



# Santa Monica History Museum A SANTA MONICA TREASURE NEWSLETTER

November 2015

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## MUSEUM CALENDAR

- **Free, Hands on History**  
Saturday, November 21, 2015  
11am – 12pm
- **Free, Hands on History**  
Saturday, December 19, 2015  
11am – 12pm

## HOLIDAY CLOSURES

- **November 25, CLOSING at 1pm**
- **November 26 – 28 CLOSED**
- **December 23 – 26 CLOSED**
- **December 31, 2015 CLOSING at 4pm**
- **January 1 - 2, 2016, CLOSED**

- **Free, Hands on History**  
Saturday, January 16, 2016  
11am – 12pm
- **Free, Hands on History**  
Saturday, February 20, 2016  
11am – 12pm

## THE SANTA MONICA HISTORY MUSEUM CELEBRATES ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY!



Museum's Morley Builders Research Library

Founded under the Historical Activities Committee of the Santa Monica Centennial Celebration in 1975, the Santa Monica History Museum is a "Santa Monica Treasure." Originally known as the Santa Monica Historical Society, it was designated as the official collector and preserver of the history, art, and culture of the Santa Monica Bay Area.

The Society's historical collections grew tremendously during the first ten years with artifacts, memorabilia, and photos donated by descendants of land grantees and pioneers of Santa Monica. Lacking the resources to share this history with the public, the Society sought the help of Louise and Bob Gabriel, who had been active in the community for years and had a strong love for Santa Monica and its history. The Gabriels took on the challenge and responsibility to make the museum a reality.

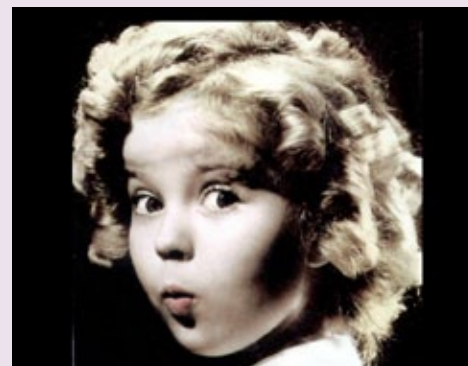
Within three years, the determination, perseverance, and countless hours of work paid off and the Santa Monica History Museum was founded in 1988. Originally opened in a temporary, rent-free location on Colorado Avenue, the museum relocated several times. Thanks to the City of Santa Monica, the Museum now has a permanent home on the Main Library Campus on 7th Street.

The museum's historical collections are comprised of over one million items including the personal historical collection of Senator John P. Jones, co-founder of Santa Monica; archives of the Santa Monica Outlook Newspaper (1875-1998); Henshey's, Santa Monica's first

department store; Santa Monica Bank; Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce; Charles Tegner, business pioneer, and photo collections of well-known photographers Bill Beebe, Bob Smith, George Tate, Justine Hill, and author Fred Basten.

The museum has six galleries and a research library which was generously sponsored by Mark Benjamin of Morley Builders. Its beautiful design is attributed to architect Kristina Andresen. The splendid tile and stone work throughout the museum was generously donated by Bourget Bros. Building Materials.

*Continued on Page 5*



## SHIRLEY TEMPLE

**Relive the magic of Love, Shirley Temple!**

Turn to page 4 for photos and information about the spectacular exhibit that visited the museum in June.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Louise Gabriel**

President/CEO & Founder

**Ricardo Bandini Johnson, Chair**

Bandini Foundation

**Rob Schwenker, Vice Chair**

Santa Monica Daily Press

**Susan Gabriel Potter, Secretary**

Bob Gabriel Co. - Insurance

**Jeffrey H. Haskett, Treasurer**

Cohen & Bender Accountancy Corp

**Eddie Guerboian, Past Chair**

Readers Fine Jewelers

**Judi Barker**

Barker Hangar - SM Air Center

**Becky Upchurch**

Santa Monica Bay Woman's Club

**Terri Decker**

Chase Bank

**Dr. Michelle Christie**

No Limits for Deaf Children

**Annette Doss**

UCLA Film & Television Archives

## EX-OFFICIO

**Kristina Andresen, AIA**

Andresen Associates Architects

**Larry Balmagia**

Television Writer, Producer, Teacher

**Misti Kerns**

SM Convention & Visitors Bureau

**Richard Lawrence**

National Bank of California

**James Parr, Jr.**

Certified Public Accountant

**Mary Ann Powell**

Pacific Park - Santa Monica Pier

**Kathleen Rawson**

Downtown Santa Monica, Inc.

