TIMES

HISTORY MAKERS 2007
JUNE 2ND
SATURDAY • US GRANT HOTEL

MAKE A DATE WITH HISTORY
SAN DIEGO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Spring 2007
Volume XXXVI, Number 2
January brought good news for the Society’s future, so good that I want to use this opportunity to talk about the future in the larger view and longer term.

In early January, the Parker Foundation awarded the Society a $50,000 capacity building grant, and at about the same time, the Patrons of the Prado selected the Society, along with the Mingei Museum and the Fleet Science Center, to receive approximately one third of the proceeds from the annual July Gala in the Park (see stories on page 3). Both of these grants signal a new confidence in the future of the Society.

In late January, a long time donor and supporter of the Society, who wishes to remain publicly unnamed, approached us with an offer of an extraordinary gift, one that carries the opportunity of establishing our future financial health. This donor and I have spoken several times over the past year and a half about the Society’s need for a true Endowment Fund that would provide long-term sustainable revenues to support our programs. It has been my goal, and strategy, to build our earning capacity in the short term, to increase contributed income to eliminate chronic operating deficits, and to build a bridge to an Endowment within five to seven years.

Our plan now has an extraordinary opportunity to succeed much more quickly because of the generosity of this donor: the Society has been given a “challenge” gift of up to $2 million dollars, to be awarded at the end of the calendar year. The donor will match every dollar contributed to the Society this calendar year, one for one. Each gift, each grant, and each new or renewed membership will be doubled.

Our Trustees have been energized by this extraordinarily generous gesture of support, and impressed by the donor’s straightforward, firm conviction that the Society should not just survive, but thrive. It must fulfill its commitment to installing the exhibition about San Diego history, to enlarging the museum education program, to continue caring for our collections, and to improving the Research Library. All of us here at the Society have already begun to think differently about our personal and professional commitments, and I am convinced we will meet this challenge with renewed vigor and dedication.

I invite you to join us in this very important year for the future of the San Diego Historical Society. Two million dollars in contributions this year will remove the deficit and lay the groundwork for continuing support. Meeting this challenge will plant the seeds for a strong endowment, and assure a vibrant future for the museums and programs of the Society. Join us to discover, learn, and understand the rich tapestry that makes San Diego.

It will be an exciting year.

Thank you.

David S. Watson
THE US GRANT HOTEL

The US Grant Hotel recently re-opened to the public on October 17, 2006. Located in downtown San Diego, the hotel has been redefined with a $52 million renovation. Its new look of luxury is contributed to by the use of rich colors, warm tones, and impressive fixtures. The grand display of historic photos, hung on the interior walls of gathering areas, rooms, and hallways, enhances the hotel’s strong historic presence. Twenty-five images were from the Booth Historical Photograph Archives of the San Diego Historical Society.

THE PARKER GRANT

In early January, the Parker Foundation awarded the Historical Society $50,000 for capacity building. More specifically, the intent of the grant is to provide seed money for creating and implementing a Development Department and to help with the salary for a professional Development Director, which the Society has not had for a number of years. Additionally, the grant provides funding for several new computers and new photo equipment designed to increase our ability to generate sales of historic photos and images from our collections.

The goal is to provide the Society with increased ability both to earn revenues through sales and to generate growth in contributed income. Coupled with the matching gift that the Society will receive at the end of the year, and with the award from the Patrons of the Prado, we should see great improvement in our ability to create sustainable, predictable revenue streams to support our programs.

PATRONS OF THE PRADO AWARD THE SAN DIEGO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The San Diego Historical Society has been selected to be one of the three recipients of the annual Patrons of the Prado award. These awards are granted from the proceeds of the Patrons annual summer Gala in the Park. Their mission is to support the arts organizations and museums on the Prado in Balboa Park. The other two recipients this year are the Mingei Museum and the Rueben H. Fleet Science Center.

This year’s Gala, Circus in the Park, will be held on July 14 at the Organ Pavilion. It will be a fabulous, festive not-to-be-missed evening. If ever there was a year for members of the Society to mark their calendars and to attend an event, this is it. Not only are we being honored as a recipient, but the entire award will also be matched at the end of the year by our challenge grant.

