

A Message From Your President Fred Parr

Dear Members,

I came to realize that summer is here at the Corona Antiques & Collectibles Faire on Saturday, June 4th. Temperatures were hovering in the 90s, but between the beautiful trees at Corona Heritage Park and Society members offering free lemonade, we were cool and able to enjoy another great Faire. This has become a great annual event and I am always able to find a couple treasures that I feel I cannot live without.

We also just had our second Quarterly Meeting with a tour of lovely downtown Claremont. Although I could not be there, I heard that most in attendance agreed that Claremont has done a great job not only highlighting and saving, but adding to the history of their downtown.

I have had the pleasure of serving on the Board of the CHPS for a couple of years now and enjoy being able to help just a little with encouraging and advocating for historical preservation. Throughout the years, Society members have generously volunteered their time and effort to educate the community on the meaning of preservation, acted as community spokespersons and advocates to ensure preservation, and promoted preservation through education, advocacy and social interaction. Although, we have always had wonderful overachievers, many of us have helped where we had an interest, assisted on a committee, or helped at a specific event such as being a docent at our Vintage Home Tour. Historic Preservation is multi-faceted and there is a need for many hands within the partnering organizations to work towards our common goals. With that said did you

know that volunteering can give you great satisfaction by incorporating service into your life and making a difference in your community? Beyond feelings of pride, satisfaction and accomplishment, when we share our time and talents we can solve problems, strengthen our community, improve lives and connect with others. There is even research presented by the Corporation for National and Community Service, in a report titled “The Health Benefits of Volunteering: A Review of Recent Research” that has established a strong relationship between volunteering and health. Those who volunteer have lower mortality rates, greater functional ability, and lower rates of depression later in life than those who do not volunteer. The Corona Historic Preservation Society has a fun and productive group of people who help where they can to continue the tradition of this 33 year old non-profit organization. The CHPS Board of Directors meets on the third Thursday of each month at our office which is located in Suite 180 at the Historic Corona Civic Center (815 W 6th St). Any and all members are invited to attend to learn more about what we do. If you think volunteering at any level might be something you’re interested in, please contact me, another Board member, or simply visit us at our monthly meeting. We have a formal agenda at our meetings and move through it as the professional and mature folks that should be, but fair warning, we also laugh and sometimes have a little too much fun so make sure to bring your smiley face. Thank you all for your support and membership.

Best wishes,

FRED PARR



CHPS Anniversary Acknowledgement



Please take note that Corona Historic Preservation Society was officially founded 33 years ago on May 14, 1983 in a meeting room of the Corona Public Library. CHPS is in its 34th year and there were 35 charter members at the Society’s very first meeting.

At that time, library patron parking was located beneath the tile-faced library structure, replaced by the current building in 1993, and one had to walk up the stairs or take an elevator to reach the entrance to the library. Small meeting rooms with running water and sinks were located to the sides of the elevator on the main floor.

2016 Vintage Home Tour By Doris Osko

There were many familiar faces at the April 30th Vintage Home Tour as many friends of CHPS once again took part in the annual event which featured three vintage homes and a historic church. The "Brockman Home" at 1119 Palm Avenue was built between 1907 and 1909. "Brown's Corner" at 1022 Ramona Avenue was built in 1893 and then updated in 1900, and "Rocking Horse Manor" at 915 Ramona Avenue was built in 1898. Completing the tour was the First Congregational Church located at 805 Ramona Avenue. Needless to say, different owners with a love of Corona's history have dwelt in the homes since they were built so long ago. CHPS is very grateful to the present owners: Dan and Virginia "Ginnie" Swift (The Brockman House,) Shawnie Querner and daughter Michele Jackson ("Brown's Corner,") and Helen Hughes ("The Rocking Horse Manor.") The First Congregational Church was indeed the first church in Corona and has existed continuously with a congregation since 1887. The original wooden building was replaced in 1910-11 with the present structure.

