The Border: A Line That Divides

Our busy backyard crossing

As debates over U.S. immigration policy continue, the History Center has opened a photographic exhibition titled The Border: A Line That Divides, exploring the evolution of the San Ysidro border crossing. Two border towns—Tijuana and San Diego—bestrade the busiest land-border crossing on the planet. But the build-up at the border has been gradual, as have the attitudes and perceptions fueling the discussions.

The San Ysidro Port of Entry has grown in size, scope, and traffic since its creation in 1848 when the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo established the current 1,954-mile border. At the San Ysidro crossing, the Tijuana River was the dividing line, and the crossing went through the river. The border evolved into a militarized, high-security crossing handling millions of travelers and tons of freight each year, with about 420,000 vehicle crossings weekly. The History Center has accessed its own photograph collection for historic images as well as collaborating with photographers Alejandro Tamayo and our photo technician, Natalie Fiocre, to display and interpret evocative and retrospective images. Focusing exclusively on the crossing at San Ysidro, the exhibition invites the visitor to look back and also encourages looking forward at larger questions associated with immigration locally and internationally.

BY MATTHEW SCHIFF, MARKETING DIRECTOR
Masterworks is a Masterpiece!

Our Masterworks exhibition will soon close. In surely one of the History Center’s finest hours, we exhibited magnificent, even transcendent, artwork, some of it originally displayed to thousands of 1915 Exposition visitors 100 years ago. While the paintings will return to their owners—museums and private collectors—and some to our own collection vaults, the legacy of this historic exhibition continues in the catalog we produced. A collective effort of many, the stunning catalog is its own masterpiece. And while the memory of the Masterworks exhibition will inevitably fade, the catalog it inspired will live on.

Those who deserve special thanks for their superb work include Bram Dijkstra, Tara Centybear, Tammie Bennett, and Leah Roschke. The catalog will be a treasured memento representing the History Center’s leadership contribution to the 2015 Balboa Park Centennial Celebration. The Masterworks catalog is in many ways our true legacy gift to the community, as it is one of the very few 2015 projects that will remain extant 100 years from now. Surely, planners of the 2115 Bi-Centennial Celebration will rediscover and display our Masterworks catalog as emblematic of the landmark occasion 100 years earlier. We are proud to make this lasting contribution to the legacy of 2015.

An additional “Masterpiece” is the event of the same name produced by Patrons of the Prado as a fundraiser for Balboa Park museums. The Union-Tribune’s 100 pages of Balboa Park Memories, catalyzed by the Patrons, also stands as one of the few 2015 legacy projects that will live on. Thanks to the generosity of the Patrons and those who supported them, we received an initial gift of $10,000 for Bucks for Buses to fund visits by underserved schoolchildren to the History Center, with an additional unrestricted operating gift on its way.

BY CHARLOTTE CAGAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Coming Soon!

The Lore behind the Roar!

Beginning in January, the History Center will launch in stages its celebratory homage to the centennial of our world-famous Balboa Park neighbor. Titled The Lore behind the Roar! 100 Years of the San Diego Zoo, this extraordinary exhibition is a full collaboration with the Zoo, telling the story of its humble beginnings with animals leftover from the 1915 Exposition to its evolution into a renowned tourist attraction, global conservation organization and cultural touchstone.

Galleries will feature giant animal sculptures and animated stories of Zoo founder Dr. Harry Wegeforth and the first woman zoo director, Belle Benchley. Interactive exhibits will recreate the Zoo’s famed veterinary and surgical care, its global conservation efforts, early bus tours, and the founding of the Children’s Zoo. The Roar Family Den will feature participatory activities: the Animal Dinner Table, the Life of a Zookeeper, and Extinct Animals. This engaging exploration will also feature the Zoo in popular culture, with excerpts from movies and TV, including Joan Embrey’s famous appearances on The Tonight Show starring Johnny Carson and excerpts from KFMB’s vintage Zoorama TV series.

The grand opening reception will be Saturday, March 19.

BY CHARLOTTE CAGAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Invisible People, Invisible Structures
Portraits of San Diego’s Homeless

Neil Shigley Standing Next to Block Print, Wayne.

