Now Open!

Two exciting new galleries open up at the Museum of San Diego History!

Also inside...

Events Calendar
Fund for the Future wraps up
A Little Piece of History from the SDHS Archives
FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This past year has been a year of optimism for the future of the San Diego Historical Society. Thanks to the dedication of trustees, volunteers, auxiliaries, staff, and financial supporters who make us a strong organization, the Society was able to significantly improve its financial position, and move its programs forward in service of our mission.

As part of the reaccreditation process coming up in 2008, we submitted a self-study of our institution to the American Association of Museums. Following a site visit, we discussed the need to refine and revise our collections plan and policies for the future, both for our own benefit and for the reaccreditation by AAM.

We opened the second phase of the core exhibit on San Diego history, and an exhibition of major works by Belle Baranceanu from our collection. The Society also saw the formation of a new auxiliary, the Arts Council, members of which were active in promoting the “Belle” exhibit, and providing financial support for bringing out the collection.

Our education program continues to expand. School in the Park, a collaborative effort with other Park museums to provide museum education to inner city youth, and underwritten by Price Charities, grew, and we placed new emphasis on outreach to community groups and other schools in the district.

The Society received a pledge of a $2,000,000 anonymous challenge grant that will match contributed revenues and membership dues up to that amount during calendar year 2007. This gift has put the Society in the position of potentially eliminating deficits for a number of years in the future as it undertakes a capital campaign to create an endowment.

Sixty-two percent of functional expenses is now centered on the Society’s programs—activities directly related to our mission, including education, research, and exhibitions. The remaining 38% is devoted to management and fundraising. This ratio signals an important shift in the way the Society uses its resources—away from administrative costs, and increasingly toward programs.

Without our donors’ belief in the Society’s programs, and their continuing financial support, we simply would not be able to provide programs and research opportunities to the community. I also cannot possibly express my gratitude to our tireless trustees, auxiliary members, and many volunteers who not only provide financial support to our institution, but who spend countless hours in committee meetings, and in activities that support our mission.

It is with many mixed feelings that I am resigning as Executive Director at the end of this calendar year. I am looking forward to pursuing new opportunities, but will miss the extraordinary interaction with colleagues, trustees, and friends here at the Society. It has been one of the most engaging experiences I’ve been privileged to have. Participating in creating an exciting exhibition and helping our professionals revitalize our program has been a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for me. I want to express my gratitude to each of them for their dedication and service to the community. They are a wonderful team, and the Society has a future filled with opportunity.

David S. Watson, Executive Director
Annual Meeting

The 2007 Annual Meeting gave Society members an opportunity to mingle and talk shop. The gathering also marked the first time in two years an Annual Report was available to members as they checked-in. During the first hour, meeting attendees socialized and walked around the museum, observing the work and accomplishments of the past year. In the Thornton Theater, those present were given the opportunity to experience our new website prior to its official launch, estimated for mid-2008.

Bob Adelizzi, President of the Board of Trustees, invited everyone to sit and officially started the meeting at 6:00 pm. After previewing the Board’s role over the past year, Mr. Adelizzi introduced David Watson, Executive Director of SDHS, who went over the organization’s activities and progress throughout the year. The attendees were then treated to a presentation by Hal Sadler, who was recently named “Mr. San Diego” by the San Diego Rotary Club. Mr. Sadler illustrated the history of San Diego as seen through its prominent figures, many of whom have family members who continue to support and contribute to the Society. Mr. Adelizzi then returned to the stage and surprised both Mr. Sadler and Mr. Watson with plaques recognizing their significance and dedication to the Society. This year’s meeting was a success and marked a brilliant end to one year, while welcoming in the next.

- Angela Sieckman, Public Relations & Events Coordinator

Spotlight: Board of Trustees President, Bob Adelizzi

This newsletter, the Society is highlighting the experiences and accomplishments of the President of its Board of Trustees, Bob Adelizzi. Mr. Adelizzi received his B.A. from Dartmouth College, a J.D. from USD Law School, and a graduate degree from the University of Indiana, School of Banking and Finance. In 1963, after serving as a Captain in the USMC, Mr. Adelizzi was admitted to the California Bar. Throughout his career, Mr. Adelizzi has served on the Board of Directors of numerous public, private and civic organizations: Chairman of the Board of San Diego Children’s Hospital, charter member of the Lusk Institute at USC and Chairman of the San Diego County United Way, to name a few. More recent positions include President and CEO of HomeFed Bank and Chairman and CEO of Guaranty Bank. As a philanthropist, he is active in a number of non-profit organizations, including our very own San Diego Historical Society.

