

SAN DIEGO STYLE CELEBRATES LOCAL FASHION FROM YESTERDAY TO TODAY

To commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Costume Council, the San Diego Historical Society recently unveiled *San Diego Style*, an exhibition showcasing a stunning selection of 40 ensembles many of which have been carefully selected from the museum's expansive costume collection. These items, along with a select group of garments on loan from Costume Council members, were chosen not only for their significance to the history of fashion, but also for their historical relevance to the city.

Complementing the diverse selection of stunning costumes pieces are historic and modern photographs featuring many of the original owners – and wearers – of the items on display. Also included in this exhibition is a slide show of contemporary images taken at local fashion shows in recent years. An interactive kiosk allows guests to share with others their own fashion critiques and faux pas.

By choosing items with both fashion and local connections from the Society's 7,000 piece costume collection – which includes items from backgrounds as diverse as military uniforms, beachwear, Halloween costumes, and evening gowns – *San Diego Style* inspires a creative and visually appealing way of understanding San Diego's past and present. Through the examination of finery from diverse and real San Diego women, *San Diego Style* explores how a frontier settlement grew to become "America's finest city."

Guest curator, Timothy A. Long, Curator of Costumes at the Chicago History Museum, worked with SDHS Exhibitions and Collections Department staff to create this glamorous exhibition. Long's recent exhibitions include *Dior: The New Look*, *Chicago Chic* and *Bertha Honoré Palmer* (aka Mrs. Potter Palmer). Long is also an Adjunct Professor at the International Academy of Design and Technology and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and a returning Guest Lecturer at the University of Chicago. Long's current project, *I Do! Chicago Ties the Knot*, will open next spring at the Chicago History Museum.

Experience for yourself San Diego's chic past by visiting *San Diego Style*, now open thru April 1, 2010. For a schedule of public lectures and events relative to the exhibition, please visit www.sandiegohistory.org/calendar.

- Nicholas Vega, Director of Exhibitions and Timothy Long, Guest Curator



San Diego Style, currently on display thru April 1, 2010.



José María Ybarra, local designer and *San Diego Style* assistant (left), with guest curator, Timothy Long (right).



Cocktail dress with matching gloves (1986), designed by American designer Vicky Tiel.



Evening gown (2003), designed by British designer Zandra Rhodes.

Bottom photographs by Suzanne Hansen.

HOURS OF OPERATION

Museum of San Diego History
Tues - Sun 10am - 5pm

Administrative Offices
Tues - Fri 8:30am - 5pm

**Research Library and Booth
Historical Photograph Archives**
Wed - Sat 9:30am - 1:00pm

Junípero Serra Museum
Open for school groups
by appointment



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

David M. Kahn

Former California State Librarian, Kevin Starr visits San Diego Historical Society on his book tour to discuss his latest book, Golden Dreams: California in an Age of Abundance. L to R: Kevin Starr, David Kahn.

Early in the new year we are planning to make a dramatic change. The San Diego Historical Society will begin operating as the *San Diego History Center*. The idea of changing our name has been under discussion for many years, but without resolution. In the meantime, a whole family of overlapping names has mushroomed up somewhat organically around us – and it can be pretty confusing.

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SDHS is Getting “Social”
SDHS Welcomes
Store Buyer Paul Silvera

We are the San Diego Historical Society. But our signage and printed materials refer to us just as often as the Museum of San Diego History or the San Diego Historical Society Museum. Our library is the additional beneficiary of a plethora of titles including (take your pick): Research Library, Research Archives; Photo Services; or Booth Historical Photo Archives. In addition, there is the not so little problem that when most people see our acronym – SDHS – the first thing they usually say is, “That stands for *San Diego High School!*”

Recently we organized a new Advisory Committee made up of distinguished San Diegans: Malin Burnham, Timothy M. Considine, Kim Fletcher, Fran Golden, Yvonne Larsen, David Malcolm, Jack Monger, and Stephen B. Williams. They have been asked to provide the Board and staff with fresh perspectives as to how our organization can better serve the community. One of the Advisory Committee’s first recommendations was that we change our name to something that sounds more inviting and inclusive than “historical society,” which sounds exclusive. They underscored that we need a name that is more in keeping with our goal of becoming a more dynamic and popular organization. The Board and I agree wholeheartedly.

Not surprisingly, similar reasoning has inspired distinguished historical organizations all over the county to update their names over the past twenty years. Among the many communities now served by “history centers” rather than “historical societies” are: Atlanta (GA); Knoxville (TN); Cedar Rapids (IA); Frankfurt (KY); St. Paul (MN), Orlando (FL); Pittsburgh (PA); and Tampa Bay (FL).

