

Spring 2024



LA MESA
History Center

McKinney House Museum – Research Archives
FOR HOURS AND EVENTS see LAMESAHISTORY.COM

Home of the La Mesa Historical Society
8369 University Ave

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lookout avenue

The NEWSLETTER of the LA MESA HISTORY CENTER

VOLUME 49, #2

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Celebrating our Members

This issue of Outlook Avenue is a celebration of our members. Member support has allowed the La Mesa History Center to promote, collect and educate on and about the history of the Greater La Mesa area over the past year and for nearly 50 years. In this issue, read about the work of early members in Laura Scott's history of the La Mesa History Society Quilters. Get updates on the work supported by our current members to update our landscape at the McKinney House site. And be sure to RSVP for this year's annual business meeting scheduled for Sunday, June 23rd. This event will feature hors d'oeuvres, drinks and a great opportunity to meet your fellow members. See the invitation in this issue for all the details!



Volunteers made it possible for the LMHC to participate in the La Mesa Earth Day celebrations on April 20, 2024.



Member support can take many forms. At the most fundamental level, membership dues allow the LMHC to purchase the archival supplies we need to preserve our collections, maintain the site, and enhance our means of providing access to local history. To that end, the LMHC will be consolidating membership levels in the next fiscal year, starting in July. See the article by Membership Vice-President, Steven Christiansen, for all the details. Donations also support our work and the LMHC has been the recipient of an offer of a \$10,000 matching grant. Details on how you can help us take advantage of this opportunity are in this issue! Financial support is not the only way you can contribute to the LMHC. Check out the "Help Wanted" article for opportunities to volunteer and share your time with the LMHC. Volunteers support our archival work, educational engagement, and community outreach. Whether it is a weekly, monthly or annual commitment of a few hours, our volunteers make the LMHC's work possible.

***Veronica Martzahl, President
La Mesa History Center***

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 8

10 am

LMHC participating in the
La Mesa Flag Day Parade

July 13

1 pm to 4 pm

Thelma Kusche Exhibit
opening event at the
McKinney House

And don't miss the...



Annual Meeting

Sunday, June 23, 2024

3:00 pm to 5:00 pm

McKinney House Yard
8369 University Avenue

The La Mesa History Center Board
cordially invites you to the
2024 Annual Meeting.

Join us for hors d'oeuvres, drinks
and the annual business meeting.

RSVP on Eventbrite at

<https://lmhc-annual-meeting.eventbrite.com>

or send an email to

info@lameshistory.com by 6/16/24.

PROPOSED BOARD SLATE FOR FY 24-25

The Board of Directors would like to submit the following slate to the general membership for review and a vote at the June 23 Annual Meeting.

Executive Board

President – Veronica Martzahl
Vice President – Tracey Stotz
Secretary – Kristine Alessio
Co-Treasurers – Spencer and Stephanie Peters
Vice President of Membership – Steve Christiansen
Past President – Jim Newland

General Board

Samantha Alberts
Emily Alessio
Donna Bloomer
Ann Marie “Ammy” Provancha

Terms Continuing

Dianne McCann
Brenna Peirson
Sharon Smith

Our sincere thanks to outstanding Board members Steven Churchill and Michele Greenberg-McClung who have completed their final terms and to Sheryl Castro who is stepping down at the end of this fiscal year. All have agreed to continue to help the History Center in key volunteer roles. We are so appreciative of their continued commitment to local history.

EXCITING CHANGES ARE COMING TO LMHC MEMBERSHIP PLANS!

The La Mesa History Center (LMHC) has decided to refine our membership plans to better align with our mission and community needs. Some of these changes will include new exciting benefits, a subscription option with auto renew, and additional payment options.

Effective July 1, 2024, we will be offering the following membership plans:

Friend - \$25

Membership Benefits:

- 1-vote status
- Discounts on LMHC events
- Discounts at LMHC research archives
- Special invitations to events
- Receive Quarterly LMHC Newsletter
- Annual Newsletter Recognition

Patron - \$100

Includes Friend membership benefits **plus**:

- 2 free tickets to the Annual Home Tour (transferrable)

Benefactor - \$250

Includes Friend membership benefits **plus**:

- 2 free tickets to the Annual Home Tour (transferrable)
- Quarterly Newsletter Recognition
- LMHC "Supporters" Recognition (webpage)

Jewel - \$1000+

Includes Friend membership benefits **plus**:

- Lifetime membership
- 4 free tickets each year to the Annual Home Tour (transferrable)
- Quarterly Newsletter Recognition

Finally, we want to express our gratitude for your continued support of the La Mesa History Center and in helping us preserve and celebrate the rich heritage of our community.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding these changes, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at membership@lamesahistory.com. Your feedback is invaluable as we navigate this transition together.

