School in the Park
Teaching Young San Diego

Also inside...

Programming and Events Calendar
Welcome Marinta Skupin, Director of Education
The Challenges of Preserving San Diego’s Treasures
with the public via the internet – and eventually to mount an exhibition of the compelling images. A grant proposal for the cataloging project was submitted to a federal agency on November 1. As the project gets underway next year, the scholars will meet with us on a regular basis to identify the subjects of the photographs and to make sure that the terminology we use during cataloging is correct.

In the future we also plan to recruit top-notch exhibition and media designers, audience research specialists, and other talented individuals to help us develop a new generation of dynamic changing and long-term exhibitions about San Diego and its diverse citizens – past, present, and future.

The purpose of these ongoing interactions with outside specialists is to make sure that the SDHS staff keeps on top of the latest developments in the history museum field and in the academic community. In that way we can be sure that our exhibitions, programs, and collection-care initiatives are up to date and state of the art. Networking with outside specialists can also help guarantee a place for SDHS in the national community of historical agencies. And before you know it, if we are diligent in learning from our peers, before too long SDHS staff members themselves will be asked to provide other growing institutions with advice and counsel!

In this issue several stories are tied together by a common theme; in the future the San Diego Historical Society will regularly reach out to experts from a wide variety of fields to help the board and staff reenergize our institution. In one article, SDHS’s new Director of Education, Marinta Skupin, points out that seasoned educators from institutions such as the Oakland Museum to the Gene Autry Center will soon visit to help our educators come up with fresh ideas for new school programs. Within the next couple of months a group of costume historians will be flown in from different parts of the country to assist the curatorial staff in defining priorities for the care and presentation of our nationally significant costume collection. Plans are also being developed for a project that will get underway next year and involve retaining the services of a team of trained conservators to lay the groundwork for the creation of SDHS’s first long-range conservation plan.

The process of consulting with outside experts already got underway in October. Five historians of San Diego’s Indian communities got together with SDHS staff to help lay out a strategy for properly cataloging our unparalleled E.H. Davis collection of photographs. Davis took thousands of images of San Diego Country Indians during the early 20th century. Our plan is to share these images with the public via the internet – and eventually to mount an exhibition of the compelling images. A grant proposal for the cataloging project was submitted to a federal agency on November 1. As the project gets underway next year, the scholars will meet with us on a regular basis to identify the subjects of the photographs and to make sure that the terminology we use during cataloging is correct.

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![David M. Kahn](image)

**Table of Contents**

1. Letter from the Executive Director
2. Membership & Volunteering
3. 20th Anniversary for Costume Council
4. Object Donation Process
5. Preserving San Diego’s Treasures
6. Calendar
7. Education Department Update
8. Education Department Update
9. Contributions

Cover: Students in our School in the Park classroom. Photo by Kate Vogel
**Volunteer docents bring history to life**

_The San Diego Historical Society welcomes a new batch of volunteer docents to engage our visitors. Working at the Junípero Serra Museum, the Marston House and the Museum of San Diego History (MSDH), our docents lead visitors on a journey through our region’s rich history. These important volunteers share their love of history with our guests from around the world. The docent training can take about three months to complete, depending on location. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer docent, please email sdhsvolunteer@sandiegohistory or call (619) 232-6203 ext.102._

_- Jessica Schmidt, Membership Coordinator_

**Art Council Reception and Tour**

_SDHS’s Art Council held its most recent event on October 5 at the home of SDHS board member Arthur Peinado and his wife Susan. Approximately two dozen members of the Art Council had an opportunity to socialize while viewing the Peinados’ extraordinary collection of contemporary Indian paintings as well as pre-contact pottery from native cultures in what is now the American southwest and South America. Arthur gave guests a personal tour of the collection and regaled participants with interesting anecdotes. A great time was had by all. For information about how to join the Art Council and participate in future Art Council events, please call (619) 232-6203 x102._

_- David Kahn, Executive Director_
SDHS is the proud repository of one of the largest collections of historical costumes in the United States. In order to help support the care and exhibition of this remarkable collection, on September 27, 1989, a luncheon was held on the lawn of the Martson House to officially launch SDHS’s Costume Council. Over the years, the Costume Council has sponsored well attended lectures, fashion shows, luncheons, bus trips, major fundraisers, and other activities that have benefited SDHS. Funds generously donated by the Costume Council’s members have supported activities ranging from the conservation of individual costumes to defraying the expenses involved in hiring a full-time Curator of Costumes.

