

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIAN

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THE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY OF
SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA
1883

MESSAGE FROM THE HSSC PRESIDENT



This is my last column to you as president of the board. My three-year term as president ended with the November board meeting. I will continue on the board as Past President, but my duties for the Society will of course change. It has been an honor to serve you in this role for the past three years, and to work with the board to maintain the HSSC as the oldest, continuously operating historical society in California.

There are several things I'm proud of having accomplished during my three-year tenure as President, although I rush to say that none of this could have been possible without a board committed to the Society's goals and to the idea of re-invigorating the Society's mission. As I explained in my first column, it was a long and arduous road to leave the beloved Lummis House, but it simply was no longer financially viable to remain, and the City of Los Angeles refused to renew the contract to stay there. Therefore, the board voted to establish a new course in which it could re-focus on its original mission: to preserve, interpret, and promote the diverse dimensions of southern California's past through programs and publica-

tions for all. Although we have not had a fixed abode since that time, we have broadened the activities and offerings of the Society while maintaining its excellent record of scholarship through the *Southern California Quarterly*, annual conferences, public lectures, and other events.

One of the most important achievements in the last three years was also my first goal: to relocate the Society's large and diverse collection of manuscripts and artifacts to a safe and secure site. Our former Secretary, Paul Spitzzeri, then Associate Director at the Homestead Museum in the City of Industry, kindly agreed to house the collection in temporary storage, which saved the Society tens of thousands of dollars in storage fees. We were able to arrange the transfer smoothly in January 2014, and the collection has remained in temporary storage at the Homestead ever since. The manifold efforts of Christian Rodriguez, then an assistant for the Society and now at the Institute for the Study of Los Angeles at Occidental University, were of enormous value during the trans-

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TREASURES OF THE HSSC ARTIFACT COLLECTION: LETTERS TO CHARLES M. JENKINS, CIVIL WAR DIARIST FROM LOS ANGELES

Thanks to generous assistance from the City of Industry, who is permitting the Society to continue storing its artifacts and other material at the Workman and Temple Family Homestead Museum. The city has also agreed to pay for a basic inventory of those objects, that work has been underway since mid-October and is progressing well.

In the process of digging through dozens of storage boxes, a great many items of historical interest have been located, some of which will be highlighted in this feature in upcoming issues of *The Southern Californian*. Among the material sorted through are maps, legal documents, certificates, political campaign materials, photographs and much more.

A couple of notable finds in recent days are a pair of letters that were donated to the Society in 1954 by Clement J. Gagliano of Santa Monica along with the diary of Charles M. Jenkins, the only resident of Los Angeles at the time who fought for the Union Army during

the Civil War. The diary was transcribed and was the subject of a two-part article in the *Southern California Quarterly* in 2016. These letters somehow got separated from the diary and other items. The letters add more to the story of Jenkins and his recording of the last months of the war during the Virginia campaign that culminated in the surrender of Robert E. Lee to Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox in April 1865.

The correspondent was Georg Wilhelm Bührer, born in 1834 in Stuttgart, Germany, who came to the United States in the early 1850s and then became a member, with Jenkins, of Company E of the 2nd Massachusetts Cavalry. Like Jenkins, Bührer kept a diary, which has been transcribed and is available online at <http://www.2mass.reunioncivilwar.com/Artifacts/BuhrerDiaryColt.pdf>. He started his journal upon joining the California Volunteers at San Francisco early in 1863 and continued through the formation of the cavalry unit near

Boston and then deployment in Virginia.

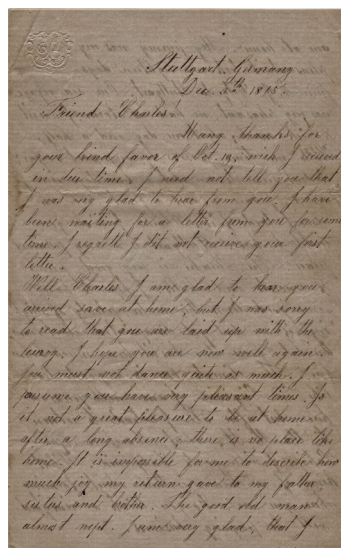
Bührer didn't mention Jenkins by name, but did record the capture of nine men in an engagement with the Confederate guerrilla force of John S. Mosby at Coyle's Tavern, Virginia on 24 August 1863. One of these was Jenkins, who spent a brutal fourteen months in Confederate prisoner of war camps, including the notorious Andersonville, before being paroled to the Union forces in late 1864.