Operating under a more visitor-friendly name such as the San Diego History Center will enable us to do a much more effective job of marketing and promotion. Making sure that we use the new name consistently will also help clear up some of the current confusion over whether, say, the San Diego Historical Society and the Museum of San Diego History are in fact one and the same.

The change of name will not be cosmetic alone. New and more exciting exhibitions, programs, and publications will follow in the years ahead and culminate in the complete modernization of all our visitor experiences in time for the 2015 centennial of the Panama-California Exposition.

We look forward to serving you, and counting on your support, as we become the San Diego History Center!

David M. Kahn Executive Director

THE COSTUME COUNCIL ROLLS OUT THE RED CARPET WITH FASHIONS

Prominent women of style were invited to participate in a special event by lending a fashion treasure for one spectacular evening at the Spreckels Organ Pavilion in Balboa Park. The *Fabulous Fashions: San Diego Style* benefit featured over 100 fabulous ensembles presented by the Costume Council of the San Diego Historical Society. The chic outfits were the centerpiece of an evening of entertainment and heavy fashion. "We all know what a fabulous ensemble can do. Like Holly Golightly, the right dress can transform a woman into an icon," said committee chairwoman, Judy Smith. "*Fabulous Fashions* peeks into the closets of San Diego's best dressed."

Event attendees mingled with hand-painted models and enjoyed hors d'oeuvres fit for fashionistas. The garments were displayed with the design assistance of David F. Weiner from the scene shop at La Jolla Playhouse. The Benefit raised funds to support the preservation and conservation of SDHS' costume collection, and underwrite expenses related to the exhibition, *San Diego Style*.

"The San Diego Historical Society's costume collection is one of the most important collections on the West Coast," said David Kahn, SDHS executive director. "With more than 7,000 objects, it is exceeded in size only by the vast holdings of the Oakland Museum. Preserving and shepherding this collection for posterity is a great responsibility."

Fabulous Fashions served as the perfect prelude to the opening of *San Diego Style*, which took place two weeks later. A hard-working committee worked tirelessly to pull off *Fabulous Fashions* and its members included: Kate Adams, Karen Cohn, Katy Dessent, Jeff Dunigan, Ann Jones, Virginia Monday, Pam Palisoul, Judy Smith, Dixie Unruh and Barbara ZoBell.

- Jessica Schmidt, Membership Coordinator



Local fashion students strut their stuff.



Committee members Barbara Zobell and Virginia Monday pose with Dixie and Ken Unruh.



Attendees view outfits on display. Photos by J. Dhein Photography.

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THE TIMES NEWSLETTER

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San Diego Historical Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping people of all ages learn about, and enjoy, the history of San Diego, and to appreciate how our past, present, and future are interrelated. Financial support is provided by the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture.

NEW ACQUISITION

SDHS has just received a welcome addition to our collection of works by Donal Hord, a generous gift from Mr. William Foxley. "Summer Rain" depicts rain as strong male figure dancing on a cloud pushing out the rain, hair swept up like a thunderhead, and a rattlesnake on top to symbolize lightening. This sculpture was one of the last Hord worked on before his death in 1966 and was cast posthumously by his assistant Homer Dana.

The Society has a growing collection of work by this San Diego artist. Hord moved to San Diego in 1929 and was a vital member of the contemporary art movement here during the early and mid 20th century. He was greatly influenced by the indigenous arts of Mexico and many of his works contain figures and symbols from these cultures. During the depression of the 1930s, he created numerous figures as part of the Work Project Administration. Many of his works can be seen throughout San Diego, including the "Guardian of the Waters" in front of the County Administration building and the iconic "Aztec" sculpture on the campus of San Diego State University.

- Victoria Cranner, Director of Collections



Ben Cawthra, Associate Director; Stephanie George, Archivist; Natalie Fousekis, Director; from the Center for Oral and Public History, CSU, Fullerton review SDHS Oral History Collection.



ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION – IMPORTANT EARLY TRANSCRIPTS DISCOVERED

For over fifty years, the San Diego Historical Society has maintained an oral history program documenting the people and events that make up the history of our region. Today the collection numbers almost 1,500 interviews, of which almost 1,100 have been transcribed and are available to researchers.

