



RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

Santa Clara County Chapter 031 Newsletter

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*An Association of CalPERS Annuitants committed to the goal of helping all
public employees maintain their physical and economic health during retirement*

***NEXT MEETING – April 24th at Elks
Lodge – 444 Alma Ave., San Jose, CA***

**Pre-Paid Buffet Lunch at 11:15 – No admission
before 11:15am.** The flyer for the April lunch
was enclosed in the March newsletter (payment
due date has been changed to April 17. May
lunch flyer is enclosed in this newsletter. June
Picnic flyer will be enclosed in May newsletter.

***Admission for members attending only the
meeting will be at 12:15 pm.***

Meeting will begin at 12:30 pm.

GETTING STARTED with GENEALOGY

**DAVID MCCREADY, PRESIDENT OF
the SANTA CLARA CO. HISTORICAL
and GENEALOGY SOCIETY**

By Mary Mitchell



Mr. McCready is a retired educator from the East Side Union School District where he spent 38 years working with teenagers.

After retirement, he began researching Family History {Genealogy}. He has been actively researching for the last 15 years. As a volunteer worker for his SCCHGS, he has co-educated classes as part of the society's program.

His presentation will be on genealogy and how to get started, and will include some resources to help you discover your family's roots.

It should be a very interesting presentation and I am looking forward to it.

A VERY WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Following are the names of new members – Karen Barba, Jacquelyn Cantu, Tomi Ramsour, Maria Vaqueiro, Ann Wagner, Cathy Weeks, Karey Wilhoite, and Ken Wilhoite.

Welcome Everyone!

IN MEMORIAM: Our deepest sympathy to the families and loved ones of Howard Couch, Lynn Leaupepetele, Donald Marceau, Lorna Norbeck, Ellen O'Carroll, Chester Simpson, Genevieve Talavera, and Phyllis Ward.

They will truly be missed.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY INFORMATION DESK

Thank you to the following members who staffed the Information Desk in March: Lupe Aguilar, Linda Baum, Mary Chaboya, Gloria Courtney, Connie Jimenez, Sara De Leon, Sue Farr, Judy Frey, Lydia Gonzales, Bob Hagele, Tom Heim, Laura Levin, Brian Mark, Sherrill Martinez, Kathy Miller, Mary Mitchell, Janet Motha, Gerri Nedley, Thu Nguyen, John Avery Palmer, Jean Platner, Carolyn Walsh, and Cathy Weisbrich.



THE HISTORY CORNER

Marianne Damon, RPEA Chapter 031 Historian LUNCH and TWO BITES of HISTORY

When was the last time you visited downtown San Jose? It doesn't matter, because things are changing all the time and there is always something new to see. Mary Mitchell, our newsletter editor and photographer, hadn't been back to her old workplace neighborhood for about four years, and was surprised by the changes. She used to take sequestered juries to lunch at Manny's Cellar, which has now been re-converted back to the historic Fallon House. She noted that many of the businesses have changed hands and was amazed at the pace of high-rise construction. We started our day with a drive to San Pedro Square, where we wound our way up the parking garage ramp to the very top. What a view! That itself is worth the price of parking! We pointed out the various places where we used to work, and the houses that are creeping up the hills and onto the ridgetops.

Taking the elevator down to ground level, we walked across the street to San Pedro Square Market. The Market consists of two huge buildings containing stalls with almost any type of food and drink you could want, with a courtyard between them. There is also an old-fashioned barber shop, a gift store, and a few other fun stores. We wandered through both buildings pondering all of the choices. We had just decided to split up, get something from the different buildings and meet outside to eat in the courtyard when...we saw a sign for a salmon-mango-avocado poki bowl. We ate inside amongst a hip, young work-lunching crowd. Outside in the courtyard is the Peralta Adobe. Schoolchildren were touring and having fun dressing up on the adobe's porch, paying no attention to the growing lunch crowd. We stopped to read the interpretive signs about the history of the Peralta Adobe and the Fallon House, located just across the street.

The story of the Peralta Adobe begins with the second de Anza Expedition. Juan Bautista de Anza had asked, and received royal permission from Spain, to try and find an easier land route to California. After 200 years since Cabrillo claimed the land for Spain, it was high time to start establishing a presence. Although Gaspar de Portola, along with Fra Serra & Fra Crespi, had established presidios and missions up to Los Angeles, the land route was nearly impossible and

