



President's Message

Spring has arrived and what a beautiful spring we are having after the record rainfall. This is our 2nd edition of The Grapevine this year and another chance to renew your membership to the San Marino Historical Society. I would like to say thank you to the many members who have already renewed and say welcome to our new members. Your support enables us to continue with our goals to preserve the history of San Marino and provide educational programs for the community. If you are receiving your Grapevine along with a yellow envelop, we encourage you to please continue to support the society.

Thank you to the many who attended our February program on "The Life of Eulalia Perez" presented by author and historian Roberta Martinez. Our May program on **Thornton Gardens** promises to be another fascinating journey related to our city's history. If you haven't attended one of our speaker events, we would love to see you on May 22nd. The gatherings are a nice way to meet new people and learn a little about San Marino's history. They are very casual with light refreshments and we don't keep you past 8:00. Thank you to Aaron Gil, our board member and program chair, who has been very busy arranging all of our relevant and interesting programs.

Curious about the art seen above? It's a pen and ink drawing of the Thurnher House, home to the San Marino Historical Society, by local artist **Eva Margueriette**. It's part of our collection and currently one of many pieces displayed on the walls at City Hall.

The volunteers in the archives have been busy working on various projects with the goal to organize and preserve our collections so to serve as a resource for the community. We have lots of work to do so if you have an interest and some time to help out, please give us a call or send us an email.

Thank you again to our supporters and please considering returning your membership dues using the yellow envelope. Hope to see you all at the next program May 22nd.

Sincerely,
Christa Lakon
President

The Grapevine

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Spring 2023*

**SAN MARINO HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PROUDLY PRESENTS**

THORNTON GARDENS: A JOURNEY OF PRESERVATION and PERSEVERANCE By CHUCK THORNTON



Chuck Thornton moved to San Marino nearly 35 years ago. He had no previous connections here but when exposed to "This Old House" which is the subject of his talk, he simply couldn't walk away. His video presentation will take us on a journey of preservation and perseverance and chronicle the rich history of the house and the people who have lived there since its construction in 1928. Chuck grew up in Los Angeles and has had a varied career since graduating from Stanford and Harvard's business school. His business pursuits have ranged from aviation, ranching and farming to investment management. Of course, since purchasing this old house much of his time has been taken up with management of this restoration project which is ongoing.

Join us on

Monday, May 22, 2023 7:00 - 8:00 pm
Crowell Public Library
1890 Huntington Drive, San Marino
Public is Welcome, Admission is Free

San Marino Historical Society Executive Officers and Members of the Board 2023

Officers

President.....Christa Lakon
Vice President.....Ed Tom
Secretary.....Pat Salvaty
Treasurer.....Bob Houston
Immediate Past President.....Isaac Hung

Committee Chairs

Archives.....	Judy Carter
	Joyce Batnij
Membership.....	Wayne Carter
Newsletter.....	Michael Mancini
Programs.....	Aaron Gil
Thurnher House Docents.....	John Morris
	John Ryan
Member-At-Large.....	Michael Moran

Emeritus Board Members

Robert Almanza
Jim Elliot
Marilyn Peck
Peggy Winkler

Society Presidents (1974-2023)

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
Isaac Hung.....	2019

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.

From the Archives

The archives have been buzzing with activity...

The **San Marino Garden Club** President, **Connie Knott** has spent hours, actually days, in the archives inventorying and organizing the club's huge collection at the Historical Society. The club was founded in 1935 and the women of the Garden Club contributed significantly to the beauty of the city by working with William Hertrich and Armin Thurnher to support education and beautification of gardens and landscaping in both private homes and public spaces.

We also had the privilege of assisting the city with the **San Marino Women's History** project just in time to acknowledge some very special women who made great contributions to our city during Women's History Month. Women who were featured this year were **Rary Simmons, Suzy Crowell, Barbara Maxwell, Noly Wei, Jean Wang, and Midge Sherwood**. We look forward to adding to this list each year.

The **San Marino City Club** has temporarily stored their **Centennial Leadership Project** in the archives while the old San Marino Woman's Club building is under construction. This collection of framed photographs of the presidents from each of the city's organizations was a gift to the city for the Centennial celebration in 2013. Thank you to **Tom Santley** and **Bill Payne** for their ongoing commitment to the project. We have inventoried and recorded each item and the documentation will stay with the archives after these framed photos move back to their home at the San Marino Community Center is completed.

Sylvia Uriarte has been diligently maintaining and updating the **obituary project** which began years ago by volunteer **Judy Newell**. We have volumes of obituaries on file, alphabetized and inventoried. Thank you Sylvia for keeping this project alive. In addition to the obit project, Sylvia maintains the San Marino Tribune paper archive collection.