For more information, call (619) 226-7323, and to reserve tickets, call (619) 222-5425. Barbara J. Brown is this year’s Gala Chair, and Betty Kornreich, as President, leads the Patrons. Both have our sincere gratitude for the award this year as well as our support.
Programs at the Museum of San Diego History

by Gabe Selak, Public Programs Manager

HISTORY FOR HALF PINTS

Ever heard of Bum the dog? Can you name San Diego’s city flower, or have you ever seen pictures of Kate Sessions? Children three to six years old and a favorite adult of their choosing have been learning about these things and more during the new program, geared toward our youngest visitors.

In January and February, Thornton Theatre has come alive with the laughter of children as we sang songs, played games, and acted out characters from San Diego’s past. Each History for Half Pints program includes a story time, interactive play, and a craft project that they can take home. A different theme is explored each week.

LANDQUEST: EXPLORING THE GEOGRAPHY OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY

Can you identify all the landforms of San Diego County? When was the last time you used a compass? Over the past few months, third and fourth grade students have been visiting the Museum of San Diego History to participate in LandQuest, an exciting new field trip. Designed around the 30 x 30 foot floor map of San Diego County in Gallery Three, students discover the diverse local landscape, identify many of its natural resources, practice map-making skills, and learn how to use a compass.

For more information or to register for these programs, please call Katrina Glynn, Education Coordinator, at (619) 232-6203, ext. 150.

STORIES OF SAN DIEGO LECTURE SERIES

As part of the ongoing programming associated with the opening of Phase I of Place of Promise, the San Diego Historical Society hosted a number of lectures telling the stories of San Diego last year. As we move into Phase II, the lecture series continues this spring with new topics, as told by local historians. These historians are part of the Society’s Speakers Bureau. Their talks highlight the diversity of the region and the impact of centuries of change. We hope you will join us at the Museum of San Diego History on Saturdays March 10 and 31, as well as April 28 at 2pm, for these lively, engaging lectures.

All lectures will be held in Thornton Theatre, beginning at 2pm. Reservations are requested by calling (619) 232-6203, ext. 150. Admission to the lectures is FREE for SDHS members and $5 for non-members.

See the Events Diary on page 11 for details.

THE YOUTH GALLERY: YOUNG HISTORIANS “SPRINGING” UP

Do you have a favorite project that you created in school? Remember the first time your teacher submitted your artwork to a local competition or art fair? How proud were you to see your work displayed in the local library or in the hallways of your school on Open House evenings? Francis Parker eighth grade students will experience this recognition and more as they open a new exhibition this spring in our Youth Gallery at the Museum of San Diego History!

Begun as a combined history/art project with Francis Parker teachers Mary Ong-Dean and David Marienthal respectively, students have worked for the past few months perfecting their projects for display within the gallery.

The journey to the exhibition opening began in October 2006 when the Middle School students visited the Museum of San Diego History to learn how we record the past. Students participated in an Oral History workshop, led by Archivist Jane Kenealy and toured the current SDHS exhibition Belle Baranceanu: The Artist at Work. Students were asked to pay particular attention to the various genres that Belle worked in, including block prints, portraits, lithographs, and large scale murals. Back at school, the students interviewed former faculty and friends of Belle and created art projects “in the style of Belle.” Now completed, the projects will be mounted as a new exhibition in our Youth Gallery, beginning March 26.

Currently on view in the Youth Gallery are artworks from San Diego City Schools, fifth grade Balboa Park Program. Titled It’s All About Me… in San Diego, student artwork explores these young people’s thoughts on San Diego, what they like about the region and how the area has shaped them as people today. You won’t want to miss this unique look into the minds of tomorrow’s historians.

by Vanessa Zucker, Francis Parker School

by Colin Christopher, Francis Parker School
Upcoming Programs at the Marston House

by Gabe Selak, Public Programs Manager

THE LADIES OF THE HOUSE

Over the past three months, members of the Marston House site interpretation staff have been poring over primary and secondary source documents, available in the Society’s Research Library, to learn more about who the Marstons were as everyday people. We have searched through about six boxes of letters, photo albums, scrapbooks, and journals, personally written by George, Anna, Mary, Helen, and Elizabeth. These documents have helped us answer a lot of questions about the personal relationships of the family—questions our guests ask on nearly every tour.

