



Sierra Madre Historical Preservation Society Summer/Fall 2024 Newsletter

Experience the **Earliest Known Photographs** of the **American Desert West**

Join Us: **Thursday, September 5, 6 p.m., Hart Park House**

In 1863, a German surveyor, Rudolf d’Heureuse, took a journey on the Mojave Road, from the Port of Los Angeles to the mines of the Colorado River. Along the way he photographed the towns and locales they traveled through – San Bernardino, Cajon Pass, the Mormon Road, and the many springs and landmarks along the way to the Colorado River, as well as military installations and Fort Mojave.



Jeff Lapidés, author of *The Mojave Road in 1863: The Pioneering Photographs of*

Rudolf d’Heureuse, will present a free talk on d’Heureuse’s journey, illustrated by hand drawn maps the surveyor did as well as the only remaining known photographs that he produced on that journey.

Rudolf d’Heureuse had an interesting life, and you will be able to share in it as you experience this desert trip, Passage to Eldorado, with Jeff leading the way.

Fourth of July Parade

Our own SMHPS city award winners were VIPs in the Fourth of July Parade this year! Citizens of the Year, SMHPS President Leslie Ziff and husband Dr. Barry Ziff, were chauffeured by John Capoccia and his wife Marta, in their lovely blue convertible. Coinciden-



Photo courtesy of Dirk Bolle

tally, SMHPS Vice-President Diane Sands, George Maurer Lifetime Volunteer, was driven in her own blue convertible by her husband, Jeff Lapidés. It was a wonderful day and so much fun. Congratulations again to the three of them.



Photo courtesy of Dirk Bolle

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President's Message

I sit down to write this message as August is soon turning over to September. I know that some of us are hoping for some cooler days – but until that happens, let me fill you in on what the Historical Board has been working on these past few months.

At our July planning meeting we welcomed two new Board members; Andrea Thorsen who will oversee Membership, and Andrew Shewell who will be working with John Capoccia on the Oral Histories Projects. We appreciate the time and energy that they will be putting into these areas. They were both in attendance at our Lizzie's Chicken and Ravioli Dinner in June so many of you were able to meet them. Also, at Lizzie's Dinner we presented the new Board for 2024-2025. You will see their names listed in this newsletter.



I am looking forward to having Jeff Lapedes give his talk on the Mojave Road on September 5th. He is a great speaker and I know that you will enjoy the pictures he will be sharing.

For our contribution to 9-10-24 (our Zip code day!) we will be conducting a free tour/ walk of the downtown businesses. The tour guide will talk about the history of the buildings and their businesses from 1882 to the present. The walking is light, and the tour will last one hour. If you are interested in joining us, please call for a reservation or for more information: 626-321- 7735.

Several members of the Board have been meeting regularly with the City Manager, Jose Reynoso and Arnulfo Yanez, Director of Public Works to maintain an ongoing conversation concerning the

work to be done at the museums. Lizzie's Trail Inn is in need of a new roof, and we are looking at the problem of the tree pushing on the building. We also want the backroom of the Richardson House to be completed so we can have a demonstration kitchen, similar to the one Lizzie and the Ormes used in the 1920's, 30's and 40's. We have so many displays we cannot put out because of our lack of space right now within the Richardson House, and this renovation will greatly expand exhibit areas. The city has sent out requests for bids and hope to break ground on this project by January! So, we will keep you posted. Stop by any Saturday from 10:00 – 12:00 for a visit to both museums – or just to enjoy some "neighborhood talk" on the museum porches!

Coming in November we will have a guest speaker discussing the history and contributions of our Japanese community before and after WWII. I hope to see you all at one of our speakers talks, a city walking tour or up at our museums soon.

Respectfully, Leslie Ziff

Up at the Museums By Diane Sands

Summer has been somewhat quiet at the Museums, probably because of the heat that seems to sneak up in the morning. The hikers go up very early and will stop in on their way down the trail. So many are surprised to find out that we actually have museums that they can visit for free. We have had more people stop to see us who actually live in the neighborhood, and almost always tell us "I've lived here forever, but have never visited you guys!" Well, glad to meet you, neighbor, and be sure to tell your friends too.

We did have a wonderful donation to the Richardson House this summer – a large, beautiful glass and wood cabinet that we will be using to display our collection of McCarty Brothers' figurines. A shout out thank you to Melinda for the donation!

Leslie and I have been working with the city to get the ball rolling on our renovations to Richardson and Lizzie's. They still have us budgeted for the work to get started, and along with our reserved funds and recent donations, we might be able to

finish our projects before next year! Cross your fingers!



We are still looking for new docents to help at the museums. It doesn't take a lot of time, and we can train you. You get to experience sharing the history of our town and the museums with a wonderful public.

The Return of Lizzie's Chicken and Ravioli Dinner in the Park!

