



The Grapevine

Published by the San Marino Historical Society

Winter, 2019

**SAN MARINO HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PROUDLY PRESENTS**

**Passage to Eldorado:
The Pioneering Photographs of the Mojave
Road by Rudolph d'Heureuse in 1863
by
Jeff Lapidés**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

February 2019

I hope that all of our members are well and enjoying the new year. The San Marino Historical Society has had an eventful fall and winter. At our October program, Bill Warren presented an excellent program to a full house on the Grand Hotels of the San Gabriel Valley. We are grateful to Bill for his contribution to our society that evening.

The docents continue to provide visitors and groups with tours of the Thurnher House at Lacy Park on Sundays. We encourage all of our membership and others to visit. We plan to enhance and increase the tour experience with the recent acquisition of a new display panel fixture that will allow us to show our guests more historical photos, maps and images from our collections. Archivist Judy Carter and the volunteers continue working on many projects and keep the Thurnher House open every Tuesday.

For the winter program, our society will provide you with what should be another interesting program on Monday, February 25th. The speaker will be Jeff Lapidés and his presentation "Passage to Eldorado" will feature the earliest photographs of the American Desert West by Rudolph d'Heureuse during his journey from Los Angeles to the Colorado River and the mines in Nevada in 1863.

The Thurnher House at Lacy Park is open to visitors for tours from noon until 3:00 PM on the first and third Sunday of every month and by appointment on Tuesdays. This is the former Park Superintendent's home and the docents look forward to having visitors.

If any member is interested in volunteering with our organization, please contact us at 626-304-9375 or info@sanmarinohistoricalsociety.org

At the January board meeting, Isaac Hung was elected President of the San Marino Historical Society. We look forward to his leadership and appreciate his commitment to this organization. I will continue to be active as Past President and as a Docent at the Thurnher House. It has been a pleasure to lead our society for the past three years.

I hope to see many of you at our next program or at the Thurnher House.

John Ryan
President



On Monday, February 25, the San Marino Historical Society welcomes Jeff Lapidés who will speak on Rudolph d'Heureuse, a naturalized German immigrant, who photographed the early American west and its deserts in 1863. Jeff will share this fascinating story and the scenes d'Heureuse captured in his photographs. Lapidés has spoken to the Los Angeles Corral of Westerners and other local history groups. He is the founder of First Water Designs and in that capacity designed San Marino: A Centennial History for the San Marino Historical Society. (see page 2 for more information on this program). "

Monday, February 25, 7:00pm
Crowell Public Library
Barth Community Room
1890 Huntington Drive, San Marino
Public is Welcome, Admission is Free

**San Marino Historical Society
Executive Officers and
Members of the Board 2019**

Officers

President..... Isaac Hung
Vice-President TBA
Secretary Pat Salvaty
Treasurer Bob Houston
Immediate Past President..... John Ryan

Committee Chairs

Archives Judith Carter
Membership Wayne Carter
Newsletter Chris Datwyler
Programs.....John Morris, Wayne Carter & Judith Carter
Publicity Ed Tom
Thurnher House Docents..... John Ryan
Advisor..... Ken Veronda
City Council Members.....Susan Jakubowski & Gretchen Shepherd Romey

Emeritus Board Members

Robert and Graziella Almanza
Jim Elliott
Marilyn Peck
Peggy Winkler

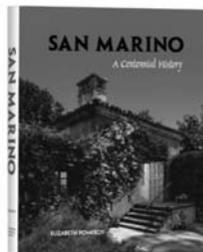
Society Presidents (1974-2015)

Midge Sherwood..... 1974
Mary Smith..... 1976
Jack Sherwood 1978
Ed Ford 1980
Graziella Almanza..... 1982
Laverne Smith..... 1985
Jeanne Imler 1989
Gary Fleming 1991
Lillian Campbell 1993
Marilyn Peck 1995
Paul Crowley..... 1999
Gene Dryden 2004
Benjamin Salvaty 2008
Ave Maria Bortz 2008
John Morris 2010
Judith Carter 2014
John Ryan..... 2016

Order San Marino Centennial Book Now

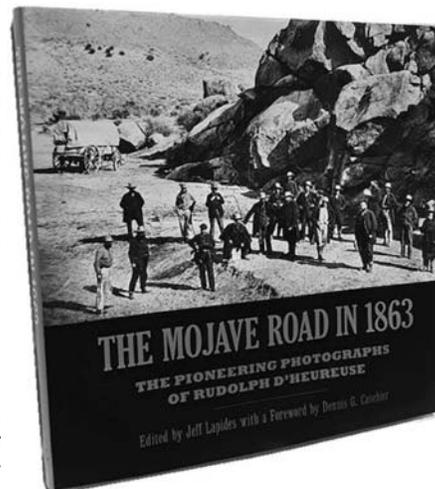
\$55 per copy + 4.95 tax = \$59.95. Add \$7.50 if you wish the book to be mailed to you for a total of \$67.45.

