

Exhibit on the Greatest Generation

The Cannon Art Gallery is hosting a new exhibit titled "Our Lives, Our Stories: America's Greatest Generation" produced by the National Endowment for the Humanities on the Road Initiative. "Born in the 1910s and 1920s, people from this generation were decisively shaped by their experiences during the Depression, World War II and the Boom years."



In conjunction with this exhibit, the Carlsbad Historical Society has loaned to the Library a group of items from that time period, and they are shown inside the Dove and Cole Libraries. CHS participated in the "Family Open Studios" day at the Dove Library patio. We exhibited objects from our school "trunk show", posters and hand outs. Thanks to Marvin Sippel we handed out 36 copies of Alan W. Kelly's book "Impact Geology" and with very positive feedback.

Lecture on Navajo Code Talkers

Gregory Maestas from Mesa, Arizona, gave us a very interesting lecture on the history of the Navajo Code Talker field communications, which the Marines used very successfully in the Pacific Front of WWII. About 400-500 Navajo young men were enlisted as Marines and trained locally at Camp Pendleton in field communications. They also developed a code table of over 200 Navajo words

that they themselves had coded for meaning. Their work remained classified until the presidency of Ronald Reagan. We also learned that the use of Native Americans for field coded communications started back in the First World War, by the Army, using other Native American tribes such as the Comanche. The Navajo code talkers were used again in the wars in Korea and Vietnam.

Maestas also recounted that while Native Americans suffered injustices over the centuries they were willing and happy to serve during the war as they considered their war efforts a defense of their homeland.



Greg Maestas

Future lecture at Gage House

Thanks to Laurie Boone, our next lecture is scheduled for March 16 at 2pm, at the Luther Gage House/ Monterey Condominiums. The lecture will be on the back patio, followed by tours. Jo Ellen Guthrie, one of our Life Members will be giving the presentation, and she and Laurie Boone will be giving the tours.

Nurseryman Luther Gage moved to Carlsbad in 1921 and was involved in the growth of the flower industry in Carlsbad.



Gage House and Monterey Condominiums

ShIPLEY-MAGEE House Redecoration

Ginny Unanue and Susan Schnebelen Gutierrez have been very busy changing our museum displays and refreshing others. There are two completed new displays to commemorate the importance of the Schutte Mansion and the Railroads to our town. Also, the East bedroom has been transformed to a sewing and knitting room. Florence Shipley Magee and her mother spent many years doing wonderful work that is now displayed.

The center distribution hall and "day room" are in process of being transformed into a display honoring BM and Kay Christiansen, founders of our society and through whose endowment we operate.

Barn paint and redecoration

The Barn is also going through some redecorating. The police and civil defense displays have been put away and are being replaced by items that reflect the importance of ranching in Carlsbad. Additionally, we expect to paint and treat the wood inside the barn. This will lighten the inside and protect it against damage. Our friends at the Rotary Club have offered to provide the labor and materials.

Christiansen Display

The Carlsbad Historical Society is deeply appreciative to the Christiansen's for their active investigation of local history, and for their generous endowment to the organization which funds continued research and interpretive

displays.

The Carlsbad Historical Society is dedicating this new display in recognition of the many community contributions of Chris and Kay Christiansen and for their efforts in preserving the history of Carlsbad.

BM (Chris) and Kay Christiansen

Chris and his wife Kay (Fennel) were married in 1936 and lived for a time in Los Angeles. After retiring from business they returned to Kay's home town, Carlsbad, in the early 1950s. Chris and Kay joined her father Claude Fennel in his Carlsbad real estate endeavors creating the Christiansen & Fennel Real Estate Office.

In addition to their business interests the Christiansens were active in local organizations such as the Rotary, Chamber of Commerce, Spring Holiday Celebrations, and Tri-City Hospital Board. They also had a huge interest in local Carlsbad history. In 1953 they purchased the original Frazier well site with the intent of restoring the well. After researching the connection between Carlsbad, CA and Karlsbad, Bohemia the city's namesake, they eventually constructed a replica European historic building that encompassed the well and named it Alt Karlsbad.

In 1975, Chris became one of the founding members of the Carlsbad Historical Society and eventually both Chris and Kay held the office of President. Under Chris's involvement with the Carlsbad Historical Society he helped organize the collection of items included in and installation of the time capsule located in front of the Magee House. Chris was instrumental in convincing the Santa Fe Railroad to turn over the old railway depot to the community and directed efforts to restore the site. He contacted the President of the Santa Fe Railroad and asked that the land adjoining the depot be made available to the newly organized City of Carlsbad as a park. Local newspapers reported that Chris was instrumental

in convincing Florence Shipley Magee to bequeath her home to the City of Carlsbad for a recreational and historic park.

