Join us for a new Special Event!

Fandango!
An Evening in Old California
Sunday, July 14, 2013 – 5-9PM - Los Altos History Museum

The stars will twinkle as the beef sizzles on the grill... sit back, sip your sangria and watch the fun begin, as you step back in time to California’s rancho days... when Juan Prado Mesa and Juana Briones were neighbors. Feast like a Californio, with era-appropriate live music, dancing, a delectable and authentic dinner and beverages! Costumes encouraged – there will be a contest!

Tickets are $95 for members/ $115 for non-members (youth 9-15 years: $40). Proceeds benefit museum programs.

To volunteer at the event, contact Nomi via Aja at 650.948.9427 x14.

Painting by Annie Knapp Fitz, from the museum collection.
A Village Perspective with Jane Reed

When Jane Reed moved to Los Altos 45 years ago, one of the first places she went with her daughter was Clint’s Ice Cream parlor. You could watch them making ice cream while you sat at the wire tables.

“The place was unique and everybody was so friendly,” Jane said. “On our way home we stopped at Kahn’s Drug Store to buy a Town Crier and observe the local ads. “It was a small town that reminded me of my hometown.”

Los Altos has changed since then. When Jane moved here it was a blue-collar town. Today considerable wealth has created a new personality for Los Altos and Los Altos Hills.

“You go with the times and support the new energy in town.” Jane said. “As a community minded person I became involved in different town activities and was elected to the City Council in 1982. I also joined the History Museum during the 1980s because I like history.”

Jane majored in art with a minor in history in college. With additional education studies in history and museum activities, Jane understands the value in preserving the past and looks for normal changes that occur.

Once the History Museum was finished, Jane became deeply involved with the daily activities and is presently supervising the permanent development on the 2nd floor of the museum.

“The Museum is a community asset. We welcome a broad membership and new ideas,” said Jane. “The present exhibit A Place to Call Home displayed on the first floor examines many different living perspectives over the years. I am proud of the History Museum. We have a quality place and we should all be proud of it and visit it often,” she added.

– Clyde Noel

Community History

Depot Update:

You’ve seen the construction on the site – the depot is being turned (back) into a restaurant – this time with a bakery.

We toured the stripped-down interior recently, noting its original flooring of cement scored to look like tile, and even the chicken-wire octagonal tiles where the restrooms used to be.

The Museum’s archive provided very useful information showing how the building has changed over the years, which has guided its remodeling.

Many original features previously hidden may reappear in the remodeling – like the engraved “Los Altos” visible once again on the Foothill Expressway side of the building.

Note the station sign that had been hidden for years. Photo by Zach Dahl, Planning Dept.

Early photo of the station, from the Museum collection:
**Special Event - Antiques Shows**

The New California Country & More Antiques Show  
Sunday June 9th at the Hillview Community Center

The longest running show of its kind on the West Coast will feature over fifty superb antique dealers from across the nation selling their finest antiques. It remains an important Museum fundraiser since its inception 28 years ago. The relaxed atmosphere of old friends enjoying a day of browsing and discussing their common interests in early American country antiques and treasures from California’s golden past has made this a “must” for antiques lovers from the San Francisco Bay Area and all over the US.

“We are excited to include for the first time California Rancho, Monterey Furniture, Spanish Revival, Spanish Colonial, Mission, Mexicana, American Indian, California & Southwestern Fine Art and much more to compliment this outstanding show,” says Tom Baker, “in addition to the usual Country & Folk Art, Camps & Cottage, Toys, Holiday Items, Architectural & Garden Elements, Rustic, Industrial and all that the show is known for.” Perfect timing, as this fits right in with our current exhibit, *A Place to Call Home: Two Centuries of California Living.*

“Pinky’s Grill” will be dishing out the best barbecued burgers and hot dogs in town, fresh salads, and its famous homemade strawberry shortcake along with other delicious goodies. The grill is an all-volunteer effort with all proceeds going to the Museum. We hope to see you at the New California Country & More Antiques Show!

**ADMISSION IS FREE TO MUSEUM MEMBERS!**
Early Buy: 10-11AM $15 for non-members, 11AM-4PM $10 for non-members

- Pinky Whelan and Tom Baker

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**SAVE THE DATE:**  
**Wednesday, June 26**

**Annual Meeting of the Members**  
4:00 PM

Join us for the election of officers and directors, approval of bylaws amendments, and to thank our outgoing board members.

Then stay for the:  
**Volunteer Recognition Party**  
4:30-6:30 PM

All members are invited to come celebrate volunteerism, and share a lovely afternoon on our patio with wine and nibbles.

