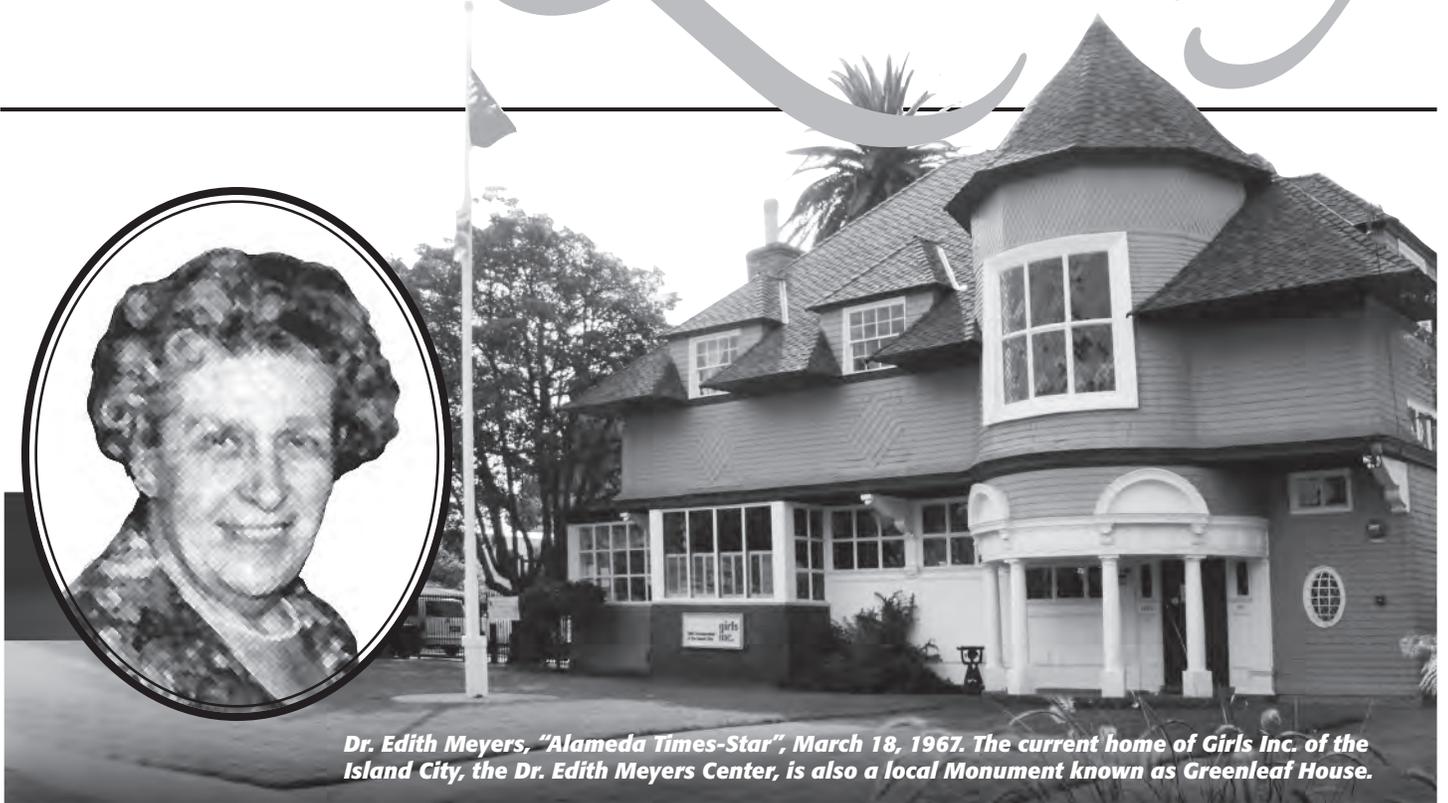




# Alameda Museum *Quarterly*



*Dr. Edith Meyers, "Alameda Times-Star", March 18, 1967. The current home of Girls Inc. of the Island City, the Dr. Edith Meyers Center, is also a local Monument known as Greenleaf House.*

## ALAMEDA'S PIONEERS OF STRONG, SMART AND BOLD:<sup>SM</sup> DR. EDITH MEYERS AND HER SISTERS *by Janet Thoma*

**A**S GIRLS INCORPORATED® OF THE ISLAND CITY (PREVIOUSLY ALAMEDA GIRLS' CLUB) celebrates fifty years of service in Alameda, it also recognizes the many individuals and groups who have given their support. The Meyers sisters—Mildred (1898–1982), Edith (1900–1971) and Jeanette (1905–1993)—were, and still are, pivotal members of the Girls Inc. family.

### **A Place Just for Girls**

In late January of 1964, a group of concerned Alamedans gathered to discuss various issues concerning girls. As retired pediatrician Dr. Edith Meyers would later explain at an Alameda Women's Town Hall luncheon, the formation of a girls club was the solution to having "no place to go"

and "nothing to do."<sup>1</sup> Three months after that initial meeting, Edith and fellow Alameda residents Dr. Anne Bradfield, Thelma Dyke, Helen Hoeksema, Dorothy LeHew, Bea Rowney, Reverend Franklin Scott, Barbara Stevenson and Kaye Van Valkenburg founded and incorporated the Alameda Girls' Club (AGC) on April 28, 1964. Not only was Edith an incorporator, she served as the Board of Directors' first Treasurer and later as Corresponding Secretary.

When the newly formed club received a check from the Alameda High Girls' Association, Treasurer Edith replied in a thank you letter, "... it is of unique significance that the very first donation is from another girls' group, a

*Continued on page 2 . . .*



**Alameda's Pioneers . . . Continued from page 1**

group representing such a large segment of Alameda girls. It will be a talking point in our future drive for funds."

