



HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, INC.

The Industrial City ECHOES

Newsletter No. 153 - March 2021

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2021 Calendar

March 15	General Meeting (Canceled)
April 19	Board Meeting (via ZOOM)
May 17	Board Meeting (via ZOOM)
June 21	General Meeting (Tentative)
July 19	Board Meeting TBD.....
Aug. 16	Victorian Tea
Sept. 20	Board Meeting
Oct. 18	General Meeting
TBD.....	Champagne Reception
Nov. 15	Board Meeting
Dec. 20	General Meeting

***In-person meetings are
cancelled until
conditions change.
Dates are tentative.***

*Members are welcome to
Board Meetings.*

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



A Great Museum - Thanks to Sylvia!

Over the years, our museum at 80 Chestnut Ave has informed and enriched the lives of many visitors, including elementary school students, history buffs, Society members and people just looking for something to do on a Tuesday or Thursday afternoon. It has provided a very positive, public face for our organization. For the past 14 years our museum director, Sylvia Payne has worked tirelessly to maintain and improve our collection of artifacts and the way they are interpreted and displayed. After these many years of hard work she has decided it was time for her to step back and hand the reigns over to someone else.

During her 14 years leading the museum she has developed and maintained systems to track and archive materials, organized and trained volunteers, kept our museum looking fresh and personally developed many unique and interesting special exhibits. The latest exhibit she developed celebrates the 100th anniversary of Sees Candies. Unfortunately, we have to wait until the pandemic fades away and we can reopen the museum for all to enjoy it.

Sylvia plans to maintain a presence as a docent but her shoes as a museum director will be hard to fill. Several people have volunteered to step up a serve on the museum committee and strive to keep the good work of our museum alive and moving forward. Joining me on the museum committee will be Julie Chementi, Denise Fernekes and John Penna.

Thanks you Sylvia for all that you have done to make this a great organization!

Bill Zemke - Historical Society President

What's New at the Museum

During the last few months museum staff have been working diligently creating its new exhibit, "See's Candies Centennial Celebration, 1921 - 2021." Two display cases full of wonderful collectibles are on display with information on the history of See's, chronicling its growth over the past 100 years.

We are also excited to continue last year's exhibit, "The 2020 South City Musicians Exhibit", which recognizes many talented performers and music teachers living right here in our community. The museum is anticipating to reopen in the next month or two, so please be sure to visit when it does and enjoy a piece of candy – compliments of See's.

Sylvia Payne, Museum Director





In Memory

Barbara Bergamaschi

Brian Borba

Lola Bertolucci Fox

Rosa (Herrmann) Hodkinson

(last member of the Class of '37)

Donations

Any donation is much appreciated. Memorial and In Honor of donations will be listed in the newsletter. Donations can also be targeted to offset the printing of the newsletter.

Thank you!

Please make payable and mail checks to:

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



New Members

BARBARA BAXTER

ELIZABETH CAREY

JEFF & MOE CHIMENTI

DAVID & LINDA PARENTI

CATHLEEN PARRA

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

In Memory of Barbara Bergamaschi

Donors: Raymond & Caroline De Nardi

In Memory of Evelyn Martin

Donors: Jeanette Acosta;
Bruce & Claire Gilbert;
Susan Kennedy; Wendy O'Brien

In Memory of Roy Bava

Donors: Rose Bava
Joanne Bortoli; Gail Davison;
Susan Kennedy

In Memory of Eoyla Giachetti

Donors: Robert & Kathleen Giorgi

In Memory of Frances Regalia

Donor: Diane Martin

In Memory of John (Jack) Sherratt

Donors: John & Elisa Noonan

In Memory of Fran & Barbara

Donor: Bethel Rogers

In Memory of Joe Carcione

Donors: Joseph Jr. & Roberta Carcione

In Memory of Albert & Evelyn Martin

Donor: Diane Martin

In Memory of Susan Eschelbach

Donor: Peter Eschelbach

In Memory of Joseph Fernekes

Donors: Rich & Elaine Garbarino

In Memory of José & Edna deLarios

Donor: Cisca Hansen

GENERAL DONATIONS

Joseph Jr. & Roberta Carcione

Mary Andersen

Caroline DeNardi

Wilma Kious

MUSEUM EXHIBIT DONATION

Karl Rolih

FALL FUNDRAISER DONATIONS

Al & Madeline Banfield

Sandra Bianchi

Eunice Brabec

Jacqueline Buckley

David & Margie Casagrande

Alan & Julie Chimenti

Caroline DeNardi

Norman & Donna Faria

Eddie J. Flores

Paul & Julie Formosa

Vincent & Danielle Fornesi

Robert & Kathleen Giorgi

Mary Giusti

Gianna Giusti-McCune

German Gonzalez

Francisca Guervarra

Eugene Hessler

Dianne Huddleston

Rich & Barbara Irli

Joan Levy

Roberta Matteucci

John Murray

Mary O'Keefe

Marie Patea & Family

John Penna

Paul Alvers & Donna Puizina-Alvers

Sylvia Raquel

Ruth Remche

Michael Rocchetta

Giulio & Lorraine Sbraggia

Valerie Sommer

Jerry & Ginny Tilton

Dino Zerogeanes

Bill & Jo Zemke

IN HONOR OF DONATIONS

In Honor of the Bonanno Family

Donor: Sam Bonanno

In Honor of

Raymond & Caroline DeNardi

Donors: Dan & Ruth DeNardi

TAKE NOTE!

