



The Southern Californian

The Historical Society of Southern California Summer 2008 Volume 20 Number 2

Enjoy Two Free Family Days Along the Arroyo

Museums of the Arroyo Day
May 18 11 am to 4 pm

CHARLES F. LUMMIS was certainly one of the most prominent personalities of the Arroyo. It is only fitting that on May 18, 2008 the Historical Society of Southern California will open the Lummis Home joining in the celebration of the artistic cultures of the Arroyo.

Heritage Square Museum, the Southwest Museum, the Los Angeles Police Museum and the Gamble House will also be open. The Pasadena Museum of History will open its historic house, the Fenyes mansion. All the museums will be open free of charge and free shuttles will transport visitors from site to site.

Lummis Day
June 1 11 am to 7 pm

THE THIRD ANNUAL Lummis Day: The Festival of Northeast Los Angeles, will be presented Sunday, June 1 by the Annenberg Foundation and the Autry National Center and will celebrate the diverse cultures and history of the L.A.'s Arroyo neighborhoods with music, dance, poetry and art events—all free and open to the public—at the Lummis Home and Sycamore Grove Park.

Performers—all with roots in Northeast Los Angeles—will include nationally and regionally celebrated artists performing in Spanish, English and Tagalog. Jackson Browne, a former resident of Highland Park, will perform. His latest album, "Solo Acoustic: Vol. 2," received a five-star review from Rolling Stone Magazine. Other artists set to appear include Boyle Heights' Cava who perform Latin-powered jazz tinged with Peruvian, Cumbia, Salsa, Son and Ska beats; Atwater's the Chapin Sisters, known for exquisite vocal harmonies; L.A.'s renowned Mariachi Divas; Highland Park's indie-spirited band Artichoke; plus dance groups representing Mexican and Philippine folk traditions, poets, puppets, storytellers and more. The show will be moderated by Los Angeles television personalities.

Information on the Festival and its programs, including the June 1 performance schedule, is available at www.LummisDay.org.

LEFT: Charles F. Lummis around 1888 after he suffered a stroke that left his left arm paralyzed. Later he built El Alisal and entertained the rich and famous in his stone clad home.



President's Message

LONG TIME MEMBERS of HSSC need not be reminded that this year is our 125th anniversary. Each of us has personal reasons for supporting local and regional



history, studying it, reading about it, attending lectures, visiting historic sites and landmarks, and getting together with others who share our interests.

My own dedication to the good work of HSSC dates back more than four decades to the time when Doyce B. Nunis Jr. had just become editor of the Quarterly. I had recently completed writing a M.A. thesis biography of oilman and real estate developer Alphonzo E. Bell and was about to get married. On top of that—thanks to encouragement and help from Dr. Nunis—the expertly edited thesis appeared in two parts in the Quarterly for 1964. The year before, a graduate fellowship from the John and Dora Haynes Foundation allowed me to remain for a fifth year at my alma mater Occidental College to pursue two additional degrees—an M.A. in history and an “Mrs.” who became my wife Lyn the same year HSSC published my thesis. Imagine my good fortune that in my present role as president I am once again privileged to be able to work with the same good folks who launched my career, such as it’s been, more than 40 years ago.

History wouldn’t be history without documents, the essential building blocks for reconstructing our past. Indeed, without documents there would be no HSSC. Nobody knows this better than Pat Adler-Ingram, HSSC board member for many years and currently its treasurer. Having taken charge of moving all sorts of “stuff” (boxes, files, bookcases, whatever) back into the guest cottages at the Lummis Home—the “stuff” had been removed for a long overdue cleaning of the cottage rooms—Pat was rewarded by discovering a number of well preserved, unique, and potentially valuable documents. Look for a new feature in the next Southern Californian devoted to Pat’s “finds.”



Pat Adler-Ingram with a panorama of downtown Los Angeles in the early 1900s.

