



CO-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Stacy Hensle

Lakeside Historical Society had a very busy March with three events.

The first was a Downtown Lakeside Walking Tour, on Saturday March 8, 2025. We had around 20 people in attendance. It was a lovely, clear day, and we could see the recent snow on the Cuyamaca mountains. Our own Gary Mitrovich was the tour guide. We started off at the Lakeside Historical Society with quite a history presentation regarding our building. Gary led us on to more historical buildings/sites and we learned a lot of facts and historical information about our little Lakeside town. After the walking tour we headed over to Eastbound, a local Lakeside eatery. We enjoyed a delicious lunch which was mighty tasty!

Saturday, March 22, 2025, was our annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. It was hosted by Pennie McMahon and Coleen Owens. We had a fun-filled day playing games and enjoying a catered lunch by Antonia Tello. The first game we played was like "Let's Make a Deal." We were given a list and the team was to gather as many items as possible from our purses, wallets, pockets, or what we had on our person. Our team rocked thanks to Paula Armstrong, who carries a purse that is loaded to the hilt! The second game was a trivia-type game. Winners were able to select gifts that Pennie and Coleen provided for the event. We then enjoyed a great catered taco lunch. The food was delicious. Thank you, Pennie and Coleen, for putting on a wonderful event.

Lastly, our March General Meeting was held on Monday the 24th. Before the presentation, we enjoyed great desserts provided by our own Lee Bost. While we were eating our desserts, Gary Mitrovich introduced the Lakeside Royalty (the Princesses). As part of their pageant process, each of the ladies selects a topic, a little nugget of Lakeside History. As each Princess was introduced, they gave a brief history on their select topic. Afterwards, our Vice President, Rob Harding give us a great presentation on the Lakeside Auto Raceway (the racetrack that formerly ran around Lindo Lake) and how it was built. We all learned a lot of interesting information.

Don't forget the LHS Western Days Breakfast on Saturday, April 26, 2025, from 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

The May General Meeting/Lunch is on Saturday, May 10, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. The history presentation is by Dr. Sandra Bonura on "Claus Spreckels, California Sugar King."

In June: Living History Days starts Monday, June 2, which is set-up day. Students will visit us starting Tuesday, June 3 and through the 5th. And we can always use your help with volunteering—let us know!



LAKESIDE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
9906 MAINE AV DOWNTOWN LAKESIDE
GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, May 10, 2025

1:30 pm—Meet with Friends
2:00 pm—Pizza Lunch
3:00 pm—History Presentation



Come join us for

Pizza Lunch

\$10 donation

PLEASE RSVP by May 7!

Presentation

"Claus Spreckels: California's Sugar King"

by Dr. Sandra Bonura

Local author Sandra Bonura gives us a rags to riches story of this colorful and controversial immigrant who started the legacy known in Coronado, San Diego, and beyond.



Please RSVP with us at (619)561-1886

*"One man can rise above
obstacles which would entirely
crush another"*

—Claus Spreckels



**PARKING WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE LOT ACROSS
THE STREET AT THE MONTESSORI SCHOOL**

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING LHS EVENTS

LHS BOARD MEETING; Thu, May 8 @ 10 am

LHS GENERAL MEETING/LUNCH: Sat, May 10 @ 2-4 pm

Arrive @ 1:30 pm—Pizza & History Presentation:

"Claus Spreckels, California Sugar King" by Dr. Sandra Bonura

Coming in June

LIVING HISTORY DAYS: Jun 3, 4, 5

Setup Day; Mon, Jun 2 @ 9 am

** Archives & Gift Shop will be closed the week of Living History **

LHS BOARD MEETING: Thu, Jun 12 @ 10 am

****NO GENERAL MEETING IN JUNE****

Meetings & events are held at LHS History Center unless noted

GIFT SHOP / MUSEUM HOURS:

OPEN: Tuesday - Thursday & Saturday: 10 am to 1 pm

CLOSED: Sunday, Monday & Friday

ARCHIVES OPEN EVERY WEDNESDAY

THE LAKESIDE OAKS HOTEL (1916 – 1919)?

Was there a hotel known as the Lakeside Oaks open in town a century ago? There may have been, but the facts are less than conclusive.

The 1916 San Diego City and County Directory shows “The Oaks” in the Lakeside section, with R.E. Winterstein as the proprietor. This listing continues through to the 1919 directory. There is little other evidence of its existence.

We do know that Robert E. Winterstein was born in Germany in 1844. He journeyed to the USA and landed in New York City, where he met and married Mary Eliza Laupin in about 1878. Mary switched her names around and became Eliza M. Winterstein. The couple had two daughters and two sons. A clothing manufacturer, Robert was known as a prominent New York businessman.

By 1910, the family was in our east county, where Robert bought the Brodnax farm in Jamacha, four miles south of El Cajon. Tom Brodnax was a former sheriff who had a “well known” 217-acre farm on the Sweetwater River, with plenty of water. Robert made the purchase for \$20,000 and planned to invest another \$10,000, with the intention of growing alfalfa and engaging in “dairying.”

