

West Sacramento Historical Society Newsletter

January/February, 2007

Museum and Visitors Center is located at 324 Third Street, West Sacramento (old Broderick district), California 95605.
Open Thursdays/Fridays 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturdays/Sundays 12 noon-4 p.m. Phone (916) 374-1849



“Celebrating the Lives of West Sacramento Women” exhibit opens!

Special points of interest:

- Yearlong Calendar insert inside, take it out and post it!
- Monthly events planned!
- Celebrating Lives of WS Women exhibit extended to June 1, 2007.
- Information about upcoming events of other organizations enclosed!
- The WSHS Museum & Visitors Center is a 501 C 3 non-profit organization dedicated to preserving, protecting and promoting the history of West Sacramento and East Yolo County.
- Donations are tax deductible.
- Find out who this celebrated business woman was by visiting the exhibit at our Museum



On Sunday, November 5, 2006, the West Sacramento Historical Society opened an outstanding exhibit featuring forty-one women who made their homes in the West Sacramento area. Beginning with early Washington/Broderick township settlers such as Margaret McDowell and Mattie Manchester; Riverbank/Bryte residents Bertha (Birdie) Lee and Louise Verasoff Vessell continuing through more current West Sacramento residents Kathy Perrigo, Cindy Tuttle and many others. Each of the women has a photo posted and a one page bio in the Memory Album. Exhibit committee Thom Lewis and Jeri Hughes-Wingfield mounted an excellent array of artifacts including household furnishings, jewelry, fine clothing and personal items such as pill boxes, perfume bottles representing the era of these forty-one women. A timeline of the historical events involving Women’s Rights is also displayed.

Over 207 people signed in during the opening and consequently had to take turns viewing the grand exhibit due to the tiny space that the WSHS Museum currently resides in. Delicious finger foods and punch was provided by West Sacramento Soroptimists International.

As a follow-up, many events are being planned until the exhibit closes on June 1, 2007. A movie night featuring the film “Iron Jawed Maidens” was held in December and will be shown again later in the spring. A Speaker Series is underway with representatives from various women’s organizations, see the Calendar Insert for dates and times. Also, several dates will be set aside for families of the women featured in the exhibit to come to the Museum, discuss their memories with other families and

add to the bios in the Memory Album. Invitations will be sent out to the families with a choice of several dates to sign up to insure sufficient space for the groups to meet. If you are interested and don’t receive a specific invitation, please contact Museum Director Lana Paulhamus at 371-5117 to be added to the list. A collage of photos from the exhibit opening can be viewed on the back of the calendar insert in this newsletter. This exhibit was made possible by grants and other financial support from Pacific Gas & Electric, the Cameron Foundation and the Soroptimists International of West Sacramento as well as many donated hours by Museum volunteers!

Thank a Volunteer:

The West Sacramento Historical Society as a community based non-profit organization is dependent upon its’ volunteers. There are many tasks to keeping an organization up and running as well as maintaining the Museum and Visitors’ Center. Each of the WSHS members are urged to donate the equivalent of one work day (8 hours) during the 2007 year, contact Museum Director *Lana Paulhamus*, 371-5117 to determine when you can start and what you can do!

Each of the 2007 WSHS newsletters will include a “**BIG Thank You**” list, watch for your name to be listed. Here are some of the 2006 volunteers:

- Thom Lewis, Jeri Hughes-Wingfield*—Creation of Exhibits & Displays
- Mickey Fausett*—Docent every Sunday
- Louisa R. Vessell*—Publicity & Programs
- Jack Schwab*—Newsletter Proofing
- Cecilia Vasquez*—Financial Records

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People Making News—Mark Johannessen, President of WSHS, elected



Mark Johannessen, President of the West Sacramento Historical Society, was sworn in on Nov. 30, 2006 as a member of the West Sacramento City Council. In a letter to the residents of West Sacramento, Mark expressed his appreciation to the residents who had supported him and stated that it was clear to him how important it is for anyone seeking public office to be active in the community they intend to represent. As a long time member of the WSHS, he has attended many events and provided leadership with the writing of the business plan and goals of the Historical Society. Congratulations are also due to Mark on his recent marriage. As a representative of the residents of West Sacramento, Mark is continuing to maintain a website at www.markjohannessen.com that contains his views on issues and concerns facing the Council and also provides email for residents to contact him.

WSHS President Mark shown in photo with former Sacramento Mayor Anne Rudin, Museum Director Lana Paulhamus, Shipley Waters and former WS Mayor Cindy Tuttle at the opening of the exhibit on Nov. 5, 2006.

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS TO ATTEND:

February 14, 2007 will be the annual dinner meeting of the Sacramento Book Collectors Club with a special program honoring Julia Morgan, California's most famous woman architect on the 50th anniversary of her death. Guest speaker will be Belinda Taylor, playwright of "Becoming Julia Morgan" that had its' world premiere in Sacramento last January at the California Stage. As a special treat, Julia Morgan will join us after dinner.

The dinner and program will take place at the Lions GATE Conference Center at McClellan Park with cocktails at 6:30 pm and dinner at 7 pm, cost is \$38 a person. Menu includes choice of Prime Rib, Atlantic Salmon or vegetarian. Send your menu preference with your check made payable to Sacramento Book Collectors Club, P.O. Box 160044, Sacramento, CA 95818. Checks must be received by February 9, 2007. Questions, contact Louisa R. Vessell at 916 451-2113.

March, 2007 is the 20th Anniversary of the national Women's History Month. The Yolo County Women's History Month Committee will hold a luncheon on **Thursday, March 8, 2007**, at the Holy Rosary Church Community Center, 575 California Street in Woodland from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The theme for 2007 is "Generations of Women Moving History Forward." At the luncheon, one of WSHS members will portray Margaret McDowell who was a pioneer woman who founded a city she called "Washington," which we now know as the Broderick district of West Sacramento.