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**Exhibit committee member Heather David and staff member Kristin Morris enjoy the fruits of their labor at the Place to Call Home opening reception.**

Photo by Laura Bajuk.
An Ice Cream Social given by the Museum, the City of Los Altos, and the Los Altos Historical Commission was held on Tuesday, May 14 to honor the winners of the 2013 Margaret Thompson Historical Essay contest. This year’s theme was Bear in Mind: The Story of the California Grizzly. The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners were given a certificate and a check from the City of Los Altos and the Historical Commission. A trophy to honor the school with the most winners, commissioned by Margaret Thompson, went to Pinewood School for 2013.

- Anne Roberts

School Tours Successfully Completed

3rd Grade Tours
(Local History)

511 LASD students,
+ adults, + private school students

4th Grade Tours
(California History)

495 students
& 111 adults

Essay Contest
632 entries!

Thank you to our Education Program Sponsors – your grant made this happen!

A Place to Call Home - Program:
Sunday, July 21, 1:00-3:00pm
“The Home of the Future”

An expert panel—a home builder, an educator, a planner and an architect—discusses what it will look like, what new features we can expect, and what our cities will look like. Refreshments. Free.

Photos by Laura Bajuk
Art by Sue Coccia ©
### Historical Essay Contest Winners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Prize</th>
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<th>Teacher(s)</th>
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<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Zara Lokuge</td>
<td>Gardner Bullis</td>
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<tr>
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<td>2nd</td>
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<td>Mrs. Rainforth</td>
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<tr>
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<td>3rd</td>
<td>Cheryl Tolomeo</td>
<td>Covington</td>
<td>Mrs. Pomposo</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1st</td>
<td>Janya Sundar</td>
<td>Bullis Charter</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Caleb Choi</td>
<td>Springer</td>
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<tr>
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<td>3rd</td>
<td>Hannah Ghaffari</td>
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<td>Ravi Krishna</td>
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<td>Sydney Enthoven</td>
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<tr>
<td>6th</td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Amelia Rowe</td>
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### Presidents column

_Imagine_, the Museum fundraising event held May 10, gave us a glimpse of spring fashions and even some flashbacks to the 70s. Museum and community volunteers who modeled did a great job. The generous merchants in our community helped make the fashion show possible along with the leadership of _Imagine_ chairs, Ann Oliver, Marilyn Henderson, and Maureen Fraser.

Dedicated volunteers spend many hours supporting the Museum in the store, as exhibit docents, working on fundraising events such as _Imagine_, serving on committees and on your board of directors. Volunteers are key to keeping the Museum running smoothly in partnership with our outstanding staff. Please join us at the annual meeting and Volunteer Recognition Party as we celebrate our wonderful members on June 26.

I have completed two terms on the Board of Directors, and I am grateful for the opportunity to have served on the board and as President of the Association. Our board has worked very hard this year to make sure we are on the right track as our museum business grows. A mission statement that reflects who and what we are, up-to-date policies, and effective fundraising strategies are key to our success. I look forward to being involved next year as past-President.

Thank you to all of you.

-Ginger Beman

### Director’s Column

**Marion Grimm’s Legacy Recognized**

Our City Council and the Historical Commission recently recognized Museum founder Marion Grimm with the 2013 Historic Preservation award. Marion—and the many people she has inspired (including husband Bob)—is a key reason behind the Museum’s success. She never let our vision die. She got the Smith House going as a museum, professionalized staff and practices, kept the Historical Association and Historical Commission connected, and helped build the new Museum. She did everything from working in collections to funding major projects to starting a consortium of history organizations. And she mentored other volunteers to do the same, to their capacity. We would never be as successful as we are without her support, on so many levels.

**Museum Beats State Average by 2, 3, 5 Times!**

The Museum’s achievement over the years is borne out by an independent source: a recent California Association of Museums (CAM) survey gives us numbers to show how the Los Altos History Museum compares to its peers—why we are a leader and draw people from around the Bay and state. We collaborate with much larger organizations like History San Jose, where our original exhibit Shaped by Water will be seen by an additional 60,000 people.

California’s 1,400 museums are diverse; like the Los Altos History Museum, more than one-third of museums describe themselves as history-related, and half have annual operating budgets of less than $500,000. For our budget category, the survey indicates the Los Altos History Museum is 2, 3 or 5 times higher than the state average:

<table>
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<th></th>
<th>Attendance</th>
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<td>316%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>305%</td>
<td>561%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

We have a LOT to be proud of! Congratulations to all who play a role in the museum’s success!

-Laura Bajuk, Executive Director
Bleibler Home Centennial – July 20

Every Hundred Years, They’ll Host a Party

This is an early photograph of the Herman and Bertha Bleibler house, built on Cherry Avenue in 1913. It was on several of the two-acre lots in the first local subdivision with “small lots for people who wanted room out in the country for a little farm,” but not a commercial orchard. Bleibler’s iron-working business in Palo Alto forged construction ornaments. The Bleibler house is now owned by a grandson, and other Bleibler progeny also live in the Cherry Avenue neighborhood.

