

# Alameda Museum Quarterly



The congregation of the Buddhist Temple of Alameda. Built as the home of William T. S. Ryer and his wife, Mary Jane in 1886, a room in the home was first rented as a place of worship by the Japanese community, then purchased in 1919. Image: Iwaihara family collection.

## A COMMUNITY THAT DISAPPEARED

by Dennis Evanosky

**ASK A JAPANESE CHILD TO COUNT TO THREE.** The youngster will beam at knowing the answer and reply, "Ichi, ni, san." Japanese who live outside their native land use these three numbers to define themselves, to express the order in which they, or their ancestors, migrated to a county outside Japan they now call home. The name *Issei* (from *ichi* or one) defines the newcomers. The *Issei* rarely learned English. Most arrived in this country in the very late part of the 19th century or early

in the 20th. They thought of themselves as more Japanese than American. Some of them settled in Alameda and created a Japantown roughly bounded by Park Street, Santa Clara Avenue, Walnut Street and the Oakland Estuary.

The *Issei* either settled down in Alameda and had children or arrived in Alameda with their children, the *Nisei* (from *ni*, or two). They opened a temple. They started schools for their children. They watched them grow,

Continued on page 2...



**A Community** . . . Continued from page 1

marry and have their own children. Many of these grandchildren, the *Sansei* (from *san* or three) grew up attending American schools. The *Sansei* became more American than Japanese, at least they felt that way. *Sobo* and *Sofu* (grandpa and grandma) looked on somewhat disapprovingly.

Alameda's Japanese community attended the Buddhist Temple on Pacific Avenue just west of Park Street and the Alameda Methodist South Church on Eagle Avenue just east of Park. Their children attended the Alameda *Gakuen*, next door to the temple.

The Buddhist Temple began life as home to William T. S. Ryer and his wife, Mary Jane. The gold rush brought William and his younger brother, Washington, to California. When news of gold reached New York City William was working there as the city weigher, the man responsible to the city government for properly weighing and sealing imported goods. Records show Washington was making his living as a mason, an interesting occupation for a man who held his M.D.



*The Japanese Language School was on Pacific Avenue near Oak Street. Today one of the few empty lots in Alameda is located there and a 1960s apartment building. Barely visible on the left is a water tank tower and a flat still standing on Lincoln Avenue. The top floors of City Hall are in the distance. Image: Iwaihara family collection.*

The brothers next show up in the records in 1860. They were living in Tulare Township in San Joaquin County. Census records state that they were employed there—about 45 miles south of Fresno—as "major domos," ranch overseers. The year 1869 found the brothers living in San Francisco. That year's city directory lists William as a real-estate investor. Washington was making his living as

a medical doctor. On May 28, 1872 William married Mary Jane Merrihew.

In 1886, architect George Bordwell designed the handsome half-timbered villa at 2325 Pacific Avenue near Park Street for William and Mary Jane. William lived in Alameda until his death on April 1, 1892. Sometime after William's death Edward K. Taylor purchased the home. Taylor served Alameda as both city attorney and



*Buddhist Temple picnic in the 1920s. The revelers have a low table on the left amid the sand dunes. The Iwaihara family is in the center; Yaye Iwaihara has a hat and a white collar on her dress; Katsutaro Iwaihara sits to the right with their daughters Katsue and Shigeko in white dresses. Image: Iwaihara family collection.*



mayor. Alameda Museum Curator writes that the home underwent two 19th-century renovations, both designed by architect A.W. Cornelius and built by the firm of Ingerson & Gore.

In 1914, Taylor rented a large room in the villa to the Buddhists. Five years later the Buddhists purchased the home from Taylor. They used the building both as a place of worship and as a home for their minister and his family. In 1930, the Buddhists purchased a new home for the minister and remodeled the old Ryer home to better accommodate their needs.

Alameda's Japantown was flourishing in the 1930s. According to the California Japantowns project, 882 Japanese were living in Alameda then. The Goto family lived on Oak Street; the Hanamuras, on Pacific Avenue; and the Nakasos on Clement Avenue. They and a multitude of other Japanese families, whether *Issei*, *Nisei* or *Sansei*, belonged to organizations like *Alameda Taiiku Kai* and *Asakura Shinyu Kai*.

"Numerous businesses provided for the close-knit community," the California Japantowns project states.

These included the Nippon Bazaar Company on Park Street; the Nakata Garage on Pacific Avenue; and the Sakamoto Nursery on Blanding Avenue. "By the 1940s the Japanese had established their niche, serving the broader community with florists, nurseries, cleaners and laundry services, the Japantowns project tells us.

