

CARLSBAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Annual Program
October 17, 2009

A total of 33 members and guests attended the annual program, held at Heritage Hall starting at 10 AM. Following a delicious brunch catered by the Village Pie Shop, President Susan Gutierrez welcomed everyone and announced that the election of officers was completed by mail-in ballots. The results made just one change to the existing Board of Directors. Connie Trejo was elected as a Member at Large to replace Lenore Bouras. President Gutierrez then gave a brief summary of Society activities. One special event was held at Magee House to promote the new book, *Images of America – Carlsbad*, by Jeannie Sprague-Bentley, who was there to sign copies. A change that has taken place is the replacement of the Society's newsletter, formerly mailed out to members, with a blog that has a range of information about the Society, tours, events, and ongoing activities. Members and others can add comments, ask questions, and update information. This action was taken due to the lack of volunteers to write and distribute a newsletter and to reduce costs. During the meeting, Amy Davis volunteered to take over responsibility for the newsletter. Susan also noted that members Marje Howard-Jones and Sue Ladouceur are in the process of documenting items in the Magee House that can be used for future displays. School tours, formerly led by Joyce and Hubie Smith, have been changed due to the difficulty of having volunteers available whenever requested by the School District. In the future, the Magee House will be open Fridays for 3rd grade students during regular open hours. Students are expected to have viewed the DVD of the House Tour and parents will be responsible for transportation and assistance. Volunteers will continue with outreach to the schools through our Trunk Shows. Members were asked for suggestions on other ways to keep in contact with schools, particularly 3rd grade classes. Another accomplishment noted was having the player piano repaired. Work continues on the rose garden surrounding Magee House and special thanks were given to all those volunteers who contribute their time to this valuable resource. Susan also asked for thoughts about developing special presentations for community groups and organizations. Volunteers will be needed to help with this.

Laurie Boone then introduced a member of Carlsbad's "living history," Joyce Smith, in recognition of her 80th birthday and all her special

contributions to the Society. Susan presented Joyce with a lovely bouquet and all in attendance sang her "Happy Birthday."

President Gutierrez next introduced the program speaker, Joni Miringoff from the Carlsbad Flower Fields. Joni gave all in attendance handouts with facts and photos about the Flower Fields and then gave an excellent PowerPoint presentation on the history of the Fields and all that is being done to improve the facilities. Early in the last century Luther Gage started growing ranunculas in the area. This was followed by the Frazee family and their flower farm by Agua Hedionda Lagoon. The area became the Flower Fields in 1993 and has become a major attraction during the Spring months when the fields are in bloom. Joni noted that over 150,000 visitors from all over the world come to visit. There are some 150 volunteers currently assisting with tours and other activities, including work on landscaping and a special rose garden. Lots of school children come for special tours and while there get some hands-on experience with composting and attend special arts and crafts programs. There is also now a separate orchid nursery and strawberry sales. Joni suggested that an existing storage barn might be a good site for special history displays and recommended that anyone interested could get more information by checking the website at www.theflowerfields.com. After Joni answered questions about water restrictions, ways to get out more publicity, future plans, and interaction with the City, the program was adjourned at 12:10 PM.

GEOFF ARMOUR
Secretary

CARLSBAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Board Meeting Minutes
July 20, 2009

The Board meeting was called to order by President Susan Gutierrez at 4:10 pm. Present were Jack Cumming, Jerry Colling, Geoff Armour, Sue Ladouceur, Lenore Bouras, and Susan Gutierrez.

Susan discussed the Treasurer's report and asked the Board for feedback on Treasurer Unanue's recommendation to leave all CD investments with the same banks, where current rates seemed to be pretty good. These CD's have just matured and need to be rolled over or invested elsewhere. After some discussion and general agreement about allowing the investments to roll over, Jack moved to approve the Treasurer's recommendation. The motion was approved unanimously.

Susan asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the Board meeting of May 17. Motion made by Jerry and approved unanimously.

