

The Industrial City ECHOES

Newsletter No. 148 - December 2019

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2020 Calendar

December 16, 2019	General Meeting
January 27	Board Meeting
February 24	Board Meeting
March 16	General Meeting
April 20	Board Meeting
May 18	Board Meeting
June 15	General Meeting
July 20	Board Meeting
July 18-19 & 25-26	Victorian Tea
August 17	Board Meeting
September 21	General Meeting
October 16	Annual Dinner
October 19	Board Meeting
November 16	Board Meeting
December 21	General Meeting

General meetings are held at:
Magnolia Center, 601 Grand Ave. - 7:00 p.m.

Board Meetings are held at:
Society Museum, 80 Chestnut Ave. - 7:00 p.m.

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



Holiday Program for December General Meeting

Monday - December 16, 2019 - 7:00 pm

Magnolia Senior Center, 601 Grand Avenue, South San Francisco

St. Augustine Children's Choir will be singing Christmas Carols at our holiday celebration meeting. The group is excited to serve the community by sharing their talents through music. This is a fantastic way to keep that holiday spirit going. So bring your friends and family and join us on December 16!



The program will be followed by our traditional holiday refreshments provided by the Hospitality Committee.

Cookie Reminder:

If you can contribute cookies for our holiday party, they will be appreciated!

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



It's That Time of Year to Renew Your Membership for 2020

It truly is your membership dues that keeps the Historical Society's Museum operating at 80 Chestnut Avenue. Fifteen or twenty dollars may seem like a small amount, but it does help to pay utilities and maintain the thousands of historic artifacts, memorabilia and photographs. The Museum staff thanks you for your continued support as it is important to keep our history alive.

*Sincerely, Sylvia Payne
Museum Director*

We have made it 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!

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S PLYMIRE-SCHWARZ HOUSE

Holiday Champagne Reception & Boutique

Mother Nature loves the Plymire-Schwarz House. That's a fact. We know this is true because every fall we hold The Holiday Champagne Reception & Boutique in the backyard and each year the weather is perfect! Thank you Mother Nature, and thank you to all the guests who attended as well.

For those who pre-registered for the event, attending was easy. Each guest was met by our hostesses on the front porch where they received their wrist bands and were ushered in to meet our docents to tour the house. The decorators had spent a couple of weeks dressing our 117-year old home and we hope she delighted our guests. Thank you to the registration team, decorators in residence and knowledgeable docents for welcoming our guests.



Now time to relax in the yard and spend some time munching and sipping. Our in-house catering team set out an array of amazing yummy savories and delightful sweets while the beverage tent provided thirst quenchers to all of our shoppers and helpers. No one was left hungry or thirsty!

If our guests hadn't been in the Boutique already, it was time to do some holiday shopping. The Boutique looked amazing with a great supply of fall and holiday-themed gifts and decorations, and was packed with shoppers. Thank you to the cashiers and wrap room team who sent our guests off with festive bags of goodies.

What a fantastic group of volunteers, especially the clean up team who worked all day and then put the house and yard back in order. Thank you all!

Plymire-Schwarz Volunteers Rock!

Margie Casagrande



PLYMIRE SCHWARZ BOUTIQUE OPEN IN DECEMBER

Our Holiday Boutique at the P/S House will be open on Wednesdays & Saturdays in December from 1 to 4 pm through December 21. Stop by 519 Grand Avenue and check out the Boutique and beautifully decorated house.

Admission is Free



November 11, 2020 marks the 100-year birthday of South San Francisco City Hall

The City of South San Francisco was incorporated on September 19, 1908. The City Trustees (who later became City Council) met at the temporary City Hall at 310 Linden and Lux Avenues. The land for City Hall was purchased from the South San Francisco Land & Improvement Company for \$10,000. Werner and Coffee Architects of San Francisco was chosen to build a neo-colonial-Georgian structure modeled after Philadelphia's Independence Hall.