On 4 December 1864, Bührer recorded in his diary that, "Mossman, Jenkins, Manker & Wooster arrived at the parole camp at Annapo-

lis." One of the Jenkins-related items owned by the Society is a letter he wrote to his mother in Los Angeles at the end of November just after his release and while he was recuperating at the parole camp. On 20 January 1865, Bührer wrote that "One hundred recruits arrived; with them some of our old comrades who had been in prison," including Jenkins.

Bührer was less apt to discuss individual soldiers and more prone to talking about battles and other events during the course of his war experience, though he did mention that, at the end of June 1865, he, Jenkins and another soldier enjoyed "a very good tent," while in camp near Washington, D.C. in advance of mustering out. Jenkins mentioned Bührer several times in his diary. One interesting example was on 5 July 1865 when Jenkins wrote, "I have the skull of a Reb that was killed at Bull Run on my table, and Sargt Buhrer wants to take it to Germany." Ten days later, perhaps in reference to

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WELCOME, DONNA SCHUELE HSSC PRESIDENT (2017-2020)

Donna Schuele holds a J.D. and a Ph.D. in Jurisprudence and Social Policy from U.C. Berkeley. She is currently a faculty member at Cal State LA, and previously was on the faculty at UC Irvine, where she was awarded Lecturer of the Year in 2013. Prior to these faculty positions, Donna served as a judicial law clerk on the Ninth Circuit and was Executive Director of the California Supreme Court Historical Society. Her publications have focused on women's legal and political rights in 19th century California, and she is currently writing a biography of retired Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. Donna has appeared on the genealogy show *Who Do You Think You Are?*, and has published opinion essays in the *Los Angeles Times* and the *New York Times*. She and her husband, Chuck Valdez, reside in Woodland Hills, while their son, Michael, trains as a competitive figure skater in Orange County.



THANK YOU, KENNETH MARCUS HSSC PRESIDENT (2014-2017)

It was nearly ten years ago that Ken Marcus and I were first elected to the board of directors of HSSC. Working together we witnessed both continuity and change. As Ken and I step aside to make way for others to lead the society into the future I want to reflect on the outstanding service Ken Marcus provided HSSC.

In 2009 he was elected to the executive board as first vice president and within a few years took over the helm of the society. His first year as president was truly a game changer as HSSC transitioned away from the brick and mortar face, the Lummis House, the So-

ciety called home for so many years.

As Ken moves into an advisory role as immediate past-president I wish to express, on behalf of the board, our deepest appreciation for the time and effort Ken has dedicated to the past, present and future Historical Society of Southern California. His focus at all times reflected our mission: to interpret and promote the diverse history of Southern California and the West through education and publications.

Under Ken's leadership HSSC maintained an exemplary record of scholarship through lectures, conferences, and most importantly the

Southern California Quarterly. We added public tours and revitalized our awards program in an effort to enhance our public face. We hired a new executive director, revised the by-laws, and created a strategic plan. The Society now boasts two graduate representatives on the board, an achievement both Ken and I value highly. We both came to know HSSC as recipients of the Haynes grants when we were graduate students.

Under Ken's leadership the Society relocated its large and diverse collection of manuscripts and artifacts to a safe and secure site at the Homestead Museum in

the City of Industry, where it is being inventoried.

Lastly, we've seen the creation of an endowment for the *Southern California Quarterly*, California's oldest peer-reviewed journal. Ken spearheaded a capital campaign to build this endowment and convinced 100% of our board of directors to contribute. The goal was to see the journal remain viable for future generations. Our most sincere thank you to Ken Marcus and his years of service to the HSSC.

