



# THE TATTLER

January 2008  
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## Journal of the History Guild of Daly City/Colma

### NATIVE AMERICANS IN THE AREA

Starting the New Year off with an afternoon membership party will be the focus for the Sunday, Jan. 20, gathering of History Guild members in the multi-use room at Doelger Community Center, 101 Lake Merced Blvd., DC. Again this year, the event will start at 2 pm. While the party is primarily planned as a gala in appreciation for the ongoing support of dues-paying Guild members, those who receive courtesy copies of The Tattler (but are not dues-paying members) are invited, as always. As in the past, refreshments will include a wee bit of bubbly and an array of delightful palate pleasers, including delicious cake.

The "History Event" portion of the afternoon will be a presentation of local Native American lore by archaeologist **Teresa Saltzman**, as arranged by vice-president/program chair **Richard Rocchetta**. Emphasis will be placed on the Ohlone Indians. The speaker has a background in Bay Area archaeology and did her Master's thesis on petroglyphs of the North Coast range of California.

Special entertainment will be provided by two of the HG's musical members, director **Vaughn Jones**, pianist, and accordionist **Richard Rocchetta**. With a bit of urging, **Gloriann Jones** might favor us with a vocal selection, or several, and around-the-piano-singing-along might be enjoyed by whomever feels inspired.

THE HISTORY GUILD of DALY CITY/COLMA  
PROUDLY PRESENTS ANOTHER

# HISTORY EVENING!

**Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**2 P.M.**  
*Local Native American Lore*  
by Archaeologist  
**Teresa Saltzman**

**ADMISSION FREE!**

Donations Gratefully Accepted ♦ Phone 755-5123 for Information

The Guild has come a long way since our first January meeting in the Colma Town Hall in 1983. Our move to the Doelger Center for January's annual party was needed in 2003 when we outgrew Colma's charming, but smaller, available space. The third Sunday in January is currently the only daytime meeting on the Guild's calendar, continuing the hope of accommodating those who prefer not to attend evening meetings. Your presence, evidencing your ongoing interest in the Guild, will be sincerely welcomed.



## Greetings from President Mark

Well, friends, on November 7, we had a very good inaugural fundraiser for the new museum as a part of the City's sneak preview of the new War Memorial Community Center. We're off to a good start! Thank you to all donors, our Fundraising Committee, and Board volunteers. Unfortunately, we were not able to mail invitations to our members as we had originally planned; Guild members were notified through our last *Tattler*. We had 40 donors to the event with proceeds of \$6,750 (including \$2,750 in donations from Board members, \$2000 of which represents a very generous gift from Ken & Bunny Gillespie, and a \$500 corporate donation from First National Bank.) There were various additional in-kind donations, including a donation of the event space and catering from the city, and a special in-kind donation of architectural drawings by DIAP Architects valued at \$15,000. Aside from a few incidentals, the total cost was \$400. \$10,000 of the Guild's savings was transferred from our organizational general fund to the museum operating fund. A large prop of the check was shown at the event, demonstrating the Guild's commitment to dedicating specific funds for the new museum.

We expect to have the keys to the building when you read this, and are very hopeful that we can open doors to the public by next May. We will be doing the minor repairs, painting, clean-up, etc. ourselves and hopefully with Rebuilding Together--a community organization which provides groups such as ours with skilled volunteers.

This *Tattler* marks 21 years dedication by Ken and Bunny Gillespie as editors of our newsletter. Not only did they write the *Tattler*, but they also managed the mailings and Ken was the graphic artist.

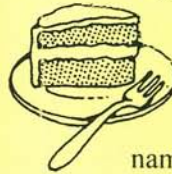
This is a monumental volunteer task and we shall be forever grateful. The *Tattler* will continue, but the Gillespies' effort will be a difficult act to follow.

On behalf of the board, I wish you a happy and healthy holiday season & New Year.



### Have a Year-Round Sweet Tooth?

Because **Vaughn Jones** realizes that our yen for candy and craving for calories does not stop with winter's seasonal observances, he will continue to take orders for **See's Candy**, priced to benefit the Guild. You may place an order, one pound or more, by phoning **Vaughn** at (650) 756-6795. *Valentine's Day is coming! And Mother's Day, and....*



### REFRESHMENT DONORS FOR JANUARY MEETING

The following graciously put their names on the sign-up sheet as donors of treats for the upcoming Jan. 20 afternoon membership meeting. For information, contact hospitality chair, **Elinor Charleston**, (650 755-8267). Additional snacks are always welcome. January donors are: **Judith Christenson, Pat Hatfield, Annette Hipona, Marilyn Olcese and Dana Smith.**

### PROGRAM FEATURED SMC COAST

Railroad experts **Frank Maffei and Ed Graham**, both long time members of the History Guild, provided the expertise for the video "*Footprints of Pacifica*", at the Guild's November "History Evening".

### RAFFLE HELPS SWELL TREASURY

Donations are welcomed for the Guild's traditional and ever-popular raffle for eclectic and fascinating prizes.



## LOOKING BACK AT DC/C'S YEARS OF '8'

*As we anticipate the year 2008, here are a few glimpses at significant "8" years...*

In 1858, **Robert S. Thornton**, the first to pioneer in the north county, was elected San Mateo County's Township One supervisor, with road oversight and repair duties.

**St. Anne's Catholic Church** was dedicated by Archbishop Joseph Alemany in July, 1868. **John Donald Daly** purchased dairy ranch property at the Top of the Hill.

In 1878, carp were added to **Knowles Pond**, providing a local fishing spot in what was to become **Marchbank Park**.