\$10,000 MATCHING GRANT OPPORTUNITY TO HELP WITH LANDSCAPE

As you may know, the La Mesa History Center is a non-profit organization and does not receive any government funding. We are an all-volunteer organization actively engaged in preserving the greater La Mesa area's unique heritage for future generations to learn from, see and enjoy.

We cover an area which includes the unincorporated part of Mt. Helix through La Mesa all the way to the Rolando area near San Diego State. Our Center is anchored by the McKinney House Museum. Behind the museum we also have research archives where we collect and store items valuable to the area. Throughout the school year we have San Diego State history students who intern with our professional historians as well as trained volunteers who help with our large collection. We may be small but we are mighty and have a strong presence in the area.

We are in the midst of a multi-year site renovation project which has included a complete change of the landscape to make it more user-friendly for programming as well as bringing it back to our interpretive period when the McKinney House was part of a larger ranch parcel. If you have followed our progress you know it all started with the death of the 100+ year old pine tree which we have replaced and we had a gorgeous bench built from the old tree. We then leveled the site and added decomposed granite in place of grass to help with the water bill as well as provide a flat backdrop of more programming. There were many pieces to the project including repainting the house, adding planters and plants, moving the memorial rose

garden to the front of the property and replacing the vinyl fencing with wooden fencing featuring chicken wire insets which would have been similar to what was originally on site in the early 1900s. We also added a gorgeous monument sign along University Avenue that proudly states who we are. We recently added an exterior display that allows us to tell the story of the citrus ranches that were common in the area during our interpretive period. Next up are more interpretive signage, a display building (roughly 9x6 feet) to house large items that we don't currently have a way to display and a lighted trellis to cover tables for our Saturday "Meet Me at the McKinney House" programming as well as other events.

The quotes we have on the two largest components left on the project range from \$25,000 to \$56,000. **To help us with a jump start of funding, an anonymous donor has generously issued a \$10,000 matching gift.** If you have enjoyed the progress we have made and would like to help us cross the finish line please consider making a gift to the landscape campaign. You can mail in a check to our PO Box 882, La Mesa, CA. 91944 or donate with this website link https://lamesahistory.com/product/variable_donation/. All variable donations will count toward the campaign.

Thank you for your support. Let's get this done!

LA MESA HISTORY SOCIETY QUILTERS

Members have been the backbone of the La Mesa History Center (nee Historical Society) since its earliest days. One key group volunteered their time and talents to form the Quilters group which funded much of the Society's early activities. Intern Laura Scott has spent the spring processing their records and scrapbooks. Below is the group's history she wrote to accompany this collection.

On Friday morning, September 15, 1978, a group of women met in the McKinney House dining room to form a quilting circle. Present were Gail Chance (who served as temporary Chairman), Gladys Cherry (Recorder), Mildred Bryon, Margaret Pearson, Thelma Todd, Pat Kettler, and Woody Linke. This club began with the objective of fundraising for renovations of the historic McKinney House. Twelve ladies began meeting on Monday mornings (around 10 a.m.) at Gail Chance's house. Most of these La Mesa Historical Society (LMHS) members did not know how to quilt. They utilized each other's strengths and learned the art of quilting bedding and clothes, producing around one hundred quilts for over two decades.

The LMHS Quilters began their fundraising adventures by restoring a quilt donated by Ruth McKinney. In 1920, Ruth married Joyce McKinney, the middle son of Rev. Henry A. McKinney.

Nadine Washburn donated a quilt to the group to complete for the July 1, 1979, Ice Cream Social Raffle, the first of many events for the Quilters group. The 1979 Ice Cream Social Quilters table fundraised over \$800 from quilting sales. Every Ice Cream Social Raffle after 1979 earned hundreds of dollars from the Quilters sales for the Society. Smaller projects, Christmas decorations, aprons, pot holders, etc. (all made in a quilted style) were additional fundraising materials this growing membership created.

After Gail Chance resigned as Chairman on February 12, 1980, due to illness, the Quilters group resumed quilting baby quilts and donated tops on March 3, 1980. The new co-chairman, Julie Bras and Nadine Washburn (assisted by Mildred Bryan), met with the seven other women at Thelma Todd's home every Wednesday at 10 a.m. Mr. Swearengin made a big quilting frame for the quilters to work on the glassed-in front porch of Thelma's historic home. Four women worked on each side of the frame while others worked beside the frame to sew baby quilts.