City Hall was completed and dedicated on Armistice Day, November 11, 1920; two years after the end of World War I. Thousands gathered in the rain for a parade and ceremony; all South San Franciscans who served in the War were there.

In 2020, South San Francisco is planning a variety of events and programs to celebrate and honor this important part of local history. Stay tuned!



Decorated for the Holidays



Society Lombarda group in front of City Hall, 1928



Fun Fact: Part of the movie, *Skidoo*, was filmed at South San Francisco City Hall. It is an American comedy film directed by Otto Preminger, starring Jackie Gleason and Carol Channing. It was released by Paramount Pictures on December 19, 1968.



City Hall 1930. All Souls Church on the left.

While much of the interior of the City Hall has been altered over the years, very little of the exterior has been changed. This building has housed most city departments and the municipal and superior courts. In the early days, the Police Department occupied three rooms, including one room in the basement for the jail. The Fire Department was housed in the basement and included the living quarters and garage for the engine. City Hall was remodeled between 1949 and 1953. In 1949, the Police and Fire Departments moved out of City Hall into their own quarters. The new Police Station was built next door, now the City Hall Annex.

In the 1980's City Hall was in need of updating and repairs. Due to the cost and complexity of the repairs, the project was accomplished in three phases. First, an interior remodel was undertaken to accommodate the expansion of city offices. In 1998, seismic retrofits were completed to better prepare for a major earthquake, and in 2012, City Hall's exterior received a much-deserved makeover in the form of facade restoration and a fresh coat of paint.

City Hall Timeline

- 1908** City of South San Francisco incorporated
- 1913** Civic Center property purchased
- 1919** \$125,000 bond approved to fund construction
- 1920** Construction of City Hall completed
- 1929** Martin Fountain erected
- 1937** Italian-American Club donates bust of George Washington
- 1953** First remodel completed
- 1960** Second floor renovated
- 60's** Campaign to build new City Hall abandoned
- 1986** City Hall designated a Historic Resource
- 1988** Former Police Station Renovated to become the City Hall Annex
- 1998** Seismic retrofit completed

35th Annual Historical Society Banquet



Lynn Boldenweck and Family



Lois Severi and Family

Once again, a very successful banquet was held on October 18, 2019. Thanks to everyone who attended and those who contributed to our “salami raffle”. We sure received some fabulous raffle prizes. Of course, Gene Mullin is always an entertaining MC, with his jokes to get us in the jolly mood. The salami raffle was handled by John Penna extremely well with Donna to assist. If you did not attend, Bill Zemke stepped up to handle our live auction and, of course, did a great job. Nice to hear about all the wonderful things our Victor John Feudale Award recipients did/do for our community: Lynn Boldenweck and Lois Severi. Sure makes our job easier when there is so much TEAMWORK. Hopefully, the banquet committee can keep up the good work.

Ginny, Donna, Lynn, Jeanette, Mary, Valerie, Diane, Sylvia, Nancy



Check out the Historical Society on Social Media!



/SSFHistSocMuseum
/historicalssf
/plymireschwarzhouse



plymirehouse.org



@historicalssf
@plymireschwarzhouse

2019 - 2021 Slate of Officers

Lynn Boldenweck, Nancy Casazza, Diane Huddleston,
John Penna and Ginny Tilton
were sworn in at the September general meeting.



In Memory

Jean Bisgano

Roy Hansen

Barbara Jean Mantegani

Rose Irli Parks

Raymond Raffaelli

Lorenzo R. (Stag) Torres

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Jean Bisgano

Iole Sari

Jeannie Mantegani

John & Elisa Noonan

Rose Parks

Rich & Jeannette Bertoldi

Dave & Margie Casagrande

Alan & Julie Chimenti

Mary Giusti

Rich & Barbara Irli

Howard & Bev Larsen, Diane Martin

Dan and Steph Newland

Florence Paiva

Robert & Sylvia Payne, Jean Plante

Rod & Sandy Schaffer

Frank & Robyn Risso

Christine Shaw, Jean Silletti

John & Annette Susa

Jerry & Ginny Tilton

Bill & Jo Zemke

Raymond Raffaelli

Rich and Barbara Irli

Raymond Yoschak Sr.

