

A Message From Our President Wes Speake

Dear Members, Happy New Year!!!

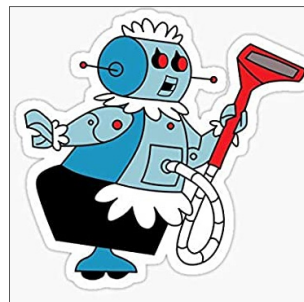
Before I begin my message for this newsletter. I wanted to give a big thank you to all that came out to the holiday party. It was truly special to see so many smiles and twinkles at this modified event. Wonderful desserts, good friends, great music from the Corona High Madrigals. A little history and presentation on the latest Eagle Scout project benefitting the Society. More on all of that later in the newsletter.

2022!! What a year 2021 was!! Seems like 2020 and 2021 have blended in many ways. This past year has been a year of sadness reflected in those we have lost, balanced with a year the perseverance of those who survived and thrived in the face of adversity. We truly are living in historic times. Times like this provide space for all of us to rise. The concept of “rising to the challenge” was the topic of my first mayoral speech in December.

I know we will have challenges in 2022; but I know Corona and Coronans will rise to the occasion as we have always done many times before; from battling the freezes in the early years that threatened to kill this town before it even started, to the Flu pandemic of 1917-18 that killed 5% of the population of Corona. Rising from our discriminatory past when in 1944 Nettie Whitcomb desegregated The Plunge and in 1968 When John Stallings desegregated our schools; Coronans rise to the occasion. Global pandemic? Coronans rise to the occasion; over 100 food drives by “for the people task-force”, time and time again hundreds of volunteers mobilize from churches and community groups to meet the needs of their neighbors. I have no doubt in my mind that Corona will continue that RISE in 2022 and beyond as we live our strategic plan, plan for downtown revitalization, see business

grow and prosper.

I see 2022 as a time for the Society to RISE as well, the board has planned an ambitious strategic plan for 2022. We have pledged to produce 6 entertaining bi-monthly newsletters, monthly posts on our Facebook group, 4 FREE wonderful quarterly meetings; the first of which is scheduled for February 19th at Heritage Park where we can see a snapshot of what Corona looked like in 1949, a new website, 2022 Vintage Home Tour, 3 new Historic Markers, a new historic business program that helps celebrate and preserve our history, numerous community events, dedication of our Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall at Butterfield Park, and in partnership with the City of Corona the restoration of the steel streetlights on 11th Street (the oldest streetlights in Corona!) plus much more!!



In elementary school, we all had these exercises that focused on what the world would look like in the year 2000. In my version, I was going to be 32 and playing in the Major Leagues or the NFL, flying to the field in my flying car, chatting with

mom over the videophone while my robot maid cleaned my house. Well, its 2022 some 22 years after my 8-year-old self’s prediction. I can say I was not a professional athlete, but I am the Mayor of Corona (never saw that coming!) I don’t have a flying car, but cars do drive themselves, I was just Facetimeing with my mom on my iPhone and I may not have a robot maid but I do have a Robot vacuum!

Here’s to 2022 and beyond! Hope to see you all in February!

WES



First Quarterly Meeting - To See Choo Choo Trains

To quote the **Corona Model Train Society's** description it: "is a branch of Corona Heritage Park specializing in preserving the heritage of our community. Our HO scale model railroad depicts Corona and Southern California circa 1949 when Corona was "The Lemon Capital of the World" and America's railroads were in transition from steam to diesel. Our railroad features the Santa Fe Third District with the cities of Corona, Fullerton, and Riverside modeled. You will return to an era where life was simpler and rail was king." The Museum will be open for all to visit.

Host: Corona Model Train Society

When: Saturday, February 19 at 10:00 AM

Where: Corona Heritage Park & Museum 510 WEST FOOTHILL PARKWAY, CORONA



Save the Date: Riverside County History Symposium

SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 2022: The Riverside County History Symposium will be held in an in-person format at a well-known Corona historic site.

The Corona Theater. opened its doors in 1929 and began screening movies with sound. It continued as a theater for the next forty or so years. The building currently houses the Covenant Life Ministry, a local Christian denomination.

This event is hosted annually by the Riverside County Heritage Association which endeavors to



This 2022 Symposium will convene in this theater venue on **Saturday, March 5, 2022.**

educate the general public about the history of the county by sponsoring this symposium and other history related events.