Edith and her sisters, Mildred and Jeanette, were strongly committed to ensuring the success of Alameda Girls' Club from the very beginning. In 1966 they hosted an afternoon tea at their family residence on 2021 Alameda Avenue to honor the Club's volunteers. Avid world travelers, the Meyers sisters were well known for sharing their hobby at fund raising events they called Travelogues. Held at the Alameda High School Little Theater, they showed slides taken by Mildred of their exotic travels in Africa (a 6,000 mile trip from Cape Town, South Africa to Nairobi, Kenya); Australia and New Zealand; England; India and Burma; and, Japan. The events included commentary and narration by Edith, followed by refreshments that Jeanette helped serve.<sup>2</sup>

Joyce Denyven, former Alameda Girls' Club Board President and Executive Director (1971-1993), served with Edith in 1964 on the first planning committees for the Club and for its grand launch via an all-girl conference titled "My Favorite Things." Joyce remembers that Jeanette organized and coordinated the sisters' travel logistics, how informative and entertaining the Travelogues were, and that Alameda Girls' Club was a beneficiary of several fundraisers held at the Meyers sisters' ranch. During the Club's 7th Annual Dinner in March 1971, Edith and her sisters were given a certificate "for presenting their travelogue programs for the benefit of Girls' Club each year."<sup>3</sup>

Dinner attendees also celebrated a monumental accomplishment: the purchase, renovation and paying off the mortgage of the Club's first "home of its own" at 1419 Union Street. Plans to officially dedicate the location in honor of Edith, "one of the first board members and interested supporters of the club"<sup>4</sup>, took place despite her death just days before the ceremony. When the organization's membership expanded and required more space in 1983, the new location at 1724 Santa Clara, also called Greenleaf House, was renamed to become the Dr. Edith Meyers Center.

**Role Models, Then and Now**

The Meyers sisters—all students at UC Berkeley in the 1920s—were very much ahead of their time. True pioneers of the current Girls Inc. mantra encouraging girls to be Strong, Smart and Bold<sup>SM</sup>, they forged careers in male-dominated fields.

Mildred became an architect like their father Henry H. Meyers (1867-1943). During Henry's time as Alameda County Architect, Mildred was listed as an associate architect



*Raining Dollars (Alameda Times-Star, July 20, 1964) Dr. Edith Meyers (center), accepts donations from Alameda organizations represented by Darleen Perata, Fern Robinson, Helen Fischer, and Regina Perata.*

for five of the ten Veterans' Memorial Buildings her father worked on during the 1930s (Albany, Hayward, Livermore, Pleasanton and San Leandro) and was credited with a lead role on the Fremont project.<sup>5</sup>

Edith continued her studies at the University of California Medical School in San Francisco. She practiced pediatrics from 1929 until 1950, but retirement didn't appear to slow Edith down a bit. She served on the Board at Children's Hospital in Oakland and was named chief of their Outpatient Department. In 1960, Edith gave \$50,000 for the Hospital's 300-seat auditorium that bears her name. She later claimed "Outstanding Citizen" awards from the Alameda Kiwanis Club and the City of Alameda in 1966.<sup>6</sup>



*Women Who Dare 2013 (L to R) Best Foot Forward participants Isabel, Lydia, and Miranda with Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley.*



*It Was A Happy Moment (Alameda Times-Star, March 20, 1971) Mortgage Burning (L to R) Barbara Stevenson, Dr. Edith Meyers, Joyce Denyven, Kaye Van Valkenburg and Helen Hoeksema.*



*Reading Special Certificate (Alameda Times-Star, March 20, 1971). Meyers sisters (L to R) Edith, Mildred and Jeanette look at their certificate with Board Member of the Year Stanley Mueller.*

Edith was the family pediatrician of future 1990s Alameda Girls' Club Board President Marilyn Zecher. Though too young to recall their early interactions, Marilyn does know Dr. Edith performed life-saving surgery on her younger brother Jack. As current Chairperson of the Garden Branch, part of the Children's Hospital volunteer auxiliaries network, Marilyn has witnessed firsthand the incredible impact Edith had on the Hospital.

Youngest sister Jeanette attended UC Berkeley and was a member of Alpha Gamma Delta, the same sorority Mildred and Edith had joined earlier. Jeanette expressed a keen interest in gardening and considered herself a floral decorator.<sup>7</sup> Upon their parents' deaths, Jeanette managed the assets and properties, including the family's Dry Creek Ranch in Decoto (now Union City), California.

All unmarried, the Meyers sisters made plans to bequeath over 1,200 acres of their ranch to the East Bay Regional Park District, the transfer of which was official in 1979.<sup>8</sup> The sisters' extraordinary commitment to philanthropy included several lump sum donations and annual trust disbursements to the many non-profit organizations they supported, including Alameda Girls' Club.

**Girls Explore Their World and Beyond!**

Fifty years later, Girls Incorporated of the Island City (GIIC)—the Club was renamed in 1996—still strives to provide what the Meyers sisters envisioned for local girls: a place to go and something to do. The previous 1960s purpose to "foster the character development of all girls through a program of educational, vocational, health, social and recreational activities; to help them become responsible citizens, homemakers and mothers" has been adjusted to fit the needs of girls in the 21st century.

Current curriculum inspires and builds confidence in girls of all ages to fulfill their dreams and pursue careers of their choosing. With challenging and innovative programming, Girls Inc. of the Island City continues the pioneering spirit of the Meyers sisters.

An award-winning program, Best Foot Forward was developed by and first implemented at Girls Inc. of the Island City in 2000. It gives 1st–5th grade girls an opportunity to develop public speaking skills and etiquette as they meet, interview, and later present Women Who Dare awardees. Program participants interact with current "pioneers" and trailblazers like local entrepreneur Julie Baron (Julie's Coffee & Tea Garden) and head winemaker Shauna Rosenblum (Rock Wall Wine Company); collegiate and Olympic head coaches Tara VanDerveer (Women's Basketball, Stanford University) and Teri McKeever (Women's Swimming, UC Berkeley); and, Alameda County's first female elected District Attorney Nancy O'Malley.