In April this year, a meeting was held in the Research Library between SDHS staff and faculty members from the Center for Oral and Public History, at CSU Fullerton to discuss our Oral History Collection. With over 4,000 plus tape-recorded interviews of their own, they were well-placed to provide us with valuable insight into the importance of our collection. Topics discussed were preservation, public access, public programming, and the future development of the collection. They were especially interested in the early interviews by former County Supervisor, Edgar Hastings who interviewed 309 pioneer residents of San Diego County in the four years from 1956 until his death in 1961. When editing these early interviews, Hastings would summarize the final copy. Prior to the meeting, however, we had discovered a collection that appeared to be the original full transcripts of these interviews containing a lot of extra information missing from the Hastings summary.

Encouraged by the positive response of our colleagues from CSU Fullerton including the offer of an intern during the summer, we made plans to start preparing the original transcripts for public access. Amanda Tewes, a graduate student in the Public History program at CSU Fullerton put in over 150 hours of work on the transcripts between June and August, including creating a database of the interviews, and replacing over 50 summaries with their original interview.

Usually, we would have been able to refer to the original recording to help with this, but they are on a medium known as a dictabelt, which we no longer have the technology to play. We are, however, looking into available resources with the possibility of digitizing the original recordings and making them also available.

It would be an exceptional experience for these interviews to be heard as well as read. They are first-hand accounts from over 100 years ago, providing a valuable educational tool and a unique resource for local history.

- Jane Kenealy, Archivist

OUTSTANDING FUNDRAISING VOLUNTEER

SDHS Trustee, Ann L. Hill, was named Outstanding Fundraising Volunteer at this year's National Philanthropy Day Luncheon. Congratulations Ann!



HISTORY HAPPENINGS AT SAN DIEGO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

In rows: 1) Panelists discuss the next steps for Proposition 8 and same-sex marriage in California. L to R: Senator Christine Kehoe, Senate District 39; Fernando Lopez, Marriage Equality; Pastor Chris Clark, East Clairemont Baptist Church; Dr. Jennifer Roback Morse, Founder and Director of the Ruth Institute of San Marcos; Dean Broyles, President, Western Center for Law & Policy; Professor Julie Greenberg, Thomas Jefferson School of Law; Reverend Albert Ogle, St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral. 2) Board President Robert Adelizzi and David M. Kahn welcome KPBS personality Noah Tafolla to speak at the Annual Meeting. 3) San Diego NOW program highlights Prop 215 and Medical Marijuana in California. L to R: Patrick Dudley, Steve Francis, Dion Markgraff, Alex Kreit. 4) Visitors viewing the latest exhibition, San Diego Style. 5) Former California State Librarian, Kevin Starr, signs copies of his latest book, *Golden Dreams: California in an Age of Abundance*. 6) School In The Park students are ready to learn about local history.



CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SAN DIEGO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The San Diego Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the following organizations and individuals from July 2008 to June 2009

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(619) 232-6203 ext.102.

SDHS IS GETTING “SOCIAL”

San Diego Historical Society is proud to announce our participation in Twitter, Facebook, and Flickr. These social networks allow us to have enhanced interaction with the public. Our goal is to give our members and the public a community in which to interact with one another and with the Society.

For more information and to be part of our online community, you can find us at the following websites.

www.facebook.com/SanDiegoHistoricalSociety

www.twitter.com/SanDiegoHistory

www.flickr.com/sandiegohistoricalsociety

- Beaudry Allen, Site Interpreter

MUSEUM WELCOMES NEW CLASS OF DOCENTS

A new class of SDHS docents started their training at the Museum of San Diego History on Monday, August 24th. During an intensive seven weeks training period, SDHS Education staff members, along with four veteran docents who have been part of the Serra Museum's docent program, guided docents-in-training through all aspects of SDHS collections and exhibitions, as well as through effective tour techniques. Eight new docents successfully completed the training and have started to facilitate tours for school groups, along with veteran docents. Welcome to our new docents, and welcome back to our existing docents!

- Marinta Skupin, Director of Education



Marinta Skupin with staff member Brianna Rendon and docent Clarke Herring.

SDHS WELCOMES STORE BUYER, PAUL SILVERA

San Diego Historical Society is known for taking old things and presenting them in new and engaging ways. That is what we are doing as we rename and retool our Museum Store – just in time for the holidays.

Innovative and nationally recognized style-maker Paul Scott Silvera has been engaged to refresh and renew the current Museum Store, which will be named “The History Store” to better reflect the organization’s mission. Silvera owns Scout Design Group, in Berkeley and San Diego, which specializes in home staging with a focus on unique historical elements like reproductions of vintage road maps.

“We’ve always been a place where history comes alive,” explained Executive Director, David Kahn, “and we believe that Paul has the talent, vision and creativity to make our store a reflection of our museum and an appealing shop for our visitors.”

