

JOIN THE MUSEUM!

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LOTS OF BENEFITS

PLUS YOU WILL BE SUPPORTING YOUR MUSEUM

Museum Events

NEW!

Marin History Trivia

**Test your knowledge of local
history!**

Olompali was the site of the Rancho Miwok Indians in the 1830's. In the early 1900's the site became the Burdell Ranch. It had many owners after that and by the mid-to-late 1960's had become a hippie commune.

What three rock bands briefly lived there?

Email your answer to: info@marinhistory.org. First two correct answers win a ticket to either a MHM lecture or an historic walking tour with Marcie Miller.



Walking Tour

Boyd Gate House to B Street Train Station
and all the Schoolhouses and Saloons in between

When: Saturday, May 18, 2019
10 am; \$10 fee

Where: Meet at the Boyd Gate House
at 1125 B Street in San Rafael

For more info, contact:
Marcie@marinhistory.org
415 4468869



From the elegant homes of upper B street to the seedier side of the tracks, join Marcie Miller for a walk around town.

Our tour will revisit the past of commercial San Rafael – businesses, resorts and stables – making stops to tell the Prohibition day stories of San Rafael as it became the center of Marin County life.

info@marinhistory.org · www.marinhistory.org · 415-382-1182



Lecture Series



May 23 • 7:00 p.m. • Elks Lodge • 1312 Mission Ave, San Rafael

The History of China Camp and the Chinese-American Diaspora, presented by Ed Lai

Join us as we journey back in time to see life as it was along the San Pablo shoreline in the mid 1800s. The gold rush had ended and San Francisco was beginning to develop into a burgeoning city. Faced with war, famine, and poverty, thousands of people left their homeland in China to seek a better life within California's expanding economy.

Those who settled along what is now called China Camp brought with them advanced shrimp fishing and seafaring technology, which allowed them to develop a thriving industry — an industry that would later collapse due to rampant discriminatory policies. The Quan family were among the survivors and added another fascinating and colorful chapter to the history of China Camp.

Join China Camp State Park Docent Ed Lai to hear the story of 19th century China Camp as it is woven into the larger experience of the Chinese-American diaspora.

\$10 suggested donation. Free entry for Elks with ID card.

San Rafael Elks Lodge at Mission Ave at C Street in San Rafael. 1312 Mission Ave.

Look for hidden driveway. Parking in the rear of mansion. Follow one-way signs.

Please RSVP info@marinhistory.org • www.marinhistory.org • 415-382-1182

Feature Article

A TREASURE IN MARIN! MARIN ART AND GARDEN CENTER

Sitting on ten prime acres in Ross, the Marin Art & Garden Center is a place where you can tour beautiful gardens, see plays, take art or gardening classes, study local history, shop for arts and antiques, attend weddings or events, and watch children play in Pixie Playground.



Source: Marin Art & Garden Center

It was once an estate called Sunnyside owned by George and Annie (Ross) Worn and then the Jonathan Kittle family. In 1945, to save the property from being split up into lots by developers, it was purchased by a local group led by Caroline Livermore and Gladys Smith.



Worn home circa 1880
Source: Ross Historical Society

People that would make and sell their wares on the premises, a cultural mecca for art in all its forms. "It is not a public picnic ground," stated Caroline Livermore, the indomitable Marin activist who founded the Marin Conservation League. Instead, it was to be a living memorial, a year-round center shared by local arts and garden organizations. "If you're in earnest," Caroline told supporters in late 1945, "I'll put up a \$5,000 deposit and sign a \$20,000 five-year mortgage on my house to clinch the sale."

The Center's first fundraising fete included "arts in action," a weaving exhibition, ceramics, jewelry and floral displays, garden tours, a marionette show, and a ballroom dancing exhibition by Arthur & Mrs. Murray. In 1946, their fall show "Sculpture and Flowers" attracted over 10,000 visitors.

The site's old gardens and arboretum of rare trees, dotted with California oaks and redwoods and bisected by a slow-moving creek, have always been part of its charm. Neglected after a fire gutted the old mansion in the 1930s, the gardens were brought back to life by volunteers and today include a habitat garden, a sun garden, a succulent garden and butterfly garden.



