Valley Heritage Festival Unveiled

Free Fun for the Entire Family
Come celebrate the region’s multicultural heritage at History San José’s Valley Heritage Festival on Sunday, May 26th and Monday, May 27th 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at History Park in Kelley Park.

Inspired by the current exhibit “Valley of Heart’s Delight,” this year’s festival introduces a new theme for our Memorial Day tradition. The Valley Heritage Festival is FREE and will present a variety of performances and activities for the whole family.

Activities Include:
* Music and Dance Performances
* Storytelling and Poetry Reading
* Fruit-drying and Gardening Demonstrations
* Artists and Artisans
* Ethnic Food and Cooking
* Pony Rides and Petting Zoo
* Trolley Rides and Children’s Activities

See Page 8 for more details.
Every Day History Makers

If the American experience can be defined as one of continual reinvention, then California is the quintessential definition of America, and the Santa Clara Valley is the ultimate expression of California. From Spanish conquest to American conquest to the conquest of a virtual world, ours has always been an experience that defies definitions and boundaries. And, because they happened at one place at one time, they also are local stories, stories that belong uniquely to us.

History San José is privileged to be the trustee of an extraordinarily rich collection of historical resources that document this local history that has shaped the world. It is an enormous collection of artifacts, photographs, printed matter, archival materials, manuscript records, prints, paintings, tools, vehicles, and other materials. For fifty years most of this tremendous collection has been unavailable to the people it represents and unused by scholars. One consequence is that the history of this remarkable Valley has remained largely untold and almost totally unrepresented in standard California history texts.

History San José has invested a great deal of time, effort, and money in correcting this situation. Over the past four years, we have made great strides in organizing, evaluating, analyzing, culling, caring for, housing, and cataloging these magnificent collections. It is impossible to overestimate the importance of this process. It is not overstating the case to argue that when these materials are accessible to scholars and shared with the public, what we know about California history will be changed forever.

That is the simple (and audacious) goal of our remarkable and dedicated collections’ staff—to change what we know of California history. We are fortunate to have one of the most respected museum collection professionals in California, Alida Bray, leading that effort as Senior Curator. And we equally are blessed by the amazing professional staff that she has assembled: Archivist Paula Jabloner, Registrar Melissa Johnson, and Collection Project Manager Sarah Puckitt. And then there are the volunteers, a uniquely dedicated group of people who are cleaning artifacts, correcting and entering thousands of records in new databases, translating Spanish-language Pueblo documents, and doing every other job imaginable to make these collections accessible to all.

Together, staff and volunteers, these are the heroes who will make it possible for the history of the Santa Clara Valley to take its proper place in the history of California, the United States, and the world. I invite all of you to join me in extending our appreciation to each of them at every possible opportunity. They are making history every day.

David Crosson
President & CEO
Historic Document Translated

By your letter of last August 29th, I am informed of the arrest of the townsman Gabriel Anesquitla, who is already in this Presidio. I only need to ask you in this matter to inform me if the Indian who participated in the robbery consented to return the woman.

The arrangement you made about the appointment of people to take care of the labors is fine. With those who resist, work rigorously to carry out the orders that I gave everyone in the community without exception. If anyone does not work when it is his turn or demonstrates any resistance, punish him immediately and assign one of your company to take his place. Send me a note about this right away. Then send the resister, so that I can personally give him the most severe punishment.

Regarding what you tell me about the oxen of the Mission, I say nothing because I have not been enlightened by the Padres.

It is very good that the town’s horses have been removed from the riverside, since that site belongs to the Mission.

The son of graduado Alferez don Pedro Amador, is in this Presidio and does not want to go with his father. He claims that life with his stepmother is bad.

God keep you many years.
Monterey, September 15, 1809

José Maria Estudillo

HSJ Teams with Santa Clara University

The above translation helps to bring San José’s early-recorded history to life, documenting the everyday concerns of the first Spanish civilian settlement (or pueblo) in Alta California. San José de Guadalupe, established on November 29, 1777 was truly on the frontier. The population of San José in 1809 was about 120. This community supplied much of the food for the presidios of Monterey and San Francisco. This 1809 document illustrates the continuing boundary disputes between Mission Santa Clara and the Pueblo, imposition of justice, and the Spanish paternalistic approach to governing this small agrarian community.

