



## Nature Improved

Local artists offer new look  
at our landscape

VILLAGE, PHOTOGRAPH BY NATURE IMPROVED FEATURED ARTIST MICHAEL FIELD.

Currently on display in the History Center's art gallery is a vibrant exhibition of works by contemporary San Diego artists who interpret our regional landscapes. *Nature Improved* is the first-ever collaboration between San Diego History Center and the Oceanside Museum of Art (OMA). Featuring nearly 80 works in various media, the exhibition offers fresh and sometimes unexpected interpretations of familiar locales from Borrego Springs to La Jolla, but also of grittier urban landscapes from North Park to El Cajon.

Bram Dijkstra, renowned author, art scholar, and co-curator of last year's Charles Reiffel exhibition at the History Center and The San Diego Museum of Art, is lead exhibition curator. Other curators are Derrick Cartwright, Director of University Galleries,

Professor of Practice and Art History, USD; Alessandra Moctezuma, Gallery Director and Professor of Fine Art, San Diego Mesa College; and Daniel Foster, Executive Director, Oceanside Museum of Art.

"The exhibition establishes a linkage between our region's past artistic heritage, particularly that of landscape painting, and our current vibrant artistic culture," said the History Center's Executive Director Charlotte Cagan. In conjunction with the exhibition, both museums will offer public programming centered on landscape art and related themes. Additional information can be found at [sandieghistory.org](http://sandieghistory.org) and [oma-online.org](http://oma-online.org).

BY MATTHEW SCHIFF

## 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.

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## Reaching new horizons



Welcome to the new *TIMES*! We hope you'll enjoy the updated format, showcasing the scope of our collections, exhibitions, and programs. Let us know what you think – letters to the editor are welcome. The new presentation is one of many new

projects. For example, our galleries are livelier, notably at the Thursday Club-funded Photo Station, where visitors scan our photo collections and order photos. We've also added new mini-exhibit areas, currently offering scrolling images from the E. H. Davis collection of photos of American Indians. The Thornton Theatre, with its upgraded audio-visual components through a grant from Las Patronas, regularly offers exhibition-related videos and films.

Our exhibitions are also reaching new heights, reflecting our mission to tell the story of San Diego's past, present, and future in engaging formats. In 2014, we will produce the History Center's most ambitious exhibition project to date.

A collaborative effort involving several military-related museum sites and planned by a 30-person advisory committee, *From Presidio to Pacific Powerhouse* will tell the comprehensive story of the U.S. Military's impact on San Diego. Also in 2014, we'll feature a lively exhibition on the history of the Gaslamp Quarter.

We're also launching two new events: History Center Holidays in early winter and Fashion – Past, Present, and Future, co-sponsored by our Costume Council, in the spring. Our popular monthly History Happy Hours, featuring craft brews, will continue in 2014. In addition, we will complete the Historic Structures Report for the Serra Museum and, in partnership with the City of San Diego, look forward to receiving funding for ADA-related upgrades.

These initiatives reflect our commitment to providing the highest quality programming to the San Diego community, and they are made possible by growing financial support. We hope they also reflect the significant benefits of membership at the History Center and that our members will continue to provide generous support so that we can pursue new horizons.

BY CHARLOTTE CAGAN



18TH-CENTURY SANTO FIGURE FROM CHINA  
USED BY THE BANDINI FAMILY AT RANCHO GUAJOME.  
GIFT OF MRS. ARCADIA BANDINI BRENNAN.

## Enjoy our new seasonal event *History Center Holidays!*

The History Center is proud to partner with the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) to bring a festive, family-friendly holiday event to Balboa Park. Beginning Saturday, November 23, through Wednesday, December 4, 2013, ASID designers will infuse our museum with a variety of holiday-themed vignettes, table displays, and decorating ideas, drawing on the History Center's vast Decorative Arts Collection. Designers may also gain inspiration from present objects on view; recast landscapes featured in our paintings and historic photographs; or take color, texture, and fabric ideas from the Santos pictured here, to create their holiday displays.

Join us for the Preview Party on Sunday, November 24 to see the designer's creativity come to life. Meet the designers, enjoy holiday music, sing a carol or two, and shop in our Designer's Holiday Boutique! Free gift wrapping for members is included. Tickets to the Preview Party are \$20 for members and \$25 for the general public. For more information, visit [www.sandiegohistory.org](http://www.sandiegohistory.org).

