



### A Message From Our President Christine Gary

Dear Members,

What an exciting and amazing year we have had at CHPS! To review a few of our accomplishments for 2008 shows the dedication and determination of our organization.

“The History of Corona” local history and geography lessons, authored by Mary Winn, have been copied and sent to all 30 elementary schools in the Corona-Norco Unified School District. There are 215 photos with educational information for the children to learn from and enjoy. Copies are available for public review at the Corona and Norco Public libraries as well as the county library at El Cerrito Intermediate School.

A very important “first” for CHPS was the awarding of our first Historic Preservation Grant. CHPS recently embarked on establishing this program with Bubba Bland as Grant Committee Chairman. Our very first grant was awarded to Ryan Francis at our recent Holiday Party. Check out this newsletter for more information as well future updates on the progress of Ryan’s project. We would like to see more Coronans take advantage of our new program so please spread the word, folks! Let’s continue to help beautify our city!

The relocation of the Joseph Brumbaugh House took place at long last. In the early morning hour of December 9<sup>th</sup>, it was hauled in one piece to its new location along Grand Boulevard. Mr. Brumbaugh was one of the first to join Corona’s all-volunteer fire department team. Corona firefighter, Fred Parr, is the current historian of the Corona Fire Department (CFD) and is interested in gathering history, photos and memorabilia relating to the department. There is a move underway to interview



At November 18 meeting of City Council, former mayor and current Assemblyman Jeff Miller (far right) and CHPS Board members look on as Chris comments on receiving city’s official recognition.

any retired members from the CFD and establish an oral history program.

There is a second little bungalow at 312 West 7<sup>th</sup> Street that needs to be rescued from demolition. Much of the preliminary work has been done with the City of Corona so the move should go relatively smoothly. Please go look at it and talk to friends who may have room to accommodate it on their lot. The size is approximately 600 square feet

with a full front porch. It is constructed entirely of redwood and has many original windows. If interested, you can call me directly at 951-734-0977.

Our recent Christmas party was another great success, thanks ever so much to Jackie and Bubba Bland. Their beautiful Victorian home made the perfect place for the many guests to eat, talk, sing and have fun. We also held our annual election, as is customary. The only change in Board members is that Lauralynn Hake was elected to serve as her husband, Aaron, has done over the past several years.



City’s Proclamation was awarded in recognition of our 25 years of service to the Corona community.

The Corona Historic Preservation Society has come to the end of our 25<sup>th</sup> year of service to the community. As volunteers, much has been

accomplished. History has been preserved in many forms. Educating others in the details of that history has been a priority with books, speeches, meetings, newspaper articles, and from one person to another.

I hope each and every one of you will have a safe and happy 2009. Please plan to join in our events this year.

With warm regards,  
Christine Gary





# Our Holiday Party at the Bland's Home

For several hours on December 4th, holiday revelers came together once again to enjoy each other's company, relish a delightful meal, and enjoy music of the season provided by Corona High's accomplished Madrigal choir. All this took place in the wonderfully warm and cozy ambiance of Jackie and Bubba Bland's festive Victorian home. We extend our appreciation to city council members Eugene Montanez, Karen Spiegel, Jason Scott and Stan Skipworth for taking time out of their busy schedules to join us at the soiree. The photos below capture just a few moments of a wonderful evening of bonding and sharing.





# CHPS Continues to Support the Dictionary Project

Third grade students and teachers at Lincoln Alternative Elementary School continue to receive dictionaries through a community project initiated by the Kiwanis Club and overseen by CHPS member and organizer extraordinaire, John Wiles. In fact, 2008 was the fourth year in which the Society participated.

School Board Trustee as well as CHPS member Pat Scott and her husband, Scotty, joined in the presentation of the treasured tomes to students anxious to receive a dictionary



of their very own.

Many youthful smiles and an abundance of enthusiasm were observed in the audience of students and teachers during the special assembly held in the school's multi-purpose room on a lovely September afternoon.

A total of ten CHPS members participated in the special assembly and distribution of the dictionaries: Jackie & Bubba Bland, Christine Gary, Laura & John Kane, Doris Osko, Pat & Scotty Scott, John Wiles and Mary Winn.

## Brown's Corner Aka the Bland's Residence

The Blands, Jackie and Bubba, live at a home built in 1893 here in Corona, located at 1022 South Ramona. When they toured the house before the purchase, Vann Carter, the previous owner related a short tale about the house that will always stick in the minds of the Blands. Vann and her husband had just returned from an eight year around the world cruise in their over 50 foot motor sailboat. Living on a cramped boat all those years, with their return to Corona imminent, they were trying to decide what they should do about living back in Corona. They had given their old home to the YMCA and had to make a decision soon. Charlie had owned the home at 1022 Ramona for years and had always rented it out. With the tenants gone now and the Carters return to Corona, they walked through the old home and recognized its need for some updating. Charles talked about tearing down the home and paving it as a large parking lot to accommodate his law office located on the back side of this home, facing Main Street. Vann said she started looking closer at all the original details this house had and told Charlie, " This is a nice house and I think we should fix it up for ourselves." With those words the house was saved from demolition, perpetuated for the future and did not become just a memory of a building that once stood within our historic Corona downtown.

