Now Hear This!

2008 History Makers Gala at Liberty Station
Spring was a busy time for San Diego Historical Society staff and volunteers. Elsewhere in The TIMES, you will find more detailed descriptions of the colorful and high-energy children’s events held on the Marston House lawn, and the exciting cross-cultural experiences at the opening of A Different Life, which was created by young Somali women who attend Crawford High School. In addition, at our Balboa Park museum, students from School in the Park continued to learn about the geography and early people of San Diego.

Also this Spring, the second Historic Places program was a rousing success. Held at the Lower School campus of Francis Parker School in Mission Hills, its architect, William Templeton Johnson, was the subject of the presentation. In attendance were some of his relatives, and several owners of homes designed by Mr. Johnson. These Historic Places programs are possible due to underwriting received from businesses and organizations interested in historic architecture. Planning for the next Historic Places event is well underway and the June lecture is described in this issue.

Consistent with the Board’s directions for my interim position, some staffing changes were made in late March. A reorganization of our curatorial and exhibition design department has resulted in Nicholas Vega being named Director of Exhibitions and Programming. Nick is responsible for all interpretation of San Diego’s history, whether through the creation of exhibitions at all our locations or by public programming delivered on or off site. In preparation for the process of American Association of Museums reaccreditation that will take place in Fall 2008, I have strengthened the Collections area by adding some extra hours in the Photograph Archives and by naming an Assistant Collections Manager. The Collections team is responsible for all SDHS artifacts of any type, including the historic sites themselves.

Please mark your calendars for 2008 History Makers, our gala awards event and dinner, which will take place on Friday, June 27. A dedicated committee has been meeting weekly to ensure that the event, to be held at the former Naval Training Center in Point Loma, is an exciting celebration of the transformation of this training base into the vibrant Liberty Station community and cultural center. The event will include sunset cocktails in the rose garden of the renovated Command Center, many examples of the Society’s programs and collections, and film clips from NTC’s busiest years. Unique auction items that showcase SDHS will enable you to own a piece of San Diego history. Community leaders receiving History Makers awards will be those closely associated with the decision-making and planning that brought about the amazing transformation that resulted in this project being named Base Redevelopment Community of the Year.

During the week of April 28, we honored our active volunteers who serve in all areas of our museums and sites. Among those who read The TIMES, there are many more of you who are former volunteers. Please consider yourselves acknowledged as well, since the Society would not be where it is today without the thousands of hours of dedicated volunteer service you have given.

My sincerest thanks!

Linda A. Canada

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Cover: Naval Training Center barracks then (c. 1925) and now. Color photo by Thomas Ladwig.
The Journal of San Diego History goes Green

In an effort to “green” our operations, we recently changed our membership level benefits and, beginning June 2009, will be sending the Journal of San Diego History to our members at the Associate level ($100) and above. As always, the Journal will be available online after the next issue is published, and will also be available in our Research Library and Museum Store. If you are a member at the Associate level and above and would like to opt out of receiving the Journal, feel free to contact me at jessica.schmidt@sandiegohistory.org.

Updating these membership levels allows us to put more of your membership contributions towards educational programs, exhibitions and collections at San Diego Historical Society. Declining your journal will help reduce paper waste and keep printing and mailing costs low. I welcome your feedback and encourage you to contact me about the Journal of San Diego History or any of your membership benefits!

- Jessica Schmidt, Membership Coordinator

Spotlight: Jessica Schmidt, Membership Coordinator

The San Diego Historical Society welcomes its new Membership Coordinator, Jessica Schmidt. Prior to working at the Society, Jessica was the Membership Coordinator for a classical radio station based in Chula Vista. She also worked at several other non-profits in San Diego, including TriCity Hospital Foundation, where she found great pleasure working with organizations that are committed to their mission and make a significant impact in their community. Jessica particularly enjoys fundraising because she gets the opportunity to interact with people who have a strong passion for a cause and support educational and cultural outreach. Jessica looks forward to meeting the Society’s members and being available to assist them with their inquiries. Currently, she is obtaining a Fundraising and Development certificate through UCSD Extension.

