

### A Message From Your President Tom Richins

Dear Members,

It was four years ago that I became a fan of our town’s local history. The way it happened is that my wife instructed me that we were going to buy an old house and fix it up. It made sense, the house we were then living in was too small, we had just had a baby, and the second was already in planning. As our agent showed us house after house, none of them clicked until she showed us one on the circle (Grand Boulevard). From the very second we pulled up in the driveway, we knew the 102-year-old house was the right house for us.

As I started to research the history of my house, I found myself at the same time learning about the history of Corona itself. The more I dug in and read, the more I found myself becoming a fan of Corona’s earliest pioneers. It is in that light I would like to share one of Corona’s earliest moments.

When town founder R.B. Taylor first started our beloved city, he knew that if Corona was going to be successful it had to have an attractive fine hotel. Therefore prime land was donated by the South Riverside Land and Water Company and O.A. Smith put up the money to build and operate it. Construction started July 21, 1887. As construction progressed, it was determined by the workers to hold the first organized religious services in Corona at the half-built hotel itself. To quote early Corona Mayor and historian William Corkhill, “In the midst of the lumber in front of the unfinished building, was held the first church service in the new colony – the pulpit a pile of boards – the pews whatever there might be to sit upon. The Rev. Houlding of the Congregational Society was the preacher.”

**(Both photos courtesy of Corona Public Library)**



A city founder, R.B. Taylor, is standing on the far left.

How inspiring it must have been. Even though Corona was just starting and there were no churches, the construction workers humbled themselves and organized devotional services. From what I have read over the years, almost all of the earliest citizens were the best of people. They lived in a time when morals and ethics were strong. Hard work was a common virtue and prosperity was the reward.

It is not surprising to me that ten years later R.B. Taylor gathered 100 of Corona’s most prominent citizens to the then completed Hotel Temescal to celebrate the success of Corona. Good times were had, friends conversed with friends, but the best moment of the night came when the toast was given by town founder Taylor himself. After reminiscing about Corona’s first couple of years, he left his guests, and us, with these words, “When I consider the past growth of Corona, it is something wonderful – a miracle!”

Sincerely,  
TOM RICHINS



Hotel Temescal caught fire and burned to the ground in 1899.

Join us as we honor those who have served our country so well...



*The Corona Historic Preservation Society  
and  
W. H. Jameson, Jr. American Legion  
Post 216*

*Invite you to join us for the  
Dedication of Historic Marker #22*

*Commemorating Corona's  
First American Legion Hall  
Saturday, November 7, 2015  
10:00 A.M.*

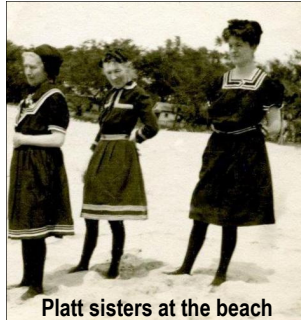
*American Legion Hall  
1024 South Main Street, Corona*

*Call Burt Hogue at 951.735.5353 for further information*

# The Ghosts of Christmas Past By Doris Osko

Members of CHPS who attend the annual Holiday Party at Woman's Improvement Club of Corona on December 10th might just find themselves feeling the ghostly presence of a group of women who founded the club in 1899 and some of whom were there when the clubhouse was built in 1913 at 1101 S. Main Street. They might not necessarily be "ghosts of Christmas Past," but their influence is still there in the building which was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1988. In 1898 Miss Helen Platt sent a letter to certain ladies of Corona proposing a meeting to form "A Town Improvement Association of Corona." Twenty-one civic-minded women joined the organization and for fifteen years held meetings in the members' homes. The clubhouse was patterned after a Welsh church, and the site was donated by Mrs. E.L.S. Joy (Ella Louise Skinner Joy) and her daughter, Mrs. W. H. Jameson (Hetty Joy Jameson.)

Helen Platt was one of three sisters who came to Corona – Helen at age 52, Anna at age 54, and Stella at age 47. Stella was the youngest of the eight children of Reverend Adam Wakeman Platt, a Presbyterian minister, and his wife Sarah McAllaster Platt who lived in New York. The three sisters lived together at 156 SE Grand Boulevard which later became 1192 East Grand Boulevard. The house was originally built for George L. Joy, a founder of Corona. The house no longer stands, but it once stood on the corner of Garretson



Platt sisters at the beach



Six of the eight Platt sisters

and East Grand Boulevard.

