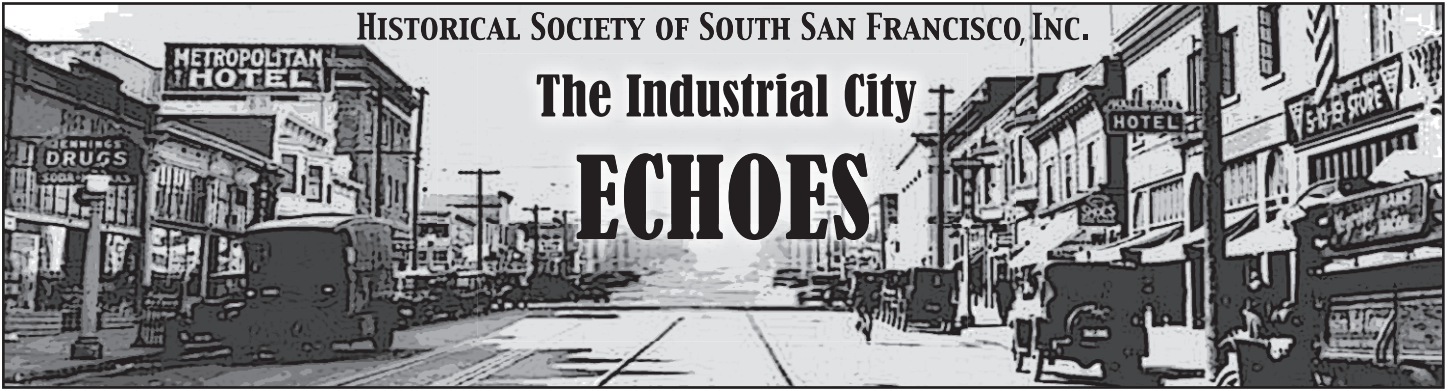


The Industrial City ECHOES



Newsletter No. 163 - September 2023

Inside This Issue

Donations.....2
 Museum Acquisitions2
 P-S House Acquisitions2
 Museum News2
 In Memory2
 Thrivent Financial
 Provides Support.....2
 New Members.....2
 35th Annual Banquet3
 Victor John Feudale Award
 Winners Bios3
 P-S House Summer Teas .4
 West Orange Library
 Big Move.....4
 Halloween Parties.....5

2023 Calendar

Sept.29.....Annual Banquet
 Oct. 16Board Meeting
 Oct. 28 & 29..... P-S House
 Halloween Parties
 Nov. 20.....Board Meeting
 Dec. 18General Meeting

*Members are welcome to
Board Meetings.*

*Members and non-members
are welcome to
General Meetings.*



September Event

In lieu of our regularly scheduled September meeting the SSF Historical Society Board of Directors has opted to have our annual Historical Banquet in September rather than October (*which is when we normally host it*).

We hope that more people will attend the Banquet this year.

THE DATE WILL BE SEPTEMBER 29.

More details will be provided soon as they evolve. Save the date!

June Meeting Program

At our June General Meeting **Ken Anderson**, Emergency Services Manager from Fire Administration, captivated the group with his presentation on the fascinating history and future of the South San Francisco Fire Department. What a fun and interesting evening!



	<p>Fire Alarm Boxes - 1921</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the 1st Cities in San Mateo County to Install • Placed due to lack to telephone network • Connected to the Telegraph System • Uniquely Coded to aid in Dispatch and Location • Placed ~3 Residential Blocks • Eventually Expanded City-Wide 	

Message from Historical Society President

Hello Members: I hope all our members are enjoying their summer and are doing well. As always the volunteers at the Plymire-Schwarz House are busy with open house Saturdays as well as a Garden Party to be held Saturday, August 19 (sold out!). Those who purchased tickets will enjoy bubbly and delicious bites in the P-S House back yard, shop the Boutique, and tour the house. Keep your fingers crossed the weather is good, please!!

The Museum held its second annual garage sale on July 22. The sale was well attended and shoppers left the sale with lots of goodies and merchandise. Thanks go to all of our volunteers who worked hard on both events. We are blessed to have such a great group. All proceeds keep the lights on and help maintain our two buildings. Please visit us at either location (or both!) on Saturdays from 1:00 to 4:00 pm.