BY GABE SELAK



# Military Exhibition Planned

## Saluting the relationship between San Diego, its residents, and the U.S. Military

UNITED STATES MARINES DRILL IN BALBOA PARK, 1915. SDHC, 2912-5.

### San Diego has always been a military town.

Spanish soldiers and missionaries arriving in 1769 built the first structure – El Presidio Real de San Diego. It was military in nature, meant to guard against rebellion by native inhabitants as well as encroachment by other European powers. Since then, the military presence in San Diego has grown steadily, with a heightened build-up before and after World War II. Today, one can scarcely traverse our region without encountering a military aircraft aloft, vehicle on the road, or vessel off the coast or in San Diego Bay, as well as the multitude of installations stationed throughout the county. But what impact has this presence had on the region and its inhabitants? And conversely, what effect has San Diego had on the military? These perspectives are considered in San Diego History Center's upcoming featured exhibition, *From Presidio to Pacific Powerhouse: How the Military Shaped San Diego*, opening in April 2014. With major funding from Cubic, the Zable Foundation and Wells Fargo,

the exhibition is one of the History Center's most significant exhibition initiatives.

This comprehensive exhibition's major goal is to educate residents and visitors alike about the enormous impacts of the military in the development of the San Diego region – in terms of our economy, population growth, education and technology sectors and the rise of our innovation economy. Another of the exhibition's goals is to humanize the term "the military" by examining the experiences of the men and women who historically and currently comprise the United States' armed forces, as so many of our region's inhabitants serve in the military, and many more work in related support fields.

This exhibition will be centered at the History Center, but satellite installations will take place at numerous military museums throughout the county.

BY MATTHEW SCHIFF

Join our  
online  
communities!

[sandieghistory.org](http://sandieghistory.org)



### On Exhibit

*A Sweet Life:  
The Showley Bros.  
Candy Factory  
1905-1951* (Through  
November 3, 2013)

*Crossing Cultures:  
Images and Sketches  
of Indian Life by Edward  
H. Davis* (Through  
January 6, 2014)

*Bottled & Kegged:  
San Diego's Craft  
Brew Culture* (Through  
January 20, 2014)

*Nature Improved: San  
Diego Artists Interpret  
our Landscape* (Through  
January 24, 2014)

*Capturing the Light:  
Landscapes of Maurice  
Braun* (Through  
February 16, 2014)

*From Presidio to  
Pacific Powerhouse*  
(Opening April 2014)

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## New education programs offered for the school year

The Education Department at San Diego History Center offers programs for San Diego residents and visitors of all ages. During the 2013-14 year, we will continue to present the engaging History for Half Pints program for young children, including a free Family History for Half-Pints (dates TBD), our K-12 school programs (both on-site and off-site), and our popular San Diego History 101 and 201 lecture series. We will also launch new programs for Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, a K-12 Research Library Tour in partnership with our Collections Department, as well as outreach programs that bring oral history recordings into local schools.

In addition, to better highlight our two beautiful locations in the Park and at the Serra Museum, the Education Department staff will be celebrating our natural landscapes in its fall programming. For example, our Public Programs Manager has developed an informative walking tour that explores the history of Balboa Park and the 1915 Exposition (every Thursday, 11am, \$10/12). Exciting changes in programming at the Serra Museum include a revised guided tour script for K-12 students that makes better use of the museum galleries and the former Presidio site. We'll also hold a family-friendly celebration of Father



## Seeking new volunteers

Like many native San Diegans, the History Center recognizes the importance of not only preserving our history, but also sharing it with the community and visitors to our city. Due to the many exciting exhibitions and programs on the horizon, particularly those that will be part of the Balboa Park 2015 Centennial Celebration, we need to increase our volunteer network. With opportunities in so many different areas, we know there is a place for you, whether it's working with children, leading History Strolls, sharing our stories at senior centers, administrative work throughout the Center—the list is endless. Please contact our us at [bfritschner@sandiegohistory.org](mailto:bfritschner@sandiegohistory.org) or call (619) 232-6203.

BY BEV FRITSCHNER



SAN DIEGO HISTORY CENTER STAFF LEAD A TRAINING SESSION FOR DOCENTS AT THE JUNÍPERO SERRA MUSEUM.