The 6,000 pages of these original manuscripts from the Pueblo de San José de Guadalupe from 1789 to 1850, referred to as the Pueblo Papers, are the oldest official City of San José records and the oldest municipal records for Alta California. It is believed that the Pueblo Papers are the largest extent collection of materials from any California civil settlement prior to statehood in 1850. Making the Pueblo Papers readily available to researchers will change the written history of Spanish and Mexican California.

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Josephine Clifford McCrackin

Writer – Conservationist
Of the many writers who found inspiration in the Santa Cruz Mountains, Josephine McCrackin was the first to settle there on a permanent basis. Shortly before her marriage to Jackson McCrackin, she purchased a ranch which they later named Monte Paraíso. From this mountain paradise Josephine would produce much of her writing, and would entertain the most prominent early California literati. Her life story prior to settling into this tranquil haven was stranger than fiction and supplied the material for many of her stories.

Josephine was born on November 25, 1838 in Hanover in the East German state of Prussia. Her father, Ernst Wompner, was the younger son of a patrician family, and her mother was from an aristocratic Hessian family. Discouraged with political upheavals in the German states, Ernst uprooted his family and settled in St. Louis where he became a naturalized citizen. Josephine, an eight year old when she arrived, was tutored privately and later attended convent schools.

Army Life
Near the close of the Civil War, Josephine met and married Lieutenant James A. Clifford of the Third U.S. Cavalry. The Clifford's moved in exalted circles while stationed in Washington, and it is reported that Josephine met Generals Grant, Sherman and Meade, President Lincoln and President-to-be Andrew Johnson. Perhaps these connections helped Brevet Captain Clifford to remain in the Army at the close of the war. Clifford's unit, like most of the post-war Army was assignated to the Far West to protect settlers from hostile Indians. Josephine would later describe, in her story "Marching With Command," how she traveled across the Plains into New Mexico as the only woman in a column of 1,000 soldiers. She rode much of the way on her beloved white horse Toby.

What started out as a wonderful adventure soon turned out to be a nightmare when, after reaching New Mexico, her husband began to go insane. Suffering from paranoid delusions, Clifford imagined that his wife might expose dark secrets, and he proceeded to abuse her both mentally and physically. It was not uncommon for her to wake to the clicking of his revolver pointed at her head in a sadistic game of Russian roulette. Josephine struggled to keep up the pose of loving wife, but eventually her husband's superiors recognized his insanity and had him incarcerated. He died not long after.

San Francisco Years
Left on her own, the young widow gravitated to San Francisco where her mother and brother were now living. Refined work for women in San Francisco in the 1860's was not easy to find, but Josephine was fortunate to secure a position as secretary to Bret Harte who was establishing The Overland Monthly, the West's first literary journal. In the Overland Monthly's offices she became close friends with many of the early contributors, including Mark Twain, C.W. Stoddard, Ross Browne, Ambrose Bierce and California's future poet laureate, Ina Coolbrith.

Josephine and Ina Coolbrith had much in common: both experienced unhappy first marriages, and both had to make a living in a man's world in a frontier society. Later, both would see their cherished homes destroyed by fire. The two women became lifelong friends, and when Ina was honored with the laurel wreath as California's greatest woman author at the 1915 San Francisco World's Fair she insisted that Josephine share the stage with her.

continued on page 8
HSJ Expands Education Programs

History San José's newest school program focuses on the agricultural history of Santa Clara Valley through two exhibits, Valley of Heart's Delight: From Orchards to Suburbs in Santa Clara Valley, on display in the Pacific Hotel Gallery through July 31, 2003 and the Stevens Ranch Fruit Barn.

Third- and fourth-grade students examine photographs, maps and objects as they learn about orchards and the people who grow, process and ship food all over the world. The program also introduces important concepts such as immigration, land use and urban development.

