



EL CAJON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HERITAGE



Volume 44 Issue 3

www.elcajonhistory.org

July 2022

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hope this finds you all well.

On a somewhat positive note, with your help, we are making some headway on the budget deficit. The Back Country Opportunity Drawing proved to be very successful and membership renewals continue to come in.

As we were starting to make progress on the deficit we had a setback and a bit of a scare at the Knox House when we received a phone call at 5am on April 29th that there was a smoke alarm going off. We are so thankful that it turned out to be a false alarm and that the fire department folks that responded to the alarm waited until we were able to arrive to open up the Knox house, thus preventing any damage to the Building. As it turned out, three smoke detectors and a heat sensor needed to be

replaced, so \$700 later that part of our security system is now new and upgraded. This potential situation is one of our biggest concerns. I don't think it would be overstating what a catastrophic loss there could be to El Cajon's history if something like this might occur and we lost all the archives. This of course is the main reason why the archives are in the process of being digitized and backed up offsite. This is a huge project so it will be a work in progress for a while.

The new essay contest format (My Family History) provided some interesting and moving essays. This year was a time to learn what went right with the contest and what we might want to change. Not sure how long we will be able to continue the contest, as with all organizations without some new young folks there could be a point when it will not continue. With the essay contest we keep hoping a retired teacher looking for something to do will show up and ensure the contest will be able to continue.

We are really hoping many of you will be able to attend the July quarterly meeting. We will be featuring our most popular program from the past, the Trinity Brothers singing group. The last time they performed for us they received rave reviews.

Wishing all of you a great and safe summer.

Rick Hall, ECHS Board President

OPPORTUNITY DRAWING WINNER



The Board of Directors would like to express their sincere thanks and appreciation to all those who participated in and supported our "Day Trip to the Back Country" of San Diego County fundraiser.

We are pleased to announce that we raised \$560 and the winner of the "Day Trip" drawing was Teresa Bresler. Congratulations Teresa!



COMING SOON!



For a \$15.00 donation!

When they arrive they will be available for pick up at the Knox House. First come, first served. If you would like to pre-order, please contact us by email at echs0997@att.net or by calling (619) 444-3800 and leaving a message on the answering machine with your contact information and how many mugs you would like. There is a limited supply available.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERSHIP!

- Robert A. Boyle , Enhanced Life membership.
- Rick and Sharon Hall have upgraded to Enhanced Life membership.

The following have all upgraded to family memberships: Tad & Shirlee Geiger; John Linden; Alice Rodriguez

- The membership categories are: Individual \$15, Family \$25. Organization \$45., Business \$45 and Enhanced Life \$500.

If you would like to become a member, or upgrade your membership, please make checks payable to ECHS and send to:

P.O. Box 1973, El Cajon, CA 92022-1973.

Telephone Messages: 619-444-3800.

We are always so grateful for your support! Thank you.

IN MEMORIAM

It is with sadness we inform you of the passing of Betty McMillan on May 30, 2022. Betty was a driving force with the Lakeside Historical Society, and this will be a big loss to all of us dedicated to the preservation of our history. Our condolences go to her family and the Lakeside Historical Society and the Lakeside community.

THIRD GRADE ESSAY CONTEST

This year's Third Grade Essay Contest with the theme "My Family History", received 14 essays from 4 schools in the Cajon Valley Union School District. The Board of Directors would like to express their sincere thanks and appreciation to the District, Principals and Teachers for their efforts and cooperation, and to the students for their participation. This year's 1st place winner (\$100 award) went to Saif Khayyat, and 2nd place winner (\$75 award) was Sana Satarzada, both from Ms. Sanders' Class at Fuerte Elementary. The 3rd place winner (\$50 award) was Matthew Oshana from Mrs. Ward's class at W. D. Hall. The Essay Contest Committee is also happy to announce that we had 2 Honorable Mentions (\$25 award each), that went to Deema Khayyat from Ms. Sanders' class at Fuerte Elementary and Mohammad Maseeh from Mrs. Borja's class at Naranca Elementary. Congratulations to those well deserved students! These essays will be placed in our archives for future reference and research under "El Cajon Middle Eastern History".

Speaking of the Third Grade Essay Contest-Here is another blast from the past — our June 1987 Newsletter.

We are happy to have been able to continue the Essay Contest for so many years and so thankful for all of the participants!



THIRD GRADE HISTORICAL ESSAY WINNERS NAMED, RECEIVE AWARDS

At a special awards presentation June 8 at the Cajon Junior High El Cajon Historical Society presented awards to 236 students, representing 13 local elementary schools, who had entered essays in this year's historical writing contest.

Society president Russ Stockwell, said 23 students from seven schools were entered in this contest, started six years ago. This year's contest had the greatest number of entries ever submitted.

Colleen Carroll was presented with the first place trophy and a check for \$35 for her essay, "Valentine to Ballantyne", telling
(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

(ESSAY AWARD WINNERS TOLD)
(continued from page 1)

highlights of the life of John Ballantyne.

A second place trophy and a \$25 check went to Kelly Dee Davis of Flying Hills School for her interview of Irene Bixby Hall.

Third place trophy and a \$15 check went to Kenny Smith of Vista Grande school for his interview with Paul Weinstock and the story of the Weinstock building.

Each of these three winners and their parents were presented with charms and/or tie clasps with the city seal by Mayor John Reber.

The Rexford Hall perpetual trophy was presented to Vista Grande school, which Colleen attends

The three runners-up each received a trophy and a check for \$5. They include Monica Palmer of W.D. Hall school, writing about "An Imaginary Overnight in Early El Cajon at the Knox Hotel"; Kellie Love of Anza school, "Street Signs of El Cajon"; and Josette Chiamonte of W.D. Hall, writing about her grandfather, Jack Chiamonte and his childhood in El Cajon.

School winners include Kellie Love, Anza; Krista McNelly, Avocado; Jessica Sather, Bostonia; Kalina Kretowicz, Chase Avenue; Lisa Gilmore, Crest; Ryan Hall, Fletcher Hills; Kelly Dee Davis, Flying Hills; Trishauna Jacobs, Johnson Avenue; Michelle Jessie, Lexington; Adrienne Waite, Madison; Shannon Nowell, Rancho San Diego; Colleen Carroll, Vista Grande, and Monica Palmer, W.D. Hall.

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

To:

Quarterly Meeting July 21, 2022

The El Cajon Historical Society's next quarterly meeting will be held on Thursday, July 21st at 4pm at the Downtown Cafe, 182 East Main St in El Cajon,

This quarterly meeting will feature "The Trinity Brothers" which was one of our most popular programs that we have had in the past. We hope that you will be able to join us to share food, fellowship and music.

Because of the rising cost, we have had to increase our price from \$15 to \$20 per person.

There will be a selected menu at the restaurant, however if we receive reservations for 25 or more, we are planning to have the Taco Bar Buffet. Reservations must be in by Saturday, July 16th.

July 21, 2022 Quarterly Meeting Reservation Form

Number attending @ \$20 per person _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

RESERVATION DEADLINE: July 16, 2022

Mail reservations & checks to:

ECHS, P. O. Box 1973, El Cajon, CA 92022-1973

Reservations not kept become a donation.