

THE TATTLER

JOURNAL OF DALY CITY HISTORY GUILD MUSEUM & ARCHIVE

GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT MARK

For our March general membership meeting we welcome a new speaker, Ken Miles, who serves on the board of the Pacifica Historical Society and has done a tremendous amount of research on the Golden Gate--not the bridge. He will discuss: Discoveries of San Francisco Bay and the Golden Gate, from Prehistoric Times to the Arrival of Europeans and Beyond.

To borrow liberally from the very well composed write-up on the Florey's Books web site:

Who first "discovered" the Golden Gate and its hidden secret, the San Francisco Bay? Is this another story like Christopher Columbus' discovery of America in 1492? Hear what Ken Miles has to say about the "discoveries" of the Golden Gate and San Francisco Bay.

For many years Ken Miles' interest in Spanish explorations of early California grew as he read about and studied Native American history and cultures. As he read various accounts about early Spanish explorations in Alta California, he found there were often minor errors and omissions here and there and wondered why there were often different accounts provided for the same historical events. He found the pages of history are like pieces of a puzzle that had fallen to the floor and later reassembled, missing pieces here and there, and some pieces placed where they don't belong. Why were some obvious chapters of history omitted? Could it be the authors preferences or biases that influenced how they viewed history, or could it be from errors or omissions when citing firsthand accounts, secondhand or thirdhand accounts? Could it be the errors made when translating notes and diaries written in older Spanish dialects (Castilian, Andalusian, Catalanian, or other dialects), or from Spanish into English?

This is an investigative study that searches for answers, an attempt to place the missing puzzle pieces where they belong. This is a story primarily about the Spanish explorers, also known as "conquistadors", and Spanish Franciscan missionaries, of what took place, when and where and by whom. This story is also the indigenous people of coastal Alta California, Spanish ships of the
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DAYTIME HISTORY LECTURE

**Sunday, March 15
at 2 pm**

**Ken Miles
presents**

**DISCOVERIES OF SAN FRANCISCO
BAY AND THE GOLDEN GATE,
FROM PREHISTORIC TIMES TO THE
ARRIVAL OF EUROPEANS AND
BEYOND**



**101 Lake Merced Blvd., Daly City
Larcombe Clubhouse - New Location!
(just west of the Doelger Center Café)**

free to the public – loads of free parking
light refreshments
invite a friend!

Thank you to our gracious Hospitality Crew, **Grace and Marcus Gonzalez**, and to refreshment donors **Annette Hipona, Judy Hnilo, Grace and Marcus Gonzalez, and Dana Smith.**

President's Message, cont'd

Spanish Manila and China Galleon, pirates, expansion of the dreaded Russian and English empires, and possible visitations to Alta California by other non-indigenous people. Why did they all come to Alta California?

There is much more in store, so we hope that you will join us for what will surely be a stimulating and eye-opening presentation.

We are very pleased to share that the two oversized murals that came to us very briefly have now found a permanent home in the Daly City Hall rotunda. You will remember that the owner of the former Burgermeister restaurant in Westlake, Paul Mogannam, very generously donated them to us. However, due to extreme space limitations, we found that they would not be suitable for presentation purposes. Both murals--giant oil paintings--depict Daly City. The larger of the two shows top of the hill spanning to the ocean; the other is of the horse stables and bluffs at the end of John Daly Blvd. at Skyline. The Marin Headlands and more are prominently featured in the distance. They are most handsome, and we are grateful to Daly City for securing a wonderful location for showcasing them on either side of the entrance to the Police Station. Please stop by the next time you are at city hall and take a look.

Tattler editor Dana Smith has asked that I reflect on what history means to me. This is both simple and difficult simultaneously. It is easy to observe that in its most basic context that history is the study of what has happened before and is now the past. "Those who do not learn history are doomed to repeat it." The quote is most likely due to writer and philosopher George Santayana, and in its original form it read, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." I believe that can certainly be the case, but it is also understanding conflicting narratives in what has been presented often from a distinct point of view. In other words, it is taking note of that which has transpired and looking at it through a lens that can convey multiple intents and meanings. What I do know with certainty is that having an underlying foundation in multiple histories, and hopefully an appreciation for them, makes one a more confident, composed, and cultured individual.

