CO-PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE  By Gary E. Mitrovich

The Holiday Season is here and there’s lots to do in Lakeside! On Thursday, December 1, our annual Mrs. Claus Christmas Resale Shoppe will open (see poster at right). We are now accepting “lightly used” holiday donations at our History Center. The Shoppe finishes this season on December 22.

Then, in conjunction with the annual Spirit of Christmas on Saturday, December 3, our Shoppe will expand to a 10-hour day – open from 10am to 8pm! The Tree Lighting Event will be held at 5pm in the courtyard of our Olde Community Church. Sponsored by the Lakeside Chamber of Commerce, the Spirit of Christmas is a holiday standard, an old-fashioned, small-town get-together with friends old and new!

LHS wrapped up its 50th Anniversary year with a fun and exciting Heritage Day gathering on October 22. It was quite a full day, with nearly 70 folks in attendance. The great lunch was provided by Cupid’s Catering. After a rendering of “Happy Birthday” to LHS, dessert was served.

The program began with thanks and gratitude to our volunteers, followed by a few awards. The first went to a trio of wonderful ladies, our “Most Senior Active Volunteers,” Allene Savage, Lee Bost, and Yrene Woods. These ladies are truly our treasures and great examples to us all. Each received a certificate and a beautiful flower bouquet. We then presented a monetary award to our Lakeside Princesses, who are always there to help us and set another great example for the community.

We presented some door prizes (a vintage LHS blanket, a LHS 50th Anniversary decoration, and a Lakeside Monopoly game). The quilt donated by the Woman’s Club of Lakeside was also gifted. Finally, we had a few words from Mona Mills, local artists extraordinaire, and then our guest speaker: Andrew Hayes.

Now a Lifetime Member of LHS, Andrew spoke of our early schools in town, most notably the historic Second School, still standing behind the LUSD Administration office at Woodside and Channel. Filled with photos and rare facts, Andrew painted a complete picture of the school’s history and significance. The final exciting piece was the possible partnership between LHS and LUSD to save that great old structure! (Stay tuned!)

Finally, LHS participated in the annual Trick or Treat on Maine Avenue once again. Sponsored by the Lakeside Princesses, it was another fun event. Thanks to all our volunteers who dressed up and handed out candy!

A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!
NATIVITY SCENE . . . 1947

From the Lakeside Star newspaper: “The 1947 Lakeside Nativity Scene, following the pattern of last year, is proving a major attraction of the Christmas Season. The Holy Tableaux, pictured above, was dedicated December 20 following weeks of painstaking preparation by Mrs. Thomas Merritt, creator, assisted by many people of Lakeside. Scores have made contributions of material and labor in re-creating the Nativity Building, which has been built for permanency. —E. & H. Photos—Lakeside”

The full-sized display served for at least two years, having begun the year before, in 1946. Another old newspaper photo shows a similar design; however, neither issue gives an exact location of the display, but only mentions it being on “Main Street.” As with the Lakeside Roll of Honor (covered in last month’s issue), the disposition of this display is not known today.

DID YOU KNOW . . . ?

. . . that our own El Monte Valley is home to 22 different bat species? Dr. Martha Heath and Dr. Matt Rahn have done the most extensive surveys to date of bats in El Monte Valley. They found every species of bat that occurs in California there. This is likely because of the diversity of habitats found in the Valley, from broad sand flats to trees suitable for roosting, to rocky slopes riddled with caves, and an abundance of food sources for the various species. Bats are critical to local ecology, and the presence and abundance of bat species is another indicator of the high value of El Monte Valley to wildlife.

Considered a “significant diversity,” there is one bat of special interest: the pallid bat, which seems to be evolving away from a dependence on echo location to hunt prey, now moving towards using their very large ears to “skulk along the ground to find scurrying insect.”

