**THE OLD SOLDIERS’ HOME:**
**A VETERANS’ COMMUNITY BY THE SEA**

The Santa Monica History Museum is proud to present The Old Soldiers’ Home: A Veterans’ Community by the Sea exhibition. On display now through Wednesday, January 18, 2017, visitors are invited to view documents, photographs, military uniforms, and other artifacts that bring to life the storied history of veterans in our community.

Established by Congress on land deeded from Arcadia Bandini de Baker, Senator John P. Jones, and John Wolfskill, the site for the Pacific Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers and Sailors (as it was then known) was selected for its “climate and hygiene” from more than 60 other possible locations – including the entirety of Santa Catalina Island. Early advertising for nearby land in the Sawtelle community lauded the site selection and praised the area as “the perfect locale for veterans.” Veterans showed their support, too. Before any structures could be built, a Civil War veteran, Private George Davis, not willing to put up with another New York winter, became the first resident of the new home by taking up residence in a tent on the grounds. Not long after, a group of veterans from the California State Veterans Home in Yountville showed up on foot – they had marched 500 miles to become residents of the new facility.

A fixture of the Santa Monica and Los Angeles landscape for nearly 130 years the Old Soldiers’ Home, as it was once known, has been and still is the site of many iconic buildings. Architect Stanford White designed the original Shingle continued on Page 4

**MUSEUM CALENDAR**

**Saturday, November 19, 2016**
11am – 12pm
*Free: Hands on History*

**Thursday, December 8, 2016**
12pm – 8pm
*Free Admission Day*
*Holiday Open House*

**Saturday, December 17, 2016**
11am – 12pm
*Free: Hands on History*

**Thursday, January 12, 2017**
12pm – 8pm
*Free Admission Day*

**Saturday, January 14, 2017**
11am – 12pm
*Hands on History*
*Free*

Old Soldiers’ Home Exhibit Closes
Wednesday, January 18, 2017

Girl Scout Exhibit Opens
Tuesday, January 24, 2017

**Holiday Closures**

November 24 – November 28
December 24 – December 26
December 31 – Museum Closes at 2pm

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**Giving Tuesday**

When it seems like the holiday season has become over-commercialized, Giving Tuesday brings us back to the spirit of the season – giving. Last year 700,000 people from 70 countries across the globe donated $116,000,000 million dollars on Giving Tuesday. We hope you’ll save the date and join us for this year’s Giving Tuesday. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter, and look for our emails in your inbox to learn how you can get involved on November 29th.
Greeting everyone!

This has been an incredible year for our museum. Our membership has increased markedly as well as museum attendance. We thank all those who joined and maintaining members for your dedicated support which enables us to carry out our many educational and preservation programs for youth and adults and countless accomplishments benefiting our community and its residents. Celebrities participating in our programs over the years include actress June Lockhart; film producers Ken Wales and Dennis Day; TV host Stephanie Beacham's birthday event; Shirley Temple's family and co-stars; TV writer/producers Larry Bungum, and other renovations. We are honored to have such prestigious guests in our museum.

Best wishes,

Louise (Mrs. Bob) Gabriel President

The Museum Gift Shop, THE place for unique gift ideas this holiday season. From locally designed jewelry and high-quality art prints to matted photos of Santa Monica landmarks and history books, we have something for everyone on your list.

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

Welcome New Members

We love our members! We’d like to welcome the following new members to the Santa Monica History Museum family:

- Joan Abraham
- Monet Bruck*
- Phil Bruck*
- Carmel Carbine
- Diane Citron
- Rick Cole
- Sara and Felix Crown
- Spring de Haviland
- Margarette de la Pena
- Geraldine de la Pena
- Jan Foote
- Roger Gener
- Blaine Gorenik
- Joan Kaptan
- John and Marty King
- Marty Liboff
- Jerry Liboff
- Kevin Mardigan
- Howard Membach
- Jacqueline Morin
- David and Margarette de la Pena
- Sabrina Mamurad*
- Michael Murphy
- Adrienne Osmansky
- Susan Pinksy
- April Rocha
- Jacki Sheets
- Sharon Sussman
- Colleen Thomsen
- Melissa
- Eric Tannenbaum
- Margaret
- Darin Bach
- Lisa Bach
- Terri de la Pena
- Monica Faulkner
- Anna Marie Howell