In 1888, the **Great Register of SMC** listed one tanner, several blacksmiths, a boiler-maker, dairymen, farmers, carpenters, a realtor, and a liquor dealer as local businessmen.

**Jefferson School** welcomed William J. Savage as principal in 1898. A local committee was investigating feasibility of incorporation of the area.

In 1908, the **Vista Grande** branch of the US Post Office opened. Residents of the area petitioned to become the "City of Vista Grande." John Daly's ranch was subdivided into residential lots. Congregation **B'nai Israel** was established. Colma butcher **James (Good Roads) Casey** was elected a SMC supervisor.

In 1918, **flower growing** was big business in the area, attributed somewhat to popularity of violets as delicately perfumed fashion fads. **Hugh "H.H." Smith** was elected mayor of DC. He stayed in that office for the next eighteen years.

**McGraw's Drug Store** opened at the Top of the Hill in 1928. John Daly's widow made a generous donation of books to the **DC Library** in honor of her late husband.

**Crocker Playground** was dedicated in 1938. **DC Recreation Department** hosted a 50-hour horse-shoe tournament.

In 1948, the circus came to the **Cow Palace** for the first time. Henry Doelger started building Unit One in what was to become **Westlake**. The Westlake area was annexed to Daly City by public vote.

In 1958, Zita Corporation was to begin construction of **St. Francis Heights**. **Sam Chandler** was named Daly City Librarian. Vista Mar and Vista Grande schools opened. **Billy Graham** brought his religious crusade to the Cow Palace for the first time.

**Serramonte Shopping Center**, the first enclosed business mall in the area, opened in 1968. The **Olcese Ranch** closed, ending an era, and was faced with moving 10,000 hogs. It was the last hog ranch in SMC.

In 1978, **Fred Gellert Foundation** financing saw the opening of the North San Mateo County Center for the Arts, utilizing facilities at former **Serramonte High School**.

**DC Police Department** acquired its first dogs for a K-9 Unit in 1988. The "**Savage Site**" was leased by the school district to Andover Properties for development into housing.

In 1998, **BART** reached an accord with **Cypress Lawn Cemetery** that would allow the line passage through Colma to the SF airport. "Storms of '98" wreaked havoc on coastal properties, including Avalon Canyon. California approved a provisional license for **Lucky Chances** card room in Colma.

In 2008, who's to know what's ahead. We hope it's a good year for you. **B/KG**



## TATTLER EDITORS

After twenty-one years of serving as text producers for The Tattler, we have decided that the time has arrived for us to put down our notepads and allow others the privilege of producing the verbiage you are now reading. Over the years, it has been a pleasure for us to help keep mailing list people informed through this venue. Now that we can no longer be as faithful in attending Guild board meetings or membership meetings as we had been in past years, information-gathering is difficult for us. We feel we cannot do justice to the titles of "editors." Ergo, with this issue we bid you all a fond farewell. Your readership has been appreciated. We look forward to receiving future issues of The Tattler, and we hope you will also. *Bunny and Ken Gillespie.*

### Every Bit Helps When Collecting History

Starting the year off with great expectations, we acknowledge receiving several pieces of campaign ephemera from an anonymous donor, actually one badge and a business card, regarding recent local elections. Your donations will be just as welcome. Keep the Guild collection in mind, please, when you're tempted to "clean out" local memorabilia. Other recent donations were received from:

**Joseph Curran:** DVD made from HG's 1941 home movies re. DC Lions Club.; Filipino WWII infantry regiments promo DVD; **DCFD (ret'd) Robert O'Donnell,** via **Linda Kleinheinz:** copies of the DCFD's Centennial book; **Darrel Fredricks,** assorted photos taken at Westmoor High School, 1947-62; **KM2 Communications/ Brian Kingston:** DVD re. DC Police Athletic League's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary; DVD-ROM re historic images 1957-2007.

## GUILD OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Mark Weinberger, President	415/750-1939
Richard Rocchetta, Vice-President	650/992-9144
Marie Brizuela, Treasurer	650/755-7188
Dana Smith, Secretary	650/755-3432
Vaughn Jones, Director	650/756-6795
Marian Mann, Director	650/991-9386
Dee Canepa, Director	650/255-5596
Michael Rocchetta, Director	650/756-3960
Ken Gillespie, Director emeritus	650/755-5123
Bunny Gillespie, Director emerita	650/755-5123
<i>Tattler Editors: Bunny and Ken Gillespie</i>	
<i>Thank you for 21 years!</i>	

### SEEING SPOTS????

It's that time of year, again, when some of our mailing labels have been marked with a colorful little dot after the addressee's name. Here's why: a **RED DOT** means your dues are somewhat overdue. Tsk. We've not had an indication of your interest in the guild, financially, for several years. This will be your final Tattler, unless we hear from you. A **BLUE DOT** means you are getting a freebie. No dues are expected. A **GREEN DOT** means you've paid ahead for 2008, or beyond. A pat on the back for you! **NO DOT** means your dues for 2008 are now payable. Thank you, all.



### Guild Loses Several Long-time Members

With profound sadness, the Tattler must share with readers the passing of several of our supportive and long-standing members. **Don Manning**, one of the unsung "heroes" of the History Guild, was a faithful and valuable volunteer at the Guild's mini-museum. He is survived by his wife, **Betty**. **Dr. George Riba** was for years the "city physician" for the City of Daly City. He is survived by his wife, **Selma**. Others noted in passing include **Al Paddreddi**, survived by his wife, **Julia**, and **Bill Gfroerer**. His wife, **Trudie**, predeceased him.