Calendar

May
1 History for Half Pints: Butterflies and Fairies, 10am | $ (K)
2 Member Morning, 9am (Must pre-register)
3 Balboa Park Architecture Walk & Talk, 11am | $ (K)
3 Balboa Park History Stroll, 1pm | $ (K)
6 San Diego History 101: Indigenous Beginnings to 1890, 10am | $ 
7, 14, 21, 28 Balboa Park History Stroll, 11am & 1pm | $ (K)
7 Throwback Thursday Happy Hour, 6pm | $8 (21+ only)
9 Parkwide Garden Day Celebration, 11am | FREE, (K)
9 Bach Collegium Spring Concert, 7pm | $-$
13 San Diego History 101, Part 2: Development, Water, and the Exposition, 10am | $ 
20 San Diego History 101, Part 3: Depression, Progress of Mon to WWII, 10am | $ 
21 Centennial Lecture Series: Dr. Iris Engstrand, Fun & Frivolity at the Expo, 6pm | $

June
4, 11, 18, 25 Balboa Park History Stroll, 11am & 1pm | $ (K)
5 History for Half Pints: Farm to Fair, 10am | $ (K)
10 Centennial Lecture Series: Women & The Exposition, 6pm | $
27 1935 Progress of Man Walking Tour, 1pm | $ (K)

July
2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Balboa Park History Stroll, 11am & 1pm | $ (K)
3 History for Half Pints: Spin and Grin, 10am | $ (K)
16 Centennial Lecture Series: Dr. Mary Walshok, Ingenuity, Innovation and Invention at the Expo, 6pm | $
25 1935 Progress of Man Walking Tour, 1pm | $ (K)
28 Celebrate Dr. Seuss' New Book: What Pet Should I Get, 11am | FREE (K)
21935 Progress of Man Walking Tour, 1pm | $ (K)

All programs take place at the San Diego History Center in Balboa Park unless otherwise noted. All tours are offered on-site or online unless severe weather is forecast. No rain or major holidays, and periodic delays. Programs subject to change or cancellation. All programs require advance registration. Telephone orders available at sandiegohistory.org/calendar. By phone at (619) 232-6203, ext. 129, or email rsvp@sandiegohistory.org.

SANDIEGOHISTORY.ORG/CALENDAR

June 4, 11, 18, 25 Balboa Park History Stroll, 11am & 1pm | $ (K)
5 History for Half Pints: Farm to Fair, 10am | $ (K)
10 Centennial Lecture Series: Women & The Exposition, 6pm | $
27 1935 Progress of Man Walking Tour, 1pm | $ (K)

July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Balboa Park History Stroll, 11am & 1pm | $ (K)
3 History for Half Pints: Spin and Grin, 10am | $ (K)
16 Centennial Lecture Series: Dr. Mary Walshok, Ingenuity, Innovation and Invention at the Expo, 6pm | $
25 1935 Progress of Man Walking Tour, 1pm | $ (K)
28 Celebrate Dr. Seuss’ New Book: What Pet Should I Get, 11am | FREE (K)
21935 Progress of Man Walking Tour, 1pm | $ (K)

Our hopes never wavered, our efforts did not lessen... San Diego keeps her promise to the world.”
– Col. David Charles Collier, 1914.

These words by the Director-General of the Panama-California Exposition hinted at the daunting task the Exposition producers undertook, the difficulties during the process, and the great satisfaction of their completed project. In our 2015 exhibition San Diego Invites the World, the History Center conveys and interprets the scope, the challenges and the exuberance of this two-year event that transformed San Diego.

Curated by longtime University of San Diego professor of history Dr. Iris Engstrand, the exhibition provides visitors with an in-depth view of Balboa Park during the Exposition, its featured attractions, and which Expo buildings are extant today.

“Our hopes never wavered, our efforts did not lessen... San Diego keeps her promise to the world.”
– Col. David Charles Collier, 1914.

These words by the Director-General of the Panama-California Exposition hinted at the daunting task the Exposition producers undertook, the difficulties during the process, and the great satisfaction of their completed project. In our 2015 exhibition San Diego Invites the World, the History Center conveys and interprets the scope, the challenges and the exuberance of this two-year event that transformed San Diego.

Curated by longtime University of San Diego professor of history Dr. Iris Engstrand, the exhibition provides visitors with an in-depth view of Balboa Park during the Exposition, its featured attractions, and which Expo buildings are extant today.

“A significant portion of San Diego’s population has only resided here for 15 or 20 years, and visitors to San Diego often visit the Park without an understanding of why it’s here and how it’s changed (and not changed) in the past 100 years,” stated Dr. Engstrand.

