



the **TIMES**

NEWSLETTER FOR SAN DIEGO HISTORY CENTER

Our City,
Our Story



Left: Aerial Image of the Serra Museum, 1929. Right: The Serra Museum today. SDHC Photograph Collection.

Coastal Conservancy Awards Grant to Reinterpret the Junípero Serra Museum

San Diego History Center and the San Diego River Conservancy (SDRC) have collaborated to develop an interpretive plan for new exhibitions and programs at the Junípero Serra Museum in Presidio Park. Representatives from the two groups presented the idea to the State of California's Coastal Conservancy and San Diego History Center has been awarded \$150,000 by the Conservancy to actualize the plan.

This exhibition will inform people that human culture and the environment are in continuous dialogue.

Bill Lawrence
Chair, Serra Committee

Our exhibition design team will consult with SDRC, Old Town San Diego State Historic Park, San Diego River Coalition, San Diego River Park Foundation and local historians and ecologists to flesh out the most pertinent issues surrounding the area. The goal of the interpretive plan will be to synthesize diverse data about the historical, cultural, and environmental resources of the site. "It will be a compelling, hands-on, interactive visitor experience that is easily accessible to students, scholars and the general public," says SDHC Interim Executive Director, Charlotte Cagan.

The Junípero Serra Museum was built in 1929 to commemorate the site of the first permanent European settlement in what would become the state of California. The San Diego River was a primary factor in the selection of the site by the Spaniards. The funds for this project allow for a vast presentation of a wide variety of material. "It provides us with the ability to broaden our conservancy efforts," says SDRC Executive Director, Mike Nelson. "We can create a better connection between the river's past uses and this project will aid us in building support for its future conservation."

This collaboration will provide San Diego History Center with a new opportunity to commemorate and reinvigorate the Serra Museum, a major regional landmark. For the first time, SDHC will be able to develop an interactive understanding of the historical, cultural and environmental resources at this significant ecological site that will speak to a new generation of environmentally and historically-minded individuals.

• *Matthew Schiff, Marketing Manager*

Our Mission

San Diego History Center is dedicated to helping people of all ages learn about and enjoy, the history of San Diego, and to appreciate how our past, present, and future are interrelated.



Thank you for your vital and generous support this past year.

The History Center continues to be a civic treasure and an invaluable community asset. And it continues to make progress as we develop plans toward increased sustainability

and enhanced exhibitions and programming over the next several years. Our vision is three-fold: showcasing San Diego in all its unique and diverse elements, past and present; highlighting our region's emerging role in our 21st century world; and becoming an even more essential community resource.

FROM THE
INTERIM
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR

We have made an increased commitment to community and particularly educational outreach as we now "take the museum" to area schools in response to many school districts' diminished resources. We continue to digitize more and more images from our rich, historic photograph collection and make it accessible to a global audience. We are engaging new audiences through informative and entertaining activities such as overnights for the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts and an upcoming "Night at the Museum" for members and their families. We will reinvigorate the Serra Museum through a \$150,000 grant from the State Coastal Conservancy to develop a state-of-the-art interpretive plan that will interweave the history of the San Diego River with the history of this iconic regional landmark. We are planning a significant new exhibition that explores and interprets the fascinating story of the tuna industry in San Diego, once tuna capital of the world.

Under the leadership of President Tom Fetter, the Board has recently established the Sustaining Council, a new group of esteemed San Diegans including Trustees who will provide generous and sustained financial support for the next four years. We hope that as History Center members you will join our growing list of supporters by responding to our year-end Annual Appeal, providing us with essential operating support for our exhibitions, public programs, school programs, and collections.

Finally, we are making grand plans to play a central role in the year-long Balboa Park Centennial in 2015. The History Center will offer the definitive exhibition on the 1915 Exposition, drawing from our marvelous collections of photographs, archives, and artifacts; we will offer a simultaneous interactive presentation on our region's historic, current and future role as a local, national and global innovator.

On behalf of the staff and Board of Trustees, we look forward to your continued support in a new year of continued progress, vibrant exhibitions and engaging programs.

Hours

San Diego History Center

Tues - Sun, 10am - 5pm

Library

Wed - Sat, 9:30am - 1pm

Junipero Serra Museum

Sat - Sun, 10am - 5pm
and groups by appointment

• Charlotte Cagan, Interim Executive Director

Two New Exhibitions Open

Local Treasures: From the History Center's Collections

Have you ever wondered how museums acquire artifacts? Good fortune? Community awareness? One's desire to preserve local history? In the case of San Diego History Center all three of these have proven to be true!