By then war was waging in Europe. On December 7, 1941, it struck home. In February 1942, Lt. Gen. John L. DeWitt, Commanding General of the Western Defense Command, requested authorization from Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson to evacuate "Japanese and other subversive persons" from the West Coast.

The Japanese who lived in Alameda were taken to the Tanforan Assembly Center at the Tanforan Racetrack in San Bruno. The center had 180 barracks, about half of them built on the racetrack in-field; 26 of them were nothing more than converted horse stalls. Tanforan held 7,816 persons of Japanese ancestry from April 28 to October 13, 1942.

The government sent most of the Japanese incarcerated at Tanforan, including those who had lived in

Alameda, to the "Central Utah Relocation Center"—a place better known as "Topaz". A few others went to Gila River and some went to Poston, both in Arizona.

Relief finally came with the end of the war. Many Japanese returned home to Alameda, delighted to see that their temple was used as reception center for them. Much of Alameda's Japantown remains hidden from public memory. Many are unaware of its existence at all—unless, in the words of the California Japantowns project they "happen upon the obon or bazaar at the Buddhist Temple on Pacific Avenue."

This year the Buddhist Temple is celebrating the 100th year of its establishment in Alameda.

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



*A procession of costumed children in the Buddhist Temple garden, 1926. Image: Iwaihara family collection.*



## From the President's Podium

by Dennis Evanosky



would like this opportunity—this end-of-the-year message—to express my gratitude to everyone who keeps the Alameda Museum alive. My thanks go first and foremost to all the members, especially the new ones: welcome. I would also like to thank all the people who keep the museum's doors open, the docents. Without the docents the museum could not open its collection to the public on a regularly scheduled basis.

The museum's board of directors deserve special thanks. My hat is off to my fellow board members: Adam Gillitt for serving as vice-president; Valerie Turpen for acting as secretary; Bob Risley for keeping the books in order as treasurer; Evelyn Kennedy for keep the docent's informed; and Olivia Bauman for stepping up as member-at-large.

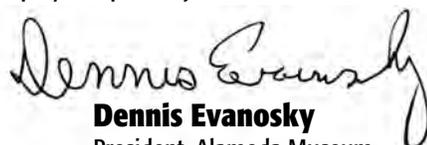
Adam keeps the museum's Facebook page and other social media up to date. Valerie designs our valuable newsletter. An extra thanks to the both of you.

The museum has someone special who has been on board longer than he likely wants you to know, our curator, George Gunn. Thank you, George, for all that you've done for the museum over the years.

The museum can look on the year 2016 as one of change and progress. We have been the recipients of two generous gifts. The first allowed George to transform his old office into the museum's latest gallery. The displays feature Alameda's experiences in World War I, as well as a look at some of the school buildings and implements of the past.

A second gift is allowing us to give our gallery a much-needed face lift. Phyllis Diller is, no doubt, happy as she oversees the installation of brand-new walls and floors. Once the gallery's renovation is complete, George will be bringing some of the items that have nestled far too long in the warehouse. (One of my favorite items is already there: a locomotive that sat hidden in a box in the warehouse since 1991).

We have plans to have a table once again at the San Francisco History Fair at the Old Mint on Fifth Street in March. Adam and I are planning to create an attention-grabbing display for the fair this year. We are invited to the fair each year because of Alameda's connection to San Francisco. The idea of purchasing the peninsula that became the island of Alameda started with a conversation between William Worthington Chipman and Gideon Aughinbaugh at Gideon's store on Market Street in San Francisco. We look forward to our presence at the fair and hope you'll plan to join us.

  
**Dennis Evanosky**  
President, Alameda Museum

## BE A MUSEUM DOCENT

MAKE SOME NEW FRIENDS

Please contact the  
Docent Coordinator  
volunteer@alamedamuseum.org  
510-504-5612

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### MUSEUM DIRECTORS

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THANKS TO OUR HERITAGE PARTNERS

*Alameda Sun*



# ADAM GILLITT PHOTOGRAPHS BILL GILLITT PAINTINGS



SUTRO TOWER DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPH, 2016



ALEPPO ALLEGORY ACRYLIC ON CANVAS, 2016

IN THE MUSEUM GALLERY **FEBRUARY 1 – 28, 2017**

**GALLERY HOURS WED – FRI & SUN: 1:30 – 4PM, SAT: 11AM – 4PM. FREE ADMISSION**

**ADAM GILLITT** works as a graphic designer and web developer. He has been an avid photographer since getting his first Kodak Instamatic 110 camera in 1977. Since then he has worked with and collected many types of cameras. Today he concentrates on digital photography and exploring new technologies. He serves on the Alameda Public Arts Commission and is Vice President of the Alameda Museum. He has lived in Alameda since 2002.