After Chris's passing, Kay continued with their dream to reopen the Frazier well. She worked with Dot Muth and Mari Andersen and in conjunction with the Carlsbad Historical Society to raise funds to commission a statue in the likeness of John Frazier, Carlsbad's well discoverer. The statue was installed on the Alt Carlsbad property.



Alt Carlsbad and statue of John Frazier

School Tours

We had around 150 kids from Magnolia and Jefferson Schools tour the Shipley-Magee House and Barn, plus get a lecture on horsemanship by Marvin Sippel. The third graders first had a lecture on Saint-Michaels-by-the-Sea, at the original church, which was the first church in Carlsbad. Thank you to our volunteers: Jim Landes, Marvin Sippel, Barbara Launspach, Jerry Colling and Murray Levy.

We will have some more school tours in the spring.

More books for sale

We discovered a large number of books that had been stored under one of our display cases; some of these books we thought were all sold out. We now are offering again Marge Howard-Jones book "Seekers of the Spring"; the children's books "Beckett Explores Carlsbad's Past," by Susan Gutierrez and Ann L'Heureux, both in English and

Spanish; and the "Coloring Carlsbad" printed by our Library.

New members and Roster

Ronda Ussery
Marie Davies
Sally Soto
Michael McDonald
Ruth Flores
Teri Chalfant
Dylan Pope

We are sending out an electronic version of our 2014 Membership Roster. Please review so that we can make corrections and send it to the printers. You should receive your new Roster in April.

Snow on Carlsbad and Catalina Island in 1882

From "Life on a San Diego County Ranch", by John L. Kelly ©2006 Lucia Kelly Sippel

"In January 1882 we had a very unusual storm. It was on the twelfth of the month that we had a snow storm that not only reached clear to the coast, here in San Diego County, but snowed out on Santa Catalina and San Clemente Islands. The native Californians, who were all old men and women, had never seen anything like it before. The season up to that time had been very dry indeed. Practically no rain had fallen and it looked like we were in for a real old-fashioned dry year ...When we went up on the hills, where we could see the country towards the mountains, everything to the east of us was buried deep in snow. And looking out to the sea the Islands...where white just as we had often seen the high mountains to the east of us, where snow in the wintertime is a common occurrence.

There were a great many sheep lost the night of the snow storm. One sheep man, whose camp was out in Rose Canyon, had thirty-two hundred head in his corral, and the next morning sixteen hundred were dead..

...The trees too, were badly broken...they were not accustomed to have such weight on them."

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Early Carlsbad History Presentation Available

One of our Spring Lectures given at the Carlsbad by the Sea featured early Carlsbad History. The PowerPoint file is available for anyone interested in giving presentations on our history.

Annual Dues

Our annual dues are collected by the end of June of each year. Individual membership is \$25 and family, \$35. Please consider upgrading to a Life Membership for \$250.

Upcoming Events

March 16, Lecture and Tour of the Luther Gage House/ Monterey Condominiums

March 17 Board meeting

April 20 Rose Garden Tours

April-May Lecture on Saint-Michael-by-the-Sea

May 19 Board meeting

ONGOING PROGRAMS

Volunteers welcome in any of these areas:

- * Friday Docent
- * Third grade tours
- * School presentations with audiovisual display
- * Private tours with Victorian teas
- * Carlsbad history research
- * Photo collection management

BOARD MEETINGS

All members are welcome to attend our bimonthly Board of Directors meetings.

Meetings are held in the Magee House meeting room at 4 p.m. on the third Monday of every other month. Meetings are held in the following months: January, March, May, July, September, and November

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### **CHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President: Germán Gutierrez  
1st Vice President: Murray Levy  
2nd Vice President: Connie Trejo  
Secretary: Ginny Unanue  
Treasurer: Geoff Armour

### **Carlsbad Historical Society**

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Open Friday, Saturday and Sunday 11 to 3 pm.

Private Tours with Tea are given on Monday through Thursday  
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

[www.carlsbadhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.carlsbadhistoricalsociety.com)

### **Magee House and Museum**

258 Beech Ave.  
Carlsbad CA 92008