**Laurel Rosen**

SM Chamber of Commerce

**Robert M. "Bob" Gabriel**

Emeritus Posthumous/Museum Co-founder

**Dr. John E. Gilmore**

Emeritus Posthumous

**John M. Bohn**

Emeritus Posthumous

## STAFF

**Kathryn Evans, MPP**

Development and Museum Manager

**Sara Crown**

Archivist

**Marc Wanamaker**

Film Consultant

**Ricardo Bandini-Johnson**

Historian

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE 2015



**Greetings Everyone!**

This is a very exciting time as we celebrate our museum's 40th anniversary and years of service to the community. Our organization was founded October 8, 1975, so our celebration will continue until October 2016.

I would like to convey my thanks and gratitude to all those who have contributed to the success of our museum through the years. Our membership, especially those who have been members for over 30 years, donors, businesses, organizations, foundations, and those who gave in-kind services. Special thanks also to our very dedicated Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers. With everyone's support and help our museum has grown tremendously and continues to flourish.

I would like to honor the memory of my husband Bob Gabriel who worked tirelessly supporting the museum for years.

As we are approaching a new year, please take a moment to renew your membership for 2016 today. If you are not a member, we welcome you to join our museum and be part of our history family.

Our best wishes to each of you in the coming holidays and good health and happiness in the new year.

Sincerely,

Louise (Mrs. Bob Gabriel)  
President

P.S. If you have items you would like to loan or donate to our museum's permanent exhibit, please contact our archivist, Sara Crown at 310-395-2290 or email: [scrown@santamonicahistory.org](mailto:scrown@santamonicahistory.org).

P.P.S. Special thanks to Richard Orton for our newsletter redesign! We hope you enjoy it.



### Need Gift Ideas?

Looking for unique gift ideas this holiday season? Check out our gift shop!

- Locally designed jewelry
- High-quality art prints
- Matted photos of Santa Monica landmarks and history books
- Something for everyone on your list!

Visit us today – don't forget, members receive a **10% discount** on all gift shop purchases.

**There is no charge to visit the Gift Shop!**



### Shop at Ralph's?

Register your Ralph's card online at [www.ralphs.com](http://www.ralphs.com) by clicking on Community.

Choose the Santa Monica History Museum and Ralph's will donate a portion of your purchases back to the museum!

**RAFFLE  
PATRICK'S  
ROADHOUSE**



Return the membership form (see Back Cover) by January 15th to be entered into a drawing for one of

**Two \$50 gift certificates to Patrick's Roadhouse Restaurant.**



## MEET OUR NEW STAFF



### Kathryn Evans, Development and Museum Manager

Kathryn Evans joined the museum in September and brings with her experience in non-profit fundraising, event planning, and volunteer management. She has a bachelor's in history from San Jose State University and a master's in public policy from USC. Originally from Northern California, Kathryn has lived in Los Angeles for about 6 years. She loves to travel, cook, bake, and craft/sew.



### Licia Hurst, Consultant

Licia Hurst began working with the museum in July and brings extensive experience in nonprofit educational, cultural, and arts institutions. She received her master's degree from UCLA in library and information science and holds a bachelor's degree in comparative literature from Harvard University. Born in California and raised on the East Coast, she moved to Los Angeles from New York five years ago with her husband and two children. She loves books, movies, traveling, and of course, the beach.



### Cielo Amezcua, Administrative Volunteer

Cielo Amezcua joined the museum in June 2015, she is originally from Mazatlan, Mexico and has experience in sales, public relations and customer service. She has a bachelors in Interior Design and loves to travel, paint, going to the movies and spending time with family and friends.



### Sara Crown, Archivist

Sara Crown joined the museum in October and brings experience in both corporate and non-profit archives. She has earned graduate degrees in Library Science and Art History from Pratt Institute in New York and a bachelor's degree in Art History from Scripps College in Claremont, California. Sara was raised in Carmel Valley and Massachusetts, but her mother and grandparents are Santa Monica natives. She was recently married and moved back to Santa Monica from New York City. She enjoys reading, visiting art exhibits, playing tennis, and hiking with her dog.

## MUSEUM HAPPENINGS



Above: Photo courtesy of Diane Margolin/Santa Monica Star

### Hands on History

Hands on History workshops are back at the museum! Join us on the third Saturday of each month from 11am – 12pm for an engaging history lesson and related activity geared toward families with children ages 5 and older. Centered on a different historical topic each month these workshops are a fun-filled learning hour at the museum!

Right: School Classroom Arrives at Museum for a Tour.





