

Smoke Signal

CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Co-Presidents: Linda & André van der Valk

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Editor: Ann Vincent

Co-Presidents' Message

By Linda & André van der Valk

Our thanks to everyone who made our Garden Festival a successful day. Ann Vincent our Event Chair did a great job again. We truly appreciate all the time Ann spends making sure that the event goes off without a hitch. She makes it look easy but we know that a lot of time is spent on the event. The tea was enjoyed by many and I am sure if the weather had cooperated we would have had many more attendees.

We would like to thank Councilman Greig Smith for supplying the shuttle buses for the event. Since parking is limited, these shuttles are very important to the success of the event.

I would like to extend a very special thank you to Councilman Smith for his wonderful idea that he brought to fruition, which was to dedicate the roadway going to the acre and the recreation center Virginia Watson Way. The day of the Garden Festival the sign at the entrance of the park was unveiled. The Councilman said so many kind words about Virginia that it was a very emotional ceremony for many of us. Alex and Crystal Daily, Virginia's grandchildren were there for the ceremony. It is a proud moment for the Historical Society to have the roadway named after Virginia and hopefully it will have people wonder who she was and ask us all about her. She will not be forgotten with this wonderful honor.

Linda and André



Chatsworth Historical Society Board of Directors 2019-2020	
Co-Presidents	Linda & André van der Valk
Treasurer.....	Jim Van Gundy
Secretary.....	Donna Nachtrab
Hospitality.....	Jelena Csanyi
Smoke Signal Editor.....	Ann Vincent
Cottage Curator Emeritus.....	Betty Summers
Research Director.....	Ray Vincent
Garden Director.....	Annette Campbell
Director-at-Large.....	Connie Ager
Honorary Member.....	Bea Berman

Upcoming Events

Summer Schedule

No general meetings until October, enjoy the summer

Summer Open House Schedule

Sunday, July 7 closed Holiday weekend

Sunday, August 4 1-4 pm

Sunday, September 1 closed Holiday weekend

October 6, 2019 Sunday 11-3

Pioneer Day

Mark your calendar and plan to join us. This annual event focuses on teaching children the ways of the Pioneer. It includes blacksmithing, gold panning, leather crafts, butter churning, games and crafts for kids of all ages. Vendors with handmade crafts are included.

October 15, 2019 Tuesday 7:00 PM

General Meeting

To Be Announced



Councilman Smith presenting Virginia Watson Way

DOCENT DOINGS at the ACRE:

Our docents keep busy with projects throughout the year. We meet every Wednesday morning 9-noon.

OUT IN THE GARDEN:

If you need some outdoor fresh air therapy, come join our gardening team on Wednesday mornings 9-noon.



IN THE MUSEUM: We will be sharing photos and information on the Stagecoach Trail. We will continue to have open house scheduled for the first Sunday of each month from 1-4pm except on Holidays.

IN THE COTTAGE: An inventory project is still underway to confirm and learn more about the items on display and their history so we can provide more information on our tours.

DOCENTS ARE NEEDED: Help guide guests through the museum and cottage during our Open Houses, Tours and Special Events. If you would like to learn the history of our community and help share it with others, please contact us for more information at chatsworthhistory@gmail.com.

PASSING – EARLY CHATSWORTH RESIDENTS

Valeta Koller passed away on May 10, 2019 at the age of 96. Valeta's father owned and managed many citrus fields in 1919, and purchased land that



the family held as an investment for many years. She was born in 1922 while her parents lived here in Chatsworth. After starting her family, she returned to Chatsworth and lived the rest of her life in the family home on San Jose Street near Topanga. Valeta was active with the Chatsworth Historical Society and would participate as the

oldest living resident for many years cutting the cake for the Chatsworth Birthday Celebrations. A personal interview was included in our June 2017 newsletter available online under Publications.

Note: The wheelbarrow shown on the right, with Bonnie and Virginia, was donated by the Ditto family with this 1926 photo to show its origin.

Memorial Brick Plaza



Click the link below for the Memorial Brick Order Form \$100 per brick.

<http://www.chatsworthhistory.com/CHS-BrickOrderForm.pdf>

Bricks that were ordered before March 1st were in place for the 2019 Garden Festival. We will continue to add new bricks, however the next cut off will be August 15 to have them placed before Pioneer Day. For more information, send an email to chatsworthhistory@gmail.com or call 818-882-5614.

SPECIAL THANK YOU To DAN HUFFMAN

Thank you, Dan for your timely rescue arranging for the repair of one of our bridges across the dry creek bed in the garden. Although the bridge structure was still sturdy, the board planks across the walking surface had rotted out over time. They were replaced just in time for us to have a safe path for Garden Festival.

