



EL CAJON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HERITAGE



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www.elcajonhistory.org

October 2019

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As is usually the case, my joy in working in this organization is in the people I work with and meet. For example, I recently received a communication and donation from Al Vildibill, Life Member of ECHS. Al and my husband work together in the Coast Guard Auxiliary. His note that came with a very generous check said: "I'm sure you have some use for this money." As it happened, we were trying to figure out how to supply a projector for our speaker at the Quarterly Meeting. Thanks, Al, for the new projector! Since I mentioned the Quarterly Meeting, I should also mention that we all had the pleasure of meeting and listening to Carroll Rice's stepson, Andrew Woodruff, who spoke to us from his great knowledge of currency and coin. It was great to see our Vice President, Colleen White, at that meeting. We are so grateful for the progress made after serious health issues.

This past month, I also had the pleasure to meet with Lynn and Connie Baer, who lovingly run the Grossmont High School Museum. They were seeking information from old issues of the Californian. Thanks to Rick Hall, the issues were brought up from storage and later returned. The Baer sisters were a delight and gave a generous donation to ECHS following their research.

Another person who communicated with me was Becca Rubalcava, the mother of one of our Visual History Contest winners. She is an IT technician in the U.S. Navy stationed on the U.S.S. John McCain. She obviously misses her daughter and was thrilled to get news of her win, but she wanted an actual, not electronic, page so that she could put it in the scrapbook she is keeping to share with her daughter when her ship returns to the States. I was able to send that to her and to add her and all of those stationed away from family to my prayers.

My final meeting was actually with a former co-worker of mine, Donna Treadway. You will see an article about her efforts in this issue.

Fondly,

Carla Nowak, President

KEEP HISTORY ALIVE DRIVE 2019

The Board of Directors for the El Cajon Historical Society would like to extend its very best wishes to you for the coming holiday season. We hope your holidays are very merry and bright! The Board would also like to thank you for your continuing support or for those not currently members of the Society to please consider joining. Your generous contributions and support through membership dues has not only provided the Society with much needed support to further its mission, but it has also invested in a most important resource – community heritage. Through the generous support of members like you the Society intends to preserve our past for the benefit of future generations.

As you know, the El Cajon Historical Society has operating expenses that must be paid and special programs that the Board would really like to sponsor. But the limiting factor each year is, of course, money. This year the Board is promoting its *Keep History Alive Drive* to keep East County's heritage alive.

There are three ways that you can support our *Keep History Alive Drive*:

Participate in a 50-50 Opportunity Drawing! The Board of the El Cajon Historical Society is pursuing a 50-50 fundraiser this holiday season as a very special and unique means to raise funds for the coming year. The 50-50 fundraiser is an opportunity drawing wherein the Board will enter your name into a drawing to win 50 percent of our fundraiser earnings. Each entry donation is a minimum of \$10. Therefore, if you were to donate a very generous \$50 to the El Cajon Historical Society you would receive 5 entries into the 50-50 opportunity drawing. Please return a copy of the form on the next page, along with your donation, to the El Cajon Historical Society at the address listed below before November 1st. The Board will hold a drawing on November 5, 2019 to select the winner of the opportunity drawing. A check will be mailed to our very lucky winner the following week and the results will be posted in our January newsletter.

Renew your dues! If you have not yet renewed your membership for the coming year, please do so now by your membership renewal date. If you have already renewed your dues or became a Life Member, please accept our sincerest appreciation for your continued support!

IF you are not yet a member of the Society! Please consider membership. The categories are: Individual \$15, Family \$25, Organization \$45., Business \$45 and Life \$500. Simply complete the Membership Information on the form on the next page and enclose your check for the membership category desired.

Upgrade your membership! Please consider upgrading your membership to become a Life Member (\$500). As Life Member, you pledge your lifetime support for the El Cajon Historical Society and its continued livelihood. If you have already become a Life Member please accept our most sincere and deepest gratitude for your very generous gesture of continued support!

If you have not as yet had the opportunity to visit our Knox Hotel Museum at the Southwest corner of Magnolia and Park, please come by during visiting hours and learn about Old El Cajon. The Society maintains the interior of the Knox Hotel Museum and conducts the tours.

Again, our very best wishes for the upcoming holiday season and thank you, in advance, for your support. Happy Holidays!

