



# Newsletter

November - December 2022  
“Preserving the Best of Corona”  
Editor: Mary Winn E-mail: Toothladytwo@aol.com

## A Message From Our President Wes Speake

Dear Members,

Hopefully I'll be one of the first to wish you and your families a very Happy Holiday as we transition from scary time (election season) to another scary time, Halloween and into Thanksgiving and Christmas. Such a special time for families and our beautiful city.

For our 3rd Quarter Meeting, members of the Society and non-members alike brought their historical items to Historic Civic Center. All had an opportunity to enjoy our shared history. My personal favorites were Terry and Jacqueline Madory's incredible Corona Police Historical collection that seems to grow every time I see it. The highlight for me being

the warrants for the Marshal Alexander



Two of four shadowboxes from the fabulous Madory memento collection

original water pipeline that fed the original town site from Hagador Canyon and my ALL LIGHTS OUT sign from Todd's Christmas Tree Farm. More later in the article on page 4.

The Society Board of Directors will be meeting soon to review our strategic Plan for 2023 so we can continue to bring high quality programs and pursue our mission of PRESERVATION, PROTECTION and PERPETUATION of Corona's historic sites, buildings, neighborhoods and resources. If any of you has any suggestions or ideas of where you would like to see the Society focus our efforts, I invite you to contact me directly.

We are still looking for a dynamic individual to join our Board of Directors. We meet as a Board once a month and enjoy every moment when we meet. We are looking for new ideas and activities to assist us as we celebrate Corona's history. So come join us!

Our annual Holiday Party and General Meeting will



der Murderers and the Grandview Dairy Collection. I brought my 1890s

be held on Monday, December 5th at the historic Woman's Improvement Club. We have some great plans for this year, and in what has become a wonderful tradition, we will enjoy a performance by the Corona High School Madrigals. Their performance is a joyful highlight that I look forward to each year.



All the details may be found in this Newsletter on page 3. I really hope to see you there!

Again, we wish you warm and wonderful Happy Holidays to you and yours!

WES



# Kelly Vela's DIY Restoration-Recreation by Richard Winn

One of our members lives in a historic Victorian home inside the “circle”. It was built by early community leader and Mayor, W.C.Barth. After living in the home for a few years Kelly and her husband Gil realized that their upstairs bathroom really needed the convenience of a closet to store needed items in or near the bathroom. She mobilized her woodworking skills previously honed while making a Victorian screen door and built a corner cabinet that she thinks would cause the Barths to smile knowing that Kelly and Gil love their home.



This is the lay out of the Douglas fir ‘bones’ of the corner cabinet pre glue-up.



This shows the lay out again but the glue-up has begun and the frames are being clamped together



Here we see the Douglas fir shell being glued and clamped. The first of the walnut veneered plywood panels is being attached to the frame.



This image shows the solid walnut door frames being glued and clamped prior to being shaped with a router to the shape and dimensions of the stained glass, that will be inset into the frames.



Walnut door frames with stained glass panels set into place and the carved wooden handles clamped into place.



