



Los Altos HISTORY MUSEUM

NEW MISSION STATEMENT ADOPTED:

History inspires imagination, stimulates thought and transforms society.

The Los Altos History Museum preserves and shares our local history to enrich our community and to shape a more informed future.



Photos by Laura Barak

New Ohlone Exhibits



New Mission Santa Clara Model

2012-13 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Ginger Beman
1st VP	Jane Reed
2nd VP	Ed Taft
Secretary	Sande Stuart & Patti Rose
Treasurer	Nomi Trapnell
Past President	Patti Rose

Directors: Marie Backs, Jan Fong, Marilyn Henderson, Kristen Fuller, Dan Haley, Karen Purtich, Anne Roberts, Ginger Summit and Jim Thurber

Annual Report: Fiscal Year 2012-13

Mission-based Programming

Phase One of Permanent Exhibit Remodel Completed

Final work to complete the first stage updating *Crown of the Peninsula: Los Altos Land Over Time* began in earnest in spring 2013. This phase included an enhanced and expanded First People/Ohlone display with artifacts from the **Florence Fava** collection, an accurately researched and professionally designed mission model, rearranged history panels, a “Pepper’s Ghost” mirror and refreshed display and improved lighting in the rancho home setting. To come are two more phases to refresh and enhance the displays from the ‘50s forward and Family Tree which will carry the Museum forward, increasing content and photos and replacing aging touch screens with current technology. Additional fundraising will be needed.

The **J. Gilbert Smith House** benefited from improvements accomplished the prior year; many visitors enjoyed tours through the home decorated as a 1930s farm house. Teamed with the store volunteers, we repeated the popular holiday tea and boutique sale “Catch the Spirit.” The upstairs gallery showcased J. Gilbert Smith’s black and white photographs, many of Yosemite, printed from 1911 negatives discovered in the archives. —*Jane Reed*

Education Programs Served 1,700 Local Students

SCHOOL TOURS—Each year, we invite every school serving Los Altos children, private and public, to our curriculum-based tours. In April, we welcomed 564 third grade students from all seven LASD schools, as well as Los Altos Christian. The fourth grade tours were held in May and welcomed 495 students, from all seven LASD elementary schools. Teacher evaluations for both grade levels were again very positive.

ESSAY CONTEST—coordinated with the City of Los Altos Historical Commission, the 29th Annual Margaret Thompson Historical Essay Contest centered on the now-extinct California grizzly in connection with the exhibit *Bear in Mind*. Grades 3-6, from public, private, and home-schooled students submitted 633 essays—a new record. On May 14, the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners were treated to an ice cream social on the Museum patio co-sponsored by the Museum, the Historical Commission, and the City. Pinewood School was the 2013 recipient of the Margaret Thompson trophy given annually to the school with the most winners. Mayor **Jarrett Fishpaw** also recognized the winners at the City Council Meeting following the social. Another successful year! —*Anne Roberts*

Collections & Archives Nears 14,000 Records

A highly productive year ended with a grand total of 13,644 records in our database (3,792 objects, 3,818 archival items, 5,556 photographs and 478 books). **Lisa Robinson** retired as collections manager, **Stefanie Midlock** was promoted to assistant collections manager, and **Kristin Morris** joined our team as collections specialist for exhibits and oral histories.

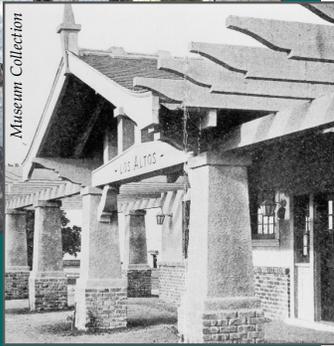
Farrell family collection added: In the early 1900s, **Mike Farrell** managed the Murphy Ranch (now Moffett Field), where wife **Eliza** worked as housekeeper. They owned land with an orchard in the Taaffe Partition (now Byrne Preserve, Los Altos Hills) and a house called “the Elms” on El Monte at Springer (now gone). Their correspondence, family photographs and newspaper clippings were donated to preserve their story. We’re just beginning to catalogue this fascinating collection, and there are sure to be exciting revelations to come.

