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WINTER 2017 VOLUME LV, NO. 4

Greetings
from **OWL** *of us!*





FROM THE DIRECTOR

It is frankly impossible to name the cruellest month, as T.S. Eliot was able to do in *The Waste Land*, his famously modernist poem of 1922, or to choose a crueler day given what we are experiencing of late. The natural disasters of wildfires in the Diablo Hills and North Bay; hurricanes in Puerto Rico, Florida and Texas; earthquakes in and near Mexico City; the manmade suffering visited on neighboring Las Vegas; not to mention the federal and worldwide unrest I read with my morning coffee. I am not the only person burdened by what feels like daily doses of "sad" news. I am, however, one of the lucky few who have a refuge where shared knowledge and history breed...

*Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing
Memory and desire, stirring
Dull roots with spring rain.
Winter kept us warm, covering
Earth in forgetful snow....*

Life is complicated. People do remarkable things. Going about one's business can make a difference. These may be simple truths for extraordinary times, perhaps. Yet, these are the stories we tell ourselves and newcomers who can now visit the Museum of History and Culture at no charge. A selfless gift from Ed and Donna Martins has opened the galleries and archives to everyone needing a little headroom and an unhurried place to reconnect with the virtues and rejuvenating stories that are worth remembering.

HAHS recognized exceptional people at its History Awards in 2017, gave unmentionable artifacts a little notice, pulled some old scraps of newsprint into view, and taught a few jigs and rounds to unpracticed feet. Our Marketing and Membership Manager mentored a work-based learning high school intern, Research and Archives guided Public History students in multiple investigations, and preschoolers made learning out of play in the Museum's Children's Gallery. On any given day, area residents are calling with questions about their newly purchased home, an email asks about Hayward's connection to the Gold Rush, nonprofit business representatives are arriving for their monthly meeting, and friends are celebrating a relative's birthday in our Cannery Cafe.

In these ways and more, memory and desire take flight, ideas bloom like flowers, and we are warmed by the enthusiasm of visitors discovering HAHS for the first time. The roots for what we do – the necessary planning, friend-raising, fund-raising, and management of scarce resources – requires our daily, monthly, yearly attention, and more than a little goodwill.

If you are a member, board director, donor, advisor, parent with a toddler, frequent eater, tourist or fan of your hometowns (Ashland, Castro Valley, Cherryland, Fairview, Hayward, San Lorenzo), thank you for making this place your own this year. Bria, Diane, Gretta, Jessica, John, Marcess, María, Tatyana, Tiffany, Winda and I are grateful to have your ongoing support.

—AT Stephens, *Executive Director*

Cover image:
Young burrowing owls
about 12 days old; July
4, 1908 Haywards Calif;
photo by Otto Emerson



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HAHS MUSEUM OF HISTORY & CULTURE

Historical and cultural exhibits and events plus a children's gallery, museum store, and cafe! Open Wed - Sun, 10AM - 4PM.

22380 FOOTHILL BOULEVARD, HAYWARD



McCONAGHY HOUSE

A lovingly preserved 1888 Eastlake style Victorian. School tours available. Open the first weekend of the month, 11AM-4PM.

Tours at the top of the hour, last tour at 3PM.

18701 HESPERIAN BOULEVARD, HAYWARD



MEEK MANSION

Built in 1869 by William Meek. Located on nearly 10 acres. Currently undergoing restoration.

17365 BOSTON ROAD, HAYWARD



SAN LORENZO PIONEER CEMETERY

Final resting place of over 2000 residents from politicians to paupers and Hayward area pioneers. Open on the second Saturday of the month, May through September, 10AM-2PM.

HESPERIAN BLVD. & COLLEGE STREET
SAN LORENZO

Gourmet Tuscan Feast Nets Funds for HAHS

by María Ochoa, PhD, Deputy Director

HAHS Board Member Sandra Davini and husband John are longtime supporters of the museum. At this year's History Awards, they contributed for auction an evening of fine dining in the Tuscan style at Villa Davini their Hayward Hills home. The generous and fortunate winners were Bob and Marge Sakai, two longtime benefactors of HAHS.