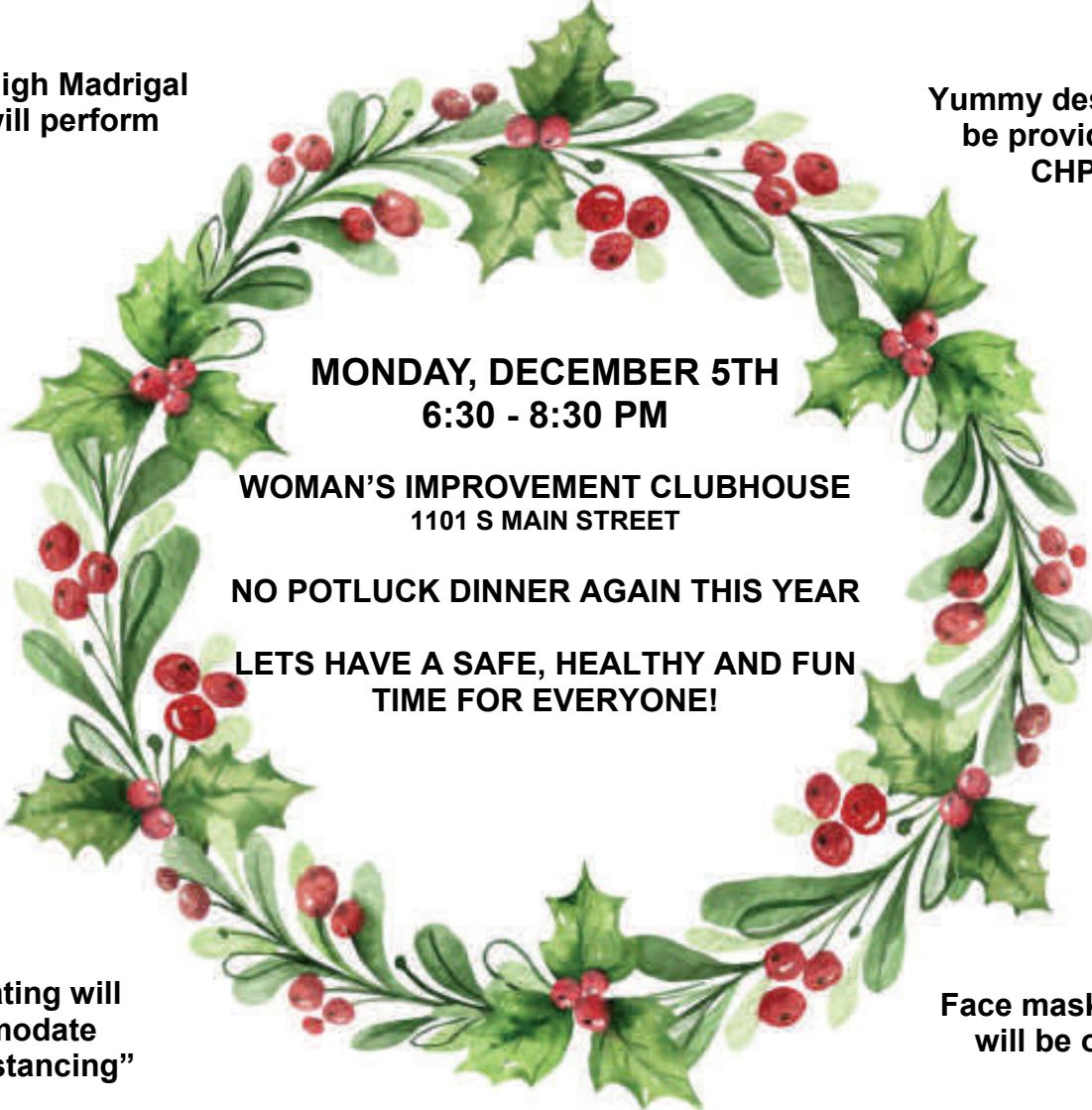
The naturally stained and finished cabinet has been attached to the wall just outside the bathroom. Inside the cabinet are 3 walnut veneered plywood shelves to hide away all the bathroom essentials.

Kelly had purchased the stained glass windows years ago for \$25 without knowing what she was going to do with them . . . She just couldn't pass up such a good deal. They worked perfectly for this project. She feels that her hand crafted screen door and cabinet will be her contribution to the Barth home.

Please join your friends at our  
**CHPS Annual Holiday Celebration  
& Annual Meeting**

Corona High Madrigal  
Choir will perform

Yummy desserts to  
be provided by  
CHPS



**MONDAY, DECEMBER 5TH  
6:30 - 8:30 PM**

**WOMAN'S IMPROVEMENT CLUBHOUSE  
1101 S MAIN STREET**

**NO POTLUCK DINNER AGAIN THIS YEAR**

**LETS HAVE A SAFE, HEALTHY AND FUN  
TIME FOR EVERYONE!**

Table seating will  
accommodate  
“social distancing”

Face mask protocol  
will be optional

**Please contact Doris Osko by December 1st at 951.737-1766 or send an email to  
dorisosko05@hotmail.com — we need to plan for # of attendees!**

The annual election of the CHPS Board of Directors will take place during our Annual Meeting  
Monday, December 5th starting at 6:30 PM.

