

The Alameda Museum

Quarterly Newsletter

Volume XLVII

Winter, 2007/2008

Number 4



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The Alameda Museum Quarterly Newsletter

is published in the spring, summer, fall, and winter of each year
by the Communications Staff of the Alameda Museum,
2324 Alameda Avenue, Alameda, California 94501

Telephone 510-521-1233

Website: www.alamedamuseum.org

(The Quarterly is also available in electronic form on the Museum website)

Museum Hours

Wednesday - Friday	1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Saturday	11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Sunday	1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Communications Staff

Contributors -	George Gunn, Jane Burgelin, Diane Coler-Dark, Judith Lynch
Editor - Gordon Newell	Proofreaders - Robbie Dileo, Tracy Manio



From the Curator's Desk

As a condition of City funding, the Council asked that a business plan be created to represent the Museum. It was a challenging request. Our own Robbie Dileo responded by composing a thorough one, of many pages, which fulfilled our obligation. A masterpiece, it was presented at the Council meeting, followed by questions. Robbie, as usual, responded intelligently to all of their inquiries. Thanks, Robbie, for your efforts and devotion.

In 2007, with a flood and associated refurbishing expenses, loss of revenue, etc., and disappointment over the proposed use of the old library at Santa Clara Avenue & Oak Street, the Museum was still able to rise from the ashes and successfully carry on.

It is with some regret that I announce the upcoming resignation of Gordon Newell, the editor of our Quarterly and Meyers House Guild newsletters. Gordon has done such a beautiful job raising the caliber of the articles and artistic merit of both publications. He will be sorely missed.

George Gunn, Museum Curator

Meyers House Museum Special Springtime Event

“SAVE THE DATE”- Sunday, May 18, 2008, 11:00AM - 5:00PM. Opening day for the Meyers House & Garden Museum's special House Tour entitled ***“Historical Wedding Gowns from Alameda's Past”***: a marvelous collection of vintage gowns worn by prominent Alameda residents throughout the ages.

Opening day was planned to coordinate with St. Joseph Basilica's *Victorian Gardens Galore Tour*, as the Meyers House Garden was selected as the ideal garden in which to serve their refreshments and allow participants the opportunity to view an exquisite Wedding Gown display for an additional nominal fee. Please come and join us. The display will remain on tour for a few months.

ONWARD & UPWARD

News and Updates
from our
Museum President

Dear Museum members, thank you for voting for all of the Museum Board of Directors. At the January Board meeting, per our bylaws, the following officers were elected: President Diane Coler-Dark, Vice President Chuck Millar, Treasurer Bridgette Snyder, Recording Secretary Nancy Anderson, Corresponding Secretary Robbie Dileo.

Put **March 22** on your calendar for the Annual Membership meeting Luncheon and Silent Auction. Our silent auction is renowned for fantastic bargains, and this year will have special items from the Risling estate sale. **See page 9** to send in your reservation, or call 523-5907 for reservations. This is always a fun event, and this year there is a new entree item at this sit-down three-course meal. You can't beat the price anywhere, or the company. You can meet your three new Board members.

The Risling estate sale mentioned above will be a boon for the Museum, with eight generations of furnishings to sell. Museum members, please consider in your will or simple directive to your executors, if not a percentage of your estate to the Museum as I have, that the Museum conduct the estate sale of your belongings for your heirs.

Jane Burgelin, Meyers House coordinator, is staging a *“Historical Wedding Gowns from Alameda’s Past”* exhibit at the Meyers House in conjunction with the St. Joseph’s Victorian Gardens Tour on Sunday, May 18, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The bridal gown exhibit will be expanded this time around.

We need to thank **Urban Forest**, at the corner of Park Street and San Jose Avenue, for doing a freebie reframing for the Museum. Jan is the only person George will take Museum stuff to, and she has reframed all of my paintings. I also get my soap, candles, and notepaper from Urban Forest, plus garden goodies and jewelry.

Diane Coler-Dark, Museum President

WANTED URGENTLY - Quarterly Editor

Call today about this fantastic offer! The Alameda Museum is in need of an editor for the Quarterly Newsletter, as soon as possible. It is a great way to help the Museum and to gain experience with publication. Be the first to have George and Diane kissing your hand. If you are interested, please call Diane at 523-5907.

Alameda Museum featured in “Alameda Magazine”

The December, 2007, issue of *Alameda Magazine* included an article entitled “Magical History Tour,” written by **Wanda Hennig**. The story (on page 19) briefly discussed the history of the Museum, listing some of the items in the collection, and it included photos of the 1930’s barber shop, Victorian lace-up shoes, and some architectural relics.

