



# The Southern Californian

The Historical Society of Southern California Spring 2010 Volume 22 Number 1



Harry Brant Chandler and Paddy Calistro signing books at the Lummis Home

## Dreamers in Dream City

**In February, the Historical Society had the privilege of hosting a book signing at El Alisal for HSSC member Harry Brant Chandler's *Dreamers in Dream City*. In his book, Chandler looks at the lives of Los Angeles' dreamers – past and present – in a series of brilliant color portraits and biographies.**

Members came to El Alisal despite rainy weather and were treated to a discussion of the current outlook for book publishing by Paddy Calistro, of Angel City Press, followed by a PowerPoint presentation from the author himself. Mr. Chandler selected a few people from his book, such as rainmaker Charles Hatfield and William Mulholland, engineer of the Los Angeles aqueduct, and spoke about aspects of their lives that had drawn his attention.

The audience was particularly interested in his process of retouching historic black-and-white photographs to feature them in his book in full-color. He also told an anecdote about his grandmother, Dorothy Buffum Chandler, or "Mama Buff" as members of her family called her, who is also featured in his book.

Charles F. Lummis is also featured in Chandler's book in a brilliantly re-touched and colorized portrait originally taken at the Lummis Home. Curator Ariel van Zandweghe guided Mr. Chandler through the house to search for the spot where the portrait was originally taken. They concluded that it was taken upstairs, just in front of the northwestern window of Lummis' study. After the presentations, members lined up to get their copies of *Dreamers in Dream City* signed and enjoyed conversation and the wine and cheese buffet.

*Dreamers in Dream City* is available at the HSSC Book Store or online at [www.socalhistory.org](http://www.socalhistory.org)

Photos by Romualdo Valenzuela



Members being treated to a brief history of Angel City Press





Photo by Ariel Van Zandweghe

Lourdes Nuñez-Burgess

## New Member Of Board Of Directors

**L**ourdes Nuñez-Burgess is currently Vice President of Human Resources at KCET. She is responsible for all human resources programs, including employee relations, recruitment and selection, benefits administration, safety programs and volunteer staffing. She also serves as the Affirmative Action/EEO Officer. A highly talented human resource champion, Lourdes is known for strategic partnering, adding value and delivering results. Under her leadership, KCET received the prestigious EVE (Exemplary Voluntary Efforts) Award from the Department of Labor. Additionally, she fundraises to secure corporate funding to support KCET-produced local, regional and national programs.

She joined KCET in 1989 and left in 1993 to direct the human support services for AIDS Project Los Angeles, returning to the station in 1995.

Before that, she was the Employment Supervisor for the Los Angeles Times and a professional recruiter for RTP, Inc., which placed degreed women and minorities in the private sector.

Lourdes received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Secondary Education with a minor in Psychology from the University of the Americas in Mexico. She also holds a certificate from CORO in Community Relations.

She is currently a Board Member with the Los Angeles Music and Art School and a former Board Member with the Imagen Foundation. She has also served as a member with the Governor's Committee for the Disabled, the Urban League Business Advisory Committee, and Corporate Advisory Board Member for Hispanic Americans for Fairness in Media.

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The headquarters of the  
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Lummi Home (El Alisal)  
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Los Angeles CA 90031  
Phone: (323) 460-5632  
Website: [www.socalhistory.org](http://www.socalhistory.org)

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The Lummi Home is open  
to the public  
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Group Tours  
by appointment





El Alisal, Lummis Home, front doors. Detail of "CL" monogram in wrought iron



A historic photo of the doors, ca. 1909?

Record No. chsm2956, USC Digital Library, © 2004 HSSC.

## Restoration Architect John Griswold Surveys Front Doors At Lummis Home

The Board of Directors of the Historical Society of Southern California has voted to take action immediately to restore the Lummis Home Entry Doors. Leading historic restoration architects John Griswold and Peyton Hall who recently completed the restoration of the Gamble House have prepared a study and analysis of the condition of the massive double doors built and installed by Charles Lummis in the spring of 1899. Lummis hand-crafted them from yellow pine and red birch timbers, adorned them with wrought-iron pre-Incan motifs and an elegant "CL" calligraphic design and set them in a heavy frame of Arroyo stone.

John Griswold writes, "There is significant rot and associated loss of wood on the bottom edge of both main doors", and "the wood grain is open and degraded on the exterior with some fiber loss and disintegration." He also notes that the wrought iron "CL" monogram and pre-Incan motifs on the extended hinges are in need of cleaning and stabilizing treatment.

