

HISTORICAL

LAKESIDE HISTORICAL SOCIETY



HAPPENINGS

LHS ESTABLISHED 1972

Volume 46, Number 6E

June 2026

LHS AWARDED FOR PARADE FLOAT



LHS was honored with the “Best Community Award” for its entry in the 2026 Western Days Parade! Gary Mitrovich chaired the committee, but the real thanks goes to some pretty awesome LHS members: Driver Rob Harding secured the truck; shotgun rider Billy Ortiz got us the trailer, the hay bales, and herded our famous Lakeside cows; the “Old Timey Old Timers” - Carl Costantino, Chuck Preble and Doc Francis—supplied the live banjo music; Karen Mitrovich-Dotson was our honorary cow-girl; and Connor Hall wrangled the cattle. Special thanks goes to Tim Melville of Ironman Enterprises for the use of his truck, and to River Oaks Ranch in El Monte Valley for the use of their trailer. We were proud to participate and honor the 140th anniversary of Lakeside, the 130th anniversary of our Olde Community Church, and the 250th birthday of our United States!

WESTERN DAYS BREAKFAST SPONSORS

We asked our members to help with fundraising the cost of food for the Annual Western Days Breakfast. The response was beyond generous. We send our heartfelt thanks to:

<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Sponsorship Item</u>
Donna Swennes	1/2 of Ham
Irene Morales	1/2 of Ham
Hilliker's Ranch	Eggs
Joan Buckel	Biscuits
Jack Miller	1/2 of Potato Patties
Western Foundations & Shoring Inc.	1/2 of Potato Patties, Gravy, Orange Juice, Water Bottles, Hot Chocolate, Milk & Condiments

Event Sponsors: Salerno & Vestal Families * Vivian & Bill Nelson * William Kern * Mark Turvey * Candy Cowell Gene Claussen * Caprice Sander * Mikki Balicki * Maryanne Vancio * Janis Shackelford * Coleen Owens



Lakeside Historical Society

LIVING HISTORY DAYS 2026

Monday, June 1

9:00 am SETUP DAY

(Volunteers always welcome!)

Tuesday, June 2

9:00 am Montessori School

10:00 am Lakeview School

Wednesday, June 3

8:30 am Lindo Park School

Thursday, June 4

8:30 am Lemon Crest School

10:30 am Lakeside Farms School

A Special Event for our Lakeside Students!

QUESTIONS? Contact Coordinator Stacy Hensle

@ (619) 561-1886

(Schedule subject to change)

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING LHS EVENTS

LIVING HISTORY DAYS: Jun 2—4

Setup: Mon, Jun 1 @ 9 am

BOARD MEETING: Thu, Jun 11 @ 4 pm

NO MUSEUM COMMITTEE MEETING IN JUNE

Coming in July & August

MUSEUM MEETING: Thu, Jul 2 @ 10 am

America @ 250: Toll the Bells: Sat, Jul 4 @ 12 pm

BOARD MEETING: **Wed, Jul 8 @ 10 am (NEW)**

VINTAGE SALE: Aug 7 & 8 @ 9 am—2 pm

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

MUSEUM OPEN UPON REQUEST OR APPOINTMENT



CASTLE HOUSE “ENDANGERED”

Lakeside’s historic “Castle House” has been placed on the 2025 SOHO Most Endangered List of Historic Resources.

Built by George H. Mansfield in 1887, the Castle House was the first residence constructed in the newly established townsite of Lakeside. As vice president of the El Cajon Valley Land Company—the group organized specifically to create the town—Mansfield was able to “cherry pick” a prime location that overlooked natural Lindo Lake and the brand-new Lakeside Hotel (later called the Inn). It was a showcase site.

Since then, the Queen Anne Victorian has been an icon of Lakeside, celebrated and sought out by residents and visitors alike. It is the only such building of its design in Lakeside and was once considered one of the best examples in all of San Diego County. To say it is historically significant is an extreme understatement. As recent as 10 years ago, its longtime owners, the Layman family, were caring for and maintaining the house in pristine condition. The residence was even part of the old LHS Home Tour many years ago. But in recent years it has fallen into disrepair, as the former owners had to sell and the new owners turned the 139-year old treasure into a rental unit. Numerous windows are broken and patched shut with plywood. The trim wood and other fascia board is rotting. The picket fence is falling apart and disabled cars litter the lot. Such a tragedy for what was one of the first buildings in the new town and one of the few remaining from that time.

Since 1995, the Save our Heritage Organisation (SOHO) “Most Endangered List” has been a powerful tool to raise awareness and inspire action to save local cultural and historic treasures. To quote their website, “SOHO calls on Lakeside residents and county leaders to take action before it is too late. Immediate steps must be taken to secure, repair, and restore the George H. Mansfield House so it may endure, even thrive, well beyond the appreciation of those who still love it today.”

More to come. Above photo from 2026.

Member Spotlight

BARBARA STALLINGS HOGUE

Barbara’s family moved to Lakeside in 1954. She graduated from El Capitan High School in 1965. Once out of high school, Barbara worked locally as a dental assistant and intern for Dr. Paul. In the early 1970s, she worked at



the old Alpha Beta store on Woodside Avenue. Starting in 1977, Barbara became a realtor. In 1982, she took a break from real estate and worked for Kaiser Permanente, where she spent the next 25 years. She went back to real estate for a time and then retired.

