

# TIMES



After the Concord Stagecoach was on display at the Serra Museum, it spent time in storage (inset). It will now serve as the featured artifact in Place of Promise: Phase 2.

## From David S. Watson

With the opening of the Nikkei Youth Exhibition this past month, we have advanced two of the Society's preeminent exhibiting goals. First, this exhibition demonstrates the value, and values, implicit in collaborative efforts with other Historical Societies in our area. The Japanese American Historical Society has been a delight to work with, and of particular note, the exhibition we have jointly installed brings forth perspective and insights that we alone at the Society could not have achieved.

Second, the exhibition opens our newly dedicated Youth Gallery—a gallery dedicated to exhibitions that have been developed, fabricated, and installed by students in the Greater San Diego region. In the next few months, we will be establishing a Youth Advisory Council that will collaborate with the Society on its programs, and participate in our future.

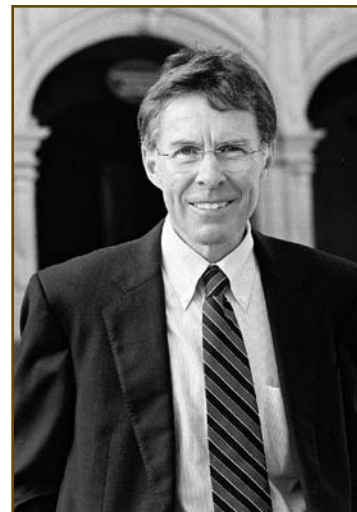
We have been busy in other areas as well. The Balboa Art Conservation Center (BACC) has joined with us in a mentoring project designed to evaluate the needs we have in collections: conservancy, storage, and management. Following their assessments, and discussions with our staff, BACC personnel will provide recommendations and suggestions about funding sources. This has been an exciting process for us.

In early November, we were pleased to host an event with alumni from the Francis Parker School here in San Diego. A number of Belle Baranceanu's former students came to the Society's Baranceanu exhibition —recently featured in the *San Diego Union-Tribune*. They then participated in recalling their experiences in her classroom. Stories were told with warmth and humor, and added a great deal of texture to our understanding of "Miss B." as an artist and teacher.

We welcome the Arts Council as a new "auxiliary" to the Society, and look forward to its support and interest in our collections and exhibitions. The Costume Council continues to be closely involved with upcoming costume and textile exhibitions, and is providing important support to the Society's

ongoing conservation and storage efforts. Along with the Friends of the Marston House, the Arts and Costume Councils contribute invaluable support to the Society, and without them it would be difficult to fulfill our mission.

It is to you, our members, the many volunteers, and our Trustees that we owe the progress in the past year. I remain grateful and hopeful for the future support of our programs.



David S. Watson

With best wishes for the holidays.

David S. Watson  
Executive Director

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# Exhibitions

## Place of Promise: Phase 2

by Nicholas Vega, Associate Curator

On July 19, 2007, the San Diego Historical Society will open the second phase of its Core Exhibition, *Place of Promise*. Located in Gallery 2, this exhibition will highlight the diverse histories of the Native American, Spanish, Mexican, and Anglo-American cultures in the region prior to 1900. It will also examine how, through time, these cultures combined to create the historical foundation of San Diego as we know it today. In this exhibition, various artifacts from the Society's curatorial, archival, photograph, and costume and textile collections will be displayed. These artifacts will illustrate San Diego's rich history.

Once exhibited at the Serra Museum, an 1866 Concord Stagecoach will serve as the featured artifact in this gallery. Other notable artifacts that are scheduled for display are an eighteenth century iron lock from the gates of Mission San Juan Capistrano, a nineteenth century quilt belonging to the Machado Family of Old Town, and various Kumeyaay archaeological artifacts.

Be sure to visit our website [www.sandiegohistory.org](http://www.sandiegohistory.org) for updates on the progress of the exhibition.



