



CO-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Coleen Owens

Not quite sure how quickly 2025 has slipped away, but **we've** been busy.

The end of this year is both happy and sad for me. Co-President Stacy Hensle is "terming out" after four years. She is a tremendous asset to our organization. She will still be very involved, as she is the chairman of our Living History Days, but will no longer be part of the Presidency. On the flip side, I am extremely excited that our nominating committee has found a replacement as one of the most involved people in our organization—**Pennie McMahon**. Pennie's plate is already overflowing, as overseer of the Christmas Resale Shoppe and the gift store. She also manages rentals of our facility and the distribution of the newsletter. Truly, I cannot even list all of her duties, but she is adding one more: Co-President. I am sooo excited to be working with her.

We have several events throughout the year which require lots of planning and volunteers.

Our lovely museum is open year-round, by appointment. It is filled with lovely antiques. If you **haven't** seen it, you should! Our docents are very knowledgeable and explain how life was about 100 years ago in Lakeside.

We have a new board position this year – Event Coordinator. Diane Angus plans outings a few times a year – open to all members. We visit a fun destination in the morning and finish by having lunch together at a close restaurant. Our **very own Gary Mitrovich** has written a "Walking Tour" book for Lakeside. About 20 of us did that tour this year, with lunch at Eastbound. We also visited the Ramona Historical Society. Again, you should come. **It's** fun and events will be announced in the newsletter.

Every April we serve a cowboy breakfast in conjunction with the Western Days Parade.

Last August, we had a very successful Vintage Sale in our **building (because it's too hot outside)**.

Most months we have a general meeting, in which our volunteers supply or cook meals for our members. Annually, we have chicken pot night, soup and salad night, spaghetti night, and a catered lunch for volunteer appreciation. October is always our heritage luncheon which consists of lots of visiting and re-connecting with friends. Many past meetings featured guest speakers on Lakeside families and local history. January usually features a gift exchange. All members are invited to attend these events. We hope to see all of you and encourage the younger members to try to schedule time to get involved with LHS.

Mrs. Claus' 2025
CHRISTMAS RESALE SHOPPE
 Lakeside Historical Society
 9906 Maine Avenue in Downtown Lakeside

OPENING DAY: DECEMBER 1, 2025
 Monday—Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
CLOSED SUNDAYS

Saturday, December 6, 2025
OPEN ALL DAY—10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Friday, December 19, 2025
OPEN ALL DAY—10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

LAST DAY: Saturday, December 20, 2025

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING LHS EVENTS

CHRISTMAS SHOPPE OPENS: Mon, Dec 1 @ 10 am

Spirit of Christmas: Sat, Dec 6 @ 3—7:30 pm

BOARD MEETING: Thu, Dec 11 @ 10 am

CHRISTMAS SHOPPE CLOSES: Sat, Dec 20

NEW: CHRISTMAS SHOPPE ALL-DAY EVENTS

Sat, Dec 6 @ 10 am—7 pm

Fri, Dec 19 @ 10 am—7 pm

**** NO GENERAL MEETING IN DECEMBER ****

**GIFT SHOP WILL BE OPEN DURING
CHRISTMAS SHOPPE HOURS**

*** ARCHIVES WILL BE CLOSED DURING DECEMBER ***

(Call us if you need a special appointment)

Meetings & events are held at LHS History Center unless noted

REMINDER:

****MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE JANUARY 1, 2026****



THE LINDO/LAKESIDE HOTEL

(Photo by Dick Whittington)

The Lindo Hotel, as it was known back in 1939 (when the above photograph was taken). Built in about 1887 by the Swycaffer family, they ran this little boarding house for 54 years before selling. The original location is said to have been about mid-block on the south side of what is now called Lakeshore Drive, behind the old Lakeside Store formerly on the corner of Maine and Lakeshore (now the parking lot for Lakeside Liquor). It was moved in about 1894.