One of the speakers this year will be our CHPS Secretary, Shaylene Cortez, who will share the story of Riverside County's first female judge and Corona resident, Mary Alice Sutter.

As soon as the sponsoring organization finalizes the event program, notice will be provided to our *CHPS Newsletter* editor and an emailed notification will be sent to all of our members.

Report on Annual Meeting & Holiday Party By Doris Osko

If one peeked in a window of the Woman's Improvement Club on Monday, December 6, 2021, he or she might conclude there was a masquerade going on. Not a usual masquerade, but there was a group of almost sixty happy CHPS members and friends all wearing their COVID-19 masks and celebrating the holiday season.

The annual business meeting with election of officers was also held. President Wes Speake greeted party goers and introduced as guest speaker for the evening, Santiago High School senior, Brandon Rasmussen. Brandon's Eagle Scout Project involved the cleaning and restoration of the historical markers placed in the Corona area at various times since 1986 CHPS. The marker plaques were of bronze or granite. Bases were of concrete, masonry, brick or plaques were attached to building facades.



Brandon presented a slide show along with his talk and emphasized that it took a team of helpers including his parents to assist him with the project. Attending his talk was his grandmother, Joan Thacker, former CHPS president who served in 1986-1987. Pres. Wes also shared pictures and information regarding the proposed restoration of the historic Eleventh Street lamp posts. This has been a proposed CHPS project for a number of years.

Mary Winn, longest serving CHPS Board member also our *Newsletter* Editor, conducted a fun Corona History quiz which challenged even past presidents Tom Richins, Fred Parr, and Joan Thacker who attended with their respective spouses Sunny, Vicki, and George. Also in attendance was Riverside County Supervisor Karen Spiegel and husband, Bobby Spiegel, head of the Corona Chamber of Commerce.

Eric Bergreen as CHPS Vice President offered a slate of nominees and conducted the annual election: Amelia Nieves, Wes Speake and Richard Winn for Director and Marla Benson and Ted

Taylor as Advisors. The slate was elected without changes.

This year's celebration was a sweet affair. Since the dreaded COVID-19 virus protocols made it impossible to have the usual turkey and trimmings potluck.

Cookies, muffins, and other finger food, Martinelli's cider and water were substituted as dessert for our members. The cookie choices were diverse, yummy and very plentiful.



Traditional entertainment, the Corona High School Madrigals under the direction of Amy Eden, left with goodie bags of cookies and candy and had plenty to eat while they were at the clubhouse. Seventeen Madrigals wearing black masks sang, and it did not lessen either their excellence or enthusiasm. They were given a standing ovation and a collection was taken to help support the choir's trip to San Francisco which they hope to take during Spring Break of this year.



President Wes thanked the party planners, Board members Amelia Nieves and Mary Winn who shopped for cookies and paper goods, Richard Winn set up the sound and projection screen used for the program. Helping with decorations and other details was party-planning pro Doris Osko.

Historic Site Markers Given a “Like New” Look

In early 2020 Boy Scout Brandon Rasmussen of Corona Troop 34 and formerly of Troop 233, contacted CHPS asking if we had any projects he could accomplish for his Eagle Scout project. The Board of Directors felt that our Historic Site Markers needed cleaning and sprucing up. The Board suggested this project to Brandon who appeared at our virtual Board Meeting on August 20, 2020. He accepted the challenge to complete this project but public health requirements related to the COVID-19 pandemic and Boy Scout influenza prevention protocols delayed the accomplishment of the project in a timely manner.

To earn the Eagle Scout Rank in Boy Scouting a scout must plan, develop and give leadership to others in a service project benefitting his community or sponsoring organization. Such service projects fulfill the part of the Scout Oath, that commits the scout “to help other people at all times.” One of the primary purposes of an Eagle Scout project is for the scout to demonstrate, learn and develop leadership skills. The actual project finally got under way on October 23, 2021, with assigned teams using the various kits Brandon assembled. The kits included a picture of the monument, the location of the marker, supplies needed to clean the marker, etc. Some kits were for bronze markers, some for granite markers. The actual cleaning and polishing got under way on Saturday, October 23, 2021.