**BILL GILLITT** lives in Newton, Massachusetts and winters in Palm Springs California. He has been a lifelong architect and urban designer, working both for himself and other firms including a period with Victor Gruen Associates in Los Angeles and as an Associate with Moshe Safdie and Associates in Montreal and Boston. He has been painting watercolor landscapes and other subjects in acrylics and oils from an early age.

**BARBARA ADNER** had a successful and longtime career as a Commercial Interior Designer, particularly for retirement communities and resort hotels. She now devotes her time to making unique handmade necklaces and other jewelry from her extensive collection of exquisite beads from all parts of the world as well as producing accomplished white line wood cuts in the Provincetown, Massachusetts tradition.

**OPENING RECEPTION - SAT FEB 4, 1 - 4PM**

Featuring a special sale of handmade beaded jewelry  
designed by Barbara Adner, [beadelia.com](http://beadelia.com)





Curator George Gunn spoke at a recent docent training at the museum. He had many a story to tell about his experiences with visitors to the museum, as well as the collection of Alameda history the museum holds. Image: Evelyn Kennedy.

## Docent Training Enlightens All on Museum Procedures *by Staff*

**NEW AND LONGTIME DOCENTS** attended a training course October 9 at the museum. Everyone had a chance to meet new docent coordinator Evelyn Kennedy and hear curator George Gunn explain museum procedures. This overview helps docents to best serve visitors without making extra work for themselves. Docents have to deal with the public on many levels: they insure the museum exhibits are safe; receive donations; sell gift shop items; provide information on various topics; and oversee art in the gallery.

George reviewed paperwork for the gift shop, answered questions, and explained the why things are done the way they are. As a docent, it is great if you know about the history of Alameda, but you do not need to be a historian. Visitors can also be directed to visit the Alameda Free Library which holds many books, documents, and newspapers on microfilm about local history if they have specific topics they need information on.

Those attending received a special treat at the end of the meeting...*The Docent Guide of Procedures and Exhibits*. This book was recently researched and designed by board member Adam Gillitt. This wonderful full-color document covers docent procedures, plus has photos and an explanation of each exhibit. A copy will be kept at the front desk for reference. All current docents should have one of their own to review.

If you were unable to attend the meeting please contact Evelyn Kennedy to arrange to get a copy! **Email [volunteer@alamedamuseum.org](mailto:volunteer@alamedamuseum.org) or call Evelyn Kennedy 510-504-5612.**

→ *Thank you Adam Gillitt for creating the new "Docent Guide" – a great reference tool for anyone working at the Alameda Museum.*



## A Young Couple Immigrate to Alameda

*by Valerie Turpen*

**WHEN I PURCHASED MY HOME ON PACIFIC AVENUE** the seller told me that part of "the deal" would be to mow the neighbor's lawn. I didn't have a problem with that having done plenty of lawn mowing growing up. She explained the woman was a long-time resident of the block and everyone looked out for her. Soon after I met this diminutive Japanese lady (she was only four foot seven and weighed 74 pounds!) called "Cookie".

Being a newcomer to Alameda I asked her how long she had lived here. "My whole life, I was born in Alameda," she proudly responded. "My father was one of the founders of the Buddhist Church on Pacific Avenue." Over the years she shared her family's story and photos of their early days in Alameda.

Katsutaro Iwaihara was an enterprising young man. He had taken an opportunity to leave his homeland of Japan to work in Hawaii building a pineapple factory. In 1906, when San Francisco was devastated by the earthquake, he arrived in Seattle and traveled south to California to find work rebuilding the city.

He was married to Yaye Okabe, born in Fukuoka on the southern island of Japan. She arrived in Seattle July 19, 1908, listing her final destination as Alameda, California.

By April 1910 Yaye was working as a servant in the home of W.S. McLean and his wife Anne at 2907 Santa Clara Avenue. Her position there likely did not last much longer because her first child Shigeiko (Cookie) was born March 23, 1911. A son, Masanobu (Mas) followed in 1913; and a daughter Katsue (Kay) in 1915.

The Iwaihara family rented a home at 1602 Foley Street that they shared with two other Japanese couples and



**Young Couple . . . Continued from page 6**

their children. This one block street runs behind the present-day Walgreens parking lot. The house and outbuilding have been replaced by a stucco duplex.

Katsutaro was prospering in his new community and purchased a Model-T. "My father ran a vacuum business where he took the equipment to the residence and ran the hoses into the house," Cookie relayed. "His car was one of the first in Alameda and he drove it in a parade carrying the Mayor of Alameda."