- Angela Sieckman, Public Relations & Events Coordinator

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The TIMES Newsletter

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Jessica Schmidt
2008 History Makers Gala at Liberty Station

Join us for this exciting event on June 27 under the stars at Liberty Station, San Diego's transformed Naval Training Center!

Guests will enter the event through the former Command Center and its gorgeous rose garden while being treated to special cocktails, nostalgic music of the 1930s and 1940s and the opportunity to meet some special invited guests. Set in the heart of the restored buildings of one of San Diego’s historic naval facilities, the History Makers awards and dinner will celebrate the groups and individuals who contributed to the transformation of this former government property.

The Naval Training Center (NTC) opened in 1924. Not only did hundreds of thousands of young sailors go through basic training there, but experienced enlisted men also learned new skills or refreshed old ones in the many schools offering specialized training. Some of the earliest buildings were barracks and a commissary designed in a style similar to the Spanish Colonial architecture popularized in Balboa Park by the Panama-California Exposition in 1915-16. During World War II the number of buildings, and recruits being trained, increased exponentially. When NTC was finally closed as part of the Base Realignment and Closure Act (BRAC) in 1997, there were almost 400 buildings on the property.

The formation of an historic district and a separate foundation has resulted in an infusion of cultural and arts organizations. Construction of new buildings and homes, using the historic street alignments and incorporating design elements from historically designated buildings has provided architectural continuity. New parks and grassy open spaces, like the Promenade on which the History Makers Gala will take place, have added significant new recreation opportunities for San Diegans.

The 2008 History Makers honorees all contributed to the successful transformation of the Naval Training Center into Liberty Station over the past ten years. They, and the groups they represent, are:

Wayne Donaldson
Architect and author of the historic survey that documented the history of the buildings that became the Historic District. Wayne now serves as the California State Historic Preservation Officer.

Jack Ensch
Accepting on behalf of the United States Navy. Jack was the Commander, Naval Training Center San Diego during the identification of NTC for closure under BRAC. Jack is now the Director of Military Marketing for the San Diego Padres.

Susan Golding
Mayor at the time of the BRAC conversion, and accepting on behalf of the Mayor and City Council. Susan serves as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Child Abuse Prevention Foundation.

Wayne Raffesberger
Accepting on behalf of the many citizen groups that advised the City on community concerns. Wayne served on the Citizens Oversight Committee, the NTC Base Reuse Committee, and as chair of the Point Loma Community Association, all contributing input into the planning process for Liberty Station.

Mike Stepner
Accepting on behalf of the many City of San Diego staff members who worked tirelessly to determine community opinions, served on numerous committees, and processed reams of paperwork to move the project to completion.

Invitations to History Makers Gala 2008 will be in the mail soon. If you would like to take part in this celebration under the stars, or to help support the work of the San Diego Historical Society, please contact Jane Anderson at (619) 232-6203 ext.103.
New Spring Fashions Arrive in Dressing a City

To coincide with the arrival of spring, the San Diego Historical Society is pleased to announce the introduction of seventy-one new costume items into its most recent costume exhibition, Dressing a City: Selected Styles from Marston’s Department Store, 1878-1961. All selections in this rotation are from the San Diego Historical Society Costume and Textile Collection and are examples of fashion more closely related to spring and summer months: floral prints, soft materials and brightly colored garments decorate the exhibition hall.

Representative of items that were once sold at Marston’s Department Store during the 1950s and early 1960s, many of the costume items on display have never before been featured in an exhibition at the Museum of San Diego History.

Serving as the centerpiece of this exhibition are twelve mannequins, all of which display period costume items that were sold at Marston’s, worn by customers that shopped at Marston’s, or were similar to the items used in the renowned and highly decorative window displays of the store. The dresses, gowns and suits are complemented by a variety of samples of women’s hats, shoes, gloves and purses. In addition to the women’s garments and accessories on display, a number of fashionable men’s neckties and hats have also been included in this rotation.