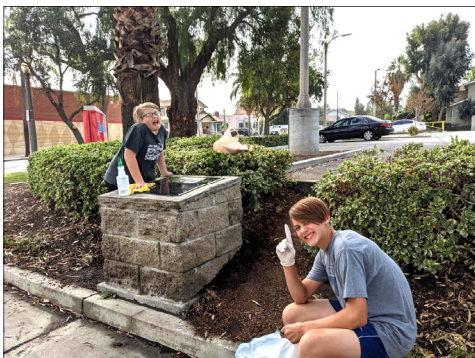
The Bronze plaque on the Corona Woman's Improvement Club built in 1913, Located at 1101 South main Street.

dents from Santiago High School and family members participated. In fact, a Past CHPS President Joan Thacker, Brandon's grandmother, helped with this cleaning project. Brandon said in his report at our CHPS annual meeting that the project was fun for him and the other volunteers who participated to see the markers while learning more about Corona's wonderful history.

A copy of our most current Historic Site marker map is included in this newsletter.



Pressure washing the base of marker No. 12 at Corona Foothill Lemon Ranch headquarters at 510 Foothill Parkway



Two volunteers working on the Del Rey Hotel monument (Marker No. 7) on Sixth Street just west of Victoria Avenue Heavy pressure washing was done on this base.

15 of the 25 monuments required power washing with a mobile power washer of the monument base. Volunteers from Boy Scout Troop 34, members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, stu-



Former CHPS President Joan Thacker works on her grandson's project and cleans and polishes the granite plaque for the Corona Sunnyslope Cemetery, (Historic site marker No. 17)



Childhoods before digital distractions had plenty to offer

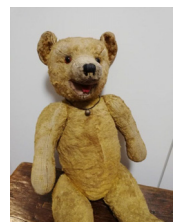


If you weren't there to experience it yourself, do you ever wonder what kids did before mobile phones, tablets, and the internet? Or how toys successfully evolved the mental, emotional, social, and physical development of children?

Kids used to spend much of their leisure time playing outside, from morning 'til the street lights came on. On rainy days there was plenty of amusement indoors also. A lot of creative imagination developed creating roles, personalities and art, constructing models, playing board games, building forts, or inventing endless ways to further the fun.

The recently installed exhibit in the Corona Heritage Museum features an amazing toy collection of bygone eras. Stop by and explore, or spend some time remembering those games you played as a child and recalling those special toys that made your days a delight.

Be sure to include a visit to the Corona Heritage Museum after your trip to the Model Train Society at our upcoming First Quarterly Meeting on Saturday, February 19, 2022.



The Unfortunate Hydrant Heist By Richard Winn

On October 2, 1998, Life Scout Christopher Jensen from Corona Troop 251 completed his Eagle Scout Project commemorating the location of Corona's first fire house located at 717 South Main Street. Members of Corona's Fire Department assisted with the design and members of Troop 251, family members and friends assisted in the installation and clean up.

When Starbucks opened its newest Corona store on the corner of Eighth Street at Main Street, they incorporated the historic monument into their plot plan as an attractive relic to be viewed while in the drive-thru lane.

Late at night of October 24, 2021 someone decided that the commemorative brass fire hydrant should be removed (stolen) and recycled for their benefit. A vehicle stopped in the drive through lane and a cable or chain was attached to the hydrant and to the vehicle. The vehicle drove out of the drive through lane into the parking lot and turned left toward the 99 cent store dragging the entire monument behind it bumping along the drive thru lane and parking lot asphalt. Apparently the hydrant broke off the base and they stopped, picked up the hydrant and placed it in their vehicle and left the concrete base and broken granite plaques on the ground.

We have spoken to Starbucks personnel and the Fire Department and we all wish to replace the monument.

We have proposed that the base and plaques be replaced with a similar presentation, but to avoid any opportunity for a repeat of "the unfortunate hydrant heist" we

are proposing that the center portion of the base be formed into a pilaster, upon which a granite plaque including an image of the First City hall will be placed commemorating the location of Corona's first City Hall, at 719 South Main Street.