Katie Manning has been leading the **Father's Night** productions preservation project. This was a school fundraiser fathers performed on a not-so-annual basis during the 1940's-1980's. If anyone has any photos or documents regarding Father's Night, we would love to add them to the archives.

Thank you to **Aaron Gil** who has accepted to lead the **History of the San Marino Woman's Club** wall display project. Aaron has been accumulating photos and historical content about the building itself and the people involved. The Woman's Club archives are held at the Historical Society, stored in archival boxes and inventoried making the research quite easy if you have the time to view this large collection.

Next year is the 75th anniversary of the **Kathy Fiscus** tragedy. We have been receiving interest from people outside of the city looking to learn more about this sad event which received worldwide attention. A gentleman whose father was on the rescue team spent a great deal of time going through our Kathy Fiscus material researching for a presentation he plans on giving next year.

Marian the Librarian

On April 26, 1968, in coordination with National Library Week, the San Marino Public Library held its annual Open House with a crowd nearing 400 in attendance. It was a character from the 1957 hit Broadway musical "The Music Man", Marian the Librarian, who would be taking center stage at this year's celebration.



MEREDITH WILLSON, COMPOSER OF "THE MUSIC MAN," was on hand last Friday to present Beverly Saunders with her prizes as Librarian of the Year. A crowd of approximately 400 was on hand to partake in the celebration.

May 2, 1968

Willson was best known for his 1957 hit Broadway musical, "The Music Man" and creator of its heroine, Marion the Librarian. On this day, Saunders would be receiving the award for the first real life "Marian the Librarian"

