



Volume 46, Number 1E

January 2026

## CO-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Pennie McMahon

I can't believe we are publishing a January 2026 newsletter! This last year went by so fast.

I am very pleased that I have been elected Co-President for 2026. I am really looking forward to working alongside all our officers to have a fun-filled and productive year.

I have been a member and volunteer for over 20 years and I really enjoy working with our members to preserve the history of our town of Lakeside. Over the years, I have learned so much while volunteering and have met so many nice people.

I am also excited to announce that our Board of Directors appointed Connor Hall as Co-Vice President to serve alongside Rob Harding, who has been our Vice President for several years.

We also voted to change our Board meetings to the second Thursday of each month at 4:00 p.m. We decided to try this new time, hoping more of our members will be able to attend our meetings. Our Board meetings are open to all our members. Please join us and learn more about the operation of LHS. We are always looking for volunteers to work on different committees and help with our many events.

I have been the Chairperson for Mrs. Claus Christmas Re-sale Shoppe for several years. When you receive this newsletter our Shoppe will still be open, but I want to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful community for all their donations and all their support of our event. We have collected donations all year and have had more than ever before. Really nice and unique things. While we don't have final totals yet, we have already surpassed anything we have made in the past. It is so exciting. None of this would be possible without our wonderful crew of volunteers. All year, we take in donations and they are transported to offsite storage. At the end of November, several trucks go to storage, making several trips, and bring it all back to LHS, where our volunteers, including our Boy Scouts Troop 346 and our Lakeside Royalty, unload the trucks, unpack the boxes, set up trees, organize and price all the items. Then we open for business six days a week until December 20th. As you can see, it takes many hours to accomplish this. I can't say enough for our wonderful volunteers, who give so much of their time during this busy time of year. They are all an amazing bunch of Elves that work tirelessly to make this all happen. As Chairperson of this event, I want to say THANK YOU to each of you for all you are doing to make this fundraiser a success.

Happy New Year to each of you and your families. I hope you will join us for the many events we hold all year.



## LAKESIDE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

GENERAL MEETING

Monday, January 26

6:00 PM

Olde Community Church

9906 Maine Avenue

Downtown Lakeside

## Annual Soup & Salad Potluck Dinner



Soup & Salad Dinner - \$5 Donation per person

General Meeting

Gift Exchange (\$20 gift limit)

**Call (619)561-1886 for more information**

*If you would like to contribute a soup or a salad,  
please contact the LHS office at (619) 561-1886 and  
leave us a message about what you will bring.*

### CALENDAR OF UPCOMING LHS EVENTS

**CHRISTMAS SHOPPE CLEANUP:** Sat, Jan 3 @ 9 am

**BOARD MEETING:** Thu, Jan 8 @ 4 pm (**NEW TIME!**)

**GENERAL MEETING:** Mon, Jan 26 @ 6 pm

*Soup & Salad Dinner & Gift Exchange*

**Coming in February**

**BOARD MEETING:** Thu, Feb 12 @ 4 pm (**NEW TIME!**)

**GENERAL MEETING:** Mon, Feb 23 @ 6 pm

*Chicken Pot Pie Dinner & History Presentation:*

*"The History of our Olde Community Church"*

Meetings & events are held at LHS History Center unless noted

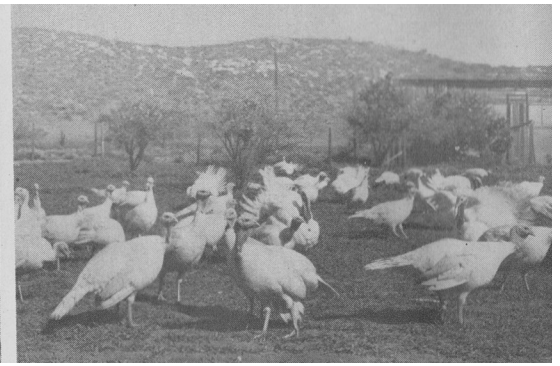
**GIFT SHOP / MUSEUM HOURS**

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

CLOSED: Sunday, Monday & Friday

**ARCHIVES OPEN EVERY WEDNESDAY**

**\*\* REMINDER: MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE NOW \*\***



*Milton Parfet (left) had a turkey ranch in Lakeview. (Above) Boyett Turkey Ranch & Hatchery once located at Mapleview and Pine streets, in the 1950s.*

## RAISING TURKEYS WAS SERIOUS BUSINESS IN LAKESIDE

The poultry business was a common one in Lakeside back in the day. Longtime residents can recall numerous chicken ranches here and there, all over town. Turkey ranches were less common, but we had our fair share. The Hamlet Turkey Ranch up on Wildcat Canyon Road raised and sold the big birds for 20 years. I.J. Boyett had a Turkey Ranch and Hatchery in the area of Mapleview and Pine Street. And there was the Parfet Turkey Ranch in Lakeview.