-Linda Mollno, Past 1st Vice President

PREVIOUS HSSC EVENTS

On September 12, 2017, Dr. Andrea Thabet spoke on “Simon Says: How Norton Simon Transformed a Failing Art Museum into a Cultural Powerhouse” as part of Dunning Lecture Series, hosted by the Pasadena Museum of History.



Andrea Thabet and Ken Marcus



The HSSC hosted a Tour of Rancho Los Cerritos with a Garden Lunch on September 30, 2017. The tour included the house, the gardens, and unique opportunity to have lunch on the grounds in a private garden.

On October 21, 2017, the HSSC had a table at the 12th-annual Los Angeles Archives Bazaar at the Doheny Memorial Library, University of Southern California. We displayed artifacts from our collection and met many folks interested in local history.

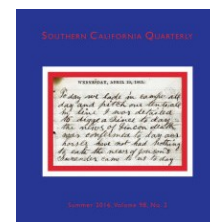


Mark Vincent led a second sold-out tour of the St. Francis Dam Disaster Area on November 12, 2017. Mr. Vincent discussed the history and the geology of the area and the engineering and geological issues that led to the dam's failure on March 12, 1928.

UPCOMING HSSC EVENTS

Academic Skills Workshop, Occidental College Saturday, January 13, 2018

The workshop will include three speakers on three topics, including conference proposals, applying for an academic job, and publishing in a peer-reviewed journal, with Q&A. The workshop is designed for graduate students, but open to everyone. Registration information at thehssc.org.



Tour Early Historic Sites of Riverside Saturday, January 27, 2018

Co-sponsored by the Riverside Historical Society. Stops will include Agua Mansa/La Placita de Los Trujillos (sites discussed will include the Pioneer Cemetery, Slover Mountain, and the Santa Ana River), the Trujillo Adobe, and the Mission Inn. Full details available at thehssc.org.

UPCOMING HSSC EVENTS

Lecture, Pasadena Museum of History Tuesday, February 20, 2018

“The Robinsons in Pasadena: A Life Between Segregation and Integration”

Amy Essington, Lecturer, California State University, Fullerton and Cal Poly Pomona, and author of *The Integration of the Pacific Coast League: Race and Baseball in the West* (University of Nebraska Press, June 2018)



In the Far West, the system of racism was not the formal system found in the South. It was instead a more fluid and uncertain system which people of color had to navigate. Africans Americans in Pasadena lived a reality experienced by many people of color in Southern California in the 1920s and 1930s. Mallie Robinson and her five children, Edgar, Frank, Mack, Willa Mae, and Jackie, lived in a community that straddled segregation and integration. Their experiences show the racism, discrimination, and opportunity for African Americans in Pasadena before World War II.

When it becomes available, information will be posted at <https://pasadenahistory.org/>

George A.V. Dunning Lecture, Pasadena Museum of History Thursday, March 29, 2018

“Telling My Stories: The pioneering Fiction of Octavia E. Butler”

Natalie Russell, Assistant Curator of Literary Collections, Huntington Library



Octavia E. Butler was the first female African-American writer to make science fiction her career. A shy, only child from Pasadena, California, she dreamed of ordinary people in extraordinary worlds, and extraordinary people in ordinary worlds, and put them on the page. Her stories brought the voice of a woman of color to a genre traditionally dominated by white men. That powerful voice tackled issues, not just about race, but themes that continue to resonate with a wide audience: power, identity, gender, class, the environment, and what it means to be human.

When it becomes available, information will be posted at <https://pasadenahistory.org/>

HSSC 2018 Conference Saturday, February 10, 2018, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.

The conference theme is “From the Cold War to The Space Race: Science, Technology, and Society in Southern California.”

The Program Will Include the George A. V. Dunning Featured Lecture as the Keynote and the Presentation of the 2017 HSSC Awards.

A full program and pre-registration information will be posted on our website, thehssc.org, on December 1, 2017. Pre-registration will be due January 26, 2018. Members receive a discount to all HSSC events.

TREASURES OF THE HSSC ARTIFACT COLLECTION: LETTERS TO CHARLES M. JENKINS, CIVIL WAR DIARIST FROM LOS ANGELES CONTNUED

(Continued from page 2)

the macabre memento, Jenkins recorded, "This morning I made a séance for Sargt. Burher to take back to Germany."

