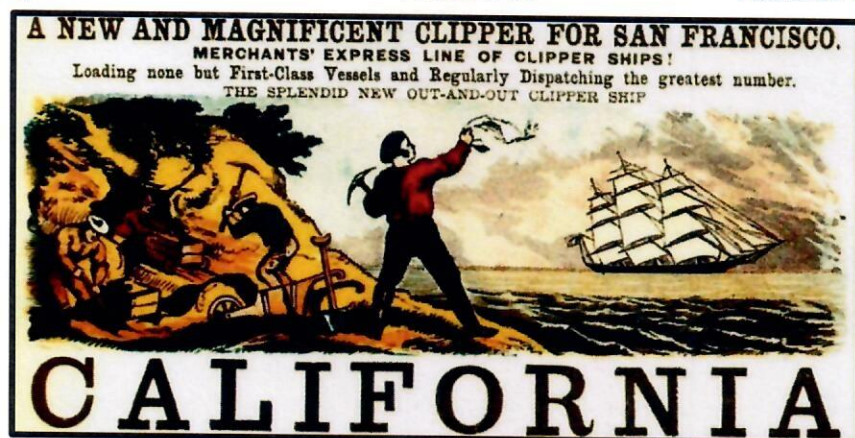


Signals from Telegraph Hill

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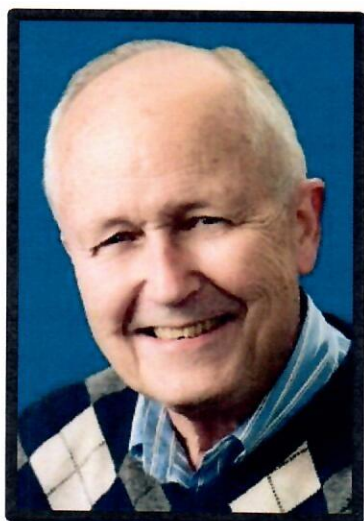


San Francisco Corral – Westerners International

WEBSITE: www.westernerssf.org

EMAIL: westernerssf@gmail.com

Please join us on Tuesday, April 25, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. for the Long-Forgotten "First Citizen of the State of California"!



Jim Spitze will present his acclaimed talk on the long-forgotten "First Citizen of the State" (in the words of Benjamin Ide Wheeler, president of U.C. Berkeley from 1899-1919). Jim will tell us of the founder of California's first public library, of San Francisco's public school system, of what are today Mills College, the Hamlin School, and the University of California. This very interesting individual offered the opening prayer on September 1, 1849, at the State's Constitutional Convention in Colton Hall, one full year before California achieved statehood. He obtained a charter for the College of California on April 13, 1855, the true founding date of the University of California. Working with his Board of Trustees, on March 1, 1858, he selected Berkeley as the permanent college site, and in early 1864, he bought the land on which "Cal" now sits. Who is this person? Join us on April 25 and find out!

James M. Spitze is a 4th generation Californian married for fifty years to a 5th generation Berkeleyan. He is a computer scientist with a BS in Electrical Engineering and an MSEE in Computer Science (both from U.C. Berkeley), with Ph.D. studies in Computer Architecture. He is the co-inventor of U.S. No. Patent 3,854,124 (Electronic Calculator, filed 11/21/1966, granted 12/10/1974). For 50+ years he has pursued a "hi-tech" career, including service as the Chief Information Officer for Xerox Data Systems, American President Lines, and QANTAS. For the last decade, he has led the Fisher CIO Leadership Program of the Haas School of Business at U.C. Berkeley. His avocation is California history, which led him to assemble a large library of Californiana, and to write several books and

articles for the Bancroft Library, the California Historical Society, and others.

Meeting Location: Fior d'Italia, 2237 Mason Street, San Francisco

The restaurant provides us with a private room and valet parking. We gather at 5:30 and dinner seating begins at 6:15 p.m. A three-course selection is available and costs \$39.00. RSVP – Note change of address: Please send checks and dinner reservations by April 20, 2017 to: Robert Chandler, 430 Ponderosa Court, Lafayette, CA 94549-1813.



Round-up! Donations of books, ephemera and other Western-themed memorabilia are needed for our monthly raffle! Spring cleaning? Bring `em to the meeting!

