



The Grapevine

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WINTER 2014

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

February 2014

We look back at the centennial year with pride. John Morris led the San Marino Historical Society with style and enthusiasm. Thank you, John, for the excellent programs, tours and the steady hand that enabled the society to participate fully in the yearlong celebration.

This year we will return to our usual schedule of three program meetings per year, one each in February, May and October. We will continue to meet at the Crowell Public Library at 7:00 pm. Each Grapevine will alert you to the upcoming program topic. We plan to continue to schedule tours to nearby historical sites. John Morris has offered to proceed with plans for a San Marino home tour in April around San Marino's 101st birthday.

Ave Bortz and Carolyn Chapman will organize and strengthen the Oral History Project.

We will reach out to other civic and local historical organizations by planning joint meetings and tours.

In addition we will continue our participation in Heritage Day in Los Angeles. Attendance at workshop titled, Protecting Cultural Collections, sponsored by the Getty Foundation, will help us develop a plan to protect the archives in the event of an emergency or disaster.

We thank our loyal members for renewing their memberships for the 2013-2014 fiscal year. If you have not yet renewed, please do so. Your participation is important to us as we continue to preserve the city's history.

San Marino: A Centennial History continues to sell at a brisk pace. A newer publication, Michael White, a California Rebel Pioneer by Dorothy Jenkins Ross, has been issued under the society's imprint as well. The former is available at several retail stores in San Marino and Pasadena. The White book can be purchased at the Thurnher House. Both books will be available at our program meetings. Together they enhance the reader's understanding of the city's history.

Judith Carter
President

SAN MARINO HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROUDLY PRESENTS

"The Sacramento and San Joaquin Delta and it's Importance to California in the Past and in the Future."

By
Debra Man



Debra Man is a San Marino resident and is the Chief Operating Officer of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. She will explain the history of the Delta and how it impacted California during the Gold Rush, what has happened to it since, and what is needed to keep it as an asset for California's future.

Resolving the existing conflicts in the Delta between water supply and environmental needs will significantly improve the water supply reliability for all water users that rely on water from the Delta which includes San Marino.

Monday, February 24, 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
2014**

Officers

President	Judith Carter
Secretary	Pat Salvaty
Treasurer	Wayne Carter
Parliamentarian	Lee Mothershead
Immediate Past President	John Morris

Committee Chairs

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Historian	Linda Molino
Membership	Bill Ferry
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Programs	Ken Veronda
Publicity	Ed Tom
Thurnher House Docents	John Ryan

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Society Presidents (1974-2013)

Midge Sherwood.....	1974
Mary Smith	1976
Jack Sherwood.....	1978
Ed Ford.....	1980
Graziella Almanza	1982
Laverne Smith	1985
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Gary Fleming	1991
Lillian Campbell	1993
Marilyn Peck.....	1995
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Gene Dryden	2004
Benjamin Salvaty.....	2008
Ave Maria Bortz.....	2008
John Morris.....	2010

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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":

<http://sanmarinohistoricalsociety.org/>

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

January 2014
Judith Carter

Judy Newell and Julie Fedde recently completed the major work on the real estate sales collection. All sales records for South Pasadena, Pasadena, Arcadia and San Gabriel have been donated to their respective historical organizations. All records reflecting the sales of homes in San Marino from the 1950s to the 1980s have been refiled. Records of transactions in the county areas above and below Huntington Drive in the San Marino School District have been refiled as well.

A second donation of historical materials from the Rotary Club of San Marino were received recently. Archiving them will require the purchase of special materials to properly conserve the books, letters and photographs in the collection. We have applied to Rotary for a grant to cover these expenses and expect to hear if our request was funded within the next month.

Late last year the San Marino City Club donated directories and digital copies of photographs of leaders of the civic organizations which was their centennial project. They are contemplating an additional donation of historical documents in the near future. We hope to house this material properly and will ask for a contribution to cover the costs.

Ann Mawn of Spring Valley, California donated a collection of older Huntington Library brochures, a South Pasadena YMCA newsletter from June 1980, and a collection of business cards and receipts.

A book group from the Sierra Madre Historical Society toured the Thurnher House on January 18. They were especially interested in the transition of Wilson's Lake to Lacy Park. They had read Nat Read's book on Benjamin Wilson and were interested in some of the places they read about in his book. They knew that Read did some of his research in our archives.



Centennial Book Committee Chairperson Ave Bortz presents a check to City Librarian Irene McDermott. Proceeds from San Marino: A Centennial History will establish the Centennial Materials Fund at the Crowell Public Library. The fund will allow the library to acquire materials on the history of Southern California

One of San Marino's Founders William L. Valentine (1870 - 1942) by Nick Curry

William Lucas Valentine could be called the "father of San Marino." He was a co-founder of the city which was officially incorporated April 25, 1913. Valentine died May 9, 1942 at age 72, at his home at 421 Wilson Avenue, San Marino after at two year illness. Mr. Valentine was one of the five men who guided the incorporation of the city and was a member of the city council for more than twenty-five years. He retired from office on June 8, 1938. He served as the second mayor of San Marino in a "caretaker" capacity while the first mayor, George S. Patton, Sr. toured Europe from April, 1922 to October, 1922.

The development of San Marino was one of Valentine's chief passions in life. No father ever guided the faltering footsteps of a growing son more carefully than he guided the development of San Marino. During his tenure on city council was he never opposed for re-election. He served without pay and directed the activities of the street, fire and police departments with great scrutiny. Each week he toured the streets of "his" city making notes of places which might-be improved. Due to his efforts San Marino remained a strictly residential community. The original charter contained a guarantee that the city be kept a residential community. Valentine always guarded that guarantee.