Local Treasures: From the History Center's Collections features a diverse display of artifacts that have been graciously donated to the museum in recent years. Included in this exhibition are oil paintings from local, well-known artists, historic photographs of San Diego, and a collection of documents, pamphlets and other publications associated with our city's rich history. This exhibition showcases recently obtained items that offer unique glimpses into our city's past.

Collecting artifacts for nearly 85 years, the History Center maintains three truly spectacular collections of photographs, documents and objects. These collections have been formed due to generous public donations and *Local Treasures* was created to celebrate a selected group of recent acquisitions.

This exhibition could not have been made possible without the support of members from our community. Come and see San Diego's past in *Local Treasures: Artifacts from the History Center's Collections*.

Our City, Our Neighborhoods

San Diego History Center partnered with a group of graduate students from the University of San Diego's Master of Arts in History Program on a semester-long project to curate, design and install the exhibition, *Our City, Our Neighborhoods*.

Celebrating the storied histories of eight neighborhoods located within the city of San Diego, this exhibition contains a display of detailed text panels, historic photographs and artifacts from the History Center's collections. The unique pasts of Mission Valley, Old Town, Little Italy, Downtown, Hillcrest, Barrio Logan, Point Loma and Southeast San Diego are celebrated in this display.

Our City, Our Neighborhoods is truly a collaborative project. USD students gained first-hand experience in curation and design, artifact handling and storage, label writing and primary source research. We invite you to learn about the eight historic neighborhoods in this fascinating exhibition.

• *Nicholas Vega, Director of Exhibitions*

*Our City,
Our Neighborhoods
through
March 2012.*

San Diego History Center Board of Trustees

President Thompson Fetter

Past President Hal Sadler

Vice President Robert F. Adelizzi

Treasurer Woody Ledford

Secretary Helen Kinnaird

Ann Hill

Bill Lawrence

Virginia Morrison

Sandra Perlatti

Marc Tarasuck

Margie Warner

Robert Zucchet

Lucy C. Jackson

Robert A. McNeely

Ann Navarra

Susan Peinado

Nell Waltz

Allan Wasserman

Advisory Committee

Malin Burnham

Yvonne Larsen

Jack Monger

Stephen B. Williams

Kim Fletcher

David Malcolm

Mary Walshok

Hon. Pete Wilson

Journal of San Diego History Editors

Dr. Iris Engstrand

Dr. Molly McClain

Times Editor

Jessica Schmidt LaFave

Graphic Design

Jennifer Cadam

The Times Newsletter

The TIMES Newsletter (USPS 331-890) is published quarterly by San Diego History Center, 1649 El Prado, Ste 3, San Diego CA 92101-1664.

Periodical Postage Paid at San Diego CA.

Postmaster

Send address changes to:

The TIMES, 1649 El Prado, Ste 3,
San Diego CA 92101-1664.

Financial support is provided by the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture.



Left: The Balboa Park Sustainability Committee tours the galleries at SDHC.
Right: Lighting installed in the front gallery.



Federal Grant Illuminates Galleries

San Diego History Center received a \$192,637 federal grant to retrofit its gallery spaces in an effort to reduce our energy consumption. Now that the retrofit is complete, we are proud to report that San Diego History Center is one of the first institutions in Balboa Park to implement light-emitting diodes (LEDs) throughout all of our gallery spaces.

SEE OUR
COLLECTIONS
IN A WHOLE
NEW LIGHT

The retrofit was made possible by funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act dispersed to the city of San Diego which then granted it to various institutions in Balboa Park through the Sustainability Program. The History Center is now saving 80,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity annually which roughly equates to removing eight to ten single-family homes from the city's power grid.

Local companies crafted the design of the LED tracks and installed the lighting system and the project was completed in a little over two months. Each gallery's lights are controlled by motion detectors, compromising neither the integrity of the collection nor the experience of the visitor.

"This lighting project is going to be a great enhancement to our museum," said Director of Exhibitions, Nicholas Vega. "The addition of the new LED lighting system will have an immediate impact on our exhibitions; artifacts will now be displayed in a brighter, crisper light without compromising the physical condition of the object."

We know our visitors will enjoy coming to the History Center to see our collections and exhibitions in a whole new light.

• *Matthew Schiff, Multimedia Communications Associate*

Taste of San Diego Craft Brews Returns



San Diego History Center is proud to announce its 3rd Annual Taste of San Diego Craft Brews celebrating our city's history making beers. Balboa Park's premier tasting event presents award-winning beers with expertly paired food, plus unique auction items for an evening of entertainment and fun. Local craft brewers have had a significant effect on our community and have made San Diego one of the best beer towns in the country. Please join us for this special event! More information is at www.sandiegohistory.org/tasteofsandiego.