The Valley of Heart’s Delight School Program was developed in collaboration between HSJ's Education Department and the Teacher Advisory Committee, which was formed in early 2001 to help with program evaluation and development. Thanks to the teachers' contributions, Valley of Heart’s Delight meets several history/social-science standards and also includes lessons in math (students estimate and weigh fruit), geography (students identify immigrants’ countries of origin) and reading/language arts (students read questions and discuss ideas). Randy Mitchell, a teacher at Chaboya Middle School and member of the Teacher Advisory Committee, created pre- and post-visit lessons and activities that help teachers prepare for their visit and measure student learning.

Valley of Heart’s Delight School Program will be available next school year as well, along with a teacher workshop on the subject. For information about this or other school programs, please call the education department at 408-918-1040 or e-mail education@historysanjose.org. Program information and registration forms are available at www.historysanjose.org.

HSJ Teams with Santa Clara University on Project

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To make them accessible, History San José (HSJ) has been collaborating with Santa Clara University Professors Rose Marie Beebe and Robert M. Senkewicz to make the Pueblo Papers available to a much larger audience. Two upper level Spanish language classes have had the opportunity to work with selected Pueblo Papers from our Collection. The excerpt on this page comes from A Year in the life of a Spanish Colonial Pueblo, San José de Guadalupe in 1809, Official Correspondence, part of the Research Manuscript Series on the Cultural and Natural History of Santa Clara published by Santa Clara University in 1998. A second Spanish class undertook translations of 1821 through part of 1825 in 2001. Though still being edited, it is hoped these years documenting the Mexican Period will be published as a separate volume in 2002.

HSJ looks forward to continued partnership with Santa Clara University and Professors Beebe and Senkewicz to make additional translations available from this often overlooked part of California history.

SJCPL Partners with HSJ

On February 6th, History San José (HSJ) presented the Markham House to San José Center for Poetry and Literature (SJCPL). This presentation symbolically marked the culmination of collaborative work between the two organizations and set the stage for final steps toward occupancy by SJCPL.

The presentation was attended by both HSJ and SJCPL Boards of Directors as well as city officials and other dignitaries.

Guests enjoyed hors d'oeuvres provided by members of SJCPL and witnessed the signing of the contract between David Crosson, President and CEO of HSJ and Kevin Arnold, Board President of SJCPL. The ceremonial “passing of the key” between the two organizations rounded out the evening’s festivities.
Family Spring Fling Fun for All

Rain didn’t dampen the spirits of the members who attended the Family Spring Fling and Ice Cream Social held at History Park on Saturday, March 23rd. This donor event, originally scheduled for outdoors, was moved inside the Firehouse where guests enjoyed coffee and punch and children showcased their artistic talents through chalk drawings on the concrete floor.

Upstairs in the Firehouse, entertainment was provided by Red Jade Collective, a percussion group featuring a variety of ethnic drumming styles. The members of the group explained to the audience of children and adults the origin and history of the instruments they played and the meanings behind the songs they performed.

The highlight of the day came when attendees were invited to build their own sundaes from three flavors of ice cream and over ten toppings. For some, the choices were too many and they had to come back for seconds.

Party Honors Fred Bennett

On February 26th, History San José (HSJ) in conjunction with the City of San José and California Trolley & Railroad Corporation (CTRC), recognized and celebrated Fredrick (Fred) Scranton Bennett’s 80th birthday. Fred has been with History San José since 1984 and has worked with trains and trolleys for most of his adult life.

The party, which was attended by friends, admirers and city officials, began with Mignon Gibson of San José Office of Cultural Affairs presenting Fred with a City Commendation and continued with

CTRC President Rod Diridon presenting Fred with a recognition plaque. Both the commendation and the plaque acknowledged Fred for his many accomplishments including the restoration of the trolleys which currently run through downtown San José and at History Park.

Throughout the month prior to the party, HSJ staff collected money with the goal of sending Fred on the train trip of his dreams. Because of the generous donations, this goal became a reality. On April 23rd Fred flew from San José to Vancouver, BC where he met his son who flew out from Atlanta. The two stayed in Vancouver for two days before embarking on the Rocky Mountaineer Rail Tour Goldleaf service from Vancouver to Calgary. The train took Fred and his son through the Rocky Mountains on a domed rail coach offering unparalleled views of the surrounding scenery.
History Makers Program Going Strong

The February 28th installment of History Makers was our most successful to date. Authors Jack Douglas, Harry Farrell, Pat Loomis and Leonard McKay discussed the important role authors play in the preservation and dissemination of history and how their role as local authors helps keep San José’s local history alive and relevant.