In October 1980, some of the LMHS Quilters' quilts were exhibited at a quilt show at the San Diego Historical Society's Villa Montezuma Museum. Since the group began two years ago, it has participated in two sales at Grossmont Center, one downtown La Mesa sale, two Christmas sales at the McKinney Open House, and three Ice Cream Socials, fundraising a total of over a thousand dollars to the renovations of the McKinney estate.

In March 1984, after some McKinney house renovations were finished, the Quilters centralized their activities at the McKinney House's upstairs east bedroom. By this time, the Quilters had acquired more quilting expertise and opened their quilting services for a fee. The group's members were Beatrice Acers, Ethel Allen, Julie Bras, Mildred Bryan, Margaret Pearson, and Nadine Washburn. When their teaching work permitted, Barbara Copeland and Carol Lockwood joined the group.

By October 1985, the Quilters had gained five more members. The meetings, in turn, expanded from Wednesday mornings from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. to all-day sessions at the McKinney House. In December 1985 (directed by Beatrice Acers), the LMHS Quilters exhibited more than 20 quilts ranging from the 1870s to 1985 at the LMHS Christmas Open House. The Quilters were well

represented at the prestigious San Diego Quilt Show at the Masonic Temple in Mission Valley in September 1987. They exhibited two large quilts and one baby quilt. By November 1987, the Quilters group continued to grow to a total of 16 members.

After the Thelma Palermo Building Research Room completed construction behind the McKinney House, the Quilters' meetings transferred to the Palermo Building's all-purpose workroom to accommodate the size of members quilting on Wednesday mornings (9 a.m. to 12 p.m.). The highest point in membership was 18 Quilters during the early 1990s. Their members were: Nadine Washburn, Ethel Allen, Julia Bras, Bettie Burns, Eleanor Doerr, Judy Howard, Eleanor Meyer, Jean Ohmsteade, Marie Parkhurst, Margaret Pearson, Jerry Schatz, June Skalecky, Marie Taylor, LaVelle Vaughn, Irma Wiley, Beatrice Acers, and newcomers Libby Falter and Elaine McAlpin. Not everyone visited every week.

The Quilters agreed to holidays off, and some women would arrive at 9 a.m., but most trailed in at 10 a.m. The Quilters began meeting less frequently around the late 1990s and essentially ceased operations in the early 2000s. Over the course of the group's existence, their fundraising efforts supported most of the McKinney House renovations during the first two decades of the La Mesa Historical Society. The Thelma Palermo building is now the home of the Archival Research Room.

Did You Know?

Sometimes archival supply vendors do not have the right supplies available for the care and storage of our collection materials. In those cases, archives volunteers need to get creative! Check out these photos of an oversized box that was recently built to house oversized photographs.



Help Wanted

**The La Mesa History Center
is looking for volunteers to help with:**

**Communications/Social
Media Committee**

**Onsite and Community
Events and Outreach**

McKinney House docents

Stop by the Archives Saturdays - 1pm and 4pm - or send any email to info@lamesahistory.com for more information or to volunteer.

THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS

The La Mesa History Center thanks you for your continued support.

Jewel - Lifetime Members

Konrad and Patricia Andersen	Tim Katzman	Sara Megling
Judith Beardslee	Dave Kesner	Kathleen Olsen
Ed Blackman	Pat Kettler	Jonathan and Mary Parker Earnest
Ron and Vickie Cady	Andrew and Lloyd Kitzman	Judy Platt
Peter Camana	Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Knutson	Pamela Rader
Sheryl Castro	Ruth Kramer	Jeff Raybould
Jane Chianese	La Mesa Woman's Club	Donna Regan
Sharon Crockett	Diane Lapp	Dr. and Mrs. Andrew Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Duggan	Frances Lee	Jim Stieringer
Andrea Flint-Gogek	Brenda Leek (Curbside Eatery)	Rick and Pat Sweeney
John and Rita Folsom	Brice and Carol Lockwood	Aileen Teague
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hanson	Earlene Lourenco	Suzanne Trelease
Norm Hapke	Jeremy and Katie Martinson	Eldon and Darlene Vogt
Evangeline R. Nelson Homer	Vince and Kay McGrath	Leslie Witherspoon
Terry Hovland	Sandie McNulty	Dorothy Young

Benefactors

Melanie Estes	Larry Liebermensch	John and Valerie Richardson
Esther Drew Long	Donna Niemeier	Gina Vattuone

Courtesy Memberships

East County Gazette	Lemon Grove Historical Society	Linda and Mike McWilliams (San Pasqual Winery)
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Patrons

