
Heritage

El Cajon Historical Society Quarterly News

*Volume 22, Issue 4 October
2001*

Nominating Committee Taps Bender and Hatstrup to Lead Organization Next Year

Former Historical Society Board member Janie Bender has accepted nomination as President of our organization for the program year which will begin in January. Many of our members remember seeing Janie's talents at work during several past Christmas seasons at the Knox and with the highly successful and still well remembered doll show a few years ago. She is also the founder of Friends of East County Arts, a local arts support group we have worked with on a number of occasions.

The nominating committee also recommends the election of Meredith Hatstrup as Vice President. Meredith worked with mothers and daughters in the Sprites of East County organization to create our successful Junior Docent program three years ago, and will be a welcome addition to the 2002 Board.

Other nominees are Tammy Goodwater for the Recording Secretary post, Ellen Andersen as Corresponding Secretary, and Christy Klock as Treasurer. The committee also recommends that Janie Bender, Meredith

Hattrup, Rick Hall, and Fran Hill be elected to three year terms as Directors.

Current directors whose terms expire in 2003 and 2004 are Ellen Andersen, Judy Garrett, Christy Klock, Eldonna Lay, June Leck, Bill Murphy, Carla Nowak, and Jeanne Thacher.

This year's nominating committee, chaired by former President and current Board member Rick Hall, also recommends the election of Ellen Andersen, Rick Hall, Fran Hill, Christy Klock, and Russ Litchfield as the 2002 nominating committee.

Annual Meeting to Include Elections, Holiday Fun, Antiques Roadshow Tales

Long-time member Harriet Stockwell was one of the lucky folks in the local area able to participate in the "Antiques Roadshow" when

the popular television program visited San Diego on its six-city Summer tour this year. Many of you will remember that the hundreds of tickets, available only through Ticketmaster, were gone within minutes on the first day they became available. Harriet will be the featured speaker at our Annual Meeting and Election Wednesday evening, October 24th, at the El Cajon Community Center. She'll us how she was able to get a ticket and will share her memories and observations of the day's activities.

Registration, music, and social time will begin at 6:00. Dinner, priced at \$15 per person, will be at 6:30. The annual business meeting will include election of next year's officers and Board members, an annual financial report, and adoption of a budget for the 2002 budget year.

The Early American dinner buffet will be prepared by Cupid's Catering as a prelude to next month's Thanksgiving celebrations — turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, pumpkin pie, and lots more.

Whimsical table decorations will include pumpkins, Fall fruits, and Halloween treats to take home. Please reserve soon on the dinner reservation form included in this newsletter.

Bus Tour of Historic El Cajon Valley to be Rescheduled

August proved to be a busy month, indeed, as vacation plans and other commitments slowed registrations and led to the cancellation of

our inaugural bus tour of historic locations in El Cajon and the valley. Jim Graves and Jim Walters, co-narrators for the planned tour, have agreed to reschedule the event next Spring.

People who pre-paid for the August 11 tour are invited to stop by the Knox House for a copy of the "Bus and Auto Tour of Historical El Cajon," the Historical Society publication which the two Jims co-authored with Elizabeth Montgomery in 1998.

Watch your "Heritage" for the new date!

A Look Back

"... the wife who understands good management may usually so order her affairs that she can prepare an appetizing dinner without soil or stain to the neatest gown, and should she do this, her husband may without sacrifice of any manly prerogative assist her in its clearing away."

Winsome Womanhood. Margaret E. Sangster, 1900

"Past Perfect" Program Ready for use by Archivist, Board Members, Docents

A new computer has been purchased and installed in the Historical Society office at the Knox House and a copy of the highly recommended "Past Perfect" Museum Software has been ordered. When installed, the program will allow us to easily maintain our accession and collections records, membership records and billing statements, prepare research materials, and customize reports.

The computer program was paid for with a gift from the Sprites of East County, the mother/daughter philanthropic organization which has worked with us for three years in our Junior Docent program. We expect a number of the girls in the group to offer to help us with the computer work during the months and years ahead.

National Park Service Publishes Exhibit Conservation Guidelines

According to the lead author of the recently published Exhibit Conservation Guidelines, "the decision to put an object on exhibit is the decision to consume it." Telling his audience at a recent meeting of the California Association of Museums that "visitors are the agents of deterioration," he described the book written to help museums meet the dual goals of putting their collections on exhibit while protecting them from damage and decay.

The new resource guide developed by exhibit staff at the National Park Service presents an easily understandable framework for

incorporating conservation into the exhibition process. The 370-page book includes narrative text, technical notes, and detailed illustrations of benefit to exhibit designers at all experience levels.

On the Reading List

Like to learn more about those antiques and collectibles in your own homes? Try these four informative sources, all of which were chosen from the pages of the "Amazon.com" Internet bookstore.