It was a much warmer than usual day, but on June 22, Mt. Wilson Trail Park welcomed 85 ticket holders to a delicious dinner of fried chicken and cheese ravioli as SMHPS' beloved event returned after an absence of several years. This year vegetarian and vegan options were added to the menu. The food, catered by Sierra Madre's Nano's Café, was plentiful and delicious. The SMHPS Board members were all on hand to ensure the event was a success, with several overseeing the food and drink tables, and others checking people in and being docents in the museums. Several of our teen docents helped deliver food and drinks to tables, and were invaluable.

President Leslie Ziff gave a few words and introduced the incoming Board for the 2024-2025 year. A silent auction for some beautiful gift baskets, artwork, and gift certificates was held, and we thank everyone who bid and purchased something.

Photos courtesy Shannon King

Funds raised at this event will be used for several large repairs needed this year on our museums, including opening up a new room behind the Richardson House. Although the city (our buildings are owned by them) has budgeted monies towards these repairs, the SMHPS has funds in our treasury earmarked for these projects. The additional money raised from the dinner is needed to help insure the repairs are completed the correct way.

We thank everyone who bought tickets and attended this event, as it helps us continue to keep our museums in good order and open to the public. And thank you to our many members who pitched in to help that day also. It was wonderful to see all enjoying the good food and the ambiance of old, and new, friends.



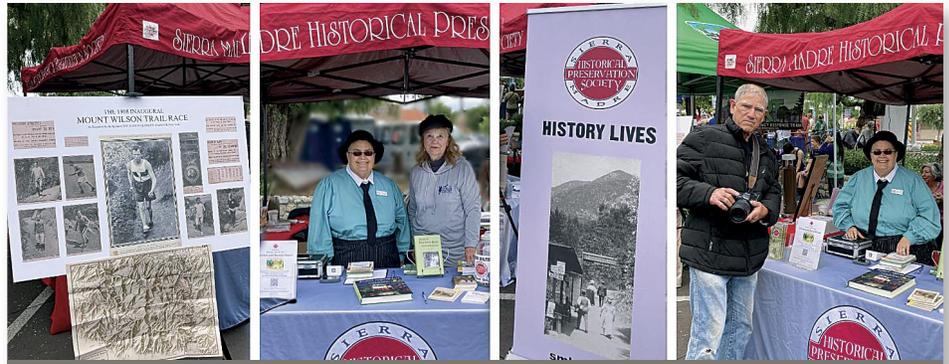
Mayor Pro-Tem Robert Parkhurst, Barry Ziff, Frank Moore, Susan Gallagher, and Raul Ayala

Local entertainer, Richard Bellikoff, had the crowd singing along with him

Attendees checking out the wonderful silent auction items

Another Successful Trail Race

The morning started very early on May 25, as SMHPS volunteers set up our booth downtown for the annual Trail Race. We had a lot of interest in our trail history, as well as in our maps and book, *The Mount Wilson Trail*. Visitors enjoyed talking history with our volunteers, and we also sold copies of our newest printing of *The Annals*, as well as gaining several new members.



History display about first Trail Race in 1908; Diane Sands and Leslie Ziff staff the Booth; One of our newer banners; Local photographer Dirk Bolle stops by to say hello

Photos courtesy Shannon King

Friends of the Library: Art Fair in the Park

The Art Fair was back in force this year with more vendors and more public attending. SMHPS was pleased to have a booth this year on both days, May 4 and 5. We did sell a few items, including our reprint of *The Annals*, and got a couple of new memberships. It was a lovely day, and we visited with members and friends. Thanks to all who helped set up, staff, and tear down.



Photo courtesy Pauli Morin

Board Members Christel Chang and Pauli Morin dressed for the SMHPS booth at the Art Fair

Wistaria Festival 2024



Photos courtesy Shannon King

The blossoms on the vine were in their beginning bloom this year on March 17 for the 2024 Wistaria Festival. The weather was beautiful and locals and visitors alike came to downtown to enjoy the festivities and see the vine. The booth was staffed by Christel Chang, Leslie and Barry Ziff, and Diane Sands. Other members helped us set up and tear down.

Because it was also St. Patrick's Day, we handed out shamrock necklaces, which were a big hit, especially among the children. It was the opportunity to sell some of our maps and books, and to introduce the new printing of *The Annals* to the public. The book was well received and we sold quite a few (but don't worry – we have more to sell, so get your copy today for just \$20!).

There was purple everywhere for this festive day, with just a touch of green. A fabulous day!