Marge and Bob invited their lucky guests to an evening of gourmet delights and libation pairings beginning with crostini alla Davini, a spicy shrimp and antipasto. A chilled avocado soup with crab and a cold Italian tomato soup with shrimp garnish and jicama slices were the next course, followed by a wild mushroom risotto. And, there was more dining delights to come with salmon under sea salt, that was accented with beurre blanc sauce and asparagus bundles. The feast concluded with fresh plum and peach gelati, and biscotti. Libations were carefully matched to each course and included prosecco, Italian beer, and assorted Italian wines.

HAHS is deeply appreciative of Sandra and John's willingness to opening their home and sharing their culinary talents for auction benefiting our work. We are also thankful for having the support of Bob and Marge, who have a longstanding commitment to HAHS.



After the evening's festivities, these were two of the enthusiastic reviews by guests and hosts:

Ann Farias: WOW, WOW, WOW!!! Dear Sandy and John, There are not enough adjectives to describe last evening in your Tuscan Villa! Thank you so much for a wonderful gathering starting with the prosecco, the varied appetizers, and the multicourse delicious dinner.

Bob Sakai: Your meal was superlative, which we put in the same category as a Michelin dinner we had in Paris years ago. We could see, smell and taste the quality of your food that resulted from your long efforts. Your homemade wine, vinegar, and eggs were icing on the cake.

Pamela Apostolos: SLZ Native With Lots of Heart

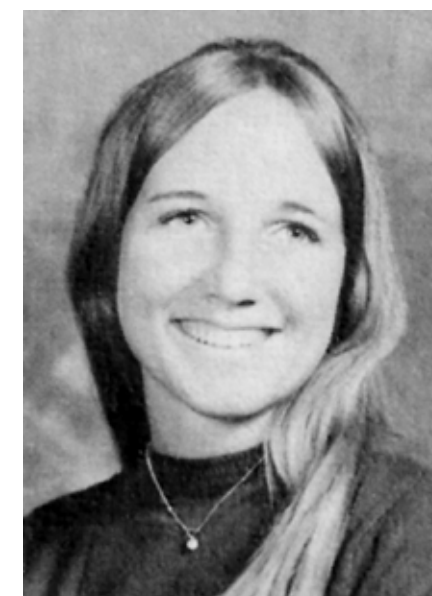


Pamela Apostolos was born and raised in San Lorenzo, graduated from Arroyo High School, and spent much of her life working to improve this community. She started volunteering with the Historical Society when she heard the McConaghy House was soon to reopen in the Fall of 2015. She jumped right in, quickly learning about the history of the beloved house, the McConaghy family, and the local community. Pamela was "a little nervous at first, but now it feels like a second home." She has stepped in and really made guests feel welcome when they visit this local gem.

In addition to helping out at the McConaghy House, Pamela has volunteered with HAHS in many other capacities. She comes into the Museum three days a week to work with the Archives Department and more recently, the Collections Department. During her time in the Archives she has been instrumental in

creating a finding aid for the Pete Stark Collection, transcribing the early 20th century Hayward Fire Department ledgers, and creating a biography inventory for the Oakland Tribune Newspaper Collection. More recently, Pam has decided to take on work with the Collections Department too. Her current project is to attach photo files to the object records in the cataloging database that we use. Of her work, Pam notes that "going through the articles and images can be kind of mundane but every so often I find a real piece of history...I even found stuff about my grandmother!" Pam has been extremely involved with the Historical Society and we are so very lucky to work with her.

"I have met so many wonderful people since I started volunteering... I consider HAHS and the people I have crossed paths with my extended family."



Above: Pamela at work behind the scenes in the Archives.
Left: HAHS Staff found Pamela's senior picture from *The Arroyan* in the yearbook collection.

HAHS has excellent volunteers that come in week after week, month after month, and year after year to help with tours, programs, collections, and archival work; these volunteers support staff and are essential to keeping your Historical Society a living, breathing organization. For this reason we wanted to highlight our outstanding volunteers and thank them for their continued support.

☐☐ Collections Corner

By **Gretta Stimson**
Collections and Historic Properties Manager

You're looking through a box of keepsakes when you find a favorite, old, plastic, army man. Smiling, you pull him out of the box. As you pick him up his arm snaps, and you realize that the once indestructible action figure has become hard and brittle. As an institution that does contemporary collecting, we encounter these unstable plastics all the time.

