

The Industrial City ECHOES

Newsletter No. 168 - December 2024

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2025 Calendar

January 27	Board Meeting
February 24.....	Board Meeting
March 17.....	General Meeting
April 21.....	Board Meeting
May 19.....	Board Meeting
June 16.....	General Meeting
July 21.....	Board Meeting
August 18.....	Board Meeting
Sept. 15	General Meeting
October 20	Board Meeting
Nov. 17.....	Board Meeting
Nov. 21.....	Annual Banquet
Dec.15.....	General Meeting

*Members are welcome to
Board Meetings.*

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



Holiday Program for December General Meeting

Monday, December 16 at 6:00 pm

Roberta Teglia Center (Magnolia Building)
601 Grand Avenue, South San Francisco



Back by popular demand, this year's entertainment will again feature **GenenTonix**, formerly known as the **Genentech Carolers**, a group of musical enthusiasts from across all departments at Genentech who get together every holiday season with the mission to spread cheer throughout campus via carols and holiday songs. In addition to creating some non-holiday musical projects over the past few years, they've also started to branch their musical performances out into the local community.

This program is free and open to members and non-members.

*Cookie Reminder: Any sweets that you can contribute
for our holiday party will be much appreciated!*



It's Time to Renew Your Membership!!!

We have made it very easy for you!

Just fill out the envelope provided in this newsletter, enclose a check, mail, and you're done! You will continue to receive the Historical Society Newsletter and help to preserve the storied history of South San Francisco. Also...Please consider buying a gift of membership for a relative or friend for the holiday season....best bargain ever!

Check out our website
www.ssfhistory.org



Facebook and Instagram!

@ssfhistory

@ssfhistorymuseum

@plymireschwarzhouse

NEW MEMBERS

Edward Bonanno
James Dombroski
Cynthia Marcopulos
Monique Ray

Memorial Donations

In Memory of Sam Bonanno

Donor: Cisca Hansen

In Memory of Rich Bordi

Donors: Jeanette Acosta

Mary Giusti

Nazir Kadi

Robert & Linda Leggero

Frances Liston

Frances Murphy

Joe & Maggie Murphy

Michael & Kathy Pariani

Ed & Sue Pirazzi

In Memory of Lola Clark

Donors: Barbara Irli

Marie Yoschak

In Memory of Donna Faria

Donor: Mary Giusti

In Memory of Robbie Huerta

Donors: Ginnie Ervin

Ginny Tilton

In Memory of Lois Mares

Donors: Carolyn Cohn

Ginny Tilton

In Memory of Evelyn Martin

Donor: David Martin

In Memory of Jerry Tilton

Donor: Cisca Hansen

In Memory of Emily Uccelli

Donors: Mike & Sandy Wilson

Society Donations

Jacqueline Buckley

Cisca Hansen

Bill Zemke - Harbor District

Commissioner

Plymire-Schwarz House Donations

Flor Nicolas

Barbara Irli

Plymire-Schwarz House Acquisitions

Marie Gonis: Vintage Mikasa china:
12 place settings & serving pieces

Paul Alvers & Donna Puizina-Alvers:
Vintage linen, china, glassware &
Christmas decorations

Message from Historical Society President

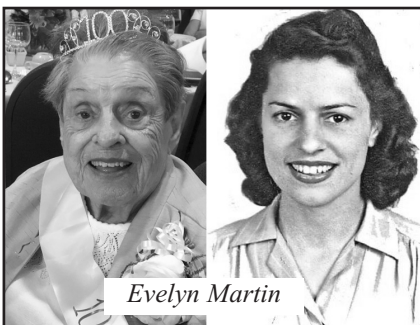
Merry Christmas, which seems to be coming sooner each year. Wish all a wonderful holiday season. Try not too eat to much keeping in mind there are those less fortunate who cannot afford a meal. We send our prayers and donations.

There was a time not too long ago that many of our South City folks had hard times like the 1930's. But looking at our history we begin with the Native Americans who lived here the first 5000 years plus with their living habits that incorporated native science. They joined with the Spanish/Mexicans that brought us Rancheros and cows (methane gas). Charles Lux, a wealthy San Franciscan, was the first businessman to purchase land on the peninsula where he teamed up with Henry Miller to form a cattle industry business. Lux was able to control the cattle pricing throughout the U.S. with a ticker tape machine in his home. Swift followed and the first planned city west of the Mississippi was developed.

As time goes this is just the beginning which is why it is important to remember our history and where we came from. We welcome you to visit our museum and Plymire-Schwarz house open Saturdays 1-4pm.

Happy Holiday to all.

John Penna



I am writing today to honor the legacy of my beloved aunt, Evelyn Martin, and enclosing two donations from her estate to the Plymire-Schwarz House Museum and the South San Francisco Historical Society as a reflection of her deep commitment to preserving and celebrating the history of South San Francisco.

