Michelle Swinney has recently taken over as Site Rental Coordinator. She brings with her a wealth of organizational and marketing experience, including working in the very busy office of Senator John McCain in Washington, DC.

We have three historic sites available for rental for weddings and special events, and they provide wonderful venues to make any occasion extra special.

Contact Michelle at (619) 232-6203 ext.109 or rentals@sandiegohistory.org

As spring approaches, few things are more predictable at the Historical Society than the annual Showcase House fundraising event. This year promises to be especially notable, with a magnificent example of an early California “orchard house” farmhouse in the San Dieguito Valley. The design team is led by Doug Scott, of Tiffany and Co., and Doug has assembled a remarkable team of designers and artists who promise a wonderfully entertaining and enriching experience as we explore San Diego’s roots in this North County valley.

Showcase is just the beginning, however. The Board of Trustees has given its approval to the Core Exhibition plan developed by David Krimmel and his team, and preliminary work begins this month on preparing the galleries with new drywall and wall supports. Construction of the exhibition begins in earnest in late spring and, by summer, there will be portions open to the public. There is significant interest building in this exhibition, and educators throughout the City are both participating in the planning and anticipating the opportunities for their students.

The Education Department continues to expand. School in the Park is anticipated to grow by some 40% in the fall as a new school is added, and we are planning new partnerships with both the Japanese Historical Society and Cultural Centers in Tijuana to develop educational programs and student exhibitions. Management of the sites has been placed in the Education Department, and new docent-led student programs, as well as adult education opportunities, are planned. The Department will also open the gallery where From Blueprints to Buildings is currently housed to student exhibitions in the fall.

As the pace of change at the Society accelerates this spring and summer, let me pause for a moment to give heartfelt thanks to our Trustees. Their many hours of dedicated service through committees and Board meetings provide a continuing source of judgment, support, and plain old hard work, without which the Society could simply not sustain its programs, much less look to the future. Staff and I join in expressing our appreciation, and we all give thanks to you, our members, for your continuing good will and substantial philanthropic support.

David Watson, Executive Director

Hamilton Marston passed away on January 26 at San Diego Hospice at the age of 95. Grandson of George White Marston, founder of the San Diego Historical Society, he took over the management of the Marston Department Store in 1953. It was under his direction that the famous Marston tearoom was created with its Japanese themed décor and hand-painted screens.

He also inherited the family passion for involvement in civic affairs as a leading member of the San Diego Downtown Association, Citizens Coordinate for Century 3, and president of San Diegans Inc. It was during his time as a board member of Citizens Coordinate for Century 3 that a successful campaign was fought to stop State Route 163 from becoming a six-lane highway through Balboa Park.

Along with his wife Peg, he was a long-time supporter and member of the San Diego Historical Society, and we send our condolences to Peg and his family.

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David Watson
Work Begins on the Permanent Exhibition of San Diego History

After years of planning and many false starts, the Museum of San Diego History is finally getting a permanent exhibition of San Diego History.

A concentrated effort by David Watson, Executive Director; David Krimmel, Director of Exhibitions; and the staff of the Society, assisted by a committee of local historians, is finally making our dream of a permanent exhibition into a reality.

In November A Place of Promise: Stories of San Diego was the forerunner of the major exhibition to come. Now that the Board of Trustees has given their approval to the concept plan, it is time to put the wheels in motion and watch the exhibition unfold.

An Introduction to the New Permanent Exhibition of San Diego History
by David Krimmel, Director of Exhibitions

This summer, visitors to the Museum of San Diego History will be introduced to Stories of San Diego. This is the first installment of our permanent exhibition on the history of San Diego that we plan to have completed by 2008.

Museum visitors will be greeted with an interactive central gallery that presents, quite literally, a picture of San Diego today, as underfoot and from wall to wall will be a thirty by thirty foot map of the region. San Diego residents and visitors alike can physically traverse the freeways, mountain ranges and coastline, and easily share familiar places and stories with each other. Mounted on the walls, and correlating with the cardinal points established by the map, will be two stunning Charles Reiffel murals from the WPA in the 1930s; a backcountry scene will greet visitors to the east, and a harbor scene to the west.

As a clear introduction to the overarching theme of diversity, photographic images from the San Diego Historical Society's vast collection will be projected onto a blank canvas to highlight the diverse nature of San Diego's people, economy, intellectual and cultural centers, and its built and natural environments.

Display cases in the area will focus on the individual San Diego neighborhoods. This will present the opportunity for regional historical societies and community groups to introduce new artifacts and themes, and to connect their stories to the broader picture of San Diego history presented in the surrounding galleries.