Be sure to visit the new rotation items in Dressing a City: Selected Styles from Marston’s Department Store, 1878-1961 currently on display at the Museum of San Diego History through January 6, 2009.

- Nicholas Vega, Director of Exhibitions & Programming

A Different Life Highlights San Diego’s Diverse Population

A crowd of families, teachers, school principals and teenagers gathered on Thursday, March 27 at the Museum of San Diego History to celebrate the opening of the exhibition A Different Life: Finding our Future in San Diego. Co-curated by nine female high school students, all Somali immigrants, the newest installment in the Youth Gallery offers visitors a view of Somali culture and history. At the opening, guests enjoyed the debut of the teen-produced documentary, and then dined on zambusa, pastries filled with vegetables or meat, that proved to be a crowd favorite.

In collaboration with educators from the International Rescue Committee, the students worked after school at Crawford High Educational Complex for nine months to create this exhibition, which shares photos of their community, personal objects and reflections on life both in Somalia and in San Diego. Visitors are encouraged to mark their place of origin on an interactive map and leave comment cards with messages for the teens. Responses to the youth exhibition, which runs through September 2008, have been overwhelmingly positive, including many thank you notes for sharing their perspectives with fellow San Diegans.

- Johnna Jalot, Outreach Coordinator

Assistant Collections Manager Jaime Henderson adjusts a Victorian dress in the Dressing a City exhibition.

Photo by Thomas Ladwig

Sudi Mohammed places a magnet on her hometown in the A Different Life exhibition.

Photo by Thomas Ladwig
Springtime Programs Bring Renewed Energy and Interest to the Marston House Museum

With winter making a quick exit this year, the grounds of the Marston House Museum were ready to host a number of fun, spring-themed public programs. We are excited that many of them have become seasonal staples for the house and yearly family traditions for our members and friends. Below are just a few of our favorites!

Easter Egg Hunt

On Sunday, March 16 we hosted our 2nd Annual Marston House Easter Egg Hunt and Roll. Over 360 guests, sporting colorful Easter baskets, decorated bags, and cupped hands, explored the grounds of the Marston House seeking Easter eggs and prizes, all hoping to find one of the rare Golden Eggs.

Tea on the Terrace

Another favorite among our springtime traditions is Tea on the Terrace at the Marston House Museum in Balboa Park. On April 27, 35 people partook in a delightful tea on the terrace, overlooking the south lawn. Over 200 people have delighted in this unique experience. Guests were treated to an assortment of finger sandwiches, scones with clotted cream and jam, as well as sausage rolls with Branston pickle. The light fare was topped off with a piece of coconut cream pie, the favored dessert of Marston’s Department Store patrons in the 1950s. If you would like to experience this relaxing encounter, our next Tea on the Terrace will be held on Sunday, June 8. Seatings are at 11am and 1pm. Reservations are required, so please call (619) 232-6203, ext. 129 to reserve your space.
**Fairy House Tours**

In April, the grounds of the Marston House were transformed into a whimsical fairyland, as guests donned wings and wands to explore the woodland pathways for traces of mystical characters.

- Gabe Selak, Public Programs Manager

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**JUNE 2008**

Wednesdays, June 4 - Sept. 24, 11am & 1pm

**GALLERY TOURS/ Celebrating 80 Years!**

As the San Diego Historical Society celebrates its 80th Anniversary in December 2008, learn more about the organization and its history and explore the changing galleries of the Museum of San Diego History on this special docent led tour.

**Location:** Museum of San Diego History, Balboa Park

**Admission:** Free for SDHS members and with regular museum admission

Sunday, June 8, Seatings at 11am & 1pm

**MARSTON HOUSE/ Tea on the Terrace**

Enjoy an elegant tea on the terrace of the majestic Marston House Museum. Seating is limited to allow for a more intimate and relaxing experience. A complimentary house tour will be offered at the completion of each tea seating.

