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- individual \$25
- family \$45
- contributor \$50 or more
- business or organization \$100
- business or organization lifetime \$1,000
- senior individual \$20
- senior family \$35
- lifetime \$400 or more

Number of **new** SHS friends I enrolled: (circle) 1 2 3 4
more? _____

Please return to: SHS • POB 61301 • Sunnyvale, CA 94088



P. O. Box 61301
Sunnyvale, CA 94088

To Our Readers:

Information and/or stories from family history are welcome. Forward them by the **15th of each month** for publication to:

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Sunnyvale, CA 94087
weproduce@aol.com (e-mail)

This newsletter is published monthly for Society members and friends.

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Museum location and hours:

235 California Avenue
Sunnyvale, CA 94088
408-749-0220

Tuesdays & Thursdays
12:00 p.m. — 3:30 p.m.
Sundays • 1:00 p.m. — 4:00 p.m.
FREE ADMISSION

Board of Directors meet on the first
Monday of each month at the
Murphy Park Building.

www.heritageparkmuseum.org

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Sunnyvale Historical Society and Museum Association

SEPTEMBER 2008

Heritage Park Museum Grand Opening!

Saturday • September 27, 2008
12:00 p.m. — 4:00 p.m. • Ceremony at 12:15 p.m.
Sunnyvale Community Center
550 E. Remington Drive • Sunnyvale



What a wonderful journey!

We are in our final month of installing and setting up all the exhibits for the new museum and what a huge job it is! With most everyone working seven days a week now it is coming together very nicely. There may be a few empty walls at the grand opening but also a multitude of exhibits to see and appreciate. Our sincere thank yous this month go to: **Julia Miller** for sponsorship of a Murphy oil painting, to **Juniper Networks** and **John Vidovitch family** for exhibit grants, and to **Tony Baig of Femex Builders** for tearing down the cinder block wall that hid our gorgeous new building. The City will install a new black iron fence shortly.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize some very hard working people on this

project. With the blessing of the Society, I formed the Museum Team in the summer of 2002 and we held our first event, the kick-off dinner, on October 14 of that year. My eternal thanks go out to this extraordinary team: **Liam Balfe, Bobbie Birnie, Sonja Blank, Bud Callahan, Jan Camp, Pat Castillo, Howard Chuck, Pete Contostavlos, Alice Freund, Edward Grady, Joan Hill, Mary Johnson, Ruth Johnson, Elisabeth Koning, Margaret Lawson, Leslie Lawton, Dianne McKenna, Mike Malone, Kent Robertson, Mary Sievert, Elizabeth Steward, Todd Storti, Hal Svendsen, Linda Taaffe** and **Jane Vaughan**. This group of volunteers has been meeting every month for the past six years. Now that is dedicated volunteerism!

Besides helping out on every event, fundraiser, publication, grant applications galore, signs, planning details, budget issues, construction details, business plans, speaking engagements, or doing press releases, neither their dedication nor belief in the

Visit our Web Site: www.heritageparkmuseum.org

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project has ever wavered. To highlight just a few of many: **Kent Robertson** has served as CFO the entire time keeping our money records spotless (all \$2.9 million). **Pat Castillo** has been my right hand and guide, my assistant and advisor. **Hal Svendsen** has kept all brick and tile records, **Mary Johnson** has filmed many of the events, **Alice Freund** has coordinated the art restoration project, **Jane Vaughan** has done all CCHE budget and billings as well as construction advisor, **Leslie Lawton** has written hundreds of thank you letters to every single supporter, **Howard Chuck** has done everything from printing to AV support and beyond, **Jan Camp** and **Elisabeth Koning**, my cheerful "action" members for any task asked of them, **Todd Storti** for supplying workers and in-kind services for construction, **Ed Grady** for setting up our fundraising strategy and plans, **Bud Callahan**, our very own carpenter, **Ruth Johnson** for taking on the children's program, **Margaret Lawson** for doing the walk-a-thons and Murphy House dinner raffle events, **Mary Sievert** and **Elizabeth Steward** for advice and guidance in getting us started, **Linda Taaffe** for her many hours of writing details and press releases, **Bobbie Birnie** and **Elisabeth Koning** for accepting the challenge of setting up a gift shop, **Mike Malone** and **Dianne McKenna** as advisors throughout, and the list goes on and on. **Howard Chuck** and his daughter **Iris** even traveled to Sacramento to assist in our CCHE grant proposal. Each person was heavily involved and each contribution made us the success we have become. I am proud to call each and every one of them friends for life.