As of the publication of this *Newsletter*, the Nominations Committee submits the following  
slate of nominations for your consideration:

**Directors:** Eric Bergreen, Shaylene Cortez, Paula Muñoz and Mary Winn

**Advisors:** Marla Benson and Ted Taylor

**As set forth in CHPS Bylaws, a Director's term is two years, Advisor's term is one year.**

# A "Peek at the Past" - 3rd Quarterly Meeting by Eric Bergreen\*

On Saturday, September 24th the CHPS held its 3rd quarterly meeting of 2022 at the Historic Civic Center Community Room. The theme for this event was "A Peek at the Past." We asked members and other Corona natives to bring in any and all historic memorabilia relating to our city, and what a great turnout we had. About twenty-five people showed up with lots of historic artifacts from our beloved city's past. The event kicked off at 10:00 AM with eight tables set up for folks to display their mementos.

CHPS board members brought in our own relics from the past. President Wes Speake displayed a short length of pipe from our city's very first water line out of Hagador Canyon. He also showed off some of Corona's own money he's collected over the years, an old sign from Todd's Christmas tree farm and a shadowbox containing a brick from the wall and photograph of Corona's first City Hall. The matchbook collection I was gifted from my father was also there with matches from some of our city's famous establishments of days past: Mava Ice Cream, The Italian Inn, The Chili Pepper and Hong Kong restaurants to name a few. Rich and Mary Winn displayed their original 1887 map of the city of Auburndale which H. C. Kellogg drew. Historic photographs and probably the last Corona Scenic Route sign from the 1960s, as well as historic photographs could be seen.

Member Vivian Van Ginkel was nice enough to bring in some of her family's history to show off. Her grandfather owned Grandview Dairy and her grandmother owned a flower shop named The Flower Factory. From the dairy she brought in an old milk crate with the original glass milk bottles they used. She also displayed old photos of her grandfather with the racehorse he owned named Moolah Bob. Vivian also brought in



1912 citrus labor union banner: "independiente  
union patriota benefica Mexicana"  
From Mike Cortez collection

pictures and newspaper articles along with a Delft vase that belonged to her grandmother.

Jacqueline Madory showed off beautiful shadowbox display cases full of Corona Police Department (CPD) memorabilia. Inside the cases were plenty of officers' badges, plaques, and awards she and her family have collected over the years. One display held a key to the city, citrus pruning shears, a race ticket from our very first road race and more Corona money. In another there were pictures

of her

and her family members that served with CPD and commemorative batons from when they retired. Another one held a wanted poster from 1914 and a replica badge in memory of Marshal Grant Alexander, the only officer to be killed in the line of duty in Corona's history.

Another member, Barbara Becker, was nice enough to bring in her historic mementos that took up two whole tables. She showed off old trinkets like toys, cameras, a scale from Corona Lumber, a typewriter from Robinson Typewriter Repair, an old rotary dial phone and desk fan and tin plate pictures dating back a century.

CHPS wants to give a big thank you to all who participated in this event and for all who showed up to view the wonderful historic memories and memorabilia on hand. To see the photos and to learn more about our event "A Peek at the Past" you can visit the Corona Historic Preservation Society Facebook group page.



Barbara Becker and  
Mary Winn - pals in preservation



Vivian

\*CHPS is grateful for Eric's photographic talent and his willingness to share with one and all.

# Images from “A Peek at the Past”



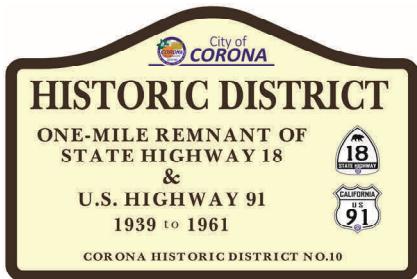
# Restoration of Historic Corona Wooden Traffic Guardrail by Richard Winn

The image below shows the historic wooden barricade guard-rail in 2014 when the rail was seen to be broken, damaged or missing from car crashes and incidents of vandalism.