Permanent Exhibit Update

Most of the new elements of phase one of the permanent exhibit have been installed… look for “candlelight” and a ghostly Juana in the rancho, plus a completely redone Puichon Ohlone exhibit.

Welcome New Members!

Museum membership as of the end of May stands at 679 households, including our newest members and donors, some who have renewed after a spell:

- Cindy Chu
- Doreen Cohen
- Lalia Helmer
- Barbara Huston
- Jim & Julia Lovin
- Duncan & Jeanne MacVicar
- Myrna Marshall
- June Nielson
- Janis Pepper
- Ed & Linda Schroeder
- Southern Pacific Retired Executives Club
- Marie Young

You are invited to celebrate local history with Armond and Marjorie King, who invite the community to share in the centennial of their family home at 530 Cherry Avenue on Saturday, July 20, 1-4pm. Want to volunteer? Call them at 650.948.5216. Don’t miss it!

Images from the Museum collection

Daily Palo Alto Times, July 1, 1913
Volunteer Spotlight

Did you know they used to have Apricot Wars in our community? When Ginger Summit moved here 50 years ago she could remember seeing kids in our communities build forts and throw rotten apricots at each other.

Everybody has a story to share and Ginger is starting to focus on these incredible stories in an oral history program at the History Museum.

“As a former teacher, I am used to talking to people and exploring their interests,” said Ginger. “People think about Los Altos, but I’m looking for stories from the larger community because the History Museum belongs to all of us and it reflects our shared history.”

The Los Altos Hills identity has not been exposed like Los Altos, but both histories is encouraging. People move into Los Altos Hills because they like the village feel and the rural character.

“Those of us who have lived here a long time are seeing changes in both communities and we have to preserve the memories for the new people moving to the area,” commented Ginger. “Even though the rural past still has interests, we are building up invisible fences through our demographics.”

“The target people we want to talk with are those who have lived here for many years. We want to hear storytelling about yesterday’s culture,” said Ginger. “Newer arriving residents should know about our history when kids rode their bikes all over the area to socialize.”

To contact Ginger Summit, call (650) 948-9427 x14 (Aja)

- Clyde Noel

Volunteers Welcome!

Calling all experienced model railroaders! Our core team (Bob Brown, Glenn McGhee, Armond King) could use a few more recruits to train in the ways of keeping the model of downtown Los Altos 1932 fully functional. We’re talking monthly maintenance and on-call fix-it needs. If you have experience cleaning model train tracks, repairing wheel sets, and keeping animated figures moving, we want to hear from you. Contact Aja at 948.9427 x14 to put your hat in the ring.

Volunteers needed for Train Days!

September 14 & 15, 10AM-4PM at the Museum

Contact Kristen Fuller via Aja at 948.9427 x14
Calendar of Museum Events

Special Event: Sunday, June 9 - 28th Annual California Country & More! Spring Antiques Show, Hillview, 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

Community Event: Wednesday, June 19 - Chamber Mixer at the Museum (with Rotary & Kiwanis), 5:30-7:00 PM

Museum Event: Wednesday, June 26 - Annual Meeting 4 pm & Volunteer Party 4:30-6:30 PM

Community Program: Sunday, July 7 - “Lost Orchards” - lecture, book signing & reception. Repeat of the standing-room-only event. Feel free to bring your favorite apricot treat; any recipes shared will be emailed to guests after the event. Los Altos Hills Town Hall, 26379 Fremont Road, Los Altos Hills - 2:00 PM. In partnership with the Los Altos Hills History Committee & the Los Altos Hills Historical Society.

Special Event: Sunday, July 14 - FANDANGO! 5:00-9:00 PM, museum patio

Community Event: Saturday, July 20 - Bleibler House Centennial Celebration, 1-4 PM

Exhibit Program: Sunday, July 21, 1:00-3:00 PM - Panel discussion on “The Home of the Future”

Special Event: Saturday & Sunday, September 14 & 15 – Family Train Days, 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

Special Event: Sunday, October 20 - 28th Annual California Country & More! Fall Antiques Show, Hillview, 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

Special Event: Wednesday, November 13 - Catch the Spirit, Museum, patio & Smith House, noon-4:00 PM

Museum and Store Hours
Thursdays to Sundays, Noon-4:00 PM
We are closed New Year’s Day, Easter, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

General Inquiries
(650) 948-9427

Collections Research
(650) 948-9427 x11

Facilities and Event Rentals
(650) 948-9427 x12

www.losaltoshistory.org