Order on-line at:
www.sanmarinohistoricalsociety.org or by stopping by the Thurnher House on the first and third Sunday from 12-3 or on Tuesdays from 9:30-3. Books are also currently available for sale at San Marino Toy and Books, Julienne, A Stitch in Time, The Old Mill, The Huntington Store, Vromans, and the Pasadena Museum of History



Passage to El Dorado

A German immigrant with a camera, Rudolph d’Heureuse—surveyor, cartographer, civil engineer, mining engineer, oenologist, inventor set out on a momentous journey in 1863. He photographed the Mojave Road in the desert from the waters of the Pacific Ocean to the banks of the Colorado River and the mines of Eldorado Canyon in today’s Nevada. His subjects included San Bernardino, Cajon Pass, and Los Angeles’s seaport, New San Pedro (Wilmington) to Fort Mojave on the Colorado River. He did it in 1863, many years before anyone else took the next photo of the desert, its environs, miners, travelers, forts, soldiers, watering holes, and crossroads.



During this presentation, Jeff Lapiques will tell of d’Heureuse’s world of 1863—newly arrived, hopeful miners; the locals comprised of Californios, Mexican-Americans and Native Americans; Mormons; and Union soldiers including the California Volunteers.

Jeff is a photographer and a book designer. He designed San Marino: A Centennial History which won several local, state, national and international design awards. Jeff is actively involved in the history communities in the San Gabriel Valley. He specializes in the preservation and promotion of history.

Copies of a companion book, The Mojave Road In 1863: The Pioneering Photographs of Rudolph d’Heureuse, will be available for sale after the lecture.

Please Sign Up!!!

If you want to receive these quarterly “Grapevines”, see the old photos, learn of our programs and help to perpetuate the history of our wonderful town, please return the blue envelope quickly!

Thank you.

Thurnher House Hours

The Thurnher House is open on the first and third Sunday afternoon of each month from noon to 3:00pm. It is also open for tours by appointment. If you would like to visit the house on Tuesdays, please call 626-304-9375 or info@sanmarinohistoricalsociety.org for an appointment.

A Bequest to the San Marino Historical Society from Oskar Thurnher

Oskar Thurnher passed away on March 29, 2018 and the San Marino Historical Society was named as a beneficiary of his estate. On December 2, 2018, we received a letter and a generous check from his son Erik, the trustee of the estate, informing the San Marino Historical Society of Thurnher's wishes that the funds be used to help support the society's efforts in the years ahead.

Erik stated, "Having grown up in San Marino, Oskar felt a deep sense of connection with the City and Environs. During his retirement years, he took a great measure of satisfaction and pleasure from his involvement with the activities of the San Marino Historical Society. The relationships he formed with the volunteers of the Society were the basis of several lasting friendships that he valued deeply. He was also very grateful for the role the Society played in helping to record the history of the Thurnher family in San Marino, and its efforts to preserve the family home in Lacy Park. The ability to return "home" and visit with so many friends who shared his love of the city and its history was a source of joy for him until the end of his life."

Archivist Judith Carter stated recently, "We are grateful to Oskar for his support over the years and for his generosity through his trust. We will announce how the funds will be used in coming months."



More on the Nixon in San Marino Story

After an article was published in the Fall 2018 Grapevine, people began contacting us with information on Richard Nixon's political career and its relationship to San Marino. Jackie Flynn donated a copy of "How Richard Nixon Started his Political Career, San Marino 1945". She has also offered additional material from her family's collection. We will report on the material once it is incorporated into the archives.

Former San Marino Historical Society President Jeanne Imler remembers meeting Richard Nixon at an annual picnic supper of the San Marino Republican Women's Club at Lacy Park on September 18, 1962 when Nixon was running for Governor of California. She stated, "I attended the annual picnic supper where Nixon was present. He signed my ticket to the picnic and I still have his autograph!"

We encourage contributions from our members and the community at large on a broad range of topics that will strengthen the collection.

Membership

The membership drive for the current year began on October 1, 2018, and continues until the end of September this year. To date 166 members have joined or renewed their memberships. Some have been inactive for a few years and we are delighted to welcome them back. We are grateful to all of you who have sent in checks or joined via PayPal. It demonstrates to us that you care about helping us to preserve the history of San Marino. We also welcome a record number of new members whose names are listed below. For those of you yet to join or renew, you have another opportunity. Included with the latest issue of the Grapevine is a blue envelope. Just fill out the requested information, insert a check and mail it to us. Or choose to join via PayPal. The following are newest members:

Susan Navas
Anne Blomstrom
Mrs. Brian Henderson
Sally Buckley
Helen L. Franke
David S. Brooke
Robert and Josephine Barbera
Bill Warren
William H. Hurt
Christa and Paul Lakon
Jennifer Barberie
State Representative Anthony Portantino
Kay Romer
Stuart and Charlotte Miller

Deborah Kitson Smith's Family Remembers her with a Gift to the San Marino Historical Society

Deborah Smith's ties to San Marino were deep. Born in Berkeley, California in 1924, Deborah lived in San Marino from 1956 to 2015. She raised her three children, Boyd, Kitsy and David, in their home on Roanoke Road. In the mid 1960s, Deborah began working at the Huntington Library and remained there for twenty-five years, reporting to two presidents, Drs. Thorpe and Skotheim. Each of her children worked at the Huntington as well. In addition to her dedication to the Huntington Deborah was an active member in the PEO Chapter DG. She passed away in 2017 in San Francisco after moving to be near her daughter.