On October 13, 2008, a group of dedicated, long-time members of SDHS’s Costume Council assembled at the Museum of San Diego History to discuss ways in which the Costume Council might continue its deeply appreciated tradition of providing support. Yvonne Larsen convened the meeting, which was attended by Linda Canada, Fran Golden, Ann Jones, Bess Lambron, Peggy Matthews, Lynn Mooney, Kay Porter, Mary Sadler, Judy Smith, Linda Spuck, Janet Sutter, and Nell Waltz. SDHS President Bob Adelizzi and new Executive Director David Kahn also attended. David discussed his experiences working with large costume collections at the Connecticut Historical Society and the Louisiana State Museum, two of his previous posts.

It was agreed that, with $10,000 in support from the Costume Council, a team of experts will be brought to San Diego to provide an assessment of the collection’s strengths. They will also be asked to provide recommendations for cataloging and conservation priorities as well as ideas for future exhibitions. Feedback provided by the consultants will then be used to develop prioritized plans for the care and interpretation of the collection. Two individuals have been identified to serve on the evaluation team: Inez Brooks-Meyers, Curator of Costumes and Textiles at the Oakland Museum, and Joan Severa, formerly Curator of Costumes at the Wisconsin Historical Society and author of the recent book, Dressed for the Photographer. A third expert will be chosen shortly.

During the visit by the outside consultants, a reception will be planned for Costume Council members so that they can meet the experts, hear about their work, and learn their thoughts about the SDHS collection. Please watch for invitations to this event, which will hopefully take place prior to the holidays. Stay tuned for additional updates about the Costume Council and its activities!
Thank you for the donation...what happens next?

The collections of the San Diego Historical Society are built by donations from members, other institutions and the public. But have you ever wondered what happens to that box of “stuff” you donate?

Accessioning

Initially, we ask that any prospective donor contacts us with details of the donation. This enables me to check that it is connected to San Diego, is not a duplicate of an existing item, belongs to the donor so it is theirs to donate and that we have suitable storage to keep it.

Once a donation has been accepted or “accessioned” into the collection, there is a lot of work to be done before we make it available for research. Donations arrive in many different ways; paper bags, boxes, trash bags, suitcases, the list is endless.

Processing

Our aim is to understand, organize, preserve, and make it available for research. The first step in processing is to go through the donation to gain a general overview of the contents. Sometimes the material is already in some sort of order. “Original order” is very important to document archivists and we try wherever possible to keep documents in that order as it reflects the intentions of the creator. The donation below, however, is not identified as in any particular order, so we will be looking to arrange it in a way that is logical and most useful to researchers. We also need to identify any material that is in need of preservation.

Organization

The next task is to put the donation in order by date, subject or type of material. We also take this opportunity to remove metal clips and staples, and copy newspaper clippings onto acid-free paper. The original clippings are then destroyed and the copies retained, as it is the information in the clippings that we wish to preserve. In the case of a scrapbook, we will place sheets of tissue paper between the pages, to help preserve the contents from further damaging each other. Fragile items may require encapsulation into a sealed Mylar “envelope.” All of these items are then placed in acid-free folders and labeled.

Next, we have to create a finding-aid to assist researchers when they use this collection. The finding-aid consists of information about the creator or original owner of the material, an overview of the contents, other resources we may have in the archives related to those contents and an itemized list of the items in the collection with dates. This not only gives researchers an aid to help them search for potential sources of information, but also enables us to keep track of the items and make sure they are all returned after use.

Finally, we are ready to place the new collection in an acid-free box, give it a collection number and place it on the shelf. The donation has reached the end of its journey, is now classified as “processed” and can be made available to researchers.

- Jane Kenealy, Document Archivist
The Challenge of Preserving San Diego’s Treasures

By any reckoning, SDHS has extraordinary collections. They are not only vast, but also extremely important, documenting the history of our area from the time of its earliest inhabitants to the present. Just to cite a few statistics, there are: over 25,000 items in the object collection (costumes, textiles, decorative arts, fine arts, and articles of daily life); 40,000 archeological artifacts from the Presidio and other important excavations; 2.5 million diverse photographic images; and 16,000 linear feet of material in the archival collection (books, public records, maps, scrapbooks, manuscripts, architectural drawings, newspapers, serials, and subject files). Preserving these irreplaceable holdings for the benefit of future generations is a tremendous responsibility, and one that SDHS is taking extremely seriously. That is why carefully thought-out plans have been developed to renew and strengthen the institution’s commitment to collection care.

