

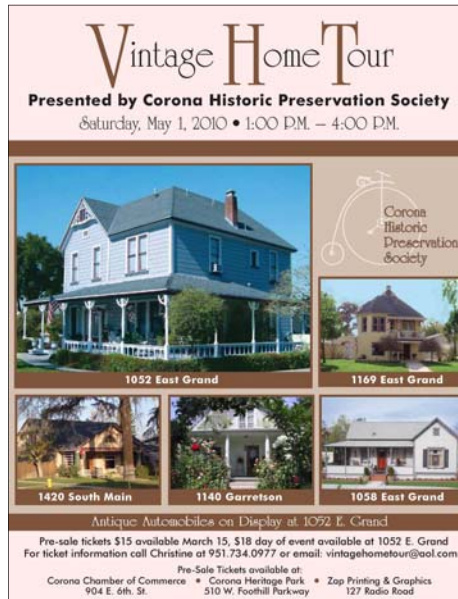
A Message From Our President Christine Gary

Dear Members,

I have lived in Corona for four years this spring. CHPS has been such a fantastic way for me to participate in something I am passionate about and volunteer doing something that makes a real difference in our community.

There is good news and bad news to discuss here. First, the bad news is the inability to find anyone to save the little historic bungalow at 312 W. 7th Street. Corona's Redevelopment Agency will be demolishing the 100 year old home soon. We have already salvaged what we could to sell at our booth at the Antiques and Collectibles Faire this June.

The great news is we are presenting another Vintage Home Tour on May 1st! We have five great homes for the tour. We will have a very enjoyable day for those who attend. Please mark your calendar and pick up tickets for yourself and your friends. We are hoping for a good turnout based upon interest in this popular event. Tickets go on sale March 15th at several locations. See more information on page 5 of this newsletter. If you would like to serve as a docent, please call Mary at 371-5291. As a docent, you will be able to visit



Vintage Home Tour
Presented by Corona Historic Preservation Society
Saturday, May 1, 2010 • 1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

1052 East Grand
1169 East Grand
1420 South Main
1140 Garretson
1058 East Grand

Antique Automobiles on Display at 1092 E. Grand

Pre-sale tickets \$15 available March 15, \$18 day of event available at 1052 E. Grand
For ticket information call Christine at 951.734.0977 or email: vintagehometour@aol.com

Pre-Sale Tickets available at:
Corona Chamber of Commerce • Corona Heritage Park • Zap Printing & Graphics
904 E. 6th St. 510 W. Foothill Parkway 127 Radio Road

the homes free of charge. I hope to see all of you at the Vintage Home Tour.

Another place to see information is on the new Facebook page for CHPS Mary Winn created. It is lots of fun and is interesting to explore.

Remember to apply for our Grant money if you are planning on any exterior restoration work of a home 50 or more years old. Please spread the word about this to your friends and neighbors. Funds earned from the Vintage Home Tour are earmarked to fund the Grant Program.

On March 6th, we will have a rare treat for all at our first Quarterly Meet-

ing of the year. Diane Wright's love of local history is delightful to experience. She is very entertaining and will perform for us as Ocie Taylor Songer at the Historic Civic Center Community Room. This should be a treat for all.

It is our hope that 2010 will be an outstanding year for all of us.

Warm regards,

Christine Gary



Meet Ocie Taylor Songer on March 6th



The very entertaining Diane Wright will share details of life in the early days of South Riverside (Corona's original name). Ocie Taylor Songer was the daughter of city founder Robert B. Taylor who many have called "the father of Corona." Diane will join us dressed in full vintage attire.

Date: Saturday, March 6th

Time: 10 AM

Location: Community Room of Historic Civic Center
815 West Sixth Street

Free and open to everyone

Ocie Taylor Songer is wearing a dark dress in photo to the left, courtesy of the Corona Public Library.