As far back as I can remember, Evelyn was always passionately involved in the historical and cultural life of South San Francisco. Whether volunteering for the Historical Society, organizing fundraisers for charities, or participating in her church community, she poured her time and energy into making her hometown a better place. Evelyn also had a talent for storytelling and shared her love for South San Francisco through articles she wrote for the SSF Chamber of Commerce, ensuring that others knew of the City's rich heritage

Evelyn was fiercely proud of her South San Francisco Portuguese roots, and she devoted much of her life to preserving its history and nurturing the sense of community that makes it special. We, as her family, are equally proud of all the she accomplished and the positive impact she made. These donations are just a small part of her lasting legacy, and we hope they will help continue the work she cared about so deeply.

On behalf of our family, thank you for dedication to South San Francisco and for helping to preserve the history that Evelyn loved so much.

Sincerely,

David Martin on behalf of the Martin Family

Museum Acquisitions

Colma Historical Society: 1941 funeral photo of South City resident, Frank Mendez

Jacqueline Curtis: 1910 Ringue family photo

John Helfrich: South San Francisco historic receipts and ephemera

Frank Rizzo: Assortment of South City memorabilia

36TH ANNUAL SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO HISTORICAL SOCIETY BANQUET

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

Thank you to so many people and places for another successful and fun banquet. Thank you to all who attended, to members who donated to the "salami" raffle, members who purchased Opportunity Drawing tickets, and to the many businesses who donated gift certificates or gift cards. A special thank you to Garden Chapel for their generous sponsorship.

Good to have Kevin Mullins for our Master of Ceremonies and his jokes. Susan is such a natural handling the raffles along with her assistant Olive. We certainly appreciate your support and look forward to next year's banquet on Friday, November 21, 2025 which will be a Christmas theme. Get your UGLY sweaters ready! Thanks, again, for your continued support.

Ginny, Donna, Lynn and Nancy



Rich Garbarino & Kevin Mullins



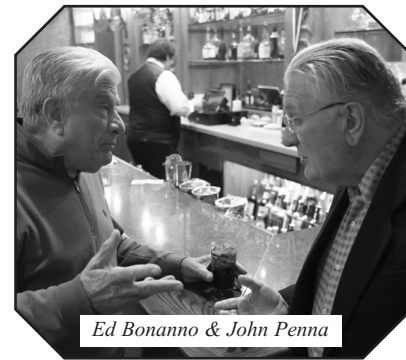
Denise Fernekes & Kevin Mullins



Olive Risso & Susan Kennedy



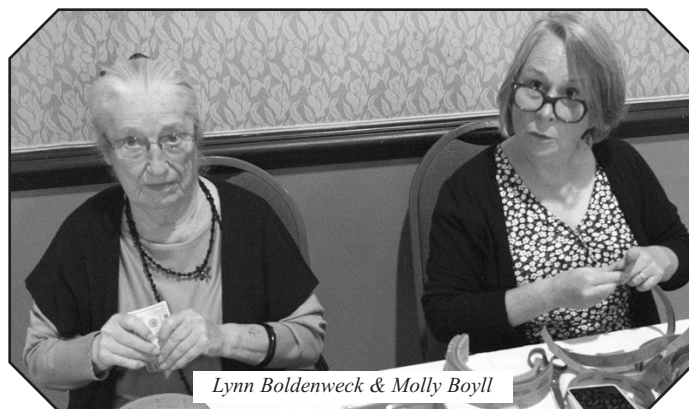
Ginny Tilton, Elaine Garbarino & Denise



Ed Bonanno & John Penna



Betty Battaglia & Jamie Metz



Lynn Boldenweck & Molly Boyll

Society News

It seems as though the year passed in the blink of an eye, but 2024 was filled with successful events for our Society. The Plymire-Schwarz House Event Committee kept busy with two well-attended, popular events: Victorian Tea Parties in the Spring and a Garden Champagne Party in the Fall. The Boutique did a bustling business and is getting decked out for Christmas as of this writing. The Society held its second annual rummage sale and the day was a fun and prosperous one. Our 37th Annual Awards Banquet was another triumph, spearheaded by Ginny Tilton and the Banquet Committee.

As 2024 comes to a close, it is the time of the year to reminisce and give thanks for our good fortune. With this thought in mind, we are thankful for our volunteers, supporters and members without whom all these things could not be possible. - Julie Chimenti

The Historical Society's
PLYMIRE-SCHWARZ HOUSE
 Garden Champagne Party

Photos by Megan Callan



Plymire-Schwarz House News

Fall is a busy time at the P-S House. As we transition to holiday mode, we want to catch you up on recent activity as well as what will be happening through the end of the year.

October didn't disappoint our team. It provided us with a beautiful afternoon to gather for our annual Garden Champagne Party. Tickets sold out immediately. It was a perfect venue for catching up with old friends and making new acquaintances..all while sipping something delicious and sampling yummy savories. We hope to continue this event in the future.

Trick or Treaters stopped by the House on Halloween night for filling their bags. The volunteers enjoyed interacting with the kids and some had a chance to see the amazing decorations throughout the House. Many thanks to Alan and Julie Chimenti for the amazing Halloween decorations.

Our P-S House elves are currently busy decorating for the Christmas season. Trees are being decorated and the House is getting "dressed up" for the season. Please include a visit as it really is lovely at the Holiday Season. Our docents will be looking forward to visitors throughout the season. We encourage you to bring a friend with you.

