

Our City,  
Our Story



# theTIMES

NEWSLETTER FOR SAN DIEGO HISTORY CENTER



Left: The TUNA! Advisory Committee, Front row (L to R): Tom Cesarini, Sandy Perlatti, Ann Navarra, Charlotte Cagan, Iris Engstrand, Linda Canada. Back Row (L to R): August Felando, Julius Zolezzi, Kenny Alameda, Kelly Faulk, Brian Hallman, Mike Kraft, Nicholas Vega, Tom Fetter, John Rebello. Right: Historic tuna image from the SDHC Photograph Collection.

## TUNA! A Visual Feast

*The low sounds of the harbor, the cacophony of a cannery, stunning video of fishermen hauling in the day's catch, nostalgic tales told by fishing families about life in San Diego when it was the tuna capital of the world – all this and more awaits visitors to the History Center's vast new exhibition, TUNA! Celebrating San Diego's Famous Fishing Industry.*



### 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.

Generously underwritten by the major tuna industry canners – Bumble Bee, Starkist, and Chicken of the Sea as well as the American Tunaboat Association, the exhibition will encompass most of the History Center's main gallery spaces and extend to a satellite exhibition at San Diego International Airport.

*TUNA!* relates the compelling saga of one of San Diego's major commercial industries. "This exhibition honors the tremendous history our community has in developing the U.S. and global tuna industry," said Chris Lischewski, CEO of Bumble Bee Foods, LLC, headquartered in San Diego. The exhibition tells the personal stories of the local fishing families, primarily Japanese, Portuguese and Italian, for whom tuna fishing created community and represented a cherished way of life. With additional funding provided by the Billingsley Foundation and the Heller Fund, *TUNA!* also features contemporary sustainability issues and educational offerings for children and families.

This family-oriented exhibit includes a mural of a tuna boat, pole-fishing activities and a display of tuna cans from around the world. The Thornton Theatre will screen old films of tuna fishing and cannery activities, and related programs include a Tuna Top Chef contest co-sponsored with The Prado restaurant. The History Center looks forward to welcoming our members and the general public to this enjoyable exhibition about the world's most popular food fish and its significance to San Diego.

We invite you to the members' reception for the new exhibition, *TUNA! Celebrating San Diego's Famous Fishing Industry*, on April 20, 2012.

- Charlotte Cagan, Interim Executive Director



## Community Connections

*Becoming a more vibrant and connected resource is important to San Diego History Center, and the key to the success of this effort is community collaboration. A prime example is the upcoming tuna exhibition which has taken shape over the past two years through the vision, passion and recommendations of our Tuna Advisory Council – a diverse panel of tuna industry officials, scientific and academic experts, and representatives of the Japanese, Italian and Portuguese fishing families. This diverse and synergistic group is linked by profound respect for the history of the tuna industry in San Diego. Their knowledge, opinions and memories have shaped every aspect of this exhibition.*

Similarly, the recently closed Baynard exhibition represented a successful collaboration between SDHC and members of San Diego's African-American community who identified friends and family members in the images and provided essential background and video material to enrich this exhibition and enhance its community relevance. The E.H. Davis photography project currently underway represents a remarkable collaboration between the History Center and many regional Indian tribes. Director of the Photograph Collection, Chris Travers, and her project team have worked closely with Indian advisors and families to identify ancestors in the images and provide essential anecdotal material to better understand the context and the era in which Davis produced over 7,000 photographs of Indian daily life in the early 20th century. SDHC will produce an exhibition centered on the E.H. Davis collection, envisioned as equally enriched by the same collaborative relationships and a similar community-based planning process.

Finally, we want to thank each of you who contributed to the 2011 year-end Annual Appeal. Through your generosity, we surpassed last year's total and our goal for this year. We also bid farewell to longtime Director of Exhibitions Nicholas Vega, who has accepted a position as Curator of the Collection for the Disney Company, based in Burbank.