Your Historical Society Membership Expiration Date is on your address label. If your membership has expired,

RENEW TODAY

continue receiving the newsletter and to help preserve the History of Our City.

John Smith

Exp 12/31/20

80 Chesnut Ave

S Sn Francisco, Ca 94080

Please call Donna Smith at (650) 796-9466 with any questions.

Historical Society Dues Expired 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 Avenue, So. San Francisco, CA 94080

Name/Names/Corporation _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

Email _____

☐ Student . . . \$5.00 ☐ Individual \$15.00 .

☐ Family . . . \$20.00 ☐ Supporter \$25.00

☐ Corporate . \$100.00 ☐ Life Membership . \$500.00

The Historical Society's
PLYMIRE-SCHWARZ HOUSE

Sadly, the Plymire-Schwarz House remains closed to visitors. However, if you have a chance, be sure to go by the Plymire-Schwarz House to admire the window displays. Since the pandemic began last March, our hardworking volunteers have taken on a new task. It all started with Halloween, for the first time in our history, when the windows and porch were decorated with spooky ghosts and goblins, colorful pumpkin displays all accompanied by eerie music. We think the volunteers had as much fun putting that together as the neighbors and passersby had when they saw the house! Halloween was followed with decorations celebrating Thanksgiving, Christmas - our favorite! We then greeted 2021 with sparkly and bubbly and bright New Year's adornments. In February, Cupid floated through the house and added his loving touch to help us all embrace Valentine's Day. We hoped that onlookers would enjoy the sweet and colorful bits of vintage ephemera on display. Once Valentine's Day passed, a tiny leprechaun was spotted flitting about the house, dressing it with shamrocks and a wee bit of Irish Green. Remember, everyone is a bit Irish on St. Patrick's Day. So we now hope that as time allows, take a stroll, or try to drive by, slow down (park if you can) and take a new look at our O'Plymire-Schwarz House. Till then, we are wishen' you a pot of gold and all the joy your heart can hold!



One more thing...every holiday and special occasion we will add new displays to catch your eye and, hopefully, continue to find ways to put a smile on your face!!

Garden Tea Parties

Sadly, it appears as though 2021 does not hold any happier news for events at Plymire-Schwarz House. Once again, circumstances have forced us to cancel our Annual Victorian Teas. And once again, we want to do something to put some fun in our lives and stay connected to our followers and supporters.

We had such success and an outpouring of gratitude and positive experiences with our Garden Tea Party raffle last year that we decided to forego a raffle and just offer the opportunity for you to purchase your very own private Garden Tea Party in May. We will be offering six parties available by telephone reservation.

For only \$300, a maximum of 6 guests (you and your chosen group of 5) can enjoy a lovely afternoon tea in our garden as well as shop the boutique! *Reservations will begin Saturday, April 17th.*

Summer Boutique Hours

In more Plymire-Schwarz House news, the Boutique will be open Wednesdays and Saturdays in June. Make an appointment for one hour of private shopping for you and up to three guests of your choice (10am – 4pm). Complete details headed your way soon!

*Please keep an eye out for an email with complete details.
If you're not subscribed, please send your email address to: events@plymirehouse.org*

Details can also be found soon at: www.plymirehouse.org and our Facebook page (@PlymireSchwarzHouse)

Museum Acquisitions

- **Mary Spangler** - Edna Spangler Harks Collection, family photographs, including wedding photo, certificates, proclamations, and books.
- **Cheryl Grantano Rich** - City of South San Francisco Christmas Ornament.
- **Sylvia Payne** - Handmade lapel rose made of ribbon by Jeanne Altizio.

Historical Society Social Media



Under the Courthouse Dome: **Since Grandma Things Changed**

By RAY SPANGLER
Publisher of the Tribune

As a mere male watching the evolution of the domestic kitchen, I have come to the conclusion that no man should marry unless his prospective bride has a degree in electrical engineering.

I retain some vague memories from early childhood about the kitchens of my grandmothers. In Salem, Ore., Grandma Raymond heated all her hot water on the wood cook stove and carted it from here to there in buckets, teakettles and tubs as required. Downstairs, I remember, were the shallow pails of milk from which the cream was skimmed; the rows upon rows of jars of food that grandma "put up" from the garden to last through the winter. No cans in those days.

Down in Corvallis, Ore., was Grandma Spangler's house. The pump was on the back porch, which was considered quite a convenience in those days.

