

The Grapevine

Published by the San Marino Historical Society

FALL 2014

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

October 2014

This month marks the beginning of the new fiscal year for the San Marino Historical Society. Blue membership envelopes are enclosed in our fall mailing to make it easy for you join or renew your membership. It is now possible to join online at our website. We hope the addition of this option will simplify the process for all who wish to support our organization. Join now to help us continue to preserve the history of San Marino.

We are pleased to announce that Shahen Hairapetian is the newest member of the Board. Shahen, a local attorney, was the moving force behind establishing the Historical Society as a non profit (501c3) organization. His presence on the board will assure that we continue to operate within the guidelines established by the State of California.

We were saddened to learn of the passing of long-time board member, Marlene Elliott in June. She was our Corresponding Secretary for many years. She and her husband, Jim, have been devoted to the Historical Society. A memorial service was held at San Marino Community Church. Many board members attended.

In this issue, we feature an article on a Patton Museum in Pilsen, Czech Republic. A recent visitor from the Czech visited the Thurnher House to view the Patton exhibit and had a list of Patton related places in the San Gabriel Valley on his list of sites to visit. He described the museum in Pilsen which I think you will find interesting.

We never tire of receiving awards for the publication of San Marino: A Centennial History. The most recent one from the American Association for State and Local History was awarded at their national conference in St. Paul, Minnesota in September. The Centennial Book Committee is to be commended for this honor. If you haven't purchased a copy or wish to buy another one, please look for details on page 2.

Please join me at the Crowell Library on Monday, October 27, at 7 p.m. to hear Randy Shulman, Vice President for Advancement at the Huntington Library. Also plan to attend Veteran's Identification Project program on Sunday, November 9 at 3 pm at the San Marino Center.

Judith Carter, President

SAN MARINO HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROUDLY PRESENTS

Five Hidden Treasures of the Huntington How the Huntington Came of Age

By

Randy Shulman, Vice President for Advancement



Randy Shulman will provide a lively talk on the Huntington's renaissance and the background behind dramatic changes at San Marino's jewel over the past 25 years. His illustrated talk will also showcase several important new collections.

Shulman recently stated, "The Huntington is steward of California's social history DNA for scholars. It also helps immerse students, teachers and casual visitors in the beauty of nature, art, and the humanities."

Shulman began as a Huntington volunteer at age 12. After completing his education in the San Marino Schools, PCC, and Cal Poly Pomona, he earned an MPA in Public Administration at USC.

Monday, October 27, 2014, 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
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Programs	Ken Veronda
Publicity	Ed Tom
Thurnher House Docents	John Ryan
Huntington Library Liaison	Jennifer Goldman
Legal Consultant	Shahen Hairapetian
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San Marino High School Student Rep	Skylar Kaufeldt-Lira
Southwestern Academy Student Rep	Deborah Kaufeldt- Boardman

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Jim Elliott
Marilyn Peck
Peggy Winkler

Society Presidents (1974-2013)

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

**San Marino Historical Society Wins 2014
AASLH Award of Merit**

The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) recently announced that the San Marino Historical Society is the recipient of an Award of Merit from the AASLH Leadership in History Awards for the publication, San Marino: A Centennial History. The AASLH Leadership in History Awards, now in its 69th year, is the most prestigious national recognition for achievement in the preservation and interpretation of state and local history.

Centennial Book Committee Chairman and Elizabeth Pomeroy, author, traveled to St. Paul, Minnesota to receive this honor. They were among 1000 attendees to this national conference.

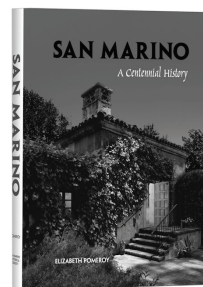
During the past year, San Marino: A Centennial History has received a number of awards. The excellence of this well researched and attractively presented book of San Marino's first hundred years has been recognized outside the city boundaries. Awards include Conference of California Historical Societies in the scholastic/authorship category; the 2013 International Book Awards sponsored by USA Book News Best cover Design: Non-Fiction and Finalist for Jeff Lapidés, FirstWaterDesign; 2013 Gold Award for Jacket/Cover Design, and Bronze Award for Historical/biographical Design from PubWest, the leading association of small and medium sized book publishers.

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 via paypal 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 available for sale at the Crowell Library, San Marino Toy and Books, Julienne, A Stitch in Time, Julienne, Diana Dee's, The Old Mill, Huntington Library Bookstore, Sweet and Savory, Margie's, Fedde Furniture and Pasadena Museum of History.



**THE SAN MARINO HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 80222
SAN MARINO, CALIFORNIA 91118-8222
(626) 304-9375
info@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.