Among the exhibition’s special features are the voluminous official Exposition Guest Register, reenactor videos of Exposition luminaries such as William Kettner, Kate Sessions, and John D. Spreckels, a make-your-own Exposition architecture activity, and the Caryatid saved from the Casa de Balboa before the devastating arson fire in 1978. The exhibition also illustrates how Balboa Park is different than other Exposition sites.

“San Diego History Center history is the story of San Diego’s history,” said Dr. Engstrand.

BY MATTHEW SCHIFF, MARKETING DIRECTOR
Collaborations Continue

Our 2015 Centennial Lecture Series, co-sponsored by UCSD Extension and Friends of San Diego Architecture, continues. In mid-April we hosted The Congress of History and the California Historical Society, with whom we hope to collaborate on a statewide exhibition. In mid-April we hosted national SSF art collectors who gathered at the History Center to marvel at our San Diego exhibits. We have formed an exciting new partnership with San Diego Magazine to co-host quarterly Throwback Thursday Happy Hours, with the first event scheduled for Thursday, May 7. In October we will host our first Annology Day, co-sponsored with the San Diego Genealogical Society. Our 2016 exhibitions are fully collaborative: The Lore behind the Rose! 100 Years of the San Diego Zoo is a joint project with our zoo colleagues; a major exhibition on San Diego architect Irving Gill is a multi-institution collaboration whose partners include the La Jolla Historical Society, UC Santa Barbara, SOMO, the Coronado Museum of History, and the Museum of Contemporary Art and American Institute of Architects, San Diego.

Finally, our space-sharing partnerships continue with the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego and the San Diego Youth Symphony – and our superb pop-up art gallery, Under the Same Sky, managed by Noel-Baza Fine Art.

The San Diego History Center gratefully acknowledges a major gift bequest endowment gift from the estate of Philip Klauber.

BY CHARLOTTE CAGAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Science of Sweet Dreams

The latest San Diego innovation to occupy the Glass Gallery at the History Center is ResMed, a company that has been pioneering new and innovative treatments for sleep-disordered breathing, COOP (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease), and other respiratory conditions for more than 25 years. The San Diego region leads the way in healthcare innovation and when historians look back on this time, the innovation economy will figure prominently in the narrative of San Diego at the turn of the 21st century. San Diego-based ResMed Corp. partnered with the San Diego History Center to create The Science of Sweet Dreams display, a dynamic and engaging experience for the local community that highlights the importance of sleep and the consequences of sleep apnea. Explanatory panels prompt visitors to consider their own sleeping habits and may even help them to correct a problem or encourage them to seek aid on the never-ending quest for that fundamentally important good night’s sleep.

The History Center will showcase different innovators who are making history in their own time throughout 2015 and may be the companies that historians 50 to 100 years from now look back on to explain San Diego’s innovative history. More information and a schedule of Innovation Showcase displays can be found at sandiegohistory.org.

BY MATTHEW SCHIFF, MARKETING DIRECTOR

Celebrating the Centurions 2015 Makers of San Diego History Tribute

On Sunday, April 26, the annual Makers of San Diego Tribute celebrated the Centurions of San Diego at the Town and Country Resort & Convention Center. In this bicentennial year, our guests of honor were businesses, organizations, and families that have been in San Diego 100 years or longer.

The initial research was conducted by committee members and dedicated volunteer sisters Kathy and Abby Esty. In 1915, the population in San Diego was approximately 39,000. The directory of businesses and homes that year is three inches thick, yet only about 180 businesses listed in it remain today. It is a true accomplishment for those establishments that still exist.

Guests enjoyed strolling through the photo gallery and reading stories about the establishments who were acknowledged and honored. Other highlights of the evening were stories from our host, Dave Scott from KUSI News, scrolling photos of San Diego during the early 1900s, and rap and barber shop quartet music. It was a grand evening celebrating the accomplishments of the individuals and their families.

BY BEV FRITSCHNER, DEVELOPMENT

Redux Review! A Look Back at 2015 Fashion Competition

Enthusiastic crowds flocked to the History Center in February at fashion enthusiasts gathered for the Fourth Annual Fashion Redux design competition, featuring rising fashion designers in the Fashion Program at San Diego’s Mesa College. In keeping with the Exposition Centennial theme, fashion professors Susan Lazear and Diana Pagano chose the Beautiful Era, 1910–1914, for study. In September 2014, students visited our renowned Historic Clothing Collection to examine inspiration pieces pulled for the project. Design and construction occurred in the fall, and the judging of 25 student garments in December 2014.