Much of the information currently shared during regular house tours focuses on the architectural elements of the Arts and Crafts Movement in San Diego and the incredible impact George Marston had on the community. He was very much a family man and in many ways a man surrounded and profoundly influenced by the women in his life. We are proud to announce that we have garnered enough information to launch our first new Ladies of the House tours on Sundays, March 11, 18, 25 and April 22, at 1pm. These tours, debuting during Women’s History Month, will offer our guests a unique opportunity to learn about the Marston women, their accomplishments, goals, and dreams. We hope that you will join us to learn what we have learned, and to share in the incredible contributions the Marston Ladies add to the story.

There is no charge for members; adults are $6; ages 6-17 are $2.

MARSTON EASTER EGG ROLL

April is Lilac Season at Marstons, and we will be celebrating the arrival of spring with a fun family program. On Sunday, April 1, from 11am–4pm, the Friends of the Marston House will host an Easter Egg Roll on the grounds of the Marston House. This fun-filled day includes music by Brass, Wind and Key Ensemble, a traditional Easter egg roll for families, children’s games and crafts, book signings, historic house tours, garden walks, and the sale of Geranium George. It is our hope to draw a younger, family audience to the home for this event and to make it a memorable experience for all who participate.

Admission will be $10 for a family of 4, or $5 adults, $3 for children. For more information, please call (619) 232-6203 ext. 129.

TEA ON THE TERRACE

On April 15 and 29, guests will be treated to an elegant dessert tea on the terrace overlooking the Marston landscape. Plans are still being finalized, but those attending will be offered a variety of teas and desserts, topped off with a slice of coconut cream pie, a Marston Department Store favorite.

Admission will be $20 for SDHS members and $25 for non-members. Seatings will be at 11am and 1pm. Seating is limited, so reservations are required. To RSVP, please call (619) 232-6203 ext. 150.

TWILIGHT TOURS

These popular tours will return to the Marston House on April 7 and 21, and May 12 and 26, from 5–7pm. If you haven’t seen the Marston House at night, this is the perfect opportunity! Designed to highlight the warm, glowing ambient lighting and deep, rich woodwork, these tours focus on the rooms that dazzle at night. The tour also draws attention to the “hearth and home” aesthetic of the Arts and Crafts Movement, and Gill’s understanding and incorporation of that philosophy in the design of the home. Rooms visited include the living room, dining room, library, and kitchen. Twilight Tours are free for SDHS members and $5 for non-members.

DAY OF DISCOVERY

We have been working with Elderhostel, Inc. this winter to launch a series of Day of Discovery programs at the Marston House, beginning Thursday, April 19 from 9:30am - 3:30pm. Elderhostel is an adult continuing education program that offers learning experiences for people beyond 55 years old. The Marston House and the American Arts and Crafts Movement will be the focus of our Day of Discovery program. The morning agenda includes a house tour of the 1905 mansion, guided walks through the garden and along Seventh Avenue, and a tea luncheon on the terrace. In the afternoon, Nicholas Vega, Senior Curator at the San Diego Historical Society will speak about some of the decorative elements associated with the Arts and Crafts era, and Paul Johnson, Preservation Architect, will speak on the preservation efforts completed on the home. This same program will also run on May 17, June 21, and July 19.

To find out more about the Marston House Elderhostel program and to register, visit: www.elderhostel.org/programs/dod.asp. Admission is $70.

We look forward to seeing you at one of these exciting upcoming events!
**Exhibitions**

**PLACE OF PROMISE: PHASE 2**

*by Nicholas Vega, Senior Curator*

With an opening date scheduled for July 19th, the second phase of the Core Exhibition will showcase a wide variety of items from the Society’s photograph, archive, and curatorial collections. These artifacts will play an important role in not only telling the history of early San Diego but also in allowing museum guests to experience firsthand the history of the city. The exhibition will begin with an exploration of the original Kumeyaay population in the region and progress through to the American development of New Town San Diego during the 1880s. The artifacts chosen for display in this exhibition will represent the Kumeyaay, Spanish, Mexican, and American periods of early San Diego.