In the January/February, 2008, issue, **Bank of Alameda** placed a half-page ad on page 6, emphasizing the important role that the Alameda Museum plays in the community. The ad included a photograph of Museum President Diane Coler-Dark in the Victorian kitchen exhibit (she looks right at home in her apron, stirring a pot of who-knows-what, next to the antique stove).

On page 56 of the same January/February issue of *Alameda Magazine*, there is a story (with a photograph), about the Meyers House. It is part of an article about historical city buildings written by **Woody Minor**.

Thanks goes to all involved in helping to publicize the Alameda Museum.

New Museum Board Members

The Museum welcomes three new Board Members:

Adam Koltun started volunteering at the beginning of 2007, helping with handyman chores at the Museum and Meyers House. He helped with the flood in February, and has worked on estate sales and the home tour.

Bridgette Snyder has served as a senior accountant for a large property management firm in San Francisco for 34 years. She previously served for 9 years on the Museum Board of Directors as Treasurer and Vice President, and she was dubbed “First Lady of the Meyers House” by the Alameda Times-Star for organizing the Meyers House grand opening and the 100-year anniversary in 1997. As Chairperson of the Meyers House for several years, she was responsible for staffing monthly tours.

Michael Studebaker is presently Broker/Owner of Gallagher & Lindsey, Inc., Realtors. His previous arts management background includes serving on the student committee and as docent for the University Art Museum (UC Berkeley), volunteering for the Pacific Film Archive (UC Berkeley), and assisting with the development of the membership structure of the Museum Society (SF MOMA, DeYoung, and Legion of Honor museum in San Francisco).

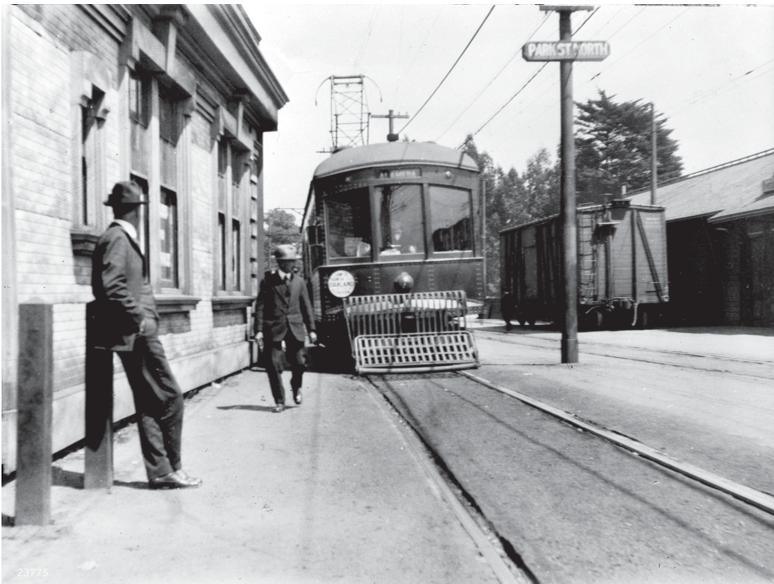
It's Historic Preservation Season in Alameda *by Judith Lynch*

Last year, at the urging of Planning and Building director Cathy Woodbury, a subcommittee sprang to life staffed by members of the Historical Advisory Board (HAB), the Alameda Museum and AAPS. The group organized the best ever celebration of Historic Preservation month. Last year we had so many events that it grew into a season. Here are the activities underway for this year.

2008 THEME: "Preservation is Good Business"

Thursday April 24, 7:00 p.m.: **"Alameda Civic Center,"** a slide lecture by author and historian Woody Minor, sponsored by the Alameda Museum, 2324 Alameda Avenue. Free for Museum members, \$5 for others.

Sunday April 27, 7:00 p.m.: **"Alameda By Rail,"** a slide lecture by author and historian Grant Ute, sponsored by the Alameda Architectural Preservation Society (AAPS), First Presbyterian Church, Santa Clara Avenue and Chestnut Street. Free for AAPS members, \$5 for others.



The "dink" street car on Park Street in 1911. courtesy of Alameda By Rail by Grant Ute and Bruce Singer.

Saturday May 3, 1-3 p.m., **"Kids & Queen Victoria,"** eleventh annual art show with work from sixteen elementary classes, opening reception featuring Alameda Unified School District Superintendent Ardella Dailey and Queen Victoria. Alameda Museum, 2324 Alameda Avenue. Sponsored by Alameda Education Foundation and the Alameda Museum. Free.