Dave Casagrande



The slate of officers will remain the same for one more year as was voted unanimously by this year's board .

Memorial Donations

In Memory of Rose Herrman

Donor: Richard Hodkins

In Memory of Norma Lombardi

Donors: Alan & Julie Chimenti

Donors: Jerry & Ginny Tilton

In Memory of Guido & Helen Rozzi

Donor: Steve Rozzi

In Memory of Darlene (Puizina) Schwarz

Donors: Alan & Julie Chimenti

In Memory of Anna Marie Uccelli

Donors: John & Elisa Noonan

Donors: Jerry & Ginny Tilton

Plymire-Schwarz House Donations

Gene Hessler

Basil & Barbara Cavaliere

General Donation

John Keenan

Museum Acquisitions

Barbara Cavaliere – South City Car Wash cap and T-shirt.

Gene Hessler – Bob Brian 1961 Varsity Baseball Team photo.

Manola Scovel – South San Francisco and personal memorabilia and photographs.

P-S House Acquisitions

Paul Alvers and Donna Puizina

Alvers – Antique vanity chair, vintage vanity set, vintage linens, vintage hand-knitted items, vintage household items.

Lynn Boldenweck – Vintage wicker plant stand, vase, hair combs.

Mike & Linda Martinelli – Vintage china and silver trays.

Marianne Olgiati – Vintage silver pieces, perfume bottles, frame, porcelain coffee urn with matching sugar & creamer, 1933 wedding gown & veil, various vintage baby items, various vintage household items.

K. Lynn Savage – Vintage hand-painted porcelain serving pieces and plates.

Museum News

On July 12th, we held our second annual “Vintage Goods and Yard Sale”. We received plentiful and generous donations and took in nearly \$3000 (to be divided between the Society and Plymire-Schwarz House). Prior to the sale, many of the finer items donated were chosen to stock the shelves of the Plymire-Schwarz House Boutique.



Over the course of several weeks, volunteers worked diligently to price donations. On the day of the sale a large group of volunteers arrived and got a work-out moving sale items (that were stored in the Museum) and setting up and organizing tables. But their work was not done yet! At the finish of the sale, volunteers loaded up left-overs and delivered them to the Salvation Army. This event has the additional benefit of showcasing the Museum, which was open on the day of the sale and was visited by dozens. Visitors expressed their interest and admiration of our displays, especially the new “Vice & Crime” exhibit! Sincere thanks to everyone who made donations and/or helped with this successful event!

Bill Zemke

In Memory



Norma Venturini (married name Steffen)

If you drive by or visit the Museum, the window treatment pictured below is Jacopi’s general store built in the

1910’s. It is currently The Fairway. The little girl in front is Norma. It is estimated that she was about 6 years old. Norma is Ginny (Jacopi) Tilton’s aunt. Norma was born in South San Francisco, grew up on “A” Street and graduated from SSF

High School in 1946.

After living an exciting life, Norma passed away on July 26, 2023 at the age of 95.



Partial museum window shade photo



Thrivent Financial Provides Support

Did you know that Thrivent Financial, a not-for-profit financial services company, has helped support several of our fund-raising efforts? Through Historical Society members that have investments with Thrivent, \$250 per event was provided for “Action Teams”. These teams purchased food and supplies to support the success of the event. Because of Thrivent’s generosity and the Action Teams, the annual Tea, Yard Sale and the Champagne Garden Party provided much-needed funds to our Museum and House. Thank you, Thrivent, for your support!

Jo Zemke

NEW MEMBERS

MEL & KIMBERLY DIAZ
KATHERINE HAMBURGER

Check out our website
www.ssfhistory.org



Facebook and Instagram!

@ssfhistory

@ssfhistorymuseum

@plymireschwarzhouse



35TH ANNUAL SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO HISTORICAL SOCIETY BANQUET

Friday, September 29, 2023

Cocktail Hour: 6pm ♦ Dinner: 7pm

Basque Cultural Center

599 Railroad Ave. ♦ So. San Francisco

Master of Ceremonies: Kevin Mullins

Proceeds benefit the South San Francisco Historical Society Museum and Plymire-Schwarz House.

Banquet invitations will be mailed separately. Once again, if you would like to donate raffle prizes for our “salami” raffle, please bring them to the museum during normal operating hours Saturday, 1-4 or contact Ginny at 650-438-5498 and I will pick them up.

