



# The Southern Californian

The Historical Society of Southern California Fall 2008 Volume 20 Number 3

## New Executive Director Appointed

**T**HE Board of Directors of the Historical Society of Southern California is

pleased to announce the appointment of Patricia Adler-Ingram, Ph.D., to the position of executive director of the Society.

She received her A.B. degree in economics from Case-Western Reserve University and her M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in urban history from the University of Southern California under the direction of Doyce B. Nunis Jr., Distinguished Professor Emeritus.

Her publications include histories of California communities targeted for redevelopment such as Watts, Vernon-Central, Venice and Mineral King, a Sierra mining village. Her most recent research drew upon the archives of the city of Los Angeles for the chapter on public works incorporated into the two-volume publication of the Los Angeles City Historical Society, *The Development of Los Angeles City Government; 1850-2000*.

She brings a business background to the society having worked as a research analyst at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, and as the founder and CEO of a property management company serving nonprofit corporations specializing in low-income housing developments. She holds a California B-1 building contractor's license.

As a long-serving board member of HSSC, she brings to the executive director's position not only her institutional memory but a keen awareness of our current needs and aspirations. She participates with enthusiasm in the neighborhood events such as Museums of the Arroyo and Lummis Day festivities and the many weekend tours of the society's headquarters at the Lummis Home. She is also serving as membership chair of Los Angeles Corral of the Westerners and is currently the president of the Zamorano Club.

We welcome her to her new position of responsibility.



Patricia Adler-Ingram, Ph.D.

Photo: Michele Clark

## HSSC Receives \$200,000 Bequest

**H**SSC is honored to announce the recent gift of

\$200,000 from the estate

of Dorothy Dumke Elliott. Dorothy, a California native, served on the HSSC Board of Directors for a short time during Martin Ridge's presidency of the Society. Her generous benefaction is to go to HSSC's endowment in the name of Dorothy and Glenn Dumke. Its exact use will be announced later. Dorothy had a great fondness for history and an impressive understanding of education issues.

Dorothy was an accomplished musician, trained in piano at the Los Angeles Conservatory of Music. Both playing the piano and gardening gave her great pleasure. She met her first husband, Glenn Dumke, at Occidental College. She put her music career aside to support her husband's rise through the educational ranks from dean of the faculty at Occidental College to president of San Francisco State College and then to becoming the first chancellor of the California State University system. After Glenn's death in 1989, Dorothy married Bruce Elliott and was living in Encino at the time of her death on March 15, 2008.

She is remembered for her quiet, gentle, and courteous manner when it came to discussing and engaging a wide variety of issues on the HSSC Board. She was precise in her thought and speech and displayed a love for graceful expression. She challenged the board with her ideas but was open to change and willing to yield to others. She touched many lives by the integrity and generosity of her spirit.

In one of Dorothy's last conversations with HSSC she commented how proud she was of the Society's publication record, including its books and the *Southern California Quarterly*, and its program of supporting K-12 teachers of history with grants. The Society is pleased to use this gift according to her wishes to strengthen the Society and also honor the memory of this remarkable woman.



Dorothy Dumke Elliott

Photo: Suzanne Huddleston



# Meet HSSC's new board members



Photo: Michele Clark

## Linda Mollno

**L**inda Mollno received her Ph.D. in history from Claremont Graduate University in 2008, the culmination of a journey that began when the youngest of her six children was 8 and her second son had entered college.

She is a lecturer at Cal State L.A. and Cal State Polytechnic University, Pomona.

Linda and her husband, Bob, share an interest in historic preservation, antiquities and history in general. They live in the Edwin Powell Hubble National Historic Landmark in San Marino.

Living in the landmark house prompted Linda's research into the life of Grace Burke Hubble, Edwin's wife. As a result she has made presentations on Grace Hubble at the American Historical Association, Pacific Coast Branch and at the annual meeting of the Western Association of Women Historians at the Huntington Library. She contributed a chapter in *Women of the American West*, Gordon Bakken and Brenda Farrington, editors (Sage Publications, 2003) entitled "Grace Lillian Burke Hubble."