• *Jessica Schmidt LaFave, Membership and Development Manager*

SAVE
THE DATE!
SATURDAY,
FEB. 18, 2012



Left: Del Mar Girl Scout Troop #1385 spent the night at the Serra Museum learning more about the historic site and enjoyed an evening of activities, crafts and games.

HAPPENINGS AT SAN DIEGO HISTORY CENTER



Above: Lyle Butler, Trustee Robert McNeely, Bonnie Butler, Past President Hal Sadler and Mary Sadler (Left to Right) at the Annual Member Meeting.



Left: San Diego Mesa College Professor Starla Lewis discusses the 1960s movements that laid the foundation for pride and self-awareness in the African American community at the Celebrating "Hair"-itage event.



Above: The Del Mar Girl Scouts dress up during their overnight at the Serra Museum.

Fox 5's morning host Heather Ford stopped by to cover San Diego Museum Council's "Kids Free in October" and the History for Half Pints program.



Left and right: Visitors at History for Half Pints celebrate Thanksgiving with turkey-themed games, stories and crafts.



New Activity Carts Bring Tours to Life

The Education Department is pleased to have received two activity carts to store our demonstration objects and other props. Docents use these extensively when guiding school groups through the galleries and will now have a permanent place to store them in the galleries. The design and manufacture of the two carts was made possible through a grant from the Sempra Energy Foundation.

• Marinta Skupin, Director of Education



Docents Brenda Laguna (left), Tony Pfoser (right) and staff member Michael Daligdig (center) show off the new gallery activity cart.

Welcome New Members

Thanks to the support and generosity of our members, the History Center continues to fulfill its mission to help people of all ages learn about, and enjoy, San Diego's history.

As a special thank-you to our members, we will be hosting New and Renewing Member Receptions throughout the year and invite you to join us for a special tour and continental breakfast. These receptions are a great way to receive an intimate look at the History Center and to meet the staff. Members are also encouraged to bring their non-member friends to introduce them to the variety of services we offer. New and Renewing Member Receptions are listed on the Calendar page in this newsletter and at www.sandiegohistory.org.

Thank you so much for your support!

• Jessica Schmidt LaFave, Membership and Development Manager

Welcome to the members who have joined San Diego History Center this fiscal year. (July to November 2011)

David Abel and Joel Seeger

Ana Aldana

Ulises and Maria Alvarado

Cecelia Lyons Anaya and Robert Anaya

Allen and Nancy Andersen

Charlene Autolino

Catherine Balfour

James Bartoli

Sumi Barton and Donald Perkovich

Irit Bendor

Dr. Douglas S. Bigham

Matthew Braner

Charlotte Cagan

Rachel and Philip Carpenter

Steven Catano

Sue Cerise

Kristen Churchill and Raul Cadena

Christopher Nicholas Clark

Anne Clifford and John Silcox

Lina and Jason Coambes

Theda Fitch Cox

Virginia S. Crumble and Saralyn Borboa

Susan R. Cunha

Melanie Dellas

Mina Donner

Nan Evans

Michael Foree and Carol Engler Foree

Dr. John Forrest and Dr. Deborah Pate

Roberta and John Foss

Tracey Freeman

Steve I. Goldman

David A. Griffin

Matt and Christina Hambrick

Peter and Victoria Hobbs

Robin D. Hoffman

Michael Howley

Shelby Ann Jennings and

Christopher Gomez

Stanwood C. Johnson

Ted Kagan

Dr. Harry King

Doriot and Gary Lair

Melissa Long

Robert Lee McComb

Rocelle Melone

Michael and Marilyn Miles

Terry Miller

Catherine Murphy

Nina Barton Owens

Sonya Palmer

Jeffrey Parish

Jason and Miriam Parson

Stacey Chapman Paton and

Douglas Paton

Greg Peters

Janet M. Rochon

Tommy and Charlene Ryan

John and Debbie Saenz

Alma Samaniego

Garry J. Scoby

Richard W. Seeger

Lisa Selzer

Mary Soares

Wendie Soucier

George Steele

Novi Suleski and Patrick Kilroy

Kaileigh Tara

Eric and Gretchen Taylor

Sarah Tomkiel

Sharon S. Turner

Max and Mary van Balgooy

John and Nalani Webster

Grant Williams

Ann E. Wilson

La Jolla Students Create Oral Histories for the Permanent Collection

In February 2012, San Diego History Center will accept a collection of at least 50 new oral histories into its permanent archives. What makes this donation even more special is that it will be created by high school students.