John O. Pohlmann

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

OFFICERS

John O. Pohlmann
PRESIDENT

Jon Wilkman
VICE PRESIDENT

Eric A. Nelson
SECRETARY

Pat Adler-Ingram
TREASURER

DIRECTORS
William J. Barger
James A. Sandos

ADVISORY DIRECTOR
Kevin Starr

THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIAN
is published quarterly by the
Historical Society
of Southern California,
a California non-profit
organization (501)(c)(3)

Carole Dougherty
EDITOR

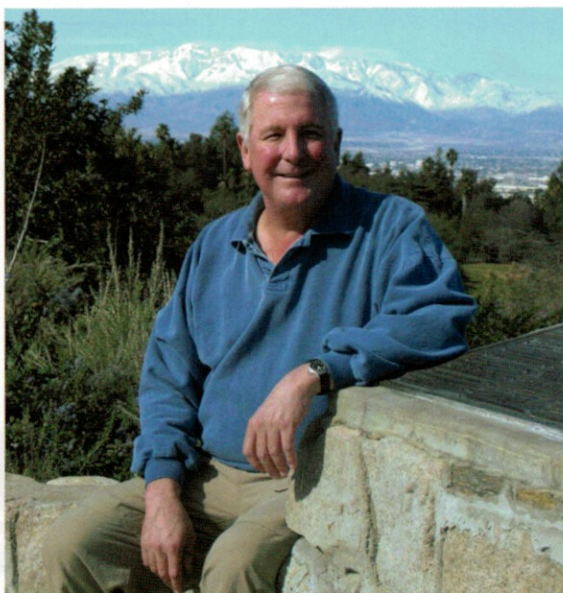
Brett Arena
Michele Clark
Carole Dougherty
Pat Adler-Ingram
John O. Pohlmann
CONTRIBUTORS

The office of the
Historical Society
is located at
Lummis Home (El Alisal)
200 East Avenue 43
Los Angeles CA 90031
Phone: (323) 222-0546
Website: www.socalhistory.org

Office Hours
Wednesday - Sunday
12-4

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

Group Tours
Fridays by appointment



James Sandos

JAMES SANDOS has served on the board of the Historical Society since 2002.

In 1978, six years after leaving the US Air Force as an intelligence officer with the rank of Captain, Jim Sandos received his Ph.D. in history from University of California at Berkeley. He eventually made his way to the University of Redlands where in 1997 he was named Farquhar Professor of the Southwest, retaining that post today.

Initially as Farquhar chair, Jim researched subjects covering the theme of the American conquest, the Gold Rush and its consequences and statehood as part of the California Sesquicentennial observation in 1998-2000. That immersion led to his interest in historic preservation issues.

Rancho Camulos had been badly damaged by the 1994 Northridge Earthquake. But top priority for restoration funds was denied the Rancho because, although it was a state landmark, it was not a National Historic Landmark. While the Rancho was long associated in popular lore with Helen Hunt Jackson's novel *Ramona: A Story* (1884), two other sites had preempted that claim. Sandos began the historical research that established Camulos as "the" home of Ramona and published the results. The essay persuaded the National Park Service to recognize its place in history.

Sandos has many awards and publications under his belt. Among them are being named a Fellow of Huntington Library (1999-2000) and receiving the Gustavus Myers Center for the Study of Human Rights in Northern America award for the book *The Hunt for Willie Boy*. (1994-1995)



Jon Wilkman

JON WILKMAN has an affinity for historical images, using them in award-winning video documentaries. And the Historical Society of Southern California has an affinity for written history, having published a scholarly journal since 1884. So it was natural that Jon and the historical society developed a relationship in the early 1990s and that he has served on the Board since 1993.

After Jon graduated from Oberlin College in Ohio, he began his career's work in the CBS News documentary unit. While there he worked with Walter Cronkite on the award winning "Twentieth Century" and "21st Century" series, as well as on "Of Black America," hosted by Bill Cosby.

Eventually, Jon formed Wilkman Productions, Inc. and began producing a wide range of television, educational and corporate programs.

Jon returned to Los Angeles in 1978 where he received Emmys for two public television series, "Turning Points" and "The Los Angeles History Project," produced in association with KCET. His latest documentary, set to air on PBS later this year, "Chicano Rock! The Sounds of East Los Angeles" was cosponsored by HSSC, Latino Public Broadcasting and the California Council for the Humanities.