National Girls Inc. research-based curriculum encourages more study of STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering and mathematics). Its Eureka!® program, first piloted 20 years ago as a component of Operation-SMART®, has evolved to offer teens a 3-year sustained program of hands-on activities in STEM subjects, sports, career and personal development workshops, and finishes with job-shadowing experiences.<sup>9</sup> Girls Inc. of the Island City's first cohort started in 2011, a year earlier than those of other national affiliates. The large focus on architecture under the tutelage of USF Architecture and Community Design graduate Akima Tahanee would have made Mildred Meyers proud!

*Continued on page 4 . . .*



**Alameda's Pioneers . . . Continued from page 3**

During the Fall semesters of 2012 and 2013, Girls Inc. of the Island City's first and second Eureka!® cohorts participated in a groundbreaking collaboration between UC Berkeley's Space Sciences Lab and NASA called Five Stars Pathway, an afterschool multigenerational mentorship program. NASA scientists mentored UC Berkeley graduate and undergraduate students, who then taught the Eureka!® middle school and high school students, who finally shared their knowledge of Heliophysics through "Sun Fair" events with the elementary school girls.<sup>10</sup> Girls Incorporated of the Island City is one of only two affiliates nationwide to help develop and field-test this model.

Dr. Edith Meyers and her sisters Mildred and Jeanette helped support and sustain a girls' club that has been serving girls of Alameda and its surrounding communities since 1964. The Meyers sisters' philanthropic legacy continues to ensure that future girls can follow in their footsteps to become Strong, Smart and Bold<sup>SM</sup>.

**GIRLS INCORPORATED OF THE ISLAND CITY** held a 50th Anniversary Gala October 11, 2014 and also commemorated its 33rd year of providing on-site care for girls and boys through Alameda Island Kids (formerly Activity Centers).

Anniversary celebrations culminate with an exhibit at the Alameda Museum from early November to mid-December 2014. A lecture at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, November 13th at the Museum features guest speakers Woody Minor and Janet Thoma. He will discuss the history and architecture of Greenleaf House, and she will describe Dr. Edith's influence and tell about the past and future of Girls Inc. of the Island City.

For more information about Girls Incorporated of the Island City, please visit: [www.girlsincislandcity.org](http://www.girlsincislandcity.org). To learn more about the exhibit or the lecture call 510-748-0796 or go to [alamedamuseum.org](http://alamedamuseum.org).

**Endnotes**

1. *Alameda Times-Star*, May 25, 1964.
2. *Alameda Times-Star*, January 11, 1966.
3. *Alameda Times-Star*, March 20, 1971.
4. *Alameda Times-Star*, October 18, 1971.
5. UC Berkeley Environmental Design Archives, Project Index for Henry Meyers.
6. Children's Hospital in Oakland newsletter *The Bambino*, Winter 1972.
7. *The Golden Book of California*, 1860-1936, page 746.
8. East Bay Regional Park District website.
9. Girls Incorporated of the Island City website.
10. Science Mission Directorate Education and Public Outreach Community website.

## The Meyers Sisters and Greenleaf House



*Greenleaf House (circa 1916, courtesy of Addie Maple).*

**THE THREE DAUGHTERS** of Alameda architect Henry Meyers were committed to the betterment of their community, whether with architect Mildred's handsome structures, Jeanette's judicious management of family land-holdings, or pediatrician Edith's devotion to youth. The Museum has been entrusted to maintain and enhance the family home and its grounds, now the officially designated Alameda Monument entitled "The Meyers House and Garden."

This cover story, a scholarly work by Girls, Inc. volunteer archivist Janet Thoma, details how one of the Meyers daughters—Edith—helped vouchsafe a permanent place for the girls of Alameda, the eclectic structure completed in 1891 at 1724 Santa Clara Avenue. The Greenleaf House, so named for its first owner, welcomes the girls who enroll here with architecture of great distinction by renowned practitioner Ernest Coxhead. The unusual proportions, honest materials, and harmonious details help the girls understand local history as embodied in this vintage home.



**BE A  
MUSEUM DOCENT**  
MAKE SOME NEW FRIENDS  
Please contact Adam Gillitt  
volunteer@alamedamuseum.org  
510-764-1325

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THANKS TO OUR HERITAGE PARTNERS

Alameda Sun



## From the Curator's Desk

by George C. Gunn

Having had a business on park Street herself, our past President Diane Coler-Dark has always stressed the importance of supporting local businesses. We have been following her sound advice for many years. Here is a list of a few who have provided both the Museum and the Meyers House with excellent service:

**Alameda Printing Services:** Victoria and Wayne Cain continue their long association with us and give excellent printing services with good prices and on-time delivery

**Carole Chan** provides professional lamp repair and a variety of beautiful lamp shades

**Encinal Hardware** has a well informed and pleasant staff

**Jose Garay** practices his professional gardening services at the Meyers House

**Diane Hayes**, proprietress of the Alameda Shade Shop, offers perfection in both window shades and installation

**Brad Rivas** of BR Concrete does glass-like smooth cement work

**Romero Roofing** does thorough work with complete clean up afterward



*George C. Gunn*  
Curator, Alameda Museum

## ✦ Estate Sales ✦

The Alameda Museum runs estate sales tailored to your needs. Our experienced volunteers handle the details, and you have the satisfaction of supporting an Alameda nonprofit organization.

We also accept high-quality consignment items.



Call Johanna, 510-701-9392; or email info@alamedamuseum.org.