By 1919 the Buddhist community had bought the Ryer mansion on Pacific Avenue for their permanent place of worship. Both Katsutaro and Yaye participated in cultural groups and brought their family to celebrations held there. Part of the children's education included attending the Japanese Language School on Pacific Avenue. The couple felt a strong connection to their culture and hoped to keep that alive in their new country.

Cookie said, "My parents wanted us to learn Japanese and Japanese ways, so we went to live in my grandmother's village in Japan. There we wore traditional clothes and spoke Japanese." The family traveled to Japan together about 1918, but the parents returned to Alameda without them.

June 30, 1920 Shigeko, Masonobu, and Katsue returned from Japan with an escort arriving in San Francisco on the *Siberia Maru*. The Iwaiharas



*The wedding portrait of Shigeko "Cookie" Iwaihara and Matao Koga, 1939.*

were now living at 2317 Bank Street, now known as Times Way (the street runs along the library between Park and Oak streets). Most of the families on this block were immigrants from Japan with California-born offspring. The children attended Porter School on Alameda Avenue, the current location of the AHS athletic field.

Cookie moved on to the recently built Alameda High School, graduating in 1931. She planned on going to college, but her course was altered when her father suddenly died—being the oldest daughter she was expected to care for her widowed mother.

In 1939 the World's Fair opened on Treasure Island. The theme of the exposition was "Pageant of the Pacific", as it showcased nations bordering the Pacific Ocean. This was a great location for people of Japanese ancestry to apply for employment. Cookie and others from Alameda were hired to perform traditional dances at the fair. Also at this time, a friend from the temple told her there was a man being sponsored whose English was lacking and he needed an American wife with good Japanese skills. Cookie informed this potential suitor she was expected to care for her mother. He replied, "If you are so kind to care for your mother I would be happy to have you as a wife." Shigeko Iwaihara married Matao Koga on March 8, 1939.

After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, West Coast persons of Japanese descent were notified in April of 1942 they would be relocated to detention centers. Cookie, Matao and her mother were sent to Poston, Arizona. In her telling of this Cookie never complained of her time there, but told me about the children she taught at the school and the other people she met there both Caucasian and Asian.

After returning to Alameda the Kogas purchased their home on Pacific Avenue from a woman Cookie knew from school. The couple also started a business showing Japanese language films across the state. They ordered film reels from Japan, rented a building, advertised, and the Japanese community would come. "On Pacific Avenue kids would run down the street when they returned from their travels", noted a neighbor. "They would bring fruit in crates and pass it out to us." Cookie was honored for donating her films and memorabilia to the Pacific Film Archive at UC Berkeley.

Once in a while someone will stop when I'm in the yard and ask about the Japanese lady who used to live there. I tell them she passed away at age 95 in 2006. We share an antidote and they always walk away with a smile.



*Cookie viewing the Tower of the Sun at the Golden Gate International Exposition, 1939.*

# THE IWAIHARA FAMILY IN ALAMEDA

Research: Valerie Turpen. Images: Shigeko Iwaihara Koga Collection provided by Joyce Sue.



The family car at 2317 Bank Street (now Times Way). At the wheel is Masanobu. In the back seat is Shigeko with a large white bow in her hair and Katsue front right. Their father ran a vacuum business for which the sign can be seen leaning against the house on the left. Based on Sanborn maps, this house was moved from 2319 Santa Clara Avenue in 1907 to make way for the two-story commercial buildings now in that block. It no longer stands.



The children at Jackson Park. Note the girl in the back left on a bicycle and the houses that still stand along Park Avenue.



The Iwaihara children and their uncle Nisaburo. This image is labeled as "The last photo taken in Japan, June 1919." The family stayed with relatives for a time in Amagi in the province of Chikuzen so the children could learn about their culture. They returned to Alameda in 1920.

An Alameda dance troop circa 1920s. The girls are Japanese, but their costumes and tambourines suggest a gypsy-themed performance. Most have bobbed hair, the style of the times. Shigeko is on the left in the second row.



Katsutaro Iwaihara and his wife Yaye Okabe photographed in Oakland



The Iwaihara family: Shigeko, Yaye, Katsue, Katsutaro, and Masanobu, late 1920s.



Shigeko Iwaihara's graduation photo. She graduated from Alameda High School in 1931.

In 1939 Shigeko participated in Japanese dance performances at the World's Fair on Treasure Island. Here she is shown in a traditional kimono, perhaps in the family bonsai garden with laundry on the line.





# Main Library in Historic Context

by Judith Lynch

**A LIBRARIES OUTSIDE** walking tour conjured the felicitous amalgam of architect Richard Rutter, historian-author Woody Minor and Department of Public Works Director Robert Haun. Their handout supplied the pertinent facts—dates, styles, and architects. However the tour was enlivened when the three gents offered insights and anecdotes ranging from steam cleaning bushels of bird mess from the Carnegie (Haun), to recalling former relations who enjoyed meals in the City Hall jail catered by Ole's (Rutter), or a rueful memory of being incarcerated momentarily in the cell that is part of the Police Headquarters (Minor).