Thank you and hope to see you at the banquet. - Ginny Tilton, Banquet Chairperson

HONORING 2023 RECIPIENTS OF THE VICTOR JOHN FEUDALE AWARD



Alan Chimenti proudly wears his title of “3rd generation South City” and will let you know his paternal grandmother was born in South San Francisco in 1908 and that he and his wife, Julie, live in the house his maternal grandparents bought soon after arriving from Italy. His parents (Mary and George) met at SSF High (class of

'48) and raised all three of their children here. Alan, his baby brother, Jeff, and older sister, Cathy, all graduated from South San Francisco High School.

Thanks to his parents involvement in the community and its activities Alan was witness to how important history was as the foundation of SSF as the city grew and changed.

Needless to say, Alan’s roots are deeply planted in South City and its history.

Julie first got involved with the Plymire-Schwarz House Tea Committee and then joined the Historical Society Board – so it was only a matter of time before Alan got drawn into the fold. And this he did with enthusiasm and zero hesitation. He has been an integral member of the Historical Society: always ready to help setup and breakdown for events, serve wherever and however needed, our go-to IT guy, docent at Plymire-Schwarz House and just an all-around great guy with an amazing depth of SSF knowledge. We are lucky to have him on our team!



Megan Callan is a fifteen-year resident of San Francisco and, until recently, has worked at SFO Museum at San Francisco International Airport. Not long after moving to the Bay Area from Oahu, where she grew up, Megan was introduced to Alan Chimenti. Through him, she met his wife Julie, and a friendship was struck over mutual

affinities for Japanese pens with blue-black ink, the San Francisco Giants, and quirky, local history.

Flash forward a few years: Megan acquired an impressive looking camera, fancying herself as a photographer-in-training, and leapt at the chance to help the South San Francisco Historical Society document their annual Tea Party. She helped out the following year, and the year after, and then a few more years, and before she knew it, the middle-school-aged girls who helped with serving at the tea parties were enrolled in college. (Amazingly, neither Megan nor Julie nor Alan, nor any of SSFHS’s other supporters have aged at all.)

Over the course of her museum career, Megan discovered that she loves building databases to catalog museum collections. Upon hearing from Julie that the SSFHS was looking into options for databases, she offered to build one and has since spent occasional weekends making adjustments and upgrades—something she looks forward to doing for many, many more weekends in the future.

SAVE THE DATE



A FREE, FUN FAMILY EVENT
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2023
 ORANGE MEMORIAL PARK, S.S.F.
 11 A.M. – 5 P.M.

BE ITALIAN FOR A DAY

MUSIC * DANCING * FOOD * KID’S ZONE
 BOCCE TOURNEY * CULTURAL DISPLAYS

*Historical Society will have a booth inside
 the Fernekes Building - come visit!*

Historical Society Dues Expire on December 31st.

If you have not renewed or want to become a new member please fill out this form and mail with check made out to:

*South San Francisco Historical Society
 80 Chestnut Ave., So. San Fran., CA 94080*

Name/Names/Corporation _____

Address _____

Phone# _____ Email _____

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student . . . \$5.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual\$15.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family . . . \$20.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter.....\$25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate \$100.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership.....\$500.00 |

The Historical Society's
PLYMIRE-SCHWARZ HOUSE

2023 Summer Victorian Teas

The very popular Plymire-Schwarz House Victorian Teas returned in June. Once again, the event sold out quickly and we had six days of Tea enthusiasts seated in the Living Room, Dining Room and Garden Room. As always, our volunteers provided a feast of savories and sweets and, of course, TEA! A good time was had by all.

After indulging in the fine fare, guests visited our Boutique for a bit of shopping therapy and left with bags of purchases that (we hope) will continue to remind them of the fun day they had with family and friends.

Many thanks to all of our volunteers - both upstairs and downstairs - and behind the scenes. The countless hours put towards this event are unseen but noticed and appreciated. It is because of all of you that our events are so successful - YOU ROCK! Thank you to our patrons, who by attending, helped us raise over \$8,000 that will allow us to provide for our lovely 118-year-old house. She deserves to be taken care of and is an asset to South San Francisco.