Junípero Serra's 300th birthday in November. Members interested in becoming docents should contact us at (619) 232-6203 or by email at [docents@sandiegohistory.org](mailto:docents@sandiegohistory.org).

We are continuously grateful for the member and community support that makes these valuable programs possible.

BY NAOMI OSTWALD KAWAMURA



NOVEMBER 24, 2013, MARKS THE 300TH BIRTHDAY OF FRAY JUNÍPERO SERRA. JOIN US FOR FAMILY ACTIVITIES, CRAFTS, HISTORIC TALKS, AND TOURS.

## Celebrate the 300th birthday of Father Junípero Serra

On November 24, 1713, Miguel Joseph Serra was born in the small village of Petra on the island of Mallorca off the coast of Spain. Little did anyone know at the time, but he would have a profound impact on our region as Franciscan Fray Junípero Serra. From his humble beginnings, Serra went on to transform the missions in Baja California from the Jesuit order before accepting the offer to lead the Sacred Expedition to Alta California in 1769. Upon reaching San Diego, he held a mass atop Presidio Hill on July 16, 1769, marking the birthday of our beloved city. On Sunday, November 24, 2013, from 1 to 3pm, we will pay homage to and celebrate the 300th birthday of Father Serra at the Serra Museum. An official musket-fired salute by Sons of the American Revolution, San Diego Chapter marks the start of festivities! Join us for family activities, crafts, historic talks, and tours of Presidio Park and the museum.

BY GABE SELAK



COLONEL ED FLETCHER AND LIEUTENANT WEBBER, 1922. SDHC 81-10655 FROM THE PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION.

## Leadership gifts announced for military exhibition

Cubic Corporation, the Walter and Betty Zable Foundation, and Wells Fargo Bank have made leadership commitments to support the exhibition *From Presidio to Pacific Powerhouse: How the Military Shaped San Diego*, opening in April 2014.

“We are grateful to Cubic Corporation, the Walter and Betty Zable Foundation, and Wells Fargo Bank for providing the leadership funding for this dynamic and important exhibition,” Tom Fetter, President of the History Center’s Board of Trustees stated. “Having Wells Fargo Bank’s continuing support, and partnering with the Zable Foundation and Cubic Corporation on the project, is vitally important. These companies and the late founder of Cubic Corp., Walter Zable, have played an important role in how the military shaped San Diego, and we are grateful for their vision and dedication to the History Center.”

Information about the upcoming exhibition can be found on page 3 of this issue of **the TIMES**. For more information about giving opportunities, visit [www.sandiegohistory.org/donate](http://www.sandiegohistory.org/donate).

BY GARY A. NEIGER



MEMBERS ATTEND THE SERRA MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE. CHARLOTTE CAGAN, MARGARET MARSTON, AND ANNE MARSTON. TOM FETTER AND BEN CLAY.

## Membership makes a difference

What do exhibitions like *Bottled & Kegged* and *Tuna!*, educational programs such as San Diego Voices – the Oral History Project, Dirt Detectives, and History for Half-Pints, and the conservation of the History Center’s extensive collections of photographs, paintings, historic clothing, and documents have in common? The answer is *membership!*

Each member of the History Center can lay claim to supporting these outstanding programs for the benefit of the entire San Diego community. It isn’t just the corporate sponsors and underwriters who make these programs possible. *It’s you* – each and every member – who makes a difference and

helps present San Diego’s story – past, present, and future.

Along the way, you get to appreciate the impact your contributions have made through engaging and interesting activities, such as our annual Serra Museum Open House, History Happy Hours, and exclusive members-only events. If you are not a member – JOIN TODAY and begin to make a difference!

BY GARY A. NEIGER

## Welcome new members

Welcome to the members who have joined San Diego History Center from July to August 2013.