Eighteenth century iron lock from Mission San Juan Capistrano



Native American artifacts (L-R): stone arrow straightener, shell necklace, shell fishing hooks



Concept illustration of *Place of Promise: Phase 2*



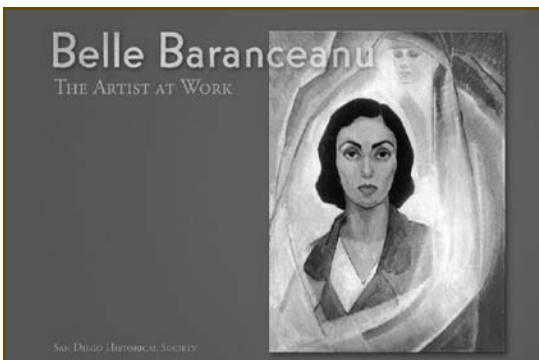
Nineteenth century decorative bodice with matching skirt



# Continuing Exhibition



Mayor Jerry Sanders and his wife, Rana Sampson, show support for San Diego arts and culture organizations at the opening of the Belle Baranceanu Exhibition



Exhibition catalogue: \$32.95, available from the Museum Store

## Belle Baranceanu: The Artist at Work

The exhibition opened in mid-September to much praise and local attention. The artist, Belle Baranceanu, had many local ties. Many of her former students from Francis Parker School and friends who live in San Diego have shared their stories with the Society's staff. It has been a great pleasure to hear stories from those who knew the artist well. Baranceanu's relatives, living in Los Angeles, loaned *Self-Portrait*, 1929, to the exhibition and were able to join us for the opening reception.

A 64-page soft-cover catalogue published by the Society accompanies the exhibition. This catalogue features color plates of a large number of Baranceanu's most important paintings, drawings, and murals, as well as wonderful biographical photographs of the artist drawn from her personal papers.

On view until May 2007, be sure not to miss this exhibition!

## New Gallery Tours Offered

by Gabe Selak, Public Programs Manager

Join our Gallery Guides every Saturday and Sunday for a lively tour of the exhibition *Belle Baranceanu: The Artist at Work*. Hear stories about this influential San Diego artist and gain insight into the influences on her work. Some of the paintings, murals, preparatory sketches, and block prints are being viewed by the public for the first time in over thirty years. You will not want to miss this!

Tours are offered Saturdays and Sundays at 11am, 12noon, 1pm, and 2pm. Tours are FREE for SDHS members or with regular museum admission.

# Francis Parker Alumni Remember “Miss B.”

by Gabe Selak, Public Programs Manager

On October 12, former students and faculty from Francis Parker School in Mission Hills joined San Diego Historical Society members and staff for an enjoyable evening of memories, art, and friendship as we paid tribute to former Francis Parker art teacher, Belle Baranceanu.

“Miss B”, as she was affectionately known, was fondly remembered by a series of speakers. This event was arranged by Anne Vafis, a former student of Ms. Baranceanu, who was the art teacher at Francis Parker from 1971 - 2005. Speakers shared their experiences of working with and being inspired by Belle during their years of study. Some students even brought former art projects they had completed during Belle’s tenure, drawing smiles and nods of recognition from those who created similar projects. In addition, Dr. Robert Gillingham, Francis Parker Lower School principal, and Dr. Richard Blumenthal, Head of School, treated the audience to a history of Francis Parker School including the importance of the art program at the school. A light reception followed the evening’s program allowing everyone the opportunity to explore the current exhibition *Belle Baranceanu: The Artist at Work*.



Jane Dorgan, Mary Ong-Dean, Cherie Redelings, current staff at Francis Parker



Anne Vafis shares her early artwork



Devan Diwanji

## Francis Parker Students Offer Contemporary Perspectives on Belle Baranceanu

by Rebecca Lawrence, Associate Director and Director of Education

As a special project, a group of eighth and ninth grade students at Francis Parker will be interviewing former Francis Parker students who were in Belle Baranceanu’s art classes from 1946 - 1969. These oral histories will be featured in the Youth Gallery at the Museum of San Diego History this spring, along with original works of art by current Francis Parker students in the style of Belle Baranceanu.