**Location:** Marston House Museum, Balboa Park

**Admission:** $20 SDHS members, $25 non-members

Please Note: Reservations are required by Thursday June 5, 2008. To RSVP, please call 619-232-6203 ext. 129.

Wednesday, June 11, 5:30 - 8pm

**HISTORIC PLACES/ Celebrating the Architecture of Lilian Jenette Rice, Lecture & Reception**

Join us for an evening of fun, friendship and architecture as we celebrate the design achievements of one of San Diego’s early architects, Lilian Jenette Rice. She is best remembered for her contributions to several residences in Rancho Santa Fe in the 1920s, and for her design of the clubhouse for the ZLAC Rowing Club in Pacific Beach in 1931. This clubhouse will be the venue for the evening’s presentation by landscape historian, Vonn Marie May.

**Location:** ZLAC Rowing Club, 1111 Pacific Beach Drive

**Admission:** $10 SDHS members, $15 non-members

Please note: Reservations are required as seating is limited. For more information and to make a reservation, please visit www.sandiegohistoricplaces.com, or phone 619-297-4650.

Sunday, June 22, Seatings at 11am & 3pm

**MARSTON HOUSE/ Kate Sessions Geranium Launch Party and Family Garden Day Celebration**

Join other flower lovers in this commemorative event marking the environmental accomplishments of the “Mother of Balboa Park”, Kate Sessions, as we unveil a newly propagated geranium named in her honor. Hosted by the Friends of the Marston House, the Kate Sessions launch will be held as part of a Family Garden Day Celebration at the Marston House Museum. This festival will feature workshops, demonstrations, crafts and the opportunity to purchase your own Kate Sessions plant.

**Location:** Marston House Museum, Balboa Park

**Admission:** FREE for SDHS members, $6 non-member adults, $3 non-member children (ages 6-17)

All photographs taken by SDHS staff.
The Life of a Museum Object

The objects you see on display in our galleries have gone through a unique life cycle. They were created, entered a period of use and purpose and eventually made their way into the collections of the San Diego Historical Society. Here, museum staff explain the history of a featured object; a clown’s head from fast food chain Jack in the Box, and the process of its addition to our collection.

History of the object

Opened in San Diego in 1951, Jack in the Box fast food restaurant offered its customers convenience with a fun atmosphere. As one of the first chains to provide a drive-thru window, patrons had the option of taking their food away or dining in the circus-themed restaurant. By the 1980s, Jack in the Box was the fifth largest burger chain in the United States. To better contend with its competition, the fast food restaurant adopted a more grown-up approach to marketing. Jack in the Box not only began toning down the appearance of their restaurants, but the company’s commercials featured footage of their trademark clown head being blown up. Today, the popular eatery has over 2,100 locations mostly concentrated in the western United States and a clown spokesman with a more adult demeanor.

- Joel Levanetz, Assistant Collections Manager

Cataloging the object

A catalog record is necessary for every artifact in the Society’s collection. These records provide measurements, the materials used to create the artifact, its condition and location. Another important element of cataloging is researching the history and provenance of each item.

The Jack in the Box head is familiar as a fast food icon, but some research is still necessary to establish the purpose of the artifact. Because Jack in the Box restaurants were first established in San Diego, the Society’s Research Library had photographs of the earliest Jack in the Box restaurants. These photos showed the same style of head sitting atop the drive-thru menu, where customers could place their order by speaking into the head. The Jack’s head that will be cataloged is identical to those in the photographs, and its mesh covered mouth at first suggested that the head had been used at the drive-thru. However, further inspection of the hollow Jack’s head revealed head gear, just the right size to fit securely around a human head! Perhaps the Jack head had once been worn by a Jack in the Box employee as a promotional tool – another interesting possibility for a very interesting piece.

