



## BETTY JEAN McMILLEN

By Billy Ortiz

I received a call this morning from a friend, on Monday, May 30, 2022. I knew from the tone that it wasn't good.

He called to tell me that Betty McMillen had passed away at her home early Sunday morning, May 29, 2022.

I'm left with a great big hole in my heart so deep it hurts me to my core. The last time I felt sorrow this deep was when my parents passed away. **Betty's voice I can hear, no audible words just the sound of her voice and standing by a Jacaranda tree she planted for Lakeside. She planted more than trees, she planted history and a desire to love our Lakeside community. From morning 'til night she was dedicated to the town she fell in love with many, many years ago. Always raising money for beautifying Lakeside's Maine Avenue with murals and signs that tell a story about Lakeside history. Lakeside would not look like it does if she had not inspired so many of us about the importance of heritage, community pride, and especially our history. I hope that as you drive down Maine Avenue you will think of her and how much she loved Lakeside and its people. She was a beautiful soul that spent her last day smiling at all who would glance her way.**

Just this last Thursday (May 26) I came to spend some time at the old church. Betty and her friend were sitting in front of the LHS museum. She asked me if I wanted a tour and I said sure! — like I have 20 times before. Little did I know that I would be her last student on a tour through the museum. I will cherish that moment for the rest of my days.

It is hard to describe the impact she had on me and so many others she worked with for our community. She worked tirelessly day and night, wearing many of us out with yard sales and however else she could raise money. I know I went home worn and tired many a time and then found her the next day still at it. She was unbelievable. I don't know where she found the energy.

She had so much knowledge of our history and was willing to share it wholeheartedly.

I think if there was something she would want all of us to remember it would be to embrace our history and preservation of all our old buildings. **It pained her deeply to see our cottages and older buildings being knocked down to make "big ugly concrete buildings," as she would say.**

She will be deeply missed by many. If only I had one more day to spend with her I would tell how proud I was of her. She was my hero.

Many hugs and love to Rod, who Betty had been married to for 63 years just days ago, and to her children and extended family. Please know that we loved Betty with all our hearts. Earth will never be the same without her.

Rest In Peace my precious friend. Betty was 82.

(A community memorial for Betty is being planned and will be announced soon. —Ed.)



Betty McMillen holding her 2019 Woman of the Year award from Assemblyman Randy Voepel, "in recognition of outstanding service and dedication to the people of the State of California." Betty received the award in Sacramento.

Lakeside Historical Society presents



**Boutique & Vintage SALE**

Hosted by the LHS History Museum

**THREE DAYS!!**

**August 4—5—6, 2022**

9:00 am to 2:00 pm - ALL 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!\*\***

**NO DONATIONS PLEASE! (We are clearing out our extra museum items)**

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




*Jewelry*

### CALENDAR OF UPCOMING LHS EVENTS

MUSEUM MEETING: Thu, Jul 7 @ 10am

BOARD MEETING: Thu, Jul 14 @ 10am

#### COMING IN AUGUST

BOUTIQUE & VINTAGE SALE: Aug 4, 5, 6 @ 9am—2pm

BOARD MEETING: Thu, Aug 11 @ 10am

**\*\*NO GENERAL MEETINGS IN JULY OR AUGUST\*\***

#### COMING IN SEPTEMBER

MUSEUM MEETING: Thu, Sep 1 @ 10am

BOARD MEETING: Thu, Sep 8 @ 10am

MARA 9/11 Walk: Sun, Sep 11 @ 6pm

**Starts @ Mary's Donuts to LHS History Center Courtyard**

GENERAL MEETING: Mon, Sep 26 @ 6pm

MUSEUM, GIFT SHOP & ARCHIVES

Tues, Wed, Thu & Sat - 10am - 1pm

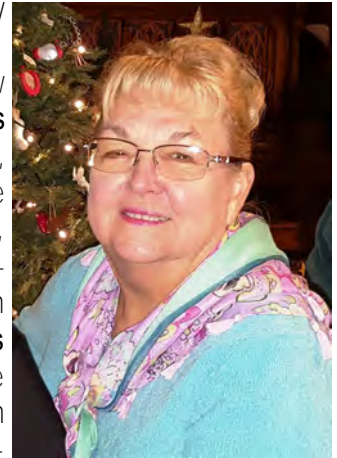
CLOSED: Sun, Mon & Fri

Meetings & events are held at LHS History Center unless noted

### CO-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *By Gary E. Mitrovich*

We have lost our beloved Betty McMillen.