To begin these projects, 120 eighth graders from Francis Parker Middle School visited the Museum of San Diego History in October to learn how to conduct oral histories.

Archivist Jane Kenealy presented a workshop, which included samples of oral histories from our collections, information on how the Society preserves and maintains these collections, examples of appropriate recording equipment, and time for the students to practice their interviewing skills by fine-tuning their questions. The visit also included guided tours of the exhibition *Belle Baranceanu: The Artist at Work*, conducted by Education staff. Students saw Ms. Baranceanu’s lesson plans and preparatory work for her art classes at Francis Parker. The tour gave students an opportunity to connect with her particular artistic style, which they will focus on in their art projects.



Salish Davis



Lallae Mirrheza

## Current Exhibitions and Upcoming Programs

# The Japanese American Youth Experience in San Diego

by Gabe Selak and Rebecca Lawrence, Education Department



Misako Roussin and her daughter Michelle adjust the glove and sword on the mannequin wearing a traditional Kendo costume in preparation for the opening of the exhibition.

**W**hat was life like in San Diego during the early 1900s for Japanese American children and teenagers? What activities filled the days of those in internment camps during World War II? And how do modern Japanese American youth see themselves today?

The exhibition *Nikkei Youth Culture: Past, Present, Future* opened on November 9th in the newly dedicated Youth Gallery at the Museum of San Diego History. (*Nikkei* is an all-inclusive term to describe anyone with Japanese ancestry.) Curated by the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego (JAHSSD), with help from local youth, it features photographs, documents, school yearbooks, military medals, clothing, artwork, and digital media from the early 1900s to the present.

The San Diego Historical Society's Education Department, in collaboration with experts from JAHSSD, has put together a slate of informative programs for the coming months. They provide a greater understanding of the Japanese American youth experience in San Diego and shed light on the impact of the Japanese American internment camps during WWII on their culture today. Be sure to mark your calendars for these thought-provoking programs:

### ***Democracy Under Pressure: A Panel Discussion***

January 11, 2007, 6-8pm

Join former Japanese American internment camp internees for a discussion on challenges they faced during their internment and the power of the human spirit that allowed them to overcome this life altering experience. The evening will also feature the short film *Democracy Under Pressure* that was produced by the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego offering first hand accounts of life in the camps.

### ***A Day of Remembrance Lecture***

February 15, 2007, 6-8pm

Following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, legally creating the Japanese American Internment Camps. Nearly 120,000 people of Japanese descent were incarcerated as a result of this federal mandate, although most were U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents. Susan Hasegawa, History and Political Science Chair at San Diego City College, presents a thought-provoking lecture on the history behind the Executive Order and the impact it had on the Japanese American community in America.

Admission for each of these lectures is FREE for SDHS and JAHSSD members; \$5 for non-members. The exhibition runs through March 5, 2007.





# An Update from the Education Department

by Rebecca Lawrence, Associate Director and Director of Education

The Education Department has established a new program called *Lunch Bunch: Conversations with Staff*. During this program, held at 12 noon on the third Thursday of each month, you will learn more about our staff members and get an inside look at the work they are doing for the Society. Associate Curator Nicholas Vega was the first featured staff member. Be sure to check out the Events Diary in this edition of the *Times* for upcoming *Lunch Bunch* speakers and topics.

The San Diego Historical Society is taking history to the streets! You may have seen us recently at the *Halloween around the World* fair in Old Town, the *Fallback Festival* in the Gaslamp Quarter, and the *Point Loma Nazarene College Community Day of the Dead* celebration, you will have seen our altar for Jesse Shepard in the front yard of the Villa Montezuma.

Rosa Parks and Hamilton Elementary School students have just finished their First Rotation of *School in the Park*. Over the past nine weeks, students have been learning map-reading skills as well as the diverse geography of San Diego County. The next Rotation, starting at the beginning of December, focuses on



School in the Park students creating physical relief maps of San Diego County.

how pre-contact Kumeyaay lived in San Diego. Students make connections between the geography they learned about in Rotation One, and the natural resources hunted and gathered by the Kumeyaay, in Rotation Two.

