# We Love Kids . .

and kids are our future. So we are taking a different tack on our first page. Here and on page 2 is a tear-out especially designed for kids. Word games and Charles Lummis. The two go together. Lummis wrote poetry on birch bark when he attended Harvard–partly to finance his education–but also because he couldn't help it. He was a writer, a wordsmith, a prankster and a lover of a challenge. So here's to the kids. ENJOY.



more on page 2

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| 18 + 22<br>10 + 21<br>11 + 7   | • 10<br>• 15                              | Join the Future Historians<br>and receive<br>a copy of the children's book,<br><i>Charles Lummis and YOU</i> ,<br>a quarterly children's page<br>a Future Historians membership<br>card,<br>a Plant Hunt, Rock House craft<br>and Ice Cream Social at<br>El Alisal just for Future Historians.<br>Join the Historical Society of<br>Southern California as a<br>Future Historian for just<br>\$10 a year.<br>If you are from 5-12 years old and<br>like games, hunting for things in<br>the garden, and exploring<br>mysteries in a |
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#### HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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The Lummis Home is open to the public Fri-Sun 12-4

Group Tours Fridays by appointment

## Motes and Musings

IN THE OPENING of The Historical Society of Southern California: A Centennial History, 1891-1991 Jane Apostol offers the following recollection from Noah Levering, the official father of the Historical Society of Southern California, on his inspiration for HSSC: "I was thoroughly convinced that this was a grand field for historical work and that steps should be taken at once to gather up and preserve the unwritten history which would be prolific with interest to those who should come after us," (1893). Although I have come to HSSC more than 100 years after he helped organize it, I am proud to share with Levering an Iowa past, California as an adopted state, and a belief that the Southland is indeed "a grand field for historical work."

#### IN RE-READING JANE'S HISTORY of

HSSC, I was also struck by the consistency of the opportunities and challenges the Society has faced since its inception, from making history meaningful to an ever-changing population to finding suitable office space. But, as all good students of history know, no matter how similar the present and the past are, they are also different in key ways. Today the Historical Society has a far larger and more varied membership than it did across much of the 20<sup>th</sup> century even though we face similar challenges in terms of meeting the needs and interests of our members. The Board of Directors and staff of HSSC are striving to do just that: working to build strong ties with you as partners in the promotion, preservation and exploration of the history of our region. Recently we sent out a membership survey as a first step in that direction. In the weeks and months ahead you will see a number of changes in HSSC operations that we hope will make membership even more valuable to you. For instance, in this edition we've inaugurated our section for children and offer more historical content. We've updated our website with a new look and additional features: www.socalhistory.org. Stay tuned, as they say. There's more in the works: a yard sale (save your stuff!), an awards cocktail party, and a summer garden

party. You won't want to miss any of the upcoming events!

Also new: We have two new weekend docents: Christa Cordova and Jessica Zlotnicki. Jessica has just returned from a teaching-abroad excursion in Venezuela, and will soon return to spend Saturdays and Sundays at El Alisal. Both Christa and Jessica are college students at Pasadena City College. We are fortunate to have two such vibrant, smart young women giving tours of El Alisal on the weekend.

IN THE "NOT-ALL-IS-NEW" category: the annual HSSC events of this past fall and winter were not to have been missed—we hope you didn't! In October HSSC members, guests, and staff shared a wonderful evening at the Huntington

Library honoring the lifetime achievements of Judson Grenier, Nancy Mouré, John Robinson, and Gary Nash. November's Dunning Lecture was, as always, a stand-out



event with Kevin Starr at the podium. Always informative, always entertaining: that's Prof. Starr. In mid-December we entertained members and friends at El Alisal during the Holiday Open House. There was lots of food, much conviviality, and goodies for sale. I hope you were there to share the camaraderie always present at HSSC events and the terrific history presented thereat too.

#### FINALLY, A WORD OF THANKS to

special supporters of HSSC. Grants received between last fall and this winter from the S. Mark Taper Foundation and the The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation provide significant support both to the programs of the Historical Society of Southerm California and to our general operating expenses. Many, many thanks to all.

That's it for this edition of Motes and Musings, little bits and longer reveries. Until next time I remain faithfully yours for the cause of history.