provision by sea was costly and dangerous. The first de Anza expedition was successful, and he was able to mount a second expedition during which he indicated sites for both the later Mission Santa Clara de Asis and for El Pueblo de San Jose de Guadalupe. He had left his expedition colonists in Monterey during this time in 1776, and some of them, led by Jose Joaquin Moraga, very quickly moved to these sites, as they were tasked with farming to supply food for the San Francisco and Monterey presidios. Upon their arrival on November 29, 1777 San Jose became the very first pueblo, or town, in California. The Spanish king had required the establishment of towns to supplement the missions and military presidios (Los Angeles became the second pueblo). According to the first census, there were 14 family groups, including servants, and one bachelor. Of interest, of the children there were 15 girls and 26 boys. The census also included the numbers, per family, of horses, mules, mares, oxen, cows, calves, burros, ewes and goats. Manuel Gonzalez (listed on the census as an Apache Indian, 58 years old), built the adobe in 1797. He lived there with his wife, Nicaela Ruiz (listed as Indian, 30 years old) and their three sons and two daughters. He became the second Alcalde (magistrate, or mayor) in 1785. He died in this adobe in 1804. Luis Maria Peralta moved into the adobe with his wife Maria Alviso in 1808. He divided the single room house into two rooms, and added a porch, kitchen and chimney. He planted orchards which flourished. After three generations in the Peralta family, the adobe was sold and mostly used for storage. It was bought by the City in 1966 and restored. The Peralta Adobe is the oldest building in San Jose and the only structure still existing from El Pueblo de San Jose de Guadalupe. It is San Jose Historic Landmark #1.

The Fallon House is a fully-furnished fifteen room Victorian mansion built in 1855 by Thomas Fallon and his wife Carmel Castro Cota Lodge on land that was originally owned by Manuel Gonzalez. Both Thomas and Carmel lead fascinating lives. Carmel's mother, Martina Castro, was the first woman to apply for and receive a land grant (Rancho Soquel) in her own name. Thomas, born in Ireland, met Carmel via her Irish step-father. Thomas had joined John C. Fremont's third expedition to California when he was eighteen, as a mountain-man guide. He stayed in Santa Cruz and raised twenty-two volunteers, making himself captain, to join Fremont's military force. When the

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Mexican-American War broke out, Fallon's group crossed the Santa Cruz mountains and captured Pueblo de San Jose, without bloodshed, on July 11, 1846. On July 14 he raised the U.S. flag over the magistrate building. Back in Santa Cruz he became a saddler, and made a fortune making iron picks and then taking them to goldrush country to sell to miners. In 1849 he married Carmel. He sold his property in Santa Cruz for use as the courthouse. They went to Texas with their three children, but, while waiting in New Orleans to return to California, all three children died. Once back, they bought their land in San Jose and built their house, where six more children were born. Thomas served two one-year terms on the city council, and in 1859 was elected mayor for a single one-year term. He tried for the State Senate but lost, and was elected county treasurer. He was a popular man and a big personality. Carmen filed for divorce in 1876 when she came upon Thomas and their maid in a "compromising situation". She went on to build several hotels and buildings, and died at the age of 91 in 1923. He went on to a 16-month marriage with a twenty-two-year-old. He later died in 1885 at the age of 66 in San Francisco. The house became the Italia Hotel with a popular Italian restaurant frequented by writers and artists. In 1959 it became the Italian Cellar. In the early 1960's it was Manny's Cellar until the city acquired the building in April of 1990.

The Peralta Adobe and the Fallon House are only open for school programs and special events. If you are interested in seeing the interiors, check the History San Jose website for possible opportunities. And although the Market restaurants are open for lunch and dinner, because the Market is so popular, I would recommend going during the week for lunch, and on a nice day so you can sit out in the courtyard. From May through November a farmer's market is held on Fridays from 10-2. Mary and I also strolled up the street, reminiscing about The Old Spaghetti Factory (serving heaping plates since 1972, and the original site of Ravenna Pasta Company), O'Flaherty's Irish Pub, Peggy Sue's, and the more recent 71 Saint Peter. By the time we headed back up to the top of the parking garage for a last look around, we had had lunch, two bites of history, and a bit of exercise, too.

BAY AREA OLDER ADULT EVENTS

Hikes, lectures and day trips are just waiting for you! For more information and to sign up, go to their website:

<https://www.bayareaolderadults.org/> Here are some of the events in May & June:

May 5 Wine Train Trip

May 7 The Origami Revolution, lecture

May 9 All About the Microbes in our Body, lecture

May 13 Marine Mammal Pups and a Lighthouse Trip

May 20 California Naturalist Walk in Cupertino (easy walk)

May 22 California Native Plant Restoration Walk, Alum Rock Park (moderate hike)

May 28 Water Purification Center Tour

June 4 Bobcats! Lecture by the Coyote Valley bobcat research team

June 5 The Vistas of Rancho San Antonio (moderate hike)

June 6 The Biology and Business of Bees, lecture

June 19 Expert-led birdwatching walk (easy)

June 21 Bamboo Garden Walking Tour (easy)

June 27 Japantown Dinner

FRIENDLY REMINDER

Remember please, the April meeting is at Elks Lodge #522 – 444 Alma Ave., San Jose, CA. Please see insert in March's newsletter. In order to provide the restaurant an accurate count of attendees, \$12 for each member and guest must be received no later than April 17th, 2019. Sorry, no late payments, no refunds and no payment at the Lodge will be accepted. Send payment to Sue Farr, 1967 Bohannon, Santa Clara, CA 95050. ***Please make checks out to RPEA Chapter 031.***

PICNIC SET FOR JUNE 26!

It will be held at our usual spot, Vasona Lake County Park, Gateway Pavilion Group Area. Flyer will be in the May newsletter. See you there!

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