Barbara joined the Lakeside Historical Society in 2006, starting as a museum docent. She worked on the 2007 Auto Speedway Centennial celebration. A few years later, she was elected as our Vice President and then stepped in “mid-term” as the President in 2011. Barbara continued as President in 2012 and 2013. Later, she served as Co-President in 2018 and 2019.

A dependable volunteer for kitchen duties whenever necessary, Barbara also works in the Gift Shop and regularly helps with all of our many LHS events. In 2017, after years of research, she published her seminal book on “John H. Gay and the Lakeside Inn.” Gay was easily the most famous and flamboyant owner of the Inn and her book plays an important role in documenting a significant segment of Lakeside history. Among other things, the book sets the record straight on many of the false rumors that surrounded Gay and had been circulating for decades. Her work led her to Gay’s last Will and Testament, which was the final word on the most persistent and negative rumor of all – that John Gay had the Inn torn down to spite the people of Lakeside. Barbara was able to put that story down to sour grapes, as Gay’s Will made no mention of any rift with the townspeople. Barbara also followed leads back to Gay’s birthplace, where she was able to contact family members and fill in much background on the man’s early life and upbringing.

The mother of two sons, Barbara was asked what she likes best about LHS. Her reply? “I love history and making friends.” Thank you to Barbara for her years of past volunteerism and her continued support and help with all things LHS.



(Above)

Some of the Super Ladies of LHS, just a little exhausted after working all morning in the kitchen at our Olde Community Church during Western Days Breakfast. From the left: Stacy Hensle, Cathy Wolpers, Paula Armstrong, Joan Tilley, Lynette Doherty, Pennie McMahon, and Barbara Hogue. Thanks to these ladies and the others who, once again, worked so hard for another successful event!
(Photo by Coleen Owens—who should have been in the picture as well!)

In Remembrance

Richard Canfield—Lifetime Member #544
 1924—2026

Cathie Ditomaso—Lifetime Member #472
 1945—2026

Les Quarles—Lifetime member #555
 1959—2026

Len Buckel—Lifetime Member #416
 1931—2024

HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS

The official publication of the Lakeside Historical Society since 1980

Gary E. Mitrovich, Editor

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

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE:

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JUNE MILESTONES

NEW LIFE MEMBER

TERRY PONCE

NEW MEMBERS

Yadiva Anqulo

David Roche

Aubrey Huskey

Sharon Huskey

BIRTHDAYS

5 Yolanda Leyvas

7 Ed Galusha

7 Jean Evans Mitchell

8 Robert Dart

9 Gene Anderson

9 Joy Farris Wray

12 Sandy Anderson

15 Vivian Nelson

15 Marilyn Owens

16 Henry Herms, Jr.

17 Tom Johnson

17 George Krisnowich

17 Terence Sanford

17 David Seiber

18 Claudia Denure

18 Mary Ruffin

21 Margaret Helt

22 Lisa Anderson Smith

23 Jill Fleming

24 Patricia Hegyi

24 Bill Markle

25 Ruth Miller

26 Kate Lauren

29 Jill Murphy

29 Anne Dreher Van Atta

30 Cherry Diefenbach

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Lakeside Historical Society

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JUNE 2026

EMAIL EDITION



A Nationwide Call to Toll the Bells

RINGING ON JULY 4, 2026 AT 12 NOON LOCAL TIME

In honor of America's 250th Anniversary, MOWW National and the MOWW San Diego Chapter have created **Freedom Bells** – a free bell tolling web app designed to unite Americans in a synchronized moment of reflection and celebration.

On July 4, 2026, FreedomBells.org will count down to 12 noon local time, allowing Chapters, individuals, families, schools, and communities to toll bells together in a shared national moment proclaiming liberty. Whether gathered in a public ceremony, participating from home, or far from home, Freedom Bells makes it possible for everyone to take part in this historic moment.

MOWW's free web app designed to celebrate America 250!

- Synchronized countdown to 12 noon local time
- Digital bell tolling from any device with multiple bell sounds
- Digital 250th Anniversary copy of the Declaration of Independence
- Opening and closing ceremony
- Timer for moments of reflection
- Patriotic music and readings
- History of July 4, 1776
- Registration for individuals and groups
- Printable participation certificates

LEARN MORE

Register or Learn More
FreedomBells.org



Lakeside Historical Society presents
Vintage & Collectables SALE

Hosted by the LHS History Museum Committee

TWO DAYS!!
August 7 & 8, 2026

Friday & Saturday—9:00 am to 2:00 pm—BOTH DAYS

Don't worry about the heat - we'll be inside our air conditioned

OLDE COMMUNITY CHURCH


9906 Maine Avenue in Historic Downtown Lakeside

****Glassware, Hats, Dishes, Jewelry, Notions, Vintage Clothing, Miscellaneous Museum Items & more!****

For more information, call us at
(619) 561-1886



Jewelry



61st ANNUAL LAKESIDE WESTERN DAYS PARADE

"USA 250; Many Voices, One Nation"

BEST COMMUNITY ENTRY

2026



APRIL 25, 2026—WESTERN DAYS BREAKFAST & PARADE

Photos by Scott Lagace, Billy Ortiz, & Gary Mitrovich