Milton Parfet came to San Diego with his family in an old Willys-Overland when he was 16 years old. Born on a cattle ranch in Golden, Colorado, Milton graduated from Sweetwater High School after the family landed in Chula Vista. He attended UCLA, married Dorothy Hamilton, and lived in San Francisco before returning to San Diego County in 1935. That's when he entered the turkey business at "Cuyamaca Lake." In 1941, Milton bought the 30-acre Grandy Ranch in the Lakeview community of Lakeside, where by 1947 the ranch averaged about 6,000 turkeys and 7,000 chickens annually.

In 1940, Milton began noticing some of his turkeys missing from his Cuyamaca ranch and suspected an employee, one Elmer Winifred Thatcher. Milton enlisted his mother-in-law and sister to try and buy some birds from Mr. Thatcher, who was living in Pacific Beach. The ladies were successful and, after inspecting the poultry, Milton located the Parfet ranch brand on the wings of the hens. Thatcher was arrested by Sheriff's deputies and charged with the theft of nearly 800 turkeys! He pleaded guilty to six counts of grand theft and was sentenced to San Quentin state prison!!

When Thatcher told the judge that he was owed money from the Parfet ranch, the judge retorted, "You claim they owe you wages for stealing their turkeys?"



*Bessie (or is it Betsy?) the cow, from the old Rocky Home Dairy, touring town before settling down in her new digs at the Grocery Outlet of Lakeside (not far from her original home). The "moove" is temporary; we just kind of ran out of room for her at the Olde Church—but she is still one of our prized possessions. (Photo by her tour guide, Billy Ortiz)*





## Lakeside Historical Society CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2026

*(All dates are subject to change)*

Monthly Board Meetings: 2nd Thursday of each month @ 4:00 p.m.

Museum Committee Meeting: 1st Thursday of each month @ 10:00 a.m.

Archives Open Every Wednesday @ 10:00 a.m. (January—November; Closed in December)

### JANUARY

- 26 General Meeting & Gift Exchange—Soup & Salad Pot Luck (No history presentation)

### FEBRUARY

- 23 General Meeting & History Presentation—Chicken Pot Pie Dinner

### MARCH

- 14 Volunteer Appreciation Catered Lunch

- 23 General Meeting & History Presentation—Pizza & Salad

### APRIL

- 25 Western Days Breakfast & Parade

### MAY

- 16 Picnic Lunch General Meeting & Car Show Event—Sandwiches

### JUNE

- 2 Living History Days Setup

- 3-4 Living History Days

### **JULY/AUGUST—NO SCHEDULED EVENTS**

### SEPTEMBER

- 28 General Meeting & Presentation—Spaghetti Dinner

### OCTOBER

- 17 Heritage Day General Meeting—Catered Lunch (No presentation)

- 31 Trick or Treat on Maine (Miss Lakeside)

### NOVEMBER

- 1 Dia de los Muertos (Miss Lakeside)

- 26 Elections General Meeting—Coffee & Dessert (No presentation)

- TBA Mrs. Claus Christmas Resale Shoppe Setup

### DECEMBER

- TBA Mrs. Claus Christmas Resale Shoppe

- 5 Lakeside's Spirit of Christmas

### **FIELD TRIPS—TO BE ANNOUNCED**

**NO GENERAL MEETINGS IN APRIL, JUNE, JULY, AUGUST, DECEMBER**

# LAKE SIDE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## LAKESIDE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Established in 1972  
9906 Maine Avenue  
Lakeside, CA 92040  
(619) 561-1886

Website: [lakesidehistory.org](http://lakesidehistory.org)

### EXECUTIVE OFFICERS 2026

Co-Presidents:

**Coleen Owens & Pennie McMahon**

Co-Vice Presidents:

**Rob Harding & Connor Hall**

Secretary: **Cathy Wolpers**

Treasurer: **Gordon Shackelford**

Parliamentarian: **Janis Shackelford**

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Archives: Janice McMillan

Christmas Shoppe: Pennie McMahon

Design Review Board: Paul Johnson

Facility/Grounds: John Swink

Gift Shop: Pennie McMahon

Greeter/Hospitality: Lee Bost

Honor Bricks: Karen Stephens

Kitchen: Janis Shackelford

Living History Days: Stacy Hensle

Members-at-Large: Paula Armstrong/Joan Tilley

Membership: Pennie McMahon/ Richard Hensle

Memorials: Barbara Hogue

Museum: Cathy Patino

Newsletter Distribution: Pennie McMahon

Newsletter Editor: Gary Mitrovich

Sunshine: Donna Swink

Volunteer Lunch: Pennie McMahon/Coleen Owens

Webmaster: Katharina Notarianni

### **HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS**

*The official newsletter of the  
Lakeside Historical Society since 1980*

**GARY E. MITROVICH, EDITOR**

[garyemit@gmail.com](mailto:garyemit@gmail.com)

(619)749-3630

*Articles, stories, emails & photos welcome*

*Deadline: **2nd Friday** of the month*

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE:

Richard Hensle \* Tom Isom \* Pennie McMahon

Billy Ortiz \* The Newsletter Mailing Crew

*Printed by College Copy Center*

### **NEW CO-PRESIDENT**

Longtime member Pennie McMahon is our new Co-President! She'll be running the show with Coleen Owens for 2026.

Though Pennie is new to the presidency, she has been a valuable part of LHS for 20+ years. Her list of duties is formidable, which has led to her being considered our unofficial "general manager." If you have a question about LHS, Pennie has the answer. We are very fortunate to have her involved. Thanks Pennie!



Additionally, your LHS Board has voted to add member Connor Hall to our ranks, as the new Co-Vice President. Connor will work alongside current VP Rob Harding to secure and schedule our General Meeting presenters throughout the year. Connor is a local resident and an El Capitan grad who has taken a unique interest in Lakeside and joined LHS a few years back (more on him—and a photo—next month). Welcome Connor!

### **NEW MONTHLY BOARD MEETING TIME TRIAL**

At its December 2025 meeting, your LHS Board voted to change the time of our regularly scheduled monthly meeting. Starting January 8, the meeting will be held at 4:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. Same day—the second Thursday of the month—same location; we just moved the time in the hopes that more of our members might be able to attend. These meetings are open to all LHS members and you do not have to RSVP. Of course, we are always looking for volunteers and folks who might want to get more involved, but it's also an opportunity to see how things work and maybe even offer a suggestion or two.

We decided on a six month trial, so our Board meetings will be conducted on the second Thursday of each month, from January through June, at 4:00 p.m. In June, we will evaluate the time change and announce the result of the trial then.

We hope to see more of you at all our meetings.

**1973**





## *In Remembrance*

***Donald Hickle, Lifetime Member***

*May 18, 1942—November 11, 2025*

### **LHS CHRISTMAS SHOPPE ELVES 2025**



November 22, 2025—Setup Day. A small army staged at the Olde Community Church to transport, unload, unpack, price, and display the contents of several hundred storage totes that had been collected over the past year, all donated by our many generous Lakeside-area friends and residents.

Our volunteers are truly incredible and always step up to get the job done. We are honored to be able help the community by offering some affordable holiday items. It also serves as our biggest fundraiser of the year. It takes a lot to maintain this now 130-year-old church and its facilities.



(Photo left) Our wonderful Miss Lakeside ladies not only helped us with the setup, but were also on hand to see off our historic and treasured cow, Bessie, as she left for her new (temporary) home at the Grocery Outlet of Lakeside. (Check

out the funny and heartwarming tribute to Bessie and her boyfriend, T-Bone, on the Grocery Outlet Facebook page!)

(Photo right) Thanks also to the young men of Boy Scout Troop #346 for their help as well. In appreciation for their ongoing volunteer efforts, the Troop was made an Honorary member of LHS. LHS really appreciates the help and we can't thank these young people enough.