The image below shows the reconditioned and painted guardrail and the shrubbery trimmed back from the roadway. The historic raised median lane divider can be seen in both pictures. Until the Green River Road lane alignment approaching SR-91, to facilitate entry of more vehicles onto the westbound freeway, these raised median lane dividers existed on Green River Road from near the vicinity of the Fresno Canyon Trail westward to Fresno Road, near the SR-1 eastbound on/off ramps.

Corona's Historic District 10 wooden traffic guardrail and raised highway meridian may be the last remaining



vestige in Riverside County of highway safety standards developed during the 1930s under the auspices of the American Association of State Highway Officials. When the Historic District was established in 2015 the wooden railing was broken, splintered, unpainted, vandalized and looked much the worse for wear. The city's Public Works Department did not have any planned work, on or near this roadway, scheduled for the next 10 years, so no city resources were allocated to bringing it up to the state historic appearance standard at that time.

One of the reasons that no work had been planned on this roadway was that it was built to the federal highway standard to safely handle the volume of heavy truck and auto traffic on US Highway 91. The expected truck traffic did not materialize after 1961 due to the completion of the SR-91 freeway, and the wear and tear on this highway segment was reduced significantly, thus extending the life of the pavement.

One historical fact that is not generally known is that Corona's Santa Ana Canyon segment of this highway was among the first of state highways to be constructed with multiple lanes and with the minimum 4-foot and preferred 6-foot wide curbed center dividing strip to better separate traffic and reduce head-on collisions.

With few streetlights in use on highways, reducing the hazards of nighttime driving prompted the development of a new type of reflective curb for center dividing strips with shallow, angled and painted recesses in the face of the conventional curb to reflect the lane divider to the driver. Take a look next time you are out that way!

CHPS had plans to raise the funds to purchase the missing posts and damaged stringers and install and paint them with volunteer labor. Last month when I drove down Palisades Drive in the evening, something unusual about the barricade clicked in my brain. The following morning I went to check out what I thought I saw. Sure enough, the guardrail had been repaired, reconstructed and repainted. I was very happy to find out that this work was accomplished as a result of a resident's "see-click-fix" request to the city's hotline.

***Many thanks to Gene Silvas and his crew for the restoration!***

# Membership Information

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

Individual Member \$30.00  
Family \$40.00  
Student \$15.00  
Business \$60.00  
Patron \$125.00  
Life \$600.00

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 Our New & Continuing Members

JaNell Acosta  
Barbara Lee Becker  
Sylvia Barnett  
Bennie & Marla Benson  
Becky Floyd  
Janice Coleman  
Michael & Shaylene Cortez

David & Connie Duffy  
Nancy Fay  
Marty & Merrilee Howard—  
Patron Membership  
Steve and Tracy Lech  
John & Barbara McCawley  
Doris Osko

Randy & Susie Rawson  
Mitch & Carol Salgado  
Richard & Karen Schmidt  
Dave & Laura Seltzer  
Jim & Elizabeth Steiner  
Jay Stemska  
Dick Tichy

## 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](mailto: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

Paula Muñoz  
Amelia Nieves  
Kelly Vela  
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 are scheduled for:

**Thursday, Nov. 17, at 6:30 p.m. at CHPS office**

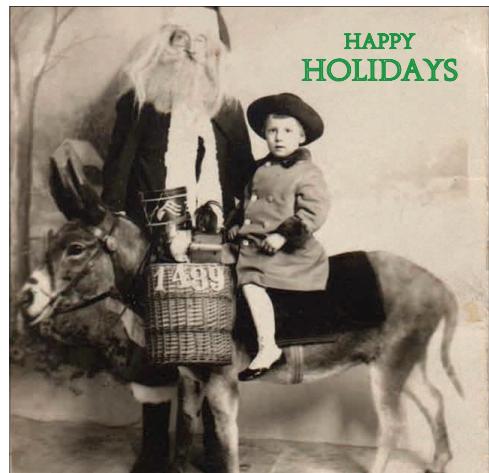
**Monday Dec. 5, at 6:30 p.m. at WICC Clubhouse**



[www.Corona-History.org](http://www.Corona-History.org)



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



**Reminder - Be sure to vote on November 8th!**