*Indicates Life Member

Happenings at the History Museum

- Shirley Temple Lecture 1: Discover the history lecture with speakers Marilyn Granas and Marilyn Knowlton moderated by Woolsey Ackerman.
- Shirley Temple Lecture 2: Discover the history lecture with Francine York moderated by Lyle Gregory.
- Hands on History Children’s Program: Children gathered in the gallery for a Hands on History lesson.
- Santa Monica College Tour: Sara Crown, Archivist, gives tour to Dr. Sang Chi’s history class from Santa Monica College.
- Notes for Notes Tour: Notes for Notes youth enjoyed a tour of the museum focusing on music in Santa Monica.
- History Keepers: Traversing Los Angeles: This August, the Museum participated in a transportation exhibit hosted by the California Historical Society and LA as Subject. Approximately thirty institutions loaned a diverse collection of items, including a wall-size map of early Los Angeles rail lines and a traveling trunk used by Tiburcio Álvarez, a bandit known for his Robin Hood-like ways.
- Visit from City Manager Rick Cole: City Manager, Rick Cole visits the Santa Monica History Museum with (left to right) Sara Crown, Archivist, Kathryn Evans, Development and Museum Manager, Sue Potter, Board Member, Rob Schwenker, Board Chair, Terri Decker, Board Vice Chair, and Eddie Guerboian, Past Board Chair.

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Preserving Our Legacy

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Preserving Our Legacy
In August the museum added the steering wheel from the notorious Rex gambling ship to its permanent exhibit. The Rex gambling ship was the brainchild of bootlegger and gambling entrepreneur, Tony Cornero. In 1937 Cornero purchased the then-named Star of Scotland, renamed the ship the Rex, and set about a bow-to-stern renovation to transform the ship into his floating pleasure palace. On May 5, 1938, anchored three and one-half miles from the Santa Monica shoreline (purportedly in international waters), well within view of land, the Rex opened for business and became an instant success.

Guests flocked to the Rex for its promise of grandeur and illicit entertainment. In addition to gambling, Cornero and the Rex offered dancing, drinking, and dining -- a five course meal could be had for $1.25, $1.50 for a deluxe menu. Water taxis ran regularly bringing enthusiastic patrons out to sea to happily part with their money. The Rex was short-lived and soon became mired in legal battles spearheaded by then-Attorney General Earl Warren, which led to the “Battle of Santa Monica Bay” and the eventual demise of the Rex and gambling in Santa Monica. Visit the museum to learn more about this fascinating story of entrepreneurship, vice, and the triumph of law and order in Santa Monica Bay.

The exhibit details the history of the Old Soldiers’ Home, the ways in which it has evolved over the years from a round style during WWI, to the rectangular dog tags have evolved over the years from removed for identification purposes. Military tag stayed with the body and the other was sued in pairs so that when a soldier died, one from the museum’s collections as well as from the private collection of the Bandini family. We hope you will visit the museum soon to see this fantastic exhibit. Remember, museum members, veterans, and active-duty service members receive free admission to the museum!
Volunteers & opportunities

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!

Amanda Benenson
Michael Burton
Avel Chevez
Ariana Clare
David Contreras
Kari Czer
Clara Dalling
Ben Dumler
Isabel Gan
Aleksander Garlie
Shannon Gibson
Arey Gil
Ayeshas Haas
Anne-Marie Heaney
Aygu Hecht
Anna Marie Howell
Amanda Benenson
Joshua Insel
Christy Kim
Jennifer Lagunes
Eudora Li
Alice Malin Melo
Mital Meena
Carina Moore-Topazio
Andrew Pierce
Robert Plassencia
Ben Salin
Marielle Smith
Peter Smith
Deborah Specter
Silvester Su
Catherine Swink
Summer Swoford
Shigeki Tachiki
Carolyn Taffel
Meenal Thakur

Hands on History

Children’s Program

Join us on the First Saturday of every month from 11:00am to 12:00pm for this free workshop!