PHOTO: Troy Tiscareño

The 2005 FELLOWS wearing their FELLOWS medallion stand in front of a Flemish tapestry in the Friends' Hall at the Huntington Library: Gary B. Nash, Judson A. Grenier, Nancy Moure, and John W. Robinson. The award was presented on October 4, 2005. Candidates are elected based on a lifetime contribution to history.



Nancy Grenier with her husband 2005 FELLOWS recipient Judson Grenier and Denise Spooner at the Huntington Library.

2005 FELLOWS are honored at a Gala at the Huntington Library in San Marino

The

## **Garden Anniversary Blooms to Success!**

HAT A WONDERFUL, fun-filled day HSSC's 20th Anniversary Garden Day turned out to be! Three hundred fiftyplus visitors strolled through the Lummis Home Garden on October 23, 2005 to celebrate the inception of this waterwise, colorful Highland Park garden. Despite the overcast skies, people came with smiles a-plenty to enjoy lectures, planting demonstrations, and information booths of various community organizations from around the Los Angeles County area including the Los Angeles County Arboretum, the City of Los Angeles Recycling and Conservation Program, the Arroyo Seco Foundation, the Theodore Payne Foundation and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. The time and effort put forth by these organizations is a testament to how dedicated our community is to water conservation and nativegardening within a residential environment. Many thanks to all!

GARDEN DAY HAD NO SHORTAGE OF things to entertain the public. Two lecturers were a highlight of the afternoon: Rick Fisher of Toyon Design discussed waterwise gardening, while Robert Perry (whose Cal Poly Pomona landscape class originally designed the Lummis Garden) discussed the garden's inception and its change over time. HSSC was also able obtain antique gardening tools and equipment from writer and garden expert Robert Smaus, who was kind enough to install an exhibit in the Lummis Home Museo; the exhibit turned out to be an amazing set of collectibles and was well-received! Even children had things to do. There was a children's table with



Volunteer Melanie Martinez serves as hostess at the food table.

garden hunts, balloons, activity books, and small interactive exhibits. Special thanks to southern California gardening expert Lili Singer for her "Ask Lili Singer" booth; I am sure many people including myself—left with a more in-depth knowledge of native gardening to implement in their own personal garden spaces. There is no way to say "thank you" enough to all the many volunteers that made the day possible.

PLANT SALES— a large portion of the inventory was donated by Armstrong Garden Center—, food catered by Barragan's in Echo Park, and new garden plant identification signs: At the end of the day the event was a group effort with an eye to teach the community about the importance of native planting and water-conservation in a droughtsusceptible environment like Los Angeles. We can learn from spaces like the Lummis Home Garden that there is beauty in native foliage. The Lummis Garden's 20th anniversary draws a crowd



Lori L. Paul, program director for the Theodore Payne Foundation provides information on wildflowers and native plants of California.



Center and right: Lummis Home volunteer Jennifer Ng and HSSC executive assistant Margaret Dickerson answer a visitor's question.

The c French in E

IN HIS MEMOIRS, Sixty Years in California, Los Angeles pioneer Harris Newmark describes sending his son Maurice Newmark to Paris to study French. Today we encourage our children to learn Spanish. In 1873, however, when Maurice sailed to Paris, fluency in French was considered more useful in the fledgling city of Los Angeles. This was a time when the native-born French and the Canadian French were quite influential. Although they shared the same language, they came from two separate nations with different identities. In this article we will consider only the French who crossed the Atlantic.

HE FIRST WAVE of native-born French pioneers who came during the Mexican era (1821-1848) were quickly absorbed into the region's Spanish culture. Mostly Catholic, they married, baptized their children at the Plaza Church, and rapidly mastered the Spanish language. Their original French names easily and recognizably converted to Spanish versions: Jean Louis Vignes became Don Luis; Joseph Mascarel, Don Jose. The non-Catholic settlers, mostly French Jews from Alsace, were quickly assimilated into the German population of Los Angeles. Four French-Alsatians married into the Newmark family and formed sound business partnerships within that circle. This first wave of French immigrants came as adventurers or colonizers seeking new opportunities. Their ability to switch between the Mexican and Anglo-Saxon cultures gave them an important advantage.