Grant Program Awards \$500 to the Fisher Family By Bubba Bland

Dale and Edna Fisher have lived at 911 S. Ramona Avenue in their early 1890s Victorian for over thirty years. The now brightly "painted lady" was done in part by the award given out this past year to the Fishers at our annual Holiday Party. The amount of \$500 covered part of the cost of construction material used during this past year to restore this classic



beauty. The Fishers raised six children in this beautiful home and four of their children still reside and work in the area; all four are firefighters.

The work done on the house included repairs of the porch, front door and replacement of the roof. The house has been completely painted a bright blue color with red and white trim. The love and care

they have shown in the restoration of their home is apparent and adds to the beauty of our great city.

The Grant Program was designed to assist residents with the material cost of construction needed to restore and improve their older homes. There are many homes within downtown Corona still needing repairs. Oftentimes, the restoration

of one home sets an example and encourages others to do improvements on their properties as well.

Beautification of homes within Corona's downtown historic core benefits the entire community. Many great things are planned for our city and the downtown. Attractive properties will draw not only interest to Corona, but also add value to all of our properties.

Our Preservation Grant Program by Bubba Bland

The CHPS 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 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 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 the information you need.

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

For more information, applications and additional details on the grant can be downloaded from our Web site: <<http://corona-history.org/grants.html>>

Please feel free to share this information with others!

I Remember When ... Paula Ruscigno

Paula Ruscigno exemplifies a phrase found on T-shirts our Society has offered for sale. The phrase is: "I wasn't born in Corona; but I got here as soon as I could." She was born and raised in Tyler, Texas, received her nursing training at Texas Eastern School of Nursing, and moved around quite a bit on various assignments. Paula says she was a nurse by training but a businesswoman by experience. The story behind how she got to Corona is quite unique. She and late husband Harry were living in Orange County. He was a pilot and had his own airplane. When the airport in Orange County announced that aircraft owners could no longer work on their planes on the airfield, the Ruscignos investigated the airport just up the Santa Ana canyon in the sleepy town of Corona. They relocated here in 1978, began construction in 1985 of a building on California Ave. to house Seatec, their SCUBA gear manufacturing business. Their grand opening took place in 1987. The Ruscignos continued running Seatec until 2001, when the business was sold.



Paula next to a photo of her and her late husband Harry

- While we were going through the tedious process of plan check, grading our property and contractor start/stop dates, Harry had to "buttonhole" or get in the face of department heads in order to meet deadlines.

- I especially remember when it seemed that various city departments were at odds of what to require us to do. Often a Fire Department requirement was contradicted by a Police Department requirement and vice versa.

- We played a role in starting the Wings & Wheels events held for a few years at the Corona Airport. Various booths, planes and automobiles of all eras were combined providing something for everyone and a truly unique experience.

- We really enjoyed community parades, especially those held during the Christmas season and on the 4th of July.

- In 1989, I complained about the lack of downtown Christmas holiday decorations. Before I knew it Mayor Gary Miller appointed me to the Banners Committee which placed the first banners on light poles throughout the city.

- Harry loved to cook for large groups and we often hosted dinners at our Seatec business for various community organizations such as the Navy League, Chamber of Commerce, United Way, Soroptimists, etc.

- Our favorite restaurants were Bob's Café, Chuck Wagon, the Hickory and Silver Dollar Pancake.

- People here in town were always good to us. We once attended 16 holiday parties within a 2-week period.

I Remember When ...

- We initially met friends while eating at Bob's Café at the Corona Airport and were subsequently warmly welcomed to town by a variety of very friendly and caring Coronans.

- Getting involved with others immediately provided many opportunities to network before our building was even built, thanks to many Chamber of Commerce members.

- Before we opened our business in Corona, we participated in an Industrial Fair at Corona High School's football stadium. While there, I was given a checklist of things to do in order to have successful business. The first item was to get a local P.O. Box, the second was to join the Corona Chamber of Commerce, which we did right away.

Meet Presenter Diane Wright and View Ocie's Home



Diane Wright in vintage attire while performing at Corona's Sunnyslope Cemetery.