- Angela Sieckman, Public Relations & Events Coordinator
Dressing a City: Selected Styles from Marston’s Department Store, 1878-1961

On November 14, 2007, the San Diego Historical Society offered its members a preview of the new exhibition, Dressing a City: Selected Styles from Marston’s Department Store, 1878-1961. For the 120 guests in attendance, which included members of the Marston family, the opening night reception allowed visitors to reminisce about the many wonderful features of Marston’s Department Store. The nostalgic conversations lasted throughout much of the evening, as guests readily shared their personal experiences associated with one of San Diego’s most memorable landmarks.

Dressing a City celebrates and highlights the remarkable history of San Diego’s premier department store. Owned and operated by the Marston family until 1961, the origin of Marston’s Department Store dates to 1878 when George W. Marston founded a dry goods store on the northwest corner of Fifth and D Streets. Over time, Marston’s store evolved into one of San Diego’s most successful businesses. While providing quality goods at affordable prices, Mr. Marston was forced to relocate his enterprise to larger locations on five separate occasions, on account of a steady increase in public demand for his goods.

Displaying more than 200 items from the Costume and Textile Collection, Dressing a City is one of the most comprehensive exhibitions ever created specific to Marston’s Department Store. Many of the costume items chosen for display have come from the Marston’s clothing line and many more were once purchased at Marston’s Department Store. Complimenting the well-preserved and historically rich costume samples are items from the Photograph Archives and Document Archives Collections, in addition to a handful of informative text panels. These panels will serve in telling the history of Marston’s Department Store, as the costume items on display are instrumental in showing the store’s history.

On display for a twelve month period, a rotation of costume items will occur after the initial six months (late May 2008). At that time, additional items will be introduced into the exhibition to further show the significant history of Marston’s Department Store. Located in Gallery 1, this exhibition will compliment the 80th Anniversary of the San Diego Historical Society, which will also take place in 2008.

100 Years of Art: A Retrospective

On November 29th, the San Diego Historical Society opened an exhibition entitled 100 Years of Art: A Retrospective. The presentation will cover a century of artistic contributions beginning in the mid 1800s. From realism to romanticism, this exhibition will feature the works of some of the most prominent artists in the history of San Diego. Art enthusiasts will enjoy such well-known artists as Maurice Braun, Alfred Mitchell and Charles Fries, while everyone will have an opportunity to learn about the history of fine art in our community.

What makes this exhibition even more moving is that it recalls the work of former San Diego Historical Society Curator, Bruce Kamerling. In 1992, he created the initial 100 Years of Art exhibition, and it is Mr. Kamerling who is largely credited with strengthening the museum’s Fine Art collection. Through a combination of the aesthetic vision embraced by these artists and Bruce Kamerling’s foresight to preserve their works, 100 Years of Art: A Retrospective will be a unique look back on the artistic tradition of a remarkable region.

- Nicholas Vega, Senior Curator

Lot’s Wife by James Tank Porter

- Joel Levanetz, Assistant Curator
Fund for the Future

We are more than pleased with the success of this year’s fundraising campaign and challenge grant, Fund for the Future. Thanks to substantial generosity by you, the community, we have raised more than half of our $2 million goal! If we can attain the entire $2 million, an anonymous friend and benefactor will generously match us dollar for dollar. This person recognizes the importance of the Society to the community and we hope that you, too, will contribute during this final fundraising push.

The San Diego Historical Society would like to formally thank the Corky McMillin Companies for their lead gift of $200,000. Their continued giving and philanthropy are much appreciated and will help the Society fulfill its important mission.

To donate toward the Society’s Fund for the Future, please contact the Society at (619) 232-6203.

- Kate Vogel, Exhibition & Graphic Designer

Accreditation Update

The San Diego Historical Society is very proud to be accredited by the American Association of Museums. The AAM is the largest museum association in the country and recognized as the standard bearer for best museum practices. According to the AAM “Accreditation is a widely recognized seal of approval that brings national recognition to American museums, regardless of their size or location…. the AAM Accreditation Program has recognized museums’ commitment to excellence, accountability, high professional standards, and continued institutional improvement”.

Next year, we will begin our evaluation for our 10-year re-accreditation. Accreditation not only insures that we are performing at the highest standards for museums, but it also confers other very real benefits. Grants and private donations are often tied to accreditation. Loans of museum objects from other institutions can also be dependant on accreditation. Finally, accreditation tells our visitors, our members and other museums that we are working to be the best museum possible.