Members of WSHS should attend this luncheon to represent West Sacramento. An interesting program is planned so you won't want to miss this event. Tickets cost \$20 per person and may be purchased by making a check payable to "Women's History Month" and sent to Women's History Month, P.O. Box 711, Woodland, CA 95776. You **MUST** include with your check the following information: Your name, telephone, address and give the number of tickets. If you have any questions, contact Louisa R. Vessell, who is representing the West Sacramento Historical Society on the committee at 916-451-2113.

Upcoming Events to Attend at the Museum & Visitors Center, 324 Third Street, (old Broderick district):

⇒ **Tuesday, January 16—6:30 pm to 8 pm**

WSHS general membership meeting. Discussion of election of new officers and fund raising options

⇒ **Wednesday, January 17—6:30 to 8 pm**

Bridget Kennedy, Community Educator will provide information on resources available from her organization WEAVE "Women Escaping A Violent Environment" Refreshments served.



Never too old to learn something new!

⇒ **Sunday, February 18, 2 pm**

Representative from OWL (Older Women League) will speak about her organization and resources available. Refreshments served.

⇒ **Sunday, February 25, 2 pm**

Special anniversary party is being planned for the West Sacramento Historical Society Museum and Visitors' Center—details provided on flyers available from the Museum, plan to come and help celebrate!

⇒ **Sunday, January 21— 1:30 pm**

Greg Velm, local Sacramento author, will speak about his recently published book, "*True Gold - History and Adventure in Sacramento and the Gold County from Indians to Arnold*". "True Gold" is a glossy 183 - page book replete with photographs and colorized Gold Rush-era art to present day photography about little-known events and people who helped shape the Sacramento area in the past and present. The book includes a "map to the gold" and an adventure tour of interesting sites around downtown Sacramento. Greg Velm is currently the chairperson of the Sacramento Commission of History and Science. Refreshments served. For further information call Louisa R. Vessell at 916-451-2113.

WISDOM WITH AGE

"The older I get, the greater power I seem to have to help the world; I am like a snowball—the further I am rolled the more I gain." **Susan B. Anthony, suffragist**

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. In deed, it is the only thing that ever has." **Margaret Mead, anthropologist.**

**WEST SACRAMENTO HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MUSEUM AND VISITORS CENTER**

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West Sacramento, California 95605 Open Thursdays/Fridays 10 a.m.
to 4 p.m. Saturdays/Sundays 12 noon to 4 pm Phone 916 374 1849

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 1202
West Sacramento, California 95691

*We are on the Web!
All WSHS newsletters are posted
in color on the website—see
“What’s New” at
www.westsachhistoricalsociety.org*

If there is a STAR near your mailing label, that indicates that the fee for a membership in the West Sacramento Historical Society is due. Individual dues are \$17.50 or \$22.50 for a couple; with a senior and/or student discount, the cost is \$11.50 for an individual and \$16.50 for a couple, Mail in your check and renew today!

Listed below are the current officers and appointed committee chairs, however an election will be held later in January so watch for an update in the March newsletter.

2006 WSHS Board/Officers & Committee Chairs

President- Mark Johannessen
(mfjlaw@gmail.com) phone 371-0661
1st VP/Museum Chair - Lana Paulhamus
(lpaulhamus@earthlink.net) phone 372-5117
Treasurer - Cecilia Vasquez phone 372-7438
Secretary/Community Projects - Martha Mills
(marthamills@charter.net) phone 373-1892
Immediate Past President/Special Exhibits -
Thom Lewis (thoml4@earthlink.net) phone 372-7438
Member-at-Large - Joan Washburn
phone 371-0981
Membership/Oral History - Mickey Fausett
(MickeySAC@aol.com) phone 372-5036
Programs/Field Trips - Louisa R. Vessell
(lvessell@sbcglobal.net) phone 451-2113
Archivist/Librarian - Jeri Hughes-Wingfield
(jeriwingfield@sbcglobal.net) phone 371-7678
Newsletter—Sharon A. Freitas—send information,
comments, suggestions to safreitas@aol.com
or phone 916 421-5768

Women included in current exhibit:

Helen Baranoff, Lorene Hurley Brandon, Katherine Donohue Cheever, Mary Lukins Conrad, Erleen Carrico Culver, Floy Jeanette Blythe Gleason, Bernadine “Dee” Geoffrey Gorman, Helena Cannon Helmold, Jewell Hensley, Jennie Warden Hughes, Louise Bingaman Hughes, Yoshie Takagi Iwasaki, Bertha “Birdie” Lee, Juanita O’Connor Lopez, Natividad Nat Lopez, Cecilia Lowe, Mattie Moore Manchester, Margaret Piles McDowell, Phoebe Wells McGowan, Thelma McCann Needham, Lillian Barratt Newton, Alyce Norman, Erma Schneider O’Hara, Grace Kneedler Ohlson, Virginia “Dottie” Long Ortiz, Luisa Cappello Palamidessi, Augusta “Nita” Pinto Perini, Kathy Augster Perrigo, Melba Rose “Chickie” Pfyffer Queener, Emma Alvarez Rodriguez, Graciela Padilla Ramirez, Denice Ann Donke Seals, Virginia Shepherdson Seamons, Betty Fairbairn Sokolich, Alma Bernabovi Soost, Dorothy Parkison Som-sen, Cindy Lou Smith Tuttle, Louise Vera-soff Vessell, Marjorie Evelyn Walker and Adell Bartenshaw Washburn.