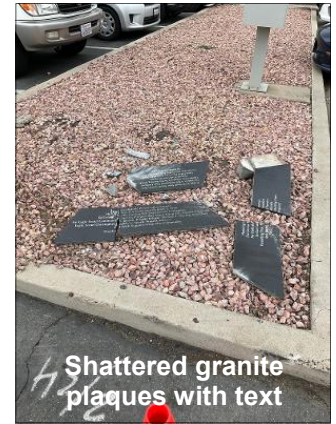
Two volunteers cleaning up the hydrant and marker plaques on Historic Site Marker No. 5 on the day before "the unfortunate hydrant heist" as a part of the historic marker clean up project on October 23, 2021. See page 3 of this Newsletter for a description of the current project.



What was Left Behind?



Toppled monument



Shattered granite plaques with text



Marker is gone after over 23 years

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

Steve & Beata Bizal - BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP

Hugh & Alicia Black

Patricia Campobasso

Becky Floyd

Charles Jameson

Mitch & Karen Lloyd

Doris Haddy

Eric & Karen Maldonado

Fred & Vicki Parr

Maddy Paxton

Tom Richins

Nancy Royce

Ted Taylor

Michelle Watts

Michele Wentworth

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!



Corona
Historic
Preservation
Society

Board of Directors

President - Wes Speake
Vice President - Eric Bergreen
Secretary - Shaylene Cortez
Treasurer - Richard Winn

Directors

Chris McCoy
Paula Muñoz
Amelia Nieves
Mary Winn

Advisors

Marla Benson
Ted Taylor



To contact us call
951.898.2044

Please leave a message



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:

Tuesday, January 25, at 6:30 p.m. at CHPS office
Tuesday February 22, at 6:30 p.m. at CHPS office



www.Corona-History.org



Corona
Historic
Preservation
Society

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



Happy New Year 2022



CHPS has had a formal Historic Marker Program since 1996. Twenty-five 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 seven 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 for more than twenty years.

MARKER LOCATIONS

- 1 Historic Civic Center and 2nd High School site (1923-1960) 815 West Sixth Street
- 2 First Congregational Church 805 S. Ramona
- 3 Site of Marshal G.C. Alexander's murder in 1913 near 512 Howard Street
- 4 Thomas Jefferson Elementary School at 1040 South Vicentia Street
- 5 Corona's first Fire Station site, 717 South Main St.. Soon a co-located second marker will honor Corona's First City Hall (1912-1962), 519 South Main Street at this site.
- 6 Old South Riverside School site (1889-1896), Corona Grammar School (1896-1911), first Lincoln School (1911-1914) and second Lincoln School (1914-1950) (Victoria Park site)
- 7 Site of the Hotel Del Rey 1903-1998 224 E. 6th St.
- 8 Corona's first General Hospital at 812 South Main St.
- 9 Corona's First High School, 1230 Main Street (1906-1923) and First Junior High School (1923-1978) (currently site of Corona Fundamental Intermediate School [CFIS])
- 10 Site of the Start and Finish Line of first two Corona Road Races in 1913, 1914, located on the south side of Grand Blvd. at Washburn Street
- 11 First Baptist Church at 722 South Main Street
- 12 Corona Foothill Lemon Ranch at Corona Heritage Park, 510 West Foothill Parkway
- 13 Corona Santa Fe Railroad Depot, 1887-1982 150 Depot Drive
- 14 Woman's Improvement Club clubhouse at 101 South Main Street
- 15 Andrew Carnegie Library site (1906-1978) at 805 South Main St
- 16 LEMONIA GROVE, 2750 S. Rimpau
- 17 Corona-Sunnyslope Cemetery & Potter's Field 1125 S. Rimpau Street
- 18 Corona Theater-Landmark Building at 201-211 East Sixth Street, 517 Ramona Ave.
- 19 Glen Ivy Hot Springs 10 miles South of Corona on I-15 off Temescal Canyon Road 25000 Glen Ivy Rd
- 20 Third Corona High School site (1961-present) at 1150 West Tenth Street
- 21 Exchange Lemon Products-Sunkist Growers Industrial site (1915-1983) 235 North Joy Street
- 22 Corona's first American Legion Hall, Post 216 at 1024 South Main Street
- 23 Corona Municipal Plunge site (1925-1966) at 930 East Sixth Street (west end)
- 24 George Washington Elementary School Site #1 (1911-1950) at 230 North West Grand Boulevard (S. of 2nd Street)
- 25 Pacific Electric Interurban Railway Depot site (1915-1945) at 301 Main Street