Learning as we share: Author **Henry Bender** researched our records, and his new book on SP depots reveals which previously unknown (to us) architect designed our depot—**D.J. Patterson**. Local author **Robin Chapman** drew heavily from our archives for her book *California Apricots: The Lost Orchards of Silicon Valley*; none other than **Frank Lloyd Wright** helped the City choose the **J. Gilbert Smith** orchard as the new Civic Center site in 1954.

Volunteer highlights: We couldn’t accomplish as much as we do without the help of our dedicated collections volunteers, who donated over 800 hours this year. **Pauline Diestelhorst** organized and digitized historic LAHM scrapbooks, archiving past events and exhibits held during our many years as a community museum. **Kari DeSaulnier** catalogued photographs, newspaper clippings, playbills and slides from the Los Altos Conservatory Theatre (L’ACT), which was created in the 1970s and evolved into the Bus Barn (now Los Altos) Stage Company. She also catalogued a collection of diaries and letters belonging to **Frank and Josephine Duveneck**. **Margie Alving** recently finished cataloguing a collection of photographs of Los



Photo by Zach Dahl



Our historic depot got remodeled again, using images from our collection for guidance. From SP depot (1913) to restaurant ('60s) to bank ('70s) to retail—and back to a restaurant in 2013. We also learned the architect who designed it, D.J. Patterson, known for commercial and residential architecture.

Volunteer Development: Our new committee members developed a postcard mailed to each volunteer prospect to ensure timely contact, polled the board and committees for their needs, attended various museum events in order to stay current with volunteer interests and needs and handled multiple inquiries, several of whom became active volunteers.

—Brigitte Ahlfeldt & Ellen Katz

Museum Volunteers Recognized:

Lifetime Achievement Award, Watershed Steward: Linda Gass, *Shaped by Water* chair

Los Altos Community Service Award 2012: Jane Reed

Los Altos /Los Altos Hills Joint Volunteer Awards 2012: Pat and Bob Reed

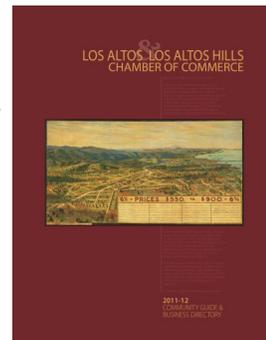
Museum Recognition 2012-13: Pauline Diestelhorst, Maureen Fraser, Gary Hedden, Kaye Loughmiller, Anne Macpherson, Ken and Terry Parker, Joan Tankersley, Kay Willoughby

Altos business and parish signs; adding an astounding 345 new records (about *half* of all the new records we added this year). Copies of some of these photographs now hang in the Trader Joe's on Homestead Road to show what their area used to look like. **Mark Leadenham**, with an M.A. in Museum Studies and two summers interning for the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum, catalogued a collection of aerial photographs of this area. Mark has since been hired as an archivist for Death Valley National Park. **Caye Johnson** has been working on an ongoing project to clean up catalogue records in our database. **Judie Suelzle** and **Sande Stuart** have been working on several projects including inventorying the media cabinet in the collections storage room, rehousing a collection of **Annie Knapp Fitz** ceramic busts, and organizing newspaper clippings about Los Altos from the *Mountain View Voice*.

From Stanford to Tiny Tots: As a sample of staff work, I cataloged a collection of documents relating to Los Altos resident **Leander Miller Hoskins**. A Stanford professor in 1892 (only its second year) he taught mathematical engineering. (One wonders if **J. Gilbert Smith** took his class when he attended Stanford.) Hoskins and his family owned property near Pine Lane, with a small home and prune orchard. In the early 1900s, they sold to **Edward and Emma Carothers**, who in 1907 began the Music & Literary Club in their living room as a place for local residents to gather. Then known as the San Antonio Social Club, their clubhouse on San Antonio Road stands today, now restored by the City and home to Tiny Tots Preschool.