Check out our website www.sandiegohistory.org for updates on the progress of the exhibition.

SDHS Attic Sale — A Great Success!
by Karie Dzenkowski-Castillo

The San Diego Historical Society's recent Attic Sale, held on January 28, 2006 offered a variety of items for purchase such as books, clothing, photographs, and furniture. With a line already forming at 9 a.m. and curving its way down the Prado, a large crowd of people had gathered in search of a bargain, or just to entertain and appease their collectible fever. The doors opened promptly at ten and the frenzy of activity kept our staff and fabulous volunteers busy until three. Business was certainly brisk, and a steady stream of people left the Museum of San Diego History clutching items as varied as hats, picture frames, and even palm trees!

In all the attendance was over 1,100 visitors, and the total amount of money from the sale exceeded $11,000. All proceeds will go to support collections, future programs, and special events at the Society.

We would like to thank all participants, volunteers, and attendees for helping with the success of the Attic Sale, and we look forward to future events such as this to aid in fundraising efforts for the Society.

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Exhibitions

ROMP! Children Discover Balboa Park

This fun children's exhibition is a walk through time exploring the fascinating history of Balboa Park from its beginning. The exhibition tracks the spectacular development of Balboa Park for the 1915-16 Panama-California Exposition, through to the technological “wonders” of the 1935-36 California-Pacific International Exposition. Children are encouraged to explore the interactive exhibition components, while learning about the people, the cultures, and the city that created Balboa Park.

Designed for the young and young at heart, the exhibition guides the visitor on a journey filled with fascinating examples of lifestyles, architecture, and technology. Its activities allow you to see how the Park has changed and to visit the two Expositions. You are also invited to create your own design for the “Park of the Future.”

Children take home several projects which they will create within the exhibition: an origami swan, a rubbing from a 1915 souvenir medallion, and a personalized computer-generated certification as a Junior Historian. In addition, a printed Discovery Guide will enable parents, teachers, and visitors to extend their learning into the Park as architectural features and buildings are identified.

Exhibition Sponsors: The J.W. Sefton Foundation; The Hans and Margaret Doe Charitable Trust; The Thursday Club.

From Blueprints to Buildings: SAN DIEGO ARCHITECTURE

This exhibition of San Diego architecture traces the region's rich architectural history from early Indian bark houses to Modern and Post-modern buildings. The exhibition draws on the Historical Society's extensive archives to showcase the most significant examples of various architectural styles and types of structures.

The exhibition chronicles San Diego's architectural history and includes residential, religious, educational, scientific, commercial, and recreational buildings as well as bridges. It features examples of Mission, Victorian, Spanish Colonial, Italian Revival, Arts and Crafts, Art Deco, International, Modern, and Post-modern architecture.

In addition to illustrating the progression of San Diego's architectural styles, the exhibition highlights architects who helped create signature styles, including Irving Gill, William Templeton Johnson and Bertram Goodhue. It also features images of notable buildings that no longer exist and examples of adaptive re-use of some historic structures.

Exhibition Sponsors: County of San Diego Supervisors, Ron Roberts and Greg Cox; William Turnbull Jr. Environmental Education Grant; California Architectural Foundation; San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture.

Little Black Dresses

This small exhibition in the atrium of the Museum of San Diego History, funded by the Society's Costume Council, features six little black dresses from the Society's costume collection, ranging in date from 1927 to 1965.

The little black dress was introduced in 1926 by designer Coco Chanel. Vogue predicted that it “would become the sort of uniform for all women of taste.”

The silhouettes of little black dresses have changed with the times, but they all retain the same timeless quality and appeal.

Satin, velvet, chiffon, or crepe — a little black dress answers a variety of wardrobe demands and is stylish for any occasion.

Black’s absence of color allows for countless opportunities for personalization. Whether you wear it with pearls, diamonds, bangles, or beads, the little black dress always invokes a feel of elegance. It’s not just for cocktails, anymore, and in the eighty years since its birth, the little black dress has become a uniform that flatters a woman’s body, forgives extra pounds, and makes her feel pretty, sexy, and smart.

Exhibition Sponsors: San Diego Historical Society's Costume Council

Developing San Diego: Making History Every Day

This photographic exhibition has been described as a “now and then” style view of San Diego. It might be more accurately described as “from then until now” as it illustrates the changes to our built and natural environments over a long period of time.