Time To Renew Your Membership

The San Marino Historical Society depends on its members for its operation. This fiscal year runs from October 1, through September 30, 2015. Please take a moment to join or renew your membership. Help us by filling out the blue envelope or going to the website sanmarinohistoricalsociety.org and fill out the information requested. Your generosity allows us to publish the Grapevine, provide programs, sponsor tours and events related to the history of San Marino. Consider joining at the Sponsor Level (\$50), the Patron Level (\$100) or even become a Benefactor with a larger donation.

GRACE LILLIAN BURKE HUBBLE (1889-1981)

by Linda Mollno, Ph.D.

Grace Hubble, a brilliant woman with a keen wit, led an extraordinary life at the center of Cal Tech's intellectual community, with members of the British émigré community in Los Angeles, and among Hollywood's elite. As wife of famed astronomer Edwin Powell Hubble, Grace enjoyed access to the minds of many influential people. However, few people today know her story. As with many women of her generation, she existed behind the scenes, the proverbial woman behind the man.

Born in 1889 to John and Luella Burke in Walnut, Iowa, Grace was the eldest of two girls. In 1891 the family moved to California eventually settling in Los Angeles where John Burke, vice president of First National Bank, became a prominent member of the community. Living in Hancock Park, Grace attended the Marlborough School and in 1912 graduated Phi Beta Kappa in English from Stanford University. A serious student, Grace maintained an active social life. Stanford's stables and open countryside fostered her love of horses and nature.

Her first husband Earl Leib, a geologist for Southern Pacific Company, died tragically in a mine accident in 1921. That same year Grace visited the Mount Wilson Observatory and met a young astronomer. On February 26, 1924 she married Edwin Hubble in a private ceremony at her home, enjoyed a week at the Burke's Pebble Beach cottage, and honeymooned in Europe. In England they renewed friendships from Edwin's years as a Rhodes scholar and Grace became an anglophile. They brought architectural ideas from Italy that Joseph Kucera used to design the home they built in San Marino.

Grace thrived as hostess and Los Angeles tour guide for friends and colleagues, their Woodstock Road home an enclave for a select circle of academics, scientists, British émigrés, and Hollywood celebrities. In 1931 Cal Tech president Robert Millikan asked Grace to be unofficial hostess to Albert Einstein on his first visit to Pasadena, driving him to meetings, assisting with personal needs and entertaining him in her home.

From his post at Mount Wilson's 100" telescope, Hubble became an instant celebrity proving the universe is constantly expanding, the Big Bang theory. His fame attracted many Hollywood visitors to the Observatory. As Edwin manned the telescope, Grace communed with nature and in 1937 began a life-long friendship with Anita Loos, screenwriter and author of Gentlemen Prefer Blondes. Loos opened the doors to the Hollywood set and introduced British writer Aldous and Maria Huxley. Plagued with poor eyesight, Huxley relied on Grace to edit manuscripts. Her first project with him was After Many a Summer Dies the Swan. The friendship lasted through the mid 1950s.

Grace lived nearly fifty years in San Marino and wrote daily in journals and letters, gathering her observations, analysis and opinions of people, politics, nature and art. She wrote of the ordinary and extraordinary, the ridiculous and sublime. She wrote of evenings with celebrities like Charlie Chaplin, sitting with Frank Capra at the Academy Award program and her place beside William Randolph

Hearst's in Hearst Castle's dining table. She helped Edwin prepare speeches encouraging FDR to enter the war, wrote of days with San Marino ladies packaging supplies for English friends during the blitzkrieg and of evenings watching the San Gabriel Valley darken to the sound of air raid sirens.

On vacations in the Sierra Nevada Mountains or fishing and horseback riding in Colorado her journals became a master's canvas as Grace painted pictures with words reflecting her education and intelligence. Cross-country train trips to scientific conferences are laid out in careful detail.

Never timid, Grace stepped in to do a quick revision of content and grammar in 1940 when a radio scriptwriter failed to produce an acceptable copy on historical scientific personalities for Edwin. According to Edwin, Grace was his first line of defense. Her journals and correspondence define her 29 years of marriage to Edwin.

The Huntington Library was special place for them, their choice for Sunday walks with neighbors, Homer and Ida Crotty. In 1938, Edwin succeeded George Ellery Hale on the Board of Trustees, a position he maintained with pride until his death. Edwin and Grace enjoyed the friendship of many staff members including Max Farrand, the Huntington's first Director of Research. During the war years, in Edwin's absence, Grace obtained a reader's card and found stimulus in library stacks. After Edwin's death she returned to the Huntington's collections, reading literature, history, science and travel books, walked in the gardens, and admired the art.