The 1866 Concord Stagecoach will make its return to the Museum of San Diego History and will serve as the featured artifact for this exhibition. Also on display will be the Machado family quilt (c. 1850) from the costume and textile collection, Frank L. Heath’s *View from Shirley and DeWitts Addition* (1888) from the fine art collection, as well as various other 19th century artifacts.

Be sure to visit our website www.sandiegohistory.org for further updates on the progress of the exhibition.

**CONSTRUCTION UPDATE**

By the time you read this, electrical contractors will have finished the installation of a new track lighting system for 4,000 square feet of exhibition space. This is the first step in preparing the space for the public display of our collections from the 1890s-1940. Icon artifacts to be included into this area are Streetcar 54, the ZLAC rowing barge, and a large pair carved wood doors from the Theosophical Society.

This area is scheduled to open in 2008.

If you would like to help sponsor the track lighting system, please contact David Watson at (619) 232-6203.
One of the many hidden treasures in the curatorial collection of the San Diego Historical Society is the Costume and Textile Collection. With over 7,000 items, it is one of the largest costume collections on the West Coast, representing various communities within San Diego, and dating from the late 18th century up to the 19th and 20th centuries.

In 1992, an outside assessment led by Edward Maeder, past Curator of Costumes and Textiles at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, determined that the collection was one of the ten best historical costume collections in the country. The assessment shows that the majority of the garments required only minor to moderate conservation and that the collection was in good condition. Noting the sizeable number of women’s clothing, particularly bridal gowns, ball gowns, party-wear, coats, shawls, and bathing suits, Maeder commented that men’s clothes are noticeably absent from the collection.

This assessment has been an important tool for the curatorial department. It has provided curators with valuable insight into the collection, showing not only what we already have but those items we are missing. Along with men’s clothing, the collection lacks items representing the various local ethnic groups. In time, we plan to redress this balance and acquire more items that better embody the demographics of San Diego.

To support the Costume and Textile Collection, join the Costume Council. Contact (619) 232-6203 ext. 102.

A VIEW FROM THE PAST

As the opening date for the second phase of Place of Promise draws near, various items from the curatorial collection are being selected for display in the upcoming exhibition. One such item is an oil painting titled View from Shirley and DeWitts Addition by California artist Frank L. Heath. Measuring 24 by 44 inches, this painting shows an undeveloped Mission Valley at the end of the 19th century. Originally from Salem, Oregon, Heath moved to Santa Cruz, California, at a young age where began his career as an artist. Traveling throughout California, he established himself as a prominent marine and landscape painter during the 1880s.

Painted in 1888, View from Shirley and DeWitts Addition depicts a scene of Mission Valley that, for many today, is unimaginable—lush, green wild grass covers the Valley’s hillsides and floor, and the number of residences in the area can be counted on a single hand! Heath’s portrayal of a natural and untouched Mission Valley gives us a glimpse into the past, showing how different San Diego was during the late 19th century.

Be sure to stop by and see View from Shirley and DeWitts Addition, on display at the Museum of San Diego History, beginning July 19, 2007.
Guests sipped blue “Hope Diamond-tinis” as they entered the beautiful and historic Museum of San Diego History Atrium for a sparkling cocktail reception featuring our guest speaker, Dr Richard Kurin.

While over 100 guests were able to visit the open galleries, Hope Diamond blue gowns, lent by stylish San Diego women, also dazzled them. Darlene Davie’s dress, already part of the permanent Costume Collection, was a showstopper!

Adding a bit of whimsy and delight to the evening were black and white Dior fashion photographs adorned with flashy brooches. Unusual mineral specimens served as centerpieces, keeping the gents happy that sparkling rocks are not for ladies only.

Claudia Allen, a member of the National Board of the Smithsonian Institution as well as a Costume Council Member, introduced her friend Smithsonian Center Director and author, Dr. Richard Kurin. Dr. Kurin gave a fascinating presentation based on his book, *Hope Diamond: the Legendary History of a Cursed Gem*. Dr Kurin is an interesting, informative, and truly engaging speaker. His tales of horror, mystery, and suspense surrounding the Hope Diamond provided guests with not only many historical insights but lots of humor as well.

