



# Santa Monica History Museum A SANTA MONICA TREASURE NEWSLETTER

November 2016

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## 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

## THE OLD SOLDIERS' HOME: A VETERANS' COMMUNITY BY THE SEA



Hospital at the Old Soldiers' Home, known as the Barry Building, circa 1900.

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*

### 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.

SAVE THE DATE

11-29-16

#GIVINGTUESDAY

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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- Rob Schwenker, Chair**  
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Emeritus Posthumous
- John M. Bohn**  
Emeritus Posthumous

**STAFF**

- Kathryn Evans, MPP**  
Development and Museum Manager
- Sara Crown, MSLIS**  
Archivist
- Ricardo Bandini-Johnson**  
Historian
- Marc Wanamaker**  
Film Consultant
- Richard Orton**  
Newsletter Designer

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**



Greetings everyone!

This has been an incredible year for our museum. Our membership has increased greatly as well as museum attendance. We thank all those who joined and continuing members for your dedicated support which enables us to carry out our many educational and preservation programs for children and adults and countless accomplishments benefitting our community and its residents. Celebrities participating in our programs over the years include actress June Lockhart; film producer Ken Wales; actor/singer Dennis Day; actress Gloria Stewart (Titanic) celebrating her 100th birthday at our city's birthday event; Shirley Temple's family and co-stars; TV host Stephanie Edwards; newscaster Linda Alvarez and TV writer/producer Larry Balmagia. Other renowned participants include General James Doolittle; Donald Douglas Jr.; astronaut Sally Ride, via video, presented by her parents, when unable to attend; former Mayor Clo Hoover; Jet Propulsion Lab, event exhibitor; and KCRW Radio. The holidays will soon be here. On behalf of our Board of Directors and myself, I wish each of you a happy holiday season with your family and friends.

Best wishes,

*Louise*

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.

**Deane Funk,  
A fond farewell.**

Deane was a longtime publisher of the Santa Monica Evening Outlook Newspaper and was involved in many civic and community organizations. He and his brother Ron generously donated to our museum the wall-size mural from the Outlook Newspaper lobby. Our deepest sympathy to his wife Joan and family.

**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          | Blaine Gorelik      |
| Monet Brock*          | Joan Kaplan         |
| Phil Brock*           | John and Marti King |
| Carmel Carbone        | Marty Liboff        |
| Diane Citron          | Jerry Liboff        |
| Rick Cole             | Kevin Mardigian     |
| Sara and Felix Crown  | Howard Meibach      |
| Spring de Haviland    | Jacqueline Morin    |
| Marguerite de la Pena | David and           |
| Geraldine de la Pena  | Sabrina Mumford*    |
| Jan Foote             | Michael Murphy      |
| Roger Genser          | Adrienne Omansky    |

- |                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Susan Pinsky     | We'd also like to   |
| April Rocha      | welcome back the    |
| Jackie Sheets    | following returning |
| Sharon Sussman   | members. Thank you  |
| Colleen Thoensen | so much for your    |
| Melissa and      | continued support!  |
| Eric Tonnesson   |                     |
| Patricia Weber   |                     |

- |                    |
|--------------------|
| Margaret and       |
| Danilo Bach        |
| Terri de la Pena   |
| Monica Faulkner    |
| Anna Marie Howell  |
| Spring de Haviland |

\*Indicates Life Member

**Happenings at the History Museum**



**Shirley Temple Lecture 1**

Discover the History lecture with speakers Marilyn Granas and Marilyn Knowlden moderated by Woolsey Ackerman.



**Shirley Temple Lecture 2**

Discover the History lecture with Francine York moderated by Lyle Gregory.



**Notes for Notes Tour**

Notes for Notes youth enjoyed a tour of the museum focusing on music in Santa Monica.



**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.



**SMHM Kiwanis Grant July 2016**

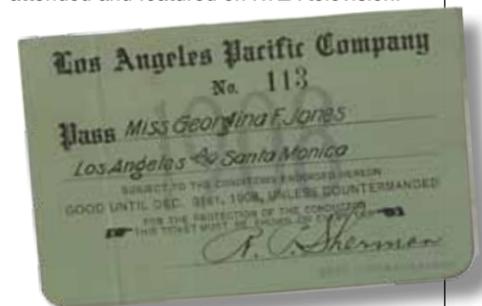
Kathryn Evans, Development and Museum Manager accepts \$2,500 grant check from Kiwanis President, Jessica Handy in July for the museum's education programs.

**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 selection of items, including a wall-size map of early Los Angeles rail lines and a traveling trunk used by Tiburcio Vásquez, a bandit known for his Robin Hood-like ways.

The Santa Monica History Museum loaned a 1908 Los Angeles Pacific Company rail pass belonging to Senator Jones' wife, Georgina Jones. Unlike our current rail passes, it is printed on thin card stock, filled out by hand, and features the signature of the general superintendent. The California Historical Society noted that the artifacts displayed

represent, "[the] cornucopia of Los Angeles's geographical, environmental, cultural, and historical landscape." The exhibit was well-attended and featured on KTLA television.



Los Angeles Pacific Company Rail Pass, 1908, Santa Monica History

# REX WHEEL



The Rex wheel on display at the museum. Insert: The Rex gambling ship in Santa Monica Bay in 1939, SMHM, Bill Beebe Collection.