Accomplishments of the Platt sisters and the Woman's Improvement Club which it became, included being instrumental in changing the name of the town from "South Riverside" to Corona.

They encouraged City Council to establish a permanent library, a library board, set up the first Humane Society, and supported Woman's Suffrage. When the council would not provide for cleaning the streets used by horses, the women took their brooms and dust pans and did it themselves, shaming their husbands who then created the first Sanitation Department. Stella was a Park Commissioner and was on the Park Board for many years. The sisters were active in the Congregational Church, and Helen was a trustee. Club members planted the pepper trees along Grand Boulevard.

Stella's obituary in 1916 stated, "You may break, you may shatter the vase if you will, but the scent of roses will cling to it still." Helen Platt wrote in the club magazine on February 23, 1909: "Our creed—We believe that work is a privilege, kindness a duty, and worry a crime." Perhaps these words (along with the ghosts?) echo in the venerable halls of the Woman's Improvement Club of Corona's clubhouse. There may also be the scent of roses.

(Photos courtesy of Corona Public Library)

## CHPS Accolades



The Corona Historic Preservation Society is pleased to congratulate our long-time Board Member Paula Muñoz who was named as one of the Distinguished Citizens and honored by the Temescal District of the Boy Scouts of America at the District's Distinguished Citizens Dinner on October 20th. Paula's husband, Tom Muñoz, also serves on the CHPS Board as our current vice president. A donation was made by CHPS to the Boy Scouts Temescal District on behalf of Paula's well-deserved recognition.

On September 16, 2015, CHPS members Jonathan & Kelly Clubb's beautiful Tudor Revival style home, located at 1518 Main Street and built in 1938, was named an official Historic Landmark on Corona's Register of Historic Resources. Not only is this structure architecturally significant but early retail businessman James Emerson (who operated Emerson's Menswear) and his wife Marcella (who managed the Mode O'Day dress store) resided here for many years. This home is now one of over 40 buildings to receive the Historic Landmark designation in the City of Corona.



# CHPS Annual Holiday Party on December 10

## Join in our traditional merriment

Corona High Madrigals will provide musical Entertainment.



Woman's Improvement Clubhouse under construction 100+ years ago

Enjoy the spirit & music of the holidays in the historic setting of the Woman's Improvement Clubhouse.

**Location:** 1101 S. Main Street  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10th  
**Time:** 6:30 - 8:30 P.M.

### OLD-FASHIONED POTLUCK DINNER ASSIGNMENTS:

Based upon first letter of your last name:

A-K Vegetables or salads

L-Q: Desserts

R-Z: Appetizers

*Please provide 6-8 servings*

To help us plan, **PLEASE** call Doris at 951.737.1766 or email her at [dorisosko05@hotmail.com](mailto:dorisosko05@hotmail.com) if you plan to join us.

## Annual Election of Board of Directors

The election will take place at our Annual Holiday Party on Thursday, December 10, 2015. As of the publication of this Newsletter, the Nominations Committee presents the following slate for your consideration. Two Director positions are in need of being filled.

### Directors

Trisha Henson-Cabrera  
Doris Osko  
Richard Winn

### Advisors

Marla Benson  
Ted Taylor

Per CHPS bylaws, Director term is for two years; Advisor term is for one year.

# CHPS Accomplishments During 2015

**January 16** - Corona High School Marker dedication at the school's third campus on West 10th Street.

**February 21** - Quarterly Meeting panel discussion "Growing Up in Corona - 1950s" featured six Corona High School graduates from the 1950 decade. This is the link to view a video of this meeting:  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=PyE\\_1\\_kU\\_S0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PyE_1_kU_S0)

**March 7** - CHPS members attended the Riverside County History Symposium at Highland Springs, near Beaumont.

**April 20** - CHPS Historic Marker #21 was completed and the granite marker was placed commemorating the site of the last large citrus-related business in Corona, Exchange Lemon Products (1915-1983.) The marker is located off the sidewalk on the east side of Joy Street, north of the railroad tracks. In the latter years, the business was known as Sunkist Growers. Carter Scoggins, of Boy Scout Troop 399, supervised the construction as part of his Eagle Scout project.

**May 2** - Our Vintage Home Tour featured four beautiful historic homes and the First Baptist Church.

**June 3** - After the application was submitted by CHPS, the Corona City Council approved the city's Historic District #10. This district constitutes a one-mile segment of the Palisades Drive roadway (State Highway 18 & US91 from 1939-1961) from Wardlow Wash bridge to just east of the intersection of Green River Road. This process took three years.

