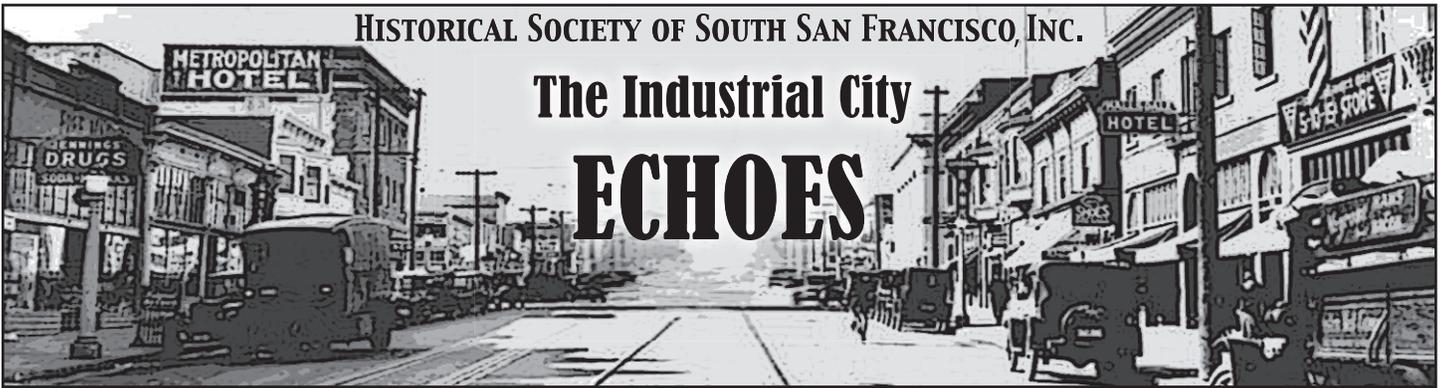


# The Industrial City ECHOES



www.ssf.net/history

Newsletter No. 134 - June 2016

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## Program for June General Meeting

June 20 2016, 7:00 pm

Magnolia Senior Center, 601 Grand Avenue, South San Francisco

JOIN THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY in a walk down memory lane as Board Member Ray Yoshack presents his curated collection of 40 photographs of South San Francisco taken in the early-to-mid 1980s. Many of the sites are no longer in existence. This is an audience participation presentation... let's see how many sites you recognize and what details we can add to our collective history.



*This program is free and open to members and non-members.*

*Refreshments will be served after the program*

## 2016 Calendar

June 20	General Meeting
July 18	Board Meeting
July 23, 24, 30, 31	Victorian Tea
August 15	Board Meeting
September 15	Chamber Mixer
September 19	General Meeting
October 17	Board Meeting
October 21	Annual Awards Dinner
November 21	Board Meeting
December 19	General Meeting

General meetings are held at:  
Magnolia Center, 601 Grand Ave. - 7:00 p.m.

Board Meetings are held at:  
Society Museum, 80 Chestnut Ave. - 7:00 p.m.

*Members are welcome to Board Meetings.  
Members and non-members are welcome  
to General Meetings.*



### Attention Cookie Brigade



Please remember to bring a batch of your favorite homemade cookies on June 20th.

*Many Thanks!*



There's another way to find out what's going on with the South San Francisco Historical Society.

Follow us on Facebook

## Announcement

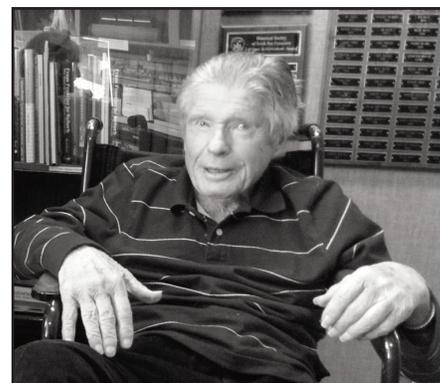
*ALL MEMBERS...the Plymire-Schwarz House will be hosting its first South San Francisco Chamber of Commerce Mixer on Thursday, September 15, 2016 from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.*