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.



## From the Collection: WWI-Era Dog Tags

This matched pair of round dog tags belonged to Sergeant W.S. Miller and are part of the Museum’s Douglas Collection. Dog tags were issued in pairs so that when a soldier died, one tag stayed with the body and the other was removed for identification purposes. Military dog tags have evolved over the years from a round style during WWI, to the rectangular shape used today.

### Old Soldier’s Home, continued from Page 1

style barracks which inspired J. Lee Burton’s later designs for the Streetcar Depot and Wadsworth Chapel. The Streetcar Depot once sat on the famous Los Angeles Pacific Company’s Balloon Route – an electric railway line that carried day-trippers on a 100 mile circuit across Los Angeles County – allowing residents to ride from the Old Soldiers’ Home to the 99 steps and the beach beyond. During the 1930s and 1940s the Veterans Affairs facility was redeveloped and expanded with a building boom, modernizing the operation and preparing for the influx of veterans post World War II. Today, a state-of-the-art hospital stands alongside historic buildings, a golf course, a cutting-edge parrot therapy center, and much more.

The exhibit details the history of the Old Soldiers’ Home, the ways in which it has changed over the years, and the veterans and nearby residents who helped build this community. Objects for this exhibit come

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!



# GALA TRIBUTE DINNER



Matt Lehman, General Manager and Ellis O’Conner, MSD Hospitality receive awards from Susan Gabriel Potter, museum Board member and Eddie Guerboain, museum Board member and gala Master of Ceremonies.



Above: Honorees Dee and Jim Menzies receive award from Rob Schwenker, museum Board Chair.



Above: Rob Schwenker, museum Board Chair, presents award to Erica Cuyugan, Acting Interim Director of Library Services and Marc Morgenstern, Santa Monica Public Library Board Chair.



Below: Monika White, gala dinner committee Chair, with her sister, Gitta Morris.

Our gala dinner at the Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows in September was an exciting and unforgettable event! The evening included a fabulous silent auction and entertainment. The gala’s theme was “Tracking History: Celebrating the Return of Passenger Rail to Santa Monica.” Writer & producer Larry Balmagia spoke on the new Metro rail and early transit in Santa Monica with a slide show. Tribute was paid to the renowned honorees who have a long history of giving back to the community: Dee and Jim Menzies, Santa Monica Public Library, and Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows with Ellis O’Connor MSD Hospital-ity and Matt Lehman, General Manager.

The event was a huge success thanks to Monika White, event chair; Eddie Guerboian, emcee and the extraordinary Gala Committee members Judi Barker, Becky Upchurch, Susan Gabriel Potter, Melissa MacFadyen, Becky Mejia, Louise Gabriel, Donna Byrd, Magdalena Davis, Evelyn Guerboian, Sharon Kanan, and Lisa Gumenick. Our gratitude to everyone that supported this event.



Right: Museum staff, board members, volunteers, and gala committee members celebrate an amazing event.

**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
- Anel Chevez
- Ariana Clare
- David Contreras
- Kari Czer
- Ciara Dalling
- Bex Dumler
- Isabel Gan
- Aleksander Garlie
- Shannon Gibson
- Arely Gil
- Ayesha Haas
- Anne-Marte Heaney
- Aygul Hecht
- Anna Marie Howell
- Joshua Insell
- Christy Kim
- Jennifer Lagunes
- Eudora Li
- Alice Malin Melo
- Shelly Meena
- Carina Moore-Topazio
- Andrew Pierce
- Robert Plasencia
- Ben Salin
- Marielle Smith
- Peter Smith
- Deborah Spector
- Silvester Su
- Catherine Swink
- Summer Swofford
- Shigeko Tachiki
- Carolyn Taffel
- Meenal Thakur

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District announced Dr. Ben Drati as the new superintendent.



Volunteers at the museum's Santa Monica Anniversary celebration.

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

**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.



**HANDS ON HISTORY**

**CHILDREN'S PROGRAM**

Join us on the third 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

**GIRL SCOUTS OF AMERICA: "DO A GOOD TURN DAILY".**



Girl Scouts Receive Commemorative Stamps from Santa Monica Postmaster, 1948 (The Santa Monica Girl Scouts pictured are: Judy Seiler and Marilyn Wood). SMHM, Bill Beebe Collection

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 write that, "[Low] 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 badges in the 1920s to a computer-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 Young Women," opening on January 24th, 2017. The exhibit will be guest-curated by two local Girl Scouts, Ciara Dalling and Olivia Kienzle.

**Amazon Wish List**

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

<http://tinyurl.com/SMHMAmazonWishList>

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



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.

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

We are seeking Santa Monica Girl Scout memorabilia to add to our collection! Please email [scrown@santamonicahistory.org](mailto:scrown@santamonicahistory.org) if you would like to donate Santa Monica Girl Scout artifacts or ephemera.



Juliette Gordon "Daisy" Low postage stamp, 1948

**In Memoriam**

Our deepest sympathies to the families of our dedicated member:

**Shirley Matilla.**



**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!

# BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

## MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP ALWAYS MAKES A GREAT GIFT!



### 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)



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twitter.com/smhistorymuseum

YouTube  
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCX1WsS2stE9N6cssm7YtjRQ