In 1941, the new owners changed the name to the Lakeside Hotel—its most well-known and notorious moniker. **The reason it wasn't originally called the Lakeside Hotel? Because its big sister to the south was already built and had the name.** Yes, the late, great Lakeside Inn was called the Lakeside Hotel from its opening in 1886 until John Gay bought it in 1905. **Gay was the one who changed it from a "hotel" to an "inn," probably because "inn" had a statelier ring to it.**

Our thanks to Tom Isom for sharing this great photo.

YOUR LHS BOARD

Many of you know (and many may not know) that your LHS Board of Directors meets monthly, on the second Thursday of each month to discuss, review, plan, and critique the activities and financial health of this nonprofit organization. The meeting is always open to all current members, who can attend and participate and/or just sit in and see how we do things. During our November Board Meeting (on the 13th), a couple of items came up that the Board felt should be highlighted in the hope of some membership input.

First, whether to change our monthly Board Meeting was broached and we would like to know what you think. Should we move our meetings from daytime to the evening hour? Say 5:00 or 6:00 p.m.? Would more folks attend? The goal here is to get more folks involved by making it easier to attend our official decision-making gathering. We invite all serious input.

Second, we are reaching out now regarding our future Christmas Shoppe storage facilities. Right now, most of our donations are stored off-site, but that facility will not be available in another year, so what to do? We store items in the cellar, but there is nowhere near enough room for the exponentially increasing amount of Christmas donations we receive throughout the year (our onsite sheds are already packed with artifacts and tools). So you can see the issue. We would like to stay away from spending money to store items, so we are looking for a site to be donated to us for its use. You can respond with your serious thoughts by letter or emails, or leave us a message on the LHS business line at (619) 561-1886. We appreciate your input!

LAKESIDE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOOKS FOR SALE

DRAFTED! My Year in Vietnam	\$20
<i>El Capitan High School graduate Morgan Miller tells of his experience in the Vietnam War.</i>	
John H. Gay and the Lakeside Inn	\$12
<i>By Barbara Stallings Hogue—the factual account of the Lakeside Inn and its most famous owner.</i>	
Tales of the El Monte Valley	\$5
<i>Edited by Gary E. Mitrovich—the story of El Monte Valley native Joe Head, in his won words.</i>	
History of Lakeside Schools: 1879 – 2011	\$20
<i>Researched and written by Edna Kouns, Cathy Hansen and Allene Savage.</i>	
Lakeside Dairies: 1886-2008—UPDATED 2023	\$20
<i>Research by Cathy Hansen and Edna Kouns—a rich history of Lakeside's early dairy families.</i>	
Legends of Lakeside	\$20
<i>LHS—A comprehensive history of Lakeside and its founding families.</i>	
Images of America—Lakeside, California	\$20
<i>By Richard White—a remarkable photographic history of Lakeside, with over 200 photographs.</i>	
Lakeside Historic District Self-Guided Walking Tour	FREE (\$5 shipping cost only)
<i>LHS (3rd Edition)— Photos and stories—past and present—of Downtown Lakeside (Updated Town Map)</i>	
The History of Blossom Valley	\$20
<i>By Edson D. Blossom—the story of Blossom Valley and how it was settled, by the son of the man who made it happen.</i>	
The Legend of Muth Valley	\$50
<i>By Gilbert Jerome Muth—the story of Albert Morton Muth and how he settled Muth Valley.</i>	
Short This Was Yesterday 1870 to 1930 — UPDATED	\$25
<i>By Julia Flinn De Frate – the Flinn family as they lived in what is now the Flinn Springs area of Lakeside.</i>	
African American Pioneers – Julian, California	\$15
<i>By David R. Lewis—an honest history of the African Americans who chose Julian as their home.</i>	
History in the Headlines: 1950 – 2000	\$20
<i>By Del Hood—the “Most Notable Events in El Cajon Valley and Surrounding Areas,” selected by the former Daily Californian editor.</i>	
Campo: The Forgotten Gunfight	\$20
<i>By Bryon Harrington—historical novel based on the true story of the 1875 the gunfight that broke out at the Gaskill Brothers Store.</i>	
History of Agua Caliente Springs	\$20
<i>By Frederick H. Willis—A brief but detailed history of Agua Caliente Springs in San Diego's East County.</i>	
The Whaley Family – Past & Presence	\$20
<i>By Garner Palenske—America's most haunted house, located in San Diego's Old Town.</i>	
San Diego Motorsports 100 Racing Years	\$25
<i>By Johnny McDonald—wonderful history of auto racing in San Diego County starting with Barney Oldfield racing in Lakeside in 1907.</i>	
Thirst for Independence: The San Diego Water Story	\$20
<i>By Dan Walker—describes the competition for Colorado River water and the 1930s “Arizona Water War.”</i>	
East of San Diego: Lost History of the ESD Police Department	\$10
<i>By Gary E. Mitrovich—the story of the police department of the former City of East San Diego, 1912-1923.</i>	
San Diego County Soldier-Pioneers 1846 – 1866	\$20
<i>By Ed Scott—history of the first 20 years after the American Flag was planted in San Diego.</i>	
Warbird Watchers Guide to the Southern California Skies	\$15
<i>By Steve Smith—pictures and descriptions of military and fire fighting aircraft, including vintage aircraft.</i>	
San Diego County Place Names A to Z	\$15
<i>By Leland Fetzer—descriptions and stories behind the names of hundreds of locations in San Diego County.</i>	

