

Spring 2022

lookout avenue



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The NEWSLETTER of the LA MESA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Monthly Family-Friendly Programming Kicks Off

Saturday, March 19, 2022

The new monthly Meet Me at the McKinney House family-friendly series of events was kicked off on Saturday March 19. Following a walking tour of historical La Mesa Village led by Society President James Newland, attendees of OH! San Diego, along with neighbors and friends, joined us for a hands-on look at pieces from the archives. Attendees shared their La Mesa memories, got creative with coloring sheets and collage, and played detective with photos from the collection. Join us for Meet Me at the McKinney House on April 9, 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm, for another fun dive into the past.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE!

April 9 & May 14

**Meet Me at the
McKinney House
Family-Friendly Event**



June 4

**La Mesa
Flag Day Parade**



June 12

**Society Annual Meeting
at the McKinney House
Property**



November 5

**La Mesa Historical
Society Home Tour**



STOP AND SMELL THE ROSES

LANDSCAPE UPDATE

The front yard of the McKinney House Museum is finally starting to bloom. “The multi-year landscape project is coming to fruition,” said project chair, Tracey Stotz. Planter boxes filled with red geraniums line the front porch. Plants, including sword fern, hibiscus and snowball bush, which were found in photos of the house from the museum’s interpretive period, have been planted along the house. Irrigation has been expanded to include the garden areas.

Probably the most impactful change is the new memorial rose garden. Those who have been involved with the Society for several years may remember the memorial rose garden that was tucked along the east side of the McKinney House. It was a fundraiser for the Society. A donation was made in recognition of a loved one and that loved one’s name was added to a plaque that stood with the roses.

As part of the landscape renovation, the rose garden has been expanded and pulled out to the front of the house so passersby can also enjoy the lovely roses. The old picket fence has been removed and new trellis fencing has been added. Cecile Brunner roses will be trained up the trellis as they grow. Additional fragrant roses, in a palette of pinks, have been planted between the sidewalk to the house and the trellis. A brick path leads to a new bench in the garden which will allow guests to

stop and smell the roses as well as gaze at the house museum. The next step will be to add mulch and the names of those memorialized in the rose garden.

A gorgeous custom bench is another new addition to the landscape. What makes this wood bench so special is it was made from the enormous 100-year-old Monterey Pine that originally shaded the property. Local artist Brian Pedersen collected a large piece of wood at the time the dead tree was removed in 2020. He allowed the wood to dry then created a spectacular piece which is as much art as a functional bench. It is installed in the landscape overlooking the young pine tree.



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Kew Gardens shrub roses have been added along the street. Although bare root now, they will fill in along the new period-feel fencing that was added along University Avenue and wraps along Pine Street. These small-thorned white roses echo the Cherokee roses that originally lined University Avenue but will serve as a safer choice for pedestrian traffic.

The next big project will be the new sign along University Avenue. Mock-ups of the sign have been done and fabrication should be completed by the summer. After that watch for a shade ramada added to the side yard, a display case for large collection items back by the archives building, rolling planters in the backyard and interpretive signs throughout the property.



"To say this was a group effort is an understatement," said Stotz. From the many individuals who purchased landscape bricks or made large donations to the in-kind support provided by RCP Brick and Block, and La Mesa Lumber there were at least 100 donors. Physical labor was provided by Israel Marquez's team at Marquez Lopez Landscape as well as volunteers. "One of my favorite days during the project was when we planted the roses along University," said Stotz. Volunteers Donna Bloomer, Jake Johnson,

Karolyn Malmin, Sharon Smith and Stotz dug through rock and clay to prep the soil and plant the roses. "It always feels good when you put some sweat equity into a project," she added.

If you would like to be part of the team, led by Board members Michele Greenberg-Mcclung and Sheryl Castro, that pulls weeds around the lemon trees please contact the Society. Much of the installation is done but volunteers are needed to keep the site looking good. Inscribed landscape bricks are also still available for a \$100 donation. The next order will most likely be placed in early summer. Go to the website, lamesahistory.com, and click under Donate then Annual Capital Campaign Funding to purchase a brick.



ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY (IN PERSON)

On December 12, members and friends of the La Mesa Historical Society gathered on McKinney House grounds for a festive celebration of the holidays. While the McKinney House was open and decorated for the season, socializing was centralized in the yard.

Attendees gathered under canopies to chat while holiday music filled the air and holiday cookies, candy and other sweets were in plentiful supply.

A new addition to this year's party was a craft table where party goers could create a pinecone bird feeder to take home or hang on the Society's tree. A highlight of the event was the annual raffle which featured over 40 prizes! Thanks also to all our raffle prize gift donors:

- **Amethyst Moon**
- **Jim & Charlene Craig**
- **Johnny B's**
- **La Mesa Wine and Spirits**
- **Maxwell's House of Books**
- **Dianne McCann**
- **Small Batch Store**
- **LMHS Board Members**

For many in attendance, the last time they had seen each other was the 2019 Holiday Party, and a sense of community was shared by all. Here's to many more Society events on the lawn in the coming months and years!



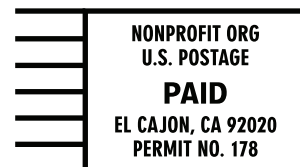
A SPECIAL THANK YOU, TO OUR GUESTS AND MEMBERS!





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The La Mesa Historical Society is an all-volunteer non-profit 501c3 corporation charged with preserving the history of the greater La Mesa area. The La Mesa Historical Society operates the Rev. Henry A. McKinney House, a 1908 House Museum and the Historical Society Archives Research Facility located at 8369 University Avenue in La Mesa, California.

The **Lookout Avenue** is the official quarterly publication of the La Mesa Historical Society. Closing dates for submitting contributions are the 1st of every March, June, September, and December. Word document and jpeg image files preferred.

Submit contributions via email, or email the Editor at info@lamesahistory.com