Susan discussed the school tours which have been completed for this school year. She said that Joyce and Hubie Smith have asked to be relieved from leading these tours of the Magee House and other historic structures in the Park. Without the tours, the only contact with 3rd grade students at Carlsbad schools would be through the trunk shows. Susan said a notice will be sent to all the schools involved to inform them that the Society no longer has the capability to conduct tours whenever schools request them. Susan recommended that we send out a notice to members to see who might be available to assist with future school tours on a more limited basis. The idea would be to have tours only on Fridays, when the Magee House is open and Anna is there to help. Volunteers would rotate and help out with the tours and possibly some quick visits to the barn and other buildings. Anna would take calls from the schools and make reservations for a manageable number of students. Schools and parents would be responsible for getting students to and from Magee. Sue Ladouceur said she didn't think there were as many tours this year. She also thought the schools didn't follow through with scheduling and didn't get as many students as possible prepared with trunk shows and video presentations. In the future it will be up to the teachers to do a better job with all these issues. All Board members complimented Joyce and Hubie on the wonderful job they have done with these tours over the years and understand that it's something that they cannot keep doing.

There followed some discussion about security issues at Magee House and how pleased the Board is with the job Anna is doing there. Members were also aware of complications involving things like a malfunctioning doorbell and concerns about disruptions caused by homeless men who hang out in the area. There was general agreement about the need for better security and for Anna to know that she should call the police whenever she is concerned for her safety. Sue said she would contact the Police Department about doing sweeps of the park, especially on Fridays and Saturdays,

and would ask that an officer stop by to meet with Anna to go over her concerns and how best to deal with them.

Jerry discussed his recent experience with a tour of the Agua Hedionda adobe. He said he had met with Robert Patrick (Pat) Kelly and Karen Kelly about their willingness to lead tours of the adobe and their property off Sunnycreek Road, adjacent to the Rancho Carlsbad golf course. The property had been in the Kelly family for a long time and had been restored and made livable. Pat grew up there. Jerry indicated that it was a very good tour and that other members might be interested in taking it. The preference would be to have the tours scheduled for about 1 pm on a weekday. Jerry volunteered to coordinate arranging for a tour and will also send out an email to members to find out who might be interested.

There followed a discussion about the annual meeting and election, now scheduled for October 24 from 10am to 1pm. Susan said she has contacted the City about booking and setting up Heritage Hall for the event. She also noted that the Village Pie Shoppe needs to be contacted about providing food. Sue Ladouceur volunteered to do this. Members will be asked to RSVP about attendance and to pay whatever amount is determined to be reasonable after figuring in all the costs of the brunch plus our purchase of orange juice, champagne, and other items. City staff will come in early to set up tables and chairs and we will need to be there to make sure all AV equipment is in place. The speaker will be Joni Miringoff from the Carlsbad Flower Fields. Susan also spoke about the election of new officers and it was determined that we will need one At Large replacement for Lenore, who has decided to step down after many years of service. There was discussion about contacting some good people who might be willing to serve. Geoff said he would speak with Connie Trejo in hopes of getting a reliable community member representing the Barrio to serve on the Board.

Susan also asked the Board to approve the purchase of at least one case each of *Seekers of the Spring* and Jeanne Sprague Bentley's new book, both of which we are just about out of. Jack moved to approve these purchases and the motion was approved unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Geoff Armour, Secretary

CARLSBAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Board Meeting Minutes
May 17, 2009

NOTE: It was recommended and agreed to by the Board to hold this meeting following the book sale event on May 17, instead of having the regularly scheduled meeting on May 18.

The Board meeting was called to order by President Gutierrez at 5:15 PM. Present were Susan Gutierrez, Geoff Armour, Sue Ladouceur, Lenore Bouras, Ginny Unanue, Jerry Colling, and Jack Cumming. All members expressed their congratulations to Jerry and others who helped organize the special book sale event. This event was held to promote and sell copies of the new publication, *Images of America-CARLSBAD*, by Jeannie Sprague Bentley. Ms. Bentley attended the event and signed copies of her book. Board members were pleased with the enthusiastic turnout and the successful sale, which brought in over \$1,100 and included the sale of other Carlsbad history books.