As of January 2007, school groups will be able to check out MP3 players from the

front desk to use as interactive audio guides in our galleries. These MP3 players will feature our popular *Guide by Cell* tracks about artifacts on display, as well as additional educational activities. (*Guide by Cell* is an audio tour, which visitors can access by using their cell phones.)

*The San Diego Historical Society Speakers Bureau* is looking for speakers! If you would like to volunteer to give lively presentations to the community about San Diego history, please contact Raffael Hoffmann, Outreach Coordinator, at [hoffmann@sandiegohistory.org](mailto:hoffmann@sandiegohistory.org).

For more information about these and other programs, please see the Events Diary in this edition of the *Times* or contact the Education Department at [edu@sandiegohistory.org](mailto:edu@sandiegohistory.org).



Outreach coordinator, Raffael Hoffman, at the Fallback Festival

## Holiday and Twilight Tours at the Marston House

by Gabe Selak, Public Programs Manager

Two new tour experiences are now available to Society members and visitors to the Marston House this holiday season. You will be able to experience the house as if it is in preparation for the holiday season. Rooms on the ground floor of the home will be lightly transformed to depict scenes of holiday preparation, from meals in the kitchen to decorating the holiday tree in the living room. Your tour experience will be complemented by our specially trained tour guides who will regale you with stories of the Marston's holiday memories and favorite pastimes.

A special exhibition on the second floor of the home will detail the holiday shopping experience at the beloved Marston's Department Store in the early 1900s.

Holiday tours will run during normal operating hours: Friday - Sunday, with guided tours at 10am, 11am, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm, and 4 pm from November 18, 2006 - January 7, 2007.

Twilight Tours will also return on select Saturday evenings in December. Enjoy an elegant evening at Marston House, as warm glowing ambient lighting highlights the rich woodwork, and sparkling décor. These evening tours place special emphasis on rooms that dazzle at night including the living room, kitchen and dining room.

Tours begin on every half hour on December 9 and 16, from 5-7pm.

Admission for each of these tours is FREE for SDHS members; \$5 for non-members.

## Shop Online and Help SDHS!

The American Association of Museums has a unique program that allows people or businesses that shop online to have a percentage of their purchase donated to the museum of their choice. For no extra charge, shoppers can do their normal online purchasing at Amazon, Ebay, Target, and hundreds of other stores and help their favorite museum at the same time!

For more information visit [www.ShopforMuseums.com](http://www.ShopforMuseums.com)

## Costume Council

### Costume Council ROCKS!

January 20, 2007

Dr. Richard Kurin, Director of the Smithsonian Institution Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage and author of *Hope Diamond, The Legendary History of a Cursed Gem* will take you on a journey, full of "Suspense! Intrigue! Revolution! and Wars!" as he presents the story of one of the most visited museum objects in the world. Using both fact and folklore, he illuminates the colorful and dramatic story of this huge beautiful blue stone.

Come for cocktails and stay for suspense, including the raffle of a fabulous sapphire, diamond, and platinum necklace from Stuart Benjamin Jewelers.

Contact Ann Gallagher at [ALG1255@aol.com](mailto:ALG1255@aol.com) or Michelle Swinney at 619-232-6297.

### Costume Council ROLLS!

February 2007

FIDM Tour by luxury bus to the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising Museum and Galleries 14th Annual *Art of Motion Picture Costume Design* exhibition in Los Angeles. See over 100 costumes, including the 2006 contenders nominated for the Oscar. Shop for clothes by upcoming young designers and then "do lunch."

Contact Terese Centofante at [thirdchildstudio@verison.net](mailto:thirdchildstudio@verison.net)

### Costume Council RUNWAY!

Can you say Project Runway? Can you say Nick Verreos? We can, because we have him for an exclusive, exciting, and amazing fashion event in May of next year. Do not be "eliminated" from this most spectacular event. Details to follow.

Join the Costume Council by calling Donna Van Ert at 619-232-6203, ext. 102.