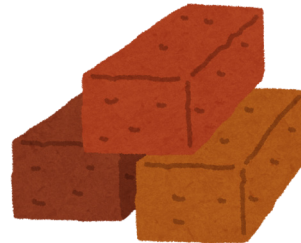
Karlene Akers	Diane Finch-Payne	Veronica Martzahl
Kristine Alessio	Jolene Harwell	Toni Moseley
Kimberly and Bob Bardin	Janine Hurd-Glenn	Jim Newland
Donna Bloomer	Karen Kill	Kitty Nicholson
Cecilia Brock	Lisa and Dan Kincaid	Wendy Parcel
Don Cary	Gary King	Cathleen Pearson
Michele Cowdery	Ed and Sharon Krulikowski	Donald Pogoloff
Steven Christiansen	Jennifer Slemmer	Brenda Richmond
Diane Culp	Daniel Lamb	Lorna Stafford-Bentley
Keith Dindinger	Tom LaMar	Barbara Stevens
Karin Dodson	John Loughlin	Tracey Stotz
Aaron Duggan	Dianne McCann	Judy Zika
George Fahouris		

Family, Individual and Student Members

Ziba Ahkami	Richard and JoAnne Hoy	Susan Richardson
Ellen Arcadi	Kirsten Iversen	John Robbins
Connie and Lynn Baer	Catherine Jervey	Mark Rothermich
Dania Barroso-Conde	Paul Johnson	Michael Rummel
Melanie Bennett	Bonnie Kaley	Jennifer Russell
Kathy Bernal	Fay Kandarian	Janis Schlundt
April Bolduc	Mary Kirk	Ann Schwartzwald
Brad and Jo-Ann Boswell	Noelle Krueger	Nancy Shelton
Lee Buby	Barbara Lais	Nadia and Vera Skop
John and Laura Buie	Dan Lee	Marva Smith
Charlotte Cagan	Jennifer Leich	Pat Smith
Karen Cassimatis	Emilie Mason	Sharon Smith
Steven and Patricia Churchill	Michael Matteucci	Rose Snow
Alan Collins	Joe and Michele McClung	Karen Stauffer
Charles Correia	Jody McKenzie	Bonnie Stinchcomb
Charlene and James Craig	Richard McLaughlin	Diane Svensson
Cheri Crepeau	Constance Miller	Courtney Teske
Kimberley Doudna	Sue Mountain	Kathy Tinsley

Gail Duffield	Troy Murphree	Sandia Tuttle
Tina and Jerrie Erwin	Carrie Nanninga	Isaac Ullah
Mary Frazer	Doug and Brenda Neill	Suzanne Vattuone
Marisa Garza	Susan Nichols	Kurt Vozely
Becky Gauger	Kyle Olewnik	Glenda Wade
Andrea Goicoechea	Kristina Parks	Sean Warner
John Grasberger	Sally Parrish	Susan Watts
Herbert Hafter	Brenna Peirson	Ginger Weatherford
Laura and Guy Halgren	Carol and Charles Perkins	Cynthia Wevers
Matthew Halgren	Andy Phemister	Lisa Whitmore
Kathleen Havilan	Steve Pisnta	Lori Wilcox
Richard Hilton	Krista Powers	Mike and Cindy Williams
Caroline Hoag	Megan Price	Sue Williamson
Steve Hochberger and Troy	AnnMarie Provancha Virginia	Bud and Vicki Willis
McCreeley	Przybylski	Holly Yarris
Bill Hoffman	Mary Putnam	Judith Zander
	Anne Ramos	

Thank you !

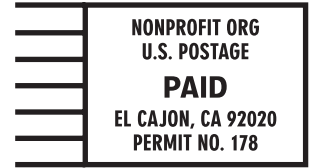


**To everyone who participated in our
“Buy a Brick” fundraiser.
A map and brick-finder key is now
available at the McKinney House
and the Archives Resource Room.**



McKINNEY HOUSE MUSEUM
AND HISTORY CENTER
ARCHIVES RESEARCH FACILITY

8369 University Avenue
La Mesa, CA 91942



LMHC MAILING ADDRESS
P.O. Box 882
La Mesa, CA 91942

A decorative banner with a dark green background and a multi-colored border (yellow, purple, orange). It contains contact information for the La Mesa History Center.

 lamesahistory.com  [LaMesaHistoryCenter](https://www.facebook.com/LaMesaHistoryCenter)

 [619.466.0197](tel:619.466.0197)  [@LaMesaHistoryCenter](https://www.instagram.com/LaMesaHistoryCenter)

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

The **Lookout Avenue** is the official quarterly publication of the La Mesa History Center. 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