

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, INC.

The Industrial City ECHOES

Newsletter No. 167 - September 2024

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2024 Calendar

Sept. 21 ...	Concert in the Park
Sept. 29	Festa Italiana
Oct. 5	Garden Champagne Party
Oct. 18.....	Banquet Dinner
Oct. 21	Board Meeting
Nov.18	Board Meeting
Dec. 16	General Meeting

*Members are welcome to
Board Meetings.*

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



Program for September General Meeting

Monday, September 16 at 7:00 pm

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

**At the general meeting we will have the pleasure of hearing
Allan Napetian, VP and head of external quality at Genentech.**
Allan will be speaking about site services, designs safety, transportation
and everything that we can touch and feel at Genentech.
Please join us for an evening of how our city is changing.

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

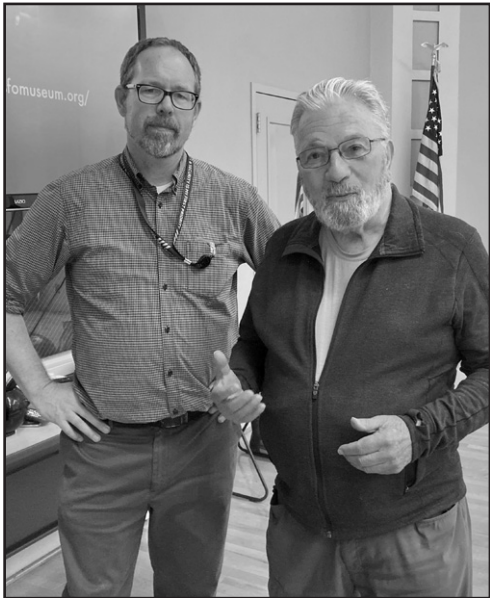
*Cookie Reminder: Any sweets that you can contribute
for our meeting will be much appreciated!*



Slate of Officers & Directors for 2024-2025



President:.....John Penna
First Vice-President:Rich Garbarino
Second Vice-President:Ginny Tilton
Financial Secretary:.....Donna Smith
Treasurer &
Social Media Manager:..Julie Chimenti
Recording Secretary:...Denise Fernekes
Directors:.....Nancy Casazza
Lynn Boldenweck
Dave Casagrande



June General Meeting Speaker
*Samuel Scott - SFO Museum Curator
of Aviation, Collections
with John Penna*

Memorial Donations

In Memory of Sam Bonanno

Donor: Jeanette Acosta

In Memory of Rich Bordi

Donors: Al and Madeleine Banfield

Betty Battaglia

Lynn Boldenweck

Dave and Margie Casagrande

Alan and Julie Chimenti

Dan and Ruth DeNardi

The Ervin Family

Mary Guisti

Barbara Irli

Linda Leggero

Dennis and Sandy Lema

John and Elisa Noonan

Michael Pariani

Lester & Christine Pezo & Family

Ed & Sue Pirazzi

Edithann Pirazzi

Frank, Robyn and Olive Risso

Ginny Tilton

Steven Ungaretti

Michael and Sandra Wilson

Bill and Jo Zemke

In Memory of Lola Clark

Donors: Frank, Robyn and Olive Risso

In Memory of Detective Stephen Coughlin, SSFPD (Ret)

Donors: Frank, Robyn and Olive Risso

In Memory of Donna Faria

Donor: Mary Giusti

In Memory of Nancy Ferko

Donor: Ginny Tilton

In Memory of Ray DeNardi

Donors: Dan and Ruth DeNardi

In Memory of Gladys Puizina

Donors: Paul Alvers &

Donna Puizina-Alvers

In Memory of Joe Regalia

Donor: Rosemary Armanino

In Memory of Jerry Tilton

Donors: Jeanette Acosta

Mary Andersen

Lynn Boldenweck

Dan and Ruth DeNardi

Janine and Ralph Greenwald

Barbara Irli

Diane Martin

Evonne Medeghini

Donna Smith

Sunshine Center Pharmacy

Ginny Tilton

Message from Historical Society President

I hope everyone is enjoying Summer (even though it has been a bit foggy lately). Next week will see the return to school...I think I can hear groaning from the neighborhood kids...and hoorays from their parents!