# Updating the Search for the "Lost" Ark

**THE SPRING 2014 COVER OF THE AMQ DESCRIBED** an original research project on the lost "arks" of Alameda. "Arks" are the local vernacular for the houseboats that once lined the shores of the estuary. The Robles family live in a former ark, now landlocked on Oak Street near City Hall, and their ten year old daughter Raziah decided to research her home and other arks. Family friend Ron Mackrodt offered to help in this endeavor. He enlisted local author Woody Minor, who was intrigued by the project, because he had written several ark stories as part of his newspaper column, *Heritage*.

As this issue goes to press, Raziah has reviewed images from the Alameda Museum archives and interviewed her

next door neighbor, a life-long resident of the neighborhood, who recalled stories of how the Robles' house had originally been situated on the shores of the tidal canal. Raziah has investigated historical records available at the Main Library Reference Department, where she had her first encounter with a microfilm reader! Their search continues, some of it via kayak.

To learn more about this unique bit of architecture, join us at a Museum talk, *Arks of Alameda*, presented June 25, 2015 by Raziah, her family, and Ron.



*This romantic postal card shows houseboats (AKA arks) in a dreamy waterscape along the estuary. Credit: Gary Lenhart.*

*Interviewing longtime resident Nancy Sellers (left), Woody Minor, Raziah Robles and Ron Mackrodt. Image: Judith Lynch.*



## What is That? Where is That?



A game for readers of the *Alameda Museum Quarterly*: Here is an image from somewhere in Alameda. Clue: Follow the cars! And, it actually was stamped backward. Email your answer to [info@alamedamuseum.org](mailto:info@alamedamuseum.org) and be featured in the next issue as Super Sleuth. If you have your own secret spot in town, please send it to us along with a clue and the answer to have it published in a future *AMQ*.

The image in the last issue was the sidewalk stamp of the (unreadable) Marshall concrete construction company. The fleur-de-lis graphic is particularly handsome. Find it in the curb on the northeast corner of Willow and Clinton.



# Alameda—a Long Time Ago!

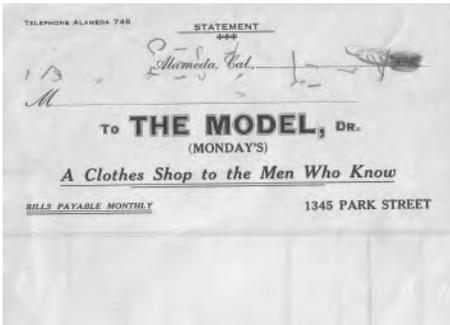
by Jean (Springer) Kahn

**I WAS BORN IN ALAMEDA**, a quiet, pristine little town on San Jose Avenue, not far from my grandparents' house on Central Avenue, across the street from Alameda High School. My other grandparents lived down the block from us. Our shingled house with a brick entryway was so welcoming and homey.

I can still visualize in our front hall a "Victrola," a phonograph with a wind-up handle to play records of tenors Scotty and Caruso. The dining room furniture consisted of a round walnut table and chairs and built-in glass cabinets to show off lovely glassware. The kitchen stove burned coal, stored in an adjacent closet. We had a huge garden with a fishpond, sand box, swings and flowers, my father's pride and joy. A "stick" telephone was our means of communication, and an operator would answer with "Number, please."



Jean at eight months old. The brick foundation with arched windows is still intact at the former family home on Central Avenue. Images: Jean Kahn archives.



A page from the receipt book of Monday's Models, a haberdashery for gents where Jean's uncle was the proprietor. Image: Jean Kahn archives.

shop called "Monday's Models." It was at 1345 Park Street, where he catered to "the men who know." In these days of digits, it seems comical that his phone at the shop was Alameda 746!

Additional thoughts pop into my head—for instance, there were a lot of children on our block, and it seemed all their names started with a "J" like mine. I was vaccinated by Dr. Lum and well remember that day in his office on Park Street. We used to go to the movies on Park Street, too. We had a car and drove to Neptune Beach, but somehow I always fell asleep and missed the sights. We moved to San Francisco when I was five because of my father's job but would return for about six years to visit my grandparents until they also moved to the city. It was a lovely life for a lovely family in a lovely time in a lovely town.

*Note: Jean lives in Napa where she is a volunteer at their Museum. We asked how she fared during the August 23 earthquake, and she replied with her characteristic pluck: "I am trying to get my house in order after the earthquake. What a mess. I look at empty places and wonder 'Now, what did I have there?'" Fortunately, the City says the house has only cosmetic damage, not structural, but my hardwood floors are sort of wavy in places. If I hire an engineer, it will cost about \$1,500. So, since they say my house is safe, I will just live with the unnerving sensation while walking around in it! Things with sentimental value are gone, but it makes you realize they are just inanimate things, and life is the important thing."*

There were no trips to a supermarket, instead a man brought meat, fruits, and vegetables to our door. My grandmother could buy a leg of lamb for fifty cents. Life was uncluttered—no radio, no television, no violence. It was, for us, pure and simple, with a loving family.

My uncle Emanuel Bernstein, nicknamed Monday, had a haberdashery

## A Few Good People . . .

**Time to Nominate!** We need nominations for new volunteer directors, an important task because the board sets policies and oversees activities at the Museum and the Meyers House. Only members who are paid through current year or are Lifetime Members can nominate or vote for directors. Check the top line of your mailing address in this *Alameda Museum Quarterly* issue, mailed "free from those drat dots" in an envelope for the first time. That date will be the year through which you have paid. If the year is 2013, please send in the renewal form on page 15 soon. **Many thanks!**



# ROTOGRAVURE

In the 1920s and 30s, many newspapers published rotogravure sections in their Sunday editions. These pages were devoted to images and were made possible and practical by the invention of a new kind of printing press with a cylindrical or rotating mechanism that made high quality reproductions of photographs. Irving Berlin's song "Easter Parade" specifically refers to these sections in the lines "the photographers will snap us, and you'll find that you're in the rotogravure."



