

Summer 2025

# lookout avenue

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The NEWSLETTER of the LA MESA HISTORY CENTER

VOLUME 50, #2



# PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

## HISTORIC ANNIVERSARY YEAR FOR THE LMHC KICKS OFF!

### *History is happening every day!*

As sesquicentennial celebrations begin to ramp up to commemorate the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding, the La Mesa History Center is also excited to be ramping up our own celebrations for the group's 50th anniversary. Events will officially kick off at our annual meeting and picnic on Sunday, June 29th. This event will run from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm and we are excited to announce that it will have a theme of the 1970's to bring back memories of our founding. In addition to a short program and voting session for next year's Board membership, a new exhibit, 50 Years of Documenting La Mesa, will open in the McKinney House exhibit room. The exhibit will highlight the McKinney family, the history of the McKinney House and the amazing volunteers who came together in 1975 to form the La Mesa Historical Society.

Attendees are encouraged to bring out their best vintage 1970s outfits to show off their style. Since we will be meeting a little later in the evening we will have a food truck serving a selection of burgers, fries and beverages. If you are a current member, be sure to check your mailbox for your invitation postcard arriving soon and be sure to RSVP by at [info@lamesahistory.com](mailto:info@lamesahistory.com) by June 15th so we can make sure to have food and festivities for everyone!

The 50th anniversary of the first La Mesa Historical Society Meeting falls on September 14th and our incorporation day is in early October - all very close to the lead up to the 19th Annual Home Tour so celebrations of those events will largely be virtual on our social media sites.

Be sure to follow the La Mesa History Center on Facebook and Instagram to keep up on our "50 Facts about the La Mesa History Center" series for more of these milestones. Additionally, we do hope to continue our Oral History program through the fall. So far we have been able to connect with a few of the founding members of the Society and we look forward to sharing their remembrances of the organization's early days.

Here's to 50 more years of documenting the Greater La Mesa region!

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

### ARE YOU A BOOKKEEPER, TREASURER, OR CPA? (CURRENTLY WORKING OR RETIRED)

The La Mesa History Center is looking for a volunteer to assist with our monthly Profit/Loss reporting, annual budgeting and submission of our annual state and federal fiscal forms.

If you are interested, contact us at [info@lamesahistory.com](mailto:info@lamesahistory.com) for more information.



## **Annual Meeting and Picnic**

***You're  
Invited***

**Sunday, June 29, 2025**

**4:00 pm to 6:00 pm**

**McKinney House Yard**

**RSVP by June 15th to:**

**[info@lamesahistory.com](mailto:info@lamesahistory.com)**

**so we can plan food and festivities**

# PROPOSED BOARD SLATE FOR FY 25-26

**The Board of Directors would like to submit the following slate to the general membership for consideration and a vote at the June 29 Annual Meeting.**

## **Executive Board**

President – Veronica Martzhal  
Vice President- James Newland  
Secretary – AnnMarie Provancha  
Treasurer -  
VP Membership – Emily Alessio

## **General Board**

Kristine Alessio  
Steven Churchill  
Dan Lee  
John Loughlin  
Sharon Smith  
Tracey Stotz  
Kevin Vigil

## **Terms Continuing**

Samantha Alberts  
Donna Bloomer

**Our sincere thanks to outstanding Board members Steven Christiansen and Dianne McCann who have completed their terms. Both have agreed to continue to help the History Center in volunteer roles. We are so appreciative of their continued commitment to local history.**



# **Remembering the Initial La Mesa Historical Society Board**

**November 1975 - June 1976**

President - Lloyd Donahoo

1<sup>st</sup> VP (Museum) - T. William Orsborn

2<sup>nd</sup> VP - James A. Parker

3<sup>rd</sup> VP (Social/Fund-raising) - Helen  
Wood Linke

Secretary - Lena Kasitz

Treasurer - Clifford H. Asay

Directors: Eric Sanders, Pat Kettler,  
Joan Wiken, James Orsborn, Thelma  
J. Todd (Memorabilia)

“Where is it Wednesday” posts have been the most popular and feature a historic photo of a location in La Mesa, or the surrounding area, then we ask followers to guess at the location and tell us what they know about it. Sheldon’s Filling Station in the Village was a big hit as people enjoyed knowing more about its history as well as finding out about the historic plaque program that is co-sponsored with the La Mesa Rotary. Next time you are on either of those platforms take a peek at our social media and join in the community discussion. #historyisfun



JOIN THE LMHC FOR THE  
**LA MESA FLAG  
DAY PARADE**

SATURDAY, JUNE 14TH  
STARTING AT 10:00 AM

The parade travels west through  
La Mesa Village along La Mesa Blvd,  
between Memorial and Acacia



# SITE RENOVATIONS UPDATE

## The Display Building and Trellis are Complete

If you have driven by the History Center site lately you have noticed the new display building and shade trellis are complete. These two projects are two of the largest components of the landscape renovation project and we are thrilled to finally have them done. Both provide us with more opportunities for outdoor interaction with the public and allow us to interpret local history to a wider audience. Next we will be working on the first display for the new building and then interpretive signage which will be added throughout the site. The first sign will be located near the lemon crate interactive exhibit on Pine Street and will tell the history of the citrus industry in La Mesa. A \$1000 grant from the La Mesa Rotary will pay for that sign. We are still looking for an additional \$4000 to fund the rest of the exterior signage.