This home represents a lot of unique history since it was built by Corona's first official postmaster, George Brown, and also served as a temporary post office. The home became a landmark for local residents as "Brown's Corner." Pictures of it are found on page 84 of Mary Winn's vintage postcard book published in 2006 by Arcadia Publishing. George's wife, Nellie, is found on the Charter list of Corona's First Congregational Church and was one of the very earliest members of Woman's Improvement Club. This home has also undergone a lengthy ten-year renovation done by the Blands. Additions to the home have been in keeping with the original style. A new playhouse, for the grandchildren, was completed in 2008. It duplicates the look of the older home. As the Blands often say, "Living at 1022 Ramona is living in a true 'home', not just a house."



The first postcard shows the home, as it was originally built, in an ornate Victorian Style. By 1920, the upper story sun porch had been enclosed, the porch railing removed and the front porch pillars modified. Since 1920, the sun porch on the left side of the entry has been removed and the porch railing and steps modified. The painting detail, decorative porch railing and fence add to the overall charm of the home we see today.

## Ryan Francis Receives First Grant

At the Society's annual Holiday Party on December 4, 2008, Corona homeowner Ryan Francis was presented the first monetary grant the Corona Historic Preservation Society has awarded. Thurston "Bubba" Bland, the Grant Committee Chairperson, presented a \$475 award that is earmarked to pay for up to half the cost of painting and construction materials used on Francis's 1939 Bungalow style home



located at 815 West Olive St. Francis recently moved into this charming house, built prior to 'World War II, that still has most of the original exterior and much of the interior. His project is to identify, repair and clean rot damage to the exterior, paint the house and add a picket fence to the front.

Bubba Bland says, "With a master carpenter father, Bill

Francis, to do much of the work, we expect to see our grant money well spent."

The Grant program was designed to help residents and businesses revitalize and restore older structures here in Corona, by helping them with the material cost of their projects. The program is set up in a way that up to half the cost of these materials will be paid for within the grant's dollar amount.

Bland also told those members attending the annual party, "We are looking forward to handing out more grants this coming year and applications can be found in the Heritage Room of Corona Public Library as well as on the CHPS web site."

## Introducing Lessons on Local History & Geography

In celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Corona Historic Preservation Society (CHPS), "The History of Corona: A Brief Pictorial Overview" was developed by Mary Winn and was gifted to the community on behalf of the Society. This local history is aligned with the Third Grade Curriculum and includes information which meets California's Content Standards setting forth the knowledge, concepts, and skills students should acquire during third grade.

The curriculum comes in the form of a CD and teacher handbook.

The use of current computer technology will allow teachers to share and discuss a total of 215 images (including photographs and artifacts contained on the CD) with students. The handbook contains the narrative or script that goes along with the slides as well as additional resources to enrich the lessons.

The five lessons done in PowerPoint format include:

- ▲ Early Inhabitants of Corona and Temescal Canyon
- ▲ Founding and Early Cityhood
- ▲ Citrus Heritage
- ▲ Corona Road Races
- ▲ Current Economy

A timeline of early Corona history is also provided to



**This photo graces the cover of the handbook and CD and shows third grade students at Thomas Jefferson Grammar School sometime during the 1930s.**

*(Courtesy of Corona Public Library)*

assist teachers in providing accurate information in their teaching of the principles of a timeline.

Compilation of the lessons were finalized and turned in to the Curriculum and Instruction Department of CNUSD in April 2008. Materials were reviewed for content and duplicated by CNUSD.

Copies have been provided to all third grade classes of the 30 elementary schools within the Corona-Norco Unified School District some private schools, local public libraries (Corona, Norco, El Cerrito Intermediate) as well as

Promenade Elementary School, which is located in Corona but is part of the Alvord Unified School District.

The idea for such a project was identified by CHPS some time ago and it is very gratifying to finally bring it to fruition.

It is hoped that all who hear and see the lesson materials will be more able "To Cherish the Past" as is proclaimed in Corona's City Motto and continually advocated by the Corona Historic Preservation Society. This goal is set forth in our Mission Statement:

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



# Saving Historic Houses Is One of the Things We Do



The Brumbaugh House as it looked when named to Corona's Historic Landmark List.