The first truly synthetic plastic, Bakelite, was patented in 1907 by Leo Baekeland. Plastics have been with us for over 100 years, which means many artifacts in our collection are made of plastic, or contain plastic parts. Plastics are diverse, and each kind requires its own set of preservation techniques and conditions.

Some conditions and techniques are broadly applicable. Plastics require an environment that is dark and cool, with a stable relative humidity of between 30% - 50%. Plasticizers can be drawn out by absorbent material, so when boxing or storing, it is best to use a material such as polypropylene. If plastics are wrapped in acid free tissue paper, it should be changed regularly. When plastics are exposed to light, they darken, fade or become brittle. Fluctuating temperatures



For an example of crazing, look carefully at this doll's leg for the cracks in the plastic.

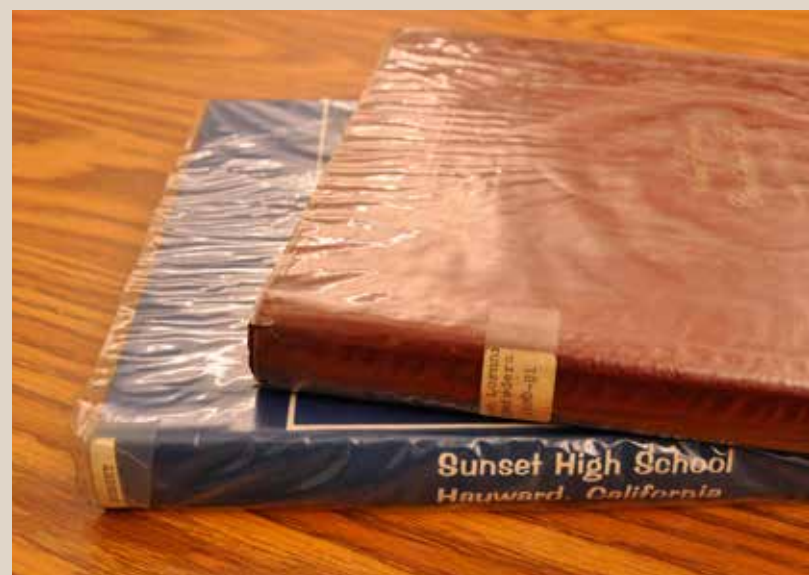
cause the materials to expand and contract, creating crazing, or little cracks throughout. Losing plasticizer causes the surface to become sticky or to develop bloom, which looks like white powder.

Aside from obvious discoloration and embrittlement, other signs of chemical degradation in plastics include rancid smells, cracks and haziness. Degrading plastics, which are off-gassing, can also discolor or tarnish surrounding objects, parts or packing materials. The potential for off-gassing means that plastic objects have to be kept in containers which allow air to move around them. Sealed plastic bags or boxes keep potentially damaging gasses close to the artifact. Microfiber cloths are used for cleaning so that lint isn't left behind. Using gloves during handling protects plastic from harmful oils and acids present on human hands. Nitrile gloves are preferable to cloth, as they are less likely to snag on the surface of the objects.

Next time you are adding a plastic toy, pen or knick-knack to your box of keepsakes, remember these tips. Keep an eye out for our next edition of Adobe Trails and more information about collections work here at HAHS.



The molded plastic base of this shaving kit and the plastic canister included with the kit have yellowed over time.



Popularly used to protect books, these plastic covers have not aged well. The plasticizers have leached out, which is apparent in this case by the rippling and change of shape.



Poor storage conditions prior to donation caused the photographs in this album to fuse with the plastic album pages.

Call for Collections Volunteers!

If you are interested in helping behind the scenes with collections items, we are seeking volunteers to help photograph artifacts to add to our database. Please visit haywardareahistory.org/volunteer or contact Education and Volunteer Manager Bria Reiniger at (510) 581-0223 ext. 161 for more information.

Doris Yates, PhD Lively Professor and Thoughtful Benefactor

by María Ochoa, PhD, Deputy Director

Thirty four years ago, Washington DC native Dr. Doris Yates moved to the area as a newly hired faculty member in the department of Hospitality, Recreation, and Tourism at what was then called California State University, Hayward.

Growing up in the nation's capitol, surrounded by all manner of cultural institutions, she developed a love for history. The Smithsonian Museum, particularly the Air and Space facility, became her favorite learning environment. When she arrived in Hayward and saw that the community had long supported its own regional museum, she knew that this was the place for her.