This photo from the Corona Public Library's collection shows Ocie Taylor Songer with a child in front of her home.



Architectural Salvage Shoppe

As a service to our members, CHPS has limited amounts of architectural salvage items or materials available to those of you who are restoring your vintage homes. Included in the inventory are windows, shutters, doors, cabinets, molding and hardware. If you are in need of such items, please call CHPS at 898-2044 and leave a detailed message along with your phone number. **Note: More items were recently salvaged from the home at 312 W. Seventh Street prior to it being razed.**



Breezeways are Reopened at Corona Historic Civic Center

From 1923, when Corona's second high school opened, students passed to and fro along its open breezeways while going to class. While serving as Corona's City Hall, windows were framed in in order to maximize office space.



In the interest of restoring the Historic Civic Center to its former classic beauty and to increase its capacity to serve the community, the city's Public Works Department has repaired the roof, replaced metal doors and windows with wooden replicas of original designs and refurbished the lobby inside the magnificent entrance arcade and auditorium / theater.

The current restoration phase is by far the most ambitious and involves the removal of the added windows and divider walls, restoration of walkways and re-stuccoing of the exterior wall openings.

Progress is evident from the photographs below as CHPS Board members are provided a tour of the improvements by Dave Batson, the city's Project Coordinator. An elevator is in the process of being installed and the second floor foyer will be improved in a similar manner as the first floor lobby.



Dave Batson (on left) conducting the tour



Lauralynn Hake is walking along breezeway

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The Best Kept Secret in Corona By Richard Winn

Almost two years ago, several local musicians and others interested in enhancing Corona's cultural footprint got together and formed the Corona Symphony Orchestra. In the past two years the Corona Symphony Orchestra has slowly and incrementally expanded its influence in a significant way by creating musical, cultural, and educational programs that not only entertain, but also enrich our community. The symphony has performed concerts in Corona's newly renovated Civic Center Theater, at Santiago High School, Northpoint Church as well as other historic and modern concert venues in our region. Later this year they will be featured at the restored Fox theater in Riverside. Its repertoire explores many genres: classics, choral works, light opera, pops, film and television scores, original works, and more. It also plans to support the City of Corona in selected civic events; cultivate a relationship with local schools for promoting the life-enriching and elevating quality of the arts; foster the growth of student musicians through mentor relationships and performance opportunities; provide accompaniment resources for local choral and theatrical groups; and numerous other contributions to our society yet to be imagined.

The symphony is organized as a non-profit orchestra, presently without financial compensation to its members. However, as its reputation and value to the community are established, ticketed events are enjoyed, grants and endowments are garnered, and its members are sought after for other artistic endeavors, the potential for more practical benefits to its members is obvious.



The Corona Symphony Orchestra promises to offer a uniquely rich experience for qualified musicians who are either on their way to a career in music, or to those of similar caliber who have chosen other career paths. It will be an environment for serious musicians to develop, enjoy, and share their gifts with the community around them, to the mutual benefit of all.

The orchestra hopes to facilitate the convergence of musical and artistic talent in a region with a growing appetite for quality entertainment, coupled with the central location of Corona as a geographic, cultural, and commercial crossroads of counties in the California southland. The Corona Symphony Orchestra is a welcome addition to the growing cultural wealth of our region and will promote "the Circle City" as a thriving hub for music and the arts.

The orchestra's Mission Statement is as follows:

"The mission of the Corona Symphony Orchestra is to bring the richness of live orchestral music to the people of the Inland Empire and to represent Corona and the region with musical excellence as one of its premier performing ensembles."

Take an opportunity to check out the orchestra's Web site at <www.coronasymphonyorchestra.org>. You will find performers' names, scheduled appearances, ticket information, audition or support and other pertinent information listed.

Attending a performance of the Corona Symphony Orchestra is nothing short of fabulous!