For the past decade San Diego artist Neil Shigley has created artwork about our local homeless population. Invisible People, Invisible Structures showcases Shigley’s recent series, a collection of portraits of San Diego’s homeless. Monumental in scale, graphic block prints and graceful hyper-detailed graphite drawings confront us with the faces of San Diego’s forgotten population. His bold three-to-ten-foot tall faces convey the tragic situation that plagues over half a million people in our nation. By portraying each individual singly and with graphic insight, Shigley humanizes his subjects and challenges us to acknowledge each person’s individual past that brought them to this problematic circumstance. Each face depicted in ink and pencil peers at us as a reminder that a life of homelessness was not the life any of these individuals aspired to. Shigley’s subjects have their own history, family, friends, and a personal story of what precipitated their decline into homelessness.

Presenting never-before-seen works from his new series inspired by the temporary living structures built and occupied by many of San Diego’s homeless, Shigley offers new perspectives on how these men and women live. These new drawings are ephemeral architectural renderings, alluding to the fleeting nature of the structures themselves.

Neil Shigley is an artist, printmaker, painter, and educator. He studied painting and printmaking at San Diego State University and Pasadena’s Art Center College of Design. Much of his fine art has focused on the human condition and the human figure, and his work has been exhibited nationally and internationally. Shigley currently teaches art at San Diego State University. This exhibition is part of the History Center’s initiative, launched three years ago, to present changing art exhibitions throughout the year, featuring contemporary regional artists, artists who contributed to San Diego throughout its rich history, and exhibitions centering on the History Center’s permanent collection. Through our art-focused exhibitions we will rediscover the fascinating history of San Diego through the lens of the visual arts.


On a single night in January 2014, 578,424 people were experiencing homelessness – sleeping outside, in an emergency shelter or transitional housing program. (National Alliance to End Homelessness, The State of Homelessness in America 2015). Of the over half million homeless in the United States roughly 200,000 are people in families, 350,000 are individuals, and 50,000 are veterans. A striking 15 percent of these individuals are considered “chronically homeless.”

BY TARA CENTYBEAR, CURATOR
**Merry Member Discount Days**

**Receive a total of 25% off all merchandise store-wide when you shop between November 27-29 & December 12-13**

**Welcome New Members**

Members who have joined the San Diego History Center from June to August 2015:

- Joseph Abbinianni & Lisa Demars
- Alfred Auberto & Carol Parker
- Shalom Aklil
- Brian Babauta & April McPherson
- Christine Baltuth
- Sharon Beckas
- Donald & Laurel Bently
- Diane & Brockman
- Marc Brutten
- JoAnne Bryan
- Torri Cable & Ann Anchibor
- Mateo R. Camarillo
- Evin & Renee Cantar
- Kenneth & Elizabeth Carmichael
- Caroline Collins
- Diana Cordleone
- James & Carrie Davis
- Mischa Dobrotin & Carol Levin
- Ted G. Dougherty & Ginger Boone
- Patrick & Lisa Duchow
- Carl Englund
- Raejean Fellows
- Chester & Katherine Gannett
- Sinead Nil Ghahblain & Mick Barrett
- Sharon Gilkerson
- Mary Goldstone
- Linda Greer
- John & Christie Grey
- Ellen Guillemette
- Louis & Delores Hall
- Ilham Hamideh & Joshua Lopez
- Colin & Victoria Holman
- Margot Howard
- Mark Howe
- Craig & Huber
- Ben Jacobs
- Deralyn & Ellen Kaheny
- Gabriel Kalmuss-Katz
- Diana Kelly
- Thomas Kennedy
- Henry & Lisa Klinker
- Kathleen Knutsen
- Jessica Kretser
- Sarah Lanham
- Saul & Rebecca Levine
- Roger Lewis
- Harold Lindemann
- James Lira
- Jim Loh
- Kevan Malone
- Thomas & Terese March
- Laura E. Marquez
- Rachelle Martin
- Elena Matunine
- John & Lyric McCarthy
- Barbara McCuties
- Karen McNight

**Merry Member Discount Days**

During the holiday season, there are many reasons to be merry as a History Center member. This year, in addition to the special programs available, we are offering several member shopping days when members receive an extra 10% off all merchandise store-wide in addition to their regular 15% discount. Visit the History Center museum store on the weekends of November 27-29 and December 12-13 to find that perfect gift at an additional discount.