**June 6** - Participated in the Annual Antiques & Collectibles Faire at Heritage Park & Museum. CHPS provided free lemonade and architectural salvaged items for purchase.

**June 20** - Quarterly Meeting visit to W.H. Jameson, Jr. Post 216 American Legion Hall on South Main Street. We had the privilege to experience the ambiance of a bygone era while viewing Civil War, World War I, World War II and Korean War memorabilia.

**In August** - Nine Historic Districts in Corona were identified with signs designed and funded by Corona Historic Preservation Society. This signage was installed by the Corona Maintenance Services Department.

**In September** - President Tom Richins made contact with the granddaughter of noted early Corona architect



Leo Kroonen, Sr. whose architectural creations blessed Corona for many years. Tom was able to digitize the plans/blueprints so that they could be shared with more family members and the community. The originals will be donated to the Corona Public Library's Heritage Room for safekeeping.

**September 19** - Our Quarterly Meeting was a visit to the Long's Party Garage and surrounding property.

**November 7** - Historic Site Marker #22 dedication of W.H. Jameson, Jr. Post 216 American Legion Hall at 1024 South Main Street. This plaque is in recognition of Corona's First American Legion Hall, completed in 1929.

## We've Gone Green\*



**All members with email addresses should now be receiving this Newsletter electronically.\***

This action is not meant to discourage members but we want to be more efficient, cost-effective and, most importantly, become more environmentally friendly.

If you have special concerns or needs, please leave a message for Mary Winn at 951.371.5291 or send an email to her at: [toothladytwo@aol.com](mailto:toothladytwo@aol.com).

Hard copies will still be available for the general public at the Corona Public Library and at Heritage Park Museum.

**\*We will continue to remind you that your membership is due by sending a printed copy with a reminder notice and Self Addressed Envelope through the U. S. Postal Service.\***

# Report On Our Quarterly Meeting By Tom Muñoz



When you recite the words: “VISITING A PARTY GARAGE”, what comes to your mind? For me, the words brought to mind a garage filled with items one cannot mention in an article for this newsletter. My imagination ran wild! When Paula and I rolled onto the property of Ann and Don Long, we were blessed with a vision of a bronze statue of an eagle in flight, surrounded by a wonderful palette of planting.

Initially greeted by a friend of the Long family, we parked in the rear of the property, and walked around waiting for the party to begin. Cars trickled in, filled with visitors in awe of the vision that unfolded before their eyes: a party garage framed by a Disneyland layout of tree-lined walking paths, and hidden historical pieces carefully placed for an adventurous pair of eyes. I would say that a more precise portrait of the garage is that it is actually a Noah's Ark. Truly an ark filled with vintage automobiles, storefront shop displays, a Texaco service station, a 1930s garage complete with authentic tools, a tool room, a diner with a soda fountain complete with vintage soda pop, and an upstairs game room accessed by an “E” ticket elevator ride. The most exhilarating part of the tour was hearing, seeing, and feeling the passion that Don and Ann have for their home. Even more amazing was their willingness to share and open their arms to our Society membership as their guests.

with others that were unable to attend the September 19th outing. It's a privilege to be able to visit a one-of-a-kind jewel in Corona, but it's truly a blessing to have so many friends enjoying a once-in-a-lifetime experience offered by our Society. Members of the Corona Historic Preservation Society have been blessed by the memories unveiled this year, but visiting the PARTY GARAGE was the icing on the cake.

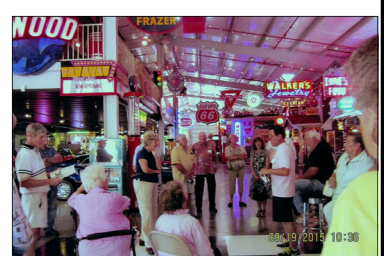


What adventures are lying ahead of us? The past will help us as we look ahead for the pathway to the future. The holiday party is quickly approaching and will be followed by a new year with other treasures that the City of Corona is ready to unveil.



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In thinking back about our experience, I can truthfully say that Paula and I were speechless as to what a treasure we have sitting in the backyard of Corona. Cue cards will help us share the experience



**Editor's note:** The Discovery Channel's TV series “Rusted Development” filmed an episode at the Long's Party Garage because of their marvelous collection of restored and functioning vintage automobiles. The episode titled “Car lover's candy store” aired just a few days after our visit in September. It is sure to be repeated so watch for it on the Discovery Channel.