Historic preservation helps owners: We worked with a local family to research their 1915 home built by **Guy Shoup**, from whose daughter they purchased it four decades ago. Trying to sell for the past two years, offers were disappointing and they knew their well-loved house would likely be torn up. Taking the historic route, they discovered it was built by a well-known architect to the wealthy, **Warren Skillings**. They then got the house ready for Mills Act coverage—saving the new buyers about \$30,000 a year in property taxes. *It sold almost immediately.* This is a great example of the community utilizing the resources of the Museum to further historic preservation and public awareness of Los Altos' rich history.

- *Stefanie Midlock, Assistant Collections Manager*



1917 map featured on the chamber directory

Changing Exhibits Enjoyed by Thousands of Visitors: The heart of our mission, to *share* our local history, is expressed in our exhibitions, which continually evolve to help our past and present history come alive. Working with the community, the subject and content of our changing exhibitions attract a diverse group of people to the Museum. Public lectures and educational programs further augment and enhance the reach of our exhibits. Kudos to our volunteer teams who create these wonderful experiences— their work is truly affecting and enriching our community. This year's changing exhibits included three varied exhibitions:

Honoring 60 years of Los Altos' incorporation and inspired by the Museum's photo archives, **Faces of Los Altos** was a portrait collage of past and present community citizens. Busts by **Annie Knapp Fitz** were displayed and artist **Lessa Bouchard** created a video installation called *Recognition* featuring many faces we see around Los Altos. A wonderful opportunity to recognize and celebrate all the people who work, play, and live in this community, the exhibit featured history-oriented conversational programs, including a panel of old timers remembering some of the characters before incorporation, and another on life in the '50s.

Winter brought **Bear in Mind: The Story of the California Grizzly**. In the mid-1800s (Gold Rush) much of the peninsula was wilderness and home to a large number of grizzlies, but by 1900 they had been hunted to extinction. Predominantly a rented traveling exhibition, we added materials relevant to our area including a very popular "bear cave" for children. Two community programs included a story time for children and their teddy bears and a conversation with naturalist **Garth Harwood** from Hidden Villa. **Lisa Robinson** guest curated.

In April, **A Place to Call Home: Two Centuries of California Living** focused on house architecture of the past with an overview of the changes in style, forms and function, materials, and use of space. Two basic premises were how architecture and the related aspects of our built environment reflect and influence our lifestyle values, and how understanding the past will help us make better choices for the future. **Jan Masters** guest curated. - *Jane Reed*

Docents Grow to 44: The docents group grew by 8 new members. We had two training sessions with the entire group and continue to train the new folks as they come in, including young people who have an awareness of the Museum because they visited with their classes as 3rd and 4th graders—it's wonderful to have them come back! As well, we had a docent at each wedding rental this summer; guests are fascinated to hear the story of J. Gilbert Smith and family, and several long-time residents were referred to our Oral History committee. Our training sessions are open to anyone who wishes to come—we invite you all. - *Marilyn Henderson*

FINANCIAL REPORT—FYE 2012-13

In another well-managed year, we earned more than we spent on regular operations by a large margin due to growth in event rentals. We brought in 112% of budget, only spending 85% of budget. 3/4 was earned income, while only 1/4 was contributed. In the new fiscal year, we want to better balance our donated income through increased fundraising.