Helene Demeestere was formerly the curator of photographs at the Mary Pickford Library and continues as its consultant. She graduated with a master's degree in history from Paris University and studied photography at Columbia College in Chicago. She is now a photography consultant for books on local and social history and is writing a history of French immigration to Los Angeles.

A SECOND WAVE followed when California became the 31st state of the Union. News of the gold discovery reached Europe at a time when France was in political turmoil: The ideals for which their parents had fought in 1789 were vanishing. Successive governments were bent on restoring the old regime, to the dismay of the supporters of the nowlost French Republic. The opportunity to emigrate to California eased their disappointment. The timing was perfect: a new state was emerging. It promised economic opportunities and was near Mexico, a country with which France had maintained close diplomatic relations. The opportunity permitted these Frenchmen to escape an undesirable regime and allow them to express long-held political principles of equality and democracy within a republic.

In 1850, 4,000 Frenchmen sailed to San Francisco. The Foreign Miners Tax established that year, in part to drive foreigners from the diggings, motivated



Sonora Town in 1890. French born Joseph Mascarel was elected mayor of L 1899. By 1890 Sonora Town was already ethnically mixed. The fence sign say

some to move south and by the year 1860—according to the census—235 French men and women were living in Los Angeles County. Their group was large enough to organize a French Benevolent Society, a true democratic organization whose members, by contributing a dollar a month, participated in caring for their own in case of death or sickness. This led to building the second hospital in the county—the French Hospital following the establishment of an infirmary by the Sisters of Charity. (See our website for an article by Brett Arena on the Sisters. www.socalhistory.org)

These Frenchmen did not keep a low profile, but went to work on a political agenda. From 1853 to 1884, eleven Frenchmen served as city council members. Others were active in the development of the city: Solomon Lazard provided a water system, Domingo Amestoy developed a banking system, Vignes, Garnier and Bastanchury improved the agricultural economy. Some, like Maurice Kremer for many years secretary of the City Council who became county treasurer, used their knowledge in administrative organization.



by Helene Demeestere



is in 1865 and lived in the Mexican section of Los Angeles until his death in se Art Depot, 315 North Main Street."

By the 1860s Angelenos of French descent played a premier role in city government. French born Joseph Mascarel was elected mayor in 1865. Mascarel arrived in L.A. in 1844, married an Indian woman and never spoke English. Extremely frugal, until his death in 1899 he lived in the Mexican section of Los Angeles, then commonly called "Sonora Town," and built a fortune by lending money and investing in land. He also saw to the needs of other French settlers contributing to the city's development. For instance, he leased water rights to his compatriot Jean-Louis Sainsevain: awarded a city contract for a brick school to two other former French nationals. Overall, Mascarel proved as careful with the city's finances as he was his own, closely controlling spending, making sure he approved every outlay. His experience in the French merchant marine was good training for governing the town with an iron fist. Fearing violence from armed soldiers returning from the Civil War, he forbade anyone traveling or passing through Los Angeles "to wear any dirk, pistol, sword

### SAMPLE THE FRENCH PRESENCE IN LOS ANGELES

TO BEGIN YOUR FRENCH experience in Los Angeles, park in one of the parking lots serving Olvera Street—the Union Station or Spring Street lot. Walk to the GARNIER BLOCK at 511 North Main Street. Originally this building was the Plaza House with shops on the ground level and a hotel on the second floor.





Walk to the GARNIER BUILDING at 415 North Los Angeles Street named for Philippe Garnier and located in the Olvera Plaza area facing Union Station. In this undated photo the street is closed for the Chinese Moon Festival.

Plan to enjoy a sandwich at PHILIPPE'S, home of the original French dip. The walk to Philippe's is an easy one go one block north of Union Station to the intersection of North Main, Alameda and Ord streets. Or drive. Philippe's has a parking lot. The restaurant established by Philippe Mathieu in 1908 was sold in 1927 but retains Philippe's original menu. Be sure to add a dash of Philippe's hot french mustard on your sandwich. A side order of coleslaw followed by a baked apple will keep you going through the rest of your French experience.

From Philippe's, drive to College and Hill to find a STATUE OF JOAN OF ARC, in the forecourt of what was once the French Hospital. Walk around the corner and you will find arches, remnants of the original facility. Today the site continues to be a health complex serving the surrounding community. Street parking is hard to find but worth the effort.