KEEP HISTORY ALIVE DRIVE 2019 FORM

I pledge to invest in my community's heritage and keep history alive!
Please accept the following donation to the 2019 *Keep History Alive Drive*:

Donation Amount \$_____ (divided by 10) = Entries

(\$10.00 minimum donation per entry)

Donor Name _____

Donor Address _____

Donor Phone No. _____

Membership: NEW _____ RENEWAL _____

Name/Organization/Business _____

Address (if different _____

Phone No. _____

If a Business please indicate contact person _____

Category of Membership:

Individual \$15 _____ Family \$25 _____ Organization \$45 _____

Business \$45 _____ Life \$500 _____

Please tear out this form and mail it with your check payable to:

**El Cajon Historical Society
PO Box 1973
El Cajon, CA 92022**

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ECHS 2020 PROPOSED BUDGET & OFFICERS

PROPOSED 2020 OFFICERS

PROPOSED 2020 BUDGET

| Income | | |
|-------------------------|------------|------------|
| Book Sales | \$200.00 | |
| Donations | \$500.00 | |
| Dues | \$2,000.00 | |
| Investment Income | \$50.00 | |
| Opportunity Drawings | \$450.00 | |
| Quarterly Meetings | \$1,000.00 | |
| Special Events | \$2,880.00 | |
| | | \$6,930.00 |
| Expenses | | |
| Building Maintenance | \$50.00 | |
| Insurance | \$2,200.00 | |
| Memberships | \$25.00 | |
| Miscellaneous Expense | \$100.00 | |
| Newsletter/Publications | \$300.00 | |
| Office Expense | \$250.00 | |
| PO Box Rental | \$100.00 | |
| Postage | \$250.00 | |
| Quarterly Meetings | \$1,000.00 | |
| Safe Deposit Box Rent | \$135.00 | |
| Sales Tax | \$40.00 | |
| Security | \$500.00 | |
| Storage | \$820.00 | |
| Special Events | \$50.00 | |
| Telephone/Internet | \$1,300.00 | |
| | | \$6,930.00 |

President..... Carla Nowak
 Vice President.....Linda Garity
 Recording SecretaryRebecca Taylor
 Corresponding Secretary..... Yvonne Paris
 Treasurer.....George Dall/Joe Klock

**Continuing Directors whose term expires
 December 31, 2020**

Linda Garity
 Yvonne Paris
 Carla Nowak
 Christy Klock

**Continuing Directors whose term expires
 December 31, 2021**

George Dall
 Mike Kaszuba
 Jack Dickens
 Rebecca Taylor

**Continuing Directors whose term expires
 December 31, 2022**

Colleen White
 Fran Hill
 Eldonna Lay
 Joe Klock

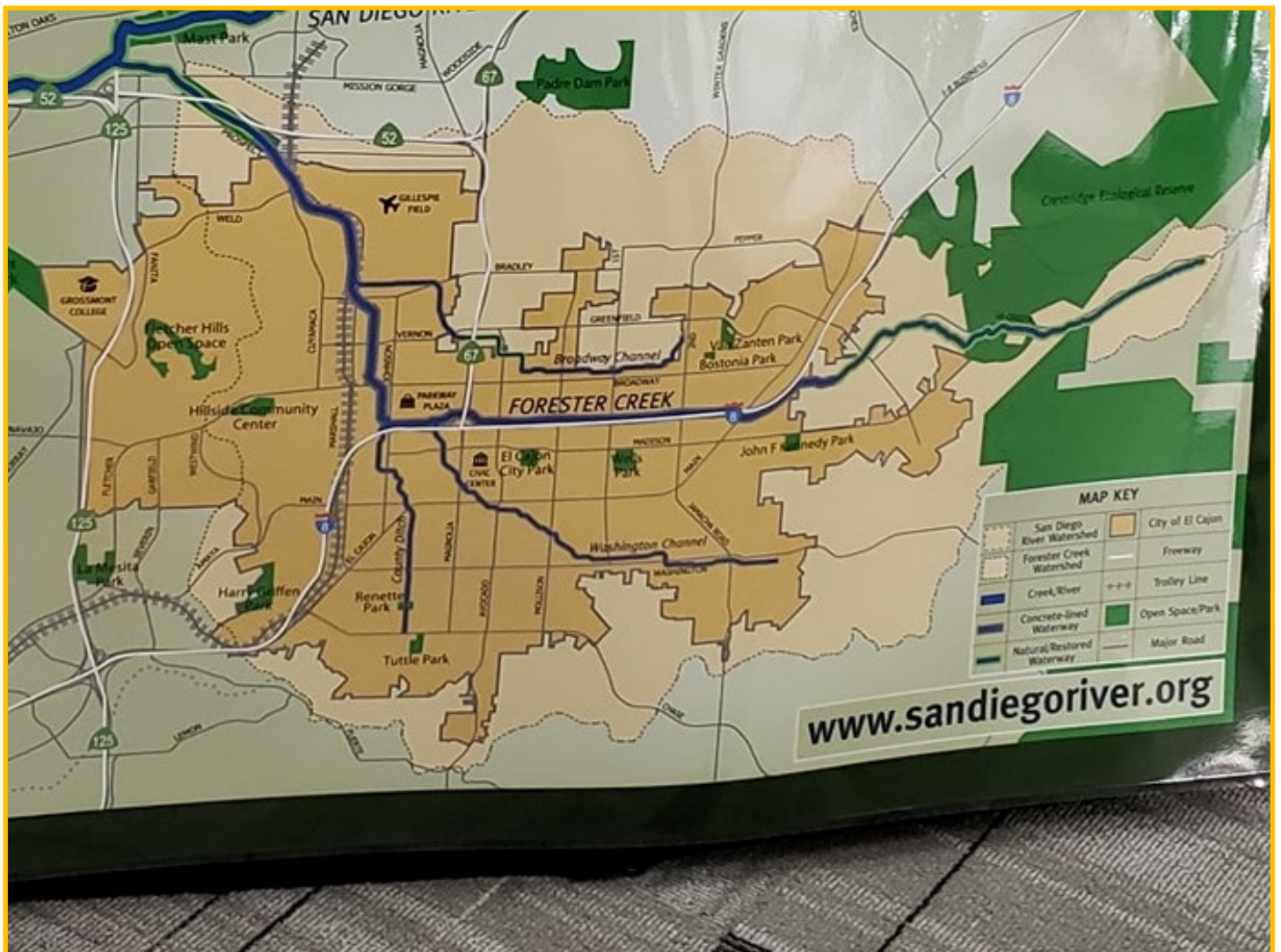
Respectfully submitted by the Nominating Committee
 Rick Hall, Eldonna Lay, Carla Nowak, Linda Garity