## LOVE, SHIRLEY TEMPLE EXHIBIT

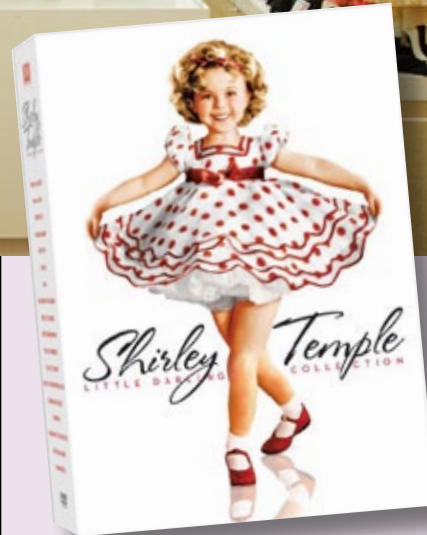


Santa Monica History Museum was one of only five museums in the world chosen by Shirley Temple's children to display their mother's personal childhood collection prior to being sold at auction in the Love, Shirley Temple exhibit in June. Within one week, our exhibit was viewed by over two-thousand people. A special VIP preview event was attended by members, the media, various local, city, and state officials, and celebrities including former childhood stars, Jane Withers, Margaret O'Brien, and Jerry Mathers. Also attending were two of Shirley Temple's children, Charles Black Jr. and Judy Black Falaschi.

Our gratitude to our fantastic exhibit event committee: Terri Decker – Chair, Judi Barker, Susan Gabriel Potter, Annette Doss, Michelle



Actress Jane Withers and SMHM President Louise Gabriel enjoy the exhibit opening.



Christie, Louise Gabriel, and Kris Andresen. Special thanks to Magdalena Davis for helping organize the wonderful volunteers and Mary Ann Powell and Jeff Klocke of Pacific Park, Santa Monica Pier for their very generous donation and support.

Starting February 2016, we'd like to honor and celebrate Shirley Temple's birthday each year with a special permanent exhibit.

Our exhibition will feature a number of items won by our members (including Louise Gabriel, Bob and Nancy Ramsey, and Susan Gabriel Potter) from Theriault's auction. We are excited to display Temple's prized iconic red polka dot dress from "Stand Up And Cheer", the Good Ship Lollipop dress worn in "Bright Eyes", several other film outfits, posters, her birth certificate, as well as photos of Shirley with President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Eleanor Roosevelt.



Audience enjoys a lecture at the Love, Shirley Temple Exhibit including actress Margaret O'Brien in pink.



Exhibit volunteers.



Santa Monica Mayor Pro Tempore Tony Vazquez chats with Susan Black Falaschi and Judi Barker.



SMHM President Louise Gabriel and Susan Black Falaschi sharing proclamations from the City with Charles Black, Jr. and Terri Decker, exhibit chair.



# ANNUAL GALA TRIBUTE DINNER

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Becky Upchurch, President of SMBWC receives award for the Santa Monica Bay Women's Club's 110th anniversary from Rob Schwenker.

The Santa Monica History Museum's Annual Gala Tribute Dinner held at the Casa del Mar Hotel in September was a memorable and fun event! The evening included a fabulous silent auction, entertainment and a dance through history featuring the lively and creative dancers from the Pretender's Studio.

Among the guests were Mayor Kevin McKoeown, Mayor Pro-Tempore, Tony Vazquez, Senator Ben Allen, and representatives for Congressman Ted Lieu, Assembly member Richard Bloom, Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, and Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti. Larry Balmagia, television writer and producer, gave historical facts with films about Santa Monica and an inspiring reenactment of the sale of the first lots in Santa Monica, which sold for between \$75 and \$500.

**Eddie and Evelyn Guerboian** were honored for their long history of giving back to the community. Major birthdays were celebrated for the City of Santa Monica's 140th, Santa Monica History Museum's 40th, and the Santa Monica Bay Woman's Club's 110th. Candles on a decorated sheet cake were blown out by the celebrants and elected officials while balloons were launched in the air. Everyone joined in the joyful celebration.

**The Event was a Big Success** thanks to the efforts of Monika White, committee and event chair, Rob Schwenker, emcee, and the remarkable and talented committee members comprised of Judi Barker, Becky Upchurch, Susan Gabriel Potter, Melissa MacFadyen, Evelyn Guerboian, Louise Gabriel, Becky Mejia, Sharon Kanan, Donna Byrd, Magdalena Davis, and Lisa Gumeneck.



Ballroom filled with people and launched balloons.



Ricardo Bandini Johnson, board chair, receives award for Santa Monica History Museum's 40th birthday with Rob Schwenker.