Bonnie Graves Lakey passed away on May 23, 2019 at the age of 97. Bonnie was the daughter of Bonnie and Harry Graves (brother of homesteader Fred Graves). Bonnie Graves Lakey and her sister Virginia Graves Ditto, (1924-1995) both lived most of their lives here in Chatsworth, first growing up on the Harry Graves Ranch on Tulsa. Later during WW2 each sister married a soldier. Their families



each built homes at the north end of Farralone. Information on the Graves Family is included in our Homesteaders Part 1 Presentation on pages 24-27, available at chatsworthhistory.com.

ACTIVITIES:

Chatsworth Community Coordinating Council

Honoring our Historical Society Community Service Award winners

The Chatsworth Community Coordinating Council Dinner held Friday, May 10th at the Monterey at Encino is an annual event that the Chatsworth Historical Society participates in to honor our members and others in the community who volunteer their time.



The following individuals each received recognition: Jim Van Gundy – Treasurer, Neighborhood Council and Pioneer Day/Garden Festival & community service; Martina Turner – Garden Festival Tea and community service; Dennis Liff – contributions to Chatsworth History through Iverson Ranch research; and Bill Dushman – recognition for coordination of event parking and student volunteers at all of our events. Awards were presented by Andre van der Valk and Ann Vincent. Thank you all for your continuing efforts to make our Historical Society successful!

Life Time of Service Award

In addition to our Community Service Awards, John and Zena Thorpe, longtime members and past presidents of the Historical Society, were honored at the dinner with a Life Time of Service Award for their continuous efforts and involvement in many organizations over the years. Thank you, John and Zena!



GARDEN FESTIVAL 2019 THANK YOU



We would like to extend a big thank you to all who made this year's Garden Festival so successful. It takes so many to make it all come together smoothly and every job is important and appreciated. Behind the scenes we had some great help.

This year we were fortunate to have the help of both El Camino Real High School NJROTC and Reseda NJROTC working with us to set up and tear down. Bill Dushman, Ray Vincent, Jeff and Marina Mackie, John Kuhn along with Bob Dager and Jelena Csanyi helped with setup activities.

On Sunday morning, the Reseda NJROTC worked with Ray Vincent, Bill Dushman, John Kuhn and Tom Nachtrab to coordinate parking and our shuttle bus. The NJROTC Cadets also assisted the vendors with unloading



and transporting their wares. Tom coordinated the buses from the Depot parking. Once again, a special thanks for the shuttle bus provided by Councilmember Smith's office, which allows for offsite parking at the Train Depot. We appreciate their participation and support to help our event run smoothly. The parking is always one of the most challenging aspects of events like this and Bill, Tom, John and Ray make a good team. Thanks!

As the event got started Sunday morning, Donna Boswell and Wendi Gladstone assisted our vendors and non-profit groups in checking in and locating their booths. They later collected the entry donations throughout the day and signed in all of our volunteers. We had a great turnout for Bake Sale items by community members. Thank you goes out to: Bea Berman, Barbara Pampalone, Clara Woll, Teri Seidman, Dayna Campbell, Sharon Shingai, Patricia Davidadah, Connie Smith and Darlene Wageman. Extra thanks goes to Rumpa Mishra who worked at the Bake Sale table all day with help from Barbara Pampalone and Dayna Campbell.

The Cottage was staffed by docents Gloria DeMuri, Dottie Acker and Jan Gruenwald, sharing the Hill Palmer story with our guests. In the museum assisting our guests were Jelena Csanyi with help from Helen Yeo. Bea Berman and John Thorpe handled the information booth. Nadia Harding helped out in the Cottage and also shared information on the butterflies in the garden.



The Food Booth involved Linda and Andre van der Valk with their family and grandchildren. We appreciate the time and supplies donated to our fundraising. Gary Bercow and Buck Barker were on hand with Kathy Underwood and Tia Bougeon throughout the day.

Our garden was in full bloom with Annette Campbell and Janine Bergez selling the plants donated or propagated at the acre, while Nadia also donated some milkweed for butterfly gardens.



The Iris Society was on hand with plenty of plants to purchase. We were fortunate to have Midge Gisel of the San Fernando Valley Historical Society to share history of the valley. We also enjoyed the

participation of the Santa Susana Mountains Park Association (SSMPA) and the Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park volunteers (SSPSHP) providing more history to our guests about our state park. The Sky Valley Volunteers and their oak tree planting project were on hand to spread the word, and Alan Pollack of the Audubon Society shared information about our local birds. This year we had representatives from The Chatsworth Branch Daughters of the American Revolution DAR, and The Daughters of Union Veterans

DUV. They were on hand to represent the history of our community and country, and to help guests learn their own history and how to trace their ancestry. The Chatsworth Neighborhood Council and the Chamber of Commerce were also available to provide information on local activities and events.