Don’t miss our next installment on Thursday May 9th at 7:00p.m., History Makers: Life on the Front Line. HSJ President and CEO David Crosson will moderate a discussion on World War II between panelists Mary Lamson, a nurse at Pearl Harbor, Robert Smith, a medic in the European Theater and author of Medie and Carl E. Clarke, a soldier in the Pacific Theater and author of Pieces from My Mind.

Co-sponsored by History San José and Barnes and Noble Booksellers, History Makers is a free public program held four times a year at the Barnes and Noble Booksellers at 5353 Almaden Expressway.

Make Your Event the Best in History

Just a reminder that History San José’s two rental sites, History Park in Kelley Park and the Peralta Adobe and Fallon House Historic Site, are perfect for any event.

History Park is an expansive outdoor, gated facility with 16 acres of beautifully landscaped grounds capable of accommodating up to 10,000 guests. The charming historic town setting is complete with paved streets, running trolley, an old-fashioned ice cream shop, large grassy areas for games and activities, rose and herb gardens, exhibit gallery, barbecue and picnic areas, and an ambiance like no other place in the Bay Area.

Recent changes in the hours of operation of the Peralta Adobe and Fallon House Historic site have opened it up to additional rental opportunities. While custom tours can still be booked during the week, guest can reserve the former city store for indoor gatherings and the grounds of the Peralta Adobe and Fallon House are available for outdoor get-togethers.

Whether you are planning a family reunion, corporate event, an intimate dinner for two, a birthday party or a wedding, consider either of History San Jose’s rental sites.

Contact Lesli Davis, Event Sales Manager at (408) 918-1055 or email ldavis@historysanjose.org, for more information.

Upcoming Events

**History Makers: Life on the Front Line**
Thursday, May 9th
7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Barnes and Noble,
5353 Almaden Expressway
FREE panel discussion co-sponsored by HSJ and Barnes and Noble Booksellers. HSJ President and CEO David Crosson will moderate a discussion on WWII between panelists Mary Lamson, a nurse at Pearl Harbor, Robert Smith, a medic in the European Theater and author of Medie and Carl E. Clarke a soldier in the Pacific Theater and author of Pieces from My Mind.

**FREE Mother’s Day**
Sunday, May 12th
Noon – 5:00 p.m.
Treat your mother to more than a walk in the park this Mother’s Day. Bring her to History Park or Peralta Adobe and Fallon House Historic Site on Mother’s day and she’ll get in free.

**Valley Heritage Festival**
Sunday and Monday,
May 26th and 27th
12:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
History Park in Kelley Park
FREE fun for the entire family! Come celebrate the region’s multicultural heritage with music and dance performances, story-telling and poetry readings, pony rides and petting zoo, trolley rides and children’s activities, fruit drying and gardening demonstrations and much more!
There's So Much to Do and See at This Year's Festival

Activities include pony rides, petting zoo, gold panning, papel picado, tortilla making, gardening demonstrations, and children's activities and games.

A sampling of performances scheduled for the two days include: Gordy Ohliger, The Banjo-ologist, takes guests on a musical visit to the past. Rising from the sweet sounds of 4,5,6 and 8-string banjos, the Banjo-ologist performs a variety of tunes from do-wa-ca-do-ragtime to stompin' bluegrass to graceful ballads. All in all Gordy's joyful music interlaced with Mark Twain-like commentary makes the past come alive.

Storyteller Kellmar will present stories rich with history and traditional values. Her Grandparent's Tales are drawn from her African American roots and are a delight for children and adults.

The Black Irish Band will perform folk songs influenced by the music of Ireland, Italy, England, Scotland, Wales, Cornwall, France, Canada and America. Strong vocals and up-tempo give new life to old songs plus the band performs original material with a unique flair.

Eden Aoba Taiko, draws on founder Masa Fukuzumi's childhood memories for musical inspiration. Masa says that when he was a child, Taiko wasn't learned, it was part of life and penetrated into one's blood without noticing it.