Her Ph.D. dissertation, "Deep Roots and Immigrant Dreams: A Social History of Viticulture in Southern California, 1769-1960" reflects her deep interest in the history of Southern California and its role in the development of the wine industry in California as well as the role of women.

Linda says, "My interest in Southern California introduced me to the *Southern California Quarterly* while I was in grad school and soon after I joined HSSC as a member so I could receive my own copy each quarter."



## Paul Spitzzeri

**P**aul Spitzzeri is the collections manager at the Workman and Temple Family Homestead Museum in the City of Industry where he oversees the maintenance of the artifact and photograph collection, a research library, and research archives. He also oversees management of historic interpretation and major maintenance projects.

Paul received both his undergraduate and master's degrees in history from California State University, Fullerton in 1988 and 1999.

His master's thesis, "Retiring Judge Lynch: Justice in 1870s Los Angeles" dealt with the decline of popular justice and vigilantism in deference to legal institutions in the region. His article on the same subject—an outgrowth of his thesis—was published in the summer 2005 *Southern California Quarterly*.

Paul's other contributions to historical publications often reflect his interest in Western law and the Workman family. His latest work, *The Workman and Temple Families of Southern California, 1830-1930* (Dallas: Seligson Publishing) was published this year.

Paul first became involved with the Historical Society when, with encouragement from then-*Quarterly* editor Doyce Nunis, his articles were published in the *Quarterly*.

Paul says, "I would like to see HSSC continue its programs and publications serving the general public and history enthusiasts while retaining its commitment to academically-sound scholarship." While he serves on the Board, Paul will work toward that end.



## HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

### OFFICERS

John O. Pohlmann, Ph.D.  
PRESIDENT

Jon Wilkman  
VICE PRESIDENT

Eric A. Nelson, LL.D.  
SECRETARY

William J. Barger, Ph.D.  
TREASURER

### DIRECTORS

Kenneth H. Marcus, Ph.D.  
Linda Mollner, Ph.D.  
Cecilia Rasmussen  
James A. Sandos, Ph.D.  
Paul Spitzner

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)

Pat Adler-Ingram, Ph.D.  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Carole Dougherty  
EDITOR

Michele Clark  
Pat Adler-Ingram  
John O. Pohlmann  
James A. Sandos  
CONTRIBUTORS

The headquarters of the  
Historical Society  
is located at  
Lummis Home (El Alisal)  
200 East Avenue 43  
Los Angeles CA 90031  
Phone: (323) 460-5632  
Website: [www.socalhistory.org](http://www.socalhistory.org)

Office Hours  
Monday-Friday  
10-4  
(323) 460-5632

The Lummis Home is open  
to the public  
Fri-Sun 12-4  
Group Tours  
Fridays by appointment



Photo: Michele Clark



## Kenneth H. Marcus Cecilia Rasmussen

**K**enneth Marcus teaches European and American history at the University of La Verne, where he is also director of the International Studies Institute. He holds a bachelor's in history from UC Berkeley; an MBA from the École Supérieure de Commerce de Paris in France; and a Ph.D. in history from Cambridge University, UK. He specializes in the cultural history of Los Angeles.

Recent publications include a book, *Musical Metropolis: Los Angeles and the Creation of a Music Culture, 1880-1940* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2004), and articles "Living the Los Angeles Renaissance: A Tale of Two Black Composers," *The Journal of African American History*, 91 (Winter 2006); "The Seriousness of Comedy: The Benefit Concerts of Jack Benny and Danny Kaye," *American Music*, 25 (Summer 2007), and "Judaism Revisited: Arnold Schoenberg in Los Angeles," *Southern California Quarterly*, 89 (Fall 2007). He has also made several recordings, including *Some American Music* (1999) for use in the classroom, featuring works by Scott Joplin, George Gershwin, Woody Guthrie, and Kenneth Marcus.