After the company was mustered out of service and Jenkins headed to New York to prepare for his long return to Los Angeles after six years away from home, he wrote on 12 August that "I found E. Straub and G.W. Bührer here." The following day, Bührer and Jenkins did a little sightseeing with the latter recording, "Bührer and myself went to Central Park, found it a very pretty place and very neatly kept." In his journal, Bührer mentioned going with Jenkins to what he called "a very fine park, the finest of the U. St." From that point, Jenkins took a ship to California, arriving in Los Angeles on 21 September, while Bührer sailed home to Germany.

Jenkins penned a letter to Bührer at some unknown date after their parting in New York and then again on 19

October, no doubt to apprise him of his return trip and the reunion with his family at home. Assuming that the missive took several weeks to get to Europe, Bührer wasted little time in sending a response and his letter of 3 December is one of the pair in the HSSC holdings.

Greeting his correspondent with "Friend Charles!" Bührer notified Jenkins that, while he never received the first missive, he did get the October letter and stated, "Well Charles I am glad to hear you arrived safe at home, but I was sorry to read that you are laid up with the Scurvy [Jenkins suffered ailments through the rest of his long life]. I hope you are now well again. You must not dance quite as much."

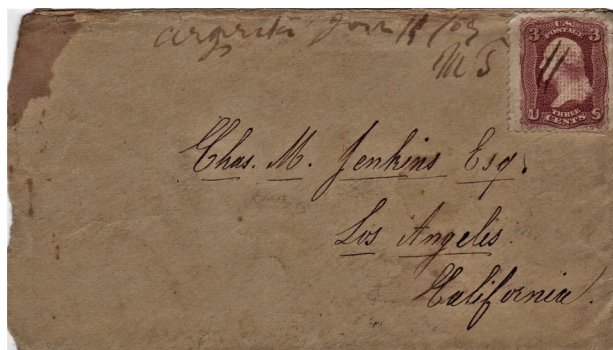
He then turned to his return home, asking, "Is it not a great pleasure to be at home after a long absence? There is no place like home." He then added that "it is impossible for me to describe how much joy my return gave to my father, sisters and brother. The good old man almost wept." Bührer continued that his voyage home took two-and-a-half weeks and went smoothly. Moreover, he was looking forward to "some good times this winter, [with] plenty of sleighing," unless the winter of 1865-66 was like the previous one when snow was slight. He also noted the climate in Stuttgart was like that of Virginia.

Yet, as much as he liked his hometown, he did not plan to remain as "after all I intend to return to the U[nited] St

[ates] about March or April" and added "perhaps I will go to California." He then asked Jenkins for some information, including "what kind of a chance is there about farming where you are?" and "do you think a vineyard will be [a] paying business?" and "what is wine worth now?" Other questions were specific to Jenkins about whether he had a vineyard on his ranch, which was the "Jabonería" [soap factory] on Rancho San Antonio southeast of Los Angeles, and, if so, how many vines were to be planted.

In fact, Jenkins' return to Los Angeles came at a very interesting transitional period for the frontier town. Massive flooding in the winter of 1861-62 followed by two excessively dry years ravaged the region's cattle-based economy. With the drought ended by the time Jenkins arrived home, the postwar years brought the first sustained period of population and economic growth in Los Angeles. Agriculture supplanted

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ROYALS OF PASADENA EXHIBITION CELEBRATES CENTENARY OF A NEW YEAR'S TRADITION

In honor of the 100th Rose Queen®, Pasadena Museum of History is celebrating the Tournament of Roses® Royal Court in the exhibition *Royals of Pasadena*.

When Isabella Marez was crowned Queen of the 2018 Tournament of Roses in October (2017), the high school senior became the 100th young woman to pre-
side over Pasadena's New Year's festivities, including the internationally televised Rose Parade and Rose Bowl Game. Since the selection of the very first Rose Queen, Hallie Woods (1905), the process and the duties of the young women of the Royal Court have evolved.