With his wife and partner, Nancy, he has produced, directed and written a three hour biography on Thomas Edison for the History Channel and A&E. The two also have produced a documentary on the restoration of the Gamble House and, most recently, coauthored an illustrated history of Los Angeles, *Picturing Los Angeles*. A sequel, *Los Angeles: A Pictorial Celebration*, comes out in 2008.

Meet
two
HSSC
board
members

Daughters of



WHEN SIX DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY arrived at San Pedro on January 6, 1856 after their voyage from San Francisco on the steamer *Sea Bird*, no one met them because the Sisters had arrived earlier than expected. Fortunately, a kind woman with a wagon and driver took them to the modest pueblo of Los Angeles where they were greeted by the townspeople in an impromptu celebration. Little did any of those present that day know they were witnessing the beginning of a relationship of service and mutual support that endures to this day.

In sharp contrast to the hordes of people who came to California during the 19th century to seek their fortune or to get a new start in life, the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul came to provide care to those in need, to educate the young and to heal the sick. In San Francisco, Los Angeles, Santa Barbara and elsewhere in the West, they began orphanages, hospitals and schools in communities largely bereft of social services that today we take for granted.

When the Daughters arrived, roughly 4,000 people lived in the general vicinity of Los Angeles, in what was then a region dependent upon the cattle trade. In fact, Los Angeles County was known as the "Queen of the Cow Counties." The town was a



TOP: The Daughters orphanage and school is at the right with the Plaza Church at the left, circa 1879. The small brick structure in the plaza was the city's waterworks.

BELOW: The Daughters orphanage and school as it appeared in the 1860s after they built one of the earliest brick structures in town. Alameda Street is in the foreground and the Wilson House is in the center.

BELOW RIGHT: An ad placed in the 1876 Los Angeles City and County Directory for the school

PHOTOS: Top and right courtesy of St. Vincent Medical Center Historical Conservancy. Left, courtesy of Connie Rothstein Vintage Photography

Charity

by Brett Arena

place where cowboys, gamblers, bandits, prostitutes and those who had drifted south from the mining camps of the Mother Lode were concentrated. There was also a growing community of merchants and well-established ranching families eager to bring a sense of order and progress to their town.

Bishop Thaddeus Amat, C.M., the bishop of Monterey, asked people from this latter group to raise funds in advance of the arrival of the Daughters so they could be satisfactorily settled in order to start an orphanage and school. These prominent individuals, including Judge Benjamin Hays, Antonio F. Coronel, David M. Alexander, Agustin Olvera, Ygnacio del Valle and Manuel Requefia, acted as both fundraisers and real estate brokers for the Sisters, striking a deal with another of the town's leading citizens, Benjamin D. Wilson, to procure his land at the corner of Alameda and Macy (now Cesar Chavez Boulevard) where Union Station stands today.

After spending a few days in town with the del Valles, the Sisters moved into the Wilson house, one of the pueblo's few wooden structures. The six Daughters, three of whom were Spanish newcom-

Daughters branched out to provide health care to the citizenry of the town. Not long after their orphanage and school were established, the parish priest of Our Lady Queen of Angels Church brought them a sick man, whom the Sisters cared for in a converted gardener's tool shed. Luckily, the man recovered and word spread that the Daughters were able to provide another service the vast majority of the populace desperately needed.

The prevalence of violence and the town's vulnerability to outbreaks of various diseases, due not only to the transient nature of the populace but also the lack of sanitation, had long been concerns of the common council (the early city council) and the county board of supervisors. It was the latter group who struck an agreement with the Sisters in 1858 to open the first Los Angeles County Hospital, our city's first medical facility, in a rented adobe on Upper Main Street. The Daughters received a dollar per day for the indigent sick the county sent, while also treating private patients. Soon they would be at the vanguard of the town's efforts to combat the first of four major smallpox epidemics to strike during the latter half of the 19th century.

Fundraising was an imperative if the Daughters' orphanage and school was to survive. As early as 1858, ladies of some of the town's leading families organized a tea on behalf of the orphanage. This soon grew into what was known as the Orphan's Fair, which served not only philanthropic purposes, but was a rare opportunity for the towns' Anglos and Hispanics to come together in a social setting. The fair helped ameliorate many of the cultural tensions prevalent at the time. By the late 1880s, the fair had expanded into a weeklong festival that raised anywhere from \$8,000-\$10,000 to keep the orphanage, which by then housed roughly 500 children, solvent.