Tuesday May 6, 7:30 p.m.: City Council proclaims **Historic Preservation Season!** (because we have too many events to fit into one month) Note: See part of the “Restoration Retrospective” exhibit in the hallway on the ground floor of City Hall. Sponsored by the Historical Advisory Board. Free.

Saturday, May 10, “**Sacred Spaces,**” an exploration of churches in the Park Street Historic District led by architect Richard Rutter. Meeting place and time TBA. Limited to 40 participants. Reservations and comfortable shoes are required. Many stairs, limited handicapped access. Reserve a slot by leaving a message at 748.0796 by May 6. Sponsored by the Historical Advisory Board. Free.

Saturday, May 17, 11:00 a.m. starting place TBA, “**Walkabout on Webster,**” led by author and historian Woody Minor. Sponsored by the Historical Advisory Board. Free.



Golden Gate Bridge Beverage historic sign that is part of Woody's Walkabout on Webster Street. Image by Judith Lynch

Saturday, May 24, 1-4 p.m.: **Meiers House** open to the public; docents to lead tours, 2021 Alameda Avenue, admission \$3.

Thursday May 29, 7:00 p.m.: “**Strolling Historic Park Street,**” a slide lecture by authors Dennis Evanosky and Eric Kos. Sponsored by the Alameda Museum, 2324 Alameda Avenue. Free for members, \$5 for others.

Sunday, June 1, 7:00 p.m: Eleventh Annual **Historic Preservation Awards** presented by the Alameda Architectural Preservation Society (AAPS), First Presbyterian Church, Santa Clara Avenue and Chestnut Street. Free.

For information leave a message at 748.0796.

Donations

The Museum wants to acknowledge a donation from **Suzanne Renne** in memory of **Pat Powell**, who she said was a “Great Guy,” and all of us at the Museum agree with her.

“Friends of the Museum Rent Donors” for City matching funds:

Alameda Women Artists

Ann Bracci

Dr. Alice Challen

Elise Clasby

Diane Coler-Dark

Jeanne Gallagher

Alice Garvin

Alice Godfrey

Shirley and Ron

Goodman

James Hammill

Victor Jin

Victor Jin

Toku Kamei

Estelle Knowland

Flora and Larry Larson

Lillian Molzan

Beverly Moore

Audrey O’Brian

Louise Parker

Suzanne Renee

Margaret Seaman

Betty Sewell

Bill and Laura Tippet

The Museum thanks all of you for your generous support.

See page 15 for information on how to donate.



Support and Celebrate with the Alameda Museum

- Revel in our accomplishments in spite of adversity!
- Enjoy capital comestibles and convivial company!
- Meet our directors!

Our annual luncheon and installation of new directors is **Saturday, March 22, 2008** in the Masonic Hall above the Museum, 4th floor, 2312 Alameda Avenue. The no-host social hour and silent auction* start at noon; a three-course sit-down luncheon follows at 1:00 pm. These festivities are open to the public; bring your friends and neighbors and encourage them to join the Museum.

Please reply by mail by March 17 or call 523.5907 to have your tickets held at the door. Mail this coupon and your check to the Alameda Museum, 2324 Alameda Avenue, Alameda 94501.

Name(s) _____

Phone _____ Tickets at \$15 each _____ **

Regret I cannot attend. Please accept my donation of \$ _____

Total amount enclosed \$ _____ My choice: ___ Chicken ___ Beef

*We need silent auction items. Please call 523.5907 for pick up.

**Member docents: You will be guests of the Directors, who appreciate your efforts on behalf of the Museum. Please let us know if you will attend.!

Historic Items Newly on Display at the Museum

While the Museum was closed for the holidays, Curator George Gunn and other volunteers took advantage of the time to bring some items out of the Museum archives, creating a lovely new display.

One of the items in the vignette is a Victorian walnut armchair that belonged to Benjamin Lamborn, who was the City Clerk of Alameda from 1895 to 1896, during the time that City Hall was under construction. The chair is a lovely example of the rococo revival style, with beautiful carvings. Luque's Upholstering on Park Street generously donated the labor and materials to reupholster the chair, and it is now truly a magnificent showpiece.

A large hand-colored photograph of Benjamin's wife Amanda Sylvester Lamborn is on display nearby in a gilded frame. Some of Mrs. Lamborn's possessions are on display at the Meyers House, including the firescreen that she painted, and a statue at the bottom of the stairs that was her wedding gift.