Susan asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the March 16 meeting. It was moved by Jack to approve the minutes and the motion carried unanimously.

Ginny gave an update on budget issues and noted that as of April 30 there was \$7,000 in the checking account. She also noted that the WaMu savings account was up to \$48,839 and the WaMu CD, which matures June 18, is currently getting a rate of 3.93% and holds a total of \$80,683. Ginny said she will check on other competitive rates to see if we can get a better deal when the current CD matures. Since the last Board meeting, there has been income of \$611.61 and expenses of \$5,822.08. Expenses included insurance renewals for both the Magee House contents and for Board member liability. Membership renewals were also discussed. Susan noted that 40-50% of current members have not renewed. She said our docent, Anna, had been asked to call members to see about getting more renewals. Unfortunately, there was some confusion on Anna's part about the renewal list and she called a number of people who had already renewed. Susan said she had gone over this matter with Geoff, who will update the membership roster and arrange to contact those who have not renewed.

There was also information received in the mail from the Southern California Genealogical Society about a program they are sponsoring. Susan said this information will be emailed to the membership. Another mailing received was from Palomar College, noting that they will no longer have courses in American history as part of their nursing curriculum, a subject previously required as part of the nursing degree. A discussion of this matter by Board members indicated that this issue did not seem of importance. Jack moved that the Board not get involved in this issue and the motion was passed unanimously.

Susan noted that of the 80 copies of the new book available for purchase at the special event, all but 14 were sold. It was agreed to keep rather than return these remaining copies and to sell them at the original price of \$21.95. For the sale earlier in the day, there was a special price of \$15 per copy. Of this, the Society will be able to keep about \$3 for each copy sold with the rest going to Arcadia Publishing. Jack moved to accept the Treasurer's report and the motion was carried unanimously.

Jerry gave a report on repairs recommended for the player piano (copy of report attached to the minutes). Jerry explained that while installing rebuilt parts, the technician noticed that the pedals were not working properly and that this was caused by a crack in the baseboard. Needed repairs will cost \$275 - \$325, only slightly more in total than what was originally budgeted. Jack moved that the Society go ahead and pay for these repairs and the motion was approved unanimously.

Susan mentioned that there will be a follow-up article about the book sale and that this article will note that there are more copies that can be purchased at the Magee House. Susan also reminded the Board that the annual meeting is set for October 24 and, thanks to Sue Ladouceur, we will have Joni Miringoff from the Flower Field as the program presenter. She noted that arrangements will need to be made for food and thought the Village Pie Shop would be a good vendor. Susan recommended that updates on details for the annual meeting be discussed at the next Board meeting. There being no further business, the Board meeting was adjourned at 5:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Geoff Armour, Secretary

CARLSBAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Board Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2009

The Board meeting was called to order by President Susan Gutierrez at 4:05 PM. Present were Susan Gutierrez, Geoff Armour, Lenore Bouras, and Jerry Colling.

Minutes of the previous Board meeting of January 19 were approved unanimously. The Treasurer's Report, with budget figures as of March 6, 2009, was distributed for discussion. Lenore asked if a new docent had been hired under the Staff Pay category. Susan noted that a new docent had been hired. Her name is Anna Hamelberg and she was selected as a good fit for the job and with more availability than the other candidates. In response to comments about upcoming expenses, such as insurance, Susan said the budget looks good and that all key items appear to be covered. Jerry moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as submitted and the motion passed unanimously.

