



Historical

a monthly publication for members of the San Mateo County Historical Association

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1918 Influenza Pandemic

On Saturday, January 28 at 1 p.m., the Courthouse Docket continues as Diane Rooney presents *And the Plague Broke Upon Them*. Rooney explores the origins, spread and impact of the Influenza Pandemic of 1918.

The 1918 Influenza Pandemic has been described as one of the greatest medical disasters in history, infecting about 500 million people worldwide and killing between 50 and 100 million. The presentation will examine the pandemic's impact on both World War I battlefields and on the home front, including a look at the impact here in Northern California.

Rooney's research interests include social history, the war's influence on the arts and literature, women's issues, life on the US home front and family history. Receiving her BA and MA in English and MBA in Marketing from New York University, she also earned a BA in Journalism. She writes frequently on American history. Her grandfather's only sister died in the pandemic.

The presentation is free for members.



The **Courthouse Docket** is a monthly series of presentations held in the History Museum's historic Courtroom A. The **Courthouse Docket Series** is sponsored by Cypress Lawn Heritage Foundation. More information at www.cypresslawnheritagefoundation.org.

From the President

It seems all my life I have tried to learn about history, but on December 7, 2016, I felt for the first time that I was part of history. That night I was honored to be master of ceremonies for our exhibit opening, *Peninsula at War: San Mateo County's World War II Legacy*, which featured a special salute to World War II veterans and Japanese Americans of San Mateo County who had been interned during the War. As I read the names of these 50 or so people, and briefly described their experiences, I felt it was a special moment. Later, as these members of what Tom Brokaw has called "The Greatest Generation" stood for photographs together, it became clearer to me. I was struck by the poignancy of it all. This 75th anniversary of America's entry into World War II that we were commemorating would be possibly the last occasion that at least some of these individuals would be available for us to see, hear and learn from. Their solid, serious expressions reminded me of old pictures I have seen of Civil War veterans who posed for photos for their last times together in the 1930s, 75 years after the anniversary dates for their War. To be in the midst of this scene was nearly overwhelming.

Continued of page 2



Soldiers from Camp Fremont in Menlo Park march in Palo Alto with gauze masks during the height of the pandemic.



World War II veteran Jean Harman received a certificate at the History Museum's exhibit opening for her service as a Women Airforce Service Pilot (WASP).

From the President (continued)

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Historical Association staff members who for two years devoted every spare minute, skill and effort to create an amazingly interesting and attractive display, in my mind the best job our Historical Association has ever done on a changing exhibit. So here is a big "job well-done" to Curator Dana Neitzel, Deputy Director Carmen Blair and Facilities Manager Ed Collins. I hope every Historical Association member will take the time to come-by the Museum and see their work.



Mitch Postel, President



Top Row, Left: Fred Sinclair, Jr. painted *Battleship Row* (2016) depicting the explosion of the U.S.S. Arizona for the exhibit. **Right:** The azimuth scope shown in the exhibit is the type used at Little Devil's Slide as part of coastal defense. **Middle Row:** Some of the 40 World War II veterans honored at the exhibit opening. **Bottom Row, Left:** Socializing at the reception. **Right:** Visitors exploring the exhibit.

November

New and Renewing Members

Archivist: Father Larry Goode

Family: Mr. Robert C. Beach
 • Mr. Joseph D. Brinzo • Dr. & Mrs. Stephen Buchner • Mrs. Naomi Cissna • Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Dobberpuhl • Mr. & Mrs. Gary Fishtrom • Mrs. Tania Gaspar • Ms. Helen Lomas • Mr. & Mrs. Speer McClellan • Mrs. Sylvia Payne • Mr. & Mrs. Charley Phelps • Mr. & Mrs. Richard Sponholz • Mr. & Mrs. Nick Veronico • Mr. & Mrs. Don Wood

Individual: Allen County Public Library • American Antiquarian Society • Mr. Max Daehler • Mrs. Marion Euphrat • Ms. Susan Hamlin • Mr. Walter Heim • Huntington Library • Dr. Harvey Kaplan • Mrs. Nancy Lund • Mr. & Mrs. Gary Madden • Ms. Angela Mallett • Mrs. Janet Martin • Mr. & Mrs. Douglas S. McGlashan • Mrs. Lois Monroe • Periodicals Department • Mr. John S. Scheibe • Mrs. Virginia Sincich • Skyline College Library • Ms. Deirdre Stegman • Univ. of CA Library

Senior - Student: Mr. David Adams • Mr. Mark Avelar • Ms. Joanne Bruggemann • Mrs. Lidia Chagonjian • Mrs. Patricia Dana • Mrs. Janice DeBastiani • Mrs. Irvin B. Gardner • Mr. Steven Greene • Mrs. Judith Greene • Mrs. Nancy Haber • Ms. Carol Hurst • Ms. Sheri Jansen-Olliges • Ms. June La Point • Mrs. Mary Larwood • Mrs. Marilyn J. Michaelson • Ms. Michelle Nelson • Mrs. Laurie Prescott • Mr. Bruce Roberts • Mr. Steven Rusconi • Mrs. Shirley Seramin Robert Warfield • Mr. & Mrs. Terrence Witzel

In Memory

Celeste Giannini

*Terry Anderlini
 Carol and Richard Clarke
 Nancy and Donald Hack
 Mr. and Mrs. William Nicolet
 Diana Post
 Virginia Sincich*

Ruth Steiner

Al Acena

Mark Your Calendar

Sunday, January 1

All sites closed in observance of New Year's Day.