Peggy Matthews had the honor of holding a mysterious velvet box throughout most of the lecture. When Dr Kurin retrieved the box from Peggy, he revealed that she had been holding an exact replica of the priceless blue diamond. Of course, the original Hope Diamond stays secure in its Smithsonian vault!

Our own Lois Olson, Costume Council Chair, recreated the original mailing package for the Hope Diamond, which was mailed to the Smithsonian by Harry Winston. Dr. Kurin was so impressed, he asked her to autograph the package and has added it to his future presentations!

Stuart Benjamin Jewelers donated a lovely diamond and sapphire necklace, modeled beautifully by Judi Freeman. Who won the necklace? Following a promise that if she won the necklace she would give it to her daughter-in-law Liz, winner Lynn Mooney promptly did just that!

Shiny blue bags holding signed Hope Diamond books were the “it” accessory of the evening, as guests enjoyed Bettina’s Custom Catering’s mini Beef Wellingtons, a variety of grilled paninis, wonton spoons with crab salad, and shrimp cups.

Sparkling times, true-blue friends, good memories, and a beautiful setting. It was a gem of an evening!

The Costume Council wishes to thank the many donors and underwriters who helped to make the Hope Diamond Evening a success.

A special thank you to Dr. Richard Kurin, Director of the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, for his interesting talk, and the Smithsonian Institute and HarperCollins Publishers, Inc. for their support.

No event this wonderful could have happened without the generous support of the following underwriters:

Claudia and Bill Allen
Stuart Benjamin and Barbara Wasserman, of Jewelry Design by Stewart Benjamin and Company
Cubic Inc.
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Elisabeth and John Bergan
Jan Moran, owner K’sTumbleCraft
Lois Olson
Bess Lambronn
Janet Sutter

and the stylish owners who generously loaned us their Hope Diamond Blue dresses; Pam Cesak, Lael Kouvun, Darlene Davies, Maggie Coleman, Donis Lovett, Elisabeth Bergan, Judi Freeman, and Lois Olson.

A special thank you to Ann Gallagher, Program Chair, for her tireless efforts and sparkling leadership, and also to the hard working members of the Costume Council and the staff of the San Diego Historical Society.

The Costume Council looks forward to seeing you again at another exciting Costume Council event!

Lois Olson, Chair
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 of December 2005 through February 2007.

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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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LETTING THE LIGHT SHINE
by Chris Travers, Director of the Booth Historical Photograph Archives

Images from the Booth Historical Photograph Archives have been used in a variety of interesting and inventive ways. From decorating the walls of homes and businesses to adorning ATM cards and billboards, these images of San Diego can be seen all around the city and county.

Recently Judi Winslow, owner of the newly renovated Pickwick Hotel, now renamed the Sofia Hotel, used images from the Archives not only on the walls but on the light sconces that line the hallways as well.

Anjum Razvi, ASID member and designer of the wall-mounted light fixtures, says they have received a lot of attention and positive comments. Keith Kruse & Associates were the lighting consultants and Indessa Lighting was the manufacturer.

The historic hotel, located at 132 West Broadway, was built in 1926 and has been extensively photographed. Many of these images are part of the extensive photograph collection of the San Diego Historical Society.

Dear Diary…
by Jane Kenealy, Archivist

Throughout history, there have been many prominent figures who have kept a daily journal. John Quincy Adams, Harry S Truman, and Queen Victoria were all diarists, as were George Bernard Shaw, Henry David Thoreau, Richard Wagner, and, of course, Samuel Pepys.

In the Research Archives, we have a varied collection of diaries and journals belonging to people who shared in the history of San Diego. People such as Robert Bliss, Charlotte Baker, and E.H. Davis kept journals that have survived to give us an insight into the lives of their creators.

Robert Bliss was a private in Company B of the Mormon Battalion on the 2,000 mile march from Council Bluffs, Iowa, to San Diego (1846-1847). We have the diary that he carried with him on the longest infantry march in military history.