The 1860s barn on the property was taken over by the Ross Valley Players, and the old eight-sided pump house became a gardening and reference library, now home to the Moya Library-Ross Historical Society. Other buildings were renovated or added to meet the needs of member organizations.

From 1946-1970, the County of Marin used the Center as the site of the Marin County Fair.



Lf. 1965 Fair at Marin Art & Garden Center,
Source: Anne T. Kent California Room



Rt. Program for 1948 Marin Fair
Source: Anne T. Kent California Room

Marin Art & Garden Center groups now include the Ross Valley Players, the Moya Library–Ross Historical Society, Marin Garden Club, Garden Society of Marin, Decorations Guild, Marin Rose Society, Marin Bonsai Club, Pixie Park and Laurel House Group. To see all of the programs and events, go to: <https://magc.org>

By Susan Cluff

Faces of Marin



Caroline Sealy Livermore (1885-1986)

Caroline Sealy Livermore dedicated her life to community service, championing local planning for parks and open space. Beginning in the 1930s, Livermore realized that the beauty of Marin could not last without protection. She devoted her life to that end.

She helped form the Marin Conservation League in the 1930s, spearheading a green, open-space county master plan that served as a model for handling post-World War II growth in the Bay Area. Caroline Livermore negotiated the purchase of lands subsequently formed into Samuel P. Taylor and Tomales Bay State Parks. She staved off development of [Mount Tamalpais](#), saving its slopes for valuable watershed and helping that area become California's first state park. Mrs. Livermore saved Stinson Beach, Marin Headlands, and Richardson Bay Sanctuary from development and was instrumental in the protected designation of Point Reyes National Seashore.

Determined that [Angel Island](#), owned by the federal government, would make a splendid state park, Livermore revived the defunct Angel Island Foundation and raised funds to acquire the island in 1955. The island was classified a California State Park in 1963. Angel Island's highest peak, Mt. Livermore, was named in her honor.

Mrs. Livermore spearheaded a drive to save, relocate and restore the historic Lyford Manson, now a Marin historic site located in the Richardson Bay tidelands area. In addition to these conservation efforts, Mrs. Livermore was a founder of the Marin Audubon Society and Marin Art and Garden Center.

Without Caroline Livermore, Marin County would not be what we enjoy today.

By Alice Tanner



Gladys Schulte Smith (1896-1975)

Gladys Schulte Smith was a Ross socialite, philanthropist, activist and volunteer fundraiser. In the 1940s Gladys Smith and Caroline Livermore, the indomitable Marin activist, teamed together to rally Marin individuals and charitable organizations to acquire and preserve 10 historic acres in Ross, once the Sunnyside estate. This highly valued property, with lovely, though languishing, gardens and irreplaceable trees, ultimately became the Marin Art and Garden Center. Their intent was to create a colony of artists and craftspeople who made and sold their wares on the premises, an idea modeled after the Allied Arts Guild in Menlo Park. The Marin Art & Garden Center is a community gem. For more than six decades, MAGC (pronounced magic) has celebrated the vision of its founding members and served many thousands of individuals of all ages who have come to enjoy the bounty of what the center has to offer — beautiful, serene gardens,

horticulture, conservation and history programs, art exhibits, plays, festivals, family events and more.

Gladys Smith's philanthropy was also seen in her work as board chairperson of The Grape Festival, Marin's premier charity event for 106 years until its close in 2008. This event had its zenith in the 1940s, '50s and '60s, after Mrs. Smith spearheaded the formation of guilds that worked year-round to raise money for Sunny Hills, a home for at-risk youths. Ultimately 38 guilds were formed, the primary focus of each guild was the Grape Festival.

By Alice Tanner



Isabella Worn (1869-1950)

Bella was born into a wealthy Marin family. Her grandfather, James Ross, owned the land grant for Rancho Punta de San Quentin where the town of Ross is now. Her father, George Austin Worn was a successful lumber merchant and with his wife Annie had five children. To house their family they constructed a home called Sunnyside, now the location of the Marin

Art & Garden Center. When the family lost their fortune, they had to sell Sunnyside.