Sheila Robinson, host of KISS FM's gospel program on Sunday mornings will be on hand to record a CD of children's stories. Her live performance will be recorded along with the background sounds of festival activity.

Additional entertainment includes: Red Thistle Dance (traditional Scottish), Hala Fauzi (Middle Eastern singing and dancing), Dimension Performing Arts (Chinese), Kaisahan of San Jose (Filipino), and Copiera (Afro-Brazilian martial arts and dance).

Special activities include: The San Jose Fire Department Shark Engine, opening ceremony and ribbon cutting for the Hellenic Heritage Institute, and poetry readings by members of the San Jose Center for Poetry and Literature.

This year's festival is made possible by grants from City of San Jose, Lockheed Martin Missiles and Space, Arts Council of Silicon Valley/Applied Materials, and Devcon Construction, Inc.

Josephine Clifford McCrackin
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Not long after joining the staff of the Overland Monthly, Josephine began to write stories about the West. These became regular items in the Overland and in Harper's Magazine in the East, and in 1877 a compilation of these was published as her first book: Overland Tales.

In 1880 she purchased 26 acres near Loma Prieta Avenue in the Santa Cruz Mountains and started work on her ranch house. It was during this time that she met Jackson McCrackin, a prominent Arizonian. They were married in Salinas in 1882 and soon were happily established in their mountain paradise. They became magnets for other literacy folks who were drawn to the quiet beauty of the mountains. Ambrose Bierce was a frequent visitor.

Saving the Redwoods
Josephine and her husband soon became prominent members of the mountain community, and she contributed articles to the local papers: The Mountain Echo and Santa Cruz Sentinel. In this role she launched the campaign to save the rapidly diminishing redwood forests. Her writings and the legwork of Andrew P. Hill and the Sempervirens Club were instrumental in the establishment, in 1902, of the forest now known as Big Basin State Park. Josephine had an even greater reason to save the redwoods after an 1889 forest fire destroyed the couple's ranch and ended their hopes for a comfortable retirement. Ambrose Bierce was with them when they returned to the ruins of Monte Paraiso. Undeterred, the couple moved to a modest house in Santa Cruz where they kept up the pressure to save the redwoods.

During this time Josephine also became concerned with the needless slaughter of the State's songbirds. Her concerns soon attracted many followers, and together they formed the Ladies Forest and Song Birds protective Association. She served as the first president. The death of her husband in 1904 left Josephine with limited means of support. She fell back on her writing skills and began doing journalistic pieces for the local newspapers. She continued to write until her death in 1920 at the age of 82. Her longtime friend Ina Coolbrith would be California's lauded golden girl of literature, but Josephine Clifford McCrackin's writings had a more lasting impact on our State.
Making History

A World of Gratitude

History San José is grateful for the support of all its members. Listed below are gifts of $1,000 or more received between January 1, 2001 and March 25, 2002.

Corporations
- Air Systems Foundation
- Bank of America Matching Fund
- Best Drywall Interiors
- Cal-Air, Inc.
- Cambridge Management
- Cisco Systems Foundation
- Cornerstone Properties
- Deluxe Corporation Foundation
- Devcon
- Empire Broadcasting: KARA, KRT, KLIV
- General Electric Matching Fund
- Heritage Bank
- HPC Architecture
- IBM Matching Fund
- Juniper Oaks Properties
- KB Home
- KAY 94.5
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- Pahl and Gosselin
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- San José Surgical Supply

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- Siemens ICN
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- Sprig Electric Co.
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- The Compton Foundation
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- Farrington Historical Foundation
- Luckingham Foundation
- National Park Service
- David and Lucile Packard Foundation
- The Simmons Foundation
- Sousinseau Academy for State and Local History
- Stella B. Cross Charitable Trust

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- Coast Engraving
- Diamond Laundry and Cleaners
- Hertz Equipment Rental
- John Eric Paulson, Master Photographer
- Readystk
- Rock Island Foods
- Safeway Stores
- Santa Clara County Office of Education
- Spiedo Restaurant
- Todd Bray
- Willow Glen Coffee Roasting Company

HELP US MAKE HISTORY!