Antiques Roadshow Primer. Carol Prisant, 1999, Workman Publishing. Photos, facts, details, lists of additional references.

Franciscan: An American Dinnerware Tradition. Bob Page and Dale Frederiksen, 1999, Replacements, Ltd., Greensboro, NC. Apple, Desert Rose, Ivy, more than 400 other patterns. The Illustrated Dictionary of Antiques and Collectibles. Judith Miller, October 2001, Bullfinch Press. Includes a crash course on finding appraisers and dealers, evaluating collections.

Treasures in Your Attic. Joe Rosson, Helaine W. Fendelman, Chris Jussel, 2001, Harper Collins Publishers. From the hosts of the popular PBS television series.

Membership Renewals to be in Your Mailboxes Soon

It's that time again . . .

Membership chair Dorothy Baber will mail renewal letters later this month asking current members to renew for 2002. Please remember that your support not only keeps you on the mailing list for the "Heritage" and special activities throughout the year, but gives you a discount on the purchase of our Knox House Museum tour video, a terrific Christmas present for friends and family.

Dorothy reports that we currently count 323 individuals in our several membership categories, and she asks us to welcome Jane Bender, Larry Chambers, Mr. and Mrs. Mark Robak, Antonia Slatten, and Ann Vincenty as new members.

We also welcome Katie Erreca and family as new lifetime members. Thank you, all!

St. Alban's Invites Participation in First Annual "Day of Antiquing"

With perfect timing for all of us who were disappointed in our attempt to obtain tickets to this Summer's "Antiques Roadshow" visit to San Diego, the Ladies Guild at St. Alban's Episcopal Church has organized its first annual

Appraisal Day & Antiques and Collectibles Auction.

The event will take place Saturday, October 27th, in the parish hall at 490 Farragut Circle and, weather permitting, outside in the garden.

Professional appraisers will be on site from noon until 4:00. Individuals will be charged \$5.00 per item appraised and are asked not to bring more than three items per visit.

An auction conducted by auctioneer Foy Price is scheduled from 6:00 until 9:00. Bidding numbers for participation in the auction will be sold for \$1.00 each. Antiques and collectibles dealers are welcome to set up booths for a \$25.00 participation fee. Refreshments will be available all day.

Our organization has been asked to participate in the event and a committee has chosen a number of items from our collection to add to the auction and sale. Rugs, Victorian underwear, and other items will be included. To include your own donations, please call Lou Toth at 442-0191.

Historical Society volunteers helping with the event include Lou, Madge Sperry, Eldonna Lay, Harriet Stockwell, Fran Hill, Christy Klock, Bea Heyenga, Rick Hall, and Dorothy Baber.

Please plan to participate in this new, exciting, and rewarding East County event!

Who Shares Space with us in the World Village?

In a commencement address to Washington University students last year, NAACP Chairman Julian Bond put the world's population into perspective, telling his audience

"If we can shrink the world's population to a village of only 100 people, keeping all existing ratios the same, that village would look like this: there would be 57 Asians, 21 Europeans, 14 from the Western Hemisphere — north and south — and 21 Africans; 52 would be female; 70 would be nonwhite and 30 white; 70 would be non-Christian and 30 would be Christian.

"Six of the 100 people would own 59 percent of all the wealth in the world, and all six of those people would be from the United States. Eighty of the 100 people would live in substandard housing. Seventy would be unable to read and write. Fifty would suffer from malnutrition. One would have a college education."

Wieghorst House Now Rests on Its New Foundation

Saturday, September 8th, was an exciting day in Mr. Knox's neighborhood as we watched the crew from Whillock Contracting, Inc. lower Olaf Wieghorst's old home to its new foundation at 131 Rea Avenue where it will become the focal point of the complex now open as the Olaf Wieghorst Museum and Western Heritage Center. Next steps on the property will include renovation of the house, landscaping, and reconstruction of the cantina and adobe wall.

Author Reminds us of Importance of Museums in the Greater Community

Robert Archibald, author of the remarkable book, *A Place to Remember: Using History to Build Community*, published in 1999 by AltaMira Press, has written a thought-provoking article in the current issue of "History News," the magazine of the American Association for State and Local History. Among his observations is the following:

"Museums are extraordinarily special places. They are among the institutions most trusted by Americans in a time of cynicism about many institutions. Museums are places of explanations, places that reflect what humans have and value. All museums examine the multitudinous ways in which people have explained the universe, existence, and themselves. We are enormous reservoirs of the possibilities of humanity for good and evil, beauty and ugliness, right and wrong choices, environmental sustainability, the wondrous diversity of life. We are places to evaluate the consequences of choices made by those who preceded us. And we are places to contemplate the weight of the choices we make for children we can never know who will be born into our places and inherit the legacy we leave, long after we are gone."