Grace remained in their Woodstock Road home for twenty years after Edwin's death but no longer wrote in her journal. Sadly she destroyed much of their personal correspondence, however, she took great care preserving his scientific papers and their home library. She committed herself to preserving his legacy, donating his papers and her journals to establish the "Edwin Powell Hubble Papers" at the Huntington Library. She entertained and corresponded with friends from England and colleagues of Edwin.

When she could read no longer, Ida Crotty read to her, her desire for intellectual stimulation still strong. Grace Hubble's death certificate in 1981 listed her occupation as housewife; her obituary called her a writer. This writer and loving companion crafted a legacy to Edwin Hubble and in those pages and between the lines left her legacy as well.



*Grace Hubble with her husband
Edwin Hubble
Courtesy of The Huntington Library*

A Patton Museum in the Czech Republic

Recently Farhad Sanatifar from Pilsen in the Czech Republic visited the Thurnher House to view the historical displays. He was especially interested in the corner that focusses on General George Patton. He described a Patton Museum in Pilsen, a city which the United States Army liberated in the closing days of World War II. The residents of Pilsen celebrate the anniversary of this event each year with a parade. Through the years, American veterans and their families have returned to celebrate with the citizens.

The Patton Memorial of Pilsen is the only museum in the Czech Republic that is devoted to the American army. The exhibition historically maps the progression and residence of the US Army in the former Czechoslovakia in 1945. It also documents the post-war economic aid provided by the UNRA (United Nations Relief Agency) and the period of totalitarian regime from 1948 to 1989. The museum Patton Memorial Pilsen includes more than a thousand exhibits from private collections. The opening section of the museum presents the final air-raid campaigns in Western Bohemia and the bombing of the Škoda plants.

Surrounded by the sound of sirens and authentic film sequences and photographs of that time, visitors are drawn into the atmosphere of the final combat operations of WWII. The exhibition documents the advancement of the US Army in what was then Czechoslovakia, and the deployment of US soldiers until November 1945.

Other exhibits document the UNRRA aid thanks to which people were able to cope with the difficult situation after the war ended – food rations of all sorts, empty and unopened food cans, flour and maize bags or popular chewing gums. There is the gear and equipment of the time, medical material, eating kits, field rations, sports and relaxation equipment, craft tools, printed materials and many other objects which the US soldiers left behind as war relics.

A significant part of the exhibition focuses on George S. Patton, the legendary commander of the 3rd US Army and his old friend general Ernest N. Harmon, who provided technical and material assistance for the recovery of the country and who said goodbye to the Czech population together with US troops during the last inspection in November 1945.

The museum also presents documents, newspapers and magazines from the period of the totalitarian regime in 1948 – 1989, symbolically placed in a barred cage. These documents provide a statement about the efforts of the communist regime to obscure facts about the liberation of Pilsen by the US Army. If you are not planning a visit to the Czech Republic in the near future, it is possible to take a virtual tour of the museum via the website at www.patton-memorial.cz/en/museum.

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/>

From the Archives

October 2014

Judith Carter

Recently we entered into an agreement with the City of San Marino to track the houses that are scheduled to be demolished. Ron Serven of the city photographs each house and we add copies to our real estate files. To date we have photos of eighteen houses. Contact the Historical Society office by phone or e-mail for a list. We also have a list of homes designed by significant architects which is available as well. We will provide copies of that if you promise to drive by the houses and not disturb the residents.

Carolyn Chapman, Oral History Chairman, continues to interview former mayors and council persons. She meets with them and asks them to talk about the issues they faced during their terms of office. The tapes she records will be transferred to disk and are available to anyone who wishes to listen to them at the Thurnher House.

The Thurnher House is open to visitors on Tuesdays from 9:30 until 3, except November 24. Visitors will be given a tour of the exhibits and are encouraged to browse the archives. For those wishing to do research, a telephone call or e-mail in advance is requested so that the desired materials can be ready for them.

2014 Calendar of Events

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| October 11 | 9 to noon, Old Mill, \$15 includes lunch
Associated Historical Societies of Los Angeles County Mini Conference, Reservations required by October 6. Call 213-250-2214 after 5 p.m. |
| October 17 | 7-9 p.m. Michael White Adobe Open House, San Marino High School |
| October 27 | Program Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Randy Shulman, Vice President of Advancement at the Huntington Library will speak on "Five Treasures of the Huntington" at the Crowell Public Library |
| November 9 | 3 p.m. San Marino Center
Veterans Recognition Project, This will be the debut of a film of local veterans speaking about their military experience. The San Marino Historical Society, the City of San Marino, the San Marino Tribune and local residents are the sponsors of this event. |

Michael White Book

The Story of Michel 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.