*All members of the Society are invited and encouraged to attend.*

## Museum Accessions/Acquisitions

- **Bob Payne:** Elks Lodge 2091 Exalted Ruler Lapel Pin worn by Sylvia Warnes, lodge's first female ER.
- **Rena Donati:** Dogwood oil painting by Rena Donati, Cultural Arts Commissioner.
- **Vernan Raymond:** Edison Electric Toaster (c 1914) and Electrahot Toaster (date unknown).
- **Steve Rozzi & Doris DeSantos:** Memorabilia related to former SSF Councilman and Mayor Guido Rozzi, serving 1956-1968, including letters of recognition and congratulatory telegrams from state and national elected officials. Numerous photographs of dedication of Boys Club with former President Herbert Hoover (1961); and Boys Club/PAL's first bulletin.
- **Richard & Virginia Gogna:** RCA Radio Phonograph & Cabinet (c 1930s).
- **Dorothy Buhagiar:** 12-Mile House leather sleeved athletic jacket worn by George Coulter (Dorothy's father).
- **Mike Martinelli:** YMI Council #32 photographs of local picnics and dinner celebrations; US Navy uniform worn by Mike Martinelli Sr; Mike's Barbershop photo (c 1950) located on Grand Avenue, and PAL recognition plaque (1959) to Mike's Barbershop; YMI Grand Council presented to Chris Ramos for serving 1955-58.
- **Sylvia Payne:** Video recording of 3/21/16 Historical Society program speaker Eugene Mullin on family history related to SSF. Soroptimist In'l North San Mateo County cookbook, Family and Friends (2016).
- **Christine Bianucci:** Photograph of Grand Avenue Western Days Parade (200 block) held 5/19/1940.
- **Carol Rozzi:** Enterprise Journal and San Mateo Times newspaper clippings and articles related to Rue Clifford, All Souls Fire, SSF Fire Department and City Hall.
- **Bob Brian:** SSFHS varsity statistics (1955-2001); Baseball Test; Baseball Alumni 1955-2001 lists; Blanket & Hustle Award info; "Bob Brian Chronicles", and Warrior Hall of Fame artifacts.
- **Jim Seubert:** Al Seubert (1916-2006) collection of photograph albums, slides and videos, and information related to Sign Hill (1970s – 1990s), including Al's Mister Sign Hill jacket that he proudly wore.
- **Donna Sweet:** Proclamation given to her parents Irene & Art Fox (City's first fire marshal); Scrapbook belonging to Irene Fox, and a Kaiser Hospital cookbook (1963).
- **Evelyn Martin:** White electric sewing machine (c. 1930s), and 16 large scale photographs taken by Evelyn of California locations.
- **SSF Scavenger Co.:** Aerial photo of SSF, 55"x55" (c. 1990s).
- **Eleonore Fourie:** Photograph of Reichhold Chemicals, Inc., Linden Avenue (1952); newsletter article on Henry H. Reichhold (1989); San Bruno Herald newspaper articles on moving historic sidewalk; Crocker Citizens Bank employee photo (1958); and SSF High School yearbook (1931).

## Chestnut Museum Donation



BOB BRIAN, 90, was a baseball coach at South San Francisco High School from 1955-2001. He was Frosh-Soph baseball coach from 1955-1958. Then Varsity coach 1959-2001. He was inducted into the American Baseball Coach's Hall of Fame in 1996, inducted into the San Mateo County Sports Hall of Fame and named California Coach of the Year in 1998. In October, 2014, he was inducted into the SSF High School Hall of Fame.

Coach Brian recently donated team records, performance statistics, copies of baseball exams and an autobiography of himself to the Chestnut Museum. These items are available at the museum. He still resides in South San Francisco with his wife, Lee.