1940 Rose Queen Margaret Huntley Main and 2018 Rose Queen Isabella Marez; photo by Joanne Wilborn/Marlyn Woo

Early royals helped decorate their own floats/horse-drawn carriages and even made their own gowns. There were years when no Royal Court was selected due to war and other considerations. In addition to the time prior to the introduction of a Royal Court (1890-1904), the queen-less years were 1909, 1910, 1912, 1915-1922, 1924, 1927 and 1929. A queen has been part of the Tournament of Roses every year since 1930.

This unique exploration of the traditions and history of the Queen and Royal Court is on view in the PMH History Center Galleries through February 11, 2018. Vivid photos and ephemera document the century-long Pasadena tradition, along with the gowns, daywear, accessories, and jewelry from Court wardrobes decade by decade, all on loan from former members of the Royal Court.

Exquisite gowns of past Rose Queens and Princess survey changing fashions through the years, from the sleek satin gowns of the 1940s, to the tulle con-

fections of William Cahill in the 1950s and 1960s, and the modern-day glamour of Tadashi Shoji, the current designer for the Tournament of Roses. More than a fashion review, the formal wear – and the myriad ensembles Court members wore to royal functions – illustrate the changing roles of women over the past 100 years.

Exhibit highlights include Queen's crowns from the past century, on loan from the exhibit's Signature Sponsor, Pasadena Tournament of Roses, and the gown of 1940 Rose Queen Margaret Huntley Main, the oldest living Rose Queen.

Exhibit Information
Royals of Pasadena is



1940 Rose Queen Margaret Huntley Main (Star-News Collection)



1940 Rose Queen Gown - Ecru velvet gown with gold lace trim. Loan courtesy of Queen Margaret Huntley Main; Photo by Aaron Gil. This gown was designed and sewn by Pasadena dressmaker Margie Mudgett. It was known as the "Camelot" gown.

open 12:00 to 5:00 pm
Wednesdays through
Saturdays now through
February 11, 2018.
Please check the PMH
website at
www.pasadenahistory.org
for information
about extended hours
during the holidays.
Admission is \$7 General;
\$6 Students & Seniors;
Free for Museum Members
and Children under 12.
Free parking is available in
the Museum lot and on
Walnut Street.

Special Programs
PMH is pleased to present
several special programs in
conjunction

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TREASURES OF THE HSSC ARTIFACT COLLECTION: LETTERS TO CHARLES M. JENKINS, CIVIL WAR DIARIST FROM LOS ANGELES CONTNUED

cattle ranching as the backbone of the region's economy and vineyards were expanding dramatically by the end of the 1860s.

Bührer's letter made some reference to former Army comrades, including the E. Straub Jenkins found in New York with Bührer, and the latter noted that Straub was in Saginaw, Michigan, and looking to start a business. Then, our correspondent asked Jenkins if he'd heard from "L." This was probably Lillie Reed, a woman Jenkins visited in Massachusetts after he was mustered out of the service, but his sojourn with her soured quickly when a presumed male rival to her attentions appeared, Jenkins abruptly terminated his visit, ominously writing "guns for two if I stay" in his diary.

Bührer ended his missive, noting that he'd enclosed his photograph as promised, though the image was not found with the letter. Then he ended with reference to another war-torn country: "Charles, I don't think the Mexican war is

about to end. I hope Max [Emperor Maximilian] and his frog-eaters will have to skeddaddle yet. Wished I could talk the Spanish as well as you. I would soon be with Juarez." As he stated, Bührer would return to the United States in mid-April 1866, just a few months after sending his reply to Jenkins and wound up in the Montana Territory, where he joined his brother Charles, formerly of Jersey City, New Jersey. He was working as a miner near the notorious vigilante center of Virginia City, located about 75 miles southwest of Butte and northwest of Yellowstone National Park. Quickly, Bührer settled on a ranch a little under 20 miles from Argenta,

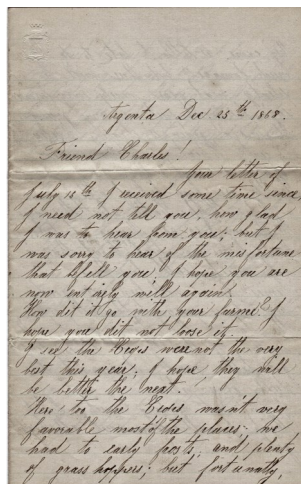
founded in 1865 as Montana City near the territory's first silver mines. There he settled in, raising livestock and growing hay with his brother's partner, Conrad Wagner.