Beginning at the Carnegie, the original permanent Alameda Free Library, was a boon, as its sun-stoked atrium and art glass panels were new to many on the walk. The 1903 structure, an official Monument, is sadly disused since seismic concerns forced the library to move to the Historic High School until the new Main opened in 2006. With City Hall (1895) as the oldest structure in the district, and the Alameda Free Library (2006) as the newest, the walking tour ended on a festive note, with Rutter inviting all to celebrate the 10th birthday at the Alameda Free Library. We all wish the Library many, many more!



Woody Minor, Robert Haun, and Richard Rutter in the doorway of the Carnegie Library. The three offered insights to the buildings of Alameda's Civic Center during a walking tour. Image: Johanna Hall.



One of the stained glass windows showing a book, torch, and laurel wreath. Images: Woody Minor.

*This library was one of the first three in California to be funded by Andrew Carnegie. The interior of the Neoclassical building has rarely been seen by the public since its closure in 1998.*



*Corinthian columns rise two stories below the barrel vaulted atrium ceiling. San Francisco architects William Willcox and John Curtis designed the temple-style structure. Alameda builders C. H. Foster and Son completed the project in 1903.*

**FROM THE COLLECTION**

# Artifacts from the Mound

by Valerie Turpen

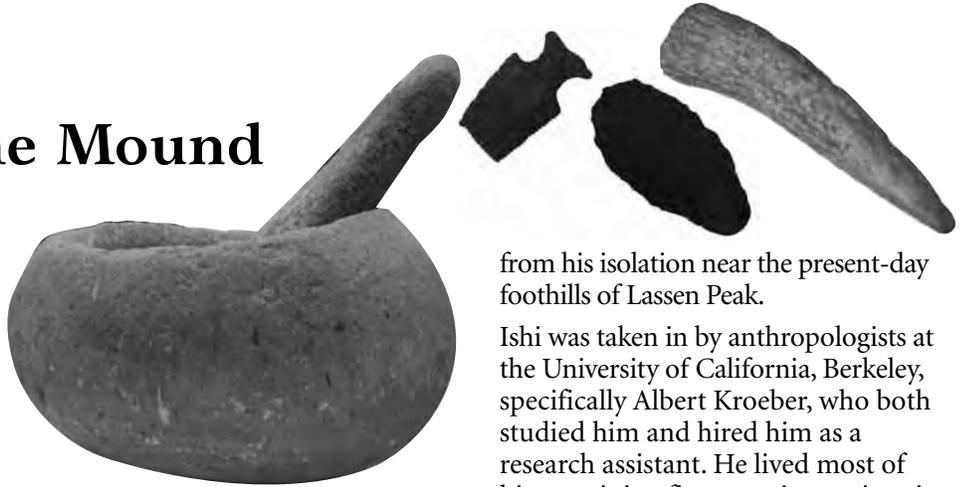
**THIS YEAR A WEATHER PATTERN KNOWN AS INDIAN SUMMER,** a period of warm weather in late autumn or early winter was occurring in the Bay Area. Indian Summer was first recorded in *Letters From an American Farmer*, a 1778 work by the French-American soldier turned farmer J. H. St. John de Crèvecoeur.

The exact origin of the term is unclear, but it was first noted in regions inhabited by Native Americans. It may have been described to the Europeans by the natives or it was based on the warm and hazy conditions in the fall when they hunted.

In Alameda our native inhabitants were members of the Ohlone tribe who first lived along the bayshore more than 3,000 years ago. The location provided a pleasant climate and readily available staples — acorns, game, fresh water and oysters.

The Ohlones left behind six burial mounds in Alameda. Imelda Merlin tells us in *Alameda: A Geographical History* that “Four mounds were found east of Park Street and two others between Park and Chestnut streets.”

The largest mound was bounded by today’s Central Avenue on the south, Johnson Avenue on the north, Court Street on the east and Gibbons Drive on the west. The area around the mound was cleared in 1908 to make room for houses. This is when the amateur archeologist known as Captain Clark and his men found remains of everyday living, including mortars, pestles, a British medallion, arrowheads and other bone tools. Some of these are on display at the Alameda Museum. They also removed 450 bodies from this mound, all of which had been laid to rest facing east in the fetal position.



*Recovered items from the Sather Mound included mortars, pestles, arrowheads, and tools made of bone. Image: Valerie Turpen.*

The contents of the Sather Mound (named for the former property owner Peter Sather of UC Berkeley fame), were used for paving and landfill on Bay Farm Island. The mound was commemorated with a plaque erected in Lincoln Park.