• Charlotte Cagan, Interim Executive Director

FROM THE  
INTERIM  
EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR

### Hours

**San Diego History Center**  
Tues - Sun, 10am - 5pm

**Library**  
Wed - Sat, 9:30am - 1pm

**Junípero Serra Museum**  
Sat - Sun, 10am - 5pm  
and groups by appointment

## Makers of San Diego History 2012 Honors the Tuna Industry

*Each year San Diego History Center pays tribute to the people, and industries that have made history in our community and enhanced the perception of the region in the national consciousness. This year, SDHC will honor San Diego's tuna fishing industry and the families who made our city the center of the tuna-fishing industry.*

During the early to mid-20th century, Italian, Portuguese and Japanese families formed enclaves around San Diego Bay earning a living from this vital food source and building many of the waterfront communities we know today. These fishing families formed the nucleus of what became one of San Diego's largest industries and fed the national appetite for tuna as it became ubiquitous consumer product enjoyed by families around the world.

On June 9, 2012 SDHC will honor the industry leaders and these families at a gala at the Town & Country Resort. Please join us in celebrating those who made their living fishing, cleaning, and packing this valuable food source and for a time was the "Tuna Capital of the World."

• Matthew Schiff, Marketing Manager

SAVE THE DATE!  
JUNE 9, 2012  
Makers of San Diego  
History honoring  
The Tuna Industry

## Local Treasures from the History Center's Collection

**Featured painting: Rancho Campito, Baja California by Everett Gee Jackson**

Opened to the public in January 2012, *Local Treasures from the History Center's Collection* features a selection of recently donated artifacts from local citizens. Continuing with its rich tradition of working with the public to preserve San Diego's past, San Diego History Center is proud to feature a number of rare and significant objects in this exhibition, such as *Rancho Campito, Baja California*, a fine oil painting by notable local artist, Everett Gee Jackson.



This landscape image painted in muted greens, browns and blues depicts an arid scene with views of mountains and a rancho. This painting is significant not only for its aesthetics, but because it also came with a signed letter written by the artist to the original owner. This letter, also stored in the History Center's collections, is unique in that it creates a personal connection between the artist and the framed painted canvas.

You can view *Rancho Campito, Baja California* by Everett Gee Jackson now on display at the San Diego History Center.

• Nicholas Vega, Director of Exhibitions

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San Diego History Center has a new monthly e-newsletter packed with our latest news, programs, events and history trivia. To sign up for *History Center NOW!* go to [www.sandiegohistory.org](http://www.sandiegohistory.org).





## Project Update: SDHC to Launch Online Database of the Edward H. Davis Collection of Indian Photographs and Drawings

*In the spring, San Diego History Center will launch an online database featuring over 7,000 images from the Edward H. Davis Collection of Indian Photographs and Drawings. Edward H. Davis (1862-1951) was a long time resident of Mesa Grande who documented, photographed, studied, and wrote about Indian tribes throughout San Diego County, the Southwest, and parts of Mexico.*

The online database will provide unprecedented access for the Indian community, scholars, and the general public interested in learning more about the daily lives of local tribes in the early 20th century. The newly available material will include digitized images of the photographs, negatives, lantern slides and field notebooks created by Davis between the late 1890s and early 1940s. The launch of the online database is the culmination of an eighteen-month project undertaken by SDHC to digitize and catalog the Davis Collection. Additional information about the Davis images has been provided by members of the local Indian community, scholars of Southern California Indian culture and history, and our Indian Advisory Committee.

This project is supported by major funding provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services with additional funding provided by the Wells Fargo Foundation.

- *Therese Chung, Project Manager/Cataloguer*

## Costume Council Announces Fashion Redux! Competition

*The Costume Council at San Diego History Center has partnered with the Fashion Program at Mesa College for its inaugural Fashion Redux! competition. Fashion professors Andrea Marx, Susan Lazear, and Diana Cavagnaro will launch this exciting initiative to spotlight our significant costume collection.*

Fashion students from Mesa College will look at three inspiration pieces from the History Center's Costume Collection that they will reinterpret as modern outfits or accessories. Three finalists will be chosen based on the preliminary sketches, and the final constructed pieces will be on view at the History Center, alongside the inspiration pieces, from May 10-20. A reception will be held on Friday, May 18, where the judges will announce the winner of the *Fashion Redux!* contest. The winning design will then be put back on display for the month of December.

- *Gabe Selak, Public Programs Manager*



*Fashion professors join History Center staff to plan for Fashion Redux! Left to Right: Andrea Marx, Charlotte Cagan, Tammie Bennett, Susan Lazear and Diana Cavagnaro.*



Left: Renaissance musicians Courtly Noyse performed at the Serra Museum to celebrate Three Kings Day. Guests participated in traditional dances.