Every day we can look around us and see change, sometimes large and dramatic, sometimes gradual and subtle. When a building that was standing one day is gone the next, we are suddenly aware of our rapidly changing world, and when a new building goes up to take its place, we reminisce about the old building. Photographs capture a moment in time and encourage us to say “remember when…”

In this exhibition, there are historical images of buildings, street scenes and landscapes, from the Booth Historical Photograph Archives next to contemporary images, taken in late 2000 through 2002 by Chris Travers, Director of the Booth Historical Photograph Archives. There is continued on next page
An Update from THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

by Rebecca Lawrence, Director of Education

Here are just a few of the things we are working on in the Education Department:

Our third-graders from Rosa Parks Elementary School are back at the Museum of San Diego History for their second one-week session of School in the Park. This time around they are studying the natural resources of San Diego County and how the Kumeyaay have used these resources to meet their survival needs.

On February 1, the Serra Museum saw its 1,000th student since November attend our San Diego Before Statehood program. The tour now includes a walk on the presidio grounds as well as activities inside the museum. Our calendar is filling up fast for the rest of the school year so book one of these docent-led tours for your 4th grade class today!

San Diego County History Day is March 18 this year and the theme is “Taking a Stand in History.” Staff from the Education Department will be judging student projects at the San Diego County Office of Education and handing out awards for “Best Use of Primary Sources.” Winning projects will be displayed in the atrium of the Museum of San Diego History in May.

The Museum of San Diego History will be showcasing selected international student projects from the second annual Tijuana en la historia event at the end of March. These projects will explore local history and regional identity. Look for details on our website: www.sandieghohistory.org.

Beginning this fall, the Museum of San Diego History will display student work on a regular basis. We welcome ideas from local teachers and students who are interested in collaborating with us to develop these rotating exhibits.

To contact the Education Department, please call (619) 232-6203 x104 or email us at edu@sandieghohistory.org.
SAN DIEGO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SHOWCASE 2006

14333 San Dieguito Road
San Dieguito Valley
(east of Del Mar)

Open
Sunday, April 30 through Monday, May 29

Hours
Tuesday through Sunday 10am to 4pm
Thursday 10am to 7pm
Monday CLOSED
Memorial Day 10am – 4pm

Tickets
Members $15 with membership card
Non-Members $20 or $15 if purchased by April 28

Groups
Discounted rates and special tours for groups by arrangement.
Corporate and Special Parties Call
(619) 232-6203 ext.109

Information
Call (619) 533-7355 or visit www.sandiegohistory.org

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Lisa Davis, Lisa Davis Upholstery
Elizabeth Leahy, Leahy Interior Design
Marsha Sewell, Marsha Sewell & Associates
René Van Rens, René Van Rens International
Tracy Taylor, T.F.Taylor Interior Design
Rebecca & Jonathon Collpy, We R Fabrics/We R Home of San Diego
This year's Showcase house was originally part of Rancho San Dieguito, a tract of 8,824 acres granted to Juan Maria Osuna in 1840 by Governor Pio Pico.

The house is a fine example of the Craftsman Style farm house that was built in California in the early years of the twentieth century. As it stands today, it is thought to be an expansion of the farmhouse built by J. Stanley Olds for his new wife, Harriet, around 1891. Such a romantic beginning, however, ended badly, as by 1896 Harriet had died and Olds had lost the property in a legal dispute with Augustus Barnett, a wealthy rancher and financier from Ramona. The property remained in the Barnett family until 1922, when it was sold to Joseph Henry Dinsmore, whose descendants owned it until 1965. Subsequent owners included Dena Pictures, a company owned by Danny Kaye.

By 2001, when the current owners acquired the property, it had been reduced to six and a half acres and the house was in decay. The owners recently completed a meticulous restoration that brought together the house's rich history with state-of-the-future energy technology. The 2006 Showcase House has regained the character it had when it sat in grand isolation overlooking the undeveloped valley of San Dieguito – and maybe recaptured some of that lost romance...
Recent Additions to our Collections