It was at his ranch, on Christmas Day 1868, that the second letter to Jenkins was penned. His salutation was again "Friend Charles!" and then he acknowledged a letter of 15 July. Once more, Jenkins' recurring health problems were mentioned as Bührer wrote, "I was sorry to hear of the misfortune that befell you; I hope you are now entirely well again."

Next was a reference to a different sort of trouble, as Bührer asked "How did it go with your farm? I hope you did not lose it. I see the Crops were not the very best this year. I hope you will be better the next." The winter of 1867-68 brought another round of flooding to greater Los Angeles and was such that the San Gabriel River overflowed and followed an irrigation ditch to link up to Coyote Creek and formed a new channel

to the Pacific. The old channel, soon called the Rio Hondo, passed by Jenkins' Jaboneria, and, presumably, did significant damage. Bührer empathized with his friend's plight as he cataloged the tough times in southwestern Montana due to early frosts and the anticipation of grasshopper infestations, noting "times have not been very good; now it is very dull . . . I don't know what will become of the Territory, if times don't get better soon." Reflecting on the difficulties he was facing, Bührer lamented, "I must confess, I have been sorry many times I did not get back to California, or to Mexico, and some times I feel like going there yet." He then asked that, if Jenkins was to go to Mexico, "I hope I will hear from you." After updating Jenkins on the whereabouts of a couple of former soldiers from their company, Bührer stated, "Well Charles our man got elected. I am glad of it, every man ought to be." This obviously refers to the election, the prior month, of Ulysses S. Grant, Union

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THANK YOU

Thank you to Paul Bryan Gray, whose term as a board member has ended. Serving the HSSC since 2013, Paul has helped the HSSC transition from the Lummis House and closely reviewed the finances of the organization.

Thank you also to the Pasadena Museum of History and the San Marino Historical Society for letting the organization use the facilities for board meetings.

Thank you also to the generous donors to the organization. This list includes donors to the *Southern California Quarterly* Endowment (June-November 2017) and donors to the general fund (January-November 2017).

Thank you donors.

California Community Foundation, Eric Abner, Bert Atkinson, Robert Bothamley, Kathleen Brown, Michael Buckley, John Donovan, Harold Eaton, Brenden Lindsay, Cristina Halstead, James Gilbert, Frank Gruber, Helen O. Grubbs, Richard Haynes, Michael Maiuri, David McDonald, Jane Pinkerton, John and Evelyn Pohlmann, Steve and Janet Preston, Elizabeth Riek, Robert Ronus, Jasper Schad, Martin Schiesl, Barry Schweiger, Don Sloper, Ellen Sweet, Lee and Mary Ann Tipton, and Eric Warren.

ROYALS OF PASADENA EXHIBITION CELEBRATES CENTENARY OF A NEW YEAR'S TRADITION CONTINUED

with this exhibition.

Museum Free Day: The *Holiday Open House* on Saturday, December 9, 1:00 to 4:00 pm, features complimentary admission to the exhibition throughout the afternoon and an appearance by the Royal Court from 2:00 to 3:00 pm. This family-friendly seasonal event also offers mini tours of historic Fenyes Mansion, live holiday music, and refreshments. Free admission: no tickets required.

Lecture: *More Than A Parade* on Tuesday, January 23, 6:00 pm, offers a behind-the-scenes look at Pasadena's famed Tournament of Roses, with

longtime Tournament Volunteer and 2004 president Michael K. Riffey. Mr. Riffey will share stories from his book about the hard work, drama and fun that go in to making the Pasadena Tournament of Roses one of the "gotta see" events on



Gowns on display; photo by Joanne Wilborn/Marlyn Woo

the nation's TV schedule. Preparation for next year's parade begins soon after the last street sweeper finishes cleaning up. Months of travel, auditions, design decisions, and logistical setbacks all come together for one day of glorious pageantry. Riffey introduces you to float designers and builders, parade queens, equestrian units, band members, and an army of sometimes contentious volunteers. He also will answer some of the most frequently asked questions about the parade and the Rose Bowl football game. Tickets: \$20 General; \$15 Museum Members. Advance reservations required; please visit

www.pasadenahistory.org for ticketing.