In addition the architects noted damaged mortar around the door jamb where Lummis positioned the massive granite boulders that encircle the entryway.

The estimated budget for restoring the doors including labor, equipment rental and materials is approximately \$7,500 to \$9,500. Copies of the proposal are available without charge at the Lummis Home.

Frank Parrello of the Highland Park Heritage Foundation and Heather Hoggan of the Arroyo Arts Collective have volunteered to work with members of HSSC and the Highland Park community to apply for emergency funding from the National Foundation for Historic Preservation. We will be submitting our request in a few months.

An excellent history of the Lummis Home titled *El Alisal: Where History Lingers* by Jane Apostol is available at the HSSC book store or online at [www.socalhistory.org](http://www.socalhistory.org).



# HSSC Joins with Highland Park Neigh



Photo by Ariel Van Zandeghe

HSSC President John Pohlmann, Board Members Linda Mollno & Cecilia Rasmussen, Lyn Pohlmann, Occidental President Jonathan Vietch with wife Sarah (left), Executive-Director Pat Adler-Ingram, HSSC Newsletter Editor Carole Dougherty & John G. Tomlinson, Occidental's Vice-President for Institutional Advancement

## HSSC and Occidental College Reestablish Collegial Ties

With history and the Highland Park neighborhood as mutual interests, the officers of HSSC and the leaders of Occidental College met to enjoy a special lunch prepared and served by Lyn Pohlmann. Conversation was lively, in the best tradition of Charles Lummis, around the table in the comedor of the old home where celebrities and even a president had once been hosted and toasted.

President of Occidental College, Jonathan Vietch, discussed his view of the role of the college in the broader context of the neighborhood. He expressed an interest in building an "Arroyo Corridor" to draw together the artists, craftspeople, and museums that already recognize their common bond in MOTA Day, Heritage Day and Lummis Day. He envisions a tie between the working historians and writers from HSSC and the dynamic faculty and students of Occidental College.

In the long view of history, Occidental College moved up the hill away from its home in Highland Park only yesterday -- 1914. It is now located nearby in Eagle Rock on a beautiful 120-acre campus.





# ors to Promote History and Fellowship

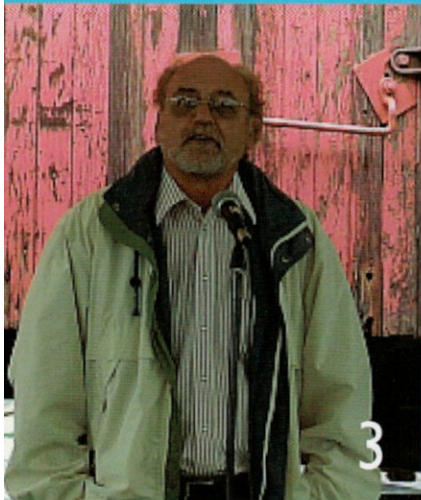


## HSSC at Heritage Square

1 Romualdo Valenzuela & Julian van Sandweghe, Lummis Home docents, displaying HSSC Publications

2 HSSC graphic artist Oscar Rospide setting down at Heritage Square

3 Frank Parelo invites the crowd to join with HSSC in a campaign to restore the historic front doors of the Lummis Home



Ballet Folklorico Los Alazanas open ceremonies at Lummis Day fundraiser

## Fundraiser For Lummis Day



1 Neighborhood dance soloist after her performance

2 Flamenco dancers entice the audience

3 Flamenco troupe; Cantaor Miguel de Malaga, Dancer Assieh La Mora, Guitarist Gabriel Reyna, Dancers Angelita Macia & Alfredo Aja







Photo by Lisa London

Barry Sattels admiring the newly planted yarrow now growing at the Lummis Home

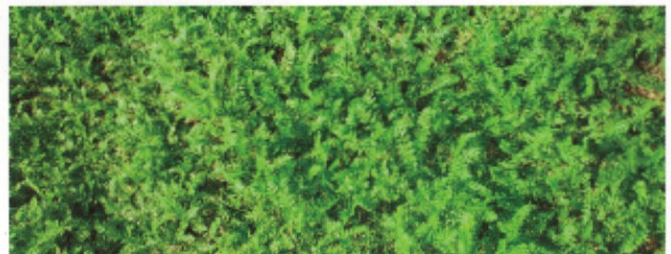
## Restoring The Yarrow Meadow

**L**andscape Architect Barry Sattels has just completed a very successful year-long effort to restore the Yarrow Meadow at El Alisal to the original specifications. The area had lost integrity in the past few years. He and his skilled crew of gardeners removed the tangle of overgrown yarrow, weeds and crabgrass, prepared the soil, let the site rest through the early rains and then reseeded with yarrow. Sattels did careful research to obtain the same seed originally chosen for the site. Thanks to his volunteered expertise, we can now look forward to another 18 years of service from our fragrant front yard.