Next drive north to 1911 Sunset Blvd. to TAIX restaurant, a popular dining destination especially during the Dodger baseball season. The building and menu are inspired by French architecture and cuisine. Here you can enjoy a light libation before heading on to Calabasas to see the Leonis Adobe. See insert on page 8.

THE FRENCH continued on page 8

PHOTOS clockwise from top: Michele Clark, SECURITY PACIFIC COLLECTION/Los Angeles Public Library, Philippe's, Michele Clark, Taix

#### MORE FRENCH HISTORY AND CUISINE IN THE LOS ANGELES AREA

TRAVEL BY CAR OR GOLD LINE to the Mission Street Station in South Pasadena. Just south of the station, on El Centro, you will find NICOLE'S, a delightful French restaurant and gourmet foods shop.



Nicole Grandjean grew up in Loireet-Cher in the south of France where she and her family would go to the local farms to buy fresh French foods, developing a life-long love and appreciation for them. She worked for several gourmet food wholesalers in southern California but in 1989. decided to open her own company where she could offer products at the time unavailable to the home chef.

She moved to her present location in South Pasadena in 2001. Nicole and her son, Steven Grandjean, who left the film business to join her, believe in tasting. Every Thursday and Saturday they select a wide variety of cheeses and offer samples, a wonderful opportunity to educate one's palate. They stock hundreds of cheeses, pâtés, truffle products, oils and vinegars and specialty baking products from around the world, and even beautiful French table linens. They also serve sandwiches, soups and salads for lunch on their outdoor patio.



The 120-year-old LEONIS ADOBE at 23537 Calabasas Road in Calabasas is open to the public. Call (818) 222-6511 for details. Miguel Leonis came to California from the Basque province of France in 1858. He

married an Indian woman thus gaining the rights to Rancho El Escorpion, now Calabasas. Here he raised cattle and sheep.

There has been a constant and rather important Basque immigration to South America, Mexico and California. Basques have an excellent reputation for handling sheep and helped to develop the wool industry in the West after the demise of cotton plantations after the Civil War.

Miguel Leonis was the first Basque to settle in LA County, followed by many of his countrymen sheepherders. Most of them now live around Bakersfield and in the San Bernardino area. The Basques of southern California still celebrate their culture with a big meeting in September each year.

There were three waves of native-born French that settled in Los Angeles

#### THE FRENCH IN LOS ANGELES continued from page 7

in a cane, slingshot...under a penalty of \$100 fine or imprisonment at the discretion of the mayor."

These early Frenchmen were educated and had a useful trade to share. They thrived during the sixties and seventies. By 1880, 803 Frenchmen were enumerated by the census.

#### A THIRD WAVE OF FRENCH IMMIGRANTS

was prompted by the success of these early residents and was facilitated by the transcontinental railroad. The later arrivals were looking for land and job opportunities. Coming from small villages in the French Alps and Pyrenees where educational and economic opportunities were few, many had a harder time learning a new language and so settled into work as farm hands and sheep herders. They were also far outnumbered by the massive influx of English-speaking migrants pouring into Los Angeles during the boom of the eighties.

Unlike their predecessors who were city dwellers, the new immigrants scattered throughout the Southland from the Tehachapis to San Pedro. From time to time one would rise from the crowd and become a successful entrepreneur such as Germain Pelissier or Marius Taix-founder of the family associated with the historic Taix Restaurant on Sunset Boulevard. Far fewer, though, got involved in city matters. However, they were fond of gathering with their peers. Thus, around the turn of the century, Aliso Street became a meeting place for

farmers and shepherds coming to town for business or a visit to the French Hospital. Indeed, the corner of Alameda and Aliso grew to be something of a French Quarter in the city with several boarding houses, grocery stores, saloons, stables and shops catering to the 1,800 or so French residents of the county. A look at the city directory of 1897 shows the "Café des Alpes," "L'Hotel des Pyrenees," names echoing places where most of these French immigrants originated.