And finally, thank you for your renewed memberships. Remember, we are an all-volunteer organization and 100% of your membership donation supports our museum, programs, and publication of our newsletter. (If you find a member application and return envelope in this mailing, it means we have not yet received your renewal. Every single member is important to us and we hope you stay with the History Guild family.)



Poor piggies... many local farmers changed from truck farming of vegetables to more profitable pig farming. SF hotels provided garbage to feed the pigs.

FURTHER REFLECTIONS ON HISTORY

From Board Member Michael Rocchetta:

"Our Dad came to this area from Italy in 1913 as a baby at the time Daly City and Colma was developing. He grew up seeing all the changes that were happening and as a great story teller, filled us with stories of things that went on during this important period.

I like to share these stories and my own knowledge of events and changes that I experienced growing up with everyone and preserve the history of our cities so they can be passed on to the next generation. I also am learning a lot of things from our archives."

From Guild Secretary Algis Ratnikas:

The importance of our Daly City History Museum "Since the opening of the Daly City History Museum on March 15, 2009, numerous visitors have been pleased by the exhibits presented. Since that time enhancements have included "A Walk Through Time" center piece created by Board Member Dana Smith; a large screen video assembly for viewing our assorted CD collection, including a 9 minute and a 60 minute video history of Daly City; a fold-out rack for the display of printed material; a large collection of photos posted on the upper walls of the front room as well as numerous small items donated by museum members and others. Over the last eleven years the archive section of the DCHM has also grown. The archive of the museum is less visible to most visitors, but much appreciated by those who come by to research Daly City's past. This aspect of the museum was recently incorporated into our official name: the "Daly City History Guild Museum & Archive."

The archive consists of numerous newspaper clippings and photos collected by Guild members since it was founded in 1982. A compilation of files available may be perused at the museum's front desk. The archive also includes a complete collection of the *Tattler* newsletter

and archives of the Daly City Record (1911 – 1976), much of which is stored at the Colma Museum. The Tattler archive is now available on our website: <https://dalycityhistorymuseum.org/>. If you have not visited in a while, do come by for a refreshing view.”

(Editor's Note: Algis is the creator of an online *Timeline of World History* (<http://timelines.ws/>), an awesome body of work undertaken over many decades. I was inspired by his dedication to this life changing project to create the Timeline exhibit at our Daly City Museum as the thesis project for my Master's Degree at SFSU. Algis's research was a major source of information.)

In the Bio section of his Timeline, Algis describes the impetus for his fascination with history and timelines. “During my 1st semester in graduate school I found a large roll of paper, perhaps 20 inches wide. I extended some 20 feet of this across a wall of parent's basement, where I had established my temporary quarters. On this scroll I created my own timeline to help me visualize and study the various art movements, major dates, artists, events etc. that my new studies threw up at an alarming rate. The scroll quickly filled up with numerous scribbles as well as erasure marks due to miscalculated spacing. The utility of the endeavor soon waned as the paper fell apart from the frequent erasures... In 1995 I revived my old graduate school timeline project. My intention was to create a reliable and easy to use timeline that began right from the Big Bang. Numerous tools all fell into place that made the project work: the computer, the WWW, my own background and interests, and then search engines and other assorted web page tools. The project quickly grew to a large collection of files. Web page counters, search engines and e-mail proved the project useful to a wide variety of users... In Dec 2004 I took an early retirement in order to devote full time to the timelines project. In 2005 I took on a partner to form a database version of the project.”

From Board Treasurer Judith Christensen:

“I know many stories from my own family history that have been passed down from aunts and uncles and parents and grandparents at our family get-togethers. My family photos along with these stories have helped me build a strong bond with many generations of my family.

Museums, books and film with historic photos and the stories that go with them, inspire me to feel a shared humanity and a kinship with people who have come from different places and lived very different lives from mine. Their personal stories help me feel that strong sense of “we” rather than the destructive “us and them” that is growing in today's divisive and angry world.