Browse one of the best selections of San Diego history books and local artisan wares in Balboa Park. Shop for photos from our vast archived collection on various subjects. Discover great companion gift items to our exhibits, including Dr. Seuss books, clothing, accessories, and toys. Pick up historic postcards and check out the selection of distinctive nostalgic and vintage gifts, knowing that all proceeds directly support the History Center, our exhibitions, and programs.

We have items for all price ranges, from large gifts to stocking stuffers. And for that person who loves our community, please consider the gift of membership, which grants year-round access to the History Center and supports our mission.

**Give the gift of membership**

- **$45 Basic Membership** - A great gift for individuals and students. Includes FREE admission to museum and Research Library.
- **$60 Family/Household Membership** - Ideal for couples with (or without) children or grandchildren. Includes FREE museum admission for kids with adult members.
- **$100 Associate Membership** - Perfect for couples who enjoy traveling. Includes reciprocal membership to hundreds of museums across the country.

**LINDA CANADA, HERITAGE CIRCLE MEMBER AND JAPANESE AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SAN DIEGO ARCHIVIST.**

**Leave a Lasting Legacy – Like Linda**

Many of our dedicated members, donors, and volunteers have included the San Diego History Center in their estate plans through a will, trust, or contribution of property or stock. Linda Canada is one of the History Center’s long-time members and volunteers who is committed to our mission. Linda and her husband Edgar are also members of our Heritage Circle — the History Center’s recognition level for donors who have informed us of their future gifts. According to Linda, “We emphatically believe that communities are stronger when the people know about their history. We have chosen to invest in the San Diego History Center’s future due to its talented staff, amazing collections, and its dedication to sharing the region’s history.”

If you share Linda’s sentiments, you too can leave your own legacy and help ensure the future of the San Diego History Center and our unparalleled collections. We offer many easy giving options — strategies that enhance your personal well-being as well as that of our community. If you are interested in including the History Center in your will or trust, or have already included us and would like to be recognized, please contact Lisa Culver, Chief Development Officer, at lculver@sandiegohistory.org or 619-232-6203, x148.

**BY LISA CULVER, CHIEF DEVELOPMENT OFFICER**
The Rise and Fall of a Rainmaker

San Diego has long been known for its climate. In the early 20th century, Americans were drawn to San Diego’s warm temperatures, gentle breezes, and mild winters to improve their health. Yet San Diego is not perfect—today, as in the past, the region is often in need of water. By 1915, six dams dotted the various waterways of the county to manage water resources in the region. However, once built, these dams largely sat in front of empty reservoirs. Anxious about these unfilled reservoirs, the City of San Diego reached out to Charles Hatfield. Hatfield claimed to be a rainmaker, and the city took him up on his services. Employing what was later understood to be an early form of cloud seeding, Hatfield got to work, with an agreed-upon fee of $10,000 if he filled the Morena Reservoir. In January of 1916, San Diegans were subjected to days of pouring rain. After a brief reprieve, a second storm rolled in and dropped even more water on the county. The San Diego River swelled to span Mission Valley and the empty reservoirs, including Morena, were filled. Problems soon arose when water escaped around the Sweetwater Dam spillway and the Otay Dam burst. The resulting floods caused a great deal of damage to those downstream — roads were impassable, houses were destroyed, and more than 20 lives were lost. Having fulfilled his promise to fill the Morena Reservoir, Hatfield went to the city to collect his fee and was turned down; the city would not pay him unless he accepted responsibility for the damages as well as credit for filling the reservoir. Hatfield chose to leave San Diego without collecting his fee. Does this mean San Diego narrowly escaped paying a fraudster? Or did Hatfield skip town because he was too afraid of the mounting damage claims? This is one of San Diego’s historic mysteries that may never be resolved.

Errosion around the Sweetwater Dam as a Result of the 1916 Rains.

Curiosity Carts Enrich the Visitor Experience

During your next visit to the History Center, you might see a docent or gallery guide engaging museum visitors in an inquiry-based dialogue using objects and photos from the History Center’s collections. We call these new endeavors Curiosity Carts, and they are designed to deepen and enrich the visitor experience through one-on-one interaction.