On February 23, 2015, four finalists displayed their ensembles at the History Center, culminating on March 6 at the Finale Party where student designers were recognized for their achievements and guests voted on the People’s Choice Award. Congratulations to Stephanie Castro, winner of both the Top Designer of Fashion Redux’ 2015 and the People’s Choice Awards for her ensemble entitled Swoon at the Soirée.

Special thanks to this year’s Fashion Redux! 2015 sponsors: Janet Sutter and the Costume Council for generously underwriting the Finale Party; San Diego Mesa College and professors of the Fashion

SDG&E: Valued Partner of the History Center

SDG&E funding supports several History Center initiatives. Through SDG&E’s Community Partners program, we are the recipient of funding again this year for San Diego Voices, our model oral history program for underserved youth. Founded in 1981, and therefore a Centurion of San Diego, SDG&E was one of the Sponsors of our Makers of San Diego History Tribute that took place Sunday, April 26, honoring companies and organizations 100 years and older. And as a recognized regional innovator, particularly in the area of sustainability, in June and July, SDG&E will be featured in the Innovation Showcase in our Class Gallery. Finally, in July, SDG&E Chairman and CEO, Jesse L. Knight, Jr. will be one of our celebrity readers who will read his favorite Dr. Seuss books to families and children in conjunction with our Dr. Seuss exhibition.
From Our Vaults: Minshall Estate Art & Craft

In 1983, the San Diego History Center received a generous bequest from long-time member Mary Ladd S. Minshall. Mrs. Minshall was a San Diego educator who taught art for over 30 years. She continued to remain active making her own art and with the San Diego art community after her retirement in 1969. We received three artworks by Mrs. Minshall: an early work from 1952, Child Walking, which was voted first prize by members of the San Diego Art Guild at their All Membership Exhibition that year, and two examples of her later work featuring landscapes and flowers.

The donation also included fine craft by Elleanor and Jackson Woolley (enamels), Barney Reid (enamels and prints), and Amy Donaldson (ceramics). These artists were all members of the Allied Craftsmen of San Diego, founded in 1947 to promote cooperation among local craftsmen and to encourage public interest in contemporary craft; the organization is still active today.

The History Center also received original drawings and lithographs for book illustrations by her husband, which have been added to the existing Herbert L. Minshall collection in the Document Archives.

Name That Chair!

The San Diego History Center Research Library is in the midst of a refresh.

In November 1983, the Research Library opened as the region's largest repository of local historical materials. The orange and blue accented walls and the oak furniture reflected the modern style of the time and had largely gone unchanged since the library's opening.

However, if you have visited recently, you may have noticed a fresh coat of paint with the appropriately named color “Balboa Mist.” But there are more updates still to come, including the addition of images from our photograph and documents collections to our walls to create a more inviting space to do research.

But we need your help! The Research Library is still in need of new chairs to replace those that have been in use since the Research Library opened, 32 years ago.

To reach our goal, members, friends, colleagues and donors are invited to sponsor a chair in the Research Library. For only $250 per chair, a handsome name plate will adorn a new wooden chair in recognition of your gift. Only 50 chair sponsorships are available, so act now to sponsor your library chair! To name a chair, please contact us at 619-232-6203 x1102.

SPONSOR A NEW LIBRARY CHAIR!

BY SARA MORRISON, MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

Honing a Literary Legend

Seuss birthday celebrated

To commemorate Dr. Seuss’s birthday on Monday, March 2, San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer delighted visiting families, local media, and nearly 100 students from Hardy and Burbank Elementary schools in the History Center Atrium with a reading of Oh, the Places You’ll Go!, the final children’s storybook written by Theodor Seuss Geisel.

In honor of the 25th anniversary of this book, Mayor Faulconer also unveiled Kid, You’ll Move Mountains, a national contest hosted by Dr. Seuss Enterprises, recognizing kids ages 5–18 who excel in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEM).

Prior to and following the reading, students and families were invited to create Seuss-inspired crafts. To sweeten the celebratory occasion, every student in attendance was offered a delectable treat, courtesy of Rita’s Ice-Custard-Happiness stores, as part of a comprehensive reading-incentive program that strives to foster healthy reading habits among San Diego’s youth.

The San Diego History Center thanks Rita’s Ice and the Friends of Balboa Park for providing bus funding and admissions for Hardy and Burbank Elementary students visiting on this special occasion.