Words like shock and sorrow don't begin to describe how this has impacted each of us. In many ways, Betty was the heart of LHS and she will be missed every day. Thankfully, we have many, many great volunteers to continue our mission, with **Betty leading us on high.** Betty's impact on Lakeside is immeasurable and exemplary. She was well known and well liked by the Lakeside community. She leaves us a tremendous legacy that will not be forgotten, as well as a huge hole in our hearts. Thank you Betty for your service to Lakeside and your commitment to your friends and community. You will be missed greatly.



Living History Days is over and we are exhausted, but what a great success! We may have been a little rusty – our last such event was in 2019 – but our incredible volunteers rose to the occasion and our Lakeside third graders enjoyed the experience. More on that in the next issue.

Many have noticed the big pine tree behind the Olde Community Church is gone and wondered why. The concern was the size of the tree and its location. Squeezed between two very old buildings, and about 120 feet tall, the tree could do catastrophic damage if it toppled in any direction. The roots alone would certainly have destroyed both neighboring structures. Some of those limbs were estimated at 2000 pounds apiece and would have crushed anything and anyone below if they fell. Add to that **the fire that ignited in the neighbor's yard this past March** – only dozens of feet away – and it all just made sense to address the issue. The pine was on the neighboring property and while owner was understanding and willing, he could not pay for the removal. **That's when a local couple (who wish to remain anonymous) stepped in and offered to cover the costs.** So, on May 31, the great old pine tree came down. It was not an easy decision, but one that made sense as we continue to protect and preserve a treasured local building. It is somewhat troubling that our trees are so often cut down and not replaced, so LHS has made plans to plant some, in a more appropriate spot. We are working with the County to plant trees in the parkway on either side of the church. The trees will not block the front, but serve to frame the view. We hope to have those trees planted in the fall.

**Finally: Don't forget to put the LHS Boutique and Vintage Sale on your August calendar!** Hosted by our Lakeside Museum Committee, the event will take place over three days in August (see poster at left). Will it be hot in August? Of course it will, but the Sale will be in our cool, air conditioned church. We hope you come on by and see the great old collectibles we have to offer.



### NEW MEMBERS

Bernard & Mary Tewalt (Family)

### NEW LIFETIME MEMBERS

Emery Elles

Joe Naiman

Laurel Robbins Nielson

### BIRTHDAYS

- 02 Andrea Gail Van Ness Shields
- 02 Cindy Sullivan
- 03 Sr. Anna Mary Meyer
- 04 Meave Sinclair Hall
- 06 Wyatt Allen
- 08 James "Steve" Reed
- 08 Lois Jeanne Farnsworth Rattray
- 09 Richard Hegyi
- 10 Joyce Bradshaw Barner
- 11 Dalene Melville Garrett
- 12 Patricia Walker Nielsen
- 12 Judith Taggart
- 13 William Rhoades
- 13 Connie Reis
- 13 Jim George
- 13 Bill Jenkin
- 14 Marjorie Herms Hatcher
- 16 Carol Clarke
- 18 Allene Head Savage
- 19 Pennie Barrows McMahon
- 19 Andrea Canfield
- 20 Roger Howes
- 20 Catherine Green Hansen
- 20 Larry Owen
- 20 George Shaeffer
- 21 Russell Kanady
- 21 Lisa Sharp
- 22 Charles Kephart
- 22 Sandra Fisher Jabben
- 22 Tammy Brass
- 24 Janis Shackelford
- 26 Dr. John Robuck
- 27 Sherry Golden-Reece
- 28 Dianne Jacob
- 28 Denise Meile
- 30 Bob Campbell
- 31 Dr. Joseph William Hansen
- 31 Roberta Callaway Perry
- 31 Theodore Sherman

### ANNIVERSARIES

- Lakeside Union School District – 99 yrs
- Charles & Joan Kouns – 63 yrs
- The Grinder – 59 yrs
- Dick & Claudia Denure – 59 yrs
- Bob & Sharon Clark – 55 yrs
- Bill & Leanne Markle – 54 yrs
- Richard & Natalie Springer Mates – 54 yrs
- Jeffery & Leeann Evans Silvis – 48 yrs
- Joseph & Andrea Van Ness Shields – 44 yrs
- David & Karen Kuhn Stephens – 42 yrs
- Tim & Karyn Avazian – 37 yrs
- Brian & Meredith Bowman – 27 yrs
- Timothy & Tamie Webb – 25 yrs
- David & Susan Roberts-Egley – 22 yrs
- Larry & Debbie Ziegler Roberts – 9 yrs

## *In Remembrance*

### **Betty Jean McMillen**

*(October 24, 1939—May 29, 2022)*

Betty was born in North Carolina. Her father was in the military and the family, including an older brother, soon moved to Hawaii. Betty was on the island territory when Pearl Harbor was bombed on December 7, 1941.