We all live on this earth together and the more we are able to see each other as part of the greater world family, the better we will work together for peace and the survival of our planet.”

From Perky Ramroath, commenting on her parents Bunny and Ken Gillespie:

Why were Ken and Bunny passionate about history? When I look back at their many history activities, I remember them having a great deal of fun, talking and learning with people who also had life-long passions for learning. Late in life they especially loved sharing Daly City's and Colma's histories with local school children, helping them to enjoy the special heritage of their home towns (especially stories about the piggies).

From documentary filmmaker Ken Burns:

“The reason why you do history, and particularly why you do war, is that you want to make sure that in the next war, some lessons were learned... Human nature always superimposes itself - its strength and its frailty over the rush of chaos of ongoing events - and we can perceive patterns and themes and motifs.”

“I have come to the realization that history is not a fixed thing, a collection of precise dates, facts and events (even cogent commencement quotes) that add up to a quantifiable, certain, confidently known, truth. It is a mysterious and malleable thing.”

“World War II is smothered in sentimentality and nostalgia. What's interesting about Vietnam is that sentimentality is just not there, so you're given kind of a clean access to it in one way. It's also a war that represents a failure for the United States. Many people came back feeling like they never wanted to talk about it again. And so we developed a national amnesia.”

DANA SMITH: A PERSONAL HISTORY

Like many who came of age in the turbulent late 60s and 70s, I was living the history of Ken Burns and Lynn Novik's new documentary film “Vietnam.” I have been avoiding watching the series because those years touch painful memories until one recent night when KQED showcased two segments, back to back. The next morning I found it difficult to get out of bed. I can only imagine the impact this documentary may have on veterans of this war. Yet, it's time this story was told and I am thankful that filmmakers with the integrity of Ken Burns and Lynn Novik took up the challenge. I've been in the habit of thinking that history happened to people who are dead or much older... “oldtimers” who tell their stories of

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the "olden days." The image comes to mind of old Robert Thornton, Daly City's first pioneer, walking down to Colma Village at the settlement near San Pedro Road and Mission Street where he regaled the locals with his stories of the olden days. But now at age 71, I'm beginning to realize I'm one of those reservoirs of history. And I have been part of the "national amnesia" that Ken Burns speaks of surrounding the Vietnam War.

When I graduated from high school in 1966 in Longview, Washington many of my schoolmates were drafted and some died while they were still teenagers. At Whitman College (Walla Walla, Washington) I became active in the anti-war movement and in the campaign of Robert Kennedy for President. At the time, Kennedy opposed draft deferments for college students because he felt the deferments were classist. I remember getting threatening notes in my school mailbox. At the last minute my ride fell through to go to Los Angeles.

I joined a campus group of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). The leaders of the group dropped out of college to go to the South to register African-American voters. This was a very dangerous thing to do. The rest of the group began to focus on anti-war activities, including laying down and blocking the road to the Student Union building for Marine recruiters. Seven of us, including myself, were suspended from school and all of us faced losing our scholarships. I called my parents to tell them what I was doing and that I might lose my scholarship. My Dad, a WWII veteran, just said "Do what you think is right." The college wanted us to write an apology, but since we were all English majors we wrote a very convoluted and unrepentant statement which was accepted by the college. Later we staged a week-long hunger strike and I nearly fainted on the last day as I went in to take a final exam. Several years later I was surprised to read in a book on US campus activism that we were known as "The Whitman Seven".

I transferred to UC Berkley in 1969 and lived in a somewhat notorious rooming house known as Lifestream House a block away from People's Park. I remember walking up the street as students were battling campus police over possession and fencing of the university property that had been taken over as a community garden and "People's" park. A group of students were sitting on a second story balcony watching the goings-on and playing the Beatles' "Why Don't We Do It In The Road" at top volume. Opposition to the war grew as the US invaded Cambodia and the entire campus became an armed camp occupied by the National Guard. The riots started at noon and my roommates and I were frequently tear gassed. I remember one particularly bad time when we ran into a phalanx of National Guard who dropped to a squat, lifted their rifles and began firing tear gas canisters at me and my friend Dorie... we were their only

targets. The canisters rained all around us, but luckily we were not directly hit. We ran home with our skin burning and jumped in the shower... the wrong thing to do because it exacerbated the burning. We were screaming as roommates rubbed us down with Vaseline.

