The History Center’s “Makers of San Diego History” gala provided an opportunity for members of San Diego’s Jewish community to congregate and celebrate their shared history and revel in their cumulative contributions to the region. Karen and Jeff Silberman provided the lead gift of $25,000 which was matched immediately by Jane and Tom Fetter, adding to the excitement. Adding to that, attendees contributed nearly $90,000 in a paddle raise opportunity to support the legacy project associated with the Celebrate San Diego! exhibition, the upcoming documentary film To the Ends of the Earth: The Jews of San Diego, which is scheduled for completion in February 2018.

The festive atmosphere was accentuated by a five-piece klezmer band, Hot Pstromi, a visit by San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer, and a screening of a 10-minute clip of the aforementioned film. But perhaps the most captivating part of the evening was the exhibition’s guest curator, Dr. Joellyn Zollman, recounting her experience tracking down the exhibition’s marquee object—a diary from the 1850s. Indescribably rare—and only on display until early September—it provides a glimpse inside the mind of a young Jewish woman who arrived in San Diego in the 1850s. “To have this piece in the exhibition offers visitors direct connection to the earliest days of San Diego’s Jewish population that few other things could,” said Zollman.

Thank you to all who attended and supported the San Diego History Center!

BY MATTHEW SCHIFF, MARKETING DIRECTOR
Our Executive Director, Bill Lawrence, has just completed his first fiscal year at the History Center. It’s my pleasure to announce the preliminary results of our latest fiscal year will show an unaudited surplus of $58,460. This reality is supported by the sale of a commercial property in La Mesa, which came to us from the estate of Richard Dyson in 2015, as well as a distribution from the estate of Virginia Warner. We are also awaiting distribution of two other significant bequests, which will help stabilize our financial situation. While these gifts are wonderful, it’s important to remember that they form the most appealing area of support, but absolutely vital to our survival.

The Give Forward admission policy, which Bill initiated last October, has contributed to a 157 percent increase in visitors compared to the year prior. Our image in the community is feel-good improving. This success is due, in part, to our Trustees, who have been very generous with their time and funds. John Moolenberk’s year-long promotion of the History Center at the San Diego Rotary Club was incredible, and Debby Parrish organized a very successful “Makers of San Diego History” gala. “It takes a village” they say, and ours includes a dedicated and capable staff, over 120 volunteers, and most importantly, our donors and members.

Thank you for the great year!

By Tom Setter, Board President

Board President’s Message

**Thank You!**

To Our History Center Programs and “To the Ends of the Earth” Documentary Film Supporters

Sam and Peter Wachmann
Cynthia and Mark Chamberlain
Denise and Tony Yousif
Even and Jen Warnock

$350-$999

Lynne and Michael Skirball
Margaret and Hillel Silverman
Molly and John Renfrew
Jehuda and Elisa Gellman
Joellyn and Ron Zollman

*Many donors listed above may be among the generous groups of supporters listed on our website.*

The San Diego History Center’s story of our region—and fosters civic pride. preserves our history and fosters civic pride.

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Support

**SIX-HANDS-ON NICHES TEACH KIDS THE HISTORIOGRAPHY OF HISTORY!**

Who is a San Diegan? Why is it important to know and understand our history? What do objects, photos, and documents say about our past? How have other children in San Diego made a difference in our community? These are just a few of the questions that will confront visitors to the History Center’s newest exhibition Marston’s History Emporium.

With an imaginative take on what a history emporium might look like, visitors will encounter seven stations, such as:

- **Kids Like Me?** Through a collage of children’s photos from the SDHC collection, historic toys, and a seek-and-find game, kids will learn if they share any similarities with children in the past.
- **We Who Have Lived Here** By digging through our archives, we have uncovered stories of little-known San Diegans, whom young visitors can learn about through documents, photos, and dress-up.
- **The Sights, Sounds (and Smells) of Old San Diego** This multi-sensory matching game teaches students about different industries from San Diego’s past.
- **History at Home** Kids can touch and play with everyday objects from the past, such as telephones, old tools, typewriters, and kitchen gadgets, as they explore a “living room,” “garage,” and “kitchen.”
- **Musical Instruments**
- **Mail Call** A National Postal Mail Exhibition curated and circulated by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service.
- **Part of the Patchwork:** Reflections of African American Life from the Archives (Through February 2018)
- **Legacy in Black**