Today, there are a rare few markers of the original French community in southern California that occasionally catch the eye of the alert by-passer. Two buildings at the Pueblo-the Garnier and the Brunswig-, the Leonis Adobe in Calabasas, Bastanchury Road in north Orange County, are a few. As for the histories of the French settlers in southern California, destruction of the archives of the French consulate during the San Francisco earthquake and fire a hundred years ago, makes it difficult to piece together their stories. However, with the right resources and a good deal of perseverance it is possible to reconstruct an understanding of their role in our past. In so doing we deepen our understanding of the history of our region and the contributions of a group of people-the French-many of whom were determined, in the words of Leonard and Dale Pitt in their book Los Angeles from A to Z, to "keep a low profile."

## Research Grant Announcement

HSSC is pleased announce the application guidelines for the Historical Society of Southern California's small grants program for Summer 2006. The grants, known as HSSC/ Haynes Research Stipends, are designed to support scholars who have short-term financial needs.

The Historical Society particularly encourages younger scholars, doctoral candidates at the dissertation stage, scholars in smaller local institutions, faculty from out-of-state institutions who must make brief visits, secondary school faculty who need summer awards to do research, retired scholars who no longer have ties to their former institutions, and unaffiliated scholars who need modest financial support for their research so they can continue to publish.

The grants are for a period of one to four weeks at a stipend of \$300 per week. The grants may be used to supplement other grants and to pay for a variety of expenses related to research on Los Angeles and/or southern California. The deadline for applications is an April 1, 2006 postmark.

If a grant of this type will further your research and writing on Los Angeles and southern California, please contact Robert Montoya for specific guidelines at the Society offices or by e-mailing robert@socalhistory.org by Robert Montoya

#### SAVE YOUR STUFF

Do you have too many books on your shelves? Do you have things you don't use any more? Do you have clothes that no longer appeal to you? Do you have "dust collectors?" We have the answer for you! Donate them to the Historical Society during April for our Yard Sale, Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

There will also be treasures from the upstairs of the Lummis Home, a place we're currently cleaning out.

Watch for more information on the date of drop-off locations. We would love to have you as a volunteer at this event. Phone (323) 222-0546

## Keeping History Alive! Update

IN 2004, YOUR HISTORICAL SOCIETY LAUNCHED A NEW PROGRAM, "Keeping History Alive!" to improve the teaching of history in Los Angeles County schools. One component of this program involves the awarding of small grants to teachers. They are invited to apply for amounts ranging from \$250 to \$1,000 for the purchase of classroom materials, the scheduling of field trips, and participation in activities leading to enrichment in teaching.

In October 2005, we invited proposals from teachers in nearly 2,000 schools in the county. To date, 67 have applied for grants with a total request of \$56,000. We have recently awarded \$38,000 to 52 teachers, with the result that more than 8,000 students will benefit from these grants.

This second year of the program is supported by The Ahmanson Foundation, The Kenneth T. and Eileen L. Norris Foundation and The Roth Family Foundation. We thank them for their support of this important outreach to teachers of history and their students in Los Angeles County. They too, are "Keeping History Alive."

by Michele Clark

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Thanks to all who joined in 2005 Ms. Gwenn Abrams Mr. & Mrs. A.T. Acosta Faddy Calistro Ms. Maria Avila Ms. Lynne Babior Mr. Don Bailer Ms. Irene Baker Ms. Catherine Bator Mike & Lynette Berg Robe Mr. Richard Beverage Mr. Thomas Bliss Paula Bloomfield Mr. Larry Boerio Mr. Dan Bowman Ms. Elizabeth Franco Bradley Ms. Elizabeth Breithaupt Ms. Magi Brom Ms. Ann Burckle Mr. Alan Buster Isreal Calderon Ms. Evelyn A. Calvin Marion & Robin Campbell Ms. Kimberly Campeau-McAllister Ms. Nicole Campeau-McAllister Angel R. Cervantes Dana Chavez Ms. Maggie Clark Andrea Cohen Mr. & Mrs. Tom Coull Mr. & Mrs. Dwight Curran Ms. Joanne L. Dallas Ms. Colleen Davis Ms. Nena Davis **Richard & Ruth Davis** Mr. Patrick Devine Mr. John Donelan Ms. Terry Dooley Mr. Jean Drum Ms. Renia Ehrenfeucht Ms. Amy Essington Mr. Thomas J. Euper Naomi & Finesse Farley Ms. Judy Farris

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A partial list

## Meet Betty Mallery : Volunteer Extraordinaire



f you've been to the Charles Lummis Home in the last two decades, you may be one of the people lucky enough to have had a tour given by Betty Mallery. She has been a docent at El Alisal for seventeen years.