Classes ended at 12:30 pm, so I was usually caught in the middle of the melee. Students in the Political Science Department were debating what action to take when someone burst in and exclaimed "quit making speeches, the engineering students have built a huge catapult and are bombarding the police" (known as the "Blue Meanies" for their blue jumpsuits). The Art Department students decided art was "irrelevant", covered all the sculptures on campus and turned their creativity toward making silkscreened political posters. I graduated in 1971 in the only UC Berkeley graduating class not to hold a commencement due to the campus unrest. Another time my roommate Dorie and I were trying to find a safe route home from class with our arms full of books when we came around the corner of a building and almost ran into a contingent of the meanies. They charged us with batons raised... I don't think I have ever run so fast. Other students were caught up in the charge and I remember seeing a boy running about four feet behind me out of the corner of my eye with the meanies in hot pursuit. Suddenly I heard a thud, a cracking sound and a horrific scream. The meanies were hitting him behind the knees with their batons... I was sure they broke his legs. As we ran through a small streambed on campus, Dorie lost her clog shoes in the mud and started to turn back to get them. I grabbed her arm and yelled "run, run, run" as the screaming continued behind us. I somehow managed to keep hold of my books through the incident. I wouldn't have been able to afford to replace them.

John Kerry's powerful speech to the Congress as the founder of Vietnam Veterans Against the War is featured In Ken Burns documentary. Kerry spoke at Westmoor High School in Daly City during his 2004 presidential campaign. He lost to Republican George W. Bush.



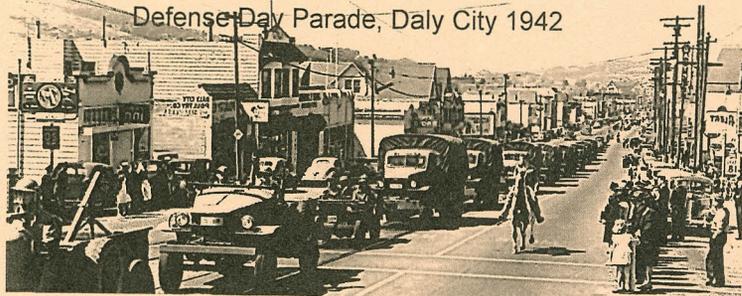
I moved to San Francisco after graduating when huge anti-war marches were taking place along Market Street and Geary Boulevard. I later dated a Vietnam veteran for a few years who had terrible PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) and Agent Orange poisoning. Jim Epps, (veterans advocate, poet and printer) prematurely died at a VA hospital of emphysema as a result of a smoking habit begun in Vietnam when the military supplied soldiers with free cigarettes on the battlefield. Swords to Ploughshares was unsuccessful in persuading the military to give disabilities to veterans addicted to smoking while serving in Vietnam.

THE GUILD REMEMBERS JUNE NEUHAUS AND DOROTHY HILLMAN

June Neuhaus died January 21st in Daly City. June was a longtime Guild member and native San Franciscan born in 1926. She attended Abraham Lincoln High School, University of California Berkeley, and San Francisco State University. She met husband Ralph while studying economics at Cal Berkeley and they wed in 1949. She was a passionate educator, having gone back to college to support her three young children after Ralph's untimely death. Ralph was a WWII hero on the beaches of Normandy. Mark Weinberger comments: "June Neuhaus was a cherished member of the History Guild, who inspired many of us. She was blessed to have lived into her ninth decade of life, surrounded by friends and family. While I did not have the privilege of having been one of her students, my brother did. She will be deeply missed."

Dorothy Hillman was born in New York in 1921 and came to California with her family at age 11. In 1950 she and husband George moved to Colma. She was one of the founders of the Colma Historical Association and their treasurer for over 20 years, a world-wide traveler, and a member of the History Guild. Richard Rocchetta (Secretary of the Colma History Association) comments: "Dorothy always attended our general membership meetings contributing hospitality items and was even a consistent winner of prizes in our drawings! Dorothy's positive attitude will be missed by all."