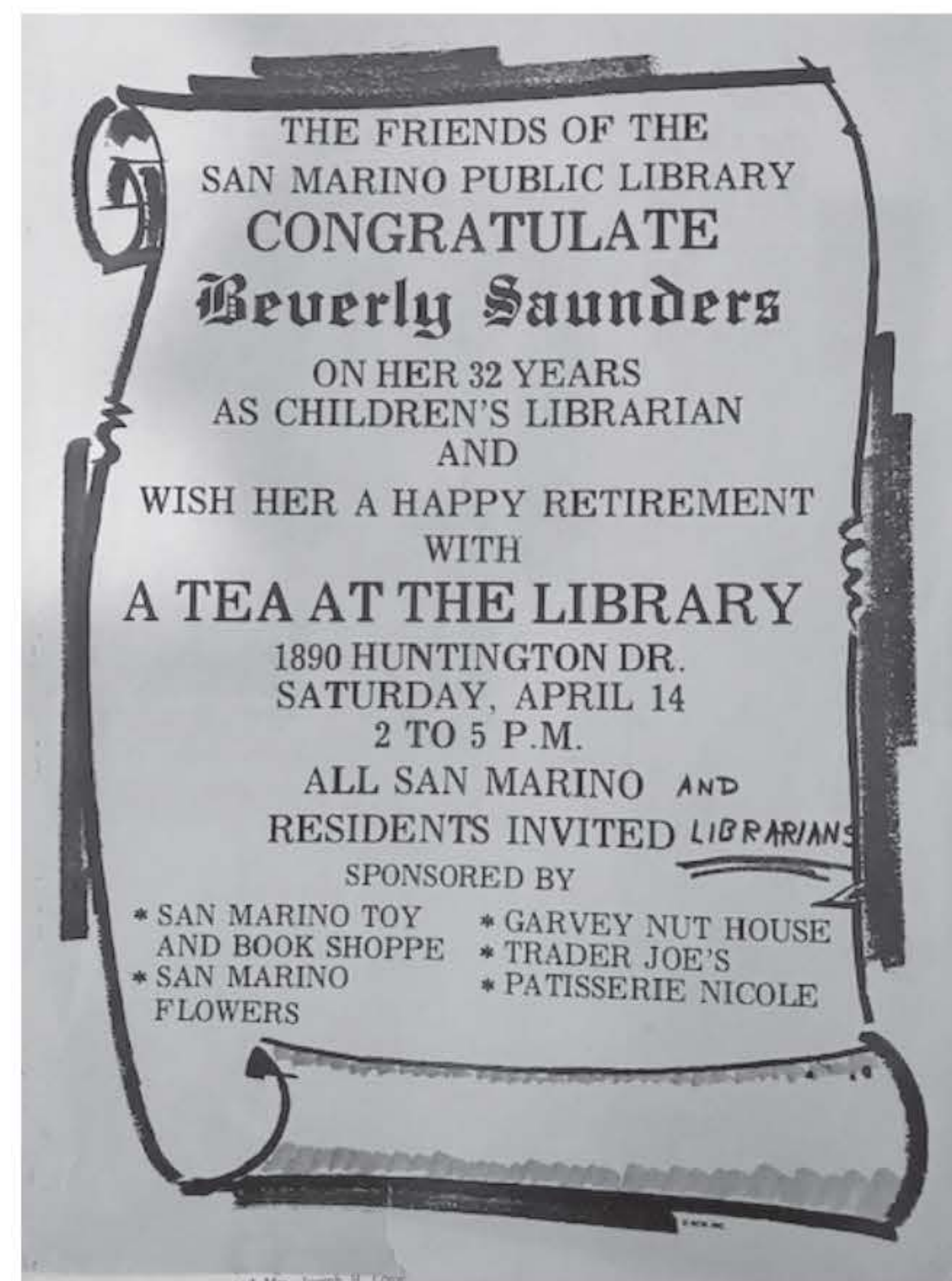


The open house promised much excitement with folk singers to play for the children and a chance to visit with plenty of San Marino authors. The main attraction though was the appearance of composer Meredith Willson who would be arriving to present the California Librarian of the Year award to our own children's librarian, Beverly Saunders.

Beverly Saunders came to San Marino in 1952 and was the first children's librarian hired for the new library opening up at 1890 Huntington Drive. During her time as the children's librarian, she was instrumental in founding the Junior Friends, an adjunct to Friends of the Library

made up of elementary and junior high students. Saunders was known for offering her support to local authors and always kept these authors works available for the young readers. She was also a consultant to the three elementary schools and their PTAs as libraries were developed at the schools.

In addition to her 1968 "Marian the Librarian" award, Saunders was a recipient of the Honorary Service Award from Valentine in 1955 and the Continuing Service Award from the San Marino PTA Council in 1980. She was the first woman honored as a Paul Harris Fellow by the



San Marino Rotary Club in 1979. It was in 1984 that Saunders was recognized and celebrated for her 32 years of service with a "A Tea at the Library" retirement party hosted by the Friends of the San Marino Public Library.

The following year, with a donation made by the Burdette Purdum Debutante Guild of the San Marino

Woman's Club, new stained glass windows were installed in the bay where countless children sat attentively delighted by Saunderson's story times.

The windows feature characters from Saunderson's favorite children's books author, Beatrix Potter. Peter Rabbit and his mouse friend are each shown holding a book. "From the Burdettes" the name given to the young women of the guild, is inscribed on Peter's book, "To Our Friend Beverly Saunders" is inscribed on the mouse's book. When that library was to be taken down to build the library we have today, those windows were removed and again, with the support of the Woman's Club, were preserved, framed and hung in the Crowell Library so they could continue to honor and remember this beloved librarian.



Board News



Since 2002, **Chris Datwyler** has served on the board and has been the editor of The Grapevine. Chris has decided to retire from his board position and pass this job on to other members who can't wait to continue our newsletter. Chris's calm demeanor and kind heart will be greatly missed. Thank you for all your years serving the San Marino Historical Society. We wish you a happy, healthy and free from the Grapevine deadline retirement.



We are pleased to announce the addition of **Michael Mancini** to our board. Michael moved to San Marino in 2021 along with his wife, Adriana Galindo, and young son, Vincent. Michael has a keen interest in history and writing. In addition he has experience as an attorney working with non-profit boards. Welcome to the board and we thank you for accepting the position.

Calendar of Events

Sunday, May 7, 2023 San Marino Historical Society Open House 12-3 p.m. Docent-led tours of the headquarters of the San Marino Historical Society, located at Lacy Park's historical Thurnher House.

Sunday, May 21, 2023 San Marino Historical Society Open House 12-3 p.m. Docent-led tours of the headquarters of the San Marino Historical Society, located at Lacy Park's historical Thurnher House.

Monday, May 22, 2023 Program about the Restoration of Thornton Gardens, presented by Chuck Thornton, Crowell Public Library, Barth Community Room, 7:00 p.m. See front page for more information.

Sunday, June 4, 2023 San Marino Historical Society Open House 12-3 p.m. Docent-led tours of the headquarters of the San Marino Historical Society, located at Lacy Park's historical Thurnher House.

Sunday, June 18, 2023 San Marino Historical Society Open House 12-3 p.m. Docent-led tours of the headquarters of the San Marino Historical Society, located at Lacy Park's historical Thurnher House.

Sunday, July 2, 2023 San Marino Historical Society Open House 12-3 p.m. Docent-led tours of the headquarters of the San Marino Historical Society, located at Lacy Park's historical Thurnher House.