Membership levels
- $35 Basic/Senior
- $50 Family
- $100 Donor
- $250 Associate
- $50 Partner
- $1000 Advocate
- $2500 Leader
- $5000 Sustainer

Name ________________________________
Phone ______________________________
Address ______________________________
Signature ______________________________

Pledge (of $100 or more) to be paid as follows:
Payment $ ___________ on (date) ________
Payment $ ___________ on (date) ________
Payment $ ___________ on (date) ________
Payment $ ___________ on (date) ________

Charge my: _____ Visa _____ Mastercard
Card # ____________________________ Exp ____________

___________________________
Signature

____ My check is enclosed (payable to History San José)
____ Charge my: _____ Visa _____ Mastercard
Card # ____________________________ Exp ____________
Family Fun

**Weekends with the Kids** - This ideal sourcebook for moms, dads, aunts, uncles, grandparents and baby sitters has more than 60 craft projects, quick snacks, easy and nutritious family meals, plus dozens of great ideas for kid-friendly outings and at-home activities.

**Fun Places to Go with Children in Northern California** and the *Adventure Pages* offer hundreds of entertaining, diverse, and kid-friendly activities plus all the specifics grown-ups need to get everyone there and back with minimal fuss.

*Northern California's Best Family Campgrounds* is packed with gorgeous full-color photographs and presents the 50 best sites for parents and children in this stunningly beautiful region. The only illustrated guide of its kind, this helpful book also provides detailed descriptions of everything you need to plan a playful and memorable family camping trip, including amenities offered and regional maps to get you situated.

Gardening

*The California Master Gardener Handbook* prepared by the Master Gardener's Program at the University of California Cooperative Extension is available in the Museum Store. If you need further help or have questions regarding your garden, you can visit with the Master Gardeners at the Valley Heritage Festival. They will provide gardening tips and advice and will present a variety of gardening demonstrations throughout the two-day festival.

Valley Heritage Festival Sampler

Filled with valuable cooking tips and shopping advice, the book *Fresh from the Farmers' Market* brings the irresistible bounty of nature into your kitchen. More than seventy-five simple, stylish recipes showcase each season's harvest in dishes as appealing for family meals as for entertaining.

A new selection of the uniquely designed flour sack dish towels have arrived just in time for the Valley Heritage Festival along with the popular Garlic Rosemary Citrus Sauce and other delicious products from Stonewall Kitchen. The flower box pictured is by Mary Castillo. Mary will also have a new selection of designs available for the Valley Heritage Festival.

Give your neighborhood birds a fashionable place to live

New York artist Helena Frost draws from actual hat designs for her realistic bird house interpretations. Designs include fishing hats, straw hats, cowboy hats and even a San José Firemans hat.

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*Museum Information*

Please call 408-918-1040 for reservations and current program prices.

*Sites*

**History Park**
Kelley Park, 1650 Senter Road
San José, CA 95112
408-247-2290, Fax 408-247-2291

**Peralta Adobe - El Pinto House**
176 W. St. John St., San José, CA 95110
408-993-8102, Fax 408-993-8104

*Administrative Offices*
1650 Senter Road
San José, CA 95112
408-247-2290, Fax 408-247-2291

[www.historysanjose.org](http://www.historysanjose.org)

*Fees*

**General Admission Fees**
A ticket for both sites is valid two weeks from date of purchase.

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**Group Tour Fees**
30 or more individuals who have pre-scheduled a tour

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**Hours**

History Park & Gallery: Tues. - Fri., Noon to 5:00 p.m., self-guided tours, admission is free. Museum Store: 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at O'Brien's café; 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Sat. & Sun., Noon to 4:00 p.m., docent-guided tours, regular admission fee. Last tour leaves at 3:00 p.m. Museum Store and O'Brien's cafe: Noon to 9:00 p.m.

**Peralta/Fallon:** Sat.-Sun., Noon to 5:00 p.m., docent-guided tours; regular admission fee. Last tour leaves at 3:30 p.m.

**Office hours at both sites:**
Mon. - Fri., 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

All school programs and group tours must be reserved. School programs - group tours are offered Mon. - Fri., 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Group tours are offered Tues. - Sun., by reservation only. Call 408-918-1040.

**Programs**


Outreach Programs: Portraits of the Past

Photographer: Sarah Puckett