## **JANUARY MILESTONES**

### **BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 Kolleen Paredes
- 2 Brenda Wood
- 3 Candy Cowell
- 4 Amy Kephart
- 5 Jean Cabanilla
- 11 Victoria Smith
- 12 Angelica Sprecco
- 13 Richard Hensle
- 14 Karen Cray Bratley
- 14 Charles Watkins
- 17 Samuel Doss Hammel
- 19 Coleen Conley Owens
- 19 Catherine Savage Wolpers
- 20 Elaine Swearengin Draper
- 22 Richard "Dick" Besancon
- 22 Donna Claycomb Catterick
- 23 Russell Clemens
- 23 Joe Naiman
- 23 Joe Patino
- 24 Lisa Wood
- 25 Elizabeth Liz Harris
- 25 Gerrie Stoll
- 26 Brian Bowman
- 27 Laurie Connolly
- 30 Patty Armstrong
- 30 Robin Anderson Laier

### **ANNIVERSARIES**

- Barbara & Ray Whitlock—66 yrs  
Lakeside Fire Protection  
District—63 yrs  
Farley Dental Arts—61 yrs  
Carter's Hay & Grain—56 yrs  
Jack & Debbie Miller—49 yrs  
Elizabeth & Danny Harris—43 yrs  
Jean MacKinnon & Howard  
Rigler—43 yrs  
Lakeside River Park  
Conservancy—25 yrs  
Rick & Irma Yeager—4 yrs

**Happy  
New  
Year**



**LAKESIDE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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

**JANUARY 2026**

**EMAIL EDITION**

---

**LAKESIDE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM**

**DATE** \_\_\_\_\_

**(PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY)**

\_\_\_\_\_ *New Member (s)* OR \_\_\_\_\_ *Renewal*

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20.00 per year individual

\_\_\_\_\_ \$200.00 Individual Life Membership

\_\_\_\_\_ \$35.00 per year family

\_\_\_\_\_ \$500.00 Business Life Membership

\_\_\_\_\_ \$50.00 per year business/organization

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

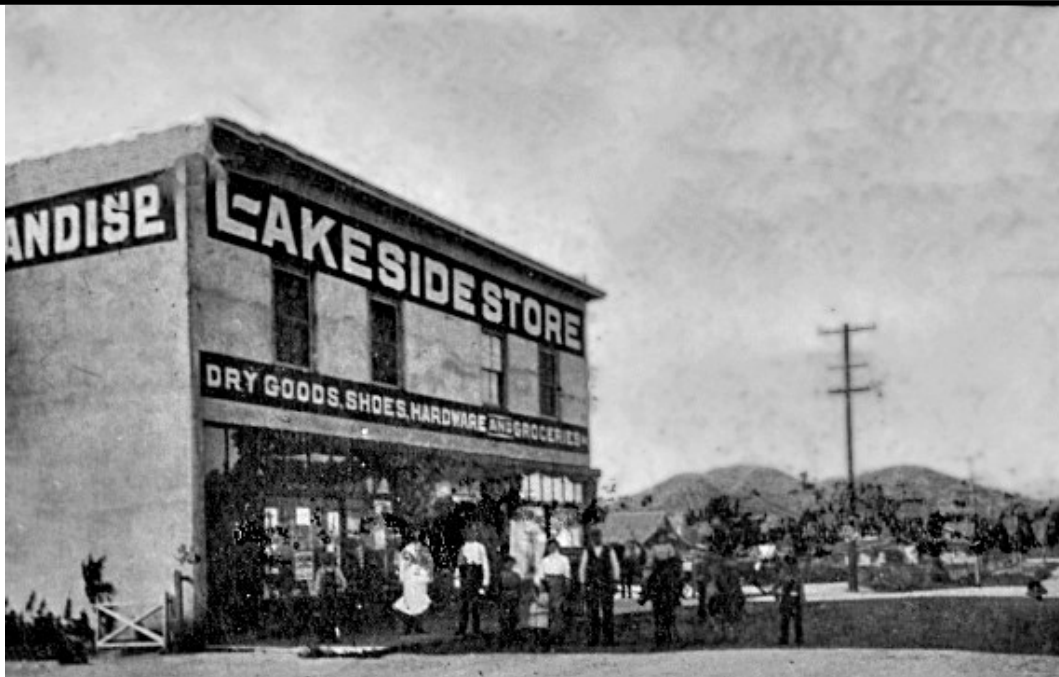
Your Birthday \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name & Birthday \_\_\_\_\_ Wedding Date \_\_\_\_\_

***Drop off or mail to:***

**LAKESIDE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, 9906 Maine Avenue, Lakeside CA 92040**

---



(Above) A very rare angle looking northerly at the old Lakeside Store, once located at Maine Avenue and Lakeshore (formerly Sycamore) Drive. The site is now the parking lot of the Lakeside Liquor Store. The photo can be dated between 1912 and 1922. (From a montage courtesy of Tom Isom)