Ken was introduced to HSSC when he was a recipient of a Haynes grant. He says, "The wonderful thing about the Historical Society is its openness to a variety of types of research."

While serving on the Board, Ken hopes to see increased openness and diversity among membership at HSSC. One way of achieving this goal is to improve the website. He feels an improved website can give HSSC greater visibility and can better provide services to the historical community in Southern California.

**C**ecilia Rasmussen is a former writer for the *Los Angeles Times*, where her column "L.A. Then and Now" spanned historical topics from the Chinese massacre and St. Francis Dam disaster to Wild West shoot-outs. She covered scandalous and obscure governors and mayors, grisly murders, Death Valley survivors, Civil War generals and a Jewish feminist.

She created, with *Times* editorial writer Patt Morrison, the text of "Angels Walk L.A.," a series of 120 official historical markers throughout downtown Los Angeles.

Her books *Curbside L.A.: An Offbeat Guide to the City of Angeles* (1996) and *L.A. Unconventional: The Men and Women Who Did It Their Way* (1998) were both published by the *Los Angeles Times*.

One of her columns, "Boy Toy in the Attic" was adapted by HBO for the movie "The Man in the Attic," in 1993.

Cecilia has been recognized by many organizations for her writing and for her contributions to historic preservation and local history. Among them are: The *Los Angeles Times*, L.A. City Historical Society, L.A. Conservancy, the Chinese Historical Society and the Los Angeles Police Historical Society. County District Attorney Steve Cooley honored her for her series on city names and for helping to chronicle the evolution of his office in a collage of words and pictures in the Criminal Courts Building.

It was Cecilia's mentor and longtime HSSC supporter Gloria Lothrop, the first scholar to hold the CSU Northridge Whitsett Chair of California History, who introduced her to HSSC. Cecilia would like to see membership expand and increased promotion of HSSC's publications.



# Rancho Camulos: Setting

Rancho Camulos, located just west of the Los Angeles/Ventura County line on state highway 126 near Castaic, was established by Ygnacio del Valle in 1853. It remained in the family until 1924 and is a working ranch today—though with reduced acreage—producing citrus and other agricultural products. Rancho Camulos served as the setting for Helen Hunt Jackson's novel, *Ramona*. However, other California sites claimed to be *Ramona's* home and were recognized as such. Professor James A. Sandos stumbled on the effect this lack of acknowledgment caused to a deteriorating historic site and took it upon himself to correct the record. His story follows.

Significant accomplishments can begin inauspiciously and so it was with my contribution toward getting Rancho Camulos in Ventura County designated a National Historic Landmark (NHL) by the National Park Service in 2000. My argument and the evidence that supported it was that Camulos had been the setting for the home of *Ramona*, the protagonist of Helen Hunt Jackson's enormously popular novel *Ramona: A Story* (1884). My involvement began with a tour of historic Southern California houses sponsored by another historical society that included Camulos as the first stop. More than forty of us boarded a bus that left from the Rose Bowl one fine Saturday morning heading for "Ramona's home" as the advertising billed it. Our guide was a student of architecture and ten minutes before we arrived he announced to the group that he had it "on the best authority" that H.H. Jackson "was never there." It was all a fiction and a tissue of lies by Camulos supporters and that the true "home of Ramona" lay not here but in northern San Diego County at Rancho Guajome!

I found this allegation surprising but as we were about to meet the architectural consultant to Camulos to show us around, the late Edna Kimbro, I chose to await her comments before venturing to say anything. Edna gave a splendid tour and explained that Camulos had been heavily damaged by the January 17, 1994 Northridge Earthquake and if people in that audience could help with contributions they would save an invaluable historic site on the very brink of total decay, a site that had been *Ramona's* home. Many in the group giggled at the last claim and all climbed onto the bus anxious for the next stop. I hung back, introduced myself to Edna and asked if there was any evidence that Jackson had been there. "There sure is" she assured me and I told her I would be in touch. That was to be the beginning of a most fruitful collaboration. Back on the bus I became every tour guide's worst nightmare: someone who might know more than the director. I asked him how he knew that Jackson had

never been there when Edna had evidence that she had been. He put me off, mentioned his source who worked for the San Diego County parks department and then rejoined by saying that if Camulos were the real home then he wanted to see the footnotes, the evidence. I agreed and said that in due course he would.