Jerry Colling gave a report about the pianos now owned by the Society and kept at Magee House. He said he and Ginny Unanue met at Magee House with an expert piano tuner named Diane De Tar. Ms. De Tar gave an estimate for tuning the orchestrion and the player piano. Due to the fragile condition of the strings and other parts of the orchestrion, any tuning or removal work could result in damage that would be very costly to replace. The cost could be upwards of \$900 and even these repairs might not guarantee improved performance. As a result of this analysis, Jerry's recommendation was that the Society not put additional funds into the orchestrion. Instead, he recommended leaving it as is and using it briefly for kids on school tours or for some special groups of visitors. The Society could also buy more piano rolls if needed. As for the player piano, Ms. De Tar said it was in good basic condition but repairs made some 20 years ago may not have been done properly and due to aging there is deterioration of some parts. It would cost about \$6,000 to have the piano completely rebuilt. For about \$1,000 the bellows could be repaired and for another \$350 the wind motor could be rebuilt. The recommendation was that the Society spend \$1,350 to repair and upgrade the player piano. Lenore moved that the Society spend up to \$1,350 to repair the player piano. The motion was approved unanimously. Susan also noted that the Society has about 100 music rolls for the player piano. Some of these are seasonal or come from movie themes, and are good for special events. (A copy of the cost estimates for the orchestrion and the player piano is included with the minutes.)

There followed some discussion about the school tours currently being organized and led by Joyce and Hubie Smith. They have been doing this valuable service for a long time but have found it increasingly difficult to get commitments from school teachers. Joyce has now requested that teachers call her directly to arrange for tours during the school year. The tours will continue but now only at the request of teachers.

Susan discussed a new Carlsbad history book that is being completed by Jeanne Sprague Bentley, a writer for the Coast News. Susan said she provided advice and assistance to

Ms. Bentley and helped with captions and proofing. The book will be coming out on April 20. Ms. Bentley will only be getting a small fee for each book sold and has indicated that she wishes to give a portion of the proceeds to the Historical Society. The book is all photographs with captions, some have never been published before. Susan recommended that the Society organize a book signing event to promote the book and help sell copies. She asked for suggestions about a date and place for such an event and noted that it would be open to the general public in addition to members. Possible dates and locations were discussed and it was agreed that either June 7 or 14 from 2 – 4 pm would work best and that the event would be held at Magee House. Susan will contact Ms. Bentley about these dates. Once the details are arranged, we would need to get out a notice to the membership and to the press.

Susan discussed plans for the Annual Meeting. She said Sue Ladouceur had contacted Joni Miringoff to see if she could do a program about the Flower Fields. Ms. Miringoff, who works for Caritas, agreed to do this program. The Annual Meeting is scheduled for October 24 and will be held at Heritage Hall.

In other business, Susan noted that the Board had asked her to send a letter to the City Council requesting the Council's support for the preservation of El Salto Falls and the Buena Vista Creek Valley. This letter, sent to the Council in February, notes that the eastern end of Buena Vista Creek has been designated for "smart growth" to accommodate 600 homes. The Council was informed that the Society believes it is historically and environmentally important to keep this area connected to the permanent natural open space at the western end of the Creek. Susan mentioned that Sue Ladouceur had told her that the hazardous materials in this area are never likely to be completely cleaned up and that this would not be a good area for planned low income housing. (A copy of this letter is included with the minutes.)

Geoff asked about the gazebo formerly located in Rotary Park behind Neiman's. There had been some interest in relocating this structure to Magee Park. According to Susan, the Rotary Club had approached the Society about contributing a significant amount of funds to assist with moving and fixing up this structure. The Society politely declined noting that the gazebo was built in the late 1970's and was not of historic significance. Jerry moved that the Society not get involved in paying for any part of this project. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Geoff Armour, Secretary

NOTE: The next regular CHS Board Meeting will be held May 18, 2009 at 4:00 pm.

ORCHESTRION ESTIMATE

2-23-09: Diane De Tar, piano technician, and her husband Wayne spent a few hours today at Magee House evaluating our orchestrion and our player piano. They graciously explained their findings to Ginny Unanue and me (Jerry Colling.) Diane's work is highly respected in our regional fraternity of orchestrion and player piano collectors and restorers. I've become acquainted with many members of this "fraternity," dating back to the days when Tina and I became acquainted with the Nethercutts at San Sylmar and their fabulous collection.