Behind every step of the Team, was a fantastic Board of Directors cheering us on and supporting us in every way possible. From the four presidents throughout this project's life: **Janice Havey**, **Elisabeth Koning**, **Rosa Romano** and **Rose Kausek**, and to all other members over the years, I sincerely thank you for giving me your vote of confidence to run with the project. Your knowledge of history and sincere desire to make it happen made all the difference in the world. So many people on our Board of Directors have "labels" or positions. However, that does not begin to describe what jobs they cheerfully accepted and accomplished. I'll use one person as an example—**Johan Koning**. His official position is Treasurer. However, he also serves in an unofficial capacity as computer specialist, scanner of every old photograph and document in the collection, heavy object mover, restorer of cases, shelf builder, keeper of the keys, equipment researcher, database designer, and more. So many of our volunteers serve in these multiple positions.

It is impossible to list and thank each Society volunteer throughout the years who kept this dream alive but we thank them all. From **Jan Camp** who took on the presidency for over six years, to **Chiyo Winters** who served as volunteer curator for over 20 years, to **Elisabeth and Johan Koning** who computerized and organized our files, and our many docents who proudly showed the public what items we could display in our small room at Murphy Park. Their contributions have been enormous!

Architect—what can we say about **Joe Gutierrez** that has not been felt or seen by the entire Society over the years? His outstanding support has been long standing. He was instrumental in getting the orchard section of the Community Center designated as Orchard Heritage Park and then began the OHPIE project in 1994, continuing through the Bianchi Barn relocation and, of course, served as architect for our new museum building. He does not just serve as architect, but guides all of us volunteers throughout each project. Joe is truly an Architect Extraordinaire!



Elisabeth Koning explaining the finer points of the museum's interior doorways.

Throughout the six years of this project, we also lost some very, very dear friends who were some of our strongest cheerleaders. **Bud Callahan** served on the Museum Team for four years before passing away in 2007. He cheerfully built signs for us, built packaging crates for priceless artwork, restored antique ice chests, made models of the Bianchi barn and everything else involving wood. Bud was our very own carpenter who we miss dearly! **Jack Rowe**, the savior and champion of the Bessey/Echophone Radio story whose initial research allowed **Ben Koning** to complete the story. With Jack's heart of gold, he failed completely on being the curmudgeon that he claimed to be. The same goes for our special ladies who we have lost in recent years. **Margaret Maletis**, who co-chaired the children's program for many years, **Betty Petersen**, a long-time board member who never missed an opportunity to say "job well done" to everyone, **Lillian Pang**, former president and cheerful hostess of numerous garage sales over the years, and of



Original Martin Murphy, Jr. house

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Become a Docent

If you would like to be a part of our new museum, consider becoming a docent. It's a terrific way to learn about Sunnyvale's rich history and give back to your community. Please contact Rosa Romano, Chairperson Docent Recruitment and Training at 408-541-0915 or email her at rsquaredca@aol.com.

Remembering the Month of September

- September 4, 1899** — Encina School opened its doors.
- September 10, 1995** — President Bill Clinton and Vice President Albert Gore, Jr. visit Sunnyvale.
- September 14, 1969** — Martin Murphy Jr. Park established.
- September 19, 1961** — City Council voted to pull down the Murphy House by a 4 to 3 vote.
- September 28, 1961** — Murphy house pulled down.
- September 27, 2008** — A re-creation of the Martin Murphy, Jr. house is dedicated as the new home of the Sunnyvale Historical Society. Now known as the Heritage Park Museum located at the Sunnyvale Community Center.

Chiyo Winters

With the space race accelerating after the Soviet Sputnik I launch, President Eisenhower signed the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) into existence on July 29, 1958.