In 1912, Robert purchased The Oaks hotel in Alpine. It was described as a beautiful property of 65 acres with a large house, seven cottages, and a mixed fruit orchard, including 700 olive trees. Referred to a “well-known” resort, The Alpine Oaks was located on the northwest corner of Tavern and South Grade roads. Local directories carried The Alpine Oaks and Winterstein until 1915. Then, suddenly, there were two different “Oaks” hotels.

The Lakeside Oaks shows up in 1916, also run by Winterstein. Strangely, there is no 1916 listing for the Alpine Oaks. But the next year (1917) The Oaks appears in both Lakeside and Alpine. The husband-and-wife team was listed as real estate agents as well. To make matters more confusing, The Oaks shows up in the “Hotels” section of the directory, but is only identified as being in Lakeside. This continues into the 1919 directory.

In September 1919, the *San Diego Union* announced the sale of “the ranch known as The Oaks” to Edwin J. Lyons of New York. Presumably, this was the Alpine location, but since the Lakeside Oaks disappeared from mention after 1919, were perhaps both hotels sold? The Wintersteins moved to Fifth street in the City of San Diego. Robert died in 1921 at age 77. Eliza eventually moved to La Mesa, where she died in 1945 at the age of 92.

While the Lakeside Oaks as a hotel is a mystery, the Alpine Oaks has a clear and certain history, including photographs and a lineage that goes into the 1950s. Though it is no longer standing, the Alpine Oaks is mentioned in the book “Alpine: History of a Mountain Settlement” by Beatrice LaForce, published in 1971, and in numerous local period newspapers. Conversely, the Lakeside Oaks appears only in local directories from 1916 to 1919, with no other corroborating mention. This begs so many questions: was there really an Oaks hotel in Lakeside? Where was it located? And why is there so little evidence of its existence? History’s mysteries can be most annoying ...

SOCIETY BUSINESS

Proposed Bylaws Changes

2025 LHS Bylaws Review Committee

Members: Coleen Owens /
Barbara Hogue / Gary Mitrovich
Presented to the LHS Board on April 10,
2025 – Approved for recommendation to
the general membership

SUGGESTED REVISIONS

Revision #1 – ARTICLE IV MEETINGS

PROPOSED CHANGES:

Section 2: Quorum. B. (Page 3)
CURRENT: “Ten (10) members ... shall
constitute a quorum at a Board Meeting
...”

PROPOSED: “Nine (9) members ...
shall constitute a quorum at a Board
Meeting ...”

Revision #2 – ARTICLE VI STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

PROPOSED ADDITION:

Section 3. (page 5)

**“R. Event Coordinator: Plans and coor-
dinates off-site LHS-sanctioned activi-
ties, events, field trips for members.”**

Revision #3 – STANDING RULES

PROPOSED CHANGES:

Standing Rule #15 (Page 8)

CURRENT: “These Bylaws of the
Lakeside Historical Society shall be re-
viewed every two (2) years, beginning
with the calendar year 2022, for accuracy
and possible updates. In January of the
review years, the Board of Directors will
create a Bylaws Review Committee to
review and recommend alterations, if nec-
essary.”

PROPOSED: “These Bylaws of the
Lakeside Historical Society shall be re-
viewed every **five (5)** years, beginning
with the calendar year **2025**, for accuracy
and possible updates. In January of the
review years, the Board of Directors will
create a Bylaws Review Committee to
review and recommend alterations, if nec-
essary.”

***These proposed alterations will be pre-
sented to the general membership for a
vote to approve on Saturday, May 10.
Current Bylaws are available on the
LHS website.***



MAY MILESTONES

NEW MEMBER

MELINA LAVULLIS

BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Farrie Ann Paul Nichols
- 3 Penelope Bigelow Anderson
- 7 John "Craig" Meile
- 9 Calvin C. Bowman, Jr.
- 10 Loretta Mitrovich
- 10 John Sandoval
- 11 Michele Mendyk
- 12 Margaret Ann Head Berg
- 14 Lawrence Roberts
- 15 Elizabeth "Elsie" Clifford
- 16 Daryll Barham
- 18 Don Hickle
- 19 Terry Puhn Clark
- 19 Kathy Laws Savage
- 20 Len Buckel
- 21 M. Gale Ruffin
- 22 Sally Nelson
- 23 Richard Cabanilla
- 25 Daniel Morgan Evans
- 25 Joan Oppenheimer Kouns
- 25 Janice Kouns Malm
- 26 Debbie Galusha
- 26 Natalie Springer Mates
- 27 Christine Sherman Herzog
- 28 Martha Kursave Hess
- 28 Marjorie Kursave Smith
- 29 Tom Pendarvis
- 29 Shay Smith
- 29 Larry Taylor
- 31 Rex Anderson, Jr.