INCOME & EXPENSE:

<u>Income (greatest to least, rounded off)</u>	<u>Total</u>
Events Rentals Fees	\$ 250,727
Special Events	109,575
Grants, Donations, Membership Income	141,560
Investment & Interest Income	53,523
Store	2,749
Miscellaneous Income	180
Total Income (exact)	\$ 557,316.82

112% of budget attained

<u>Expenses (greatest to least, rounded off)</u>	<u>Total</u>
Salaries/Wages	\$ 157,940
Professional Fees/Contractors	120,915
Supplies (office, food, exhibits, etc.)	44,012
Services (incl. printing, marketing)	30,912
Administrative & Insurance	17,665
Maintenance & Repairs, Equipment, Storage Rental	5,985
Total Expenses (exact)	\$ 377,339.46

85% of budget spent

Net Income **\$ 179,977.36**

CAPITAL PROJECTS EXPENSES

In addition to regular operating income and expenses as above, we completed several capital projects, paid mostly from cash reserves.

<u>CAPITAL PROJECT EXPENSES (rounded off)</u>	
Storage Barn	\$ 167,934
10th Anniversary Fund/Permanent Exhibit	48,651
Outdoor Project	1,505
Garden Upgrade	1,185
5% Capital Fund	494
Total Capital Expenses (exact)	\$ 219,769.22

Revised Net Income, Minus Capital Expenses **(\$ 39,791.86)**

 **INVESTMENTS:** Value as of 6/30/13: **\$ 645,907.00**

Demographics – recorded by Pidge Barry

VOLUNTEER HOURS: Ranging from just one to over 600 hours given in a year, *148 volunteers* reported **11,382 hours**.

INCREASED ATTENDANCE: Almost matching our record for attendance, **20,609 people** enjoyed Museum programs this fiscal year, up from last year by a nice margin.



Facilities & Grounds

STORAGE BARN COMPLETED

Our goal this year was to build a structure to house rental and exhibit materials when not in use to alleviate overcrowding throughout the Museum and Smith House basement. To that end, the board approved construction of a storage barn directly behind the Museum, which **Bob Grimm** and I supervised. Modeled after an outbuilding design from 1881, it has an exterior similar to our Museum with a barn door and a weathervane depicting **J. Gilbert Smith** on his tractor. At the same time, we had our outhouse and apricot sorting shed reroofed and our apricot sulfur shed rebuilt. We are all very proud of the finished buildings.

In addition to normal maintenance issues, the **City of Los Altos** helped this year by rerouting our downstairs sewer line, which was a major endeavor—we cannot be more appreciative. They also hired wonderful tree trimmers to prune our oaks and our magnificent palm tree. Outdoor lighting and electric remains a challenge to address. – *Marie Backs*

Garden: The museum's past water exhibit piqued our interest in conservation and native plants, so November-April our twelve year-old garden underwent a much-needed overhaul. With professional help, the soil was amended, aggressive roots removed, invasive plants thinned out, plants with the same needs grouped together, and water-thirsty plants taken out of flower beds slated for lower water use. The presence of oak root fungus requires that less water be used. (The water company tells us that in four years we will all be required to reduce our water usage by 20%.) Much time and effort was devoted to the irrigation system and solutions have been found. Work to prevent sudden oak death is ongoing to insure that our most treasured assets are preserved. – *Caroline Landsbergen*

Finance & Development

Rental Events: Just when we thought we were at maximum, our talented manager Mark Perry proved to have other plans; we ended the year with 40 events and a record profit reaped. You can understand why we so appreciate Mark: his commitment to the excellent program he has developed for our Museum is why we have an outstanding reputation. He always takes special care of the facility and equipment and in handling client concerns.