Not only did he contribute freely in time and energy to city government but he was always one of the first to contribute to any civic cause. Valentine was a staunch friend and financial supporter of all civic organizations. The community expressed its appreciation in 1940, when the primary department of Huntington School was renamed the "William L. Valentine" School, and a separate William L. Valentine Parent-Teacher organization was formed.

At the same time he was ably serving San Marino city government, Valentine was president and director of the Southern California Automobile Club. He was secretary for ten years and president for thirty-two years of the Fullerton Oil Company (a producing and refining operation); executive vice-president of Security First National Bank and a director as well as president of the J.W. Robinson Company, an up-scale department store chain.

Mr. Valentine was born in Noyo, Mendocino County, California on March 8, 1870, to William Valentine and Susan Lucas Valentine. His father was a California "forty-niner" and later a civil engineer and

mechanical engineer. In May, 1896, the younger William Valentine married Louie Chandler Robinson whose father was Joseph W. Robinson, founder of the J.W. Robinson department store chain.

After being associated with the Easton & Elbridge real estate company in San Francisco, Mr. Valentine relocated to Los Angeles in 1893, to manage a branch office. In 1900 he resigned his position with the company and organized the Fullerton Oil Company. He was at one time a director of the Zoological Society of Southern California; the Los Angeles Athletic Club; the California Club; the Los Angeles Country Club; the San Gabriel Country Club; the Bolsa Chica and San Ysidro Gun Clubs; the Arrowhead Mountain Club; and was a member of the Society of California Pioneers.

When he died, a front page obituary in the San Marino Tribune described him as "an unique character, strong, virile, commanding...a gruff exterior, merry twinkle of the eye, a tenderness of heart, fixedness of purpose and a devotion to ideals. No community ever owed a greater debt to a single individual than San Marino owes to William L. Valentine. From the first day of the city's life, and prior thereto, he was constantly on the job planning the city's future. That he was a businessman of superior mold, no one who knew him had a doubt, but that he was always ready to make San Marino's business first, no one (who) really knew him could possibly doubt. The door to his office was always open to anybody who had a matter of importance relating to the city's welfare to discuss. Hence, it is that we say, and with confidence, that no city ever had a more valuable counselor and guide than William L. Valentine."

Valentine was survived by his wife and five children: two daughters, Mrs. Otis Buckingham and Mrs. William L. (Julia) Stewart, Jr. and three sons, William, Edward and Henry Valentine. The family's large home on Wilson Avenue was subsequently torn down and the property was sub-divided into a single family residential neighborhood.

The Valentine family burial plot is located in the San Gabriel Cemetery adjacent to the Church Of Our Savior. The W.L. Valentine Elementary School, today, includes Kindergarten through the fifth grade. It can be concluded that Valentine clearly demonstrated a strong American way of life results from building a strong family and a strong community.

Membership Renewals for the fiscal year October 1, 2013-September 30, 2014

We thank the 178 people who have renewed their memberships in the San Marino Historical Society for year from October 1, 2013 to September 30, 2014.

We recognize our Benefactors and Patrons for their generous contributions.

Benefactors

Wayne and Judith Carter
Susan and Stephen Chandler
Buck and Judy Newell
Marilyn Peck
Sue and Wally Rosvall

Patrons

Don and Fin Cotton
Brett and Michele Canon
Gary Coles
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James and Gail Ellis
Warren J. Arnett
Allenn E. Polley
Benjamin and Mary Lou Hammon
Benjamin Sullivan
Warren and Vanessa Weber
Winifred and Kenneth Veronda
Julie and Don Fedde
Mary Hsu
Peter Chong Hong Wu
Greg and Lorrie Forgatch

We welcome the following new members:

Paul and Carol Asmar
Stephanie Flagg
Augie Flores
Mary and John Gilbaugh
Mimi Hanzel
Ming and Michiko Lee
James and Gretchen Midgley
Elizabeth and Jeff Moreton
Hans Morkisch
Larry Nakamura
Shelley Ryan
Debra and Alfredo Sedun
Edward and Linda Shuey
Randy and Mona Shulman
Linda and Hal Suetsugu
Stephan J. Tivy
Chen Wang
Kenneth Wu

2014 San Marino Historical Society Calendar of Events

February 1	Los Angeles Heritage..... 10 a.m. to Alliance noon Hellman Building El Pueblo de Los Angeles
February 24	Program Meeting 7:00 p.m. Crowell Public Library
March 24	Board Meeting..... 5:30 p.m. Southwestern Academy
April 28	Board Meeting..... 5:30 p.m. Southwestern Academy Grapevine Deadline
May 26	Program Meeting 7:00 p.m. Crowell Public Library
June 23	Board Meeting..... 5:30 p.m. Southwestern Academy
Summer	Party TBA
September 10	Grapevine Deadline
September 22	Board Meeting..... 5:30 p.m. Southwestern Academy
October 27	Program Meeting 7:00 p.m. Crowell Public Library
November 24	Board Meeting..... 5:30 p.m. Southwestern Academy
December	Holiday Party TBA

Additional tours and joint programs will be added to the calendar as dates become available.

Order San Marino Centennial Book Now

\$55 per copy + \$4.81 tax = \$59.81. If you wish to have the book shipped to you please add \$7.50 per copy for a total of \$61.33 per copy.

Order forms are available from the Historical Society office at 626-304-9375 or on the website www.smcentennialbook.org.