Next to the chair in the new Museum display is a fine wool dress that belonged to Harriet, the wife of Samuel Montgomery Haslett. The dress was made in Paris in 1907, and was partly made by machine and partly hand-made. The Hasletts were an early Alameda family. The dress was donated by Doris Haslett Goodman (whose uncle owned the large-wheel bicycle on display elsewhere in the Museum).



The fine wool dress (left) was worn in 1907 by Harriet Haslett. The chair, recently upholstered by Luque's Upholstering, belonged to Amanda Lamborn (above), whose husband was City Clerk while Alameda City Hall was being built.

The shoes (below) belonged to the granddaughter of W. W. Chipman, co-founder of the City of Alameda. The oval painting and the furniture (right) were from the McDonald family, and the two matching paintings were by Mrs. George A. Starr, who lived at 2033 Encinal Avenue.



The new display also includes a pair of landscape paintings by Mrs. George A. Starr, whose home was built at 2033 Encinal Avenue in 1905. The home was occupied by the same family for nearly 100 years. Often during Victorian times the lady of the house would learn “artistic” skills such as painting (partly to show that they were not burdened with menial tasks such as cleaning and cooking).

Between the paintings is an oval portrait (painted in the 1860’s, but displayed under glass in an 1890’s frame) that belonged to Neil and Maude McDonald, originally from Scotland. The Victorian desk, inlaid table, and reception chair also belonged to the McDonald family who lived at 2066 San Jose Avenue.

On the other side of the Museum, in the “Victorian parlor” area, is another new item - and 1870’s renaissance revival sideboard donated by the estate of Robert Schmidt. The Schmidt family farmed land adjoining their home on Everett Street. An unusual feature of the sideboard is a carved goat’s head, with a carved bell around its neck. Thanks go to Bill Galli for transporting the sideboard to the Museum.



The 1870’s walnut sideboard, with its unique carved goat’s head, belonged to the Schmidt family, who farmed land next to their home on Everett Street.

The Museum is always accepting items of historical significance to Alameda, for use in future displays. It’s a great way to preserve Alameda history for the public.

Alameda Museum Lectures 2008

👉 Thursday March 27: **“Julia Morgan, Architect.”** Architectural historian Betty Marvin repeats her stellar impersonation of the renowned architect. While Miss Morgan is best known for her work at San Simeon for William Randolph Hearst, she was also responsible for some dozen homes in Alameda. Underwritten by Nancy Anderson AIA of Dahlin Group Architecture and Planning; chair, Historical Advisory Board and member, Alameda Museum Board. In the Art Gallery: Combined Alameda High Schools Art Show.

👉 Thursday April 24: **“Alameda’s Civic Center,”** by local hero Woody Minor (or other topic TBA). Underwritten by Ginger Schuler; member, Alameda Museum Board; Realtor, Harbor Bay. In the Art Gallery: Alameda Photographic Society Show.

👉 Thursday May 29: **“A Stroll Down Historic Park Street”** presented by Dennis Evanovsky and Eric Kos in honor of Historic Preservation month. See stunning then and now images of the Park Street Historical Commercial District. Underwritten by the law office of Gina Mariani. In the Art Gallery: 11th Annual Kids & Queen Victoria show by Alameda elementary students.

👉 Thursday June 26: **“Eccentrics, Heroes, and Cutthroats of Old Berkeley,”** another magical tome about the legacy of “Berserkeley” by Richard Schwartz, a perennial Museum lecture circuit favorite. Underwritten by Robbie Dileo, member, Alameda Museum Board. In the Art Gallery: Alameda Art Association Show.

👉 Thursday July 31 : **“John Singleton Copley and the Colonial face of America”** another dynamic show by art historian Colette Colester. Underwritten by Peter Fletcher, Real Estate Broker, Windermere Real Estate. In the Art Gallery: Sculpture by Feng Jin.

👉 Thursday August 28: **“Musing on Modernism”** by local author Richard Knight with images from *Saarinen’s Quest*, his new book by William Stout Architectural Publishers. Eero Saarinen was the architect of the Gateway Arch in St. Louis, Dulles Airport in Washington DC, and other many other visionary projects. Underwritten by Judith Lynch, member, Historical Advisory Board and member, Alameda Museum Board. In the Art Gallery: Photographing Saarinen.

All lectures start at 7:00 p.m., Alameda Museum, 2324 Alameda Avenue near Park Street. Admission is free for Museum members and \$5 for others. We open at 6:30 on lecture evenings; come in early to reserve a seat, browse the Gift Shop, and enjoy the vintage exhibits in the History Gallery and the contemporary work in the Art Gallery. For lecture information leave a message 510-748-0796.