This 776 square foot Folk Victorian style house, built around 1907 by Joseph Brumbaugh, was located at 322 West Seventh Street, at the southeast corner of Seventh and Sheridan. It was rescued from the wrecking ball by our Society's President Christine Gary. It took nearly two years of contractor negotiations, renegotiations and many trips to the city's Community Development and Building departments to dot all the "i's" and cross all the "t's" to relocate this exemplary home to the rear of another landmarked home inside the Grand Boulevard Circle. It will now serve as a guest house to the N. C. Hudson House (owned by the Garys) located at 1052 East Grand Boulevard. The two structures compliment each other in architectural style and color.



The Brumbaugh House prepped for moving, moved off its foundation, jacked up and supported by I beams on wooden cribbing.



The house atop transport dollies, illuminated and ready to be moved off the 300 block of West Seventh Street in the dark of night, onto Belle for its journey to the rear of 1052 E. Grand Blvd, via Sixth Street, Main Street, Grand Boulevard and Howard Street.

## This House Is In Need of a Home . . . ASAP



312 West Seventh Street  
*It would be a shame for this to end up in a landfill!!*

This solidly built bungalow is slated to meet the wrecking ball soon unless it is rescued. It is approximately 600 square feet and is constructed entirely of redwood. Other details:

- ▲ One bedroom, one bath, kitchen, dining area, and living room with brick fireplace
- ▲ Mahogany wainscoating
- ▲ Walk-in closet
- ▲ Claw and ball foot bathtub
- ▲ Many original windows, doors and hardware

Much of the preliminary work has been done with City departments as another entity was hoping to relocate the structure. If you are interested, or know someone who might be, please call Christine Gary at 951-734-0977 ASAP.

# Tidying Up Landscaping of Two Historic Properties



A crew of five dedicated CHPS members arrived at 8 a.m. on Saturday, December 13th at Settlement House to trim plants there and at the Benedict House right next door. CHPS has overseen the landscaping planting and maintenance of both historic properties since 2003. Our efforts beautify and preserve the attractiveness of these vintage structures, located right across the street from the Historic Civic Center.

In November, the Settlement House underwent a "facelift" (repainting) thanks to an Eagle project organized by a Boy Scout from one of our local troops.

As seen in the middle photo above, the Saturday morning trimming crew included (L-R) Paula & Tom Muñoz, Richard & Mary Winn, and Bubba Bland,

Below are pictorial reminders of what the Settlement and Benedict houses looked like in 2003. Since then, the garden areas have matured at Settlement House. Benedict House has undergone a complete metamorphosis due to the efforts and elbow grease of our Society.

*Feel free to drive by sometime and take a look!*

**Settlement House (L) and Benedict House (R) in 2003.**



## Our First Quarterly Meeting of 2009

***What does a museum curator do?***

***What would a 3-D model of Corona in the 1940s look like?***

**For answers to these and other questions,  
please plan to join us on Sat., March 7, 10:00 a.m.  
at Corona Heritage Park & Museum  
510 West Foothill Parkway**

**★ Noella Benvenuti** (Museum Curator)

**★ John Quinn** (President of Corona Model Railroad Society)  
**will be our guest speakers and tour guides**

**For more information, call Jackie at 734-3166**



# 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

Patricia Barker (patron member)  
Pamela Colip  
Steve & Cynthia Donald  
Lee Hansen  
Raymond Harris  
Wayne & Judy Hrabak  
Michelle Krickl  
John & Barbara McCawley

Raymond & Cheryl Monteon  
Janette Neumann (patron member)  
Gretchen Scoggins  
Carl & Sue Simmons  
Ted & Cindy Taylor  
Carlton & Patricia Wallace  
Zap Printing & Graphics

## 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Victorian Twelfth Night Celebration

The Old Riverside Foundation, a non-profit organization for historic preservation, is planning it's 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Victorian Twelfth Night Celebration for Friday, January 9<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009. The evening will include a four-course progressive dinner hosted in some of the Heritage Square Historic District's most illustrious vintage homes with transportation between the homes provided by horse-drawn carriages. Seating will be at 6:30pm or 8:30pm. Make your reservations early, as Saturday tickets sell quickly! Tickets are \$85 per person. Proceeds benefit historic preservation in Riverside and the Inland Empire.



Please check our website or call for more information. Tickets may be purchased at <[www.olderiverside.org](http://www.olderiverside.org)>. If ordering by mail, send a check made out to "ORF" at Old Riverside Foundation, P.O. Box 601, Riverside, CA 92502.

For additional information contact: Nancy Parrish, [Factsgirl@aol.com](mailto:Factsgirl@aol.com).  
Phone: 951-683-2725 or visit <[www.olderiverside.org](http://www.olderiverside.org)>.



## Board of Directors

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

### Directors

Jackie Bland  
Thurston "Bubba" Bland  
Jim Bryant  
Lauralynn Hake  
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, Jan 15, 6:30 at CHPS office**

**Thursday, Feb 19, 6:30 at CHPS office**



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



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



2009



**Mark your calendar now for a visit to Heritage Park Museum  
and Corona Model Railroad Society See page 6**