My mother, I believe, had the benefit of hot water lines to the sink, the washtubs (that was long before washing machines) and the bath. But the water was heated in the coils of a wood stove. Finally, we acquired a small gas heater which was attached to the "boiler."

My apprenticeship around the kitchen was served at various times (and for various inducements, up to a dime) washing and wiping dishes, mopping the kitchen floor, and on occasion helping with the washing.

Mother boiled her clothes in an old copper boiler, then put them into the tubs. Some were hand-rubbed on a glass scrubbing board. They went into a rinsing water with bluing, I think they called it. From that they were hand-wrung to the next tub and wrung again before they were hung out to dry.

Mother used to bake her own bread, letting the dough stand overnight to rise. When dad got up at some ungodly hour like 5 a.m. would always scare her right out of bed by the doleful announcement that the bread had "risen" all over the kitchen table and on to the floor.

Just when she was sure he was joking, the dough was really on the linoleum.

We had an ice box drip pan that ran over regularly, or the box got too warm when the ice man didn't show on schedule. There was a "cooler" closet arrangement for some perishables, but the electric refrigerator, like the electric washing machine, was a comparatively late installation in mother's kitchen.

My Every-Loving (E-L) wife moved into a kitchen originally equipped with an electric stove and an electric box. Since we overspent ourselves on the construction of the dwelling there wasn't enough money for a clothes washer. She carted the laundry downtown to a laundromat.

When we got caught up with our payments, we bought an automatic washer.

More recently, we acquired an automatic dishwasher and a disposal for the garbage.

It takes 50 minutes to wash and dry the dishes. It's a good washing and drying job, probably many times more sanitary than anything you could accomplish with an old-fashioned dishcloth.

But E-L, Jon and I do not use many dishes per meal. It simply doesn't make sense to load up that big machine and set it in operation for the appurtenances of one meal.

So, E-L stacks the dishes in the washing machine meal by meal and tries to get the washing done on a once-a-day schedule. All of a sudden, she's running out of everyday silver and has to get out the Sunday stuff for the evening meal.

One day she outfoxed herself. The accumulation of three meals wouldn't stack right in the machine; she had to either do two machine washings (one hour and 40 minutes) or do some by hand.

So, with an electric stove that lights up like a pinball machine in one corner, a clothes washer that thumps and humps away in another, and somewhere in between the dishwasher steaming away while the disposal grinds and grinds – milady was being just as old-fashioned as grandma with the dishrag, sink, drainboard and cloth.

And I, mere male, just wonder what would happen if we ever lost our electricity.

Note: 210 Eucalyptus Avenue is known as the Spangler Home. Ray Spangler worked for the Redwood City Tribune for 32 years. He was editor and publisher; wrote over 7000 columns, and retired in 1968. (Ray was also Edna Spangler Harks' brother.)

1920s and 1930s Panoramic Photographs - now online at Internet Archive

Thanks to the generous support by the California Revealed Project, a grant initiative that helps public libraries digitize historically significant local history, the Library's digital collection now includes panoramic photographs from the 1920s and 1930s.

The digitized photographs include:

- WP Fuller and Paint Company, 1920s
- Loyal Order of Moose SSF Lodge No. 832
- South San Francisco High School Class Photos, 1922-1923
- Druids Parade 1915 Panama Pacific Exhibition
- Pacific Coast Steel Company Employees, 1923

See the photographs online here: <https://bit.ly/2ZDke7P>



**SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM
SPECIAL EXHIBIT FOR 2021
SEE'S CANDIES CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
1921—2021**



- **1921 - CHARLES SEE OPENS HIS FIRST SHOP**
- **1957—SEE'S CANDIES OPENS ITS FIRST
SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO STORE & FACTORY
AT 210 EL CAMINO REAL**

This exhibit is in celebration of See's Centennial Celebration. It includes collectibles either donated or loaned from our members. The photographs are provided by See's corporate office in San Francisco or taken from our own collection of See's Northern California Headquarters at 210 El Camino Real—the only See's store to decorate its rooftop for Easter and Christmas. Truly enjoyable are the miniature replicas of vintage delivery vehicles that were operated during the 1920s, revived for See's 75th Anniversary and taken on a California roadshow in 1996. And, best yet, don't miss the 1952 episode of Lucy Loves See's! Please join us and learn the history of See's Candies...and have some chocolate!

*****Exhibit is proudly sponsored by Mr. Karl Rolih *****

Donations: Many thanks to Lois Severi, Ginnie Ervin, Denise Fernekes, Cheryl Grantano Rich, Robbie Huerta, the Family of Evelyn Martin, Sylvia Payne, and See's Candies

650) 829-3825 · ssfhistorical@gmail.com · facebook.com/SSFHistSocMuseum/



The Industrial City ECHOES

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South San Francisco, CA 94080

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Director: Sylvia Payne
Lois Severi

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

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.

Temporarily Closed

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.)
2nd Saturday (1-3:00 p.m.)
beginning 3/14
Temporarily Closed

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
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