Margie Casagrande

Extended

Holiday

Hours

South San Francisco Historical Society
PLYMIRE-SCHWARZ HOUSE
 519 Grand Avenue
www.plymirehouse.org

South City's very own Historical House and Gift Shop will be open with extended Saturday hours:

Saturday, November 30 through Saturday, December 21
12:00 - 4:00

Shop our recently restocked Boutique loaded with amazing treasures at unbelievable prices.

Our historic jewel is fully decorated for the Holidays.

Come and tour an important bit of our City's history.

Admission is *FREE*

Co-Sponsored by South San Francisco Department of Parks & Recreation

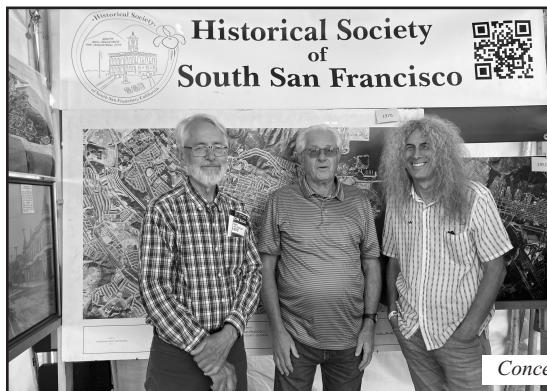
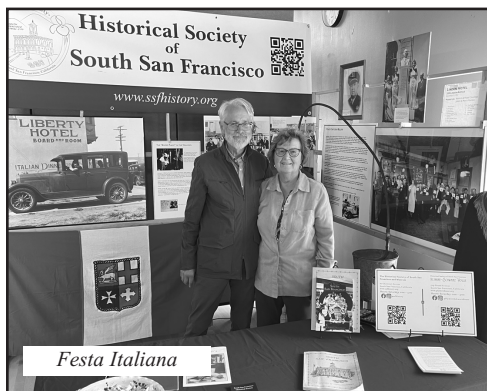


Molly Boyll is the newest member of the Plymire-Schwarz House Steering Committee. She has recently retired from her job as an Office Manager and Admissions Coordinator at a cooperative nursery school in San Francisco. She lives in San Francisco with her husband David and 2 cats. Molly has known Alan and Julie Chimenti for over 30 years and is so grateful for the opportunity to help and participate in making Plymire-Schwarz House a welcoming venue for the community.

The House will be closed for the season from December 28, 2024 through January 2025 and re-open for tours Saturday, February 1, 2025.

Museum News

It has been a very busy Fall for volunteers and supporters of our museum. On September 21, we set-up a booth displaying historical photos and artifacts at the City's Concert in the Park, on September 29 we participated in Festa Italiana with a booth focused on our city's Italian heritage, and on October 19 we participated in Park and Recreation's Trunk or Treat event, handing out candy to our city's children. A big thanks to all our volunteers who made participation in these events possible and thanks to Thrivent (financial advisors) for providing funds for the candy handed out at Trunk or Treat - *Bill Zemke*



Vintage South San Francisco Barbershop Postcard

I often search online auction sites for vintage South San Francisco memorabilia and photos. In doing so I usually come across the same ol' photos – sweet and historic familiar scenes of Grand Avenue, City Hall, Western Meat Company, the High School when it was on Spruce Avenue ...

One day I happened upon a photo postcard of the interior of a beautifully-appointed barbershop identified as being in South San Francisco. At first glance I was skeptical – how could the seller know this was South San Francisco? As I read the description, I became convinced:

“There are several signs visible in the background including a calendar for "United States Faucet, Co" dated 1910. Other signs include ... "Majestic Bar and Pool Hall, R. Luttrell, Prop", and one for "French Laundry, South City, J. Beigbeder, J. Laborde, Props."

Yep – those all checked out as old South San Francisco businesses! I contacted the seller and asked if I might be able to get a scan of the card should I be outbid. Assured that he would accommodate my request, the following day I was told the postcard was being removed from auction and due to a glitch in the auction site I was no longer able to communicate with the seller. I was beyond disappointed that this unique postcard was not going to be added to our collection.

Two weeks later I got the surprise of my life – the seller sent me the original photo as a donation to the museum!

Sincere thanks to Jacqueline Curtis for sharing this unique photo of her great-granduncle, Louis Ringue and cousin, Eddie. Although the location of the barbershop is unknown, we do know the Ringue family name dates back to at least 1903 in South San Francisco.



MAJESTIC SALOON, (J. R. Luttrell, prop.), res. 230 Grand ave.





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

President John Penna
First Vice President Rich Garbarino
Second Vice President Ginny Tilton
Recording Secretary Denise Fernekes
Treasurer, Social Media Manager .Julie Chimenti
Financial Secretary Donna Smith

2024-2025 Directors

Lynn Boldenweck, Dave Casagrande,
Nancy Casazza

Plymire-Schwarz House Steering Committee

Director: Dave Casagrande
Jeanette Acosta, Molly Boyll, 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
South San Francisco 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

Layout & Design: Gloria Lagomarsino