CHPS is also grateful to the many volunteers who acted as docent-greeters at each site to educate guests regarding the history and the architectural fine points of each edifice. There were special attractions at each location including a quilting demonstration by Karen Jones at the Querner residence. Guests also commented on the cactus garden and teapot collection at the Hughes residence, and enjoyed the many piano and organ selections by talented Dr. George Beloz at the First Congregational Church. Corona Mayor Jason Scott, accompanied by his lovely wife Dee, presented a Proclamation from the city thanking those who graciously allowed the use of their homes and the church for the tour. This shows the city's concern for preservation of irreplaceable reminders of the past.

Past president and CHPS Advisor Tom Richins and his wife, Sunny, were stationed at their vintage home on Grand Boulevard which served as headquarters for the tour. Also helping out at this location were Past President Christine Gary and former Director Jackie Bland. Chair of this fund raiser event was Paula Muñoz assisted by members of the Board. She and the Board are already eagerly searching for sites for the 2017 tour. Money earned will go to support CHPS's Home Preservation Grant program which assists in funding restoration projects and exterior refurbishment of Corona's older homes.

Generous sponsors and supporters of this year's tour are: AAA Florist, ALLEGRA Print● Marketing● Mail, City of Corona, Corona Heritage Garden Society, Corona Heritage Park & Museum, Corona Rose Florist, Express Employment Professionals, Hemborg Ford, Sam's Club, Sprouts, Stater Brothers, Barbara McCollough and Judy Porter from the Realty One Group, Linda Holmes and our official CHPS photographer Akio Yoshikawa.

View additional tour photos online by visiting www.Corona-History.org, click on VHT tab, then select 2016 VHT



Christine Gary & Jackie Bland



Richins' home served as our headquarters



George Beloz at the church's Robert Morgan pipe organ



**Donna Allosado & Paula Muñoz
Paula was Event Chair of the Tour**



Recap of the Riverside County History Symposium By Richard Winn

On Saturday, May 7, 2016, the historic Murrieta Hot Springs Resort (now the Murrieta Hot Springs Christian Conference Center) hosted the 2016 Riverside County History Symposium.

Four speakers spoke in the historic resort theater on topics that kept one's attention. All used Powerpoint slide shows to provide excellent visuals to complement their oral presentations.

The first speaker was author and Norco history expert, Kevin Bash on the topic: *Rex's Folly: The Fabulous Story of the Norconian Resort Supreme*. This was a captivating presentation with numerous images of the beautiful interiors and expansive exteriors of the historic resort, naval hospital and Naval Surface Warfare Center.

The second speaker, Steve Williamson, spoke on: *The Life and Career of Erle Stanley Gardner* whose 800+ acre ranch was located in Temecula. He also detailed the exploits of Gardner's most well known character, Perry Mason.

Jean Keller addressed an unusual topic: *Before Sherman Institute - The Perris Indian School*, an interesting topic that few if any participants knew anything about before hearing the presentation and after the



CHPS members attending the Symposium from L-R: Doris Osko, Lee Hansen, Noella Benvenuti, event organizer Steve Lech, Roger Benvenuti and Richard Winn

presentation were made aware of much very interesting Native-American history in our region.

The concluding presentation: *Celebrities in Hiding - Famous Faces Come to Desert Hot Springs* was presented by long time resident and author Audrey Moe. She identified the people and places where celebrities could be found from the 1920s to the 1960s, either as residents there or just visiting this desert oasis.

New Historic District Signs for Grand Boulevard

Last year CHPS was able to place signs to mark 9 of Corona's 10 Historic Districts. It took a while to come up with a design that complimented the signs already placed and that would honor our National Register of Historic Places recognized District.

It is not difficult to conceive how a circular roadway, almost one mile in diameter and nearly three miles in circumference is something special. City founder Robert B. Taylor had an idea that would set South Riverside (Corona) apart from every other community in America and his designated Civil Engineer Hiram Clay Kellogg executed his concept to perfection.