Part of a large and happy crowd at the Friday evening opening of Alameda Women Artists in the Museum Art Gallery. Image: Susan Tsuchiya.



Chuck Millar (left), Jim Smallman, and George Gunn present certificates to those who opened their houses for the Alameda Legacy Home Tour. Image: Charlie Howell.

Gail Howell and Woody Minor partake of refreshments after the home tour. Image: Charlie Howell.

Dressed up fancy to be home tour docents, Erich Stiger, Mary Malkic, and Chiara Stiger. Image: Martha Peck.





**Scout Troop 78 with families and friends.**  
Image: Steve Aced.

**George Gunn encourages Carl and Shirley Ramos as they install the newly restored flagpole that belonged to the Meyers family.**  
Image: Charlie Howell.



**Emily Byrne volunteers to help sort through and organize archival materials donated to the Alameda Museum from the Red Cross.**  
Image: Judith Lynch.



**At the Flagship Museum Andrew Koutsoukos researched houses on his block using ledgers and other documents from the archives.**  
Image: Judith Lynch.



**A recently wed couple pose in the garden. This pup Bella was ring-bearer at a recent Meyers House Garden wedding.**  
Images: Charlie Howell.





# Dismantle the Tank, Raise the Flag! *by Susan and Steve Ramos*

**THE HISTORIC CARRIAGE HOUSE AT THE MEYERS PROPERTY** was deteriorating and of little practical use, because its interior was dominated by an enormous metal water storage tank. Wanting the building both preserved as part of history and adapted as a meeting and display room, curator George Gunn approached Boy Scout Troop 78, chartered through St. Philip Neri Church. As a community service project, the Scouts volunteered to remove the tank and cart it away for salvage. Working in pairs, the young men took shifts using an oxy-acetylene torch to cut the tank into small enough pieces to be removed. Heavy rust on the inside made the task more difficult; fortunately Alliance Welding Supply in Oakland gave them discounts on oxygen and acetylene refills.

Participating scouts were Harry Sims, Armen Phelps, Liam Olson, James Ensminger, Luke Olson, Brendan Ijor, Marco Cazares, Ian Ramos, Nathan Ramos, Zach Ramos, and Ben Krainer. The adults who led the group were Scoutmaster Rick Jones and Assistant Scoutmasters Steve Ramos and Alex Jones. When work on the tank was completed, they had salvaged 2120 pounds of scrap and received \$238.50 from DC Metal.

Meanwhile, Meyers House volunteer Carl Ramos was already at work renovating the original family flagpole with the help of his three grandsons, Troop 78 members Ian, Nathan, and Zach. Sunday afternoon August 17th, the Museum curator and board and the Meyers House Committee celebrated both the removal of the water tank and the restoration of the flagpole. Jim Smallman, dressed in Victorian era clothing, was master of ceremonies, and Reverend Nancy Joy Gordon gave the invocation. The audience included Mayor Marie



*Troop 78 Color Guard: Eric Linderme, Jack Wilhelm, Nathan Ramos, Ian Dougherty, Ben Krainer, and caller Zach Ramos. Image: Susan Ramos.*

Gilmore, former Alameda City Council Member Frank Matarrese, members of the Fire and Police Departments, Museum volunteers, and members of the Meyers House Committee.

Former Navy Quartermaster Charles Howell, who chairs the Meyers House Committee loaned his historic flag for the event. It flew on Navy Ship *USS Kennebec* AO-36; she served in World War II and in the Pacific Fleet until 1970, when she was decommissioned. Troop 78 had the honor of being the Color Guard at the ceremony. Calling the guard was Assistant Senior Patrol Leader Zach Ramos; members were Eric Linderme, Nathan Ramos, Ian Dougherty, Jack Wilhelm and Ben Krainer.

After the ceremony, local musicians Eben Dodd and Higgins Larsen of The Saloons played the Star Spangled Banner and other lively tunes, while guests in vintage clothing strolled the grounds and had lemonade and cookies.

Assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 78, Steve Ramos praised the scouts in the troop for their hard work and invited Scoutmaster Rick Jones up to present a check for the salvaged metal to the Alameda Museum to further preservation efforts at the Meyers House. "This way our scouts can earn service hours, get the chance to use some interesting equipment, and help out our community," stated Steve Ramos.

**ALAMEDA MUSEUM IS ALWAYS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS**

—

**For information or to offer your services, email [volunteer@alamedamuseum.org](mailto:volunteer@alamedamuseum.org) or call Adam Gillitt 510-764-1325.**



## From the President's Podium

by Judith Lynch

*F*ifteen and counting! When we started the Museum Lecture Series in 2001, I thought it would be a short-lived endeavor. Who knew then that next year would be the 15th, and it is already completely booked! If you visit [alamedamuseum.org](http://alamedamuseum.org) you can see the amazing array of guest speakers, thanks to our much improved website courtesy of board member and docent coordinator Adam Gillitt. An unanticipated but happy consequence was that many people renew or join afresh, because membership brings with it the benefit of free lecture admission. If you attend all of them, you save \$60 or \$70 each year, so joining saves money.

Remarkable speakers: Those who honor us by sharing their books, their passions, their research run the gamut: Nationally renowned authors, prominent historians, recognized experts in various fields. However many are new to the speaker's podium, fledgling talent being nurtured by the Museum and the kindly people who constitute our audiences. Two special examples due to speak next year: Madeleine Seiwald, whose parents opened their house for the home tour in 2000. A recent graduate in history from U.C. Berkeley, she

recalled the Museum fondly from that long past home tour and offered to speak on the topic of her thesis: The insane asylum that housed the mentally ill on Park Street. Our youngest speaker (11 next year!) is Raziah Robles, who will present a talk on arks, those now landlocked houseboats that used to bob in the estuary. Her family lives in one, fueling her passion for research and oral histories.