As we transition into fall, we want to take a moment to thank our volunteers, Alan and Julie Chimenti and Sally Busalacchi for the great July 4th decorations at the Plymire-Schwarz House. It looked great all month.

On June 22, we held our annual Garage Sale at the Museum. It was a huge success and a big thank you to our wonderful volunteers who were up very early...worked the sale...and then cleaned up.

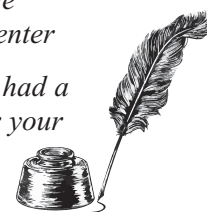
Our Plymire-Schwarz House and Boutique continue to be open every Saturday from 1:00-4:00 p.m. as well as the Historical Museum at 80 Chestnut Avenue. I can't say enough about how great all of our volunteers are. Thank you All!

As fall approaches, may I remind you of some upcoming dates and activities...

- September 16 - General Meeting at the Roberta Cerri Center
- October 5 - Garden Party at the Plymire-Schwarz House
- October 18 - Banquet Dinner at the Basque Cultural Center

I have enjoyed my time (the last 3 years) as President. I have had a great team to work with and on their behalf, we thank you for your support both now and in the future.

Dave Casagrande



Honor Donations

In Honor of Elizabeth Ervin's Birthday

Donor: Virginia Ervin

In Honor of The Navarro Family

Donor: Fr. Joseph A. Gordon

Plymire-Schwarz House Donation

Jeff and Moè Chimenti

Museum Acquisitions

Kimberly Abold: Parents (Debora Newman and Richard Abold) memorabilia from SSFHS Class of 1957.

Sciandri Family: SSF and All Souls events wine glasses.

Lee and Jill Cattaneo: Historic photos of May Day and Druids Parade in SSF.

Correction from June Newsletter:
Floyd & Rita Parma: Aerial photo of undeveloped Sunshine Gardens neighborhood & various SSF Streetcars.

NEW MEMBERS

Rebecca Bayardo

Angenette Lau Family

Historical Society Dues Expired on December 31st.

To renew or become a 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 _____

☐ Student \$5.00

☐ Individual \$15.00

☐ Family \$20.00

☐ Supporter \$25.00

☐ Corporate \$100.00

☐ Life Membership . . . \$500.00

36TH ANNUAL SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO HISTORICAL SOCIETY BANQUET

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

Our banquet will be held on Friday, October 18, 2024 at the Basque Cultural Center in South San Francisco. Invitations will be mailed separately. If members would like to donate raffle prizes for our "salami" raffle, please bring them to the Museum or Plymire-Schwarz House during normal operating hours Saturday between 1:00-4:00 or call Ginny for pick up (650-438-5498). Wine and Gift Cards would be perfect. Our raffle last year was really fun and exciting, lead by Susan Kennedy along with her assistant, Olive Risso. And, I'm sure this year's will be just as exciting.

Thank you and hope to see you at the banquet! Ginny, Lynn, Donna and Nancy

HONORING 2024 RECIPIENTS OF THE VICTOR JOHN FEUDALE AWARD



Denise Fernekes was born in San Francisco in 1951 to Roy and Florence Bava. She moved to South San Francisco in 1955. Denise attended Martin School, Parkway Junior High School, and graduated from South San Francisco High School in 1969. She received her AA Degree from the College of San Mateo. She transferred to Chico State where she received her BA in American Studies and entered the teaching

program receiving her Elementary School Teaching Credential.

Denise married Joe Fernekes in 1977. They had two daughters, Danielle and Megan. She served as PTA president for two SSF schools, first when the girls attended Spuce and then again at Martin School when that became the girl's school of attendance.

Denise began teaching in South San Francisco Unified School District as a substitute teacher. Her first teaching assignment was at El Rancho Elementary School as a sixth grade teacher. While there, she met her future husband Joe, who was the Physical Education teacher. She then went on to teach at Serra Vista, Avalon, and returning to Martin School as a second grade teacher. She later taught second grade at Lincoln School in Burlingame Elementary School District. She ended her career after teaching for 23 years.

Denise has volunteered her time with the South San Francisco Historical Society and is currently Secretary on the Board. She has helped with the Tea, decorating the Plymire-Schwarz House at Christmas time, and as a docent with Mary Giusti at the P-S House.