I gathered all the written evidence available from Jackson's diary, reminiscences of her friends, and the history of National Historic Landmarks (NHL) in Southern California associated with Jackson and *Ramona*. With Edna's architectural advice we marshaled the evidence in wood and adobe that made Camulos and no other the physical site for *Ramona's* home. I then found a publisher willing to heavily illustrate my proposed article with color and black and white imagery so that a reader could follow the argument easily.

In my researching I learned that in 1970 two places had entered the NHL registry associated with Jackson and *Ramona*, both of them in San Diego County. Rancho Guajome claimed to be the "home of Ramona" and the Estudillo adobe in Old Town San Diego called itself "Ramona's Marriage Place." Camulos could not make the NHL roster because other *Ramona* worthy sites already had been preserved. As Edna put it, "the queen is in exile and the pretenders are on the throne." So in crafting my article I had not only to demonstrate Jackson's historical relationship to Camulos but also point out the shortcomings in the other two claims.

Jackson's connections were direct and unmistakable. She had visited Camulos and spent an afternoon there talking and watching and taking notes. She later sent her illustrator Henry Sandham there to make extensive sketches to be included in a future edition. Her Los Angeles friends, the Coronels, had sent her there and Charles Fletcher Lummis who knew her well made a book called *The Home of Ramona* (1887) documenting Jackson's activities at Camulos and lavishly illustrated it with cyanotype (blue-tinted) photographs that he had taken. Lummis alluded to others

James A. Sandos is the Farquhar Professor of the Southwest at the University of Redlands. He is a member of HSSC's Board



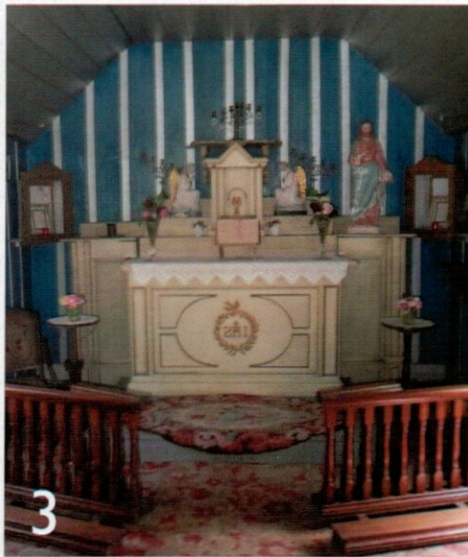


# ing for Ramona?

by James A. Sandos



Braun Research Library, Autry National Center, P.34468



3

who claimed a different site as Ramona's home and dismissed them. He referred to Cave Coutts Jr. who claimed that his Rancho Guajome was the genuine home. But Coutts' extensive fibbing and the absence of any independent evidence that Jackson ever saw Guajome make that claim untenable. "Ramona's Marriage Place" was a gaudy tourist attraction and never claimed to be Ramona's home. Some have objected that a fictional character cannot have a "real" home but that is absurd. Does the Turner-Ingersoll Mansion in Salem, Massachusetts not exist because Nathaniel Hawthorne used it as the setting for *The House of the Seven Gables* (1851)? Do none of the places used by Dan Brown in *The DaVinci Code* (2003) exist because his protagonist Robert Langdon is fictional?

The upshot was that my published article was used to support a new petition for Rancho Camulos to become a NHL based on its being the Home of Ramona. The petition succeeded, desperately needed historic preservation was accomplished, and I was asked to give the keynote address at the new Rancho Camulos Museum on May 5, 2001. An important piece of California history had been rescued from undeserved abandonment.