Doris began to explore the various neighborhoods in the area, and as a result, became well acquainted with the McConaghy House. She was less familiar with the Meek

Mansion, and fell in love with the historic building after participating in a guided tour of the first floor. The other portions of the home were off limits to the public because of their disrepair. "To me, the Meek Mansion was like the little red-headed stepchild, lacking for proper attention," she said.

When she was planning festivities for her 60th birthday party, she thought, "I had enough stuff, and what I needed I could buy. I wanted to get people out of a mindset that promoted the acquisition of things. It seemed natural to join this impulse with my interest in supporting the Meek Mansion. The grounds were well manicured, but the building clearly needed work."

Doris held her birthday party at the Veterans Hall in Historic Downtown Hayward, and asked her guests to make contributions to HAHS for the renovation of the Meek Mansion, in lieu of bringing her gifts. "I wanted to expose people to the work of the museum, and to share my love for all that it does," she said.

But, Doris didn't stop there. She held her 62 ½ birthday party at the Turf Club. She again asked her guests to make contributions to support the Meek Mansion in lieu of bringing her gifts. She said, "I hope that these parties inspire others to consider hosting similar types of giving events for HAHS."

Doris's innovative fundraising is deeply appreciated, as is her amazing energetic outreach on behalf of the museum. If you are interested in hosting a similar special event, contact us at development@haywardareahistory.org. or (510) 581-0223.



Shop Talk: Holiday Gift Shopping

The holidays are upon us and we all know what that means: shopping! The Museum Gift Shop is your stop for one of a kind, special items. We have sought out locally crafted goods that make truly unique gifts.

Looking for special spa experience? Check out Coco Fusions, made in Hayward by Cami Hammond, who uses only the purest ingredients to leave you feeling baby soft and smelling heavenly. All Coco Fusions products are designed with your comfort and sensitive skin in mind. With a coconut oil base and no toxic or harsh chemicals, Coco Fusions products not only smell wonderful, but they will leave your skin looking and feeling wonderful as well.

Show your love and appreciation for that special someone with handmade jewelry by Ann Walters. Ann's beautifully crafted necklaces and bracelets, with unique settings and semi-precious stones, add just the right amount of sparkle to any holiday party outfit. Keep that special someone warm and cozy with hand knitted scarves and blankets. Both the blankets and the scarves are extra soft and come in a variety of sizes and colors, making them the perfect gift for not only the holidays but baby showers and birthdays as well.

Shopping in the Museum Gift Shop supports the Museum, local artisans, and helps build a stronger community. Show your love this holiday season for your friends, family, and local artisans when you shop at the Museum Gift Shop.



Winter EVENTS & PROGRAMS WITH HAHS



22380 FOOTHILL BOULEVARD, HAYWARD

[Member's Event] CSUEB Public History Class Presentations

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 6:30 – 9:30 PM

CSUEB Public History Students will conduct short presentations on Hayward area's history in the last 60 years. The research and presentations are the culmination of their classwork for the quarter.



Toddler Time – The Holidays

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 10:30 – 11:30 AM
\$5 suggested donation

This is the time of year people come together with their families and loved ones in celebration! Join us in learning about the different winter holidays observed around the world through stories, crafts, and activities

9th Annual Black History Month Program: African Americans During Times of War

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2:30 PM
\$5 suggested donation

Every year, the Hayward Area Historical Society commemorates Black History Month by co-sponsoring an event with the Eden Rose Chapter of the Links, Inc and the Women's Ministry at Palma Ceia Baptist Church. Join us for the 9th Annual Black History Month Program with a lecture followed by a question session.

Toddler Time – Trains

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 10:30 – 11:30 AM
\$5 suggested donation

Trains have long been used to get produce and other goods from the Hayward area to the surrounding communities and often the rest of the country. From the Southern Pacific Railway line to the now vital Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART), trains have helped make transit fast and easy. Join us for this Toddler Time to learn more about trains with games, crafts and stories.



18701 HESPERIAN BLVD, HAYWARD

History for Half Pints – The Holidays

Saturday, December 2, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
\$5 suggested donation

Join your Historical Society for our annual holiday celebration at McConaghy House. This year explore the decorated house, visit with Santa Claus, and make your very own snow globe to add to your collection!

