



## JOURNAL OF THE HISTORY GUILD OF DALY CITY COLMA

### GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT MARK

Well, friends, we promised you a fantastic web site, and we think that we have delivered that and then some based on the positive feedback we have received from so many of you. If you haven't already visited the site, we encourage you to do so. ([www.dalycityhistorymuseum.org](http://www.dalycityhistorymuseum.org))

You won't be disappointed; we promise. In addition to a brief history about the Guild, origins of Daly City, and other general information, we have a calendar of Guild events which will be updated regularly; information about volunteer opportunities; 2014 membership form; preview of our vast collections; and one of my favorites, a resources page divided into three groupings with links to more than 30 similar historical organizations throughout San Mateo County, the region, and the state and some links to sites of general historical interest. One of my favorites lets you look up celebrity final resting places, including Wyatt Earp, whose final reward is just over the border in Colma. You can find photos of local and other celebrities, their very unique memorials, and sometimes even your own kin. I found photographs of my great grandparents' graves on this site. They were in no way famous outside of family circles, yet a stranger decided to take pictures of their headstones and include them on this site. I'm not sure why this was done, but it was interesting to see them included along with Levi Strauss, Emperor Norton, Joe DiMaggio and more. And boy, do we have historic photographs!

If you know of other sites that we should include, please contact us at [director@dalycityhistorymuseum.org](mailto:director@dalycityhistorymuseum.org) or phone the museum at 650-757-7177. For those who don't have the Internet, we will present a brief slide show at our January meeting, showing just how the web site appears so that you can behold the Guild's latest resource and accomplishment.

## DAYTIME MEETING

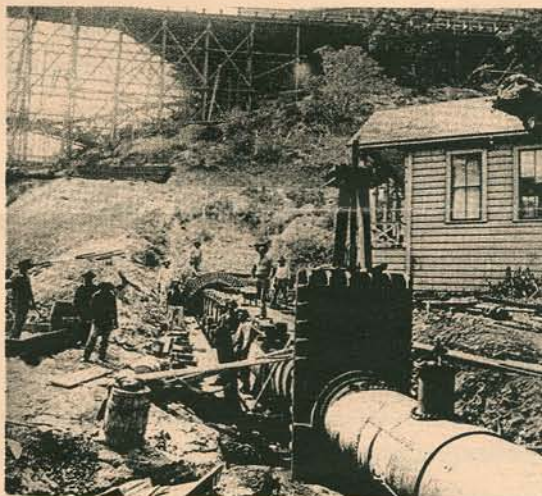
SUNDAY, JANUARY 19<sup>TH</sup> 2 PM

101 Lake Merced Blvd. Daly City  
Doelger Center Café

**Stan Gustavson**

*Lectures on the*

### SPRING VALLEY WATER COMPANY



Crystal Springs Dam, c. 1860s.

Retired City Attorney and longtime Guild member Stan Gustavson discusses the origins of the Spring Valley Water Company in San Mateo County and its historical impact on Daly City.

Guild Annual Birthday Celebration with special cake and bubbly!



### THANK YOU TO REFRESHMENT

**DONORS** - Thanks in advance to **June Neuhaus, Marcus and Grace Gonzalez, Algis Ratnikas, Rich Rocchetta and Michael Rocchetta** for refreshments for our upcoming January meeting. **Elinor Charleston** is our gracious Hospitality Chair.

We also want to note the passing of our friend and fellow Guild member, William 'Wild Bill' Schumacher, who died recently at his home in Palm Desert. As many of you will remember, Bill was a longtime resident of Daly City before he made the move several years ago. In fact, he owned and lived in Daly City's old fire station on Werner Avenue, near Mission Street. He was a very engaged and engaging individual, who decided to contribute to his community in many ways. One of those was through the political process. Bill was elected to a variety of local offices, including the Jefferson Elementary School Board; the City Council of Daly City [served as mayor]; and finally San Mateo County Board of Supervisors. In addition, he was a candidate for San Mateo County Sheriff and California State Senate. I had the pleasure of speaking to him earlier this year, when he generously donated his collection of political campaign buttons to the museum. Since his passing, his family has contacted us to express an interest in donating more of Bill's Daly City mementos. We extend our deepest sympathies to the Schumacher family and will remember Bill most fondly.

Another sad note but one that we hope will have a happy ending. You might have heard that the venerable Joe's of Westlake has been sold. This time it is no rumor. The family of the late restaurateur, Bruno Scatena, has sold their business to the owners of the Original Joe's franchise. The founding family and Bruno once worked together. Long story short, Westlake Joe's will close in January and then reopen in 2015. We can only anticipate that there are some big changes in store. Let's all hope that the great tradition that is Joe's of Westlake continues to live on well into this century.