Oh, I have never heard back from the original tour guide who wanted to see the evidence.

PHOTOS: 1. The south veranda in a photo taken by Charles Lummis in the late 1800s. The south veranda looks much the same today. In the novel the main house of Rancho Camulos is described this way: "The house was of adobe, low, with a wide veranda on the three sides of the inner court, and a still broader one across the entire front, which looked to the south." Furthermore, "The two western-most rooms had been added on, and made four steps higher than the others; which gave to that end of the veranda the look of a balcony, or loggia." The balcony is unique to the Camulos adobe and helps make the case that the site was the inspiration for the novel. 2. Built to support three bronze bells, only the wood structure stands today. An illustration by Henry Chapman Ford of the structure with its mission bells appeared in the 1886 second edition of *Ramona*. In 1887, Charles Lummis photographed the structure with its bells in place. The illustration and the photograph are undeniably of the same structure. 3. A pivotal scene in *Ramona* occurs when the sheep shearer, Alessandro, sees Ramona for the first time washing the damaged altar cloth in a brook. Although the chapel at today's Rancho Camulos is smaller than the one described in the novel, it served the same functions for the family and their employees when the del Valles, Camulos' owners, lived at the ranch at the time of Helen Hunt Jackson's visit.

## RANCHO CAMULOS

Docent-led tours are available year round by appointment. Public tours are available without appointment February through November on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays 1-4 pm.

Teachers and youth groups are encouraged to schedule an interactive tour on California history [www.ranchocamulos.org](http://www.ranchocamulos.org)

Directions:

From Santa Clarita:

From I-5, take State Route 126 west 10 miles

From Ventura:

Take State Route 126 east,

2 miles east of Piru

## RAMONA

Helen Hunt Jackson wrote *Ramona* in 1884 after her non-fiction book *Century of Dishonor* failed to bring attention to the plight of Native Americans. In her novel Jackson used the story of Ramona, an orphan of mixed blood, and her Indian lover, Alessandro to help develop empathy for the cause. The book was hugely popular and became the equivalent of Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. It had a great impact on American perception of the West though not necessarily on the correction of past injustices to Native Americans. Tourists came to California looking for Ramona's home and many pretenders laid claim to being the site for Jackson's setting.





Photos: Michele Clark

## Haynes Reception Recognizes Recipients

The Lummis Home and courtyard provided the site to recognize recipients of Haynes Foundation stipends on July 13, 2008. Inside, a table overflowing with mini-tacos, wraps, veggies and dips set the tone for the informal celebration. In the photo above, HSSC President John Pohlmann (with microphone) introduces William J. Burke, administrative director of the John and Dora Haynes Foundation (seated on left). The Foundation has partnered with HSSC for ten years in making small grants to independent scholars. So far more than \$145,000 has been awarded to more than 200 scholars. Pohlmann also introduced the new HSSC board members.



## Lummis Day Draws a Large Crowd

On June 1, Lummis Day festivities began with poetry readings at the Lummis Home. Afterward the activities moved to Sycamore Grove Park. Giant papier maché puppets, made by Franklin High School students and Arroyo Arts Collective members, led a parade of students and others from the Lummis Home to the park. There visitors were entertained with more puppets, storytellers, music, dances and an appearance by rock musician Jackson Browne. Many families picnicked on the grounds and enjoyed a special day of popular culture.

## Ramona Days

October 18, 2008  
10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Helen Hunt Jackson's classic California novel, *Ramona*, comes to life at Rancho Camulos, a National Historical Landmark, and Home of Ramona.

The 1884 book which is still in publication spawned the first California tourist boom, inspired several movies, plays, pageants, books, advertising spinoffs, and controversy.

It is Helen Hunt Jackson's birthday and the Rancho is celebrating all things Ramona. There will be activities for all ages: living history, historic displays, demonstrations, drama and tales, ghost stories, food, music, dance, antique farm equipment, hayrides, animal encounters, artists' exhibits and sales, crafts, museum and garden tours, unique shopping opportunities, free children's activities and more.