In 1888, the four sisters opened a design business "the Misses Worn" in San Francisco providing opulent decorations for debuts, cotillions, weddings and balls, often using flowers and shrubs from their own garden. Bella was much admired for her work as a floral arranger, decorator and horticulturalist, and in 1916 was asked to supervise plantings at Filoli, the Bourne estate in Woodside. She also worked on the Crocker Estate Sky Farm, at Hearst Castle with Julia Morgan, on the Tobin Clark estate and many other remarkable gardens.

A tall, handsome woman, Bella crossed the Bay every day on the ferry to her office in the James Lick Building. She had a reputation for knowing exactly what she wanted and for quiet generosity, contributing to her nephews and nieces' education. One nephew, Donald Perry, started the Sunnyside nursery.

By Susan Cluff

Community Events of Interest

Monday, May 13 10:30-11:30am

Corte Madera Library, 707 Meadowsweet

Discover Historic Tomales Bay with Marin Historian Dewey Livingston

In this illustrated presentation, Livingston details the early history of Tomales Bay. He will share stories about the one-room schoolhouses and the towns of Hamlet, Muldrow City, Marshall, Inverness, and Millerton.

Saturday, June 1 9:00 am

San Anselmo Historical Commission - The Seminary Area

Meet at Montgomery Chapel, Richmond Road and Bolinas Avenue Meet at Montgomery Chapel, Richmond Road and Bolinas Avenue

Visit one of San Anselmo's oldest neighborhoods. The tour will highlight the quiet beauty of San Francisco Theological Seminary, its history and architecture. Meet at Montgomery Chapel, Richmond Road & Bolinas Avenue. This tour does involve stairs and uphill walking and is not suitable for strollers or very young children. Refreshments will be served along the way.

From the Collection



Wedding *tableau* portrait, c. 1885.

French for "living picture", *tableau* or *tableau vivant*—posed scenes in costume inspired by art or literature—became a popular parlor game in England during the Victorian period and spread throughout the United States at the turn of the century. Children frequently performed *tableaux* for their parents or to entertain guests.

Here, Isabel Kittle and Benjamin Diblee pose solemnly, hand in gloved hand, as bride and groom. Isabel grew up at Sunnyside, a Ross estate that later became the Marin Art and Garden Center. Benjamin grew up at Fernhill in San Anselmo, now home to the Branson School. In a nostalgic twist, Isabel and Benjamin married in 1905 and lived in Ross until their deaths.

In 2003, the Moya Library and Ross Historical Society donated the photograph as well as Benjamin's handmade Fauntleroy suit: a red silk cut-away jacket, cream-colored vest and lace-trimmed knee-pants.

In the News - 100 Years Ago

Marin Journal

May 1919

Ten Dollars

In this Bank

It
Grows

In Your Pocket

It
Shrinks

We have said enough

Bank of San Rafael

"The Bank of Service"

VOLUNTEER JOB OPPORTUNITIES

We can use your help! Have a little time on our hands and looking to help a local non-profit? Below is a list of some of the volunteer positions we need to fill.

Please let us know if any of these look interesting to you by emailing info@marinhistory.org or calling 415-382-1182. We would love to hear from you!

Writer

We are starting to create a lot of content for our eNewsletters, social media sites, and future traveling exhibitions and publications. If you like to do historical research and write short articles, we could use your help.

Editor

Along with writers, we need editors to give the final article its blessing before it goes to print. This volunteer job can be done from home or on site. Let us know if you have that required eagle eye and grammatical tenacity to tackle this job.

Photographer

Capture the moment for us! Your photos of the Museum's special events and exhibitions will be invaluable for public outreach, future fundraising campaigns and our institution's historical record. We could use your help documenting our history!

Don't see your area of interest?

Call us and we work with you to create your perfect volunteer experience!

Are you a student looking for community service hours? Know a student who needs hours before graduating?

The Marin History Museum is a 501(c)3 and can grant students their community service hours.

Let us know and we'll take care of it!

Marin History Museum - Craemer Family Research and Collection Facility

45 Leveroni Ct Novato CA 94949

Please call for an appointment

415-382-1182

Mailing Address: PO Box 150727, San Rafael, CA 94915

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