Visitas Guiadas en Español en La Casa McConaghy

DOMINGO, 3 DE DICIEMBRE, 11:30 & 1:30
Adultos \$5, Estudiantes y personas mayores \$3,
Niños menores de 4 años gratis

Construida en el año 1888, La Casa McConaghy es una casa de campo que contiene decoraciones, muebles y pinturas de arte. Ofrecemos giras en Español que presentan como la familia McConaghy vivió en el pueblo de San Lorenzo en ese tiempo en la historia.

Holiday Festival at McConaghy House

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 9, & 16, 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

House Admission: \$5 Adults, \$3 Students & Seniors, FREE for HAHS Members and children ages 4 and younger

Discover the history of the McConaghy House this Holiday Season! Be part of a community tradition and explore the local landmark as it has been adorned in cheer and ornaments for the season. The first Holiday tour was held back in 1976 (the same year it was open to the public) and has taken place nearly every year since, making it a tradition you can enjoy with your whole family for years to come.

The House will be open on the first three Saturdays of December from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM for self-guided tours. Experience McConaghy House decked out for the holidays and learn some family history. Don't forget to say hi to Santa Claus, tell him what you want for Christmas, and get your photo taken with him as well!

There will be additional activities outdoors for the whole family. Bring the little ones down to make their own tree ornaments and holiday crafts. Be sure to take a look through the Carriage House Gift Shop where you can find an amazing assortment of holiday items and gifts. Complementary hot cider and snacks will be offered, and admission into the Shop is free.



Art in History

by Diane Curry, Curator and Archivist

"Haywards, Cal '98" by Otto Emerson

Opening in February, Hayward Arts Council members will put on an exhibition of works by local artists in the Community Gallery. The Hayward area may not be thought of as a hotbed of artistic expression like other parts of the Bay Area but we not only have a thriving art community now, but have always had one.

Long before our current arts organizations, there was the Hayward Art Association. Local artists Will Frates, Elmer Stanhope, Ethel Grau, Vicki Prioste, Jean Hale, and James Lovera formed the group in 1943. They gathered to take scenic trips in and around the Bay Area to paint, sketch and draw. They also met to paint still life's and generally support one another's artistic efforts. Many of their gatherings and exhibits were held in the home studio of Frates and Stanhope on Foothill Boulevard but the individual members and the association as a whole exhibited at museums and galleries all over the Bay Area. The association was so well regarded that artists from far outside the area sought membership. At their height in the late 1950s, there were over a hundred members from throughout the Hayward area and beyond.



Portrait of Harvey Rice by Juan Buckingham Wandesforde.

Artwork from some of the members of the Association are in the HAHS collection. We have several pieces from Ethel Grau, Merle Simonds, Elmer Stanhope, and Will Frates. Their works were collected because of the subject matter they painted in many cases, such as the salt ponds painted by Ethel Grau which is on display in Your Story, and also because they were works done by local residents. If we are telling the story of the people who made the Hayward area what it is today, then it's important to collect examples of the art produced from this place, don't you think?

Beyond those associated with the Hayward Art Association, we also have several other famous artists who called the area home at one time represented in the Collection. One prolific artists was Otto Emerson. A bit of a Renaissance man, Emerson moved to the area in the late 19th century where he lived at Palm Cottage on Foothill Boulevard. Emerson was a talented photographer and painter who studied art in Europe.

He was a nature lover who spent time walking and studying the natural environment, most especially the native bird species, as he was also an amateur ornithologist. We have a large collection of his still life photography studies of birds and other animals taken in the area as well as several of his impressionistic paintings.

Another famous artist who lived for a time here was Juan Buckingham Wandesforde. An established portrait and landscape artist from Scotland, Wandesforde came to California during the Gold Rush. He was one of the founding members of the San Francisco Art Association along with other famous California artists Thomas Hill and William Keith. He eventually settled in Hayward in the mid-1880s where he taught classes and rented a studio in one of the buildings on B Street. He painted subjects and scenery of the area as well as portraits of local residents, one of which we have of inventor Harvey Rice. We are lucky to have two signed works by Wandesforde because many of his paintings were lost in a fire before his death in 1902.