**EXHIBITIONS**

**Celebrate San Diego! The History & Heritage of San Diego’s Jewish Community** (Extended through May 2018)

**Outside the Barbed Wire: Alternatives to Internment** (Throughout 2017 in the JADSO gallery)

**San Diego History Center**

**Part of the Patchwork:** Reflections of African American Life from the Archives (Through February 2018)


**Mail Call: A National Postal Mail Exhibition**

**Exhibitions**

**Balboa Park: The Jewel of San Diego**

**Inside Out (Ongoing)**

**Film Series**

**Balboa Park: The Jewel of San Diego**

**This exhibition is dedicated to Dr. Shelle and David Belenzon.**

**Support**

**SDHC’s Fine Art Collection**

**Sandiegohistory.org**

**Support**

**Our Mission**

- 1928, the San Diego Historical Society founded in Presidio Park at our other museum site, the Junipero Serra Museum. The founders of our organization envisioned a place where the region’s history could be archived, preserved, and accessible to help our staff interpret our past. Nine decades later, we’re convinced they would agree that this institution has, and continues, to serve that role.

To acknowledge this achievement and to express our commitment to the next 90 years, we will launch Phase II of the Serra Park Plan, transforming the Serra Museum’s main gallery and towers into fuller, more comprehensive and inclusive exhibitions that highlight the complex, human interactions that took place on the site, as well as the interplay between these activities and the life-source of early San Diego: the San Diego River. These initiatives have been in the planning stages for some time now, and we are invigorated by the prospect of putting the plans into action.

Lastly, the completion of the documentary film To the Ends of the Earth: The Jews of San Diego draws near, with a tentative debut set for the San Diego Jewish Film Festival in February 2018, as does the publication of a companion catalog to the exhibition Celebrate San Diego!

Be on the lookout for more exciting news, and remember you are a critical member of our team and your support ensures our success. Thank you.

By Bill Lawrence, Executive Director

**Executive Director’s Message**

**WHERE SAN DIEGO’S YOUTH DO THE WORK OF HISTORIANS**

Marston’s History Emporium

Where San Diego’s youth do the work of historians.
When the Junípero Serra Museum was constructed in 1928, architect William Templeton Johnson sought to project a certain spirit in its design. A 1962 article in The Journal of San Diego History stated: “So faithfully does the building capture its design. A 1962 article in Templeton Johnson sought to project a certain spirit in its design. It is evident from both events that the neglect of the Kumeyaay perspective and the historical biases that have created a Euro-centric narrative around the founding of San Diego have long been of concern to many in the historical community. The San Diego History Center was founded with a mission of preserving San Diego’s past. The past includes multiple voices and perspectives. We are seeking new collaborations in order to ensure that there are ample opportunities for these voices to be heard and perspectives presented at our two museums. We’re confident that the controversy that continues to surround the history of our region is an opportunity for growth and engagement for all.


BY MATTHEW SCHIFF, MARKETING DIRECTOR
Volunteer Retires after 23 Years

Originally from England, Muriel Strickland moved to San Diego in 1965. In 1994, recently retired from San Diego State University after 18 years as a map librarian, she started as a volunteer in the Document Archives, working with the map collection. Far from working only when she felt like it, Muriel worked an average of 20 hours each week for the next 23 years. In May 2017, her productive tenure at the San Diego History Center came to an end when Muriel finally retired. She has made an exceptional contribution to the organization and our understanding of the maps in the collection, and we are eternally grateful for her dedication and commitment.

Volunteers like Muriel are extremely vital to the San Diego History Center’s Research Archives. If you are interested in working with our collections, be sure to visit sandiegohistory.org/volunteer.

Quick action brings 16mm films into collection.

These Film Negatives are Positives!

Local historian, researcher, and former document archives volunteer Ellen Sweet and her husband, Melvin, have generously purchased a unique collection of films of 1930s San Diego with the express purpose of donating it to the History Center. Ellen consulted with me before making the purchase to ensure that it was a perfect fit for the collection.