Accreditation is a multi-year process of self-assessment and peer review. Last year, we participated in the Museum Assessment Program. In order to meet the requirements of the MAP process, we spent the year in a rigorous self-assessment specifically aimed at reviewing our collections and collections care. We were also visited by a peer reviewer from the AAM who made specific recommendations to improve our museum and our collections stewardship. In the next year, we are charged with putting those recommendations into action and doing everything we can to make sure that we are meeting AAM best practices.

Starting in January, we will begin the actual assessment process that will again review every aspect of the museum from collections to education to exhibitions. We will go through another self-assessment and a further visit by a peer reviewer which should reflect improvements made after the MAP recommendations. Our aim at the end of this process is to retain our position as an AAM accredited museum.

If you are interested in learning more about the AAM and Museum Accreditation, please visit their website at www.aam-us.org.

- Victoria Cranner, Director of Collections
Warm Welcome for New Education Staff

The Education Department welcomes two new staff members! Maggie Johnson, former Site Interpreter, now fulfills the role of Museum Educator. Maggie writes,

“I am excited to be joining the Education Department here at the Historical Society. As a site interpreter, I very much enjoyed my interactions with the public; I enjoyed the opportunity it gave me to bring history to people and to share my enthusiasm for the subject. This new position as a museum educator allows me to share my passion for the subject as well as help educate children about the history of our region. I am looking forward to the year ahead and the further development of our educational programs.”

On October 1st, the San Diego Historical Society also welcomed Micheal Austin as the new Director of Education. Before joining the San Diego Historical Society, he served as the Director of the Educational Opportunity Program at the University of San Diego.

Starting Off With A Blast

Eight 3rd Grade classes have already spent a week in our classroom as part of the School in the Park program. The children will spend a total of three weeks with us during their school year. This first rotation focused on maps and geographical features of San Diego County. We visited the large floor map exhibit in the Museum of San Diego History and examined city maps from 1903 and 1782 in the Research Library. Culminating a week of hands-on activities on how to read a map, use a compass and identify landscapes and regions of the area, the students created a physical relief map of San Diego County. When they return for their second rotation, we will spend a week learning about the Kumeyaay people and natural resources of Southern California.

- Lindy Villa, School Programs Coordinator

Can You Make History Come Alive?

The San Diego Before Statehood program needs enthusiastic volunteers to guide 4th graders on a tour of the Junipero Serra Museum and historic Presidio Park. Tours take place on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings from 9:15 am – 11:30 am. Extensive training is provided, and volunteers are asked to commit to two tours per month. This is a great opportunity for anyone looking to gain experience in a museum setting, to learn and share local history, and to help children learn about the first European settlement in California.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Johnna Jalot, Outreach Coordinator, at johnna.jalot@sandiegohistory.org, (619) 232-6203 ext 112
Thursday, December 6, 6:30pm
**FOOD LECTURE AND SAMPLING/ Savor the Past with Arlyn Hackett**
In this adult lecture and food tasting series, Arlyn Hackett, food historian for the San Diego Union-Tribune, explores ordinary and unique examples of Italian and Portuguese recipes from regional fishermen. This evening event will leave your mind full of history and your taste buds touched by delectable wonders!
Admission: SDHS members: $12; Non-members: $20
Please call (619) 232-6203, ext. 150.
Registration is required by Tuesday, December 4.

Friday & Saturday, December 7-8
**DECEMBER NIGHTS**
Enjoy this annual holiday tradition in Balboa Park! Entertainment, food and special Museum Store sales, and exploration of our exhibit galleries at the Museum of San Diego History.
*Please note:* The Museum of San Diego History will feature live music performances periodically over the two evenings.
Admission: FREE

Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays through January 6, 2008
**HOLIDAY HOME TOURS/Marston House**
Experience the charm and wonder of the season as the historic Marston House is decorated for the holidays! Recapture childhood memories and the atmosphere of early 1900s America as you tour rooms dressed with the sights, sounds and smells of Christmas past.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT EVENTS, PLEASE CALL (619) 232-6203**

**UPCOMING VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION EVENT**

*In an effort to recognize* our dedicated volunteers, who selflessly give their time in support of our mission, the Society will be hosting a Volunteer Recognition Event on Tuesday, December 4th from 2:30 pm – 5:00 pm in the Thorton Theatre in the Museum of San Diego History. Originally scheduled for October 24th at the Marston House, the event was postponed due to the San Diego wildfires. Our bi-annual event will include food and great raffle prizes for all attendees! So if you are one of our fantastic volunteers who do so much in service of the Society, we invite you to join us as we celebrate you!