What happened to the Meyers Guild? We really appreciate the fifty or so of you who joined and contributed. When the City of Alameda owned the place, we needed to find a way to raise funds to supplement their meager funds for maintenance. Now that the Meyers House is owned and operated by the Museum, there is no further need for a separate organization.

You may find that you're in the Rotogravure: Thanks to our graphic designer Valerie Turpen for producing the new Rotogravure centerfold. We love to run pictures of people at Museum and Meyers House events, and thanks to many skilled photographers, we have lots of choices. If you have a such a picture, email it to me for future issues, [judithal@comcast.net](mailto:judithal@comcast.net), and please include a caption and a photo credit.



**Judith Lynch**  
President, Alameda Museum

*Drawing of Judith by Otis School first grader Cassie Garcia.*

Here are two art shows that will grace our gallery for the first quarter of next year. We want to thank both of these art organizations. They have produced provocative and endearing shows and performances, and each group has contributed a rental fee to the Museum and thus become a Heritage Partner. This information is current as of the end of October and may change.

We still have a few months in 2015 that are unbooked; if you are interested please email [judithal@comcast.net](mailto:judithal@comcast.net) or leave a message 510-748-0796.

## In the Museum Art Gallery 2015

**JANUARY:** Artists Embassy International presents an art exhibit and four FREE Saturday events. Information: Natica Angilly, 510-235-0361. [www.dancingpoetry.com](http://www.dancingpoetry.com)

- **January 3, 1:00 – 3:00 pm • Workshop – Acts of Art: Mini Play Cast For All!**  
Two Artists Embassy presenters in the sixth year of our “Love Your Audience,” for all ages and abilities.
- **January 10, 1:00 – 3:00 pm • Celebrate Jack London's Birthday**  
Celebrate with poetry and Alameda history. Featuring Alameda Island and Artists Embassy Poets, plus invited guests and open microphone for impromptu poetry.
- **January 17, 11:30 am – 3:30 pm • EXTRAVAGANZA!**  
Our Main Event reception and unstoppable buffet! Dance, Artistry, Performances with Fusions, Poetry Surprises, Paintings Promenade, and Dancing Poetry Festival highlights!
- **January 24, 1:00 – 3:00 pm • Masques Make Music and Magic**  
Led by artist and teacher Tanya Joyce and Dancing Poetry Festival artistic director and choreographer, Natica Angilly.

**MARCH:** Studio 820 is a group of artists who work and take classes at the San Lorenzo Adult School under the guidance of instructor Monica Satherthwaite. The artists explore many subjects from still life to landscape to the figure. They work in a variety of media, including watercolor, pastel, ink, and colored pencil. Studio 820 has been exhibiting annually at the Alameda Museum since 2000.

- **March 7, Noon – 3:00 pm • Reception**  
For information: [Studio820art@yahoo.com](mailto:Studio820art@yahoo.com) or San Lorenzo Adult School 510-317-4200.



# Docent Dossiers

## *Who's aboard, what are they doing, and why?*

### Charles Daly

Charles has lived in Alameda since the late 1960s, but he "never really appreciated the city, because I always worked in San Francisco. Eventually I discovered that the Alameda Museum was devoted to our local history. I loved bringing my children here, and after I retired from a career in photography services, I decided to become a docent. For more than five years, I have been on duty here Saturdays!"

Charles walked over to a glass cases in the history gallery, "One of my favorite displays showcases the products of the Boyco Manufacturing Company, originally located on the 1800 block of Oak Street. The sheet metal containers here, such as the sprinkling cans, serve different purposes, but they all look handsome." He also took a shine to the velvet

chair in the Victorian parlor display. "I always thought if I was going to use the services of a matrimonial agency, I would pose on that red chair, wearing a smoking jacket and holding a pipe."

His strangest adventures as a docent? "People keep looking for haunted houses! I don't think we have any, but perhaps the tumbledown house on Central Avenue near Paru Street could be a great location for ghosts."

*Charles points out Boyco products on display to the left of the Museum office door.*



### Jim McGrogan

Jim does double duty (at least!) as "Downtown" docent and as cashier when the Meyers House is open. "My wife Carla was born here and



*Jim shows visitors the Neptune Beach display.*

served as Museum docent coordinator here for quite a while. I ended up doing many jobs to help her and spent more time than I had anticipated."

Jim retired from General Electric and since then has spent more than sixteen years as both volunteer and docent. "Collecting money is one of my favorite duties," he laughed. "Try to get past me without contributing!" His favorite quality about the Meyers House? "I really like the back yard . . . I mean the garden, of course! Out there with the huge redwood tree and intriguing bits of Alameda history, you feel quiet and away from everything, even though you are only blocks from downtown Park Street."

One of Jim's favorite incidents: "A man came to tour the Meyers House and brought along his small dog. Without even blinking, he handed me the leash and asked me to take care of the dog while he was shown through the place."

Last words to fellow Alamedans: "Think about joining us and training to be a docent. Don't miss the opportunity to do something for your community and keep our history alive for those who come after us." (For information about volunteering as a docent please see page 15.)



## GET COMMITTEED!

Please consider joining one of our committees.

Have fun, learn lots, meet different people, and get the satisfaction of helping out the Museum and the Meyers House! We have listed the chair of each committee, followed by his or her email and phone number.

Please use email if you can, as most of us prefer it.



