



La Verne Historical Society

Preserving Old La Verne's Environment: Making History for the Future



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Membership Meeting & Presentation

Enthusiast Janie Duncan will speak about *"The History of Beads"* at the next LVHS meeting, **January 9th (Monday)** at 7:00 pm. Janie will travel through time and history with the story of beads, the cultures that used beads, and the making of beads. She will share her bead collection for up-close examination. Her presentation will be at the Hillcrest Meeting House, 2705 Mountain View Drive, La Verne, California 91750.



Tour the Workman and Temple Family Homestead Museum

On Saturday, January 28th, from 11:00am-12:30pm, the LVHS is inviting its members to tour the Workman Home and La Casa Nueva that is part of the Workman and Temple Family Homestead Museum in the City of Industry. The Workman Home was built in the 1870s and La Casa Nueva was built by the Temple family in the 1920s. This event is free but only available to LVHS members. Call or email Sherry Best at 909/596-4679 or sbest@lavernehistoricalociety.org to reserve your place and get on the car pool list. Sherry and John Best will host a "porch party" with coffee and cookies from 9:00am-10:00am at their home at the Larimer House on 3949 Bradford Street prior to leaving for the Homestead Museum.

President's Message: Creating Community Value

The concept of "creating community value" guides LVHS activities and continues to gain momentum as we grow and develop. Let's examine how value and community are created together in our society.

Creating Value

Being a member of the LVHS is **loaded with value**. To begin, annual membership is \$15 (for a family!) and entitles its members to a newsletter and planned events that are designed to acquaint us with La Verne and surrounding cities. How many times have you said something like this: "I have heard of the Sam Maloof House but I've never been there." In May 2016 this event was made possible for LVHS members and was enjoyed by almost 40 participants. In 2015 the LVHS sponsored a presentation about the Lordsburg Hotel and another in 2016 about Don Benito Wilson. These presentations remind me of the second theme related to value – **entertainment**. To independently "pull off" a fun event, there is sometimes so much effort involved in scheduling, transportation, and other planning aspects that the activity begins to feel like too much work. The LVHS supports entertaining activities with minimal effort for its members. Prior to several events there were "porch parties" at the Larimer House and participants in our home tours also had opportunities to socialize with one another. And this brings me to the third theme of creating value, which is **social engagement**. It is valuable and important to know the citizens who live in your community. It creates closeness and a strong sense of belonging. After the February 2016 "Get on the Bus Tours," the LVHS donated its services for a separate tour for members of the La Verne RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol) organization, several of whom then joined the LVHS. Planning this activity with Marv Weston gave me an opportunity to learn more about RSVP and I hope we can collaborate on other activities.

Future Value

What are the future plans to bring value to LVHS members? You have received the calendar of 2016-

2017 activities with many options for engagement. Some are repeats of favorites like our home tours. However, note that the scope of these tours has expanded to multiple houses on each tour – that’s added value. We had our annual winter holiday celebration – but this time we had a “roadshow” to appraise and discuss your treasures. The newsletter keeps coming – but it will expand to add feature articles, new member recognition, and a calendar of activities sponsored by other historical societies. This is more value for your membership.

The LVHS is also planning new projects. This year we are sponsoring two walking tours of Bronze Marker Homes; one tour occurred on November 26th on Third Street and the other is scheduled for May in the Kuns Park area. Another new activity is connecting to our city leaders. Speaking about LVHS activities on a regular basis at City Council meetings makes our value more visible to others.

The Cost of Creating Value is Participation and Partnership

How is all this value created? It starts with a dedicated core of participants who donate time, energy, and sometimes their own money to develop and carry out the mission and vision of an organization such as the LVHS. If you attended the 4th of July parade and saw the LVHS entry, almost every participant was a member of our board who gave their time and effort on a national holiday to support our organization and the city of La Verne.

The LVHS will thrive on the added value of member **participation and partnership**. If you enjoy the activities sponsored by the LVHS, consider your role through the following:

- ✓ Talk to a friend about a membership in the LVHS. Maybe give a membership as a birthday, anniversary, or holiday gift.
- ✓ Come to membership meetings. We have great presenters lined up who will inform and educate us.
- ✓ Attend City Council meetings in support of the LVHS. Thank them for their interest.
- ✓ Volunteer at the LVHS table at the Saturday Farmer’s Market. We are not there every week but try to have table space a week before home tours and most other events. You can engage market attendees and slip away for a little shopping too!

- ✓ Volunteer to be a docent for home tours. We sign up members for two-hour shifts and provide refreshments.
- ✓ Contribute to the newsletter. La Verne is full of creative people who have stories to tell.

We have consciously decided to keep our membership dues and activity costs low enough to be widely accessible. However, keeping our membership and activity costs low while we expand our scope and variety creates a dilemma – how do we pay for refreshments, rent participation space like the Veteran’s Hall, and reimburse for printer ink, paper, stamps, and other necessities to bring quality programming to as many people as possible? Here are some ideas. Consider your membership dues and other paid activities to the LVHS as a MINIMUM monetary response. If something costs \$15, consider giving \$20 (or more). When you come to membership meetings, bring something to share at the refreshment table. Social and educational events are always better when there is food. Make a straight up cash donation. We are a non-profit 501(c)3 which means you can deduct cash donations. To date, the LVHS has received \$1700 in honor of Galen and Doris Beery. Isn’t that generous?

Be an **active participant** and bring value to an organization that is dedicated to enriching the historical and social environment of our community.

Sherry Best, President

Bill Lemon, the La Verne Historical Society Family and Local History Researcher, is working on several feature articles for our newsletter and also for the *La Verne Community News*. Bill has stepped up to this work after the death of Galen Beery, who had chronicled our city and its history for years. Start looking for Bill’s feature articles in the February issue of the *La Verne Community News* and the next issue of our newsletter.

THANK YOU BILL!

The Historical Society of La Verne was organized in 1969, dedicated to Lordsburg - La Verne history and saving our environment. Have photos, letters, or artifacts from our past? We’d like to hear from you.

