

HISTORICAL

LAKESIDE HISTORICAL SOCIETY



HAPPENINGS

LHS ESTABLISHED 1972

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November 2026

RIVER PARK'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Lakeside's River Park just celebrated its first 25 years!

The roots of the Lakeside's River Park Conservancy trace back to the 1980s, when community members began envisioning a new purpose for the local stretch of the San Diego River. For decades, the area had been heavily utilized as an industrial sand-mining zone. However, residents wanted to transform the degraded landscape into a public asset. After multiple false starts, planning gained significant momentum in the late 1990s as adjacent cities like Santee and San Diego embraced the concept of a unified river park network.

To prevent the newly reclaimed sand-mining parcels from being repurposed for industrial developments, LRPC was officially incorporated as a nonprofit organization in 2001. The conservancy acquired its first major property—a 100-acre segment of depleted sand mine—between 2003 and 2004. The purchase launched a major environmental reclamation project that required removing 600,000 cubic yards of imported industrial fill dirt to reconstruct the natural flood plain and relieve severe water flow blockages.

Over the next two decades, the conservancy successfully restored the highly channelized riverbed into a thriving riparian ecosystem. Early efforts included filling old mining pits to aid natural sediment flow, establishing a constructed wetland to filter urban runoff from Los Coches Creek, and planting over 30,000 native plants while eradicating invasive species. Today, this vibrant open space features two permanent ponds and a mature willow forest canopy that serves as a critical habitat for more than 120 native wildlife species.

In addition to ecological restoration, the conservancy has prioritized public access and education. In 2008, the organization opened the first phase of its multi-use public trail network. The park currently maintains a critical 2-mile segment of the San Diego River Trail extending from Channel Road in Lakeside to the eastern boundary of Santee, welcoming more than 30,000 hikers, cyclists, and equestrians annually. Moving forward, the conservancy continues to work toward a larger regional vision of creating an uninterrupted 52-mile trail connecting the mountains to the ocean.

Our congratulations and best wishes for continued success to Lakeside's River Park Conservancy!



Lakeside Historical Society

ANNUAL BOARD ELECTIONS

Monday, November 23, 2026
6:00 P.M.
Olde Community Church
9906 Maine Avenue - Lakeside

General Meeting & Elections

A brief meeting to elect our 2027 Board
Coffee & Desserts will be served
For questions or information, please call (619) 561-1886

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING LHS EVENTS

MUSEUM MEETING: Thu, Nov 5 @ 10 am

BOARD MEETING: Wed, Nov 11 @ 10 am

CHRISTMAS SHOPPE SETUP: Sat, Nov 21 @ 9 am

ELECTIONS/HOLIDAY MEETING: Mon, Nov 23 @ 6 pm

Coming in December

CHRISTMAS SHOPPE OPENS: Tues, Dec 1 @ 10 am

Spirit of Christmas: Sat, Dec 5 @ 3 pm

ALL-DAY CHRISTMAS SHOPPE: Sat, Dec 5, 10am-7pm

BOARD MEETING: Wed, Dec 9 @ 10 am

ALL-DAY CHRISTMAS SHOPPE: Fri, Dec 11, 10am-7pm

CHRISTMAS SHOPPE CLOSING: Sat, Dec 19 @ 2 pm

No Museum or General meetings in December

Archives will be closed during December

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

****ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DUE JAN 1****

Mrs. Claus' 2026 **CHRISTMAS RESALE SHOPPE**

Lakeside Historical Society
9906 Maine Avenue in Downtown Lakeside



OPENING DECEMBER 1, 2026

Monday — Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

CLOSED SUNDAYS

LAST DAY: Saturday, December 19, 2026

TWO ALL DAY EVENTS

Saturday, December 5 (with the Spirit of Christmas!)

AND

Friday, December 11
10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.



Committee Spotlight: ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

According to A.I., "The Lakeside Historical Society Archives in Lakeside, California, house an extensive regional collection dedicated to preserving the history, culture, and transformation of the local community since its founding in 1886."

What it doesn't show is the long list of dedicated volunteers who started building our archives before LHS was even formed! Folks like Edna Kouns, Marcella Williams, Yrene Woods, Dorie Campbell, Allene Savage, Grace Parrott, and so many more have sat at the table to gather and care for the documentation of our 140-year-old history.

Our current team is no less dedicated or active. With Janice McMillan as our Chair, we currently have Donna Swink, Ida Cook, Patricia Barnes, and Gary Mitrovich sitting at the history table every Wednesday, from 10 am to 1 pm, continuing the legacy of the Lakeside Historical Society.

What do the Archives offer? We feature several core elements:

- Historical Records & Manuscripts:** Comprehensive documentation tracing the development of prominent local families, regional businesses, ranches, and agriculture—particularly the area's rich history in dairy farming and ranching.

- Local Newspapers:** Rare, preserved print runs of historic area periodicals spanning from the 1920s to the 1950s (such as the *Lakeside Star*, *Lakeside Journal*, *Lakeside Citizen*). Because much of the community's early history went unrecorded, these papers serve as crucial primary source material.

- Photographic Collections & Ephemera:** A vast repository of restored and historic photographs documenting local landmarks like the Lakeside Inn, regional railroads, the evolution of Lakeside schools, and much more.