She advises other docents to "embrace Charles Lummis as if he were a friend," not to have a script, but to tell what they know, going on "side tracks" as the people are interested. She watches the visitors' faces for clues about a good place to stop. She once heard a docent in another museum give a tour by reciting a script, and found it was boring and that the guide could not answer questions about anything not in the prepared talk. Neither of those is a problem with Betty Mallery. Her enthusiasm is based on the excitement she feels about all the details she knows—whether it's about Maynard Dixon's pyrograph, or Eve Lummis' brother-in-law who ran the post near the pueblo in New Mexico where Eve became a teacher, or the size of Lummis' house (3900 square feet, upstairs and down, as measured by Betty herself.)

To her, the mission of the Historical Society of Southern California is to encourage the interest of younger people in California history. Betty's own interest in the past and the future is not confined to HSSC and El Alisal. She is also president of the Manhattan Beach Historical Society, committee chairperson for two church groups, and a participant in the monthly library book sale near her home. Additionally, she helps prepare food for one hundred homeless people each Tuesday afternoon, and attends a regular exercise class.

That is just the day-to-day list, however, as Betty is an amateur archeology and paleontology fan and has gone on several Elderhostel digs, including those at Crow Canyon in Mesa Verde, the Presidio in San Diego, the San Luis Rey Mission aqueduct (where she found a pre-Civil War uniform button, the only treasure unearthed on that trip), a Wyoming dinosaur excavation, and a South Dakota mammoth site. She says, "I haul my own buckets and screen my own finds. You should not have to depend on other people." Betty is only in her mideighties, and one has the sense she isn't waiting around to get old.

Someone in her sixties told me she wants to be just like Betty when she grows up. So do I. by Julie-Ann Kosakowski Volunteer coordinator Julie Ann Kosakowski is a former teacher.

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|  | All of the benefits above plus  | Lummis Home and Garden                           |  |
|  | One special publication   |  |  |
|  | Membership in North American  | \$1,250 President's Circle                       |  |
|  | Reciprocal Museum program   | All of the above plus<br>Lectures and receptions |  |
| NAME   | \$300 Patron Members  | featuring noted historians                       |  |
| ADDRESS  | All of the above plus   | °  |  |
| CITY ST ZIP  | Two special publications  | \$10 Future Historians                           |  |
| TELEPHONE  |   | Limited to ages 5-12                             |  |
|  |   | A book   |  |
| EMAIL ADDRESS  |   | Invitation to ice cream social and more          |  |

Watch for an Invitation to the Annual Awards Cocktail Reception

The HSSC ANNUAL AWARDS will be presented at a Cocktail Reception on Saturday, May 20, 2006 from 4 to 7 pm. at the Mendenhall-Sobieski Gallery. Look for your invitation in the mail in the Spring.

> The Mendenhall-Sobieski Gallery located at 40 Mills Place in Old Pasadena combines the old with the new. Formerly occupied by Art Center College of Design Archetype Press, this 100year-old historic brick building is the site of Pasadena's newest addition to the art scene.

Historical Society of Southern California 200 East Avenue 43 Los Angeles CA 90031 (323) 222-0546

#### SAVE THESE DATES

Saturday April 29, 2006 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. HSSC YARD SALE Lummis Home Los Angeles

Sunday May 7, 2006 MUSEUMS OF THE ARROYO DAY I 1:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Lummis Home, Southwest Museum, Heritage Square Museum, The Gamble House and Pasadena Museum of History Los Angeles and Pasadena

> Saturday May 20, 2006 AWARDS RECEPTION Mendenhall-Sobieski Gallery Pasadena

#### REMEMBER VROMAN'S Gives Back

REGISTER AS A SUPPORTER of HSSC and VROMAN'S Bookstore will give back one percent of your purchases directly to the Historical Society. At the time of purchase make sure to let the cashier know you want to support HSSC.

VROMAN'S Bookstore, a Pasadena landmark founded in 1894, has long been an active location for author events, lectures, book discussions, workshops, and, with its vast book selection, a book browser's dream.

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