I would like to bring to your attention the enclosed insert on proposed revisions to our Bylaws that will be voted on at the January meeting. These revisions are unanimously supported by the Board of Directors and were presented at the last general meeting. Revisions will better define the composition and responsibilities of the board, bring greater financial oversight, provide a defined voting process, and clear up some inconsistencies in language and organization of information.

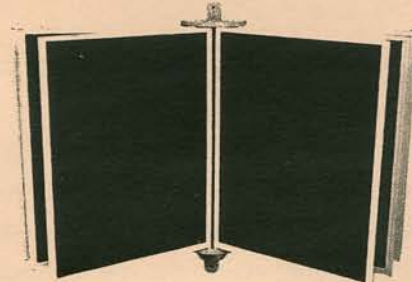
Finally, the board of directors hopes that you had a great Hanukkah, and wants to wish you and yours a Merry Christmas, Happy Kwanzaa, and Joyous New Year!

## RAFFLE ITEMS WELCOMED

Your new or like-new donations for our meeting raffle table are greatly appreciated.

## DONATIONS AND GUILD NEWS

Thanks to a grant written by board treasurer Judith Christensen, we have received a generous grant of \$1,000 from the Carl and Berta Gellert Foundation to be used for the purchase of swinging, multi-panel display units.



You may have noticed these display units in libraries and in use at the nearby Colma Museum. At a recent board meeting we authorized the purchase of a dehumidifier for the museum to provide an improved environment for paper and cloth artifacts. Researcher from UC Berkeley, graduate student Lul Tesfai and Senior Fellow Richard Rothstein of the Earl Warren Institute on Law and Social Policy, visited the museum to study housing discrimination in post-World War II suburban developments. Mark reports that our Facebook "friends" have reached 272! Union Bank on Southgate Ave. paid for use of Guild photos and has a spectacular floor to ceiling window display depicting the Grandview Theatre that once showed silent movies at the Top-of-the-Hill for a nickel. It's almost as if you were walking in to the old theatre. David Powell, son of the late Jane Powell, dropped by the museum on a brief visit from southern California. Unfortunately, he came at a time when the museum was closed, but in a telephone conversation we have arranged for a tour on his next visit when he plans to bring items to donate to the museum. Vaughn Jones donated various maps of Daly City from the 1960s.

## HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS

**San Mateo County History Museum** – 2200 Broadway, Redwood City. Courthouse Docket lecture in Courtroom A, *Steam, Silicon, and Brave New Worlds: The Railroad and Technological Change*. Saturday, **January 25** at 1 p.m. Program and refreshments free with museum entrance fee. Peter A. Hansen lectures on railroad history in honor of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the San Francisco and San Jose Railroad.

**Colma Historical Association** – Sunday, Feb. 9  
quarterly meeting. 2 p.m. at 1500 Hillside Blvd., Colma.

**City of Daly City, Department of Library & Recreation Services** – National Black History Month event “Civil Rights in America” on Saturday, February 1, 2014 from 12 noon to 4 p.m. at the Pacelli Event Center, 145 Lake Merced Boulevard. Free admission, entertainment, soul food and ethnic vendor booths.

### **A MEMORY OF THE PAST** By Frank Spadarella

I was driving northward on California highway 395, heading for a photographic trip to Death Valley. As I gazed out the window of my van, the scene brought back the memory of one of the photographic masterpieces of Ansel Adams that hangs over my mantel at home... Mount Williamson taken from Manzanar.

Manzanar, a strange name I had read about how Manzanar had served as an internment camp during World War II, strange because on every map of California that I studied, I could never find it, and yet I knew that it existed.

I stopped for gas at a small place called Olancho and asked the attendant if he knew where Manzanar was and he replied slowly, “30 miles north. What do you want to go to Manzanar for? Nothing but some old trees.” My curiosity further heightened by his attitude helped me make up my mind to depart from my scheduled route and continue north to Manzanar...

As I drove, Mount Williamson appeared on my left and I knew that it was not much further. A highway marker said “Manzanar” and nothing else. All there is of Manzanar, I discovered, is a State Highway maintenance shed and little else. I saw a small gate opening to a dirt road with a small sign that read, “Manzanar cemetery.” I entered this road and drove a little less than a mile when I was forced to stop, blocked by barbed wire and the road itself which gave way to rutted ruin.