"We may find that the road to lasting peace truly lies through the stars," said Senate Majority Leader, Lyndon Johnson.

By 2008, NASA has launched over 100 manned spaceflights and has made discoveries that have led to improved highway safety, medical technology and intensive care monitors.

AND ...

America's first women's rights convention was held in Seneca Falls, New York, July 19-20, 1848. Organizers issued a list of grievances, from disenfranchisement to unfair child custody laws, and resolved to demand equality. Their declaration was met largely with derision — *"Where, gentlemen, will be our dinners?"* asked the Oneida Whig newspaper — and it was another 72 years before the 19th Amendment gave women the vote.

Did You Know?



GARAGE SALE

Saturday
Oct. 18 • 8 am
795 South Wolfe Road
Contact the Museum:
408.749.0220

WIN A PRIVATE DINNER AT THE NEW MUSEUM

The winning raffle ticket will be drawn at the dedication of our new museum on September 17 at 3:45 p.m. (you do not have to be present to win). Tickets are only \$20 each (tax deductible) and the winner will be able to invite five guests for a private and elegantly catered dinner in the museum's dining room. Purchase tickets from Anne Stewart via email at annestewart@toyotasunnyvale.com or by calling the Sunnyvale Historical Society at 408-749-0220.



Distinguished Volunteer Fundraiser Honored

Not just anyone can assume the role of a volunteer determined to raise almost \$3 million in six years and build a historical museum. It takes tenacity, 24/7 dedication, management skills, great people skills, a warm and mellow sense of humor, the quality of never accepting no for an answer, and most of all, a supportive husband! Laura Babcock possesses all of those skills and many more, and for all her hard work is being recognized as Distinguished Volunteer Fundraiser by the Silicon Valley Philanthropy Group. She will be honored at a luncheon on November 17 (which also happens to be her birthday!)

Laura, every one of your team members, as well as the citizenry of Sunnyvale, want to congratulate you. This great accomplishment could never have been completed without you. You are a great example to us of someone who had a vision, grabbed onto it and didn't stop until the dream was complete. On behalf of all of us, thank you so very much! We are so proud of our new Sunnyvale Historical Society Heritage Park

Museum, but most of all we are very grateful for all your devotion and dedication to this project. We salute you on being recognized as the Distinguished Volunteer Fundraiser.

Leslie Lawton

President's Letter

Dear Members,

Our excitement is building (no pun intended)! There are only a few more days until the opening of our brand new museum on Saturday, September 27 at 12:00 p.m. Please mark your calendars; you don't want to miss this historic event in Sunnyvale. Our museum team manager extraordinaire, Laura Babcock, has written a great article in this newsletter about this very special occasion.

The museum was many years in the making. All the fundraisers that many of you participated in have finally come to fruition. *Thank you for your generous support!* We have a beautiful new museum for you to enjoy and share with your family, friends, and the rest of the community. You will now have a fun and exciting place to take your out-of-town relatives when they come to visit. You will have an opportunity to learn about Sunnyvale's rich history. I guarantee there will be many surprises.

Our new museum opens up new possibilities for you to become more involved as a volunteer. We have a variety of opportunities so whatever your talents, we can find a match for them. We are looking for volunteers to help catalog our many artifacts, books, photos, and to join in the school programs. We can benefit from the assistance of researchers, visitor escorts, special event planners, meeting coordinators, gardeners, handypersons, archivists, grant writers, data entry helpers, and gift shop clerks. Our upcoming Holiday Teas will benefit from the help of tea servers, bakers, and sandwich makers.

We wholeheartedly invite you to join us at the following events:

Saturday, September 27, 12:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.

Grand Opening and Dedication of the Heritage Park Museum. Join us for a tour of the Museum and lots of fun activities. Don't forget to purchase tickets for the *Private, Elegant Dinner Raffle*; drawing to be held at 3:45 pm.

Monday, October 6, 7:00 p.m.

Sunnyvale Historical Society General Meeting. This will be our first meeting in the new museum. We will keep it short, making a few announcements and talking about the dedication; then we will let our members take a leisurely look at our new museum. Everyone is invited.