Above: University of San Diego graduate students at the opening of the student-curated exhibition, *Our City, Our Neighborhoods*.



Left: Costume Council members view rarely-seen items from the costume collection during an exclusive tour. Photo by Diana Cavagnaro.



Above: Learning the story of western settlements at a program by Black Storytellers of San Diego.



A young visitor makes her own gingerbread man during a recent History for Half Pints program.



Left: Archivist Jane Kenealy shares genealogical resources during a recent workshop.



Right: African Drum Company Teye Se Thiosanne performs during a Kwanzaa celebration in Balboa Park as part of the exhibition, *Portrait of a Proud Community*.





Don't forget to pack your sense of adventure for Family Night at the Museum!



## Upcoming Programs Celebrate Art, Music, and Things that Go Bump in the Night!

Have you ever wondered what happens inside a museum at night, once the lights are out, and the guests are gone? Roll out your sleeping bag with us to find out, as we go on a Family 'Night at the Museum' Adventure, from 6pm Saturday, March 31 to 9am on Sunday, April 1 at the History Center.

Guests will start the evening by enjoying hands-on history activities, including costume dressing up in historical costume, while learning about some of San Diego's most famous people and places. We'll also play popular games and pastimes of children long ago, make historical crafts and gobble up a favorite 1850s dessert. Once the lights go out, we'll go on an historically-themed flashlight tour through our museum galleries, before watching a special history-themed movie and bedding down beside the stagecoach for a good night's sleep.

### Introducing San Diego History 201

Have you taken our San Diego History 101 class and want to learn more? We're taking it one step further with San Diego History 201 beginning Thursday, May 10 at 10am and continuing for the next two weeks. Unlike History 101 that comprises a chronological history of the region from our indigenous beginnings to World War II, 201 explores that same time frame, but from a cultural standpoint. We'll explore the music and art that have made an indelible mark on our city.

Interested in taking part in either or both experiences? More information, costs and reservations are available [www.sandiegohistory.org/calendar](http://www.sandiegohistory.org/calendar).

• Gabe Selak, Public Programs Manager

## 4th Grade Mission Project

In January, San Diego History Center and San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) teamed up to create the 4th Grade Mission Construction Contest. The contest asks 4th graders to recreate a California mission using their unique skills and submit them to SDHC for judging. The goal is to bolster students' understanding of San Diego's Spanish Colonial period, recognize creativity, and honor the winners with a mini exhibition displayed at SDHC and the Junípero Serra Museum in April. School Programs Manager Heather Poirier, says "With a continuous reduction in school funding in recent years, institutions, like ours have to devise creative ways to reach those underserved populations and these are just some of the ways we do that."

• Matthew Schiff, Marketing Manager



## Thursday Club Grant Funds Photo Wall

San Diego History Center is the recipient of a grant from The Thursday Club to develop a digital "photo wall" in the museum's atrium.

The wall will feature an interactive screen that allows visitors to browse our photograph collection and make onsite purchases. This project will provide an added income opportunity for the History Center that promotes our existing collection and shares our images with our visitors and guests.

The photograph collection at San Diego History Center contains over 2.5 million images, ranging from the mid-19th century to the 21st. Our photograph collection is one of the largest such collection in the western U.S. and many of these iconic images are rarely seen by the general public. This is an exciting step in providing interactive technology for our visitors to experience and bringing our collections to life.

• Jessica Schmidt LaFave, Membership and Development Manager

## Archivist Honored by the San Diego Union-Tribune

San Diego History Center Archivist Jane Kenedy's identification of two authentic documents – written and signed by Abraham Lincoln – earned her the attribution of one of the "San Diegans Who Made an Impact in 2011" by the San Diego Union-Tribune.



One of the finds was a legal document believed to have been written by a lawyer or clerk at Lincoln's law firm, Logan & Lincoln, in 1841. The other was the 1865 presidential appointment of San Diegan, Lewis Gunn, as a Federal Tax Collector-signed twenty-three days before Lincoln's assassination.

When Jane sent both documents to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum they confirmed that the legal document was written by Lincoln himself and that the signature on the other was authentic.

Who knows what Jane will find next?