After a review of our fees compared to other rental options, we raised our six year-old rates by 25%. Long overdue, it actually was *less* a total jump than if we'd raised them 3% each year for inflation. There has been no slowdown—in fact every Saturday next summer is already booked! We are looking forward to another very busy summer enjoying the fruits of Mark's labor. – *Jeanne Foerster*

From the PRESIDENT:

Dear Museum Friends,

Your Board of Directors is committed to ensuring that the Los Altos History Museum continues to be one of the finest small museums in California. 2012-13 was a busy year! The many accomplishments of the Board include the following:

- Board retreat focusing on fiduciary responsibility
- Revised mission statement that reflects who and what we are today, and for the future
- Four special event fundraisers, each led by a board member
- Formation of an ad hoc committee from the board to evaluate our fundraisers, followed by approval of that committee's recommendations
- Participation in the Annual Fund Campaign
- Adoption of a Long-Term Asset Reserve Policy as well as procedures pertaining to cash management
- Updated Board Member Roles & Responsibilities developed by the Nominating Committee
- Approval of the Storage Barn Project
- Development preparation for future fundraising
- Approved revisions to the Bylaws of the Association
- Participation on many committees such as special event fundraisers, facilities, exhibits, oral history, education, store, docents, finance, nominating, and collections

It has been my pleasure to serve as President of the Association this year. Working with our dynamic board, an outstanding staff, and the many members who support the Museum as volunteers and donors has been stimulating and rewarding. Together we can accomplish so much.

Many thanks,
Ginger Beman
President 2012-13

From the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

There is nothing like outside validation to prove that all the hard work, fundraising and effort expended by our talented team is paying off! In March, the Museum received the **Silicon Valley Water Conservation Award** for education, recognizing the impact of the *Shaped by Water* exhibition.

A recent California Association of Museums (CAM) survey gave us context in which to see how we are doing compared to other museums. Of California's 1,400 museums, half are like us: history museums and with budgets of \$500,000 or less. Within our peer group, we achieved:

- **Over twice the average attendance, and more than three times the K-12 students served!**
- **Three times the membership, and five times the dues paid... all while having free admission!**

We sincerely appreciate this tremendous showing of community support reflected in ranking so highly above our peers. But our goals are even higher. The communities of Los Altos/Hills deserve—and demand—the best, and we work toward that every day. Thank you, everyone, for an **award-winning year!**

- Laura Bajuk, E.D.

Thank You to Our Donors!

Over 600 people, organizations and businesses contributed to the Los Altos History Museum in membership, donations, sponsorships and in-kind gifts. Every gift made a difference—your support is essential, and so appreciated!

Corporate/Organization Gifts:

California Paint
Casto Roofing
CalWater
Los Altos Town Crier
Nothing Bundt Cakes!
The Restoration Studio
S.P. Retired Executives Club

Foundation Gifts:

Chizen Family Foundation
Geschke Family Fdtn.
Los Altos Community Fdtn.
The Somekh Family Fdtn.

Matching Gifts from:

BMO Harris Bank
IBM
Intel
Los Altos Rotary
David & Lucile Packard Fdtn.

Gifts in Honor of:

"all the volunteers"
Lois Adams
Gordon Ansley
Laura Bajuk
LouAnn Barr
Nan & Chuck Geschke
Marion Grimm
Dan & Olivia Haley
Lillian Hansen
Richard Lyman
Jim Thurber
"the hardworking people at the Museum"

Donor Honor Roll 2012-13

\$5,000 or more

ANONYMOUS
City of Los Altos
Nan & Chuck Geschke
Bob Grimm
Ed & Pamela Taft

\$1,000-2,500

Bob & Lois Adams
CalWater
Laura Bajuk & Doug Debs
Jerre & Nancy Hitz
Los Altos Community Fdtn.
Dean & LaVon Morton
Clyde & Lois Noel
Wells & Jean Richter
Barbara Rugtvi
Joe & Randee Seiger

\$500-999

Ted Birbilis
Peter & Patricia Castro
Jeanne & Paul Foerster
Liz and Jerry Gard
Paul & Ellen Gonella
Caroline & Peter Landsbergen
Los Altos Town Crier
Stephen & Robin MacDonald
Lou Mendel
Na Mamo No'eau
Liz & Paul Nyberg
Karen Purlich
Sande Stuart
Ginger & Roger Summit
Fritz & Nomi Trapnell