GREAT
CHRISTMAS
GIFT
IDEAS!

ORDER FORM (CHECKS ONLY PLEASE)

To: Lakeside Historical Society
9906 Maine Avenue
Lakeside, CA 92040

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

DRAFTED! My Year in Vietnam	_____ x \$20 = _____
John H. Gay and the Lakeside Inn	_____ x \$12 = _____
Tales of the El Monte Valley	_____ x \$5 = _____
Lakeside Schools 1879-2911	_____ x \$20 = _____
Lakeside Dairies 1886-2008	_____ x \$20 = _____
Legends of Lakeside	_____ x \$20 = _____
Images of American: Lakeside, California	_____ x \$20 = _____
Lakeside Historic District Self-Guided Walking Tour	(1) FREE (\$5 shipping cost only)
The History of Blossom Valley	_____ x \$20 = _____
The Legend of Muth Valley	_____ x \$50 = _____
This Was Yesterday	_____ x \$12 = _____
African American Pioneers – Julian, California	_____ x \$15 = _____
History in the Headlines: 1950 - 2000	_____ x \$20 = _____
Campo: The Forgotten Gunfight	_____ x \$20 = _____
History of Agua Caliente Springs	_____ x \$20 = _____
The Whaley Family – Past & Presence	_____ x \$20 = _____
San Diego Motorsports	_____ x \$25 = _____
Thirst for Independence ...	_____ x \$20 = _____
East of San Diego: Lost History ...	_____ x \$10 = _____
San Diego County Soldier-Pioneers ...	_____ x \$20 = _____
Warbird Watchers Guide ...	_____ x \$15 = _____
San Diego County Place Names A to Z	_____ x \$15 = _____
Shipping Cost: \$5 per order	+ <u>\$5.00</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$ _____</u>



TRICK OR TREAT & DIA DE LOS MUERTOS IN TOWN

On Halloween, LHS once again “creeped out” the courtyard while participating in the 13th Annual “Trick or Treat on Maine Avenue” event, sponsored by our friends and partners at the Miss Lakeside Scholarship Pageant (*some of whom are in the photo at top left*). Our scary friends from MARA (*top right*) also handed out candy to the record number of kids who came out to walk up and down Maine Avenue.

The next night, LHS hosted the first annual “Dia de los Muertos,” a Mexican holiday celebrated to honor and remember deceased loved ones (*photos below*). Again sponsored by the Miss Lakeside ladies, it offered face painting, Mexican food and desserts, coloring, and a nonstop showing of the Disney hit, “Coco,” a animated movie that highlights the holiday.