• Matthew Schiff, Marketing Manager

## Jane Booth Inducted into San Diego County Women's Hall of Fame

Jane Booth (1921-2008) will be one of five local women inducted into the San Diego County Women's Hall of Fame in a ceremony on March 10. Jane worked tirelessly at the History Center as a Photograph Archivist from 1979-1994, then continued to give her time as a volunteer until 2001. Jane and her husband, Larry, the Photograph Curator, were directly responsible for expanding the size of the collection, preserving and archiving thousands of photographs and negatives, and making them accessible to the public. She was also a talented artist who created many unique pieces of jewelry, blown glass, and weavings. Nearly sixty of her original hand-blown glass pieces now reside at the Mingei International Museum.



Booth viewing photographs in the late 1990s.

The Women's Hall of Fame is a collaboration between the Women's Museum of California, the Women's Studies Department at San Diego State University, The Women's Center at UC San Diego, and the San Diego County Commission on the Status of Women. Executive Director of the Women's Museum, Ashley Gardner, says of the inductees, "Their lifetime work and achievements have improved the lives of many and have left a lasting impact. They are the unsung heroes of our time whose stories can be inspiring to all of us." For more information:

[www.WomensMuseumCa.org](http://www.WomensMuseumCa.org)

• Chris Travers, Director of the Photograph Collection

## 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.

Thank you so much for your support!

Welcome to the members who have joined San Diego History Center December 2011 to January 2012.

- Beverly Adams
- Mark and Neomi Alcorn
- Rachelle Andrews and Julie Andrews
- Iedia and Victor Betancourt
- Amy Brandt
- Dale Burgett and Frederick Gilman
- Kathryn and Steve Caro
- Charles and Susan Christian
- Luna and Tye Donnelly
- Carolina and Manuel Elizondo
- Steven Erie
- Shanel Goshler
- Paula Harris
- Kathleen Holowach
- Jyl and William Howley
- Pauline Rose and Robin Morris Kedward
- Douglas Littlefield
- Mary Lyons
- Darlene McFarland
- Cindy and Richard Meharg
- G. and L. Moraga
- Gabriel and Judy Neeb
- Michael and Laura Petrovich
- Andrew Pignolo
- Steven and Jan Schiff
- Peter Simmons
- Pauline and William Storum
- Kris and Kelly Telleson
- Patrick Varner
- Sid Viles and Jerry Trent
- Kaitlan and Glen Widdop

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

Members' Opening  
Reception:  
*TUNA! Celebrating  
San Diego's Famous  
Fishing Industry*

#### June 9

Makers of San Diego  
History 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](http://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.*

## March

- 15 San Diego History 101, Part 1, 6pm\*
- 17 Balboa Park-wide Science Family Day, 11am
- 19 History for Half Pints: Telling Time! 10am\*
- 20 Lecture: Emory Malick: First African American Pilot, Mary Groce, 6pm
- 22 San Diego History 101, Part 2, 5:30pm\*
- 29 San Diego History 101, Part 3, 6pm\*
- 31 'Night at the Museum' Family Overnight, 6pm\*

## April

- 2-6 Spring Day Camp for ages 7-15 years, 9am – 12pm\*
- 16 History for Half Pints: Sheep to Shawl! 10am\*
- 19 Lecture: San Diego Harbortown, Gayle Baker, 6pm
- 20 Tuna! Exhibition Member Opening^
- 28 Costume Lunch with Tuna Characters^

## May

- 5 New/Renewing Member Reception, 9am
- 9 Tank By Tank Tour, Birch Aquarium, 10:30am\*^
- 10 San Diego History 201, Part 1, 10am\*
- 17 San Diego History 201, Part 2, 10am\*
- 18 Fashion Redux! FINALE, 6pm\*
- 19 Girl Scout Bridging Ceremony
- 20 Dia de los Museos, San Diego Museum Council, 11am
- 21 History for Half Pints: Horsin' Around! 10am\*
- 24 San Diego History 201, Part 3, 10am\*

## June

- 8 History Trivia Smackdown!, 5pm
- 9 Boy Scout Open House, 11am – 2pm
- 14 Tuna Top Chef Competition, 5pm – 7pm\*^

\* Admission fee applies

^ This program is associated with the exhibition *TUNA! Celebrating San Diego's Famous Fishing Industry*