ANNIVERSARIES

- Eugene & Karen Rae Melville - 67
- Camille R. Barker Nielsen - 58
- Henry Jr. & Mary Herms - 57
- Calvin & Margaret Bowman - 51
- Lois Farnsworth-Rattray & Gary Rattray - 48
- Tom & Bev Pendarvis - 45
- Melinda Lou & Buddy Brown - 40
- Joy & Robert Wray - 36
- Stacy Cate Hensle & Richard Hensle - 35
- Janice Kouns Malm & Tracy Malm - 34
- McDonald's of Lakeside - 34
- Cheryl & Dan Chelius - 32
- Wal-Mart Store #01-22531 - 29
- Esther & Normand Croteau - 27
- Stan & Colleen Anderson - 26
- Vincent & Cindy Sullivan - 25
- Mary Balicki & Roland Rhodes - 22

LAKE SIDE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BITS AND PIECES

A miscellany of LHS-related notes: LHS Lifetime member Ann Gilbert was honored by Lakeside's River Park Conservancy as their 2024 Joan Burnett Achievement Award. Congratulations and well deserved, Ann! ... Back in 2017, Ramona resident Madison Kirkman spoke to us about his passion: saving one of the last intact McKeen Motor Cars in the world—the "Cuyamaca." This unique railroad car actually traveled the rails of Lakeside back in the day. Madi-



son was able to transport the car from Alaska to his backyard in Ramona, where he continues to work on it today. Fast forward to more recently, when Madison found and acquired a rare McKeen Trailer Car (*above photo, at right*), one of only three known to still exist. The two pieces of RR history are together again, perhaps for the first time in over 70 years! For more information about Madison's project, you can follow him on Facebook ... For those of you who remember the Congress of History of San Diego and Imperial Counties, the venerable organization that served to connect many local societies with history conferences and the like, voted to dissolve earlier this year. It is a shame and a loss to the historical community in San Diego ... Next time you're hanging out at the Lakeside Community Center at Lindo Lake Park, check out the historical photos inside. San Diego County Parks and Rec supervisor Wesley Maddocks expressed an interest in showcasing more Lakeside history in the building, so she reached out to LHS for some photos. We just happened to have some great pics that had been returned to us from the old Library, before that building was demolished. Wesley was happy to have them. She had the photos re-framed and now they look better than ever. Thanks Wesley for your support and for honoring our local Lakeside history! ... Your LHS board has created an Elections Committee (Barbara Hogue, Pennie McMahon, Gary Mitrovich) to seek out a roster of candidates to serve in 2026 (it's never too early). Specifically, Co-President Stacy Hensle will term out at the end of the current calendar year, so we need someone to work with our other co-president, Coleen Owens. Interested parties should contact a committee member and let us know! Don't be afraid - we all work together and won't throw anyone to the wolves!

HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS

The official publication of the Lakeside Historical Society since 1980

Gary E. Mitrovich, Editor * garyemit@gmail.com * (619) 749-3630

*Articles, stories, emails & photos welcome * Deadline: **2nd Friday** of the month*

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE: Rick Carlson * Rob Harding * Richard Hensle

Stacy Hensle * Barbara Hogue * Madison Kirkman * Billy Ortiz * Coleen Owens

Pennie McMahon & The Newsletter Mailing Crew

Printed by College Copy Center



LAKESIDE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

9906 Maine Avenue
Lakeside, CA 92040
(619) 561-1886
www.lakesidehistory.org


**MAY 2025
EMAIL EDITION**



THE LAST CAROB TREE IS GONE

In 1936, 22-year-old Edna Swink (Kouns) and her high school friends planted a little forest of Carob trees on the parkway strip in front of the Olde Community Church, along Maine Avenue and Parkside Street. That's Edna (*above right*) in front of one of her trees in 2015, at age 100 (Edna, not the tree). Over the years, one by one, the venerable trees have fallen to age and disease (and possibly the impact of underground utilities), until there was only one left. It was appropriate the last tree stood in front of the old Manse (or pastor's house) that now serves LHS as our Lakeside History Museum. But on April 7, the 89-year-old tree fell to the ages (*above left*). Except for some minor damage to our fence, there is little trace of our last tree. Gone, but not forgotten. (Photos by Billy Ortiz)





LAKESIDE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Established 1972

The Lakeside Historical Society fondly bestows upon Lifetime Member

VERNILEE D. "LEE" BOST

The honorary title of

VOLUNTEER EXTRAORDINAIRE

To recognize her years of service, tireless help and selfless efforts in support of LHS and all its members and events

Given this 22nd day of March
At the 2025 Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

THANK YOU LEE!

VOLUNTEER LEE BOST HONORED

Member "extraordinaire" Lee Bost (*above right, with another wonderful volunteer, Pennie McMahon*) was recognized and honored at the 2025 Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon this past March for her many years of service and dedication, tireless help, and selfless efforts in support of LHS and all its members and events. Thank you Lee!!

(Photo by Coleen Owens)

MAY 2025 EMAIL EDITION—EXTRA!

** 2025 WESTERN DAYS BREAKFAST **