Attending this ceremony in Alameda on July 17, 1914 was Ishi, the last member of the Yahi tribe. Widely acclaimed in his time as the “last wild Indian” in America, Ishi lived most of his life completely outside modern culture. At 50 years of age, in 1911, he emerged

from his isolation near the present-day foothills of Lassen Peak.

Ishi was taken in by anthropologists at the University of California, Berkeley, specifically Albert Kroeber, who both studied him and hired him as a research assistant. He lived most of his remaining five years in a university building in San Francisco, and having no immunity to the “diseases of civilization,” was often ill. He was treated by a Professor of Medicine Saxton T. Pope. Pope became close friends with Ishi and learned from him how to make bows and arrows in the Yahi way. They often hunted together and Pope became a leading authority on bow hunting in America.

Ishi died of tuberculosis on March 25, 1916 and his remains were interred at Mount Olivet Cemetery in Colma.

*Information from: Alameda History: Alameda’s First Inhabitants, Dennis Evanovsky, “The Alamedan,” May 22, 2015; Wikipedia.*



*Ishi attended the ceremony commemorating the Sather Mound at Lincoln Park on July 17, 1914 with Saxton T. Pope. This postcard was discovered by Chuck Millar, who is always on the lookout for Alameda memorabilia. It was enlarged and added to the museum display.*

# Docent Dossiers

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

**Ross Dileo:** 8:00 am sharp, the phone rings. With no caller ID, Ross Dileo knows to answer "Yes George?" automatically. Early calls mean there's something to fix, things to move, items to research for pricing, a Meyers House project or questions about an antique bottle. Such has been the nature of a relationship that began in 1973 when Ross purchased the family home. Needing to learn how to research and repair an old house required joining the Alameda Museum and becoming a member of the Alameda Architectural Preservation Society (AAPS). George was a young curator, starting to become the great historian we all know today.



▲ If Ross Dileo is not serving as a docent at the Meyers House, he can be found improving something on the grounds. Ross is an exceptional woodworker and craftsman.

Ross was a founding member in the Golden Gate Historical Bottle Club that recently celebrated a 50th year anniversary in April where he displayed his Alameda collection. Ross has dug in many Alameda backyards, over in San Francisco's former Barbary Coast, and along the Bay shoreline. Ten years ago, before the new library was built, he dug in the backyard at Gim's Chinese Kitchen on Lincoln Avenue. Always a lover of history, Ross was glad to lend his truck or muscle to tasks hauling estate sale items, pricing tools, cleaning or repairing old wood items and evaluating antique bottles for the collection. He also lent his wife.

Ross is most proud of many woodworking tasks done at the Meyers House. The Architectural Display and rehab of the former three-car garage was accomplished by daily visits over several weeks, with help from neighbor Virgil Silver and George's eye for design. The garden trellis arch was rebuilt with a friend from the Diablo Woodworking Club. The "garden cottage" storage building was an undertaking with Virgil and his wife Margy, both docents at the house. The sprinkler system tweaks, the rose bush trims, the swept sidewalks and docent duty on 4th Saturdays keep him busy when not working on personal house and garden chores. Museums bring people together who appreciate history, become friends, and make Alameda a wonderful town to live in.



▲ Robbie Dileo is not only a docent, but has been a longtime supporter of the Alameda Museum. She has been involved in many projects requiring physical labor, plus leadership roles promoting the museum on the home tour and in the Fourth of July parade.

**Robbie Dileo:** In 1991, answering the call for museum members to help rebuild after relocation from Oak Street's former Alameda High Auto Shop, Robbie, a new mom working on upgrades to her 1885 Victorian home, felt her building, painting and wallpapering skills could be useful. Joining the board as membership chair and then VP, it took a change in leadership to allow George Gunn to create the exhibits you see today.

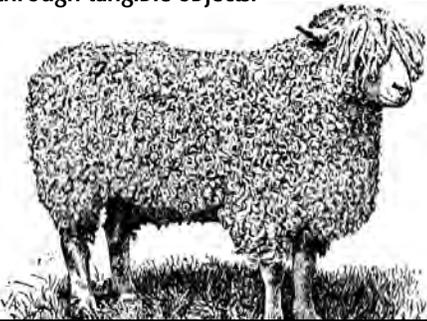
With his vision, artifacts in the collection were organized into vignettes to showcase the City's history in the expanded space. Originally just an open room, Bill Galli and his contractor family built partition walls as a huge donation to make the dream come true. Robbie and museum members painted, cleaned and organized each display to accomplish George's vision. A Masonic Hall boiler room flood