Saturday, October 18 • Semi-annual Garage Sale. Please start saving up items to donate for the sale. If you would like to help out, please join us early on Saturday morning. (See details elsewhere in this newsletter.)

Saturday, December 6 and Sunday December 7 and again on **Saturday, December 13 and Sunday, December 14** we will hold our first **Holiday Teas** in the museum. We are looking for donations of fancy teacups and saucers, silver teapots, silver coffee pots, and ladies fancy handkerchiefs. Please contact us if you have any of these items to donate.

With warmest regards,
Rose Kausek

course, our dear **Ann Zarko**, who was our own "walking/talking historian." Between **Ann** and our present in-house historian, **Chiyo Winters**, both lifelong Sunnyvale residents, we never have to look anything up in a book. Just ask one of them and they know the answers. To all those we have lost, we miss you.

Through this project, I have also grown to fully appreciate our unique but special relationship with the **City Council** and **City Staff**. Their collective and individual support and enthusiasm for this museum has been a treasure to receive. From the Council it was constant votes of support and always positive encouragement. From the Staff, it was everything from formatting our comprehensive agreement to going through the permit process, with a multitude of small but important issues in between. We interacted with most every city department—**Public Works, Planning, Fire Marshal, City Attorney's office, City Manager's office, Public Safety, Finance**, and others. But our almost daily interaction was with the **Department of Parks and Recreation**. They have assisted and supported us throughout this project over and above any job requirement. With pleasant smiles and positive attitudes, they are there whether it was a large or small issue. They consistently worked with us to address each situation and our end product shows that attention to detail. We thank all of you for the cooperative spirit this project was granted.

Our extended community joined our efforts throughout this project. Many of you gave artifacts and old photos, many of you were

funding supporters, and many, many smaller businesses gave in-kind services. It was fitting that our two oldest corporations in the city—**Lockheed Martin** and **Northrop Grumman** were our first two corporate sponsors. Our long time orchard families came through with many hundreds of old photos and artifacts from early Sunnyvale. Smaller businesses, such as **Beacon Lighting**, came through with help in restoration of the Murphy candelabras, **Tony Baig of Femex Builders** who took down the cinder block wall, **Molscan Electric, Kuehne Construction** for other projects, **Flo Stafford** for providing storage space, the **Chamber of Commerce** for giving us meeting space and, of course, our **Murphy descendant family, the Taaffe Excavation Co.** for preparing the building site. Our largest community contribution was the many, many of you who purchased bricks and tiles for our commemorative walk into the museum. We sincerely thank all of you for joining our efforts so readily.



The grand piano today in its new home.

Over the past six years, I have learned more about construction, fundraising and exhibit design than I cared to. It was a huge project with many challenges but also a very rewarding one. As I end my tenure as chair of the project, I feel completely comfortable in turning this beautiful building over to a very competent group of leaders and doers. This Society has been in existence for more than 50 years and with a new home to showcase its work, it will succeed for at least the next 150 years. It may take a village to raise a child, but it takes an entire community to save its history for future generations. Please take the time to join us in doing just that. Become a member and volunteer whenever you can. Just a few hours a month makes a world of difference.

Thank you all for your continuing and outstanding support. I personally hope each of you are as proud of your sponsorship and involvement as we were honored to receive it!

Laura Babcock



Original Martin Murphy, Jr. living room with the grand piano in the center.

Timeline and Fundraisers



Unveiling the portrait of Martin Murphy, Jr.

Timeline ...

- October 14, 2002 Project Kick-Off
- September 2007 Construction Funds Raised
- November 2007 Construction Begins
- May 2008 Construction Ends
- September 2007 Exhibit Planning Begins
- June 2008 Exhibit Installation Begins
- September 27, 2008 Grand Opening of Heritage Park Museum



IN THE BEGINNING ...



Disassembling the Bianchi barn for relocation.



The Bianchi barn in its new location.



The barn dance celebration.



Walk-A-Thons



OCTOBERFESTS

Brick and Tile Sales