**West Orange Library
 Big Move**

On February 19, 1967, the West Orange Library, the Main Library of South San Francisco, opened. For over 50 years the South San Francisco Public Library has been a treasure to this community offering a diverse collection, programs for all ages, adult literacy tutoring, and the recently added makerspace. The Main Library grew from a substantial print reference collection and card catalog to include digital reference databases, online resources, and an online catalog. Continuously modernizing with the times, the West Orange Library underwent two transforming renovations in 1994 and 2010, and on July 6th and 7th of this year, the community was invited to an Open House to share pictures from the History Room of the library through the years and heart-felt memories from library patrons. The Main Library will be moving to a new building, with Parks & Recreation offices and classrooms, community rooms, City Council Chambers, a fun playground, and more. The Main Library will feature two designated floors, one for children and one for adults, complete with innovative technology and a robust and diverse collection. The grand opening of the new facility will take place on October 28, 2023.

Stacy Lein
 Librarian II | Adult Services

Enjoy a visit to the Historical Society's:
 Museum - 80 Chestnut Ave. or the
 Plymire-Schwarz House - 519 Grand Ave.
 Both are open on Saturdays from 1 to 4 p.m.

The Historical Society of South San Francisco

PLYMIRE-SCHWARZ HOUSE



2023 *Halloween Cocktail Parties*

Your group of ten will enjoy the entire house while feasting on a bounty of savories, sweets and special cocktails all for only \$500

We are offering two parties:

Saturday, October 28

Sunday, October 29

4:00 - 7:00

Calls to Reserve Your Party Begin: Saturday, September 23rd
9:00a.m. through 7:00p.m.

Please call (650) 588-0639 and leave a message including your:

• name • phone number • preferred date

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

Historical Society of South San Francisco

MAIL TO:

Donna Smith • 930 Mission Road, No. 26

South San Francisco, CA 94080

In order to secure your party, we kindly request payment be received within seven days of scheduling your party. We regret we are not able to accommodate special dietary requests.



The Industrial City ECHOES

Historical Society of South San Francisco, Inc.
80 Chestnut Avenue
South San Francisco, CA 94080

NON-PROFIT
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
San Bruno, CA
Permit No. 750

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

Historical Society of South San Francisco

Board of Directors

PresidentDave Casagrande
First Vice PresidentJohn Penna
Second Vice PresidentGinny Tilton
Recording SecretaryDenise Fernekes
Treasurer, Social Media ManagerJulie Chimenti
Financial SecretaryDonna Smith

2019-2022 Directors

Lynn Boldenweck, Nancy Casazza

2021-2023 Directors

Jeanette Acosta, Ruth DeNardi, Rich Garbarino,
Valerie Sommer, Bill Zemke

Ex Officio Members

Diana Ferrari, Mary Giusti

Plymire-Schwarz House Steering Committee

Director: Dave Casagrande
Jeanette Acosta, Julie Chimenti,
Mary Giusti, Gene Hessler, Donna Smith

Museum Committee

Julie Chimenti, John Penna, Lois Severi, Valerie Sommer,
Donna Smith, Bill Zemke

The Historical Society is co-sponsored by the SSF Parks & Recreation Dept. It is through the City's generosity that many of the Society's goals are accomplished.

Contact & Location Information

Historical Society of South San Francisco, Inc.

80 Chestnut Avenue
South San Francisco, CA 94080
info@ssfhistory.org

Historical Society Museum

80 Chestnut Avenue
650-829-3825
info@ssfhistory.org
Saturdays (1-4:00 p.m.)
Please call if you are interested
in volunteering at the museum.

History Room / Grand Avenue Branch Library

306 Walnut Avenue
650-877-8533
By appointment only.

Historical Society's Plymire-Schwarz House

519 Grand Avenue
650-875-6988
info@plymirehouse.org
Saturdays (1-4:00 p.m)

Memberships Expire December 31

Membership runs on a calendar year expiring annually on December 31st.
Membership is \$15.00 per person - \$20 per family.
If you are interested in becoming a new member contact the Society at 650-829-3825 or
Mail your check to:
Historical Society of South San Francisco
80 Chestnut Avenue
South San Francisco, CA 94080

ECHOES: 650-829-3825 • info@ssfhistory.org

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