### Thank you!!! Historical Society & Plymire-Schwarz House Donations

Donors: Mary Anderson,  
Paul & Julie Formosa,  
Patricia Hatfield,  
Valerie Lambertson,  
Karl M. Rolih,  
Vi and Ken Weber

### New Member

Daniel Baker

## Message from Historical Society President

*The calm before the storm is over. Now the Victorian Tea Committee and the Banquet Committee will get busy for these events. Since Mary and Valerie have "sort of" retired from obtaining our many, many raffle prizes for the banquet, we are asking for any kind of assistance in getting raffle prizes for the banquet. We have provided a list of previous restaurants, businesses, etc. who have donated raffle prizes in the past. PLEASE, if you frequent any of these locations and can obtain the raffle prize, we would sure appreciate it! We do have a form letter that is given to the donors. If you can be of help, please let me know. Anyway, let's enjoy our summer.*

— Ginny



### In Memory

**Gary Arbasetti**

**John Cardoza**

**Lino Edward "Hammy" Farina**

**Phyllis Feudale**

**Bertha Iskra**

**Albert R. Pickett**

**John Cardoza**

Surprise, AZ  
6/23/1926 – 1/1/2016



Long time Society member John Cardoza passed away on January 1. John graduated from SSF High in 1944; thereafter, signed up with the US Navy and served in WWII, returned home, only to be recalled during the Korean War. After being discharged, John went to work for Guy F. Atkinson, mostly building river dams throughout the world. John would occasionally send an email to the Society with a patriotic story or reminisce about life in South City. John's good friend and classmate is Society member, Karl Rolih of Georgia, who emailed to let us know about John's passing.



### Memorial Donations

**Eugene & Doris Aiello**

Donor: Peter Eschelbach

**Pauline Christensen**

Donor: Robbie Huerta

**Darold E. Fredricks**

Donor: Margaret Fredricks

**Mark O'Kennon**

Donors: Richard and Marion Bordi,  
Ginny and Jerry Tilton

**Rick Ochsenhirt**

Donors: Richard and Marion Bordi,  
Robert Giorgi

**Ranny R. Raquel**

Donors: Sandra Bianchi,  
David & Margie Casagrande,  
Leo & Jacqueline Dal Porto,  
Douglas and Lynn Dunlop,  
Michael and Victoria Healy,

Ed & Lou Nunez,  
The Schubothe Family  
Ginny and Jerry Tilton

**Guido & Helen Rozzi**

Donors: Steve Rozzi and Doris DeSantis

**Barbara Santini**

Donor: Rudolph Santini

**Giordano Tassan**

Donor: Robert Giorgi

### The Annual Dinner Raffle Committee Needs Your Help!

This year's Historical Society Annual Awards dinner is on Friday, October 21, 2016. If you frequent great local restaurants, could you please ask for a donation of a gift certificate for our annual fundraiser?

Contact Valerie Sommer, 650-829-3872, for a copy of the annual appeal letter.

These are some of the restaurants that we have received gift certificates from in the past:

Amoura; Antigua Café;  
Basque Cultural Center;  
Bertolucci's; BJ's;  
Boulevard Café; Buon Gusto;  
Cheesecake Factory;  
Di Napoli's; Elephant Bar;  
Five Guys; Gunter's;  
Flacas Jamaican Grill;  
Grand Palace; Houlihan's;  
IHOP; Jack's; Joanne's;  
South Harbor; And More!

Feel free to add your favorite restaurant to this list. Your assistance is much appreciated.

Thanks!  
Valerie Sommer



## Armstrong Brewing Company Hosts Historical Society Fundraiser



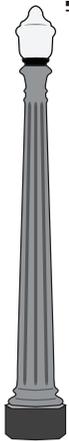
**Date:** Saturday, June 25, 2016

**Time:** 4:00-10:00 PM

**Place:** Armstrong Brewing Company  
415 Grand Avenue  
South San Francisco

**W**elcome Armstrong Brewing Company to South San Francisco! Armstrong has offered to hold a fundraiser for the Historical Society on Saturday June 25, 4-10 pm. The brewery's walls will be decorated with historic SSF photographs, bringing life to the old Fraternal Hall Building located at 415 Grand Avenue. So please join us on June 25th, tell your friends about this fundraiser, and about Armstrong Brewing Company.