Later in the same article, Archibald tells us "[I] know that museums can contribute to the identification and implementation of long-term solutions to short-term crises. [I] know we can fix

schools, ameliorate poverty, subdue violence, reinvigorate community life, expand definitions of justice, plan more livable places, emphasize quality of life over quantity, buttress families. We know that we merely lack consensus about the appropriate solutions. It is not a question of means; it is a question of what we value in common. And what are museums if not places that engender exploration of values?

“... Museums must be proactive community partners, places of discussion, facilitators of dialogue. They must be institutions recognizing that it takes inclusive community dialogue about things that really matter for the foundation of community consensus to emerge and be the touchstone of better places for all, present and future. And it is not a consensus that can be imposed; rather it must evolve from unceasing conversation among all who have a stake in the outcome.

“We must . . . redefine ourselves as places of context and continuity with other places, other people, other times, other choices, and other ideas.”

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27TH

**ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES
EXTRAVAGANZA!**

APPRAISALS AND SALES: NOON - 4:00 P.M.

AUCTION: 6:00 - 9:00 P.M.

**ST. ALBAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
490 FARRAGUT CIRCLE, EL CAJON**

SALES ITEMS AND AUCTION DONATIONS NEEDED!

FOR FEES AND OTHER INFORMATION,

CALL LOU TOTH AT 442-0191

OR MADGE SPERRY AT 448-6128

CO-SPONSOR: THE EL CAJON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Inside Back Page

“There is a history in all men’s lives.”

by Judy Garrett, President

The appalling events of September 11th robbed us not only of people and of buildings, they cheated us of history and of memories yet to be created. Not the history of investments, of business agreements, or of legal transactions — many of those records had duplicate copies on other computers or in other filing cabinets, often in other buildings or in other cities. What we lost on September 11th was the collective wisdom and spirit of more than 6,000 people in New York City, in Pennsylvania, and in

Arlington, Virginia, who represented the American experience at its best. People of all ages, from dozens of ethnic groups and nationalities, newcomers and long-time residents, parents and children, friends and strangers.

We will never again have the opportunity to know any of them except through indirect sources and through other people's stories. Their children and grandchildren will never again have the opportunity to interview them for school reports or to hear those "when I was your age" tales. Their family histories will remain unwritten. The family antiques passed to new owners will be missing some of the accompanying memories age and time should have provided.

Among the people who died that day may have been the next Albert Einstein, the next Jonas Salk, the next Winston Churchill, or the next Bob Hope. Among the people who died that day were good friends, good neighbors, good parents, good children, and good employees.

As historians, we will record the events of the day as part of life's continuum. As individuals, we will remember personal stories of courage and strength, of love and loss, of grief and comfort. Will we also remember to record those stories for future generations? Will we honor Shakespeare's observation that "there is a history in all men's lives?" Shall we now renew our efforts to collect the memories of relatives, friends, neighbors, and strangers in our own communities whose reflections can teach us about the past, about the present, and about ourselves?

Shall we now emphasize the role of museums and historical societies as repositories of the knowledge and experience of hundreds of generations, as focal points for a continuing dialogue, and as centers for opportunities to increase our awareness and our understanding of contemporary society?

*History is the witness that testifies to the passing of time;
it illumines reality, vitalizes memory,
provides guidance in daily life, and brings us tidings of antiquity.*

Cicero, 106-43 B.C.

On the Calendar

Wednesday, October 24 – El Cajon Historical Society Annual Meeting and Election. 6:00 p.m., Community Center, 195 E. Douglas Avenue. (Registration information in this newsletter.)

Knox House Museum hours:

12:30 - 3:30 p.m. Thursdays and Saturdays
Heritage is published quarterly for members and friends of the El Cajon Historical Society. Send comments and materials for publication to the El Cajon Historical Society, P.O. Box 1973, El Cajon, CA 92022-1973.
Phone: (619) 444-3800.

Saturday, October 27 – Antiques and Collectibles Extravaganza. St. Alban’s Episcopal Church, 490 Farragut Circle. Appraisals 12 - 4, show and sale 12 - 4, auction 5 - 9. (See article in this newsletter.)

Sunday, October 28 – First Annual “Fall Back Festival” Historic Children’s Street Fair. 11 - 4, Gaslamp Quarter, Fifth and Island Avenues. A celebration of life in late 1800s San Diego. Entertainment, pumpkin patch, food, tours, hay rides, demonstrations, and more.

President	Judy Garrett
Vice President	June Leck
Recording Secretary	Carla Nowak
Corresponding Secty.	Ellen Andersen
Treasurer	Christy Klock
Editor	Judy Garrett

If you are not now a member and would like to join, please stop by the museum for an application or leave a message for us at 444-3800 and we will be happy to send one to you.

El Cajon Historical Society
P.O. Box 1973
El Cajon, CA 92022 - 1973

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