November 2005 - January 2006

2005.127 Book: On Memory’s Back Trail, A Story History of Ramona and the Backcountry of San Diego County (2 copies)
2005.128 San Diego related ephemera: five postcards, t-shirt
2005.129 Clothing: Louis Feraud luncheon dress, Max Mara trouser suit (two piece), Calvin Klein dress, Escada ensemble, Missoni skirt, Halston skirt suit
2005.130 Book: J. Smeaton Chase
2005.131 Videotape: The Reconstruction of the House of Hospitality,
2005.132 Material relating to Rancho Jamul and Rancho Jamacha
2005.133 Maps, reports, ephemera, and material related to Brown Field
2005.134 Spiral-bound copy of Ingrid’s Memories
2005.135 KPBS VHS videotapes (3 copies)
2005.137 Book: Crittenden J. Beauvais: His Ancestors and Descendants
2005.138 3x5 black and white prints of the Villa Montezuma before restoration (16 copies), 3x5 color prints of Villa Montezuma deterioration (2 copies)
2005.139 School scrapbook by Ruth McCutcheon, 1921-1926
2005.140 San Diego Opera records regarding Point Loma and La Jolla guilds
2005.141 Digital images (copies) of Holladay Dairy farm
2005.142 Book: Winning the Vote: The Triumph of the American Woman Suffrage Movement
2005.143 Digital image collection (copies) of family photographs
2005.144 Clothing and accessories worn by Mr. and Mrs. Pete Wilson
2006.1 Notary stamps (6)
2006.2 Book: King of the Boards
2006.5 Ash tray commemorating 1935 California Pacific International Exposition
2006.6 Booklet: Fifty Years of Survival and Achievement of Members from Temple Adat Shalom (2 copies)

2006.7 Dress, photographs, and documents related to Fiesta Del Pacifico
2006.8 Plaque presented by the National Safety Council to the city of San Diego in Winter 1946.
2006.9 DVD commemorating the 100th anniversary of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees
2006.10 Children’s Hospital Charity Ball program, 2005
2006.11 HABS Documentation for St. Marks Lutheran Church
2006.12 Cleveland National Forest Map Atlas, 2004
2006.13 Book: Palomar: From Tepee to Telescope

Thank you to all those who have donated items for addition to our Collections.

If you would like to donate to the Historical Society...

PHOTOGRAPHS, NEGATIVES, FILM, PHOTO ALBUM OR OTHER IMAGE RELATED ITEMS — Call Chris Travers at (619) 232-6203 x 116.

DOCUMENTS, ORAL HISTORY, EPHEMERA, REPORTS, BOOKS, MAPS, BLUEPRINTS, OR OTHER PRINTED MATERIAL — Call Jane Kenealy at (619) 232-6203 x 117.

CLOTHING, ACCESSORIES, TEXTILES, OBJECTS, ART OR ANY OTHER TYPE OF MATERIAL — Call Laurie Egan at (619) 232-6203 x 121.
The Tours Group of the San Diego Historical Society recently celebrated its final year of operation at the annual Holiday Party. In the eighteen years since they started, they generated over $300,000 for the Society, involving approximately 20 individuals escorting around 250 tours. The single day tours were mostly within Southern California, but there were also many tours of longer duration visiting all fifty states as well as Canada, Mexico, and Europe.

The very first tour to the California Gold Country in 1969 was conducted by Mack Sugg whose pioneering efforts were followed by many other individual escorts until in 1987 the Tours Group was officially formed, and the rest, as they say, is history. The retiring Tours Group leaves an admirable record and the hope that maybe a new generation will pick up the torch.

Sadly, we have to announce the death of long-time member of the San Diego Historical Society and former secretary of the Tours Group, Elizabeth Beeson. She died on February 6, ten days after celebrating her 95th birthday. She is especially remembered by longtime friends Bob and Kathy McLaughlin, and her many friends and companion travelers of the Tours Group.
NEW MEMBERS

Jim Elliott  
Kimberly McIntyre  
Michael A. Morton  
Sherrill A. Lorch  
Victoria Freiheit  
Jim Anderson  
Colleen Plecha  
Lisa Mendoza  
Robert Bowman  
Robert McGill  
Thomas Dandridge  
Thomas Funke  
Laura Spycia  
John Cotsirilos  
Gary Lamble  
Susan Haber  
Genealogical Society of Utah  
California State University  
Judy J. Beardslee  
Todd M. Phillips  
Kristine A. Hayes Munson  
Robert L. Ambler  
Steven Dellemann  
Ginger Weatherford  
Teri Martin  
Stacy Smith  
Brian Barry  
Roy Josepho  
Eric Swenson  
Michael Arguello  
Marie Hutchinson  
Irvin Forbing  
Andrea Zimmerman  
Nicole Nore  
Kathi Jablonsky  
Lisa Goodin  
Olga Nazimova  
Neil Strachan  
Joseph Gigey  
Corlee A. Morris  
Shirley McClay  
Janet Fireman  
James Starbuck  
Eugene Barnyak  
Craig Gadd  
Thomas W. Carr  
Nancy Holland  
Charlotte J. Leff  
Anne Flournoy  
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Pablo Guadiana  
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Southern California Magazine Group  
Mary H. Sherman  
Karen Kees  
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Melanie Young  
Eva Hoffman