*Continued on page 13. . .*



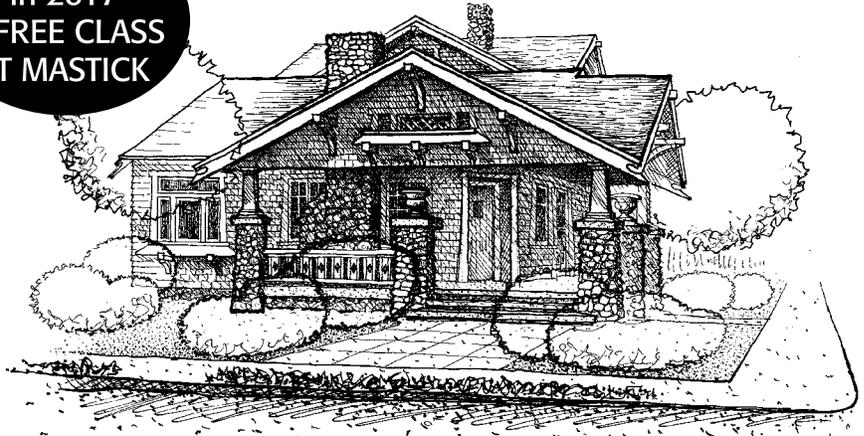
**Docent Dossiers** . . .Continued from page 12 in 2007 caused a total redo, only better, with fresh color, carpets, and the new permanent Neptune Beach exhibit she helped create with Chuck Millar and Judith Lynch.

Robbie held every board position except treasurer over the years, retiring as President in late 2013, but staying as a docent and volunteer for special projects like estate sales and home tours where she opened her home twice. When asked what she's most proud of, there isn't a *single* item. Getting the Meyers House in 1994 and working her magic there with George was certainly the biggest challenge. Being the docent for school, scouting, and senior group tours was a joy. Business plans, City Council presentations, running the board and museum as a business, all tasked her professional skill as a former accountant and consultant. Meeting wonderful people, many becoming friends, she thanks husband Ross's love of history and being able to be a stay-at-home mom, for having a 26 year volunteer career making Alameda's history come alive through tangible objects.



**HAVE "EWE" RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?**  
See page 15 for a form or to pay by credit card visit [alamedamuseum.org](http://alamedamuseum.org)

Coming in 2017  
**A FREE CLASS AT MASTICK**



*Drawing of 1601 Fernside by Richard Knight*

**Alameda Development and Architecture:  
*From the Era of Queen Victoria  
to the Magic of Storybook  
1850s to 1920s***

Architectural heritage here in Alameda is legion, comprising more than 10,000 buildings built before 1940 and protected under the stewardship of the City Historical Advisory Board. The earlier ones are named Victorians because they were built during her reign; other styles follow through the years, 1901 through the 1920s. Learn about the richly embellished styles that make Island streets such a delight to stroll. Think of it as bird-watching and start your vintage homes life list!

This free class for Mastick Center members offers twelve sessions highlighting the 19th and early 20th century buildings of Alameda.

Six slide shows and six walking tours will help you enjoy and distinguish amongst the various architectural styles that abound here. Taught by local author and teacher Judith Lynch, who served ten years on the City of Alameda Historical Advisory Board.

•••••

**Slide sessions are held Tuesday and Thursday mornings at Mastick Senior Center, 1155 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda.**

**Walks visit Bay Station, Leonardville, a bungalow neighborhood, Fernside, and the Civic Center, with a finale that starts at Mastick.**

**The class starts Tuesday, March 28, 2017. Space is limited. Please call Mastick to reserve a slot: (510) 747-7506.**



# What's New at the Meyers House

## Home Tour Party Held in the Meyers Garden

The Alameda Legacy Home Tour hosted by the Alameda Museum and the Alameda Architectural Preservation Society was held September 23. It was a record day for heat in the Bay Area and most visitors were using their guidebook for a fan as they toured the seven buildings featured this year.

Over 600 people attended the tour. There were 104 docents for the homes, working either a morning shift or an afternoon shift. One of the mansions on the tour needed a total of 28 docents to cover the expansive interior that included a ballroom.

By 5:00 pm docents and homeowners were ready to relax in the Meyers House garden. Catering was provided by Chef Care; Beer was from Faction Brewing; and the old-time hits were played by Jim Rebhan, Ken Weinstock, and Rex Vector. Thank you to the many volunteers for making the tour a successful event.



Homeowners and docents had a nice selection at the buffet.



Jim Smallman, Robbie Dileo, and David Bock.



Simone Long and Chiara Stiger in their best Victorian-era attire.