The Education Department has developed each Curiosity Cart around specific exhibition learning objectives. For San Diego Invites the World, visitors can better appreciate the 1915 Expo as the place to see the latest technology of the day through hands-on exploration of stereoscopes and stereo cards and by learning about the science behind 3D imagery. Visitors can also gain a deeper understanding of the historic architecture featured in the exhibition and learn about the process of creating the Expo buildings’ forms and façades through handling some of the raw materials and tools used in their construction. In January, look for our Curiosity Cart called Weather Whoas, which will focus on notable weather events in our past, such as the Big Freeze of 1913 and the Hatfield Flood of 1916, integrating local history with education-based STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) concepts.

Experience Night at the Museum!

The History Center is expanding its popular overnight programs for Girl Scouts! We now offer History Center Camp-Ins and Serra Museum Sleepovers year-round to individual troops and their leaders. At the History Center, celebrate the Centennial and mark the 100th anniversary of the 1915 Exposition. Through gallery exploration and character dress-up, discover the stories of the innovative women who played a role in shaping Balboa Park’s development. At the Serra Museum, take a journey back in time as we explore the historic site where “California began” and learn about the four cultures that lived here centuries ago. Storytelling, costume dress-up, a thematic meal, and an after-dark flashlight tour are included. For individual girls and their guardian, we offer two seasonal overnights. Our upcoming seasonal overnight at the Serra Museum takes place November 12-13, 2015, and costs $75/participant. For more information and to make a reservation, please visit www.sandiegohistory.org/scoutsprogram.

Lucia and Etienne Caputo of Ocean Beach learn about stereoscopes.
From Our Vaults: Zoological Society Articles of Incorporation

An important part of our Public Record Collection is the more than 7,000 Articles of Incorporation, dated primarily from 1869 to 1976. They are an invaluable source of information on early San Diego corporations, providing the original purposes behind their formation, the terms and conditions of their incorporation, and lists of the founding officers.

Particularly relevant for our upcoming exhibition *The Lore behind the Roar!*, we have the Articles of Incorporation of the Zoological Society of San Diego. The Society was incorporated on November 17, 1916, “for the study and promotion of zoology and natural history, and for the instruction, recreation and pleasure of the public.”

The originating trustees were all stalwart figures of San Diego civic life. Brothers Harry and Paul Wegeforth headlined the call for a society to develop a zoological garden. They drew in Dr. Fred Baker, Dr. J. C. Thompson (a U.S. Navy neurosurgeon), naturalist Frank Stephens, and Mayor Edwin M. Capps. Most notably from our perspective, San Diego Historical Society founder George W. Marston was also included in the endeavor, and thus began 100 years of research, conservation, and exhibition.

**Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient**

When working with researchers, we never know where their search is going to lead. Early last year, Bill Heard, Public Information Officer for the Miramar National Cemetery Support Foundation, requested help with information on deceased veteran Charles Schroeter. Schroeter immigrated to America from Germany in 1860 and spent most of the next 30 years in the military. While fighting the Indian Wars in Arizona Territory, he received the Congressional Medal of Honor. In 1919, he moved to San Diego where he died a few years later. Schroeter was cremated, but his ashes were never claimed, sitting abandoned in a community crypt until Bill Heard’s research led to their discovery in 2011.

After researching our archives of city directories, wills, probate records, local news papers, and local civil war groups’ records, we were able to provide information on Schroeter’s brief time in San Diego. He had made adequate provision in his will for “funeral expenses,” so the mystery remains as to why his ashes were never claimed. In July, I was honored to attend the final chapter of the story of Charles Schroeter, as he was buried with military honors at Miramar National Cemetery.

**San Diego History Center Document Archives**

**Donate Big This Holiday!**

Making a vehicle donation is free and easy. To make your donation today, call (844) SDCH CAR or visit sandiegohistory.org.
From Tagalog to Turkish: The History Center Is Multi-lingual

San Diego, like most American cities, is a melting pot of ethnicities and cultures, a place of promise. The San Diego History Center believes that everyone, regardless of their heritage and cultural experience, should be able to engage in the stories we tell about our local community. Now, thanks to our wonderfully diverse volunteers with an ear for languages, we are able to share our stories with this global community. Currently, the History Center has 20 foreign language speakers who are fluent in at least 10 different languages, including Dutch, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Mandarin Chinese, Spanish, Tagalog, and Turkish. In addition, we also have a native Hausa speaker, a Chadic language spoken primarily in African countries such as Ghana and Nigeria. These volunteers can be found in all departments, especially education, and are often heard helping visitors in their native language. This diversity allows the History Center to share our stories with visitors who might otherwise be unable to enjoy and engage with our dynamic exhibitions. Now we can offer general translation, enhanced school programs, and expanded tour offerings, as well as day-to-day assistance, in the many languages of our visitors.