To RSVP for the event or for information about becoming a volunteer, please contact Elizabeth Klueck, Volunteer Program Coordinator at (619) 232-6203 extension 131 or elizabeth.klueck@sandiegohistory.org.

**COMING UP IN 2008!**

**Historic Places: The Architecture of San Diego**
Call (619)297-4650 for more information

**History Makers**
Watch for details this spring!

**SAN DIEGO HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**Holiday Home Tours**
Experience the charm and wonder of the season as the historic Marston House is decorated for the holidays. Recapture childhood memories and the arie of early 1900s America as you tour rooms dressed with the sights, sounds and smells of Christmas past.

For more information, please call (619) 232-6203, ext. 129

Admission:
SDHS members: FREE
Non-members: $5

**Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays**
Marston House Museum, Balboa Park
In Case of Emergency...

In recent weeks there have been several emergency situations in the San Diego area. In light of these events, the San Diego Historical Society thought it prudent to acquaint our members with some basic guidelines and suggestions in the event of a fire, earthquake or other natural disaster. SDHS would like to remind all our readers and members that during an emergency situation it is always essential to follow the instructions issued by emergency responders. No item is worth the risk of human life. Furthermore, the suggestions given in this article are not infallible, and all items of value should be insured against loss at all times.

General:
- Document your items through photography and written descriptions in order to assess and record their current condition.
- Any home with valuable or precious items should have a well maintained and monitored security system.
- Know where valuable documents are located, it is best to keep important documents in a safety deposit box at a bank, it is a neutral location that has high security. Keep photocopies at home for reference.
- Create an emergency evacuation plan and meeting point with your family and any close friends.
- Create an emergency “Go-Kit” and place it in your car or in an easily accessible place in your home (see below).

In the home:
- Make sure that exit paths are clear of clutter.
- Install latches on cases or cabinet doors to keep contents inside during an earthquake.
- Use heavy duty wall anchors for weighty or bulky furniture, one near the top and the other near the base. Firmly anchor these straps to the studs or masonry. Bracing kits are widely available to make this easier.
- If you have breakable items on display outside of a case you can use Museum Wax to affix it to its location. Note: Museum Wax can leave a residue.

Places to find supplies:
- Wall anchors: home supply store like Lowe’s, Home Depot, but make sure to check with professional at the store to get the correct equipment for your home, http://www.earthquakesupplycenter.com
- Emergency “Go-Kits”: http://www.usaemergencysupply.com/, http://www.quakekare.com/, or go to http://www.firstvictims.org/resources.html to learn how to make your own!


Short Term Storage of Items:
A case should be constructed of strong materials at least ¾” thick for strength, plywood being relatively cost effective. Construct case to desired dimensions and nail, screw and/or glue together both edges and corners for added strength. Don’t forget to install handholds or a removable lid. Be sure to evaluate case and contents to make sure it will be easily moved when filled. Evaluate the strength of the item before packing it into the case. Make sure to protect the item from the walls of the case by lining the case with materials like neutral, acid free linen and cotton or polyethylene padding. Such padding will also need to separate the item from others that may be in the same case. Directly around the object to be packed, use “soft packing” material acid free tissue paper; around the tissue other materials should be used to provide additional buffering support to shock, vibrations and possible accidents. Materials safe to use are Fome-Cor®, more tissue paper, packing blankets, bubble wrap with bubbles facing away from the object and neutral acid free packing foams. Do not seal any items completely in plastic, this will promote condensation and mold growth. Provide lots of shock absorbing cushion material in packing; too little or too soft material will not provide protection to the object. For extremely fragile items, use double crating, literally a case inside another case, all thoroughly padded and firmly packed. Make sure all items are secure in packing, firmly placed into case and well padded on all sides to prevent movement or damage.

- Michelle Stokke, Assistant Registrar
A Little Piece of History

The extensive document and manuscript collections in the Research Archives reflect all aspects of San Diego history. They include personal papers, records from social and cultural organizations, and institutional and business records. Within the various collections of personal papers, there are some that concern just a few years of a person’s stay in San Diego, and provide a brief snapshot of life in a very different time.