Barry Sattels consulted with Bob Perry of Cal Poly Pomona, the designer of HSSC's waterwise garden, who established the central "Yarrow Meadow" in 1992 as a focal point and open space to accommodate public events and gatherings at El Alisal. Perry rejected turf grass as not appropriate to the character of the garden choosing instead a more natural, meadow-like ground cover of pink fernleaf yarrow, *Achillea Millefolium 'Rosea'*.

In the years since we have mowed the area a few times a year to control the height of the pink flower heads and delivered light summer watering, approximately half the volume of the water needed for turf grasses. We thank Barry Sattels for helping us maintain our policy of energy and water conservation.

A full map of the Lummis garden, as well as *Month By Month In A Water Wise Garden*, and *A Companion & Guide To The Water Wise Garden* are all available at the HSSC bookstore or online at [www.socalhistory.org](http://www.socalhistory.org).



The beautiful Yarrow Meadow upon closer inspection



# SUMMER 2010 Quarterly Articles

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA QUARTERLY SUMMER 2010 (vol. 92, no. 2)

### A Preview

WATER POLITICS AND THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY: THE ROLE OF WATER RIGHTS IN THE 1915 ANNEXATION AND 1996-2002 SECESSION CAMPAIGNS  
BY JORDAN SCAVO

JOSEFINA FIERRO'S SLEEPY LAGOON CRUSADE, 1942-1945  
BY CARLOS LARRALDE

STANDING UP TO SUGAR CUBES: THE CONTEST OVER ETHNIC IDENTITY IN CALIFORNIA'S FOURTH-GRADE MISSION CURRICULUM  
BY ZEVI GUTFREUND

THE HISTORIAN'S EYE: WHAT DOES A HISTORIAN NOTICE IN A PHOTO FROM THE PAST

**Jordan Scavo** completed his MA in history at California State University, Northridge, in May 2010. His thesis focused on popular revolts against urban development in San Francisco including the freeway revolt and anti-high-rise campaigns. He will enter the doctoral program in urban environmental history at UC Davis in the Fall of 2010.

**Carlos Larralde**, Ph.D. in sociology from UCLA, 1978, has written several articles on the Mexican American legacy. His most recent article was "Robert Galvan: A Latino Leader of the 1940's," *The Journal of San Diego History*, summer/fall 2006. Galvan, a friend of Josefina Fierro, was blacklisted and then deported.

**Zevi Gutfreund** is a doctoral candidate in history at UCLA. He is writing a dissertation on immigrant education experiments in Los Angeles city schools from the Progressive Era to the East L.A. Blowouts of 1968. He was a contributing author to the teaching unit, *Home Lands: How Women Made the West*, published jointly by the National Center for History in the Schools and the Autry National Center in April, 2010. Before graduate school, he taught high school history for five years.

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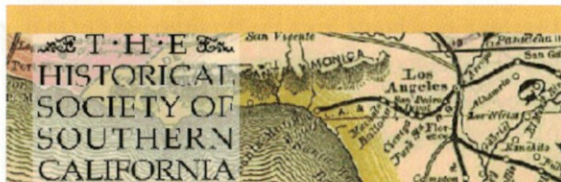


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TO LEARN MORE about about the history  
of Southern California, visit our redesigned  
website: [www.socalhistory.org](http://www.socalhistory.org).

On it you will find articles covering events and  
people that marked the history of the area.

In addition you'll find more information  
about:

- our publications
- programs and events
- the Lummis Home
- our awards program
- membership
- and historical resources.

The redesign was underwritten partially  
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Endowment.

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# Save The Date June 6, 2010

## Lummis Day 2010

Join us at the Lummis Home for poetry, music,  
art and books.

# July 18, 2010

## Celebrate our Scholars

We will award the 2010 Haynes Summer  
Stipends and the Jonathan Grant. 6-8pm.  
Refreshments and music.