As we upgrade and digitalize our records, we perform research upon request (an appointment is necessary). Plus we offer historical photos for a small fee. Visitors are always welcome!

NOVEMBER MILESTONES

NEW MEMBERS!

Marilyn Mattson
Melinda Reinicke
Leslie Cusworth

Reggie Reighley/Suzie Shepard Family

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Ida Cook
- 2 Melinda Lou Bowman Brown
- 4 Laurel Robbins Nielsen
- 4 Daniel Seybert
- 4 Jeanne Taylor
- 6 Jacqueline Willis
- 7 Dan Moody
- 8 Barbara Watkins Moyer
- 8 Caprice Hubbard Sander
- 10 Dorothy Combs
- 10 Christine Hill
- 11 Grace Parrott
- 13 Anita Moody
- 14 Keith Becker
- 14 Sharon Huskey
- 14 Rick Markle
- 14 Alex Mitrovich
- 16 D. W. "Mitch" Mitchell
- 16 Cathy Patino
- 17 Bob Clark
- 17 Jo Ann Halleib Dutton
- 20 Christopher Whitmore
- 23 Nancy Bradbury
- 23 Gina Griffith
- 24 Stacy Cate Hensle
- 24 Donna Swennes
- 25 Joan Tilley
- 26 Melinda Becker
- 27 Paula Armstrong
- 28 Walter Kephart

ANNIVERSARIES

Thomas & Mary Klippel - 63
Lynette & Michael Doherty - 57
Jean & Christopher Whitmore - 46
George & Anna Robeson - 38
Sherry Golden-Reece & Don Reece - 31
Ashley & Daniel Seybert - 10

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 *

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NOVEMBER 2026 EMAIL EDITION



A colorized photo from the 1950s, showing the original site of the Lakeside Inn Boathouse, pedestrian bridge and all, before it was moved to its present location. Thanks to our friend Tom Isom for sharing this!



SAVE THE DATE

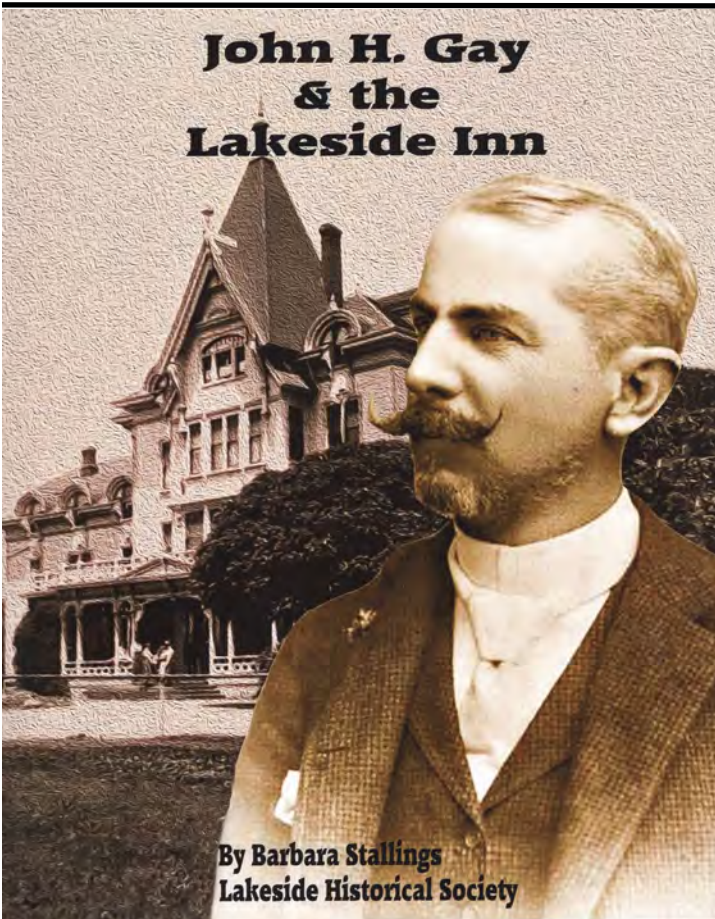
Spirit of CHRISTMAS

TREE LIGHTING
MEET SANTA
FOOD & DRINKS
ARTS & CRAFTS
GIFTS & DECOR

DECEMBER 5, 2026
3:00 PM - 7:30 PM

MAINE AVENUE

John H. Gay & the Lakeside Inn



By Barbara Stallings
Lakeside Historical Society

2nd EDITION OF LAKESIDE INN BOOK OUT

The latest edition of our book, "John H. Gay & the Lakeside Inn," is now available at the LHS Gift Shop.

Written and researched by longtime LHS member Barbara Stallings, the book was first published in 2017 and sold out earlier this year. This new edition has added content about one of our most talked about historical buildings—now long gone—and its most famous owner/operator: John Gay. The book dispels many long held (and false) rumors about why the Inn was dismantled. It's a fascinating look at historic Lakeside. If you're a resident, this one should be in your personal library.

The book sells for \$15 and all proceeds go to the Lakeside Historical Society.

Lakeside Historical Society

9906 Maine Ave. lksd

www.lakesidehistory.org



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