Who would have thought that the early concept of having a circular trail, road or park-like-roadway where families could take their carriages and wagons for a "spin" on a weekend evening would host three international grand races (1913, 1914 and 1916) where the world's best automobile racers would compete and during World War II its shape would be an acknowledged



navigation aid for enemy Japanese aircraft intending to bomb the continental U.S.

To the left is a representation of the signs that appear at major intersections approaching Grand Boulevard. They have been placed high up on the nearest concrete street light poles on Main Street and Sixth Street as well as the intersection of Garretson Avenue with "the boulevard" and the exit from the RTA terminal on the northeast side of the circle.



View of sign placed at the pocket park located at the northern terminus of Garretson Avenue and East Grand Boulevard

The Miguel's Story By Wes Speake

I remember my first meal eaten at the original Miguel's on Sixth Street. I was 12 years old. It was within the first month my family moved to Corona. It's as vivid a memory as the first time I hit a homerun or lit a firecracker, a childhood rite of passage. I remember racing my brothers to open the two sets of heavy dark wooden doors with the threat of multitude of cacti and the two huge yuccas by the doors that stretched into the sky that gave the restaurant a distinct feel and look. I was mesmerized by the cacti; it was a mix of fear that one of my brothers was going to push me into it and how cool it looked, like a yucca and cacti fortress filled with amazing food. The comfy booths, the tiny bathroom next to the kitchen, all very vivid memories. Three words: Fried Ice Cream . . . nuff said.

To be entirely truthful, I had been eating Miguel's for years before I ever set foot in the restaurant since my aunt Judy used Miguel's catering for everything from birthdays to engagement parties and at least one wedding. The original Miguel's restaurant was opened in July of 1973 by Mike and Mary Vasquez, at 1703 West Sixth Street. Miguel's was named after Mike's grandfather Miguel. The original building previously housed other full service Mexican restaurants: *Comida Linda* Fine Mexican Food in the late 1960s and *The Chili Peppers* Sonora Style Mexican Food in the early 1970s. In the late 1990s, the city came knocking and asked the Vasquezes to give up their property to make room for the expansion of the Toyota dealership next door and to relocate Miguel's. After much negotiation the original Miguel's closed its doors in 1997. Miguel's later opened its new full-service restaurant on Frontage Rd. at Via Josefa in October of 2000.



As soon as I could drive, the first place I went was Miguel's for dinner as a celebration, countless dates and lifetime events. It's still my "go to" eating place and is always a mandatory stop for anyone that grew up here and moved away.



My friend Alicia Irwin (Dickson) had to stop at Miguel's on her way from Las Vegas to a cancer treatment in Los Angeles. I've shipped bean and cheese burritos to my friends in Saudi Arabia during Desert Storm and to my son in Minnesota when he had to get his fix in the dead of winter (dry ice works great). Miguel's has that kind of pull on people.

My family was the last on my mother's side of the family to move to

Corona. I heard about Miguel's at every holiday for years. My aunt and uncle had met the owners, Mike and Mary Vasquez, very early on when they moved to Corona and developed a relationship with them very quickly. As I later realized, the Vasquezes treated everyone like this. Mary was at the restaurant almost every time we came in and would come over and greet us warmly and genuinely every time.



Wes and Alicia Irwin enjoying a delicious dinner at Miguel's.

For the last 36 years she has treated me the exact same way since I have been going to Miguel's, regardless of where she sees me - whether it's in the restaurant, on the street, or at a council meeting where they are being recognized for the numerous good deeds the family has done for the city over the years. Mary greets me the same way to this day.

A few years after we moved to Corona my brother Brooks became best friends with Mike Vasquez, their oldest son, and they have been friends for over 30 years. After they became close friends, when my family and I would visit Miguel's, Javier Vasquez (now the CEO of Miguel's and probably 7 or 8 years old at the time), would scamper between tables and steal our check.

The Vasquezes and their family run three full service restaurants (two in Corona and one in Foothill Ranch) along with 14 Miguel Jr's restaurants in Riverside, San Bernardino and Orange counties.