Dr. Charlotte Baker came to San Diego in 1888 with her husband, Dr. Fred Baker. Her diaries date from just prior to her marriage in 1882 until 1933. She was very active in community affairs, the first woman president of the San Diego County Medical Society, and, for some time, the only woman doctor in San Diego.

Edward Davis’ notebooks (1902-1942) contain stories, illustrations, observations, expense accounts, and other details from his life. He was a field collector for the Museum of the American Indian in New York and had a lifelong interest in and a love of Indian culture. In his work he was involved with the Indian tribes of San Diego County, and the notebooks relate to the various tribes and his excursions among them.

These are available for viewing in the Research Library.
**Events Diary**

* Please note: Prices, times, and programs are subject to change.

**MARCH**

**Continuing through May 27**

**Belle Baranceanu: The Artist at Work Gallery Tour**
Guided tours of the exhibition.
Saturdays & Sundays: noon, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm. Museum of San Diego History.

**MARCH 1**

**From Chicago to San Diego: The Jewish Roots of Belle Baranceanu’s Art**
Slide presentation. A dialogue between art historians Bram Dijkstra and Susan Weininger reveals the many ways that Belle Baranceanu’s Jewish roots played out in her art.
6-8pm. $10 SDHS members; $12 non-members. Museum of San Diego History.

**MARCH 10**

**Stories of San Diego**
Lecture Series.
Speakers Kathleen Goldkamp and Linda Sieh discuss “Women of San Diego.”
1pm. Museum of San Diego History.

**MARCH 11, 18, 25**

**APRIL 22**

**MAY 13**

**Ladies of the House Tour**
In honor of Women’s History Month, docents from the historic Marston House Museum offer new tours that highlight the accomplishments, goals, and dreams of the women from the celebrated Marston family.
Sundays, 1pm. $5 SDHS members; $8 non-members. Marston House.

**MARCH 25**

**Francis Parker Student Exhibition Opening**
Museum of San Diego History.

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**MARCH 31**

**Stories of San Diego**
Lecture series.
Speaker Elaine Boyd discusses “Haunted Places in San Diego.”
1pm. Museum of San Diego History.

**APRIL 1**

**Marston House Easter Egg Roll**
Join Friends of the Marston House for a fun afternoon of family activities, including a traditional Easter egg roll, games, book signings, and music, offered to visitors of all generations.
11am-4pm. $10 for families of 4; $5 for adults; $3 for children. Marston House.

**APRIL 7 AND 21**

**MAY 12 AND 26**

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

**APRIL 28**

**Stories of San Diego**
Lecture series.
Speaker Roger Showley discusses “Balboa Park History.”
1pm. Museum of San Diego History.

**APRIL 15 AND 29**

**MAY 13 AND 27**

**Marston House Tea on the Terrace**
An elegant dessert tea will be served on the terrace overlooking the beautiful gardens of the historic Marston House Museum. Along with tea, guests will be offered coconut cream pie, the most popular dessert served at the highly fashionable 1950s-era Marston Department Store.
11am and 1pm. $20 SDHS members; $25 non-members. Marston House.

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**42nd CONGRESS OF HISTORY**
March 2-3
Girl Scout Headquarters, Balboa Park

*Can you come out to play?*

The history of children and children’s organizations in San Diego and Imperial Counties.
For information: Lcanada@aol.com or visit www.congressofhistory.com

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**COSTUME COUNCIL**

**Lecture and Tour at the Timken**
March 21, 2pm

A specialized fashion and costume tour by Pat O’Connor, founder of Fashion Careers College

Contact Robbi Kraft: (619) 296-4823
Join us afterward for a no-host tea at the Prado Restaurant.

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San Diego Historical Society

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2727 Presidio Drive, Presidio Park
San Diego, CA 92103
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Marston House
3525 Seventh Avenue
San Diego, CA 92103
619-298-3142
Guided Tours Only
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(Closed noon - 1pm)

Villa Montezuma
1925 K Street
San Diego, CA 92102
619-239-2211
Temporarily closed to the public for tours
and programs until further notice.
For information: www.VillaMontezuma.com

San Diego Historical Society information at
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