As I got out of my van, a really strange feeling came over me, call it vibrations, or whatever you want, the place really came alive. As I walked over barren ground, I could see small evidences of former habitation, forms and foundations where buildings once stood, old broken bottles and glass, a rusted out tricycle handlebar, and dying or dead trees. The entire area was a strange contrast to the beautiful photo on my mantel. In the distance I could see a white structure and climbing

through barbed wire which was much in evidence throughout the area, I reached a tiny cemetery. In the center, surrounded by small stone markers and several graves stood a white limestone obelisk with three large Japanese characters inscribed upon it in bold black. I have since learned that the monument which was dedicated in 1969 simply said, “A Memory of the Past.”

...As a teenager, I saw our country mobilize for war, a war that unleashed its strange mixture of patriotism and hatred. The Japanese American citizens living on the West coast were the first victims of that mass hatred when early in 1942 President Roosevelt issued an Executive Order which called for the relocation and confinement of over 110,000 people of Japanese ancestry. I thought of my many friends who had been imprisoned at Manzanar... and I also thought of the many Americans who rallied to the cause of justice...one of these was Ansel Adams, who in 1944 held an exhibition on Manzanar which was shown in New York’s Museum of Modern Art. My photo on the mantel was one of those... now, on a cold winter morning three decades later, I was at the scene of that painful story.

Perhaps it is just as well that the desolated area slowly fades away. The trees seem to have shriveled and died as if in further protest to what they witnessed here. Only the towering Sierras and Mt. Williamson shine bright, lofty and serene as they look down on the silent, small monument, now a permanent part of the past. Shaking myself back to the present, I retraced my steps back to my van and noticed a stone structure, perhaps the original entry to the camps, with a bronze plaque placed by the California Historical Society. The inscription reads: “May the injustices and humiliation suffered here as a result of hysteria, racism, and economic exploitation never emerge again.”

- Frank Spadarella - Daly City, California  
March 5, 1975

*Frank Spadarella, who passed away in 2009, was a well-known local restaurant owner [Toto's Restaurants], fine art photographer, and a founder of the Italian-American Museum of San Francisco. The History Guild has a collection of his photos depicting a 1974 recreation of the Broderick/Terry duel. This thoughtful account of his visit to Manzanar was found in the Guild Archives*

***Thank you for your renewed memberships that support and inspire our volunteer efforts.***



## THE HISTORY GUILD OF DALY CITY/COLMA

### DALY CITY HISTORY MUSEUM

6351 Mission Street, Daly City, CA 94014

650/757-7177

Current Hours: Tuesdays and Saturdays from noon to 3 p.m.

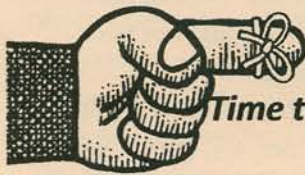


Find us on  
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At Daly City History Museum

[www.dalycityhistorymuseum.org](http://www.dalycityhistorymuseum.org)

### FIRST CLASS MAIL



**Don't forget!**

**Time to renew your membership!**



Photo: <http://www.totos.com/about.html>

Frank Spadarella shown in 1961 with his Fiat pizza delivery wagon. Toto's restaurant came to Daly City in 1957 after first opening in Coney Island, New York and North Beach and Mission Street in San Francisco. Toto's lost its 1913 Junipero Serra Boulevard Daly City location to the Pacific Plaza Redevelopment Project in 2000. Folks in Daly City remember the great waitresses, the noisy and friendly family atmosphere, the Joe Montana cocktail lounge, watching Frank and his workers toss pizza dough, and Frank's beautiful photography throughout the restaurant.

#### GUILD OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

**Mark Weinberger, President**

415/750-1939

[president@dalycityhistorymuseum.org](mailto:president@dalycityhistorymuseum.org)

**Richard Rocchetta, Vice-President**

**Dana Smith, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President/Museum Director**

**Judith Christensen, Treasurer**

**Algis Ratnikas, Secretary**

**Directors: Michael Rocchetta, Marcus Gonzalez**

Ken Gillespie (1924-2011), President-Emeritus

Bunny Gillespie, Secretary-Emerita

Elinor Charleston, Hospitality Chair

*Board meetings are held as necessary and are open to the membership. Please call Mark for further information.*

**The History Guild of Daly City/Colma is a**

**501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization**

**Memberships begin at \$25 per year.**

**Tattler Editor & production: Dana Smith**

**Mark your calendars!** Our March 19<sup>th</sup> member meeting will feature local author and historian Rob Kiel presenting his completed Westlake documentary film.