After her death her family sought a way to commemorate her life in San Marino. They recently donated a display system to the San Marino Historical Society. The forty panel display system will allow the Historical Society to present a broad sweep of the history of the city from the time before incorporation to the present. A formal dedication will take place which each of the panels is complete.

President John Ryan who conducts docent tours of the Thurnher House stated, "The generosity of the Smith family will allow us to more properly inform visitors about the span of the history of San Marino."

San Marino Historical Resources Survey

The San Marino City Council voted to have a survey of the city's historical resources completed by an outside firm, Architectural Resources Group (ARC). The firm has completed a number of surveys for cities in the greater Los Angeles area. Mary Ringhoff of ARC made the initial presentation to the City Council on Wednesday, January 8.

Prior to that meeting, Aldo Cervantes City of San Marino Planning and Building Director and Mary Ringhoff met with San Marino Historical Society Archivist Judith Carter to review the resources in the archives that would be available to Mary and her team in conducting the survey.

The plan outlined by Architectural Resource Group is made up of a two phases. The first is the Identification Phase which includes research, a historic context statement and a reconnaissance survey. This will lead to a refined list of potential historic resources and a draft historic context statement. This first phase is slated to be completed by June 2019.

Phase 2 will begin after that date with the schedule to be determined at that time. The final survey report and a list of potential historic resources in San Marino will be presented to the council.

All during the periods encompassing both phases of the process, public input will be important to ARC. There will be public workshops and meetings at which findings will be reviewed. San Marino Historical Society members are encouraged to participate in the process.

The purpose of the survey is as follows:

- Inform planning decisions and provide baseline information for City planners
- Establish priorities for preservation, restoration and rehabilitation efforts
- Strengthen appreciation for the built environment
- Facilitate CEQA review.

This plan will complete a process to address the need for a complete list of historically significant buildings in the city attempted by the Historical Society in the early 1990s. A later city committee to consider drafting a historical structures ordinance was formed but did not lead to any formal conclusions.

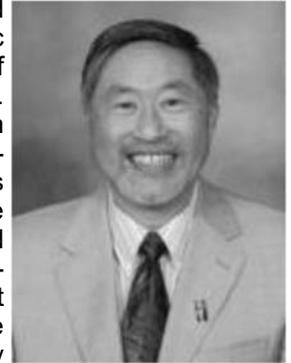
WEBSITE

Visit our website to learn more about your Society's programs and activities as well as viewing current and past issues of our newsletter – the "Grapevine":

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info@sanmarinohistoricalsociety.org
<http://sanmarinohistoricalsociety.org/>

Welcome Isaac Hung as President

The Historical Society Board is pleased to announce that Isaac Hung will be the next president of its board. He succeeds John V. Ryan. Isaac comes to the position with a broad background of community experience. He has served as the President of the Rotary Club of San Marino, and Assistant District Governor of Rotary International District 5300. His other board experience includes the San Marino City Club, the Chinese Club of San Marino and the East West Parent Education Club.



Isaac was born in Taiwan and came to the U.S. when he was 15. He graduated from Temple City High School, Fullerton Community College and USC with a major in accounting. He went on to Cal State LA for an MBA. His career as a real estate investor led him to the purchase of a vineyard in Lodi fifteen years ago.

He and his wife Celia have been active in the community as their three sons worked their way through the San Marino schools.

As president of the San Marino Historical Society, Isaac states that, "my goal is to enhance and promote the knowledge of the city's history. A unique quality of this community is pride of city. As an organization, we have the opportunity to expose more of our citizens to that history through our programs and events."

Michael White Book

The Story of Michael White a California Rebel Pioneer 1801-1885 by Dorothy Jenkins Ross is a fascinating story which provides a unique view of the San Gabriel Valley's development during this notable period in California history. The book may be purchased at the Crowell Public Library, San Marino Toy and Books or by contacting the San Marino Historical Society. The price of the book is \$27.20 for a hardcover copy including sales tax and \$19.57 for soft cover.



Calendar of Events

- February 25, 2019 Monday 7 p.m. San Marino Historical Society Program Presentation, "Passage to Eldorado" by Jeff Lapides, Crowell Public Library, Barth Community Room, 1890 Huntington Drive, San Marino, CA
- May 20, 2019 Monday 7 p.m. San Marino Historical Society Program Presentation, Crowell Public Library, Barth Community Room, 1890 Huntington Drive, San Marino, CA