To read Armstrong's history,  
its beers and menu visit:  
<http://armstrongbrewing.com>



## Plymire-Schwarz House Chamber Mixer

The Plymire House will be hosting its first South San Francisco Chamber of Commerce Mixer. It will be held on Thursday, September 15, 2016, 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. All members of the Society are invited and encouraged to attend. It will give the members an opportunity to meet and mingle with the local business leaders in South San Francisco. It will also give members a chance to see the most recent updates that have been done to the upstairs bedroom, the Bride's Room and the upstairs hallway. It looks wonderful!

Because this is our first Chamber Mixer, we want to put our 'best foot' forward. So we will need docents to introduce the Plymire House to its guests. We will also need an assortment of finger foods. All volunteers can call Roy Bava at (650) 583-8172 or email at [rbava@yahoo.com](mailto:rbava@yahoo.com). You can also call the Plymire House (650) 875-6988 and leave a message. The House is also open every Wednesday from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

The parking can be a challenge around the Plymire House. Some parking will be available at Magnolia Center (601 Grand Avenue). We are also trying to get permission from All Souls Church in order to use some of their parking lot. Car pooling would be advisable.

Thank you for your cooperation. I hope to see everyone on Thursday, September 15, 2016.

Roy Bava

Plymire-Schwarz Steering Committee Director

## Program Ideas

Do you have slides, photos, artifacts or interesting stories about South San Francisco. Share your family or business history. Contact the Historical Society at 650-829-3825.

## Historical Society Museum

If you are looking for a gift, consider visiting the museum at 80 Chestnut Avenue. There are pins remembering SSF events, T-shirts, books on local history, postcards and more. Come and see what there is to see about our city.

## Donations

Donation envelopes are available at the PS House and the museum. Any donation is welcome. Memorial donations will be listed in the newsletter.

Donations can also be targeted and are much appreciated to offset the printing of the newsletter. *Thank you!*

# The Wind Harp

*Historical Article by Jacquelyne Kious, Historical Society Member*

What famous SSF sculpture, created by world renowned artists Lucia and Aristides Demetrios, is made from steel that was manufactured at the Bethlehem Steel plant in SSF?

Originally called the Cabot, Cabot and Forbes Tower when constructed in 1967 to serve as the focal point for the vast industrial park, the aeolian harp has become better known as simply the Wind Harp. A 1965 newspaper article quoted Demetrios as saying he chose the design to take advantage of the hilltop view and the light patterns made by the sun as it moves across the sky.

The site of the sculpture, which can be seen from San Francisco and the east bay, became quite a popular meeting place over the years. The sculpture got its nickname from the many visitors who have climbed the steep hill to see the towering sculpture and the amazing views. The almost eerie humming sounds that can be heard as the wind blows through the sculpture, prompted people to start calling it the Wind Harp.

The City of South San Francisco acquired the property and the sculpture in 1995. Local businesses donated funds to renovate the site which included turning the hilltop into a public park and adding lighting, benches, landscaping, and a sign at the entrance on Grandview at the center of the Genentech campus.

While aeolian harps come in many sizes and shapes; the Wind Harp is one of the world's largest at 92 feet tall and 243 feet above sea level. The aeolian harp originated in ancient Greece around 6 B.C. Named after Aeolus, the Greek god of the wind, it is a passive instrument played by the movement of the wind distinguishing it from other musical instruments as the sound is random rather than composed. Aeolian harps are traditionally not as monumental in scale as ours. Most are designed for private gardens and are a cousin to the wind chime.

Aristides Burton Demetrios is the son of a classical sculptor who trained under a student of Rodin. His first major recognition was the design for a fountain on the Stanford University campus and sculptures located on the grounds of the County Courthouse in Sacramento and at the entrance to the Monterey Bay Aquarium.