Robert and Patricia Bird  
Neil Branch and Margo Bliss  
William Brittingham  
Peter Brueggemar and Kathy Creely  
Hannah Cohen  
Virginia Evans  
Margaret Field  
Linda Fox  
Josie Gomez  
Connie M. Gunther  
Kenneth Hall and Thomas DeBlois  
Emily Hammer  
Gregory and Delana Hardacre  
Linda S. Hardt  
Kathy Hearn  
Michael and Myra Herrmann  
Tom and Loretta Hom  
Nancy Jackson  
Ken Jenckes and Michelle James  
Lena Jouldjian  
Terri King  
Richard and Barbara Krumvieda  
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Brent and LJ Livingston  
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David and Shelley Odelson  
Curtis and Martha Page  
Catalina and David Preskill  
Mary Robbins-Wade  
Kathryn Rodriguez  
Carol P. Roland  
Justin Salbato  
Gustav Schmidt, Jr.  
Bruce and Jane Silva  
Michael and Paula Straus  
Judith A. Swink  
Susan and John Thompson  
Kyle and Maureen Wiskerchen  
Sandy Woodhouse



FRAY JUNÍPERO SERRA,  
GIFT OF MRS. CAROLINE  
KECK. SDHC 39.16.

## Father Serra takes a trip

San Diego History Center is pleased to participate in the upcoming exhibition *Picturing Mexico: Alfredo Ramos-Martinez in California* by lending a large pastel and charcoal on paper drawing by the artist entitled *Fray Junípero Serra* from the History Center's Fine Art Collection. The exhibition, which is organized by the Pasadena Museum of Art, will open there in January 2014 and then travel to the Nevada Museum of Art, where it will open in the spring. The exhibition will focus on the artist's work in California from 1929 to 1946.

BY TAMMIE  
BENNETT



# Maurice Braun

## Expressing nature's moods in a new exhibition *Capturing the Light*

MAURICE BRAUN PAINTS SAN DIEGO'S BACK COUNTRY LANDSCAPE *EN PLEIN AIR*. SDHC, OP 15362-172.

One of San Diego's most beloved artists whose work is featured in the History Center's art collection, Maurice Braun (1877-1941) was known for the serenity in his work and for his ability to capture the often-hidden qualities of ordinary landscapes. An important American and California Impressionist artist, Braun arrived in the United States from Hungary at the age of four, initially becoming known as a portrait painter. In 1909 he moved to California and immediately became immersed in landscape painting. In 1911 Braun presented his first one-man exhibition, featuring 75 works primarily of the city of San Diego and its countryside. Braun received a gold medal for one of his paintings at the 1915 San Francisco Panama International Exposition.

Always known for his independent spirit, Braun had developed an interest in Theosophy, a way of thinking based on the existence of unity between humankind and the universe, while in school. San Diego's renowned Theosophical Society, led

by Madame Katherine Tingley and located at the present-day Point Loma Nazarene University, supported many local artists. Tingley encouraged the work of Braun, giving him studio space in the Isis Theater building downtown, where in 1912 Braun founded the San Diego Academy of Art.

Braun's career was marked by periodic success during the 1920s, but with the onset of the Great Depression, it declined. Like other San Diego artists, Braun's influence began to wane as the art centers of Los Angeles and San Francisco obscured the artistic activity in San Diego. During the last decade of his life, Braun continued his involvement with the Theosophical Society, heading the Theosophical University's art department.

The History Center is currently displaying a small exhibit of works by Maurice Braun in our Local Treasures Gallery. The exhibition will be on display until February 2014.

BY CHARLOTTE CAGAN



# Pigeons in the Park

## Did George Marston bring the first pigeons to Balboa Park?

CHILDREN FEED THE URBAN WILDLIFE AT THE PANAMA-CALIFORNIA EXPOSITION 1915. SDHC 2000/001.66.

**George Marston was a longtime supporter of civic projects in San Diego, giving considerably of both his time and his financial support.**

Included in his many contributions were the creation of Presidio Park, the building of the Serra Museum and the founding of the San Diego Historical Society. Marston also spearheaded the development of the San Diego waterfront and Civic Center, and founded the local YMCA. On April 17, 1905, he was appointed president of the San Diego Park Commissioners, which oversaw the continued beautification and improvement of City Park, later to be renamed Balboa Park.