Our tea was expertly handled by an efficient team of women who prepared and served over 165 teas. Credit goes to Jenny Strauss and her daughter Jocelyn who made sure we had all the hot water available and



tea ready to serve. Our crew behind the scenes preparing plates included Valarie Barsky, Ursula Janovsky and Dianne Stewart. Marina Mackie was the driving force to make sure teas were served, with cream, sugar, and plates moved quickly and efficiently. Marina also gets credit for inviting Key Club students to help serve the plates, along with Jocelyn Strauss. I also noticed Dawn Osbrink, Donna Nachtrab's daughter, along with Donna, working the tables too. Tickets were sold by our resident stand-in for the Duchess of Devonshire...at our tea, Zena Thorpe. This year we made a few changes with check in for the tea by selling three groups of tickets.

As usual, we provided prepaid reservations for groups of 10 or more and sold almost 80 in advance. The open seating was provided at two time slots of 50 guests each, one at 11:30 and one at 12:30. Our first seating sold out, and tickets were sold to our additional guests to join us at 12:30. This made for a smooth transition between the two groups allowing our servers to get ready for the second group. Donna Nachtrab and her daughter Dawn oversaw this portion of the tea.

Harpist Alanna Guthrie-Jones provided her concert harp and played in the



garden adjacent to the tea. Last year our guests had wonderful comments regarding the harpist playing in the garden, so we continued the theme this year. Our beautiful flower arrangements were created by Linda Boisclair with teacups on loan from Martina Turner. A special thanks to Silver King for polishing our coffee urn, cream and sugar bowl for our table display.



The tea could not happen without the food donations and preparation of servings by a wonderful team of volunteers. All the cost of the food for the tea is donated...otherwise we could not offer it at such a low price. There are lots of donations...your time money and skills all make this happen. A few special thankyou's go to Valarie Barsky for the tea desserts, Linda van der Valk for all the fresh fruit, the table settings and water for the tea...and much more. Our sandwich makers this year were, Donna Nachtrab, Dawn Osbrink, Ann Vincent, Marsha Cropp and Pat and Bill UpdeGraff. Jelena handled the setup, donated tea pots, prepared all the fresh fruit and washed the tablecloths. Note: The teacups and tea pots have all been cleaned, put away and are waiting for next year.

There are a variety of important features that make a difference in our event. One is the vendors who provide the atmosphere of crafts and display their talents for all of us to enjoy. Another is our volunteers who provide their time to allow guests to make something fun or take away a memory of Chatsworth. Matilda McBride worked with our garden stone painting, Lori Summer and Rebecca Cannady enjoyed teaching and making tissue paper flowers for our guests. Native plant seeds were also available.



Our vendors this year were excellent and displayed a variety of quality hand crafted goods for sale, making the entire event a success. There was a little bit of everything. Our guests coming in at the gate had a wonderful time exploring the event and enjoying our Garden Festival.

My sincere apologies to everyone I did not mention. I have a list of over 90 volunteers who signed in at the gate to help make this event happen. You know who you are...Thank you! Oh my goodness....it is almost time to start planning for Pioneer Day on October 6.

See you then.

Ann Vincent

Historic Bottle found at the Acre -- Dr. King's New Life Pills

A discovery was made as we were setting up the awnings for the Garden Festival at the Homestead Acre. Nancy Kjeldgaard, a Sky Valley volunteer, dropped by, and as we were showing her the creekbed just south of the cottage, she noticed a small bottle laying on the north bank just east of the westernmost bridge.



There was gopher activity on the bank, and we theorized that a gopher had brought the bottle up to the surface...

On one side it says "DR. KING'S NEW LIFE PILLS". on the other side "CHICAGO, U.S.A." and on another side "H.E. BUCKLEN & CO".

Based on the research links below, the bottle dates back to the 1880's-1910 era, when Chatsworth was founded.

A picture of the bottle found at the Acre is shown above, it was filled with dirt, and it is in perfect condition.

From <https://chicagology.com/goldenage/goldenage104/>, H.E. Bucklen & Company of Chicago were highly successful sellers of a number of well-known brands of medicines. Herbert Bucklen purchased the rights to his medicines from one Dr. Z.L. King of Elkhart, Indiana, about 1878 and moved the business from Elkhart to Chicago about 1878-1879. Bucklen spent lavish sums on advertising in all types of media, and created the brand name of "New Discovery", which had national recognition by 1885. He also had several other top selling medicines including the Electric Bitters and The New Life Pills, introduced in 1880 as a cure for stomach ailments.