Arriving in San Diego in the early 1950s, Betty went to Hoover High School. Her husband, Rod, also attended Hoover and both worked for the old Pacific Bell telephone company. The couple married in 1959 and raised a family of two boys and a girl. They all moved to Lakeside in 1972, buying a house and a half acre on Lakeview Road.

Betty got involved with the Lakeside Historical Society in the mid-1980s and became a member in 1989. She quickly was involved in all aspects of LHS and never seemed to tire or lack for enthusiasm to protect and preserve the history of Lakeside. Betty eventually did five separate terms as President, chaired the Preservation Committee for years, served as the publicity manager, assisted regularly in the Archives, and wrote often for the monthly newsletter. She could often be found helping in the gift shop or museum, giving tours or insight on the history of the town.

Betty was also a regular writer for community newspapers and newsletters. For many years she handled the monthly "Around Lakeside" column and wrote features and articles for the *East County Californian*, as well as the *Lakeside Leader* and the *At-Home Lakeside* magazine. She authored numerous letters to local leaders, advocating for preservation and the betterment of Lakeside.

Her community work is almost too vast to list. She was an original member of the volunteer board for Lakeside's River Park Conservancy and was voted Board Member of the Year in 2006. While there, Betty led the charge to save the old Bostonia House (that was originally to be used as a classroom). She served on Lakeside's Design Review Board for many years, as well as the Lakeside Revitalization Committee, the Lindo Lake Subcommittee, the Woman's Club of Lakeside, and the Garden Club.

In 1992, Betty co-founded the Maine Avenue Revitalization Association – MARA – which she chaired until stepping down in 2021, though she remained as an Honorary Director. Under Betty's leadership, MARA was responsible for many downtown improvements since its inception, including new sidewalks, building improvements, and murals.

Lakeside's Chamber of Commerce often recognized Betty's devotion and accomplishments. In 1997, she was awarded the Harry Spence Memorial Award, the highest of their citizen honors. In 2016, she received the Rick Smith Memorial Award for being an individual who exemplifies unselfish dedication and commitment to the community.

Betty has been recognized by many elected officials over the years, including Supervisor (retired) Diane Jacob, Assemblyman (now Senator) Brian Jones, Senator (now Supervisor) Joel Anderson and Congressman (retired) Duncan Hunter.

Betty was also known as the "Queen of the Yard Sale."

### **Frederick A. "Fred" Puhn**

*October 18, 1939 - May 13, 2022*

### **HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS**

*The Official Publication of the Lakeside Historical Society since 1980*

**Gary E. Mitrovich, Editor/Head Writer**

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*Articles, emails, letters & photos welcome \* Deadline: 2nd Friday of month*

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Check out our website @ [www.lakesidehistory.org](http://www.lakesidehistory.org)



### ICE CREAM SOCIAL A BIG SUCCESS

Hosted by the Miss Lakeside Scholarship Fund and LHS, the event was a hit! Thanks to all the sponsors: Mary's Donuts, Leo's Pharmacy, Hilliker's Egg Ranch, Hamel's AC & Heating, Lloyd's Collison & Paint Repairs, and the 678 Pageants. A big thanks as well to our LHS volunteers and to the ladies above (left to right): Hailee Bush (Miss Princess), Kaydence Magnusen (Teen Lakeside Princess), Erin Williams (Miss Lakeside), Zoe Douglas (Teen Miss Lakeside), Madison Marshall (PreTeen Jr. Lakeside Princess), Cierra Riddle, Miss Princess. We're going to do this again real soon!



### ANNUAL MAY REUNION *(Photo & Story By Dusty Rhodes)*

Every May for the past 12 years these schoolmates celebrate Lakeside Grammar School "Kid Days!" Standing: Laurel Robbins Nielsen, Cal Bowman Jr. Seated: Peter Emge, Jack Sypolt, Charles Phillips, Leilani Powers, Bob Robbins and Bob Griffin. (Marilyn Head usually attends.) Congratulations on their 70th anniversary of 8th grade! One fun fact shared was that Mr. Head was a bus driver and if you missed your stop you would end up in El Monte Valley where he parked the bus. Dusty brought a piece of Grossmont High School granite to show them, as they all graduated there!

***NOTICE: There will be no newsletter for August. The next issue will be a combined August/September edition.***