Pasadena Museum of History is located at 470 W. Walnut St., Pasadena, CA 91103, at the corner of Orange Grove Boulevard and Walnut Street. For further information, please visit the Museum's website at www.pasadenahistory.org or call 626-577-1660.



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN CONTINUED

(Continued from page 1)

fer. Having the collection at the Homestead enabled the Society recently to sign a contract with the City of Industry to conduct a thorough inventory of the collection—another long-held goal of mine. In addition, our Treasurer, Lara Godbille, led the creation of a Records Retention Policy, which the board duly approved and which will guide the development and oversight of the collection in the foreseeable future.

A second achievement involved re-launching the Society's broad series of awards. In trying to broaden the Society's outreach, I felt it was imperative to affirm our commitment to scholarship and community service and to recognize the enormous and impressive work by both academic and independent scholars and community members. Some awards, all of which are endowed, were given only intermittently in recent years. Executive Director Amy Essington together with the board created a series of committees for each award, all of which have been chaired by a board member, includ-

ing Paul Bryan Gray, Linda Mollno, Donna Schuele, Lara Godbille, Eileen Wallis, David Hayes-Bautista, Jem Axelrod, and Jim Tranquada. The board further approved formal policies for the bestowal of the awards, which we have given at each of the last three annual HSSC conferences. I believe I can speak for the board, many of whom were involved in giving out the awards, that the annual award ceremony has been one of the most delightful and fulfilling events for the Society during the last three years.

A third achievement resulted in part from a survey we conducted of Society members, to ask for their views on moving forward. One clear result from that survey was the desire to have tours that focused not merely on the Los Angeles area but also took us to other parts of the southland. I felt strongly that we reach out anew to our members and to those who are interested in the history of the region but may have had no previous connection to the Society, and one way of doing so was through tours. To that end, we created the Events com-

mittee, chaired by board member Andrew Krastins and later joined by board member Will Cowan, to come up with ideas that might attract the interested public; that committee has also worked in tandem with the Membership Committee, which include board members Peggy Renner, Kristen Hayashi, and Jim Tranquada. The tours, too, represent an outreach effort to connect with other historical societies throughout Southern California, which is a "win-win" for all concerned.

A fourth achievement was to create a new set of bylaws to guide the Society's activities. First Vice President Linda Mollno led the effort to revise and strengthen the bylaws, and was aided by Andrew Krastins and former board member Ann Walnum. This represented an enormous step forward, since it brought greater clarity to the board's functioning as an integrated whole, and to define the activities of various positions on the board and other positions and activities related to the Society's mission. The board enthusiastically

approved the bylaws on June 5, 2015—a landmark moment in the Society's history and which is available on our website, thehssc.org. Building on this achievement, the board subsequently approved in 2016 a strategic plan to guide its activities moving forward.

A fifth achievement has been to bring graduate students on to the board for the first time. I felt that if we were to reach out to younger audiences, then having graduate students on the board would be an ideal way of doing so. Linda Mollno, Donna Schuele and I interviewed candidates for the position. We had originally thought of having just one graduate student join the board at a time, but we were so impressed with the credentials and ideas of Kristen Hayashi and Will Cowan that we invited both to join. It has been a distinct pleasure to have them share their thoughts, enthusiasm, and expertise, and both have also been involved in events organized by the board. Both took part in the annual conference in January 2017 on

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TREASURES OF THE HSSC ARTIFACT COLLECTION: LETTERS TO CHARLES M. JENKINS, CIVIL WAR DIARIST FROM LOS ANGELES CONTNUED

Army General-in-Chief during the war, as President of the United States. The letter then closed with “my best wishes to your parents” and a promise to “be more prompt” in responding to letters after “my long silence.”