Defense Day Parade, Daly City 1942



Editor's note: Cole Johnson at Daly City Libraries found this list for me. Source: www.virtualwall.org

DALY CITY REMEMBERS RESIDENTS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN VIETNAM:

CPL RONALD LEE BELKNAP
PFC HENRY DANIEL BELL, JR
1LT DONALD CHARLES
BOSBERY
PFC SHERRICK CAMDEN
BRITTON
2LT HAROLD JOHN CLIFFORD
LTJG HENRY HUDSON, JR.
CDR GLENN EDWARD
KOLLMANN
LCPL ROBERT JOHN MOLOSSI
PFC GLEN MARK MORRISON
SP4 JUAN CARLOS QUINTANA
PFC EMIL HAROLD SMEVOLD
CPL EDWARD PAUL VAN
DERVORT
PVT JOHN LAWRENCE WAGNER

COLMA VETERANS VILLAGE OPENS

This past October a 66-unit housing development opened for formerly homeless and low-income veterans and their families at 1670 Mission Road, Colma. The project is a joint effort by Mercy Housing, Holy Cross Cemetery, the US Department of Veteran's Affairs, Newmark Philanthropies, and Brilliant Corners (an organization creating housing with supportive services.) The Village includes a community garden and dog run.

MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

On Saturday, March 14 San Mateo County Historical Association will present their Courthouse Docket series dramas featuring notable women in San Mateo County history, including **Margaret Pauline Brown** (1875-1959) of Colma. She was nominated for this honor by the Colma Historical Association. The Jefferson Elementary School District has a school named for her as she was an outstanding educator. The program will be at 1:00 PM on Saturday, March 14 in Courtroom A in the old County Courthouse, 2200 Broadway in Redwood City. The program itself is free but there is an entrance fee to the museum for non-members (\$6 adults, \$4 seniors and students, free for children 5 yrs. and under).



**DALY CITY HISTORY GUILD MUSEUM
& ARCHIVE**

6351 Mission Street Daly City, CA 94014
650/757-7177
Open Tuesdays and Saturdays from noon to 3 p.m.



Please visit us on Facebook at "Daly City History Guild Museum & Archive"

www.dalycityhistorymuseum.org

FIRST CLASS MAIL

**GLADYS HANSEN EARTHQUAKE
EVENT AT CYPRESS LAWN
Sunday,; April 19 at 1 pm FREE**

Speaker Richard Hansen will be presenting the debut of the biopic film "Gladys Hansen: The Lady Who Shook Up San Francisco History". Filmmaker Nicholas Woodworth will attend and answer questions.

Appointed the first and only Chief Archivist of San Francisco in 1971, she changed our view of the 1906 disaster by documenting thousands of fatalities that were not recorded. The long-accepted death toll of 478 was revised in 2006 to over 3,000.

Cypress Lawn Reception Center, 1370 El Camino Real, Colma - Light Refreshments

COLMA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION:

Tea of Many Themes, March 28 at 12 noon, Colma Community Center, 1520 Hillside Blvd. For more information: 650-757-1676
Quarterly Meeting, April 26th at 2 pm, Colma Historical Museum, 1500 Hillside Blvd.

GUILD OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Mark Weinberger, President 650/757-7177
president@dalycityhistorymuseum.org
Richard Rocchetta, Vice-President
Marcus Gonzalez, 2nd Vice-President/Museum Director
Judith Christensen, Treasurer
Algis Ratnikas, Secretary
Directors: Michael Rocchetta, Dana Smith

Ken Gillespie (1924-2011), President-Emeritus, Bunny Gillespie (1926-2017), Secretary-Emerita, Grace and Marcus Gonzales Hospitality Crew

Board meetings are held quarterly and are open to the membership. Please contact Mark for further information.

**Daly City History Guild Museum & Archive is a
501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization
Memberships begin at \$25 per year.**

Tattler Editor & production: Dana Smith
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Contributions of stories from your "history" encouraged.