And lastly, a little known but important artist who called Hayward home was Matsusaburo Hibi. Several of his paintings are in our collection. A native of Japan, he came to the West Coast in 1906. He eventually attended the California School of Fine Arts (now the San Francisco Art Institute) where he studied and later taught. Hibi was heavily involved with the art scene in San Francisco for many years before moving his family to Hayward in 1933. While living here he not only practiced his art, painting and participating in many exhibitions of his work, but also taught at the Japanese language school and assisted other Issei (first generation) residents in the area who did not know English as well as he did. When he and his family were forced to leave the area to report for internment at the beginning of World War II, he gave over 50 of his paintings to local businesses, schools, and other institutions that he felt had been good friends to the Japanese community. He said, "There is no boundary in art. This is the only way I can show my appreciation to my many American friends here." While

incarcerated at Topaz Internment Camp, he was the director of the Topaz Art School. He and his family never returned to the area after the war and he died just a few years later, a huge loss for the Hayward community and the art community.

These are just a few of the artists who have called the Hayward area home in the past. I wish I could say that we represent the work of all artists in our collection but realistically that just isn't possible. We can however always be on the lookout for pieces that add to the story of the Hayward area. In the meantime, let us appreciate the works of current artist's diligently perfecting their craft, while also recognizing the long history of artists and arts organizations in the Hayward area.



Watercolor sketch of Lyon's Brewery in Hayward by Ethel Grau

Volunteers Speaking Volumes

"There are many reasons to love our town!"

HAHS Education & Volunteer Manager Bria Reiniger is constantly identifying, analyzing, and refining our volunteer experience. She knows that the work of the museum will benefit from the keen observations and apt talents of our growing pool of volunteers. She said, "The dedication of our volunteers never ceases to amaze me. They are so generous with their time, and always willing to lend a hand. It's inspiring and I am extremely grateful to work with such a HAHSome bunch! Thank you all!"

As part of Bria's ongoing work, she recently convened a small focus group session with some of our current volunteers. It was a listening moment, as she asked key critical questions of the participants in order to discover how we might improve our volunteer experience and our services to the community. What follows is just a glimpse of their responses to her prompts.

What are the most difficult and satisfying parts of your work here at HAHS?

Satisfying

- Signing up for events
- Introducing people to the museum and all it has to offer
- Sharing all I've learned about Hayward area history
- Seeing people become proud of this community, and then them wanting to learn more

Difficult

- Putting that first step forward and thinking outside of the box
- Encouraging people in the café to visit the museum, they are usually not interested
- Encouraging changes
- Standing and waiting when no one can be convinced to take a tour.

What about volunteering has been eye opening?

- The different kinds of people who visit, and their interests about the museum and properties
- The wealth of information in our community
- The loyalty of people who are natives of the East Bay
- Always learning, learning, and more learning

What is the one thing you want everyone who visits our locations to know?

- Contributions of Ohlone
- What makes a community
- That any contribution made helps the museum and is appreciated
- You learned more about our area than you knew before visiting
- There are many reasons to love our town!



HAHS Board Vice President Katie Allen

Accomplished Musician, Avid Historian



Katie Allen's service as a member of the HAHS Board of Directors dates to the summer of 2015. She is now Vice President of the Board and chairs the Advancement Committee. Katie remarks that one of the best things about her connection to HAHS is "the chance to interact with interesting people, the other board members, our staff, and visitors to the museum."

A longtime resident of Hayward, Katie wanted to give back to the community after retiring as a senior manager with United Airlines, where she had worked for 32 successful years. Former Hayward City Council Member Bill Ward was on the HAHS Board of Directors when, shortly after her retirement, he invited Katie to visit the museum. She said of the experience, "I was amazed to find this small diamond in the downtown. I immediately wanted everyone to know what a wonderful destination this place is."

Prior to coming to HAHS, Katie served on the Advisory Council for the Museum of African Diaspora (MOAD) in San Francisco. As a result, she came to us deeply experienced in museum governance. A native of San José, Katie attended San Francisco State University where she majored in International Studies with a minor in History. Her love of history is readily seen on the shelves of her home library which include a mix of historical fiction, Civil War history, as well as books about the circumstances that led up to World War II.

When she is not involved with HAHS business or reading a good history book, Katie hones her piano playing abilities by practicing on her very own baby grand piano, a gift from her husband. She is a trained classical pianist, who has played since childhood. Her love of and respect for music is deep and wide ranging. Katie and her husband are ardent jazz fans, who attend performances and festivals in the region and beyond.