Eddie and Evelyn Guerboian, distinguished honorees.



Mayor McKoeown receives an award for the City's 140th birthday from Rob Schwenker.



Monika White, Gala Chair (right), and her sister Gitta Morris (left).

*Continued from Page 1*

With over six hundred thousand rare photographs, the museum has one of the largest collections in Southern California. The museum serves people of all ages, is handicapped accessible, and offers tours, exhibits, special events, lectures, children's workshops, and research services.

The museum's major projects include a six year effort which saved Santa Monica's first brick building and original City Hall, aka Rapp Saloon, from demolition and subsequently designated a landmark; sponsored the first architectural dig in Ocean Park, co-sponsored by UCLA, that revealed three thousand artifacts; and co-sponsored the monument of Arcadia Bandini de Baker, wife of Santa Monica co-founder Colonel Robert S. Baker, which stands in the Rose Garden in Palisades Park.

The museum has held many community events over the years including art and essay contests for students; the "Bi-Centennial

of Flight" with General Jimmy Doolittle and Donald Douglas Jr. and a "Salute to Astronaut Sally Ride" at the Miramar Hotel; the "Centennial Celebration for Stan Laurel" of Laurel and Hardy who lived in Santa Monica; three "Community Fun Festivals", co-sponsored by the Donald Douglas Museum, at the Santa Monica Airport; and a Centennial Celebration for the Santa Monica Fire Department.

Some of the museum's well received exhibits have covered Lawrence Welk, Marion Davies, The Outlook Newspaper, "Life At The Miramar", the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium, Santa Monica Fire Department's 125th Birthday, the Aero Theatre's 75th Anniversary, and the much beloved Shirley Temple.

Thank you for being a friend of the Santa Monica History Museum! We look forward to 40 years (and many more!) together preserving, protecting, and promoting the rich history of Santa Monica!

## SANTA MONICA ROAD RACES RE-LIVED



1909. The course of the two-man race cars covered San Vicente Boulevard, Ocean Avenue and Wilshire Blvd.

**Many Thanks to the Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows** for sponsoring the Road Races Event to benefit our Santa Monica History Museum. It was a rare opportunity to view an original 1911 Road Race Car on display owned by Brian Blain, which raced in the very first Indy-500. Guests were delighted taking turns sitting in the car and taking photos. The evening included a presentation of the history of Road Races in Santa Monica,



Susan & Pat Potter sitting in an original 1911 road race car with the owner Brian Blain and his wife.

film and photo display by Harold Osmer, noted motor-historian and author. Susan Gabriel Potter emceed the program. A unique auction was conducted by Eddie Guerboian.

### Road Race History

An estimated 50,000 people turned out on July 10, 1909 to watch two-dozen entrants run the inaugural race. The Start/Finish line was on Ocean Avenue. The course ran along Ocean Avenue (then called Nevada Avenue)



Harold Osmer, noted motor-historian and author, donated a DVD of the early road races to our museum.

to the Old Soldier's Home (now the Veterans' Administration) then back down towards the ocean on San Vicente Boulevard. Los Angeles wanted to increase its population and tried to annex Santa Monica which had a small population but the Road Race was so popular that people came from many states and became residents, which kept Santa Monica an independent city.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



Volunteers Magdalena Davis and Brittney Rae at the Gala Tribute Dinner.

### Volunteer opportunities

Want to get involved with the museum? We're looking for committed volunteers for projects including:

- Research & Collections
- Teaching & Tours
- Visitor & Events Services
- Marketing & Outreach

Please contact us today!

(310) 395-2290 or

kevans@santamonicahistory.org

### Get involved on committees

Looking to get more involved with the museum? We could use your help on one of our committees! The following committees are looking for members:

- Educational Tours & Events
- Exhibits
- Marketing & Publicity
- Membership

If you're interested, please email.

louisegabriel@santamonicahistory.org

## VOLUNTEERS

Our dedicated volunteers are an important part of our museum. From archiving photos to providing research services to being a welcoming face for guests – they help keep our museum running! We sincerely thank the following volunteers for all that they do!

Art Benware	Chrysoula
Cecilia Brine	Kapelonis
Michael Burton	Ellen Kashan
Justin Cheng	Rashell Khan
Karina Coltun	Grace Loekman
Sasha	Shelley Meena
Coltun-Shneider	Becky Mejia
David Conteras	Aaron Norona
Kari Czer	Richard Orton
Rebekah Drew	Joshua Reed
Susan Efteland	Benjamin Salin
JJ Englender	Isabelle Shinn
Ayesha Haas	Shigeko Tachiki
Kieran Henaghen	Carolyn Taffel
Anna Marie Howell	Alexandra Trujillo
Thun Hten Win Swe	Talor Tulchin



# MURDER AT THE ARCADIA? ALMOST.



Griffith J. Griffith donated the land for Griffith Park.