Rich Garbarino was born and raised in San Francisco. He graduated from Lowell High School then City College of San Francisco. He earned a B.S. in Management from La Salle University.

Partner, family owned building maintenance business; Regional Manager(S.F. Bay Area), multi-state building maintenance company(1978-1982); Building Operations

Supervisor, Bechtel Power Corp.(1982-1987); Director, Campus operation services, Campus distribution services, Campus Property/Asset Office, San Francisco State University. Guest lecturer, School of Business. Retired 2002..

Rich served on the South San Francisco City Council and was Mayor (2007,2011,2015,2020). He was president of the League of California Cities, representing 482 cities (2017-2018). Rich has served his City for a total of 38 years.

Rich now enjoys his non- political life traveling with his wife of 61 years, Elaine, and spending time with his 3 children and 8 grandchildren. He and Elaine are awaiting their first great grandchild due next year.

Museum News

Our Vintage Goods and Garage Sale in June was a great success. Thanks to everyone donating items that helped us make over \$3,400. Also, a big thanks to members and friends that helped collect and price items, set up everything on the day of the event, then take down, box-up and depose of the leftover items. With everyone's help, we look forward to doing this again next year.

Our museum team will be taking exhibits to Orange Park in September. Come down and visit us at the Concert in the Park on September 21 and Festa Italiana on September 29. These will be exciting events and we hope to see you there!

Bill Zemke





** Admission is Limited **
** No Tickets Sold at Door **

*In order to secure your reservation,
 we kindly request payment be
 received within seven days after
 your reservation is confirmed.*

Benefiting
 Historical Society of South San Francisco
PLYMIRE-SCHWARZ HOUSE

Join us in our Garden for an afternoon of
 sweet and savory bites, bubbly and other beverages,
 and a bit of shopping in the Boutique!

All for only \$40 per person!

Reservations begin Saturday, September 14, 2024
9:00 a.m.

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

- your name • phone number
- number of guests in your party

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

events@plymirehouse.org

**The Plymire-Schwarz House
 Decorated for 4th of July**



Check out our website - www.ssffhistory.org



Facebook and Instagram!

@ssffhistory

@ssffhistorymuseum

@plymireschwarzhouse



The Weiss Home

The charming cottage at 90 Oak Avenue (originally numbered 61 Oak) is long gone but we are lucky to have photos as well as its personal history thanks to member, Joe Ross.

Soon after marrying, Joe's grandparents, Alan T. Sherman and Irene (Bildhauer) Sherman purchased the land on Oak Avenue near Grand for \$5 down and \$5 a month. At that time, the grand and beautiful Lux Mansion (located near Chestnut and Old Mission Road) had been left to ruins for years. Alan made good use of lumber and hardware he salvaged from the mansion and built a two-bedroom house. The rear of the residence was constructed from the cook shack of the former Miller-Lux Ranch. According to Joe, there was a bathtub in one part of the house, the toilet, however, was added later on the back porch.

Alan Sherman passed away in 1908. Irene wed Frank Weiss in 1913 and made their home in the cottage on Oak Avenue. Four generations of their family lived in the cottage.

Frank Weiss passed in 1960 and Irene passed away nine years later at the age of 91 years.

The Weiss home and other structures on Oak have since been demolished to make way for new housing.



*Irene Weiss in front of 61 Oak Avenue.
Taken by a "roving photographer."
Photo Courtesy of Joe Ross*



*Oak Avenue. South San Francisco Railway Line on left.
September 10, 1913
John Henry Mentz, Photographer | SFMTA Photo Archive*



*Frank and Irene Weiss at 61 Oak Avenue with daughter,
Bertha (born March 12, 1914).
Photo Courtesy of Joe Ross*

We Appreciate All Donations!

Donation envelopes are available at the Museum and the Plymire-Schwarz House or you can send a check and mail to:

South San Francisco Historical Society, 80 Chestnut Avenue, So. San Francisco, CA 94080
Donations will be listed in the newsletter.

Do you enjoy your quarterly edition of **Echoes**?

You can target your donation to offset the cost of printing the newsletter.

Thank you!





The Industrial City ECHOES

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

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OR CURRENT RESIDENT

Historical Society of South San Francisco

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Financial SecretaryDonna Smith

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Lynn Boldenweck, Nancy Casazza

2023-2025 Directors

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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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