We are fortunate that when she is at home she shares her enthusiasm for history with us in such a meaningful way. Katie says, "For people, who do not know a lot about the area, the Hayward Area History Museum is a go-to space. And, I am proud to be a part of this longstanding cultural institution."

HAHS Board of Directors Secretary Margaret "Peggy" Collett retired from her service on the board this past fall. Peggy had served with distinction since 2009, and we are happy to see her still in the Cafe and at exhibit receptions.

Jessica Spencer, Administrative Assistant



As the Administrative Assistant at HAHS, I get to work closely with all of my co-workers on a regular basis. While my responsibilities include regular office maintenance like ordering office supplies or organizing contact lists, working at a smaller, local museum also means I get to assist on other projects and programs. I update renewed memberships, so our Membership and Marketing Manager, Marcess, can focus on bigger projects, and brainstorm themes and activities for next years Toddler Time with our Education Coordinator Bria. I worked on a plan with our bookkeeper Tatyana to make sure her office was covered when she went overseas to visit her mother recently, and I also operated the face painting booth at the Independence Day Celebration at Meek Park. I love collaborating with our team at HAHS and getting to work on a wide variety of projects.

I started as a volunteer at HAHS in the Summer of 2016 and landed in Collections working on the handkerchief collection before joining the staff in November. I had just moved from the Los Angeles area, where I'm from, with my husband Mike, a Bay Area native. Having volunteered at the Bembridge House in Long Beach- an historic late Victorian home with ties to agriculture- the previous two years, I knew transitioning to HAHS would be easy. I finished my degree in Fashion Design while at the Bembridge House and I am happy to gain a wide breadth of public history experiences at HAHS while going to CSU East Bay next quarter to complete a degree in history.

Legacy Giving: Planning Now for the Future

Mrs. Danelle Hickling, a Texas native, moved as a child to the California Central Valley, and eventually she came to live in Hayward with her husband Edward. Danelle worked at the Chabot College Federal Credit Union, and later at Bennett's Photo of Hayward. She enjoyed traveling and gardening. She also enjoyed visiting HAHS, and was a member and donor to the museum.

Danelle passed away earlier this year, and we learned that she had designate HAHS as the recipient of contributions in her memory. We were honored that she had named us, and since her death have received numerous contributions in her name.

Gifts such as these provide opportunities for supporters like Danelle to ensure that their memories endure through the everyday work of the museum. These types of giving designations also offer family and friends a way to honor loved ones.

You can provide a future gift to HAHS by including a bequest provision in your will or revocable trust. The museum will receive your gift upon your passing based on the specifications you make in the provision.

One of our longtime donors and a local practicing attorney has generously offered to assist interested supporters of HAHS in the preparation of a codicil to your will or an amendment to your revocable trust, without charge. This simple add-on will designate the museum as the recipient of your gift in whatever form you choose in an amount that you determine.

Should you be interested in this cost-free service that will support HAHS and commemorate your life, please contact us to arrange a meeting at the HAHS office to meet with the attorney.

HAHS BUSINESS MEMBERS

THANK YOU
to our HAHS
Business members
for your support!



BA MORRISON
2544 Castro Valley Blvd, Castro Valley
(510) 538-9817 | bamorrison.com
In business since 1990, B.A. Morrison is a family-owned Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning (HVAC) and General Construction company. Fully insured and bonded.



REALTY WORLD NEIGHBORS
22392 Foothill Blvd, Hayward
(510) 881-1234
realtyworldneighbors.com

Broker-Owners Anna May & Greg Jones deeply appreciate historic homes in historic neighborhoods. Many of the properties their Clients hire them to buy or sell are older homes with character and intrigues not found in modern construction or architecture.



BECK ROOFING
21123 Meekland Ave
P.O. Box 234, Hayward
beckroofingonline.com
Serving the bay area for over 57 years. We are committed to providing the best quality and workmanship for all the area's roofing needs. Three generations of the Beck family have made customer satisfaction our primary goal.