“I immediately knew that these rare films from the private collection of newspaper photographer Harry Bishop belonged in the SDHC collection. Chris Travers helped with arrangements for the purchase. We are both excited to see these reels come to life. My husband and I are always willing to help support the photograph and document archives, for both preserve treasures and make them accessible to the public.”

The donation includes 44, 100-foot reels of 16 mm black-and-white silent footage that capture a variety of scenes and events, such as aquaplaning on Glorietta Bay, the Dorilee Dancers at Tent City, Johnny Miller’s autogiro aircraft at Ryan Field, a Julian rodeo, the USS Akron airship, a south-of-the-border prohibition-era beer party, and a car trip through the Southwest.

All of the films are original film negatives, which for preservation and study purposes will need to be transferred to digital. The History Center will apply for a National Film Preservation Foundation grant to clean and copy them. We offer our sincere thanks to Ellen and her husband for their generosity and quick action, which resulted in bringing these films here.

Exhibitions at the San Diego History Center come and go with the passage of time, but typically a legacy piece lives on. When Celebrate San Diego! closed in May 2018, a 60-minute documentary film will take its place, enduring as the mouthpiece communicating the history of the region’s Jewish history.

Titled To the Ends of the Earth: The Jews of San Diego, it will be the second of a four-part series of documentaries chronicling the Jewish experience in the American Southwest from filmmaker Isaac Artenstein. Through the common narrative of the American West, To the Ends of the Earth will emphasize the important, and often overlooked, role that Jews played in settling the region by focusing on San Diego and other Southwest communities. Given the Southwest’s historical and cultural relationship to the Spanish and Mexican West, the film also traces the community’s roots through Mexico to the Old World.

To the Ends of the Earth will premiere in February and will screen daily at the San Diego History Center in the 80-seat Thornton Theatre where it will be free to all visitors.

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A Legacy of Longevity

Documentary film preserves history and permanence of the region’s Jewish community.

To the Ends of the Earth: The Jews of San Diego

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Upcoming Events & Programs*

Building to the Next Level: Forum for Local History Groups
September 23, 8:30am - 12:30pm
A special morning for all area historical societies! This program will feature vital topics for developing your organization.

This year’s topics include:
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS
EVENT MANAGEMENT
COLLECTIONS

Maker Faire®
October 7 & 8
Maker Faire San Diego is a hands-on visual feast of invention and creativity and a celebration of the Maker movement in Southern and Baja California. Balboa Park is host to this celebration of technology, arts, craftsmanship, science, and the do-it-yourself (DIY) culture, this October. If you’re creative or like to tinker, this is your event.
Tickets: sandiego.makerfaire.com/tickets

Genealogy Day
October 21, 8:00am – 12:30pm
Don’t miss keynote speaker Dawn Parrett Thurston’s discussion “Breathe Life into Your Ancestors.” Event includes continental breakfast, breakout sessions, and everything you need to start your own family’s genealogy!

CO-SPONSORED BY: San Diego History Center and San Diego Genealogical Society
Tickets: $40 SDHC or SDGS Members; $50 Non-Members

Their Code Remained Unbroken: Navajo Code Talkers in their Own Words
November 8, 2017, 5:30pm reception; 6:30 film (San Diego History Center & Museum of Photographic Arts)
Don’t miss this first local screening of this newly released documentary. The film follows the return of six Navajo Code Talkers to five Pacific island sites where their unbreakable battlefield terminology, based on the unwritten Navajo language and the strategy to use it devised in San Diego, helped U.S. forces overcome fierce Japanese opposition during WWII.

*All events at the San Diego History Center unless otherwise specified.

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Mark your calendars!

Archtoberfest:
Plastic Mobility
October 10 at 6pm &
October 11 at 1:30pm
Archtoberfest is a month-long celebration of all things architecture, design, planning, and sustainability in San Diego. Join us for a special lecture by noted preservation architect Milford Wayne Donaldson FAIA, who presently serves as the Chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP).

Annual Meeting
October 25, 2017
6-8pm
SDHC Members, you are invited to attend the Annual Meeting and view the Board of Trustees elections. Enjoy an evening out of newly opened exhibitions and listen as Board Chairman Tom Fetter and Executive Director Bill Lawrence share highlights from the past year and preview upcoming museum projects. RSVP to both events at sandiegohistory.org/events.