## Attempted Murder at Arcadia Hotel

Santa Monica's first luxury hotel was the four-story beautiful Arcadia Hotel. In 1903, Col. Griffith J. Griffith, (Griffith Park) and his wife Mary were vacationing at the hotel. One day, after heavy drinking, besides being paranoid, Griffith confronted his wife whom he disagreed with about religious matters and was convinced that she was in a league with the Pope and the Church to poison him so she could turn all his money over to the Catholics.

Griffith held a gun to her head and told her to kneel and pray as he was about to shoot her. She jerked her head to flee and the bullet went through her left eye. She screamed in terror and dragged herself through a window onto a veranda below and into another room.

The hotel manager heard her screams for help and answered her call. He prevented Griffith from doing more harm. Griffith insisted that his wife accidentally shot herself. After Marv fought for her life and the loss of one

eye, a trial was held.

Griffith was convicted of attempted murder and was sentenced to two years in prison at San Quentin. In November 1904, Mrs. Griffith was given a divorce on the grounds of cruelty and awarded custody of her 16 year old son. The Arcadia Hotel's 22 year life ended in 1909 when it was torn down. Today, Loews Santa Monica Beach Hotel stands on the site.

## MUSEUM'S AERO THEATER EXHIBIT NOW RUNNING



Roy Cummings, then manager of the Aero, showing a film strip to members of the State Guard in front of the theatre.

On January 30th, 2015, the Aero Theatre celebrated its 75th anniversary and the 10th anniversary of the Cinematheque's stewardship. The Aero is one of the few remaining single-screen neighborhood theatres in the Los Angeles area.

The Aero Theatre's history begins in 1939 with Donald Wills Douglas, aviation pioneer.

Douglas decided to invest in real-estate on Montana Avenue in Santa Monica. The \$45,000 development included a movie theatre and five stores in an area covering 100-by-100-feet. The architect, R.M. Woolpert, designed the structure in a French-Norman style. Construction began in 1939 and was completed 60 days later. It was named Aero as a reference to the aerospace industry.

In the 1940's the theatre showed double-features of second-run films that changed three times a week. Admission was 20 cents for adults and 10 cents for children. The Aero changed hands over the years. The current owners are James S. Rosenfield, a retail real-estate developer who lived near the theatre and was fond of it, and his Chicago based partner, John Bucksbaum, who purchased the theatre on November 8, 1997.

Below: Sue Slutzky, exhibit designer, in 75th anniversary Aero Theater exhibit.



## THE AERO EXHIBIT

The exhibit features early photographs of the Aero including photos of its 75th anniversary celebration and rare movie posters.

# BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

## MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP ALSO MAKES A GREAT HOLIDAY GIFT!



Please remember the Santa Monica History Museum in your will and trust too.

### Membership Benefits Include

- Newsletters
- 10% off all purchases in the gift shop
- Invitations to special presentations, lectures, programs & events
- Free admission to the Museum
- Free access to the Morley Builders Research Library
- **And so much more!**

### Membership Levels

- ☐ Individual: \$40
  - ☐ Household (2 members at same address): \$50
  - ☐ Each additional member at same address: \$5
  - ☐ Organization: \$50
  - ☐ Students (up to age 18): \$5
  - ☐ Sponsor: \$60
  - ☐ Patron: \$100
  - ☐ Business: \$200 or more
  - ☐ Life: \$500
  - ☐ Life/Business: \$1000
  - ☐ Special Gift: \$\_\_\_\_\_
- memberships above \$40 may include two individuals at the same address*
- ☐ I have photographs/materials to donate/loan
  - ☐ I wish to participate on a committee/event
  - ☐ I wish to be a volunteer
  - ☐ I wish to make a donation

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Telephone

Email

Please make your check payable to:

Santa Monica History Museum, PO Box 3059, Santa Monica, CA 90408

Telephone: 310-395-2290 (please phone for credit card payment)



### Santa Monica History Museum

1350 7th Street

Santa Monica, CA 90401

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 3059

Santa Monica, CA 90408

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## CONTACT US

Telephone:  
(310) 395-2290

Email:  
info@santamonicahistory.org

Website:  
www.santamonicahistory.org

Facebook:  
www.facebook.com/santamonicahistorymuseum

Twitter:  
twitter.com/smhistorymuseum