The Bucklen Building in Chicago is seen at the right, circa 1885.

A link of a bottle with pills in it from 1906 - <https://www.worthpoint.com/worthopedia/antique-bottle-of-dr-kings-new-life-pills-w>

"Dr. King's New Life Pills FOR Constipation and Biliousness"

For liver complaint, jaundice and kidney troubles: take one pill two or three times a day. The price was 25 cents per bottle, containing thirty-six pills.

We will never know if the bottle was discarded by the Hill family, or washed down the creek from the railroad or quarry workers up in the hills?



The Apeta Momonga Mission Trail -- HCM #1177

We had a great turnout for our April General meeting, discussing our most recent Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument in Chatsworth.



The Apeta Momonga Mission Trail is an unpaved equestrian and hiking trail running for nearly two miles parallel and just south of the 118 Freeway, between De Soto Avenue to the west and Limekiln Canyon at Tampa Avenue to the east. The trail originally served to connect the villages of Achoicomanga and Momonga, inhabited by the Chumash, Tataviam, and Gabrieleño/Tongva people.

During the period of Spanish colonization, it became part of the larger El Camino Real network that connected 21 missions, 4 presidios, and 3 pueblos between San Diego and San Francisco.

As the San Fernando Valley developed, portions of the original route were incorporated into streets and housing tracts. It was officially dedicated as the scenic equestrian and hiking “Old Mission Trail” in 1987 after a restoration by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. The Trail is significant as a historic route between Native American villages and as one of the last natural, undeveloped remnants of the El Camino Real in the area, linked to the historic network of trails that connected the San Fernando and Ventura Missions.

For those that missed the April Meeting, you can view the PowerPoint presentation at chatsworthhistory.com, Digital Archives, Presentations, The Apeta Momonga Mission Trail.



List of Chatsworth's Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monuments:

- 1963 – (#14) The Pioneer Church
- 1967 – (#49) Olive Trees on Lassen
- 1972 – (#92) The Stagecoach Trail
- 1974 – (#132) Stoney Point Outcroppings
- 1974 – (#133) Minnie Hill Palmer House
- 1975 – (#141) Chatsworth Reservoir Kiln Site
- 1997 – (#645) Harvester Farms
- 2003 – (#750) The Munch Box
- 2019 – (#1177) The Apeta Momonga Mission Trail

Virginia Watson Museum & Gift Shop

The following items are available for sale during Open Houses on the first Sunday of the month. To arrange to purchase items at other times, email chatsworthhistory@gmail.com to make arrangements for payment and shipping, if necessary.

CHATSWORTH HISTORY by Virginia Watson	\$10.00
CHATSWORTH PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL The First 100 Years by Ioline Cleveland	\$10.00
WINDOW INTO THE PAST by William Schepler	\$10.00
QUIET ON THE SET by Robert Sherman	\$25.00
OUR PIONEER MOTHER As told to Lenora Johnson MacDonald	\$10.00



DIGITAL ARCHIVES online at

<http://www.chatsworthhistory.com>

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CHS FACEBOOK PAGE

www.facebook.com/HomesteadAcre

SLIDESHARE.NET

<https://www.slideshare.net/ChatsworthHistory/presentations>

Slideshare has a listing of our CHS presentations that can easily be watched online. Enjoy!

Can we email our newsletter to you?

Please email us to provide your email address.
Thanks! chatsworthhistory@gmail.com

Wondering if your Dues are Due?

Your dues are due one year after the last time you paid your dues.

For those receiving email only newsletters, we will advise you by email when your dues are due.

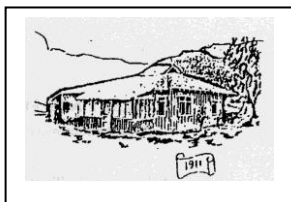
For snail mail, if you have an asterisk at the end of your name on the mailing label, your dues are due.

Please use the form below to renew your Membership. And if your neighbor is not a member yet, pass this newsletter on to them and invite them to join.



CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Membership Form



Your membership helps support our Homestead Acre and the educational and historical programs we provide for our community. Members receive our quarterly newsletters, and receive invitation reminders regarding our monthly programs and annual events – Rose Pruning, the Garden Festival, Membership Roundup, and Pioneer Day. Please mail this form with your annual membership dues and/or contribution made payable to:

Chatsworth Historical Society, 10385 Shadow Oak Drive, Chatsworth, CA 91311
chatsworthhistory@gmail.com 818-882-5614 www.chatsworthhistory.com

- Yearly: New Member Renewal
 Individual \$15.00 Family \$20.00 Organization \$20.00
Life Membership: \$ 125.00

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Reminder: If you got this mailed to you, an asterisk on your label means your dues are due!