(All photos by Scott Lagace)



HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS

The official publication of the Lakeside Historical Society since 1980

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Articles, stories, emails & photos welcome

Deadline: 2nd Friday of the month

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE:

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Pennie McMahon & The Newsletter Mailing Crew

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DECEMBER MILESTONES

BIRTHDAYS

2	Irene Inez Morales
2	Roland Rhodes
2	Billie Sangster
4	Carolyn Sandoval
7	Cecil Edward Carender
8	Virginia Owens Adams
8	John Miller
9	Gary Armstrong
10	Charles Cook
10	Barbara DeYoung
10	Virginia Kouns Embry
10	Ashley Seybert
10	Patrick Stewart
14	David Angus
14	Timothy Webb
15	Dan Chelius
15	Jean MacKinnon
16	Josiah Gibson
16	Connor Hall
16	Thomas Scanlan
17	Peter Walstrom
19	Donna Chandler Kouns
19	Cecile Broersma Walters
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 John Mendez
30	Mark Anderson
30	Mikki Balicki
31	Anita Finder

ANNIVERSARIES

Gale & Mary Ruffin	- 73
Lottie & Charles Cook	- 72
Bill & Vivian Nelson	- 65
David & Jan Angus	- 54
Walter & Amy Kephart	- 45
Geraldine & Rudolph Morrin	- 43
Debbie & Ed Galusha	- 41
Robert & Tami Tea	- 36
Tom & Linda Claycomb	- 25
Paul & Angelica Sprecco	- 22



LAKESIDE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

DECEMBER 2025

EMAIL EDITION



2025 Mrs. Claus'
Christmas Resale Shoppe
Lakeside Historical Society

Dec. 1—20 (Mon—Sat)

10am to 2pm

TWO ALL-DAY EVENTS!

#1: Sat, Dec 6 - 10am—7pm
(Spirit of Christmas)

#2: Fri, Dec 19 - 10am—7pm

Olde Community Church
9906 Maine Avenue
Historic Downtown Lakeside



LHS MEMBERSHIP FEES

**** REMINDER ****

Your 2026 fees are due on:

January 1, 2026

We always appreciate your support!

Call us at (619)561-1886 if you have
any questions



* * LATE BREAKING NEWS * *

Our 2025 election results are in:

Co-Presidents

Coleen Owens & Pennie McMahon

Vice President

Rob Harding

Secretary

Cathy Wolpers

Treasurer

Gordon Shackelford

We want to thank our members who attended our General Meeting on
Monday, November 24, 2025 and participated in the annual elections.

The new board will start on January 1, 2026.



Happy Holidays

MORE DIA DE LOS MUERTOS



*Photographs
By
Scott Lagace*



THE HOLIDAY SEASON IS OFFICIALLY UPON US

On Saturday, November 22, a small army of LHS members descended upon our Olde Community Church bearing donated Christmas items from the past year. Some drove their trucks between the church and our storage facility, systematically loading and unloading on numerous trips. Many more of our helpers spread the items throughout our chapel and social hall, slowly filling the tables to display our goods. Believe it or not, we weren't able to totally empty our storage container—and many of our totes remain full—that's just how much stuff we have to sell!

The photos above tell the story. At left, the neatly ready tables at about 9 am on the 22nd. The photo at right is the same view—three hours later!

Thanks to all who helped, from the folks who worked inside the church unpacking the totes, to the drivers and passengers and their trucks, and to the Miss Lakeside ladies and Boy Scout Troop #346 (who were instrumental in getting our cellar cleared out as well as carrying uncounted crates off of the trucks). And, of course, to the folks who brought the power pills (i.e., donuts, etc.) and to Pennie McMahon, who once again supplied lunch for all of us. The Christmas Resale Shoppe opens on December 1 and runs through December 20.