient.

CHPS had a booth in a favorable location, next to the Corona Woman’s Improvement Club booth. It was located to the east of the fountain and between the fountain and the front of the historic building where our collections of historic match books and U. S. Currency issued by two Corona banks were on display and able to be viewed and handled by visitors. CHPS’s recently initiated fundraising project offering citrus crate labels for sale was well received.

The sky was blue, the air was warm and the folks were friendly, making this event great once again. In all, it was a wonderful day, spent with good people, in a good place, at a good time.



Seen above are writer and CHPS Vice President Eric Bergreen, his wife Christa and the very cheerful Lemon Festival mascot.

It's a Wonderful Life By Doris Osko

In keeping with its annual yuletide tradition, Corona Historic Preservation Society held its annual party on December 3, 2018 at the Woman's Improvement Club of Corona. It could be described as an "angelic" event. Garnering a quote from a favorite holiday movie, "It's a Wonderful Life," decorations centered around the quote, "When a bell rings, an angel gets her wings." Each table, therefore, had an angel centerpiece, and a wooden placard with the previous quote. The historic clubhouse itself was festively decorated. After a delicious potluck meal, Pres. Wes Speake welcomed guests, and Vice-Pres. Eric Bergreen conducted the business portion of the meeting which involved electing officers for a number of positions for the coming year.

Guests looked forward to Past Pres./Advisor Tom Richins' annual Corona History Trivia Quiz, and they were not disappointed. Tom questioned guests' knowledge by uncovering many fascinating facts. He then went on to explain the context and background of each of the ten questions enlightening all guests in attendance. Pres. Wes Speake acknowledged City Council members in attendance: Dick Haley, Eugene Montanez, Yolanda Carrillo, and newly-elected Jacque Casillas, and Jim Steiner. He also recapped CHPS



events and projects which resulted in a very full and productive 2018. Pres. Wes also introduced CHPS Board members and thanked the committee which planned and oversaw the party: Trisha Cabrera-Henson, Chair, and Paula Muñoz, Amanda Kalkanis, and Doris Osko. Twenty-two year board member Mary Winn once again created the flyer and publicized the festive party.

The final activity of the evening was the choral presentation of the Corona High Madrigals who gave their usual stellar performance under the direction of Amy Eden. A special collection was taken up to help the students achieve their goal of going to San Antonio, Texas for a special



tour and music competition during their Spring Break. The choir received a standing ovation, and then they enjoyed indulging in the delicious food that guests had prepared for the potluck. All-in-all, the holiday party contributed to everyone's "wonderful life."



Marshal Grant C. Alexander - Murdered While on Duty - By Tom Richins

Note: this article has been adapted from a Facebook posting on *History of Corona* page.

In 1912, a prominent citizen complained at a council meeting about the "lawlessness" in Corona and he demanded action. Two actions were taken by the City Council that night: (1) Grant Alexander was appointed to be the night policeman, and (2) The city drew up a strict ordinance against the sale of alcohol in town.

Mr. Alexander took his law responsibilities very seriously. In fact, after just one month on the job, Alexander was promoted to Town Marshal. Under his new found position and authority, Marshal Alexander worked swiftly and efficiently to clean up the city. He raided houses that were supplying alcohol, busted poker games and gambling establishments, as well as the role of collecting delinquent taxes. Needless to say, he was respected by the law abiding citizens but hated among the law-breakers.

It was midnight on December 22, 1913, when Marshal Alexander responded to a "disturbance call" at a small run down shack over by Howard and 6th Street. He opened the front door and was tackled by Miguel Espinosa. He had been ambushed and was overpowered, wrestled to the ground and his arms pinned where he couldn't reach his gun. It was then, at that moment, that Eduardo Seja fired two muffled gunshots at close range, hitting the marshal in the right lung and in his neck.

In cold blood, Marshal Alexander had been murdered, and the guys who did it were not looking to stick around. Eduardo Seja, Miguel Espinosa and Guadalupe Diaz, who was in the shack but didn't participate in the murder, split for Redlands Junction, and from there the three of them split up and went their separate ways.

