

2015 GEM Award Winner – 1000 Adella Avenue



Russ Haley (l.) presents the 2015 GEM Award to Bernie and Jill Esrock.

On Saturday, March 14, Coronado Historical Association board member Russ Haley presented the 2015 GEM Award to Jill and Bernie Esrock, proud owners of 1000 Adella Avenue—a true gem. The award is presented annually by CHA to Coronado property owners who have "Gone the Extra Mile," to preserve and restore an original structure rather than tearing it down and replacing it.

Built in 1902, the Esrock's home was originally known as the Kneeder House. Just

three years later, the structure was moved from Ocean Boulevard to Adella Avenue, by placing it on logs and slowly pulling it-- one foot at a time-- across Orange Avenue towards its new location. The move itself took five days.

Over the years, the home's exterior had become masked by stucco and suffered from old age. The home's foundation was un-reinforced concrete

and loose bricks. Then along came Jill and Bernie Esrock, who set out to bring back the home's original charm by restoring the original architecture with wood shingles and authentic wood windows. With the help of their restoration team, Lorton Mitchell Homes, Dorothy Howard Architect, and interior designer Stephanie Davis, the Esrocks achieved their dream of not only restoring the original home, but also meeting their current needs – a wheelchair accessible home with 21st century updates.

Through the restoration process, they uncovered amazing prehistoric sea fossils, dating back millions of years. The Esrocks also discovered a large storage trunk of Dr. Kneeder's tucked in the attic.

The presentation was made during CHA's annual Celebrating Coronado History gala event at the Coronado Island Marriott Resort. While the Esrocks took home the 2015 award, two finalists were also recognized on March 14th for their very deserving projects, which were also recently completed. These included the Hotel Marisol Coronado, 1017 Park Place; and 576 "I" Avenue.