Looking Back: April 18, 1906



Harriet Lane Levy, a native San Franciscan, was a dramatic critic for *The San Francisco Call*. Her poetry was published in *The Wave*, alongside the works of Frank Norris and Jack London. In 1947, when she was eighty years old, she published her memoirs. The title, *1920 O'Farrell Street*, was the address at which she had lived from the time of her birth in 1867 until she was quite nearly forty years old. After her father had died and her two sisters had long since married, her mother made the unexpected announcement that she was going to rent out the house. Harriet was shocked. She'd never lived anywhere else, and never expected to. Yet the house was rented out, and Harriet and her mother moved to a hotel.

Harriet was in Europe when the 1906 earthquake and fire struck. The city to which she returned was vastly different from the one that she had left. Here are excerpts from the closing chapter of *1920 O'Farrell Street*.

“In my travels I walked about the ruins of ancient cities, tourist-wise, speculating upon evidence of destruction too vast, too remote, to be actual. I returned home to behold devastation as great as any I had witnessed, created not by the earthquake alone, but by the fire which had followed upon it. I had left closely packed city streets; I returned to a barren waste of hills and to isolated buildings in unconvincing locations. Nothing was in its right place; nothing was where it used to be.”



Postcards of Kearny Street before and after the 1906 disaster.



“The home of the Benish Levys had disappeared as if it had never been, along with a city behind it. . . . One automobile company after another bought ground along the length of the avenue and erected their showrooms upon it. And today motorcars drive into the repair department of the Cadillac Motor Company over the invisible, spotless, velvet parlor carpet of my 920 O'Farrell Street.”



< Postcard of the ruins of Van Ness Avenue.

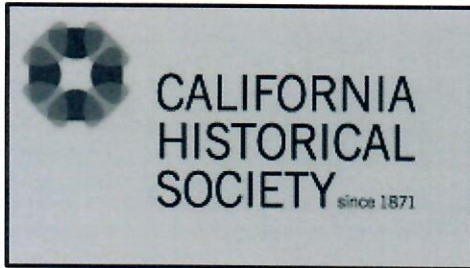
The Cadillac > Motor Company is now the site of the AMC Theatre.



Noteworthy Events



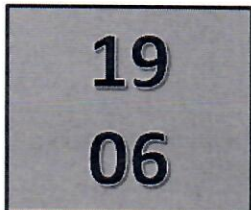
San Francisco Museum and Historical Society – Tuesday, April 11, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. From Orphans to Freeways: A Magical History Tour of San Francisco’s Most Celebrated Neighborhood – The Haight-Ashbury. Angus McFarlane grew up in the Haight-Ashbury neighborhood before it became a hippie haven. Mr. McFarlane’s presentation will include the Haight’s pre-summer-of-love history, and will solve some historic mysteries, such as whom Haight Street was really named after. **Roosevelt Middle School, 460 Arguello Blvd. (at Geary; entrance on Palm).** www.sfhistory.org. Admission for non-members is \$10 per person or \$5 for seniors, students, K-12 teachers, and persons with disabilities. Admission fees may be applied to membership dues within 45 days.



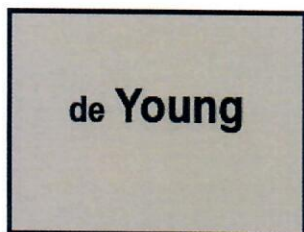
California Historical Society – Thursday, April 27, 6:00 p.m.: Letters from the Japanese Internment Camps: Voices of Dissent. Using original letters from the internment camps of WWII, now preserved at California Historical Society, this interdisciplinary presentation focuses on Japanese Americans who spoke out during and after internment. Contemporary descendants, writers, historians, activists, and performers will read from the letters and share their responses. **Presidio Officer's Club, Moraga Hall, 50 Moraga Avenue.** www.californiahistoricalsociety.org – (415) 357-1848. Admission is FREE.



Cherry Blossom Festival and Parade – April 15-16, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Parade: April 16 at 1:00 p.m. Japantown Peace Plaza, Buchanan and Post Streets. The forty-eighth annual Cherry Blossom Festival showcases the color and grace of the Japanese culture and the diversity of the Japanese-American community. sfcherryblossom.org – Admission is FREE.