While the fugitives were busy skipping town, the Marshal's body was found at 6:30 A.M., lying dead on the floor. The city went into an uproar. A \$500. reward was established by the city trustees and the hunt was on. Miguel Espinosa was the first to be caught. He was picked up at Redlands Junction



on burglary charges. However, law enforcement soon let him go, hoping that under close surveillance he would lead them to the other accomplices. Instead, on August 25, 1914, Miguel was involved in a gunfight and was hit 3 times in the stomach. As he was dying, he confessed to his involvement with the Marshal Alexander murder.

The next fugitive to be caught was the shooter himself., Eduardo Seja. After the murder he went as far away as Sugar City, Idaho and laid low working sugar beet farms. Thinking the heat had died down, late in 1914 Seja began working his way back to California.

Never having given up on the case and having been tipped off to Seja's return movements to California, was San Bernardino Sheriff Ralphs. He dispatched deputies Hopkins and Ludlow to track Seja. After a short gun battle, they arrested him near Barstow. Seja was then transferred to San Bernardino where he was identified. Final disposition of his apprehension and prosecution is not known by the writer.

Finally, the last fugitive, Guadalupe Diaz, was caught in Riverside, having been arrested for Petty Larceny. He denied the robbery charges but confessed to being in the shack when Marshal Alexander was murdered.

It has been 105 years since the murder of Marshal Alexander. He was the first brave officer to give his life protecting our cherished city. Even today, he is the only Corona Peace Officer to lose his life in the line of duty. It is in this spirit that I thank our brave officers of today. May they serve well, be protected by the Almighty, and safely return home to their loved ones at the end of their shifts.

Thank You Marshal Alexander.

CHPS Historic Site Marker No. 3, honoring Marshal Alexander, is located near the site of his murder. It was constructed and then dedicated on July 10, 1996 during Corona's Centennial celebration.

The Corona Police Department Shooting Range facility was named in Marshal Alexander's honor in 2013.

Membership Information

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

Individual Member	\$30.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	I'd like to volunteer!
Family	\$40.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hospitality refreshments <input type="checkbox"/>
Student	\$15.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Newsletter writing articles <input type="checkbox"/>
Business	\$60.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vintage Home Tour
Patron	\$125.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	docent / volunteer <input type="checkbox"/>
Life	\$600.00	<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

Karen Alexander
Kathy Farley
Mitch & Karen Lloyd
Gerry & Camille Page

Tom & Sunny Richins
Blake & Kim Ryan
Bonnie Schoof
Gil & Kelly Vela

Home Preservation Grant Program

The CHPS Grant Committee along with the Board of Directors of the Corona Historic Preservation Society would love to assist local homeowners in making exterior improvements to their historic homes.

We will process any application within 60 days after submittal. Once a grant has been approved and reimbursement limits established, funds will be made available upon completion, inspection and onsite final approval.

Take this 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 projects. If you have a place that you feel needs help, either your own



or a neighbor's, please contact CHPS Home Preservation Grant Program Coordinator Rich Winn at rwinn141@gmail.com/714.328.0010. We will assist you in any way possible to provide the information you need to complete the application process.

Grant applications are available at the Community Development Department at Corona City Hall at 400 South Vicentia, and at the Heritage Room of the Corona Public Library.

More information and grant applications may also be downloaded from our website:
<<http://corona-history.org/grants.html>>

Please share this information with others!



Board of Directors

President - Wes Speake
Vice President - Eric Bergreen
Secretary - Doris Osko
Treasurer - Richard Winn

Directors

Trisha Henson-Cabrera
Amanda Kalkanis
Chris McCoy
Paula Muñoz
Mary Winn

Advisors

Marla Benson
Tom Richins
Ted Taylor



To contact us call
951.898.2044



Our Mission Statement

The Corona Historic Preservation Society (CHPS) is an active nonprofit tax-exempt 501(c)3 organization dedicated to the PRESERVATION, PROTECTION and PERPETUATION of Corona's historic sites, buildings, neighborhoods and resources. We do this through education, community events, preservation projects and tireless advocacy for the benefit of present and future generations.

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, Jan 17, 6:30 at CHPS office

Thursday, Feb 21, 6:30 at CHPS office



www.Corona-History.org



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



**Join us February 9 at our panel discussion
"History of the Corona Police Department"**