*Photo by Billy Hustace*

## Streets Alive at Orange Park



The SSF Historical Society participated in Streets Alive at Orange Park on May 5th with a pictorial and information booth. Society president, Ginny Tilton (pictured with Sylvia Payne above) reported that it was a good out-reach opportunity for the Society. On right, members Susan Kennedy (l) and Sharon Ranals (r) were also working the event.



### Historical Society Dues Were Due on December 31st.

**Thank you to all who have renewed your membership!**

*If you have not renewed or want to become a new member please fill out this form and mail with check made out to:*

*South San Francisco Historical Society,  
80 Chestnut Avenue, So. San Francisco, CA 94080*

Name/Names/Corporation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student . . . \$5.00   | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual . . . . \$15.00 . |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family . . . . \$20.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter . . . . \$25.00    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate . . \$100.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership . \$500.00   |



# The Industrial City ECHOES

Historical Society of South San Francisco, Inc.  
80 Chestnut Avenue  
South San Francisco, CA 94080

NON-PROFIT  
Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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San Bruno, CA  
Permit No. 750

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

## South San Francisco Historical Society

### Board of Directors

President ..... Ginny Tilton  
First Vice President ..... Sam Bonanno  
Second Vice President ..... Sylvia Payne  
Recording Secretary ..... Cisca Hansen  
Treasurer ..... Julie Chimenti  
Financial Secretary ..... Donna Smith

### 2014-2016 Directors

Jeanette Acosta, Michael Calbreath,  
Robbie Huerta, Valerie Sommer, William Zemke

### 2015-2017 Directors

Lynn Boldenweck, Dave Casagrande, Victoria Morales Healy,  
Gloria Lagomarsino, Lois Mares

### Ex Officio Members

Roy Bava, Diana Ferrari, Mary Giusti, Bertha Iskra,  
Sylvia Payne, Ray Yoschak

### Plymire-Schwarz Steering Committee

Director: Roy Bava

Jeanette Acosta, Rose Bava, Louise Brusco, Julie Chimenti,  
Elizabeth Ervin, Phyllis Feudale, Mary Giusti, Robbie Huerta,  
Bertha Iskra, Ray Yoschak

### Museum Directors

Elizabeth Ervin and Sylvia Payne

*The SSF Historical Society is co-sponsored by the SSF Parks & Recreation Dept. It is through the City's generosity that many of the Society's goals are accomplished.*

## Contact & Location Information

### Chestnut Avenue Museum

80 Chestnut Avenue  
650-829-3825  
Tues & Thurs (2-4:00 p.m.) and  
2nd & 4th Saturdays (1-3:00 p.m.)  
Museum Committee Co-Chairs:  
Elizabeth Ervin & Sylvia Payne  
Office Hours: Weds (10-2:00 p.m.)  
Please call if you are interested  
in volunteering at the museum.

### Historical Society of South San Francisco, Inc.

80 Chestnut Avenue  
South San Francisco, CA 94080

### History Room / Grand Avenue Branch Library

306 Walnut Avenue  
650-877-8533  
Thurs (2-4:00 p.m.) or by  
appointment

### Plymire-Schwarz House

519 Grand Avenue  
650-875-6988  
Wednesdays (2-4:00 p.m.)  
Director: Roy Bava

## Memberships Expire December 31

Membership runs on a calendar year expiring annually  
on December 31st.  
Membership is \$15.00 per person - \$20 per family.  
If you are interested in becoming a new member contact  
the museum at 650-829-3825 or  
Mail your check to:  
South San Francisco Historical Society  
80 Chestnut Avenue  
South San Francisco, CA 94080

ECHOES: 650-829-3825 • [ssfhistorical@gmail.com](mailto:ssfhistorical@gmail.com)  
Layout & Design: Gloria Lagomarsino • [amgraphics25@yahoo.com](mailto:amgraphics25@yahoo.com)