San Francisco Earthquake and Fire Remembrance – April 18, 4:30 a.m.: Countdown to 5:12 a.m. Geary, Market & Kearny Streets. Schedule of Events: 4:30 a.m.: Commemoration of the San Francisco Great Earthquake & Fire at Lotta’s Fountain. 4:45 a.m.: Master of Ceremonies welcoming remarks. 5:00 a.m.: Vintage fire truck parade arrives at Lotta’s Fountain. Mayor, Fire Chief, Police Chief introduced. Mayor hangs wreath. 5:11 a.m.: Countdown announced. 5:12 a.m.: Sirens. 5:13 a.m.: Minute of silence. 5:14 a.m.: Sing-a-long “San Francisco.” 5:15 a.m.: Announcements and invitation to 20th and Church Golden Hydrant Painting. 5:30 a.m.: 20th and Church Golden Fire Hydrant painting and placement of wreath by the San Francisco History Association. More info: sanfranciscohistory.org



The de Young Museum — April 8 through August 20: The Summer of Love Experience: Art, Fashion and Rock and Roll. In the mid-1960s, artists, activists, writers, and musicians converged on the Haight-Ashbury neighborhood with hopes of creating a new social paradigm. For the fiftieth anniversary of the Summer of Love, the de Young presents an exhilarating exhibition of iconic rock posters, photographs, interactive music and light shows, costumes and textiles, ephemera, and avant-garde films. More information: deyoung.famsf.org/summer-love-art-fashion-and-rock-roll Admission is FREE for the opening day celebration: April 8 at noon. (Gallery admission is not included.)

S. F. Westerners Posse 2017

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Mark your calendar for the S.F. Corral of Westerners' meeting dates for 2017 (usually the fourth Tuesday of the month): *May outing to the Oakland Museum of California, Saturday, May 20 at 11:00 a.m.*; June 27; (No meeting in July/August); September 26; October 24; (No meeting in November); December 5.

In Memoriam



The San Francisco Corral of Westerners International fondly remembers **Brad Casoly**, who served as Sheriff in 1990. Mr. Casoly was a native San Franciscan who graduated from San Francisco State University with a major in photography. He was an Army photographer in the early 1950s, and was part of the team of photographers who shot photos of General McArthur's return to America, and the victory parade on Market Street in San Francisco. Mr. Casoly passed away in his Sacramento home on November 29, 2016.

The San Francisco History Association has announced that this year's commemoration of the anniversary of the earthquake and fire that occurred on April 18, 1906 will be dedicated to three local historians who left us within the last year:



Philip P. Choy was a native San Franciscan known for actively pursuing the preservation of the city's landmarks. Mr. Choy was a past president of the Chinese Historical Society of America, and starting in 1969, he taught a Chinese American history course at San Francisco State University – the first such course in the United States. Mr. Choy earned a degree as an architect at U.C. Berkeley, and has written or co-written four books on Chinese American life. He passed away at his home in San Francisco on March 16, 2017, at age 90.



Gladys Hansen was a renowned expert on the 1906 earthquake and fire. A native of Berkeley, Ms. Hansen established San Francisco City Guides, a historical walking tour service which is still in existence. She was placed in charge of the San Francisco Public Library's California collection in 1963, and served as city archivist from 1972 until 1990. In the early 1990s, she established The Museum of the City of San Francisco at the Cannery. The museum is now online at www.sfmuseum.org. Ms. Hansen authored several books, most notably *Denial of Disaster*, about the 1906 earthquake and fire, and *The San Francisco Almanac*, which was a best-seller. She passed away at the age of 91 on March 5, 2017.



Dr. Kevin Starr, a native San Franciscan, served as the State Librarian from 1994 through 2004. Dr. Starr, a member of the San Francisco Corral of Westerners International, wrote a highly regarded multi-volume series on the history of California, collectively entitled *Americans and the California Dream*. Dr. Starr earned his BA in English at the University of San Francisco, and earned a PhD in American literature at Harvard. From 1974 until 1989 he served as a professor or visiting lecturer at various California universities. "His vision," said Governor Jerry Brown, "like California, was larger than life." Dr. Starr left us on January 14, 2017. He was 76.