What Pet Should I Get? Week

In July 2015, What Pet Should I Get?, the new book by San Diego’s most beloved resident, Dr. Seuss (Theodor Geisel), was released. With it came another opportunity for the San Diego History Center to apply the moral of one of Dr. Seuss’s books to a concrete family activity, showcasing our INGENIOUS! The World of Dr. Seuss exhibition and engaging our visitors at the same time.

The History Center partnered with the San Diego Humane Society for a week-long celebration devoted to making the right, and often difficult, decisions associated with responsible pet adoption and ownership as described in the Dr. Seuss book. Information kiosks in our Atrium shared tips and insights on adoption, nutrition, and pet selection. Half of the admission fees of visitors during the week were donated to the San Diego Humane Society, and visitors also had the opportunity to buy the newly released book.

The History Center raised more than $2,500 to support adoption and shelter programs for the Humane Society, and we created a new and valuable partnership with this 100+-year-old “Centurion” organization as well.

Learning Japanese American History through Art

In its new gallery space, the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego recently opened an exhibition of arts and crafts illustrating aspects of the history of this early immigrant group. Consisting of found objects and fine art created with crayons and newsprint during the World War II internment years, these objects reveal how the farming and fishing families used their meager leisure time to create items of beauty. Visitors can view the colorful and imaginative Western-style art created by or about community members. The materials the artists used range from charcoal, pastels, and crayons to worked gold and silver. In addition to many framed images, three-dimensional objects include sculpture, shadowboxes, and textiles. The exhibition opened on October 16, 2015, and will be available for viewing for approximately six months.

Book Your Holiday Party Now!
sandiegohistory.org/rentals
Calendar

November

12  Throwback Thursday Happy Hour ¡Viva la Revolución!: Reliving the Mexican Revolution, 6-8pm | $$ (21+ only)
13-14  Serra Sleepover: An After Dark In the Park Girl Scout Overnight, Juniper Serra Museum, 5pm, Fri to 9am, Sat | $$ (K)
14  Member Morning, 9-10:30am | FREE *
21  Balboa Park History Stroll, 11am | $
26  Closed for Thanksgiving
27-29  Member Holiday Shopping Days

December

4-5  December Nights, 5pm-9pm only | FREE (K)
7  Fashion Redux! 2015’s Top Designer, Stephanie Castro’s winning gown on display
10  Lecture & Book signing, History of Santa Claus in Balboa Park with author Bill Swank, 6-7:30pm
12-13  Member Holiday Shopping Days
19  Balboa Park History Stroll, 11am | $
25  Closed for Christmas
26  Lecture and Gallery Tour: Who Was Dr. Seuss? presented by Public Programs Manager, Gabe Selak. 10am & 12pm | $ (FM)
26,30  Seuss Inspired Family Crafts, Games, and storytelling, 11am-3pm | FREE with admission (K)
28,30  Seuss Matinee & Play. Crafts, Games and How The Grinch Stole Christmas (2000). 11am, 1pm, & 3pm | FREE with admission (K)
29  Seuss Matinee & Play. Crafts, Games and The Lorax (2012). 11am, 1pm, & 3pm | FREE with admission (K)

January 2016

15  Neil Shigley Art Exhibition opens
20  San Diego Weather Whoas! Pop-Up Exhibition opens
25-31  Hatfield Flood special programming. Watch for further announcements.

Join our online communities!
sandiegohistory.org

The TIMES Newsletter (USPS 331-890) is published quarterly by San Diego History Center 1649 El Prado, Ste 3, San Diego, CA 92101-1664. Periodical Postage Paid at San Diego, CA.

Postmaster:
Send address changes to:
The TIMES, 1649 El Prado, Ste 3
San Diego, CA 92101-1664.

Financial support is provided by the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture.

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