A major grant request was recently submitted to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), a federal agency, to secure partial funding for an assessment of the condition of SDHS’s collections and to create a long-range plan for collection care. Such an assessment has not been carried out for nearly 20 years and was limited to the Museum of San Diego History, excluding the Serra Museum and SDHS’ two historic houses. It has been nearly 20 years since SDHS has had a formal, written plan in place to govern collection care.

Pending funding, SDHS will work with the Balboa Art Conservation Center (BACC), on a comprehensive collection assessment and a preservation plan. During Phase I, BACC will gather information on the facilities and operations that affect the management of the SDHS’ holdings. The Historic Resources Group of Hollywood, an architectural conservator, will collaborate on this to provide input regarding SDHS’s historic structures. During Phase II, each of SDHS’s major collections will be analyzed to identify pertinent conservation issues, a process which has never been undertaken. BACC will analyze paintings, works of art on paper, and archival materials. Three other conservators will provide additional assistance: Tram Vo of Los Angeles will analyze photographs; John Griswold of Beverly Hills will analyze furniture and objects; and Yadin Larochette of Santa Monica will analyze costumes and textiles. Finally, during Phase III, BACC will work with SDHS staff to develop a long-range preservation plan.

The preservation plan will also help to make the case for raising funds from outside sources. In all probability, hundreds of thousands of dollars, if not substantially more, will be required to address all conservation needs in the years ahead. The proposed evaluation and plan will cost approximately $190,000. The federal government (via IMLS) has been asked provide half that amount. SDHS will look to its friends and donors for the balance. This will be money well spent and represents a crucial investment that the institution must make to guarantee the future of San Diego’s past.

Photos by Victoria Cranner
**NOVEMBER 2008**

Saturday & Sunday, November 1 & 2, 2008  
**DIA DE LOS MUERTOS CELEBRATION**  
**Location:** Villa Montezuma (*not open for house tours*)

Saturday, November 8, 2008, 11am  
**KATE SESSIONS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**  
**Location:** Marston House Museum

Thursday, November 13, 2008, 10am - 3pm  
**ELDERHOSTEL: DAY OF DISCOVERY**  
**Location:** Marston House Museum  
**Please Note:** Registration is required! Reservations can be made by contacting Elderhostel, Inc. at (877) 426-8056 or by visiting www.elderhostel.org

Thursday, November 13, 2008, 6-8pm  
**JAPANESE AMERICANS IN SAN DIEGO, LECTURE AND BOOKSIGNING**  
**Location:** Museum of San Diego History

Monday, November 17, 2008, 10am - 11am  
**HISTORY FOR HALF PINTS: MONDAY MORNING FUN FOR AGES 3-5**  
**Location:** Museum of San Diego History  
**Please Note:** All children must be accompanied by an adult at no charge.

Thursday, November 17, 2008, 11am  
**ELEGANT & SPLENDID: GARDEN TOUR**  
**Location:** Marston House Museum  
**Please Note:** Reservations are requested. Please call (619) 232-6203, ext. 129 to reserve your spot.

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**Historic Places Lecture Illuminates History of Balboa Park Architecture**

*The latest Historic Places event celebrated the architecture of Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue at the Museum of San Diego History on Sunday, September 28th. As an architect for the 1915 Panama-California Exposition, Goodhue contributed to the design of many buildings on the Prado. This lecture, presented by Dr. Iris Engstrand, Professor of History at the University of San Diego and co-editor of The Journal of San Diego History, was the fifth in a series of lectures and receptions celebrating the historic architecture of the San Diego region. SDHS would like to thank the event’s sponsors, Mrs. Klonie Kunzel and Mr. and Mrs. Louis Knierim. We invite you to attend our next Historic Places event featuring Cliff May in March 2009.*

- Gabe Selak, Public Programs Manager

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**DECEMBER 2008**

Friday & Saturday, December 5 & 6, 2008, 6:30pm - 8:30pm  
**HAND BELL CHOIR CONCERTS & DECEMBER NIGHTS IN BALBOA PARK**  
**Location:** Museum of San Diego History  
**Please Note:** These performances are extremely well attended. We recommend arriving early for best seating.