One such person was Thomas Rylan Darnall, who lived in San Diego for six years from 1853 to 1859. He was born in Clark County, Kentucky in 1828, and in 1850, he came to northern California to hunt for gold. Failure to find gold and his subsequent disaster as a farmer prompted him to seek his fortune in San Diego in 1853. He enjoyed some success here as he was appointed a deputy sheriff in 1855 and served on the County Board of Supervisors from 1855-1857.

Still seeking that elusive fortune, however, in 1857 he entered a partnership with another local businessman, E. W. Morse, and the two purchased a copper mine, the Jesus Maria, in Baja California. Sadly all did not go well with this venture and after a particularly unpleasant incident in which he was briefly imprisoned in Mexico, Darnall eventually sold his interest in the mine for $400. Dispirited by his lack of success in California, Darnall returned east to his family in 1859.

Most of the papers in this collection concern Darnall’s mining partnership with E.W. Morse. The correspondence between Darnall at the mine and Morse in San Diego documents the problems of the mining venture and gives an insight into how difficult things were for Darnall. He confides his fears of waking up to “find myself short a head from the treachery of some pesky greaser” and how “I owe everybody in San Diego and am ashamed to go there anymore until I can pay my debts.” They also contain interesting requests for supplies such as “7 pair womens socks” “1 doz iron table spoons” “tincture of arbor vatae to cure my corns” and “300 lbs beanes.”

Darnall is a good example of many of the people who passed through San Diego at this time. He had come west to seek his fortune, adventured for a while and then settled down as a member of a local community. However, risky ventures and mixed fortunes resulted in debts and disillusionment, and he moved on elsewhere. He did leave a brief reminder of his presence with the Thomas Rylan Darnell Collection in the Research Library.

Donna Van Ert Retires

After twenty-one years with the San Diego Historical Society, Donna Van Ert, our Membership Director, is retiring. Donna began her career with the Society in 1986 as a volunteer, worked as an assistant in the museum store, and later moved into the role of Museum Store Manager. After ten years in the store, she stepped into the role of Membership Director for the Society. This position allowed her to deepen the relationship with the members that she had begun many years before as a volunteer and store employee.

Donna would like to thank the many people who made her time with the Society so rewarding: her volunteers, the staff, the Board of Trustees, and her family. To our members, Donna would like to say, “I hope that you will continue to support the San Diego Historical Society. The Society has an important mission and I would like to see that mission accomplished. Thank you all for your generous support throughout the years.”

- Jane Kenealy, Archivist
- Elizabeth Klueck, Donor Services & Volunteer Program Coordinator
Contributions to the Society

The San Diego Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the following organizations and individuals from September 2006 to October 2007.

Gifts of $100,000 and up
Anonymous
Carlsen 1973 Trust
City of San Diego Commission for Arts & Culture
The McMillin Families and Companies

Gifts of $50,000 - $99,999
The Parker Foundation
Patrons of the Prado
Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker LLP
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Gifts of $25,000 - $49,999
Mr. & Mrs. John Barry
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Brehm Communities
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Gifts of $15,000 - $24,999
Charles and Ruth Billingsley Foundation
The Heller Foundation of San Diego
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Quest for Truth Foundation

Gifts of $10,000 - $14,999
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Dr. and Mrs. Robert D. Wallace

The Society is grateful to the three auxiliary groups who so generously support the Society’s many activities.

The Costume Council
The Art Council
The Friends of the Marston House

The Society would like to thank the businesses and organizations that generously contributed to our new exhibit, Dressing a City: Selected Styles from Marston’s Department Store.

The Costume Council
Crest Offset Printing
Discount Glass & Mirror
Fraze Paint
The Friends of the Marston House
Giant Photo
Granada Wigs
Shakespeare’s Corner Shoppe
Stark Manufacturing Co.

2007 Institute of History Awards

Joseph I. Howard Fund Award

Sweet Dreams: The Showley Brothers Candy Factory 1905-2007
By Roger Showley

James S. Copley Library Award

San Diego Olives: Origins of a California Industry
By Nancy Carol Carter

We would like to congratulate the award winners and to commend all the participants for their interest in the Institute of History.

Institute of History 2008 - Details to be announced.
This holiday season...

make a little history of your own!

Spectacular new holiday gifts and decorations have arrived at the SDHS Museum Store!
20% off

Any ONE item at the San Diego Historical Society's Museum Stores!

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

Offer expires 3/31/2008, for one-time use. This offer cannot be combined with any other offers, coupons, discounts, etc. Must have coupon at time of purchase. For special orders, call (619) 222-5203 or email store@sandiegohistory.org

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MUSEUM INFORMATION

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

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

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
(619) 239-2211