This spirit of community cooperation survives in the current work of the Sisters: in the four K-8 schools they operate within the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, the St. Vincent Meals-on-Wheels program, the St. Francis Medical Center in Lynwood and their two oldest local entities—Maryvale, their orphanage, now a group residence for abused girls located in Rosemead, and St. Vincent Medical Center at Third and Alvarado Streets, just west of downtown.

Brett Arena, formerly an archivist at the St. Vincent Medical Center Historical Conservancy, is currently employed in the same capacity at the A.F. Gilmore Company, owners of the Farmers Market at Third and Fairfax

LOS ANGELES CITY AND COUNTY DIRECTORY.

HAN ASYLUM AND SCHOOL --OF THE-- SISTERS OF CHARITY, LOS ANGELES, CAL.

and guardians desirous of procuring for their Daughters and Wards, the
e of a good Education and a home in a healthy climate and pleasant locality,
oth in this Educational Institution of the SISTERS OF ST. VINCENT OF PAUL.

TERMS:

and Tuition, English, French, Spanish, German, Ornamental
dle Work, Tapestry, Embroidery, Etc., Etc., per session of
months, : : : : \$200 00
ing, : : : : 80 00

EXTRAS:

ing and Painting, per month, \$3, : : : : \$30 00
and Melodeon, with use of instruments, \$6 50 per month, : : : : 65 00
r, per month, \$8, : : : : 80 00
ion, if Pupils remain in School, per month, : : : : 90 00

The Sisters have opened a elect Day School FOR YOUNG LADIES.

Class, the Languages, Etc., : : : : \$4 00
d Division, : : : : 2 00
Division, : : : : 2 00

Extra Branches, charges as indicated above.

olastic Half Session, of five months, will commence the 16th of August and
January, and will terminate about the 16th of June.

thout exception, must be paid in advance, and no deduction will be made
absence, or withdrawal from the Institution, unless in cases of protracted
Doctor's fees and medicines are extra charges.

Further particulars, address

SISTERS OF CHARITY.

LOS ANGELES INFIRMARY.

SISTERS OF CHARITY would respectfully announce to the suffer-
ers of the community, that, having completed a large, commodious, well
Building for the use of the County Patients, they can now accommodate a
f both male and female Patients with PRIVATE ROOMS, where they shall
e care and attentive solicitude of the devoted Sisters.

ers to the order and three who were more experienced American Sisters, began their mission of service with two orphans and quickly began plans to start their school.

The first public school in town for boys had been established the year before the Daughters' arrival, but because the state legislature had outlawed public instruction in Spanish the same year, many Spanish-speaking families didn't send their children to the fledgling school. However, since the Sisters had Spanish-speakers within their ranks, the Daughters' school became very popular. By the end of February 1856, there were 68 day school students, including boys, only one of whom was American.

From their school and orphanage, known originally as *Institución Caritativa*, the

California Cuisine: An Early Look

In 1938 the Historical Society of Southern California published a book written by secretary of the Society, Ana Bégue Packman, printed by the Arthur H. Clark Company, then in Glendale, California. Besides including a charming story of life and food preparation in early California, Mrs. Packman compiled a collection of recipes in the book. The book is now a collector's item and hard to find. Following are a few recipes which can easily be duplicated in today's kitchen.

Albóndigas de Carne

(Ground Beef Meat Ball Soup)

- 2 pounds ground lean beef
- 1 whole egg
- 3 tablespoons masa or 1/2 cup toasted bread crumbs
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 2 tablespoons fat
- 2 green chile peppers
- 2 medium-sized ripe tomatoes
- 1 large onion
- 2 tablespoons minced yerba buena (mint leaves)
- 1 tablespoon minced cilantro (coriander)

Blister green chile peppers and tomatoes over open flame or broiler, or, better yet over glowing wood coals. Peel and mince and add minced onion, yerba buena (mint) and cilantro (coriander). Divide this sauce into two portions. Place ground meat in mixing bowl; add salt, black pepper, egg, onion, masa or toasted bread crumbs, and one portion vegetable sauce. Knead well and leave standing while preparing broth. Heat the fat in soup kettle and add the remaining portion of the sauce; simmer for five minutes. Pour in two quarts boiling water and season with salt and pepper. Cook briskly for 20 minutes.