## What's in Store?

AN INTERVIEW WITH GINGER RAAKA, DIRECTOR OF RETAIL

### What are some exciting items for the holiday season?

We'll have a variety of lovely holiday items including Christmas and Hanukkah jewelry and decorations. Southwestern style nativities will be featured in our main store as well as at the Serra Museum. There will be a number of children's holiday activity books, which make great stocking stuffers, as well as new



Ginger Raaka

titles for adults. We have several choices for 2007 calendars, including *Costume in Performance* that features our Costume Council and Don Diego ensembles. There will be a variety of new ornaments in all three stores, as well as Arts and Crafts holiday greeting cards here and at the Marston House.

### What items will the store feature to correspond with the exhibitions?

For the *Belle Baranceanu* exhibition, we have several great books including the beautiful Belle catalog as well as *American Art Review Magazine* (featuring the exhibition), the 1994 *Journal of San Diego History*, titled *Modern Perspectives*, with an article and illustrations about Belle, and *Belle Baranceanu, A Retrospective*, published in 1985. Custom prints of two of Belle's woodcuts will be available soon. We have also added painting kits, which are displayed by the books.

For the *Nikkei Youth Culture* exhibition, we will have several wonderful books, some geared for adults and the others for children. *Dear Miss Breed* and *Fold Me a Poem* are already on the shelves. There are origami items, activity books that include Japanese art and costumes, Japanese note cards, and many decorative items with an Asian theme. We will also be selling handcrafted items made by members of the Japanese American Historical Society.

For the Core exhibition (Phase 2 opens summer 2007) we have brought in the Model T book, and lamps and trolley car items. We will also be getting Western-inspired merchandise, such as, books, toys, and a model stagecoach.

See the Special Holiday Discount Coupon on page 11!



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# Contributions to the San Diego Historical Society

The San Diego Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the following organizations and individuals in the period from August 2005 through October 2006.

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**The Society wishes to express its gratitude and appreciation to these donors who so generously support the work of the Costume Council.**

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## Curator's Corner

### Collection Tours for the Costume Council Board and the Art Council Committee



Costume Council goes behind-the-scenes with Tori Cranner, Registrar

This fall, Society staff is conducting behind-the-scenes tours for two of our auxiliary support groups. These tours, one focusing on the costume collection and the other on the art collection, are an important step toward sharing our collections and making them more accessible. The tours will provide a chance for the groups to become familiar with the depth and breadth of the two collections and will help us plan future programming and fundraising efforts together.



### Rotating Hord Exhibition

Through the generosity of an anonymous donor we are featuring a rotating exhibition of sculptures by Donal Hord in the Atrium. The newest piece, *Midday Sun*, a striking wooden sculpture depicting a Native American figure, was installed in November. We will be exhibiting this piece in the Atrium until late spring.

### Sharing Our Collections

#### JACK MURPHY STADIUM MODEL

After spending several years in our *Blueprint to Buildings* exhibition, the original architect's model of Jack Murphy Stadium (now Qualcomm Stadium) is now going to have a new life at the San Diego Hall of Champions. It has been placed on a loan with the Hall, which will include it in a Super Bowl celebration this winter.

#### SCULPTURES BY JOHN DIRKS

The Mingei Museum opened a new exhibition this month of the works of San Diego artist, John Dirks. Included are two of Dirk's wooden sculptures that are part of the Society's art collection. *Column II* is a series of horizontal and vertical shapes the artist calls a "union of positive and receptive forms." *Counterpoise* is a graceful series of joined wood forms based on the artistic ideal of the golden section. Both can be seen at the Mingei through the end of March.

### San Diego Historical Society Has a New Auxiliary!

The Arts Council was established in 2006 to promote the preservation, collection, and exhibition of historical California art, and to support the mission and the permanent art collection of the San Diego Historical Society.

The vision of the Council is to bring to light and to give life to historical California paintings for museum visitors, students, and scholars.

A major goal of the Art Council is to establish a gallery, within the Museum of San Diego History, that would be dedicated to the display of the work of talented artists who lived and worked in the region.