Our oral history program, called "San Diego Voices," is one of SDHC's K-12 outreach programs specifically aimed at high school students. Students love it because they can make use of their expertise in technology ("digital histories" is a frequently used term, since recording often involves video), and teachers love it because it covers many benchmarks, including history, interview etiquette and writing skills.

SDHC is pleased to collaborate with La Jolla Country Day School's History Department on the two-semester project. In early October, SDHC Staff Jane Kenealy and Marinta Skupin spent a day with the class of freshmen, conducting workshops on how to create museum-quality oral histories. Since then, teachers Blair Overton and Jonathan Schulman have been guiding students through the process of setting up and conducting interviews.

Once the project is complete, and all interviews have been transcribed, students, parents and teachers will be invited to a special event at SDHC, when excerpts of the oral histories will be presented and the collection is accepted into our permanent archives.

• *Marinta Skupin, Director of Education*

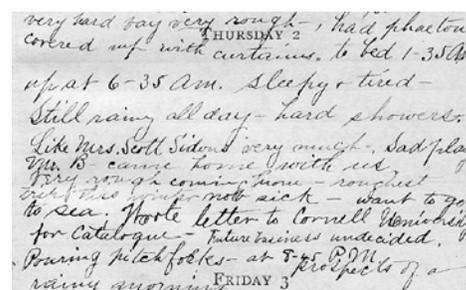
STUDENTS WILL COVER MANY BENCHMARKS INCLUDING HISTORY, INTERVIEW ETIQUETTE, AND WRITING SKILLS

Uncovering Kate Sessions' Diaries

As part of our Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) collections project, we have recently processed a collection of Kate Sessions' diaries, uncovering a little known part of her life – revealing her personality and experiences as a young woman and world traveler.

Kate Sessions is renowned for her contributions to San Diego horticulture, especially in Balboa Park, being known affectionately as the "Mother of Balboa Park," but little if anything has been written of her early life and activities outside of horticulture. Our recently processed collection on Sessions includes intimate diaries spanning her early life, including college at UC Berkeley in the late 1870s and her solo trip to Europe in 1925. The college diaries present a young Sessions, her interests, personal relationships and budding independent spirit. Although there are some early indications of her future horticultural success, the collection promotes a rarely seen view of Sessions, writing of interests in women's rights as early as 1876, authors and books read, and her interests in science and political figures, enthusiastically noting a visit by Ulysses S. Grant. Additional diaries come from her later-life travels to Europe in 1925, continuing to present her independent, adventurous spirit, recording the architecture, plants, and societies she found fascinating.

• *Stephanie Mirkin, Project Archivist*



Selection from Kate Sessions' Diary, 1876.

STAY CONNECTED
TO SAN DIEGO
HISTORY CENTER!
JOIN OUR ONLINE
COMMUNITIES.



Save the Dates

April 2-6

Spring Break Day
Camps for Kids!

April 20

Exhibition Opening:
TUNA! Celebrating
San Diego's Famous
Fishing Industry

May 12

Makers of History Gala
honoring the Tuna Industry

For more information about events or to make a reservation, call (619) 232-6203 ext. 129 or visit us online at www.sandiegohistory.org/calendar. All events are held at San Diego History Center in Balboa Park unless otherwise noted. Programs are subject to change or cancellation and programs require registration.

January

- 6** Three Kings/Twelfth Night Dinner and Concert with Courtly Noyse, Serra Museum*
- 9** Homeschooler Day*
- 14** Black Storytellers of San Diego Film and Performance
- 16** History for Half Pints – I Love the Rain*
- 19** Introduction to Genealogy Resources Workshop*
- 19** Lecture: The Way We Were in San Diego, Rick Crawford
- 22** Baynard exhibition closes
- 30** Peek Inside the Costume Closet*
- 20** History for Half Pints – All Aboard! Celebrating Trains*
- 21** Lecture: Emory Malick: First Licensed African American Pilot, with historian, Mary Groce
- 23** Lecture: Paradise Plundered, Dr. Steve Erie
- 28** Costume Coach Trip: FIDM Los Angeles*

March

February

- 4** History "On Tap" Pub Crawl, Gaslamp District*
- 11** New and Renewing Member Reception
- 18** Taste of San Diego Craft Beers*
- 7** Historic Places: Celebrating Architecture*
- 10** Boy Scout Day, Serra Museum*
- 12** Homeschooler Day*
- 15** San Diego History 101, Part 1*
- 19** History for Half Pints – Telling Time! *
- 22** San Diego History 101, Part 2*
- 29** San Diego History 101, Part 3*
- 31** "Night at the Museum" Family Overnight, Serra Museum*

* denotes Admission Fee