**ATTENTION!**

The San Diego Historical Society has announced NEW HOURS for its museums.

**Museum of San Diego History**  
Tuesday - Sunday, 10am – 5pm

**Junípero Serra Museum**  
Winter Hours, Labor Day through May 31  
Tuesday - Friday, 11am - 3pm  
Saturday and Sunday, 10am - 4:30pm

**Marston House Museum**  
Winter Hours, Labor Day – May 31  
Saturday and Sunday only  
Tours at 11am, 12pm, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm

For seasonal hour changes, visit our website at www.sandiegohistory.org or call (619) 232-6203

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Wednesday, November 19, 2008, 5-7pm  
**ANNUAL MEMBER MEETING**  
**Location:** Museum of San Diego History

Wednesday, November 19, 2008, 5:30-7:30pm  
**MEMBER APPRECIATION SHOPPING DAYS**  
**Location:** Museum of San Diego History Museum Store

Saturdays & Sundays, Nov 28, 2008 - Jan 4, 2009  
**HOLIDAY HOUSE TOURS**  
**Location:** Marston House Museum
Letter from new Director of Education, Marinta Skupin

As I start in my new position at the San Diego Historical Society, I am struck by the tremendous opportunities that I see here. My vision is to establish the Education Department as an indispensable resource for all students and teachers of San Diego history. I believe that our department’s success will be a vital element of the SDHS’s ability to effectively fulfill its mission.

The expansion and strengthening of K-12 programming at SDHS is therefore my first priority. We already offer excellent school programs on which we can build. One example is the School in the Park program, a partnership program involving ten Balboa Park museums and two inner city schools in which we have been participating for the past nine years. Through this program all third grade classes from Rosa Parks Elementary School and Hamilton Elementary School spend a week at a time in our museum in Balboa Park. During their time here, students learn about San Diego history through a structured program that aligns hands-on, interactive museum education with third-grade state curriculum standards. Two new education staff members, Heather Gach and Christian Lopez, have been hired to coordinate and teach all aspects of this innovative program, including collaborating extensively with the program managers and the third grade teachers involved to make sure that we meet their needs and expectations. San Diego Before Statehood is another existing, popular SDHS program offered at the Serra Museum (pictured on opposite page). Beginning in November, SDHS docents will conduct the program offering guided tours and related activities at the Serra and in Presidio Park.

(continued on next page)

MEET THE EDUCATION STAFF!

Marinta Skupin
Prior to assuming the position of Director of Education at the San Diego Historical Society, Marinta Skupin worked as Manager of K-12 and Family Programs at the Louisiana State Museum in New Orleans, and, before that, as Education Programs Coordinator at the New Orleans Museum of Art.

Heather Gach
Heather is a credentialed teacher who, before becoming the School Programs Coordinator at SDHS, worked as museum educator in The School in the Park program.

Christian Lopez
A part-time Museum Educator at SDHS, Christian is currently working towards his Master’s degree in History at San Francisco State University.
In addition, we have the opportunity, and indeed the obligation, to greatly expand our K-12 audience. To this end, we have started to work on a project that will enable us to offer engaging school tours of our exhibitions at the Museum of San Diego History. As a part of this effort, we plan to create special activity carts that will be related to the exhibitions and that will be used during interactive tours. The carts will contain hands-on materials such as costumes, artifacts from our demonstration collection, props, and worksheets that can be wheeled into the galleries. Apart from enhancing students’ gallery experiences, we also foresee that the carts will become prototypes for a future child-friendly activity room at SDHS that can be used by school groups as well as family visitors, and for future travel kits that can be loaned to area schools. As with all other programs, we plan to create the carts in close consultation with experienced Social Science teachers who will advise SDHS on connecting the contents of the activity carts to state curriculum standards.