BY HEATHER POIRIER, SCHOOL PROGRAMS MGR
Welcome new members

Members who have joined the San Diego History Center from Dec. 2014 to Feb. 2015:

Jessica Anderson
Pat & Susan Ardelean
Riley Bakken
Alexandra Basin
Tali & Tony Barbara
Charles Bell, Jr.
Josh & Jessie Birdbaum
Richard & Ann Bonghi
Sandra Bear & Christopher Carmody
Steven & Jessica Bryant
Frederick & Donna Buxton
Susan & Bill Carter
Jeffrey & Bobbi Cawdrey
Annette Chappell
Donna Chaves & Anne Bruneau
Flash Chery & John Davenport
Gary & Karen Collins
Tyler & Susan Cranner
Krista D’Alles
Donald Dishon
Rex Donoho
Jim Duke & Carol Bentley
Reed Farm
Kathi & Michelle Fischer
Robert & Susan Fode
Mary & David Frost
Terry Garvin & Margarete Bunch
Jim Gibson
Marilin Golden
Barry Goldblatt
Richard Gordon
Lydi & Charles Grenier
Angela & Matthew Griffith
Jerry & Val Handfield
Tonya Hiltunen
William Howell & Judy Alavec
Col & soda Howard
Michael James
Fayn Kassidy & LL Sudbeck
Victoria & Linda Kneubuhl
Sylvia Lahana
Lori Langer
Jon Landy & Richard Bagmutz
Michelle Laney
Rick Mayer
Leslie & Marty McCormick
Parti & Doug Miller
Jennifer & John Milukowski
Tom & Mary Miller
Theresa & Kenneth Mileur
Jean Monforte-Redock
Chuck Moore
Jana & Mike Morgan
Fonda Morris
Karen & David Mosher
Joyce Mullen
Barbara Knox
Megera Olive & Kristi Too
Chante Orlandi-Redick
Max Osborn
Roberta Ouspee
Rita & David Phillips
Gene & Robert Phillips

Historic Nursery Becomes Affiliate

The San Diego History Center is pleased to announce that the Mission Hills Nursery, a Centennial Circle affiliate, has joined the San Diego History Center, bringing its growing list of local businesses giving back to History Center members.

Founded in 1910 by the “Mother of Balboa Park,” Kate Sessions, the historic nursery continues in its founder’s tradition by welcoming customers with a combination of culture and class.

Kate Sessions’ horticultural ambitions began in San Diego in 1885, and she eventually became the owner of a flower shop and a succession of nurseries in Coronado, City Park, Mission Hills, and Pacific Beach. She also became a well-known figure in California and national horticultural circles with her landscaping, plant introductions, and classes.

Today, Mission Hills Nursery, located at 1525 Fort Stockton Drive, is a gardener’s paradise and one that Kate Sessions would have been proud of. Customers will find unique varieties invaluable elsewhere and a passionate staff willing to make their experience both educational and enjoyable.

Plant your summer garden now in honor of Kate Sessions and the Centennial of Balboa Park. Show your History Center membership card at Mission Hills Nursery and receive 10% off your purchase. For a full list of our affiliate businesses and discounts, visit sandiegohistory.org/benefits.

BY SARA MORRISON, MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

La Laguna Cabrillo: It’s Water Secure the Bridge!

A frequently visited painting in San Diego Invites the World is the fantasy view of what the Exposition grounds may have looked like in a utopian dream. The painting depicts Cabrillo Canyon filled with an international flotilla of boats traversing a tranquil lake. Did the bridge ever have water under it? Yes, and it was called La Laguna Cabrillo.

When the City of San Diego moved to New Town, the population expanded rapidly, increasing the demand for fresh water. Documents from the era relate people’s experiences after boiling well water in which they state it was the worst-tasting water ever.

Pound Canyon, later renamed Cabrillo Canyon by John C. Olmsted, provided sweet tasting water that came from a natural aquifer. In 1870, locals looking for their stray animals saw the trickle of water in the canyon. Digging an artesian well began. Eventually at 23 feet deep, the well collapsed allowing 55 gallons of water an hour to gush from the ground. The 1915 La Laguna Cabrillo formed from that well.

Not only could the lagoon offer safeguards in the event of fire on the Exposition grounds, it could play host to the flotilla of boats envisioned above. Lastly, and quite comical to consider, it was proposed that the lagoon could be used for aero-surfing by Glenn Curtiss’ Aviation School on North Island.

La Laguna Cabrillo: Looking west from the California Tower, C. 1915.

One spectacle continued each spring, however, when the water files bloomed: Traffic stopped for a look.

In 1961, La Laguna Cabrillo fell victim of the construction and landscaping needed to connect the “Cabrillo Freeway,” now called CA Route 163, to Interstate 5. Fortunately, through historic photographs and written records, La Laguna Cabrillo lives on, a lasting tribute to the 1915 Exposition.

BY GARE SELAK, PUBLIC PROGRAMS MANAGER