Rich & Barbara Irli

MUSEUM EXHIBIT DONATION

Karl Rolih

New Historical Society Members

Sandra Bianchi

Patrick Esteban

Christine Fowler

Marciana O'Halloran

Kathy Rodgers



Museum Acquisitions

- **Ervin Family:** CA State Legislature Memorial Resolution #1029 in memory of Elizabeth Ervin with letter from Assemblyman Kevin Mullin (April 29, 2019); and 2008 SSF Centennial Celebration fleece vest.
- **Lorraine Norris:** Christmas Postcard of Brentwood Subdivision (1948).
- **Philip Devine:** El Camino High School letterman jacket, Class of 1968, with class lapel pins and senior yell leader photos.
- **Mike and Jackie Belli:** Framed sketch of "12 Mile House" by V. Celli (1981), and newspaper article of it's demolition with photograph of Clara Bergamaschi.
- **Terria Brewer:** Fuller O'Brien Co. men's jackets belonging to Rex Warner, and 1950s panorama photo of Fuller O'Brien employees.

VINTAGE PHOTOS

Museum Finds Grateful Descendants



John L. Stage

For over twenty years a collection of historic family photographs has sat in our museum office—woefully shuffled from one desk or bookshelf to another and no one knowing what to do with them. It was finally decided last month to find them a home. Master sleuth, Lois Severi, scrutinized each of the photos and determined the oldest was identified with the names Cornelia and John L. Stage of Goshin, New York, c.1890s. Lois could not find a connection to South San Francisco. My quest was to take this information and find a family tree on Ancestry.com. Fortunately, several "Stage" family trees existed and emails were sent off to three descendants. All three responded with

interest. It was cheerfully agreed the photos would be shipped to a great niece in New Jersey who would scan and share them with the others. If you're a genealogist, then you know discovering photographs is a dream come true. She was most grateful to receive the photos and sent us a donation.

Although delighted that we were able to reunite a family with its ancestors, we still have the mystery of how they came into our possession—a clue is probably hidden somewhere in our archives.

Sylvia Payne
Museum Director



Mother Peter, Aliza, Amanda, John

Stage Family



The Industrial City ECHOES

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South San Francisco, CA 94080

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Organization
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Permit No. 750

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

Historical Society of South San Francisco

Board of Directors

PresidentBill Zemke
First Vice PresidentDave Casagrande
Second Vice PresidentRich Irl
Recording SecretaryDenise Fernekes
TreasurerJulie Chimenti
Financial SecretaryDonna Smith

2018-2020 Directors

Jeanette Acosta, Sam Bonanno, Ruth DeNardi,
Gene Hessler, Valerie Sommer

2019-2021 Directors

Lynn Boldenweck, Nancy Cassasa, Diane Huddleston,
John Penna, Ginny Tilton

Ex Officio Members

Roy Bava, Diana Ferrari, Mary Giusti,
Sylvia Payne, Ginny Tilton

Plymire-Schwarz Steering Committee

Director: Dave Casagrande
Ex Officio: Roy Bava
Jeanette Acosta, Julie Chimenti,
Mary Giusti, Gene Hessler, Donna Smith

Museum Committee

Director: Sylvia Payne
Lois Severi

The SSF 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

Historical Society Museum

80 Chestnut Avenue
650-829-3825
Tues & Thurs (2-4:00 p.m.) and
2nd & 4th Saturdays (1-3:00 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
Wednesdays (2-4:00 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:

South San Francisco Historical Society
80 Chestnut Avenue
South San Francisco, CA 94080

ECHOES: 650-829-3825 • ssfhistorical@gmail.com

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