NOTE: When Miguel's first opened in 1973, the onramp for West 6th off of Paseo Grande, was the same as it is today. Miguel's location was very visible to folks getting on the freeway. In 1979-1980, the on and offramps were realigned to the configuration prior to the SR91 Project and Miguel's was buried behind two other businesses. Yet Miguel's survived. The old onramp was sold as excess CalTrans property and a narrow motel was built - most recently it was known as Hotel Paseo. Fast forward 35 years to 2016 and the original alignment of the onramp has been reintroduced.

Tour of Claremont By Tom Muñoz

I often heard that the City of Claremont was a hot community, but on Saturday, June 18, 2016, Corona Historic Preservation Society members had an opportunity to see and feel firsthand the sights, sounds, and climate of Claremont. It was hard to believe that Claremont, tucked up against the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains, represents the eastern-most community in Los Angeles County.



With temperatures in the high 90s, CHPS members were welcomed, and literally warmed by the delightful Ginger Elliott, tour guide and volunteer, with Claremont Heritage. Claremont Heritage is a non-profit, community-oriented membership organization, with a mission to advance, preserve and celebrate the historic, architectural, natural and cultural resources of Claremont's community through collaboration, education and advocacy.

Although the tour focused on the downtown portion of Claremont, we had a delightful two hour experience, living and breathing the Claremont Village through the eyes of Ms. Elliott. Ms. Elliott painted an elaborate picture of The Village that began at the train station and continued walking through history at Claremont's oldest historical house, soaking in the sights of the seven Claremont colleges, viewing historic elephant toes (large rocks cemented into older streets curb faces), streets lined with tasteful deciduous trees, store-front occupancies utilizing their historic 25 foot fronts with 50 foot depth, Spanish Revival City Hall, trompe l'oeil artwork in an alley (see photo below), and pedestrian friendly plaza with shade trees, tables, and a whimsical water fountain.

As Ms. Elliott described the history and development of Claremont we were able to see many parallels with the history and development of Corona. We all took note that Claremont also took advantage of Urban Renewal in the 1960s and had replaced its centrally located historic public library with a larger library more reminiscent of a bomb shelter (she referred to it as a bunker) than with the historic ambiance of the downtown area.

The day ended with our group noting the creaking sounds of the wide wooden planks at the restored and repurposed Packing House. Many Cities have included historical packing houses in their palette of venues to visit, but it was wonderful to wrap ourselves in Claremont's historical preservation vision.

CHPS Activity Update

W. D. Addison Heritage Room Donation

We are once again happy to announce that Corona Historic Preservation Society has been able to make a donation to the Corona Public Library's W. D. Addison Heritage Room to facilitate our Heritage Room Librarian to assist in meeting the needs of those library patrons who use this tremendous resource for research, study or just for fun.



The image above shows CHPS Vice President Wes Speake presenting Heritage Room Librarian Jennifer Marlatt with a check for \$500 which will be deposited into the dedicated Heritage Room account overseen by the Library Foundation.

REMEMBER: Heritage Room hours are from 3-7 P.M. on Monday and Tuesday and from 10 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. on Thursdays.