Strong partnerships with teachers and administrators will help ensure that we serve their and their students’ needs, and that we achieve our common goals. In a recent meeting with Kirk Ankeney, History Curriculum Leader for the San Diego Unified School District, I was pleased to learn that his position was established only as recently as 2007, and that the Department of History / Social Science now exists alongside those of Science, Math, and English as one of the core curriculum areas in the San Diego Unified School District. I intend to take full advantage of the timing of Kirk’s appointment and I look forward to a fruitful partnership with him, whose knowledge and expertise in the teaching of San Diego history is immense. When collaborating with the school community, I will also build upon some already existing relationships. One of them is a partnership with the San Diego County Office of Education, with whom we are participating, along with the California State University at San Marcos, the Constitutional Rights Foundation and the International Studies Education Project, in a three-year project called Perspectives on the American Experience. Currently in its second year, the project is funded by a Teaching American History federal grant and provides professional development opportunities for teachers of American History. On October 9th SDHS hosted and presented one in a series of workshops in this project to 22 middle and high school history teachers from all over San Diego County.

As we continue to evaluate and restructure current K-12 programs, we plan to bring in a team of experienced history museum educators to assist us. They will conduct a thorough audit of our programs. The following experts have already committed to participate: Barbara Henry, Director of Education at the Oakland Museum; Donna Tuggle, Director of Education and Programming at the Gene Autry Center in Los Angeles; Lisa Eriksen, Director of Education and Programming at the California Historical Society in San Francisco; and Emi Yoshimura, Director of Education at the Natural History Museum in Los Angeles. Our aim is to have this group of four come to San Diego for two days of consultation within the next few months. In addition to assessing current programs, they will also make recommendations about new programs and future directions the Education Department may want to pursue.

The Education Department is working closely with SDHS grant writers to identify sources of funding that will enable us to carry out our ambitious plans. To successfully achieve our goals it is crucial that we secure the funds for these projects, as well as to increase our visibility, promote our new programs to the school community, and hire additional education staff members as it becomes necessary. We estimate that the implementation of such a strategy will cost $115,000, and we are committed to find the necessary resources.

-Marinta Skupin, Director of Education
Your membership can take you places!

As a member of the San Diego Historical Society, you have the opportunity to visit any of our locations for free. But did you know that you can also receive free or discounted admission to other institutions? The Society is part of the Time Travelers network which includes over 100 museums and historical societies from across the country. When you visit a partner institution, just show them your active SDHS membership card and receive free or reduced admission, gift shop discounts and other fantastic benefits. Discounts vary by organization and we have an up-to-date listing on our website. Be sure to mention the program to your out of town visitors, as they may be able to use one of their memberships at our sites! The next time you go on vacation, be sure to take advantage of this great membership benefit! For more information, visit our website or call (619) 232-6203 x102.

- Jessica Schmidt, Membership Coordinator
Wrap yourself & loved ones in vintage-inspired delights...

Experience the rich textures and colors of the season at the Museum of San Diego History’s Museum Store!

Membership Appreciation Shopping Days!

Members of SDHS may enjoy 25% off ALL merchandise in our Balboa Park Museum Store by bringing your membership card and the coupon on the back of this issue of The TIMES with you on one of the following dates:

November 19, 2008 & December 4, 2008

Hours: 5:30 to 7:30pm on the day of your choice. Enjoy complimentary champagne, cookies and gift wrapping!

Note: You may still use the coupon during our regular hours on this same day if you can’t make the evening event.

For more information, call the San Diego Historical Society Museum Store at the Museum of San Diego History at 619-232-6203, ext. 113. No additional discounts apply.
Name That Building!

Built in 1966 when local football hero Robert Breitbard committed $6.4 million to fund its construction, this venue has hosted everything from internationally renowned music concerts to professional sporting events. It was here that, in 1973, Ken Norton defeated boxing champion Muhammad Ali. The record for the indoor mile was also broken here by Irish runner Aemonn Coghlin in 1979.

Museum Information

Marston House Museum (pictured)
3525 Seventh Avenue, San Diego, CA 92103
(619) 298-3142 - Guided Tours Only
Sat-Sun, 11am - 3pm (last tour begins at 3pm)

Junípero Serra Museum
2727 Presidio Drive, San Diego, CA 92103
(619) 297-3258
Tues-Fri, 11am-3pm; Sat-Sun, 10am-4:30pm

Villa Montezuma (temp. closed)
1925 K Street, San Diego, CA 92102
www.sandiegohistory.org