Pinch off small pieces of the ground meat mixture; roll into small balls the size of a large marble; roll within the palms of the hands and drop one at a time into the boiling broth. Allow the albóndigas (meat balls) to cook slowly for 20 minutes. Taste for salt and serve as soup.

Estofado

(Meat in Casserole with Wine Sauce)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 3 pounds shoulder of veal
or beef | 1 cup ripe black olives |
| 2 onions | 1 teaspoon salt |
| 1 clove garlic | 1/2 teaspoon pepper |
| 1 red chile | 1 pint vino tinto
(red wine) |
| 1 piece bay leaf | 1 tablespoon vinegar |
| | 1 cup boiling water |

Heat fat in stew kettle; brown meat, onions, garlic, and red chile. Add salt, pepper, bay leaf, wine, vinegar, and boiling water. Simmer slowly for three hours. Just before serving, stir in olives.

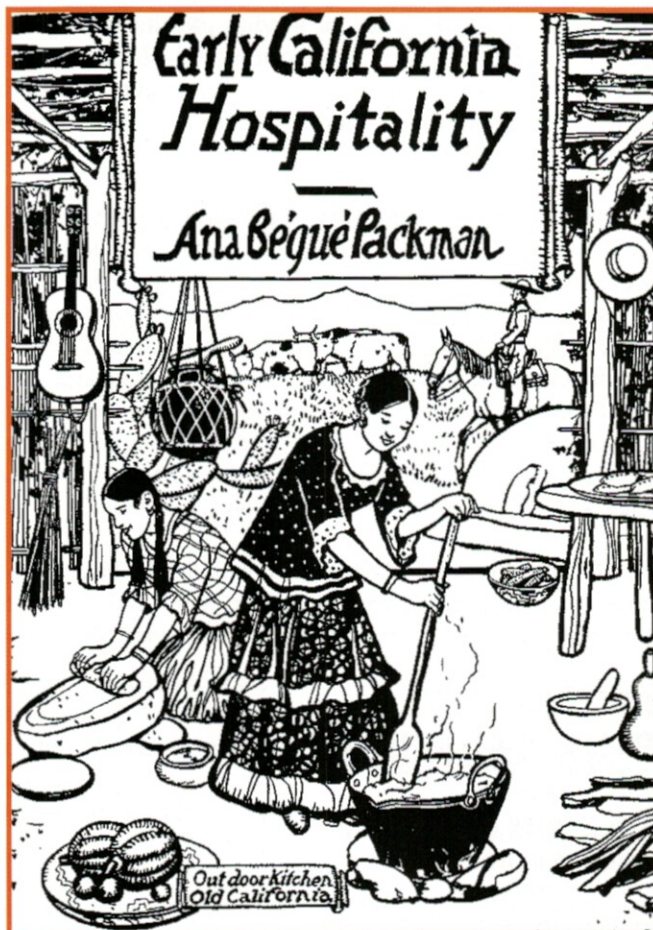


Photo: Glendale Public Library Special Collections

Garbanzos (Chick peas)

- 2 cups garbanzos
(chick peas)
- 1 onion
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 2 tablespoons fat

Soak garbanzos over night. Boil tender. Heat fat in skillet. Add drained garbanzos, minced onion, and seasoning. Simmer for fifteen minutes. Add a little at a time, one cup of the liquid in which the garbanzos were cooked. Serve as a vegetable.

SUMMER 2008

HISTORICAL
SOCIETY OF
SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA QUARTERLY



A Preview: Quarterly Articles

PRELUDE TO A MASSACRE: CHINESE LOS ANGELES IN 1870-1871

By Scott Zesch

Scott Zesch is an independent scholar who writes about race relations and culture clash in the American West. His narrative history *The Captured: A True Story of Abduction by Indians on the Texas Frontier* won the Texas Christian University Texas Book Award. It was reviewed in the Fall 2005 issue of the *Southern California Quarterly*. He is the author of a number of articles and one historical novel, *Alamo Heights*, inspired by Adina De Zavala's efforts to save the Alamo monastery from demolition. Zesch was a Peace Corps teacher in Kenya and served as an election supervisor in postwar Bosnia-Herzegovina.