### ■ Budget & Fund Raising:

Dennis Evanosky  
evanosky@gmail.com  
510-263-1470

### ■ Collections, Events & Exhibits:

Adam Gillitt  
volunteer@alamedamuseum.org  
510-764-1325

### ■ Membership, Docent & Volunteer Recruitment:

Adam Gillitt  
volunteer@alamedamuseum.org  
510-764-1325

### ■ Merchandising & Estate Sales:

Johanna Hall  
thejohannahall@gmail.com  
510-701-9392

### ■ Meyers House & Garden:

Charlie Howell  
info@alamedamuseum.org  
510-521-1247

### ■ Publicity & Communications:

Dennis Evanosky  
evanosky@gmail.com  
510-263-1470



ALHT Committee members, docents, home owners, and vendors relax at the post-tour party in the garden of the Meyers House. Image: Charlie Howell.

## A New Kind of Matchmaking: Hometour.com

### LOOKING FOR YOUR PERFECT MATCH? Feel the need of a soulmate?

Looking for that sympathetic someone for long walks and talks? You sound like a potential member of the Alameda Legacy Home Tour (ALHT) Committee! We need your help with the major annual fundraising event of two groups committed to local history and architecture, the Alameda Architectural Preservation Society (AAPS) and the Alameda Museum.

While truth in advertising forbids empty promises, here are some that joining the committee can fulfill: Long walks absorbing local lore while houses on the tour are chosen, under the tutelage of George Gunn and Diane Coler-Dark. Long talks... although we swear to make the monthly meetings short. Sympathetic "someones," an entire group of them, as wedded as you are to the celebration of vintage homes on our island, whether sumptuous or modest. And who can measure the satisfaction of completing an intricate project with a bunch of compatible folks?

Many thanks to longtime committee chair Chuck Millar, who relinquishes the reins, as does graphic designer Valerie Turpen who has prepared the many-paged Guidebook as a volunteer for seven years. Their departure leaves lots of slots, jobs, duties, and joyful activities for everyone else.

For example, the committee needs people to write Guidebook entries for each home, to act as House Captains and amass docents, to make posters and post them around town (thus the name "poster"). A major need is for publicity, both the paper kind you are reading right now and the myriad "social networks" that can alert possible home tour guests, docents, and vendors via email and the Internet. Advertising revenue in the Guidebook is critical, so we need those persuasive ones who can canvass for paid inserts. Finally we need a skilled and patient volunteer graphic designer who will create the Guidebook-map-ticket to pull it all together.

If you are even a bit interested, come to a meeting Wednesday, November 12 at 7:00 pm at the Alameda Museum, 2324 Alameda Avenue. For information or to sign up if you cannot make that meeting, call or email Jim Smallman, smallman\_james@hotmail.com or 714-318-4106.



# Meyers House and Garden The End of the Beginning?

by Jim Smallman

Winston Churchill characterized the first British victory in World War II, saying, "Now, this not the end; this is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning." That inspired phrasing also applies to the current work at the Meyers House and Garden. We featured pictures in our last issue of the dilapidated perimeter fencing, the failing foundation in the carriage house, and a large oak tree that had grown between the fence and the studio—damaging both. Happily, progress is underway to address all these issues.

## Tree Removal

The oak tree between the studio and the perimeter fence has been removed, with the stump ground down below grade. The damaged fence is being replaced with a straight segment, ensuring the safety of



the tenants next door and securing the property against curious intruders.

## Carriage House

The new foundation and structural upgrading of the carriage house were just getting under way as this story was written. The board approved a contract with Jameson Construction, and a campaign by curator George Gunn has raised about half of the necessary funds. The objective of the project is to re-route pipes inside the Carriage House, provide a solid foundation, and a flat floor, so that it may be used for events and displays. Improved lighting and electrical service are also planned. The pump and well were refurbished also, providing ample water for the landscaping, a major advantage in this drought-plagued year, saving water and money.

## Fence Replacement

This is scheduled to begin around the end of the October. Our gardener removed ivy next to the fences on both sides, allowing the fence construction to begin. The gardener has also planted three trees along the west side fence. As the trees mature, they will screen the neighboring apartment building and provide some privacy for events at the Meyers House Garden.

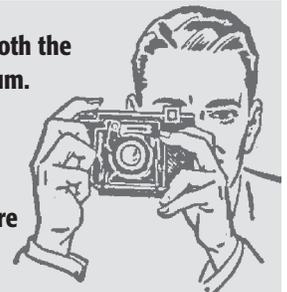


*Obsolete Carriage House electrical service that will be replaced and enclosed in a cabinet. Image: Jim Smallman.*



*A member of the work crew replacing the deteriorated fence at the Meyers House. Image: Judith Lynch.*

**NOTE: We are still raising funds for both the Meyers House and the Flagship Museum. If you would like to contribute please use the coupon on page 15. For more event news from the Meyers House Garden, please see our new Rotogravure on pages 8 – 9.**



*Tree begone!!! Removing this tree left a clear area between the fence and the studio. Before image: Charlie Howell.*



# JOIN ALAMEDA MUSEUM

Preserving the Past for the Future  
for over 65 Years

## VOLUNTEERS: ALAMEDA MUSEUM & MEYERS HOUSE & GARDEN

- |                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Margie Benko        | Charlie Howell   |
| Ginnie Boscacci     | Julie Kennedy    |
| Janine Carr         | Carole King      |
| Katherine Cavanaugh | Mary Lou Kurtz   |
| Ellen Chesnut       | Gayle Macaitis   |
| Diane Coler-Dark    | Jeanne McCaffery |
| Cathy Conley        | James McGrogan   |
| Charles Daly        | Carla McGrogan   |
| Lin Datz            | Joanne McKay     |
| Robbie Dileo        | Arlene Nash      |
| Marilyn Dodge       | Lloyd Novatowski |
| Linda Domholt       | Betty Saunders   |
| Joanne Dykema       | Margy Silver     |
| Dennis Evanosky     | Lois Singley     |
| Pamela Ferrero      | Marcy Skala      |
| Adam Gillitt        | Ellen Tilden     |
| Johanna Hall        | Ron Ucovich      |
| Leslie Hawksbee     | Robert Welch     |
| Debra Hilding       |                  |