Barry Ziff, Diane Sands, Christel Chang, and Leslie Ziff

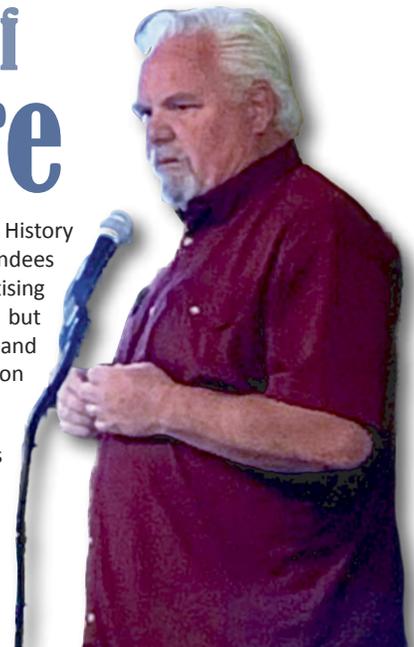
The Good Water of Sierra Madre

On March 27, former Public Works Director, Chris Cimino, shared his History of Sierra Madre Water presentation with a large group (60+) of attendees at the Hart Park House. Chris not only talked about the lure of advertising featuring the abundant water when the town was first founded, but brought us up to modern times. He discussed the water pipes and tunnels, and showed footage from a movie that featured the creation of the settling basin and how the water flowed.

The audience was so rapt and attentive, and full of so many questions for Chris about the water and the history, that the evening ran long and unfortunately came to an end all too soon.

We thank Chris for his enlightening and entertaining presentation to such a large crowd, and we hope that he might come back in the future to do it again.

Photos by Jeff Lapides and Diane Sands





Sierra Madre Historical Preservation Society
 P.O. Box 202, Sierra Madre, CA 91025-0202
www.smhps.org

WE ARE SO VERY PLEASED TO WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

Taby Ahsan	Claire Rogerson & Shane Henson	Jo Odawara and Kathy Green
James Annes	Eve Jebens	Kimberly Pham & Connor Ryan Carroll
Raul Ayala	Robert Gutierrez	Randall Preece
Eva Bushe	Diana Kohne Kenny	Andrew Shewell
Anna Casas	Samantha Lopez	Pete Siberell
Berj DerMovsesian (Baldwin Jewelers)	David & Margaret Mgrublian	Nik & Whitney Visger
Victoria Durant	Carl Mongan	Heather Williams
Gregory Eknekjian	Magdalena Moran	Chris Willman
Matt Gallagher	Steve and Robin Newquist	Joshua Wolf
Gillian Gamboa	Eric Neel and Gwen Robertson	Tim & Frances Worman
Kyle George		Dillon Zachara
Robert Gutierrez		

Thank you for your membership dues, donations, and offers to volunteer. Your faithful support and generosity is truly appreciated. If you've not had a chance to renew your membership please do so. Your dues are critical to the running of our vibrant Society. Thank you in advance! Andrea Thorsen, Membership Chair
 Download a membership form at: smhps.org or scan the QR code



Photo courtesy Frank Moore

Meet the Board

Incoming Board – L to R – Front Row: Pauli Morin, Christel Chang, Richard Mays – Back Row: Andrea Thorsen, Teresa Chauré, Diane Sands, Susan Gallagher, John Capoccia, Shannon King, Leslie Ziff – missing is Andrew Shewell

Our Congrats!

On May 15, Susan Gallagher, Board member of the Sierra Madre Historical Preservation Society, was presented with the 2nd Place Marie Brown Etris Oral Abstract Award at the Symposium of Advanced Wound Care/Wound Healing Society, held in Orlando, Florida.

Susan was awarded this honor for her research and publication, Exploring Equitable Skin Care for the Patient Who Weighs 500 to 1200 Pounds.

"It was an amazing experience for me," said Susan, "and I was deeply grateful to the Etris family and others who recognize the value of equitable care."

SMHPS is proud to have Susan as a member of our Board, and congratulate her on this wonderful recognition of her work.



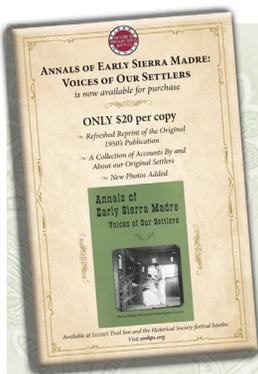
The Kensington Community Visits Our Museums

At the end of February this year, SMHPS was pleased to entertain several residents of The Kensington Sierra Madre community at our museums for a tour with our docent, Diane Sands. The attendees got to hear about the history of the buildings as well as some of the history of our town. Some of the folks reported to us that they were not even aware that Sierra Madre had museums!

Our visitors enjoyed the tour, and some shared stories with Diane about their younger lives and living in conditions similar to what is on display at the museums. At the end everyone sat at the bar in Lizzie's (although there were no spirits being poured!) and had a question-and-answer session. Filled with fresh knowledge of our town, the wonderful visitors then went off to enjoy lunch. We look forward to more visits from this wonderful community of friendly folks!



Photos courtesy The Kensington Sierra Madre



ANNALS

ONLY \$20 at the following locations:
 Arnold's Frontier Hardware
 Collective Co-op (next to Monsieur Crepe)
 E. Waldo Ward
 Lizzie's Trail Inn Museum
 Pax Pharmacy
 Savor the Flavor
 Sierra Madre Library