Hands on History is a free program offered for children and families on one Saturday every month. Elementary age children are led into the museum galleries to learn about that month’s history theme and then return to the lobby for a related craft or activity. By creating something with their hands related to the history topic of the month, children will create memories based upon their community’s history. Families are invited to join us for this fun-filled learning hour at the museum!

Upcoming Dates

November 19th
Native American Heritage Month

December 17th
Railroads

January 14th
Chinese New Year

February 11th
Valentine’s Day

A Gift from the Heart

Please consider including the museum in your estate plans. When you include the Santa Monica History Museum in a trust or will, make a gift of real estate, or make another type of planned gift you are helping preserve our community’s rich history for generations to come. Your gift will ensure that the museum will thrive in the decades ahead.

Eugenia Dean, long-time supporter of the museum, recently included the museum in her trust. You, like her, can help preserve, protect, and promote our rich, local history. Please remember the museum when you make your estate plans. Your gift from the heart will mean so much to the museum.

Girl Scouts of America:
“Do a Good Turn Daily”

The Girl Scouts of America (GSA) formed in 1912 as a leadership organization for girls. It was founded by 51-year-old Juliette Gordon “Daisy” Low in Savannah, Georgia, with a troop of 18 girls. The Girl Scouts of America wrote that, “Daisy was interested in athletics, the arts, animals, and nature—attributes that would one day become central to the Girl Scout Movement.” This active, outdoor focus inspired Low’s initial name for the group, the Girl Guides.

In the early 1920s, the Blue Bell Patrol, Troop 1, was established as the first Santa Monica Girl Scout troop. The earliest mentions appear in 1923 editions of the Evening Outlook newspaper, which detailed activities such as a camping trip in Santa Monica Canyon. A 1924 article noted that the troop’s mascot, a dog named Buster, was missing and the Girl Scouts requested the community’s help locating him. The reporter noted, “Buster makes friends easily and this is the reason attributed to his absence.”

GSA first expanded internationally in the 1920s, when troops formed in China, Syria and Mexico. There are now active troops in 92 countries around the globe. The organization has long been known for its inclusiveness, as Low’s founding troop was composed of girls from influential Savannah families, a local church and an orphanage. In the 1950s, Girl Scouts were lauded by Martin Luther King, Jr., for hosting desegregated summer camps for girls.

Girl Scouts have provided assistance to numerous causes over the years, adjusting their service to meet the times. They’ve given service hours for outreach efforts during WWI, the Great Depression, WWII, the Korean War, Civil Rights, and environmental issues among many others. Scouts earn badges by completing service hours within specified categories. Badges have evolved to encourage girls to participate in a variety of fields, from Economist to Mathematician and to their preferred areas such as coding badge in the 2010s.

Early next year, the Santa Monica History Museum will host a temporary exhibit titled, “The Journey of Girl Scouts: Empowering Girls for a Lifetime.” The exhibit will feature the history of girl scouts, the Girl Scout movement, and an array of artifacts.

They will create this exhibit in pursuit of a Silver Award, the highest award a Girl Scout Cadette can earn. This award is given in recognition of a focused project in service to a Girl Scouts’ community and the improvement of other’s lives.

We are seeking Santa Monica Girl Scout memorabilia to add to our collection! Please email JFourn@santamonicahistory.org if you would like to donate Santa Monica Girl Scout artifacts or ephemera.

Did you know? The Girl Scout Sign—three fingers raised—represents the three parts of the Girl Scout Promise to serve and help others.

In Memoriam

Our deepest sympathies to the families of our dedicated members:

Shirley Matilla.

Amazon Wish List

Want to play Santa for the museum? Check out the our wish list on Amazon.com: http://tinyurl.com/SMMHMAmazonWishList

Support the museum with a thoughtful gift from our wish list!

Register your Ralph’s card online at 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!
MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP ALWAYS MAKES A GREAT GIFT!

Become a member today!

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, P.O. Box 3059, Santa Monica, CA 90408
Telephone: 310-395-2290 (please phone for credit card payment)

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Facebook:
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Twitter:
twitter.com/smhistorymuseum

YouTube:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCX1WlsS2stE9N6cssm7YjRQ