ORCHESTRION: History: Its serial number indicates that this Kohler and Campbell piano was manufactured in 1915. Its early history is unknown, and more recent history is limited. We do know that Paul Eckert bought it from Dee Dee Morgan in the 1980's. He tells me that it was in the Twin Inns for years before he bought it from Dee Dee out of storage. He gave it to Carlsbad Historical Society in 2007.

Diane De Tar said that the 6-instrument orchestrion was added to the piano about 1980. She dated the addition made by Ragtime Southwest of Ceres, California, after thorough examination of its "anatomy."

Condition: Unfortunately, a critical part used for each note of each instrument, is made of a unique material similar to plastic or hard rubber, which has become brittle with age. One such "nipple" snapped in two when Diane and Wayne removed it for examination. The piano strings are old and brittle and many have broken. If Diane were to tune it, more of the strings would break and have to be purchased and replaced.

Discussion: Diane and others in our regional network of player piano technicians are not impressed with Ragtime Southwest and its product. She said these add-on orchestrions, while fun to play and hear during their early years of service, are not made to last. Our "add-on" orchestrion is almost 30 years old. Ragtime does not sell replacement parts. They will only do installation of the unit, which costs several thousands of dollars. Diane and Wayne said she and her husband might be able to remove the mechanism to tune the piano, and repair the parts of the orchestrion to improve the function. They would charge \$80.00 per hour to do this, and since it would take many hours, their bid would be \$580.00 - - - if they don't have to re-fabricate broken parts. If they do have to make new parts, it could cost hundreds more - - - as much as \$900.00. Even then they couldn't guarantee that it would perform a lot better. She described the project as a "can of worms," and said she couldn't recommend that we take a chance and engage her to do it.

Recommendation: It is my recommendation that we NOT gamble hundreds of dollars trying to repair this old gem, which could end up making it worse than it is now. Our mission for the instrument is to use it to demonstrate some American

music history. Playing it "as is" to kids on school tours and visiting tourists can fulfill that mission. The music isn't very pretty, but it is rather spectacular when we flip the switch. School children on our tours learn that these orchestrions were a popular way to make music in restaurants, dance halls and theatres in the late 19th and early 20th century before the "juke box" became popular, and later, stereo reproduction. The instrument itself is lovely to see, with 1915 vintage craftsman cabinetry and stained glass. We can hope that the deteriorated mechanism and piano strings will last for a while, to the delight of history buffs and kids.

PLAYER PIANO ESTIMATE: History: Ginny said that this Story and Clark piano in the conference room was donated by a local citizen who had had it since about 1950. The donor also gave us several other items, including the couch in the conference room. The player mechanism does not perform very well, as one has to pump very hard to make music.

Condition: Diane admired the state of preservation of it internally and said that it is basically a very good piano. However an amateur apparently did some repairs in the past, because they left all of the capstans off the hammers, making them vibrate after they strike, leaving a faint "echo." The repairs were apparently made about 20 years ago, and a quality repair lasts only about 30 years. The strings are mostly "dead" in tone due to age. Because of general deterioration of some parts, a complete rebuilt would cost about \$6,000. However for \$1,000 they could repair the bellows, making it easier to pump. For an additional \$350 they could rebuild the wind motor, which might fail soon if we don't repair it.

Discussion: Spending \$1,350 on it would make it totally playable and enhance our mission for displaying and demonstrating this piano to the public. It has an attractive wood console/cabinet. We have to recognize that there are other things that could fail in the future but we could probably meet those piecemeal if they happen. Fortunately, the lovely Victrola phonograph in the dining room is playable and needs only replacement of the felt cover of the turntable. It fascinates the school children who ask, "Where is the power cord?" when it is demonstrated. The phonograph, the player piano and the orchestrion are a great trio to teach and demonstrate American music history.

Recommendation: Spend \$1,350 on the player piano

I believe it was prudent to have these two instruments evaluated for restoration, and am satisfied that the Board has enough information to decide to proceed or not.

Jerry Colling