## Architectural Salvage Available



CHPS has limited amounts of architectural salvage items or materials available to those of you who may be restoring your vintage homes. Included in the inventory are vintage windows, shutters, doors, cabinets, molding and hardware. If you need such items, call CHPS at 951.898.2044, leave a brief message (< 1 minute) and be sure to leave your name and telephone number.

## New Video "Corona: Then & Now" on YouTube

Once you're at [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com), do a search for "Corona Historic Preservation Society"

There are now **FIVE** videos to view on the CHPS CHANNEL:

- Corona: Then & Now
- Growing Up in Corona in the 1940s
- Growing Up in Corona in the 1950s
- Beautiful Corona: Through the lens of Barbara Becker (Video 1)
- Beautiful Corona: Through the lens of Barbara Becker (Video 2)



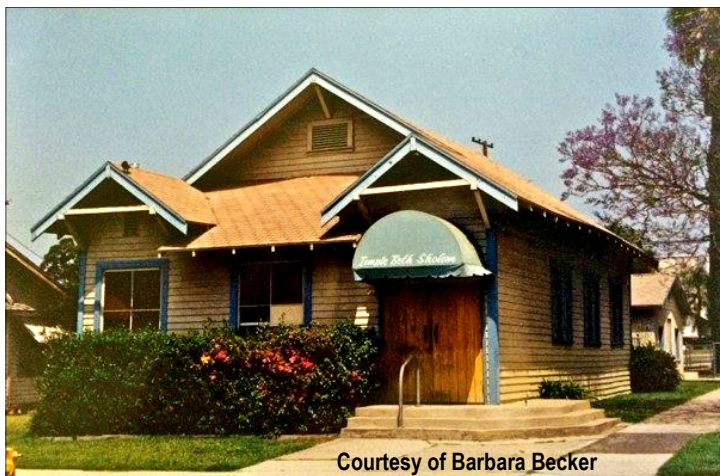
**ADDITIONAL VIDEOS ARE IN THE PLANNING STAGE**

## The Passing of an Era

The small but distinctive religious structure built in the Vernacular wood-frame style, with Craftsman elements, located at 823 Sheridan Street, covered several chapters in Corona's religious diversity. It housed Corona's first Free Methodist Church from 1920-1962, Corona's Bible Baptist Church from 1962-1969 and Corona's first synagogue, Temple Beth Shalom, from 1969-2000. It has now been demolished to make room for the expansion of the Corona Regional Medical Center (CRMC) campus. The images below show its appearance at two different points in time. The CRMC has plans to recognize the significance of this site with an historic marker. CHPS was able to facilitate the transfer of architectural salvage (pews and distinctive windows) for future use at Corona Heritage Park & Museum.



Courtesy of Corona Public Library



Courtesy of Barbara Becker

# Membership Information

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

Individual Member	\$20.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>I'd like to volunteer!</b>	
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

John & Jane Farr  
Aaron & Lauralynn Hake  
Bret & Lennie Keesler  
Rita Brooks Koch Johnson  
Patty Knoeckel  
Mitch & Karen Lloyd  
Ashley L. Meyer - Life Member  
Jim Morrell  
Richard Polen

George & Carrie Pope  
Gretchen Scoggins  
Marjorie Smerber  
Melissa Spierling - Life Member  
Dean Stamp  
Fran Tassin  
Mike & Maria Ugalde  
Michele Wentworth  
Bill & Vickie White

## 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 feel free to contact CHPS Home Preservation Grant Program Chairman Tom Richins at [tom@alignarc.com](mailto: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>>

***Please share this information with others!***





Corona  
Historic  
Preservation  
Society

## Board of Directors

President - Tom Richins  
Vice President - Tom Muñoz  
Secretary - Doris Osko  
Treasurer - Richard Winn

### Directors

Trisha Henson-Cabrera  
Paula Muñoz  
Fred Parr  
Mary Winn

### Advisors

Marla Benson  
Janette Neumann  
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, Nov 19, 6:30 P.M. at CHPS office**

**Holiday Party, Dec 10, 6:30 P.M. See page 3**



Visit our Website at [www.Corona-History.org](http://www.Corona-History.org)



Corona  
Historic  
Preservation  
Society

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



Souvenir from Hotel Temescal



**Be sure to join us December 10<sup>th</sup> at our Holiday Party!**