Despite the difficult economic conditions both men experienced in 1868, Jenkins stayed put in Los Angeles, living to the advanced age of 93 years until his death in 1933. Bühner remained in Montana and, after marrying and

having three daughters, passed away in 1918 at age 84. The two old soldiers and friends left behind memorable journals of their service during the Civil War and these letters add a little more to the remarkable story of the

rediscovery of Jenkins’ diary.

-Paul Spitzzeri, Director, Workman and Temple Family Homestead Museum

PRESIDENT’S COLUMN CONTINUED

(Continued from page 10)

“World War II and the Home Front in Southern California,” which took place at the University of La Verne, and Kristen joined the HSSC panel that presented at the Pacific Coast Branch Meeting of the American Historical Association (PCBAHA) in August 2017, which took place at Cal State Northridge.

A sixth achievement has been to launch a capital campaign for the flagship journal of the Society, the *Southern California Quarterly*. In an age of vanishing historical journals committed to regional history, the board has been

steadfast on this point (and strongly supported by members who responded to our survey): the journal is one of the best things we can support as a Society. We have achieved the first two of three steps of the campaign: first, that all board members contribute (we have 100% board participation), and second, that Society members contribute (who have thus far given a total of \$18,000). The third step is to approach corporations and foundations, either who have given to HSSC in the past or who seem disposed for future gifts. The goal of the campaign is \$1 million, and the board is taking further steps to bring us

to that level. A final achievement during the past three years I would like to point to, but for which I take no credit, has been to maintain the quality and accessibility of the journal itself. In 2016 alone, articles published in the *Southern California Quarterly* had 54,250 views and a total of 99,262 pdf downloads. That’s a lot of people benefiting from the journal. That it maintains a consistently high level of scholarship is largely due to our Editor, Merry Ovnick, whose commitment to scholarship and tireless work are both deeply admirable and reassuring in challenging times. We are enor-

mously grateful for her efforts.

In closing, few achievements have been so gratifying as the participation of all members of the board in the Society’s activities, in renewing its mission and goals, and in helping to ensure that the Society remains a viable presence in the history of Southern California in the years to come. I wish all of you success in your various ventures, and thank you for your continued support of the Society.

-Kenneth Marcus, HSSC President (2014-2017)

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Upcoming HSSC Events

Holiday Party

Saturday, December 2, 2017
Workman and Temple Family Homestead Museum

Academic Skills Workshop

Saturday, January 13, 2018
Occidental College

Tour Early Historic Sites of Riverside

Saturday, January 27, 2018
Co-sponsored by the Riverside Historical Society.
Full details available at thehssc.org.

“The Robinsons in Pasadena: A Life Between Segregation and Integration”

Tuesday, February 20, 2018
Lecture, Pasadena Museum of History

Lecture, “Telling My Stories: The pioneering fiction of Octavia E. Butler”

Thursday, March 29, 2018
George A.V. Dunning Lecture, Pasadena Museum of History

HSSC Annual Conference

Saturday, February 10, 2018
Including 2017 Awards Ceremony
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

Check thehssc.org for event details or call 323-222-0546.
Member and student discounts available.



HSSC Awards

The HSSC gives eight awards in three categories. The HSSC Board-approved guidelines for each of the awards are posted on our website. Check thehssc.org for award bylaws and application/nomination information.

Books

- The Norman Neuerburg Award honors the best book on California history that emphasizes the nineteenth century or earlier.
- The Martin Ridge Award honors the best book on California history that emphasizes the twentieth century onward.
- The Donald H. Pflueger Local History Award honors an outstanding scholarly book or project (print or electronic) on Southern California local history.

Articles

- The Doyce B. Nunis, Jr. Award honors the best demonstration of significant scholarship in the *Southern California Quarterly* by a rising historian.
- The Frank Wheat Award honors the best demonstration of significant scholarship in the *Southern California Quarterly* by an established historian.

Service

- The Denise and Jack Smith Community Enrichment Award honors an individual who has enriched the community of Los Angeles by their dedicated service and accomplishments.
- The Joseph O’Flaherty Teaching Award honors creative excellence in the teaching of history in grades K-12 in the schools of Southern California.
- The Fellows Award honors exceptional lifetime achievements that have brought distinction to history.

THE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY OF
SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA
1883