\$250-499

Martin & Joan Alter
Tom & Sheila Baker
Paula Beatty
Ginger & John Beman
Neil & Karen Bonke
Bebe & B.J. Cassin
Elayne & Phillip Dauber
Kamrin & Tony Desmond
Ann & Tom Foxen
Kristen Fuller
Marilyn & Bob Henderson
Richard & Caye Johnson
Chris & Webb McKinney
Kathy & Lee Lera
Mary E. McWilliams
Paul & Antje Newhagen
Patti and Phil Rose
Olga Wholey

\$100-249

Margaret Abe
Cathy & Steve Anderson
Dave & Marie Backs
Ian Band
Jimi & Ned Barnholt
Sue & John Becker
Larry & Carla Bjork
Gerry & Mardell Blaufarb
Carla Bottenfield & Jim Kermod
David Boyd
Bob and Irene Brown
Robert M. Brown
Tim & Darla Brown
Rita Bunge-Krackeler
Pedro & Diana Burchio
Mary-Carol & Nels Burdett
Wiley & Nancy Carter
Jane Challas
Coeta Chambers
Cam & Albert Chan
Bruce & Gail Chizen
Cindy Chu
Dean and Linda Clark
Diane & Bob Claypool
Jim & Frances Coburn
William & Claudia Coleman
Fred Costales
David & Ann Crockett
John & Stevie Day
Virginia Debs
Phyllis Dorricott
Nick Drago
Faith & Dick Duhring
Nick Duncel
Glen & Linda Eckols
Nancy Ellickson
Pam & Doug Ellsworth
Virginia Farthing
Jan Fong
Nancy & Stephen Gill
Don & Suzanne Gladstone
Hon Mai & Joseph Goodman
Barry & Irene Grenier
Waldo Griffin
Olivia & Dan Haley
Lawrence & Anne Hambly
Victoria Hambly
James & Arline Harper
Dana Haviland
Gary & Pat Hedden
Jack & Janice Heidmiller
Heritage Academy
Ed Hodges
William & Yvonne Jacobson
Christine Jeffers
Janet Jezek
Judie Johnson
Ben & Sylvia Johnson
Mady & Mel Kahn
Rory & Dan Kaplan
Armond & Marjorie King
Norm & Cathy Kordsmeier
Jackie & Paul Kuckein
Mary & Murray Kuperman

Bart and Elizabeth Lane
Peter & Sue LaTourrette
Penny & Roy Lave
Ginny & King Lear
Robert H. Lee
Wendell & Doris Lehr
George & Ann Limbach
Autumn Looijen & Stephen Heise
Elizabeth Lyman
Tim McClenahan
William & Marianne McDonnell
Joan & Al Merchant
Bill & Susan Miklos
Barbara & Jean Mordo
Terry Morrison
George & Dorothy Mulhern
Hank & Chris Nagao
Ann & Warren Nelson
Ann & Bud Oliver
Kris Olson-Potter
Duffy Price
Gene & Dianne Ravizza
Jane & John Reed
Pat & Bob Reed
Joe & Sandi Renati
Thomas & Joanna Reynolds
Pilar Richmond
Duane and Anne Roberts
Julie Rose
Kris & Denis Salmon
Norma Schroder & Tony Lima
Edward & Elizabeth Sesek
Pattie Sharrow
Steve & Bev Shepherd
Bob & Diane Simmons
Michael Singleton
Charles & Eleanor Six
Susie & Windell Smith
Robert & Candace Smith
Lenelle & David Smith
Idonna & Ed Snow
David & Jeanne Spaulding
Judd Stiff
Larry & Judie Suelzle
Margaret Thompson
Jim & Emy Thurber
Paul & Karen Van Buren
Donna & Edward Vocke
Barbara & Gary Waldeck
Pinky Whelan
Patti & Ed White
Robert Wilhelm
Audrey Williams
Don & Kay Willoughby
Nona Wittlinger
Richard Zalisk
Lucy & Dan Zemanek

From our records as of Sept. 2013.