Going with the Flow

The old Forester Creek that once wound openly from Santee to wander across downtown El Cajon's Magnolia and Park streets and along Main Street was mostly contained in the mid-1980s in open cement corridors during the excavation and building of our city's then-new City Hall and performing arts center. During that process, a bit of it was captured for a few years alongside the elegant new compound as a small "lake, and a small water feature on the corner of Main and Julian Streets.

More recently, following the guidance and wishes of cities' parks and recreation departments and neighborhood volunteers, San Diego County's San Diego River Park organization is restoring the natural flow of the San Diego River and its subsidiaries by returning natural vegetation and restoring parks and areas lining freeways to the cities and towns through which the rivers and streams flows.

This map illustrates what is being saved, restored and added in our city.



History Preserved by Library Technician

Retired CVUSD library technician, Donna Treadway, who worked for a number of years in the Hillsdale Middle School Library (also known as the Josephine Asher Vacher Library), rescued the textbooks given to her by the Asher Vacher family. They had been used by Josephine Asher Vacher in her teaching. She was also given a photo of Josephine taken later in her life. The library is being moved to a much smaller space, and the Asher Vacher items risked being lost in the process. Thanks, Donna, for bringing them to the El Cajon Historical Society where they will be added to a number of other historical documents from the Asher Vacher family!



Josephine Asher Vacher

Josephine was the 2nd child of seven born to Josephus and Sarah Asher. The Ashers were friends of Alonzo Horton, the founder of New Town San Diego. When Josephus' health failed, he moved his family to the El Cajon Valley in 1878. After graduation from elementary school, Josephine continued her studies under her mother and also by taking correspondence courses. She eventually received her teaching certificate, her first assignment being at the Cuyamaca School in the Cuyamaca mountain area. She continued to teach in various schools in El Cajon and elsewhere until her retirement in 1941, when she was 71 years old.

(Information about Josephine Asher Vacher is taken from "The Asher Vacher Story as told to Hazel Sperry").

Welcome New Members

- ✦ Screenmobile of El Cajon
- ✦ El Cajon Valley Host Lions Club



From: El Cajon Historical Society
P. O. Box 1973
El Cajon, CA 92022

To:

October Quarterly Meeting

Please join us for our meeting at
Denny's Restaurant
2691 Navajo Rd El Cajon, CA

Thursday, October 17 at 11:30am.

Cost \$15

Lunch choices are from the
Value Menu and Senior Menu,
breakfast and lunch only.

Our guest speakers will be
Melissa McChesney, Communications
Manager and Mark Niemiec,
Director of Engineering and Planning
from the Padre Dam & East County
Advanced Water Purification
Program.

Turn in your reservation form early!

Looking forward to seeing you there!

October Meeting Reservation Form

Number Attending _____ @ \$15 Each

Name

Address

City, Zip

Phone

E-mail

RESERVATION DEADLINE

October 11, 2019

Mail reservations/checks to:
ECHS, P.O. Box 1973, El Cajon, CA 92022-1973

Reservations not kept become a donation.