The Society has a wealth of fine California art that will be conserved and shown to the public for the first time in conjunction with major loans from the collections of local connoisseurs. It is a number of these committed collectors that have come together to form the Art Council.

We hope that you will join us!

Contact Donna Van Ert at 619-232-6203 ext.102.

# Events Diary

## DECEMBER

Continuing through May 27, 2007

### Belle Baranceanu: The Artist at Work Gallery Tour

Guided tours of the exhibition.  
Saturdays & Sundays: noon, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm. Museum of San Diego History.

## DECEMBER 1 - 2

### December Nights

Join us for holiday entertainment and holiday shopping.  
5-9pm. Museum of San Diego History, Balboa Park.

## DECEMBER 1 - JANUARY 7

### Marston House Holiday Tours

Tours run during regular operating hours: Friday thru Sunday, 10am, 11am, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm, 4pm. Marston House.

## DECEMBER 9 AND 16

### Marston House Twilight Tours

Ground floor tours of the rooms that dazzle at night.  
Tours every half hour: 5-7pm. Marston House.

## DECEMBER 9

### Marston House Holiday Open House

Enjoy light refreshments on the terrace and delight in the festive atmosphere as you shop for holiday treasures.  
5-7pm. Marston House.

## JANUARY 11

### Nikkei Event — Democracy Under Pressure: A Panel Discussion

A short film followed by a panel discussion of experiences by former Japanese-American Internment Camp internees.  
6-8pm. Museum of San Diego History.

## JANUARY 13 - FEBRUARY 17

### History for Half Pints

Preschool program, sponsored by Target, for our youngest visitors aged

3-6 years accompanied by a favorite adult of their choosing. Story time, interactive play, and a craft project.

Saturdays, 1pm. \$5 SDHS members; \$8 non-members.  
Museum of San Diego History

## JANUARY 18

### Lunch Bunch: Conversations with Staff

Join Rebecca Lawrence, Associate Director and Director of Education, as she discusses current and future programs for the Education Department at SDHS. Bring a bag lunch.  
12 noon. Museum of San Diego History.

## JANUARY 20

### Costume Council: Hope Diamond Reception

6pm. Museum of San Diego History.

## FEBRUARY 15

### Nikkei Lecture: Day of Remembrance

Susan Hasegawa, History and Political Science Chair at San Diego City College, reveals the history behind the Executive Order 9066, which established the Japanese-American Internment Camps in the U.S. during WWII and the impact it had on the Japanese-American community in America.  
6-8pm. Museum of San Diego History.

## MARCH 10 - 31

### Marston Ladies of the House Tour

In honor of Women's History Month, we focus our tour on the women of the Marston family, their accomplishments, goals, and dreams.

Sundays, 1pm. Marston House.  
\$5 SDHS members; \$8 non-members.

\* Please note: All programs take place at the Museum of San Diego History in Balboa Park and are FREE to SDHS members unless otherwise stated. Prices, times, and programs are subject to change.



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We also acknowledge the continuing support of the San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture.

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For the Issue Date		For the Issue Date	
1. Publication Title		2. Issue Frequency	
TIMES		Quarterly	
3. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below		4. Issue Month for Circulation Data Below	
5. Number of Copies (Net press run)		6. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)	
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**SAN DIEGO  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**TIMES Newsletter**

Published since 1964 by the  
San Diego Historical Society

Executive Director: David S. Watson

Editorial Committee: Jane Kenealy,  
David Krimmel, Michelle Swinney,  
Chris Travers

Graphic Designer: Elizabeth Abbott

The Times (USPS 331-890) is  
published quarterly by the San  
Diego Historical Society, Office of  
Publications, 1649 El Prado, Suite 3,  
San Diego, CA 92101  
Periodicals postage mailed at San  
Diego, California.

Send address changes to: the TIMES,  
San Diego Historical Society, 1649  
El Prado, Suite 3,  
San Diego, CA 92101



1649 El Prado, Suite 3  
San Diego, CA 92101