If you would like to contribute to the site development consider making a donation of any size. 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/](https://lamesahistory.com/product/variable_donation/)

All variable donations will count toward the campaign. Thank you to those who have made recent gifts.



**SAVE THE DATE**

**19<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
HOME TOUR**

**SATURDAY,  
NOVEMBER 8TH**





# HISTORY CENTER HOLDS FIRST COMMUNITY ARCHIVING DAY

A light drizzle didn't dampen the spirits of the volunteers and community members who gathered at the History Center on Saturday, May 3rd for the LMHC's first Community Archiving Day. SDSU Anthology professor Dr. Issac Ullah and his cadre of students assisted LMHC Board members in describing and digitizing photos and documents brought in by the community. Over 100 items were digitized for inclusion in the LMHC collections and many people also donated their original photos and documents. Additionally, several people provided memories of life in La Mesa by giving short oral history interviews.

Couldn't make the Community Archiving Day but have photos and documents you would be interested in sharing with the LMHC? Send us an email at [info@lamesahistory.com](mailto:info@lamesahistory.com) to start a conversation.



# THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS

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

## Jewel & Lifetime Members

Ed Blackman	Norm Hapke	Vince and Kay McGrath
Ron and Vickie Cady	Linda Lee Hill	Pamela Rader
Peter Camana	Terry Hovland	Jeff Raybould
Sheryl Castro	Dave Kesner	Eldon and Darlene Vogt
Charlene and James Craig	Brenda Leek	Leslie Witherspoon
Jane Chianese	Larry Liebermensch	The Rotary Club of La Mesa
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Duggan	Jeremy and Katie Martinson	La Mesa Woman's Club
Andrea Flint-Gogek	Jonathan Parker and Mary	La Mesa Police Officers
John and Rita Folsom	Earnest	Association

## Benefactors

Keith Achman	John and Valerie Richardson
April Bolduc	Brenda Richmond
Lisa and Dan Kincaid	Teresa Starrs
Larry Liebermensch	Jim Stieringer
Esther Long	Susan and Michael Stowe
Donna Niemeier	

## Patrons

Barbara Adolphe	David Lakin
Kristine Alessio	Daniel Lamb
Kathy Allen	Lauren Lehman
Donna Bloomer	Julie and David Lockard
Don Cary	John Loughlin
Nancy Cavanaugh-Wilson	Veronica Martzahl
Steven Christiansen	Dianne McCann
Karin Claisse	Brian McNeece
Michele Cowdery	David Messina
Cheri Crepeau	Anthony Mondini
Diane Culp	Toni Moseley
David Cuzick	Stephanie Murphy
Keith Dindinger	Wayne Mushet
Karin Dodson	Jim Newland
Aaron Duggan	Kitty Nicholson
George Fahouris	Wendy Parcel
Becky Gauger	Cathleen Pearson
Jolene Harwell	Ruth Plache
William Hazle	AnnMarie Provancha
Erik Hensersky	Michael Roditti
Nathan and Elizabeth Hileman	Thomas Roetker
Joseph and Israel Hofmann/Huerta	Sharon Smith
James Hopkins	Cynthia Sonnabaum
Janine Hurd-Glenn	Tracey Stotz
Catherine Jervey	Maureen Tess Fieberg
Janie Kelley	Danielle Tinsley
Karen Kill	Sandia Tuttle
Gary and Cindy Rambis King	Isaac Ullah



## Friend & Family Members

Bill Ashman	Kimberly and Bruce McIntyre
Dawn Barr	Samuel Narveson
Lee Buby	Kristina Parks
Charlotte Cagan	Sally Parrish
Ruth Contino	Brenna Peirson
Charles Correia	Rhoda Quate
Don and Julie DeMent	Michelle Redfield
Dominick Fiume	Mark Rothermich
Sharon and Robert Garcia	Nancy Shelton
Connie Garner	Victor Skliarov
Herbert Hafter	Nadia and Vera Skop
Guy Halgren	Lee Smith
Laura Halgren	Rose Snow
Kathleen Havilan	Shawn Townsend
Richard and JoAnne Hoy	Greg Truesdale
Judi Jeffery	Linda Ullah
Linda Johnson	Suzanne Vattuone
Peggy Junker	Kurt Vozely
Bonnie Kaley	Glenda Wade
Fay Kandarian	Sean Warner
Vera Skop Knianicky	Susan Wayne
Barbara Lais	Ginger Weatherford
Dan Lee	Lori Wilcox
Michael Matteucci	Judith Zander

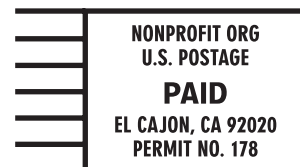
## Courtesy Members

Lemon Grove Historical Society  
Mike and Linda McWilliams (San Pasqual Winery)



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



[lamesahistory.com](http://lamesahistory.com)



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



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](mailto:info@lamesahistory.com)**