(From Lakeside’s River Park Conservancy RiverWatch monthly e-newsletter)
Our 2022 Heritage Day was the culmination of our yearlong celebration of the Lakeside Historical Society’s 50th Anniversary. To recap: In March, we introduced our historical plaques for the downtown area and unveiled a new plaque on our Olde Community Church—and we held our first Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon in a few years. In April, the Western Days Breakfast was back (and your editor got to ride in the parade). We had our first-ever Ice Cream Social in May, thanks to the Lakeside Princesses. Living History was back in June after another years-long delay, along with a new 50th Anniversary ornament, available in the Gift Shop. In September we hosted the now-annual 9/11 Memorial Walk, sponsored by MARA. The year culminated with a very special Heritage Day event (see President’s Message on page 1). Throughout the year, your Historical Happenings newsletter honored the past with highlights of the beginning and history of LHS. This organization has come a long way. It is a tribute to our members and volunteers—both past and present—and thanks to their work and dedication, LHS is poised for another 50 years. Congratulations to us, with deep gratitude to all those who served and are continuing to serve this fine organization!

And Happy New Year!

MERRY CHRISTMAS

HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS
Official Publication of the Lakeside Historical Society since 1980
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DECEMBER MILESTONES
NEW MEMBERS
Edwin Cate * Sandra McKay * Jack Miller
Mary Beth Hayes * Roxana Pirita
Danny & Coleen Cooper Feuers (Family)

BIRTHDAYS
02 Billie Sangster
02 Irene Inez Morales
04 Carolyn Sandoval
05 Diana Jones
07 Cecil Carender
07 Elizabeth Roberts Daignault
08 John Miller
08 Virginia Owens Adams
08 Terry Burke-Eiserling
09 Gary Armstrong
10 Charles Cook
10 Virginia Kouns Embry
10 Barbara DeYoung
10 Patrick Stewart
11 Ashley Seybert
11 Marvin Buckel
14 David Angus
14 Timothy Webb
15 Dan Chelius
15 Jean MacKinnon
16 Thomas Scanlan
16 Sally Caven
16 Connor Hall
16 Josiah Gibson, Jr.
17 Peter Walstrom
19 Cecile Broersma Walters
19 Donna Chandler Kouns
20 Rhonda Walker Mitchell
21 Dennis Canfield
22 Bob Helt
23 Mildred Prendergast Whaley
24 Jack Miller
24 John Swink
25 Emad Bakeer
25 Steve Dunkel
27 Cori Owens Mendez
27 Gerald Hamann
30 Mary Balicki
30 Mark Anderson
31 Anita Finder
31 Dale Kephart

ANNIVERSARIES
Gale & Mary Ruffin – 70 yrs
Gerald & Julianna Hamann – 69 yrs
Gail & Martha Kursave Hess – 66 yrs
Bill & Vivian Nelson – 62 yrs
Steve & Gay Reed – 56 yrs
Richard & Sue Harmsen Edwards – 53 yrs
David & Jan Angus – 51 yrs
Walter & Dale Kephart – 42 yrs
Rudolph & Geraldine Morrin – 40 yrs
Ed & Debbie Galusha – 38 yrs
Bob & Tami Tea – 33 yrs
Tom & Linda Claycomb – 22 yrs
Bob & Sandie Campbell
LHS MEMBERSHIP FEES REMINDER
It’s now time for your 2023 dues. Please help us continue to preserve and share the history of Lakeside. Call us at (619)561-1886 if you have any questions. We appreciate your support!

LAKESIDE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

DATE________________________

___$20.00 per year individual
___$35.00 per year family
___$50.00 per year business/organization

___$200.00 Individual Life Membership
___$500.00 Business Life Membership

____New Member (s) OR _____Renewal

(Please print legibly)

Name________________________________Phone_____________________Email________________________________

Address________________________________________________________City_____________________State________Zip________________

Your Birthday_________________Spouse's Name & Birthday________________________________Wedding Date________

Drop off or mail to: LAKESIDE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, 9906 Maine Avenue, Lakeside CA 92040