DAMNA ABSQUE INJURIA: REPARATIONS IN THE OWENS VALLEY WATER WARS

By Clay Stalls

Clay Stalls is manuscripts curator in the Department of Archives and Special Collections, Von Der Ahe Library, Loyola Marymount University, where he is the archivist for the J. D. Black Papers. He holds the Ph.D. in history (1991) and the MLIS (1999), both from UCLA.

THE ROLE OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IN LOS ANGELES POLITICS: FROM BRADLEY TO VILLARAIGOSA

By Raphael J. Sonenshein

Raphael J. Sonenshein is Professor of Political Science at California State University, Fullerton. He is the author of *Politics in Black and White: Race and Power in Los Angeles* (Princeton, 1993); *The City at Stake: Secession, Reform, and the Battle for Los Angeles* (Princeton, 2004); and *Los Angeles: Structure of a City Government* (League of Women Voters, Los Angeles, 2006).

JOIN THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

For fast convenient renewing call (323) 222-0546

Please enroll me in the *Historical Society of Southern California*

☐ Check enclosed, payable to the *Historical Society of Southern California*

Charge my credit card: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express

Credit card number _____

Expiration date _____

Signature _____

☐ NEW MEMBER ☐ RENEWAL ☐ GIFT MEMBERSHIP

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

All Members Receive...

Annual subscription to the *SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA QUARTERLY*
Annual subscription to *The Southern Californian*
10% Discount in the El Alisal Book Shop
Free Museums of the Arroyo Day and December Holiday Open House
Discounted program and event tickets for family members
Membership in *Time Travelers* program

\$75 Regular Members

Receive all of the above

\$125 Contributing Members

All of the benefits above plus...
One special publication
Membership in *North American Reciprocal Museum* program

\$300 Patron Members

All of the above plus...
Two special publications

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS FOR:

\$600 Benefactors

All of the above plus...
A Docent-led tour of the
Lummis Home and Garden

\$1,250 President's Circle

All of the above plus...
Lectures and receptions
featuring noted historians

\$10 Future Historians Ages 5-12

A book
Invitation to ice cream social and more

Membership contributions are tax-deductible within the limits allowed by law. For further information call HSSC at (323) 222-0546

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.

Vroman's was named
2008 Bookseller of the Year
by Publishers Weekly.

VROMAN'S
695 E Colorado Blvd
or
Hastings Ranch Shopping
Center
3729 E Foothill Blvd



Dr. Michael J.
Crosby Sr., LAPD,
Clergy Counsel
Jeopardy & Project
Accountability,
77th Street Area;
two young
participants; John
Pohlmann,
president,
Historical Society
of Southern
California

LA History Day Update by Michele Clark

The twenty-eighth Annual History Day L.A. was held on Saturday, March 15th at Azusa Pacific University. HSSC board president, John Pohlmann, served as a judge in the Senior Group Exhibit category. Board member Jon Wilkman helped judge websites researched and designed by five competitors.

History Day L.A. is part of a national program sponsored by the Constitutional Rights Foundation that encourages students to prepare posters, exhibits, papers, websites, performances, and documentary presentations on a historical theme. These projects are judged by community members and social science professionals with winners in the Elementary, Junior, and Senior categories going on to compete at the California History Day in Sacramento in April. State winners in Junior and Senior categories then travel in June to the University of Maryland to participate in National History Day.

Participation in History Day L.A. presents opportunities for students to meet content standards and improve academic achievement while also providing an opportunity for teachers to easily assess the knowledge and skills of their students. However, the greatest reward for the young contestants is in the experience and the knowledge gained by researching, analyzing, and preparing their entries.

The last issue of the Southern California was mistakenly labeled the Winter edition. It was actually the Spring 2008 issue.

Historical Society of
Southern California
Post Office Box 93487
Pasadena CA 91109
www.socalhistory.org
(323) 222-0546

Non-profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Pasadena CA
Permit # 559