First home built in Claremont



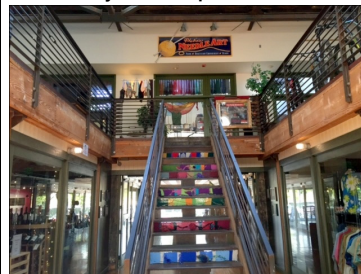
Monument at train depot



Alley with trompe l'oeil art



Claremont City Hall



Stairway at repurposed packing house



CHPS members enjoying displays

Fabulous Fun at the Faire! By Trisha Cabrera-Henson

CHPS had a wonderful time participating in this year's Corona Antiques & Collectibles Faire held on June 4, 2016 at Corona Heritage Park. There were numerous booths overflowing with antiques and a variety of things for sale. There was also music, food, and a marvelous feeling of community. We really enjoyed serving the public, free, "ice cold" lemonade "made in the shade and stirred with a rusty spade" at our Lemonade Stand. Due to the extreme heat and the fact that our lemonade, in my opinion, is so delicious, people kept coming back for more! Our lemonade was made with fresh Corona lemons and was well received by Faire goers. I would also like to mention that Tom Muñoz and Fred Parr looked great in their bright lemon-print aprons and served the lemonade with a smile! Thanks to the generous support of event attendees, donations to our lemonade stand and sales of architectural salvage items and CHPS wares in our booth, our income proved to be very worthwhile. These contributions are used to fund our Home Preservation Grant Program, support other preservation goals, placement of historic site markers, assist our public education outreach efforts and for advocacy of Corona's rich history. Thank you to everyone who volunteered at our Lemonade Stand and CHPS booth. Your efforts made our fund raising possible and helped things run smoothly.

I encourage anyone who has not been to the Corona Antiques & Collectibles Faire to come by and see us next year. The Faire is held every year on the first Saturday in June at Corona Heritage Park. We look forward to meeting you. Please feel free to stop by our Lemonade Stand or CHPS booth and say hello.



L-R: Tom Muñoz, Fred Parr & Wes Speake



CHPS President Fred Parr is seen here in his oh so stylish lemon-themed apron. He did a super job of promoting lemonade sales at the Faire.



These Corona beauties were squeezed into juice that was used to create our home grown concoction.



Standing in front of our CHPS banner, and with a live citrus tree backdrop, CHPS Vice President Wes Speake shows off one of our 1916 Road Race Centennial commemorative T-shirts in the "wares" booth. Architectural salvage windows can be seen on the right leaning against the display table. T-shirts, Arcadia Publishing books about Corona and pamphlets highlighting events in Corona history can be seen on the table top.

Membership Information

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

Individual Member	\$20.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	I'd like to volunteer!	
Family	\$30.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hospitality refreshments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Student	\$10.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Newsletter writing articles	<input type="checkbox"/>
Business	\$50.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vintage Home Tour	
Patron	\$100.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	docent / volunteer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Life	\$500.00	<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 form and mail to:

CHPS

**P.O. Box 2904
Corona, CA 92878**



We Welcome Our New & Continuing Members

Tacy Bensiak
Benny & Marla Benson
(Patron Members)
Dr. Robert Brant Benson
Roger & Noella Benvenuti
Patricia "Trisha" Compobasso
Judy Flynn
Christine Gary *(Life Member)*

Ada J. Hand
Marty & Merrilee Howard
(Patron Members)
Helen Hughes
Eric Johnson
Beki Knott
Hazel & Barbara Lohman
Jim & Marsha Morrell

Clarcy A. Phillips
Carolyn Powers
Nathan & Roberta Reed
Jason & Dee Scott
Robert & June Shelly
Darrell & Kym Talbert *(Life Members)*
John R. Wiles
Akio & Helen Yoshikawa

Our 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 Chairman Tom Richins at tom@alignarc.com or 949.231.8596. 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>](http://corona-history.org/grants.html)

Please share this information with others!



Corona
Historic
Preservation
Society

Board of Directors

President - Fred Parr
Vice President - Wes Speake
Secretary - Doris Osko
Treasurer - Richard Winn

Directors

Trisha Henson-Cabrera
Paula Muñoz
Tom Muñoz
Mary Winn

Advisors

Marla Benson
Tom Richins
Ted Taylor

To contact us call
951.898.2044

*Please leave a brief
message*



Our Mission Statement

The Corona Historic Preservation Society (CHPS) is a nonprofit tax-exempt organization dedicated to preservation and revitalization of Corona's historic buildings, neighborhoods and sites.

Through education, persuasion, legislation and organization, CHPS acts as an advocate for the preservation of Corona's historic resources.

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:

Thursday, July 21, 6:30 P.M. at CHPS office
Thursday, August 18, 6:30 P.M. at CHPS office



Visit our Website at www.Corona-History.org



Corona
Historic
Preservation
Society

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



Have a Safe and Healthy Holiday!