SAN DIEGO HISTORICAL SOCIETY TIMES Newsletter
Published since 1964 by the San Diego Historical Society

David Watson, Executive Director  
Jane Kenealy, Editor  
Elizabeth Abbott, Graphic Designer  
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Send address changes to: the TIMES, San Diego Historical Society, 1649 El Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA 92101

Veronica Mars at the Marston House

Who is Veronica Mars? She’s a teenage sleuth dedicated to solving the town’s toughest mysteries. Played by Kristen Bell, Veronica is a normal high-school senior during the day, but by night, Veronica helps with her father’s private investigator business, sneaking around the seaside community of Neptune to expose the darkest secrets of the rich and powerful!

In January, the cast and crew filmed portions of an episode at the Marston House, which served as the backdrop for a wedding (that never actually takes place!). Taping took place inside the house and throughout the grounds.

Catch Veronica Mars on Wednesdays at 9pm on UPN. The Marston House episode was scheduled to air on February 15.

PASTPERFECT – A POWERFUL RESEARCH TOOL

From February 7 - 10, the San Diego Historical Society hosted a regional training session for PastPerfect software. The training was led by PastPerfect Training Coordinator Amy Dunn, and museum professionals from as far away as Ohio attended the training. Nine Society employees received training in the software, which is used to manage museum collections and membership databases.

Use of PastPerfect will enable us not only to keep a detailed catalog record of the items we receive but also to create an electronic finding aid for researchers to the curatorial, archival and photographic collections. Access will be available in the Research Library and eventually online. It can take up to an hour to catalog one item. With over 15,000 objects, 2.5 million images, and several thousand linear feet of archival materials, it is certainly not a short-term project, but we all feel it is very worthwhile if it creates such an invaluable research tool.
Donors to San Diego Historical Society End of Year Appeal 2005

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Mr. and Mrs. Ritz Ahern
Mr. and Mrs. William Alexander
Mr. Leonard B. Allen
Ms. Florence Arnold
Ms. Diane M. Balev
Ms. Elizabeth Beeson
Mr. Roy Bell
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Mr. and Mrs. Cecile Walters
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$1,000 - $4,999
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Mr. and Mrs. Jerald L. Van Ert
Ms. Barbara J. Withrow

Over $5,000

Mr. and Mrs. John S. Barry
Dr. and Mrs. John Berner

Events Diary

March

March 31, April 1 & 2, 10am–5pm
International History Fair
Museum of San Diego History, Balboa Park

April

April 29
Showcase 2006 Opening Gala
April 30–May 29
Showcase 2006
14333 San Dieguito Road, San Diego

Yes! I want to help carry on the work of the San Diego Historical Society in preserving its priceless collection of photographs, documents and artifacts and sharing them with the public.

My gift: [ ] $5,000 [ ] $2,500 [ ] $1,000 [ ] $500
[ ] $200 [ ] $100 [ ] $50 [ ] $__________________________ is enclosed.

Name ________________________________ Address ________________________________
City __________________ State ______ Zip ______ Telephone ________________________________

[ ] Check [ ] Visa [ ] MasterCard Account No. __________________ Exp. Date __________

Signature __________________________________________________________

Please make check payable to San Diego Historical Society.
San Diego Historical Society
Where our history comes alive!

For over 75 years, the San Diego Historical Society, an educational and cultural institution, has been dedicated to preserving and sharing our growing historical collections and extensive archives with our members, visitors and the community. The Society operates the Museum of San Diego History and the Research Library in the Casa de Balboa building in Balboa Park, the Serra Museum in Presidio Park, the Villa Montezuma House Museum in Sherman Heights, and the Marston House Museum in Balboa Park.

Museum of San Diego History
Casa de Balboa
1649 El Prado, Balboa Park
619-232-6203
Open daily 10am - 5pm

Research Library and Booth Historical Photograph Archives
Casa de Balboa (lower level)
1649 El Prado, Balboa Park
619-232-6203 ext. 117
Thursday - Saturday,
10am - 4.30pm

Serra Museum
2727 Presidio Drive
Presidio Park
619-297-3258
Open daily 10am - 4:30pm

Marston House
3525 Seventh Avenue
Balboa Park
619-298-3142
Friday – Sunday 10am - 5pm
Tours begin on the hour; no tour at noon; last tour at 4pm

Villa Montezuma
1925 K Street
(corner of 20th and K streets)
619-239-2211
Friday - Sunday, 10am - 5pm
Tours begin on the hour; no tour at noon; last tour at 4pm