In our collection of George Marston's civic papers, we recently discovered a letter dated April 23, 1905, that Marston received from Griffing Bancroft, a local attorney and son of Hubert Howe Bancroft, the renowned historian. In the letter, Bancroft writes that he has "on hand a large number of pigeons, which I offer to the park committee without condition" and suggests that "perhaps

you would like to have them to put in the park." He cites his reason as "I cannot sell the birds for what they are worth and I will not sell for less." He concludes with the request that "you will see that this offer never becomes known in case it is not accepted." The pigeons in Balboa Park were a highlight of the 1915 Panama California Exposition, appearing in many popular photographs. Though it is not known whether this offer was accepted, an article from 1914 states there were 2,000 pigeons in Balboa Park prior to the Exposition, so perhaps this population was the result of the gift from 10 years before. The pigeons did seem to be considered resident in the Park as "six months before the exposition, a man was hired to train the pigeon... to feed out of his hands." Whatever the case, we may never know for certain if this is yet another gift to San Diego that should be attributed to George Marston.

BY JANE KENEALY



### Did you know? Presidio cross celebrates 100 years

Not only does Fray Junípero Serra mark an anniversary this year, but so does the cross on Presidio Hill! Erected in 1913 by the Order of Panama, a group of local San Diegans who were organized the year prior by the 1915 Exposition promoter David Collier, the Presidio Hill Cross called attention to the building of the Panama Canal. At the time, members of the Order of Panama also placed a plaque at the base of the cross to honor the memory of Father Junípero Serra, founder of the Mission San Diego de Alcalá, the first mission in Alta California, on that same hillside. The original plaque was replaced on July 16, 1969, marking the city's bicentennial, and a time capsule was buried close by, which is to be opened on the city's 300th birthday in 2069.

BY GABE  
SELAK

## Calendar

### Ongoing

Balboa Park History Stroll, Every Thursday  
(Thanksgiving excluded) | \$

### October

- 1 History for Half Pints: 'Spook'-tacular Halloween Bash! Repeats Oct. 4 | (K) \$
- 2 San Diego History 101, Part 1: Indigenous Beginnings to 1868 | \$
- 3 Lecture/Book Signing: Sol Price: Retail Revolutionary & Social Innovator | (FM) \$
- 9 San Diego History 101, Part 2: Developing Resorts, 1915 Exposition, and Military Beginnings | \$
- 16 San Diego History 101, Part 3: The Depression, 1935 Exposition to WWII | \$
- 19 International Archaeology Day Scout Workshop | (K) \$ Serra Museum
- 29 Tombstone Trivia & Talk | \$ Mount Hope Cemetery
- 29 Gravestone Tour at Mount Hope Cemetery | \$ Mount Hope Cemetery
- 29 Lecture: San Diego Gravestone Project with Dr. Seth Mallios | \$
- 30 Homeschool Day | (K) \$
- 30 Annual Member Meeting | (FM)
- 31 Lecture: Haunted San Diego | \$

- \$ Contact SDHC for Pricing
- (K) Kid-Friendly Event
- (FM) Free for Members
- (BK) Program is presented in conjunction with the exhibition, *Bottled & Kegged*

All events and programs are at San Diego History Center unless otherwise noted. Programs are subject to change or cancellation. Reservations are required. Details and reservations at (619) 232-6203 ext. 129.

### November

- 1 History for Half Pints: Pilgrim's Progress Repeats Nov. 5. | (K) \$
- 1 Lecture: Day of the Dead | \$
- 1 San Diego History 201, Part 1: Baskets, Ollas, Fandangos and Operas: Kumeyaay, Mission & Mexican Period | \$
- 1 History Happy Hour: Stone Brewing Company | (BK) \$
- 3 Fallback Festival | Free, Gaslamp Quarter
- 7 Lecture: Wyatt Earp in San Diego: Life after Tombstone with historian Garner Palenski | (FM) \$
- 8 San Diego History 201, Part 2: 1900-1920: Eucalyptus School, Arts & Crafts, 1915 Expo to the Creole Palace | \$
- 15 San Diego History 201, Part 3: Federal Arts Project, Hollywood, Post-War to ComicCon | \$
- 24 Father Serra 300th Birthday BASH! | (K) (FM) \$ Serra Museum
- 24 History Center Holidays Premiere Fête | \$
- 29 - 12/1 Holiday Programming: Movie Matinees, Kids Crafts, and Designer Demonstrations

### December

- 2 - 31 Fashion Redux! 2013 Designer Sarah Davidson's garment on display
- 2 History for Half Pints: Gingerbread, So Sweet! Repeats Dec 13 | (K) \$
- 26 - 29 Film matinees in Thornton Theatre | \$

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