Friday, January 6

Free First Fridays

11 a.m. - Playing in the Past - A Preschool Activity Hour

Come learn about trains! Create your own train banner to take home. Then, join us in exploring the exhibit *Journey to Work* where you can listen to the story *This Train*.

2 p.m. - General Tour - For Adults

Discover local history during an hour-long tour of the History Museum.

Free First Fridays is sponsored by the San Mateo Credit Union.

History Museum, Free

Saturday, January 28

Courthouse Docket - 1 p.m.

Diane Rooney discusses the Influenza Pandemic of 1918. *See page 1 for details.*

History Museum, Free for Members

Friday, February 3

Free First Fridays

11 a.m. - Playing in the Past - A Preschool Activity Hour

Come celebrate Lunar New Year! In honor of the Year of the Rooster, make a model rooster to take home. Then, join us in exploring the exhibit *Land of Opportunity: The Immigrant Experience in San Mateo County* where you will hear the story *Max Celebrates Chinese New Year*.

2 p.m. - General Tour - For Adults

Discover local history during an hour-long tour of the History Museum.

Free First Fridays is sponsored by the San Mateo Credit Union.

History Museum, Free

Saturday, February 11

Lunar New Year - 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Celebrate the Year of the Rooster! The History Museum will be joining in Redwood City's Lunar New Year celebration with craft activities for kids. *See page 4 for details.*

Courthouse Square and History Museum, Free

Tuesday, February 14

Exhibit Opening

The exhibit *Paintings of Frank's Tannery* opens in the History Museum Rotunda.

The exhibit features art depicting the iconic structure which was built in 1872 and destroyed by fire in 1968.

History Museum, Free for Members

Saturday, February 25

Courthouse Docket - 1 p.m.

Barbara Wilcox will discuss her recent book *World War I Army Training by San Francisco Bay: The Story of Camp Fremont*. An important training facility, Camp Fremont was located in Menlo Park.

History Museum, Free for Members

Friday, March 3

Free First Fridays

11 a.m. - Playing in the Past - A Preschool Activity Hour

Come learn about Irish traditions! Make a leprechaun hat to take home and listen to the story *Ten Lucky Leprechauns*.

2 p.m. - General Tour - For Adults

Discover local history during an hour-long tour of the History Museum.

Free First Fridays is sponsored by the San Mateo Credit Union.

History Museum, Free

Annual Campaign

Funds raised from the Annual Campaign account for 40% of our annual budget. Your support will help us further our mission of preserving the past.

Special thanks to our 2017 Annual Campaign Leadership, Captains and Campaigners.

Campaign Chairman: Mark Jamison

Major Gifts Chairwoman: Chonita E. Cleary

Community Gifts Chairman: Tom Ames

Major Gifts Captains:

Doug Keyston

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John Shroyer

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Stacey Wagner

Ted Everett

Barbara Pierce

John LaTorra

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Munks, Karen McCown, Sandra

McLellan Behling, David Canepa, Grant

Matthews, Bob Oyster, Bob Mullen,

Mike Bredenbeck, George Corey,

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Jeff Ira, Paul Shepherd, Bill Stronck,

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San Mateo County
Historical Association

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

January 2017

San Mateo County Historical Association
Bringing history to life at the San Mateo County
History Museum, Sanchez Adobe and Woodside
Store.

Accredited by the
American Alliance of Museums

Reciprocal Benefit Program
North American Reciprocal Museums

Remember SMCHA in your will.

Encore Books on the Square

In recognition of the presidential inauguration, Encore Books on the Square will have a special focus on politics, the White House and Washington, D.C. during the month of January.

Operated by volunteers, the money raised at Encore Books supports the ongoing activities of the San Mateo County Historical Association.

The store is open Tuesday - Saturday from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. in the Lower Level of the History Museum.



President Theodore Roosevelt at the Burlingame Country Club.

Lunar New Year

On Saturday, February 11 from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., the History Museum will join in Redwood City's annual celebration of the Lunar New Year. Join us for this Asian celebration of change and the Year of the Rooster. The free event includes performances on Courthouse Square. Inside the History Museum, kids can participate in activity stations based on the Chinese zodiac. They can make a red envelope for the new year, create a paper lantern, and play traditional games.



Creating Chinese symbols with paper cutting.