Museum Members: When you can, look over this list of Art Gallery exhibits and our list of lectures for 2008. We are not only a Museum, we also provide a year long series of literary and art events and cultural experiences for the public. Drop by the receptions and meet the artists. It is yet another way to interest people in joining the Museum.

Alameda Museum Art Gallery shows for 2008:

January: Natica Angilly: Dance, poetry and mixed media

February: San Lorenzo Art Group: Mixed media. Reception Saturday, February 9, noon-3 p.m.

March: Combined Alameda High Schools Student Art Show: Mixed media, sponsored by the Alameda Art Association. Reception TBA.

April: Alameda Photo Society. Reception TBA.

May: Kids & Queen Victoria: Mixed media by Alameda elementary students. Reception with Supt. of Schools Ardella Dailey and Queen Victoria is Saturday, May 3, 1-3 p.m.

June: Alameda Art Association: Mixed media. Reception Saturday, June 7, time TBA.

July: Feng Jin: Sculpture. Reception Saturday, July 5 time TBA.

August: Richard Knight: Photographing Saarinen. Reception and book signing Thursday, August 28, 7:00 p.m.

September: Berkeley City College Digital Arts Club: Mixed media. Reception Saturday, September 6, 1:30 p.m.

October: Jan Watter and Clint Imbroder: Sculpture and photographs. Reception TBA.

November: Women Artists of Alameda: Mixed media. Reception Monday, November 10, 8:00 p.m.

Volunteers Needed for the 2008 Alameda Legacy Home Tour

The Alameda Legacy Home Tour, held every year in September, is a major source of revenue for the Alameda Museum, and at the same time helps the public share in the architectural heritage of Alameda.

As always, we can use home tour docents for the day of the tour. Also, the home tour committee could use some extra volunteers this year to help with publicity and various other tasks. If you are interested in being a docent, contact Diane Coler-Dark at 510-523-5907. If you would like to join the home tour committee, contact Chuck Millar at 510-521-9177.

This is a great opportunity to help make the home tour a success, and have fun at the same time.

Docents Preserving the Past for the Future

Nancy Anderson	Joan Dykema	Flora Larson	Virginia Rivera
Lou Baca	Carrie Erickson	Barbara Lewis	Lorraine Salazar
Henry Bissett	June Feder	Gayle Macaitis	Betty Saunders
Marge Blaha	Dottie Fehn	Carla McGrogan	Betty Sewell
Katherine Cavanaugh	Jeanne Gallagher	Jim McGrogan	Lois Singley
Ellen Chesnut	Barbara Gibson	Joanne McKay	Diane Solo
Catherine Coleman	George Gunn	Honora Murphy	Wanda Thatcher
Diane Coler-Dark	Leslie Hawksbee	Frank Nelson	Ellen Tilden
Charles Daly	Debra Hilding	Trish Nelson	Ron Ucovich
Robbie Dileo	Lois Hoffman	Susan Potter	Joe Young
Ross Dileo	Julie Kennedy	Darlene Pottsgeiser	
Marilyn Dodge	Jim Korn	Marjory Quant	

Reminder: *Any docent who is not able to be at the Museum during his/her assigned shift should contact Carla McGrogan at 510-522-2961 to arrange a replacement. Thank you so much for what you do.*

The **Board of Directors** meets monthly on the *third Wednesday* at 6:15p.m.
The **Meyers House and Garden** is open on the *fourth Saturday* of every month, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

City Matching Grant - *Double Your Donation*

The City will match donations that *exceed* donations in the Museum's last fiscal year, up to \$3,848.

The Museum must raise \$15,084 per year, in addition to the \$36,000 normal operating expenses, to cover the new rent increase. Donations of \$3,848 plus City matching funds equal only half of what we need to raise for the rent increase, so all donations really help the Museum to survive.

Please sent in the coupon below with your donation and ***Double the Bang for Your Bucks!***

\$25 becomes \$50. \$100 is \$200. \$1000 equals \$2000. We like to think big when it comes to keeping our Alameda Museum functioning as a valuable resource.

Mail to: **Alameda Museum**
 2324 Alameda Avenue
 Alameda, CA 94501

Yes, I want to double my donation for the Alameda Museum.
Enclosed is my check for \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Yes, ____ it is okay to list my name in the next Quarterly as a **Friend of the Museum Rent Donor**.

Tax ID# 942464751



Alameda Museum

2324 Alameda Avenue
Alameda, CA 94501

Telephone: 510-521-1233

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Wed. - Fri., Sunday: 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm
Saturday: 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

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www.AlamedaMuseum.org

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