JESS C.SPENCER MORTUARY & CREMATORY
21228 Redwood Rd, Castro Valley
(510) 581-9133 | spencermortuary.com

A full service mortuary with a crematory on-site. We provide burial and cremation services working with all faiths, fraternal organizations and cemeteries. We also offer reception facilities, advance planning, payment plans and special veterans programs. FD1168



HAYWARD AREA RECREATION & PARKS DISTRICT
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THE FORGOTTEN DEATH OF JOHN HAAR

History's Mysteries

by John Christian, Associate Archivist

A few years ago I developed a downtown walking tour that highlighted some of the more tragic accidental deaths that have occurred in the Hayward area. In my research one case particularly stood out, the death of John Haar in May 1900. It stood out to me for a few reasons. First, at the time of his death Haar was “President of the Board of Trustees” of the Town of Hayward—in other words he was our mayor and very much a local celebrity. Secondly, there was a vast amount of suspicion and controversy surrounding his death that led to gossip and speculation...things not always associated with archival records. So I decided to see what I could find...

John Haar was born in Germany around 1854 and came to the Hayward area in the late 1870s. In just a few decades Haar became well-known in the community as a politician and a builder. Haar is credited with building many homes and commercial buildings around the Hayward area. These included the Native Sons of the Golden West Hall and the McConaghy Carriage House which still stands today. The home he built in 1888 for himself and his wife, Anna Pesdorf-Haar also still stands at the corner of C and Third Streets. Anna’s family, the Pesdorf’s, were a prominent Mt. Eden family, who were supportive of Haar’s building business.



So how did John Haar die? On May 5, 1900 while traveling up B Street in his father-in-law’s buggy, the horse team pulling him along was somehow startled and began to run and swerve erratically, racing faster and faster with Haar losing all control. It is not clear if Haar jumped or was thrown from the wagon, but witnesses describe him landing on his head, crashing violently into the sidewalk. The horse and buggy eventually crashed into a storefront.

Haar laid motion-less, crumpled on the ground, his skull fractured, blood covering part of his face. Immediately onlookers rushed him to his home and called for Dr. Reynolds.

Once at his home Haar was said to be conscious and talking and complained about pain he felt in his hip and shoulders, not his head. This must have seemed like a good sign to everyone watching over Haar. He was then given doses of morphine for his pain.

Soon after receiving morphine Haar became unresponsive and lost consciousness. His wife and Dr. Reynolds desperately tried to save him, but it was in vain. By 11:00 PM, just four hours after the accident Haar stopped breathing and was declared dead by Dr. Reynolds. Cause of death was declared a cerebral hemorrhage. Or was it?

Within hours of his death, rumors began to



circulate that Haar had actually died from an overdose of morphine administered by the treating physician rather than his head injuries. At that time it was customary for a “Coroner’s Jury” made up of prominent townspeople to certify the cause of death. In the case of Haar’s death however, the jury refused to certify cerebral hemorrhage as the cause of death. The group demanded that an autopsy be preformed. This seems to indicate they were suspicious of Dr. Reynolds. Maybe, they thought, Reynolds’s had accidentally—or worse—intentionally, gave Haar too much morphine. In other words, one or more of the jurors suspected Dr. Reynolds of manslaughter or even murder! Because the jury voted anonymously as a group we may never know who among them forced the autopsy, but many of the jurors, including Alfred Keating, E.D. Warren, and P. Zambreski were all personal friends of Haar.

So the autopsy was ordered less than a day after Haar’s death. After drilling a small hole into Haar’s skull, a four-inch blood clot was found—an obvious sign of head trauma. The revealed injury was immediately declared the cause of death by the coroner’s office

and cleared Dr. Reynolds of any malpractice. This seemed to calm the townspeople and stop the rumors that had been spreading about town.

What hadn’t changed as a result of the autopsy was that Hayward had lost a beloved civic leader and respected businessman. In a May 11, 1900 Hayward Review article titled “Death’s Harvest”, the paper described the town’s affection for Haar. It read, “Built upon a large plan, with the impress of a strong constitution stamped upon him, no one seemed more removed from death than John Haar.” He was only 46 when he died.

It’s been well over 100 years since John Haar, “Hayward’s Mayor” passed away, but I couldn’t help but be captivated by his story. As an archivist I am constantly coming across records of forgotten people, stories, moments, and events. Haar’s story is a good reminder that while people may quickly forget, archives help us remember.

Above: John Haar (far right) posing with his family in front of their home, c. 1888. Haar was treated and died at the residence after his accident. The home still stands at the corner of Third and C Streets.

Left: A portrait of John Haar taken several years before his death.

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