### RECENTLY RETIRED: *Thank You for Your Service to the Alameda Museum*

- |                    |                |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Barbara Balderston | Lois Hoffman   |
| Barbara Gibson     | Virginia Jones |

*Volunteer docents are the folks who keep our doors open. An enthusiastic group, they help run the gift shop, and on occasion, do tasks like help with mailings. Training is available. Do you have three hours to make new friends? Come and spend that time with us!*

**Docent coordinator for Alameda Museum**  
**Adam Gillitt**  
**volunteer@alamedamuseum.org**  
**510-764-1325**

**Docent coordinator for Meyers House**  
**George Gunn, 510-521-1233**

### New Membership

- A one-time pass to the Meyers House
- A copy of *Victoria's Legacy* with six Alameda walking tours

### New & Renewed Membership

- Free admission to the lecture series
- The *Alameda Museum Quarterly*
- The satisfaction of supporting local artists and students

### For more information

[www.alamedamuseum.org](http://www.alamedamuseum.org) • 510-523-5907

Join any time. Dues based on calendar year.  
Renewals after September will continue through  
the next year. Tax I.D. #94-2464751



**Membership levels are annual, except one-time  
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or boxes. Thank you for your support.**

- \$30 Adult
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2nd Member Name \_\_\_\_\_
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*\*Person who resides with a paid Adult Member at same address, also gets voting privilege.*

Make check payable to: Alameda Museum  
Mail to: **Alameda Museum**  
**2324 Alameda Avenue, Alameda, CA 94501**

Dues Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- Meyers House and Garden     Alameda Museum
- Where most needed

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

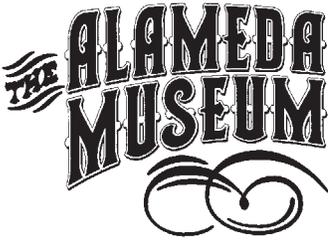
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- *From the Curator's Desk*
- *Updating the Search for the "Lost" Ark*
- *Alameda—a Long Time Ago!*
- *Rotogravure*
- *Dismantle the Tank, Raise the Flag!*
- *From the President's Podium*
- *Docent Dossiers*
- *Home Tour Committee*
- *Meyers House and Garden—The End of the Beginning?*

### ALAMEDA MUSEUM

2324 Alameda Avenue

#### HOURS

Wed. – Fri., Sunday

1:30 pm – 4:00 pm

Saturday

11:00 am – 4:00 pm

**510-521-1233**

### MEYERS HOUSE & GARDEN

2021 Alameda Avenue

#### HOURS

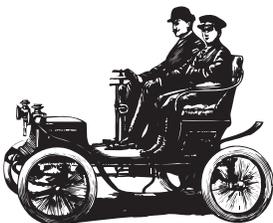
2nd & 4th Saturdays

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

(Last tour at 3:00 pm)

**510-521-1247**

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



## ALAMEDA MUSEUM LECTURES 2014/2015

- ❖ **NOVEMBER 13, Greenleaf House, Dr. Edith Meyers, and 50 years of Girls, Inc.**  
Local historian Woody Minor on the history and architecture of Greenleaf House and Janet Thoma on Edith Meyers' role in organizing and promoting the Girls, Inc. *Sponsor: Evelyn Kennedy, Realtor, Gallagher & Lindsey, Inc.*
  - ❖ **MARCH 26, The Saga of Lincoln Park**  
Authors and *Alameda Sun* publishers Dennis Evanosky and Eric Kos. The back story of how this splendid homesite became Alameda's only park that is a Monument. *Sponsor: Johanna Hall, Alain Pinel Realtors, and Alameda Museum Board Member.*
  - ❖ **APRIL 30, Victorian Glory**  
Author and Designer Paul Duschcherer, celebrating the release of his completely redesigned and enlarged book. *Sponsor: Judith Lynch, President, Alameda Museum.*
  - ❖ **MAY 28, Capitalizing on Insanity: The Alameda Park Asylum in Post-Gold Rush CA**  
U.C. Berkeley graduate historian and Alameda resident Madeleine Seiwald. *Sponsor: Carol Kane.*
  - ❖ **JUNE 25, The Arks of Alameda**  
The Robles family and Ron Mackrodt reveal the fascinating lore of a little known variety of local architecture. *Sponsor: Janelle Spatz, Realtor, Bayside Real Estate.*
  - ❖ **JULY 30, TOPIC TBD**  
Alameda architect Richard Rutter, whose topic will be revealed by and by. *Sponsor: TBD.*
  - ❖ **AUGUST 27, Street of Dreams, Central Avenue in Alameda**  
Alameda author and historian Woody Minor. *Sponsor: Peter Fletcher, Broker, Windermere Real Estate.*
  - ❖ **SEPTEMBER 24, The Work of Alameda Photographer Edgar O. Cohen**  
Paul Roberts, former Alameda Main Street director and past president Alameda Architectural Preservation Society (when it was AVPS). *Sponsor: Evelyn Kennedy, Realtor, Gallagher & Lindsey, Inc.*
- TBD = SPONSOR NEEDED.**  
For information email [judithal@comcast.net](mailto:judithal@comcast.net) or call 510-748-0796.

*NOTE: Lectures take place at the Alameda Museum, 2324 Alameda Avenue off Park Street. Admission is free for museum members and \$10 for others. No reserved seats. We open at 6:30 pm on lecture nights. Come early to save a seat and enjoy the displays in the History and Art Galleries. For information leave a message at 510-748-0796 and check [alamedamuseum.org](http://alamedamuseum.org).*