- Jaime Henderson, Assistant Collections Manager

Storing the object

Before an artifact can be placed into storage, a thorough condition report and evaluation must be completed in order to establish the original condition of the item. This report makes it possible to ascertain if any changes have occurred over time. An evaluation includes determining what types of materials were used in construction. After contacting the corporate headquarters of Jack in the Box and asking about the type of plastic used in making the head, we found that they had worked with a local San Diego company who confirmed that the plastic is a non-toxic, synthetic plastic resin commonly called PETg. One tendency of PETg, as it ages, is to release a pungent, sometimes fruity, odor which, in fact, the Jack head does. Fortunately, while this odor may not be entirely pleasant, it is not harmful or destructive to other artifacts or their caregivers.

- Michelle Stokke, Assistant Registrar
SDHS Receives Conservation Bookshelf

Treasured objects and artifacts held by the Society will be preserved for future generations with help from the IMLS Connecting to Collections Bookshelf. This core set of conservation books, DVDs and online resources was donated by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the primary source of federal funding of the nation’s museums and libraries. IMLS and its partner, the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) have awarded a total of 2,000 free sets of the IMLS Bookshelf in 2008.

Save While You Shop!

The San Diego Historical Society is now enrolled in Ralph’s Community Contribution program. If you have a Ralph’s card and would like to support the Society, sign up now to have a percentage of your purchases at any Ralph’s grocery store donated to us.

To enroll: go to http://www.ralphs.com/ccprogram.htm and enter your information and the Society’s NPO number: 90088. Please sign up now and pass the word along to your family and friends.

Thank you for your support!

Looking for a new way to support SDHS?

View our wish list and see if there is something you may be able to contribute!

High Tech
• LCD projector
• Canon Digital Camera - Lithium Ion Battery Model #NB-4L
• ScanJet 5590 Digital Flatbed Scanner
• New 3-ring binders (black, 1.5” or smaller)
• Mouse pads
• Electric pencil sharpeners
• Office chairs

Everyday Needs
• Step stools
• Sheet protectors (clear, letter size)
• New 3-ring binders (black, 1.5” or smaller)
• Office chairs

In the Workshop
• Delta Machinery 16.5” Drill Press Model #17-965 (or compatible model)
• Storage Solutions Sheet Storage Rack
• Electric Scissor Lift JLG Pro Fit Series #2646ES
• Dahle Professional Roller Trimmer, 37.5”
• CSL2700 27” Roll Laminator Kit - Opti Clear Green

Out and About
• Six folding 10’ sunshades

Thank you for your continued support!

Monetary donations will also be accepted to contribute toward the purchase of a specific item. Contact Jane Anderson at (619) 232-6203 ext. 103 or jane.anderson@sandiegohistory.org to find out more details about the items listed above.
Contributors

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Yes, this includes the Museum of San Diego History, Junipero Serra Museum & Marston House Museum stores!

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San Diego Historical Society
WHERE OUR HISTORY COMES ALIVE

Name That Building!
Erected in 1924, this building boasts impressive Spanish Colonial architecture. In 1924 it had a movie screen, a Broadway-sized stage with orchestra pit and fountains on either side of the stage that ran during intermission. Although it was condemned in 1986, it was restored and reopened in 2008.

MUSEUM INFORMATION

Museum of San Diego History & Research Library
1649 El Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA 92101
(619) 232-6203
Open daily 10am - 5pm
Research Library: Wed-Sat 9:30am - 1:00pm,
Members by appointment on Wed afternoons

Marston House Museum
3525 Seventh Avenue, San Diego, CA 92103
(619) 298-3142
Guided Tours Only, Fri-Sun from 10am - 4pm

Junipero Serra Museum
2727 Presidio Drive, San Diego, CA 92103
(619) 297-3258
Open Daily 10am - 4:30pm

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

Answer: Balboa Theatre

Erected in 1924, this building boasts impressive Spanish Colonial architecture. In 1924 it had a movie screen, a Broadway-sized stage with orchestra pit and fountains on either side of the stage that ran during intermission. Although it was condemned in 1986, it was restored and reopened in 2008.