View Griffith's 1910 silent film starring Mary Pickford shot on location at Camulos and listen to contemporary accounts of life in the Santa Clara River Valley.

Come in costume and character if you choose.

Check  
[www.ranchcamulos.org](http://www.ranchcamulos.org) for details.



# FALL 2008

HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY OF  
SOUTHERN  
CALIFORNIA

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA QUARTERLY



## A Preview: Quarterly Articles

*Southern California Quarterly* Fall 2008 (vol. 90, no. 3)

### CONTRIBUTORS

**William J. Barger** received an A.B. (Economics) from the University of Southern California and a Ph.D. (Economics) from Harvard University. He taught economics and statistics as a young man and then pursued a career as a business executive and banker. As an independent scholar, he has produced several articles previously published in the *Southern California Quarterly*. He currently serves as a director of the Historical Society of Southern California.

**Kelly J. Sisson** is a Ph.D. candidate in the Program in American Culture at the University of Michigan. Her longstanding areas of interest lie in the North American West and include cultural, social, and gender histories of the long nineteenth century. Her dissertation, "Master of Millions: "King Corn" in American Culture, 1861-1936," expands upon those fields. Before she began to write about corn, a Stanford University Undergraduate Research Opportunity Major Grant funded an initial research trip to Chile. The W.P. Whitsett Foundation at California State University, Northridge enabled Kelly to return to Chile's National Archives in early 2007 and to present her revised and expanded research at CSUN that fall.

**Jonathan Warner** holds degrees from Oxford University and the University of Wales, and is currently Professor of Economics at Dordt College, Sioux Center, Iowa. He became interested in the Depression-era stamp script schemes in Iowa, but then discovered that the first Iowa plan, that in Hawarden, was preceded nine months earlier by the less well-known Anaheim Plan. He gratefully acknowledges the support from the Historical Society of Southern California and the John and Dora Haynes Foundation in the form of a Haynes grant, which enabled him to conduct research in Anaheim.

### 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

Membership contributions are tax-deductible within the limits allowed by law. For further information call HSSC at (323) 460-5632



# Pasadena Sketchbook

by Joseph Stoddard

Published jointly by  
The Historical Society of  
Southern California and  
Vroman's,  
the new edition has an  
attractive new cover and  
new views of Pasadena.

HSSC is offering a pre-  
publication discount.

Copies will make  
great Holiday gifts.

Coming in  
November 2008

## 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  
695 E Colorado Blvd.  
or  
Hastings Ranch Shopping  
Center  
3729 E Foothill Blvd



Photo: Ariel Van Zandweghe

## Lummis Home Welcomes Group from the Audubon Center

**A** lively and inquisitive group of 29 children  
from the Audubon Center at Debs Park in  
Highland Park visited the Lummis Home on August  
12, 2008. The youngsters asked many questions about  
Charles F. Lummis' life and times as they tried to  
visualize a life without computers and cell phones.

Jeff Chapman, the Interim Director of the  
Center, arranged the visit and the children were  
accompanied by the following members of his staff:  
Patty Sun, Gabriela Castañeda, Crystal Carrera,  
Ackerley Flores, Ximena Gil and Victoria Mungia.

For more information about the Audubon Center  
at Debs Park you can visit their website at: [http://  
ca.audubon.org/debs\\_park.php](http://ca.audubon.org/debs_park.php).

Historical Society of  
Southern California  
Post Office Box 93487  
Pasadena CA 91109  
[www.socalhistory.org](http://www.socalhistory.org)  
(323) 460-5632

## Dunning Lecture Date Set

Sunday  
November 2, 2008  
2:00 pm  
Beckman Institute  
Auditorium  
Cal Tech  
Reception following

Speaker:  
Douglas Flamming  
"Black Leaders and  
White Votes in  
Los Angeles:  
Fred Roberts,  
Gus Hawkins and  
Tom Bradley"

Audience  
is limited to  
200

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