



## **San Francisco Westerners International Signals for SEPTEMBER 2016**

WEBSITE: [www.westernerssf.org](http://www.westernerssf.org)

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### **PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN INTERESTING TALK ON SEPTEMBER 27, 2016 AT 5:30 PM ON THE TOPIC OF SAN FRANCISCO'S CIVIC CENTER .**

San Francisco's Civic Center is the largest collection of monumental civic buildings in the United States outside of Washington DC. It is the product of the early twentieth century City Beautiful movement and is exemplary in its design and use of materials. James Haas, an expert on Civic Center history and politics, will cover the period 1893-1918, addressing the City Beautiful movement in San Francisco, the coming of the Panama Pacific International Exposition of 1915, and the leadership of Mayor James Rolph in getting Civic Center and a new City Hall designed and built. His talk will highlight the many issues, fights and personalities that played a role in this story.

James Haas is a retired lawyer and native San Franciscan. He first became involved with Civic Center in 1984 with the successful campaign to build a new Main Library. Ever since he has been the principal advocate for its rehabilitation, completion and maintenance. After many years of effort, he succeeded in 2015 getting the Planning Department to undertake a comprehensive public realm plan for the area. In the course of his work, he has done research on civic centers in general and the San Francisco Civic Center and is writing a detailed book on its history. He is a member of the City Hall Preservation Advisory Commission and the Board of Directors of the Civic Center Community Benefit District.

His other civic activities include chair of the citizens committee which succeeded in getting the Embarcadero Freeway demolished and the roadway built and establishing the San Francisco County Transportation Authority and the sales tax which pays for it.

He currently lives at 100 Van Ness Avenue where he can view City Hall and Civic Center twenty-four hours a day.

**Location: L'Oliver French Restaurant  
465 Davis Court, San Francisco**

The restaurant provides us with a private room, fine dining and an attentive staff. A no-host full bar is available. L'Oliver is located between Jackson and Washington Streets. Parking is available in the area. We gather at 5:30 and dinner seating begins at 6:15 P.M. A three course selection is available and costs \$38.00. Please send checks and dinner reservations by June 22, 2016 to: Judy Van Austen, KOC, 1789 Northwood Court, Oakland, CA 94611

Current Posse:  
 Sheriff: Robert Chandler, PhD  
 Trail Boss: [Ask how you can help us here!](#)  
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 Inkslinger: Tom McLaughlin (415-931-1598)  
 Inkslingers Emeritus: Richard F. Olson; Mary Lou Lyon, HM

**IN MEMORIAM:**



*Left: “Duke Lopez” at age 14, on his front steps in Sausalito, California, in 1938. Center: Dick Dillon back from 3 years with his Uncle Samuel, at UC Berkeley, in 1946. Right: The oldest Hippie on Telegraph Avenue- Richard H. Dillon back at Berkeley in 2015, at age 91.*

**RICHARD H. DILLON: 1924-2016**

Richard Hugh Dillon was a world-renowned California historian, who published hundreds of books, articles, and reviews over a 67-year period. Born in Sausalito, California, on January 16, 1924, he died suddenly, without any pain or suffering, on July 7, 2016, at the Redwoods, in Mill Valley California, at age 92. Dillon graduated from Tamalpais High School and began studying history, geography, and anthropology at UC Berkeley in 1941 at age 17. His nick-name was “Duke Lopez.” He left the University in 1943 at 19 to join the American Army in the ETO. Dillon was a WWII combat soldier who served with the famous 79th Division in France (where he was WIA), Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany and Czechoslovakia. His nick-name in the Army was “the Perfesser.” He returned to UC Berkeley in 1946 only days after demobilization. He earned an MA in History, and also published his first scholarly work, in 1949. Dillon then took a second MA at Berkeley in Library Science in 1950.

Dillon married Barbara Allester Sutherland, a fellow librarian and ceramic artist, in 1950. She predeceased him in 2009. Richard and Allester Dillon leave behind three sons, five grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. They also leave behind hundreds of former students and many thousands of enthusiastic fans of his writing and her ceramic art. For 30 years Dick Dillon was the head librarian of the Sutro Library in San Francisco, first at San Francisco City Hall, then on the USF Campus. Dillon also taught history at the University of San Francisco for an even longer period of time, as well as for single semesters at UCLA and the University of Hawaii. For nearly seventy years Richard H. Dillon cranked out one full-length book after another: biographies, California and Western American history. Two dozen of his books on Western History have been re-issued as paperbacks, and many are still in print today, some more than fifty years after their initial appearance. Dillon was the recipient of many literary awards for non-fiction writing. He was a Phi Beta Kappa, a member of many historical societies, and the past President of the Book Club of California. Dick Dillon’s good friend and fellow historian Monsignor Francis J. Weber, of Mission San Fernando, California, said, upon learning of the passing of his friend of more than 50 years:

*“You don’t know whether to pray **For** Dick Dillon, or pray **To** Him”*