Silvera, an expert in design and merchandising, envisions a retail mix that is historically significant, uniquely San Diego and ultimately, stylish and exciting. “It will be Anthropologie meets Restoration Hardware with a mix of Marstons Department Store,” he quipped. Silvera is excited about the opportunity to utilize images from the Society photograph collection in new and unusual ways. The merchandise promises to be compelling and unique. A native San Diegan, Silvera’s roots go back to the late 1800s. “I’m inspired to be part of something so distinctly San Diego and have an impact on this valuable institution in my families’ home town.”

SPECIAL MESSAGE TO OUR MEMBERS CONCERNING THE VILLA MONTEZUMA

On December 8, 2009, a story appeared in the *Union Tribune* entitled “Mansion’s Furnishings Give Way to Gavel.” The piece created the very unfortunate impression that the San Diego Historical Society recently disposed of portions of the contents of the Villa Montezuma to raise cash. That is not the case. As was clearly conveyed to the *Union Tribune’s* reporter, Roger Showley, both by phone and in a written statement, the material in question had no historical links to either the Villa or San Diego. Proceeds from the sale will be restricted for the future acquisition of collection material more directly related to our community. None of the proceeds will be used for operating or any other purpose, in keeping with our collection policy. In addition, anything that was on display at the Villa and that actually was related to the history of the site or San Diego has been retained for our permanent collection.

- David M. Kahn, Executive Director



1649 El Prado, Suite 3
San Diego CA 92101-1664

WINTER 09-10 PROGRAMMING & EVENTS

DECEMBER

Friday & Saturday, December 4 & 5, 5:00pm – 9:00pm
DECEMBER NIGHTS: HAND-BELL CHOIR CONCERTS

Saturday, December 12
SPECIAL MUSEUM STORE SALE – MEMBERS ONLY

Monday, December 21, 10:00am – 11:00am
HISTORY FOR HALF PINTS: HAPPY HOLIDAY PARTY!

Tuesday, December 29, 1:00pm

* SCREENING: UNZIPPED (1995) BEHIND THE SEAMS
OF DESIGNER ISAAC MIZRAHI

Wednesday, December 30, 1:00pm

* SCREENING: THE WOMEN (1939) STARRING NORMA
SHEARER AND JOAN CRAWFORD

JANUARY

* **Sunday, January 10, 1:00pm – 3:00 pm**
FUN WITH FASHION FAMILY DAY: CATTLE TO COUTURE

Monday, January 18, 10:00am – 11:00 am
HISTORY FOR HALF PINTS: FIRE & ICE

Monday, January 18, 12pm – 5pm
KING DAY

Tuesday, January 26, 6:00pm - 9:00pm
GENTLEMEN'S MARTINI NIGHT

Thursday, January 28, 5:30pm – 7:30 pm
SAN DIEGO NOW: EFFECTS OF THE BUDGET CRISIS
ON EDUCATION IN SAN DIEGO SCHOOLS

**Program is presented in conjunction with the exhibition, San Diego Style.*

*For more information about our events or to make a reservation,
call (619) 232-6203 ext.129 or visit www.sandiegohistory.org/calendar.*

All locations are Museum of San Diego History unless otherwise noted.

FEBRUARY

* **Thursday, February 11, 6pm**
LECTURE/RECEPTION WITH SAN DIEGO STYLE CURATOR,
TIMOTHY LONG

* **Saturday, February 13 10am – 3pm**
STYLE STUDIO: MEET SAN DIEGO'S DESIGNERS

Monday, February 15, 10:00am – 11:00am
HISTORY FOR HALF PINTS: BE PRESIDENT FOR THE DAY!

Monday, February 15, 12pm – 5pm
PRESIDENTS' DAY FAMILY DAY

Saturday, February 20, 7pm
TASTE OF SAN DIEGO MICRO BREWS

Thursday, February 25, 5:30pm – 7:30pm
SAN DIEGO NOW: PASSING THE BUCK:
HOMELESS IN SAN DIEGO

UPCOMING SAN DIEGO NOW PROGRAMS:

Thursday, March 25
TEXTING WHILE DRIVING: GROWING CONCERNS

Thursday, April 22
THE DRAW OF SAN DIEGO: FLUCTUATING
POPULATION GROWN/DECLINE

Thursday, May 20
CALIFORNIA SHAKE OUT: ANTICIPATING
THE NEXT EARTHQUAKE

UPCOMING HISTORY FOR HALF PINTS PROGRAMS:

Monday, March 15
TEDDY BEAR PICNIC!

Monday, April 19
IT'S A FAIRYLAND!

Monday, May 17
HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?