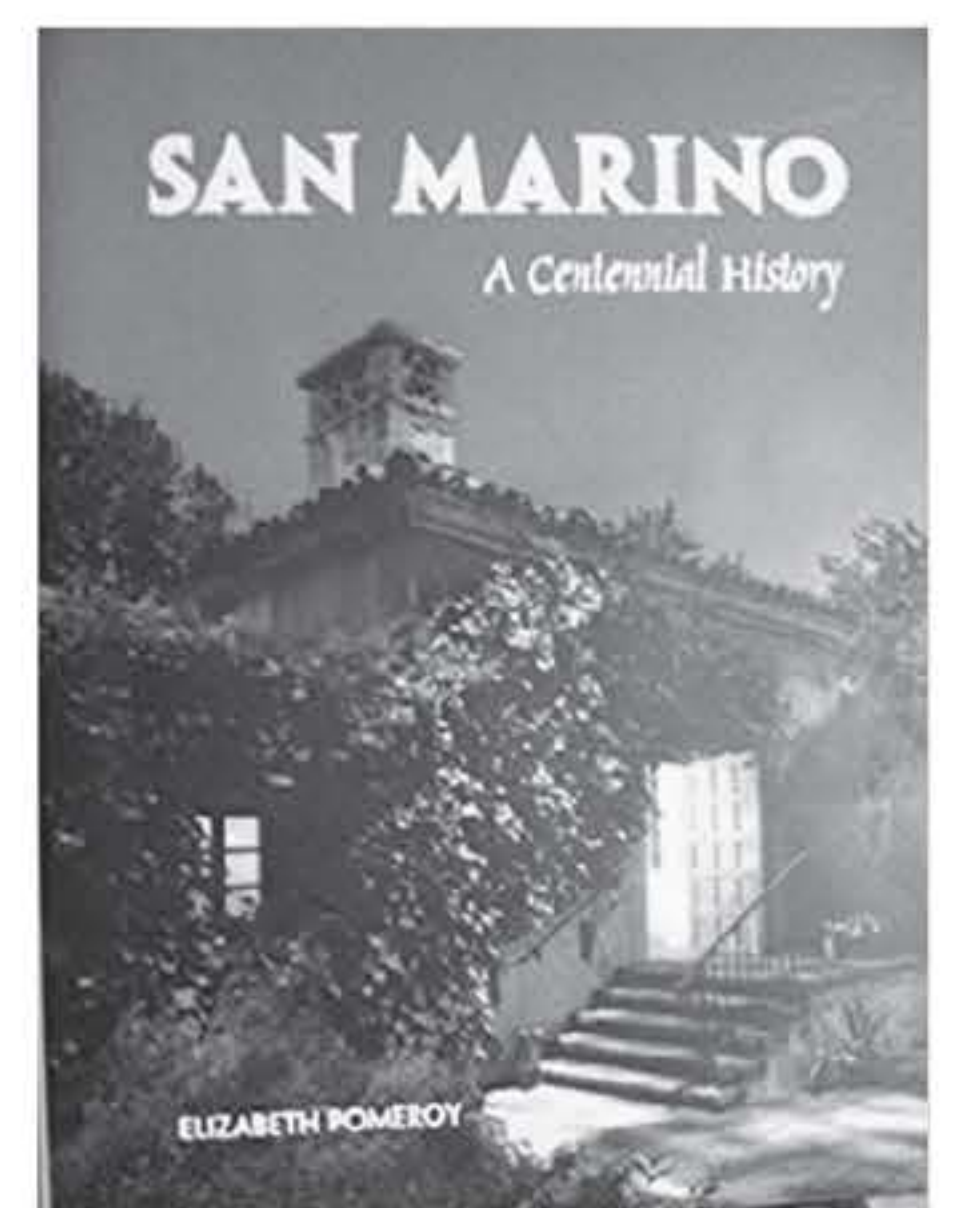
Sunday, July 16, 2023 San Marino Historical Society Open House 12-3 p.m. Docent-led tours of the headquarters of the San Marino Historical Society, located at Lacy Park's historical Thurnher House.

Sunday, August 6, 2023 San Marino Historical Society Open House 12-3 p.m. Docent-led tours of the headquarters of the San Marino Historical Society, located at Lacy Park's historical Thurnher House.

San Marino Centennial books are still available to order at our website or at the following retail stores: Vromans, Port O'Call, San Marino Toy and Book and The Huntington Store at the Huntington Library.

To order online please visit our website:

sanmarinohistoricalsociety.org



Local orders will be delivered to your house or we can arrange for pick up at the Thurnher House

Cost for the book:

\$55 per copy + 4.95 tax = \$59.95.

If shipping is required, please add additional \$7.50 = \$67.45

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