Corona Historic Preservation Society Notes

Society Leadership

The Society's Board of Directors met in January to elect officers for 2010. Christine Gary will serve as President, Mary Winn as Vice President, Doris Osko as Secretary, Richard Winn as Treasurer. Directors are: Jackie Bland Thurston "Bubba" Bland, Lauralynn Hake, Judy Hrabak and Wayne Hrabak. Emeritus Directors are: Marla Benson, Janette Neumann and Ted Taylor.

Temporary Unavailability of Society Office and Board Meeting Relocation

For much of the time that the new elevator project at the Historic Civic Center is in progress, the Society offices will be unavailable for our Board meetings. (The elevator will be located immediately to the east of our office and will require partial demolition of a common wall, relocation of a door and some other minor alterations.) Our supplies, decorations, awards and re-

cords have been put into storage to eliminate handling and relocation by construction workers. During the six-month construction time frame, the Society's message center answering machine will continue to be in operation and messages will be checked periodically. During the construction our monthly Board of Directors meetings will be held in Board member homes. The March and April meetings will be held in the historic Brumbaugh House located at 1058 East Grand Boulevard (behind 1052 East Grand Boulevard.)

Old Riverside Foundation's Upcoming Event

We have received notice that the Old Riverside Foundation will be holding its Nineteenth Annual Old Riverside Foundation Vintage Home Tour, Restoration Faire and Vintage Mercantile on Saturday May 15, 2010. The tour is entitled "A Walk in the Woods Streets". Tickets are \$15. pre-sale and \$18. on the day of the event. Check the Old Riverside Foundation's Web site <www.olldriverside.org> or phone Nancy Parrish at (951) 509-7682 for additional information.

Membership Information

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

Individual Member \$20.00
Family \$30.00
Student \$10.00
Business \$50.00
Patron \$100.00
Life \$500.00

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I'd like to volunteer!

Hospitality refreshments
Newsletter writing articles
Vintage Home Tour
docent / volunteer
Board of Directors

☐
☐
☐
☐
☐

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 New and Renewal Memberships

David J Aguayo
Jim & Patti Anderson
Kevin Bash-Town & Country Preschool
Rich & Tacy Bensiek
Beverly J. Bloch
John & Cecilia Bosch
Jim & Marie Cambruzzi
Heritage Room of Corona Public Library
Steve & Cynthia Donald
Mike & Julie Downs
Dorothy E. Erick
Nita Grantham
Kent & Ginnette Lillibridge
Art & Therese Marquez

Jon & Donna Miller
Brian Belnes & Lindsay Miller
Raymond & Cheryl Monteon
Tom & Paula Muñoz
Jerry & Jean Neumann
Lee Hansen
Fred & Vicki Parr
John & Esther Prichard
Nathan & Roberta Reed
Scott & Nancy Richardson
G. Carlton & Patricia Wallace
Terry & Nancy Wilkeson
ZAP Printing & Graphics
John Zickefoose



FIRST METHODIST CHURCH. CORONA, CAL.

Vintage postcard collector Mary Winn recently visited a paper show and was able to acquire two post cards of two Corona churches she'd never seen before. On the left is an unusual view of the First Methodist Church. On the right is a view of the original First Baptist Church; it burned down in 1937.





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
Wayne Hrabak

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

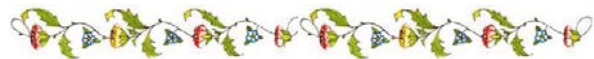
CHPS Board meetings are held each month to transact Society business, discuss issues affecting the Society and preservation of local historic resources.

All members are invited to attend.

The next meetings will be:

Wed., March 17, 6:30 at 1052 E. Grand

April 21, 6:30 at 1052 E. Grand



Visit us at www.corona-history.org



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



Ocie Taylor Songer in 1908



Diane Wright

Quarterly Meeting - March 6th @ 10 AM

Ocie Taylor Songer* (daughter of Corona founder R. B. Taylor) will share her many memories as well as details of early Corona.

Her portrayal will be done by CHPS member Diane Wright, dressed in vintage attire.