Janice Cantu, Grant Ute, Scott and Denise Brady were among the party goers relaxing in the Meyers House garden.



## VOLUNTEERS: ALAMEDA MUSEUM & MEYERS HOUSE & GARDEN

- |                      |                             |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Margaretha Augustine | Evelyn Kennedy              |
| Chad Barr            | Julie Kennedy               |
| Olivia Bauman        | Carole King                 |
| Margie Benko         | Mary Lou Kurtz              |
| Ginnie Boscacci      | Jessica Lindsey             |
| Gene Calhoun         | Gayle Macaitis              |
| Dora Calhoun         | Nancy Martin                |
| Janine Carr          | Jeannie McCaffery           |
| Katherine Cavanaugh  | Carla McGrogan              |
| Barbara Coapman      | Jim McGrogan                |
| Cathy Conley         | Joanne McKay                |
| Charles Daly         | Chuck Millar                |
| Lin Datz             | Lloyd Novakowski            |
| Robbie Dileo         | Carl Ramos                  |
| Ross Dileo           | Shirley Ramos               |
| Marilyn Dodge        | Virginia Rivera             |
| Linda Domholt        | Holly Schmalenberger-Haugen |
| Joanne Dykema        | Racheed Shabaz              |
| Dennis Evanosky      | Margy Silver                |
| Tom Faulds           | Virgil Silver               |
| Pamela Ferrero       | Jim Smallman                |
| Adam Gillitt         | Trish Herrera Spencer       |
| Debra Hilding        | Ellen Tilden                |
| Charlie Howell       | Gerry Warner                |
| Gail Howell          | Robert Welch                |
| Virginia Jones       | Joe Young                   |

*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**  
Evelyn Kennedy  
volunteer@alamedamuseum.org  
510-504-5612

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

# JOIN ALAMEDA MUSEUM

Preserving the Past for the Future  
for over 65 Years

### New Membership

- A one-time pass to the Meyers House

### New & Renewed Membership

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

For more information  
alamedamuseum.org • 510-521-1233

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 Lifetime. Please check the appropriate box or boxes. Thank you for your support.**

- \$30 Adult
- \$20 2nd Household Member\*  
2nd Member Name \_\_\_\_\_
- \$25 Senior
- \$20 Docent/Volunteer
- Heritage Partner  
\_\_\_ \$200 Non-profit or Art Group  
\_\_\_ \$250 Business
- \$1,000 Lifetime Member  
(one payment only, for life of the member)

*\*Person who resides with a paid Adult Member at same address, also gets voting privilege.*

### To pay by credit card visit alamedamuseum.org

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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

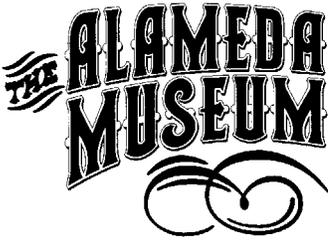
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FOUNDED IN 1948  
2324 Alameda Avenue  
Alameda CA 94501



## Parents, Teachers, Administrators and Community Members

**Do you want to instill a love of learning, history,  
and community engagement in your students  
and children?**

The Alameda Museum is not only a great place for children and students to explore, but also to learn about local history and historical preservation.

**The Alameda Museum is now offering free guided  
tours for school groups.**

Learning about local history gives students a better sense of time and place, makes children curious about their surroundings and own history, and gets them involved in their community in a new way.

Bring your children, grandchildren, friends, and classes to visit the Alameda Museum and see what the museum has to offer. Come have fun, learn something new, and explore Alameda past and present.

**If you would like to visit with a group, please call  
Dennis Evanosky at 510-772-5209  
to schedule a tour.**

## *Record Your Oral History!*

The Alameda Museum is looking for volunteers willing to share their stories with us on video. Everyone is welcome, from age 2 to 102, lifelong residents, former inhabitants, friendly neighbors and recent transplants. For more information and to sign up please visit <http://alamedamuseum.org/oral-histories> or send an email to [membership@alamedamuseum.org](mailto:membership@alamedamuseum.org). Thank you!

### IN THIS ISSUE

- *A Community That Disappeared*
- *From the President's Podium*
- *Docent Training Enlightens All*
- *A Young Couple Immigrate to Alameda*
- *Main Library in Historic Context*
- *Artifacts From the Mound*
- *Docent Dossiers*
- *What's New at the Meyers House*

### SEE YOU IN JANUARY!

**ALAMEDA MUSEUM**  
2324 Alameda Avenue

#### **HOLIDAY HOURS**

The museum will be closed from  
December 19 to January 3.

#### **REGULAR 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

#### **HOLIDAY HOURS**

The Meyers House will be  
closed for the month of December

**alamedamuseum.org**