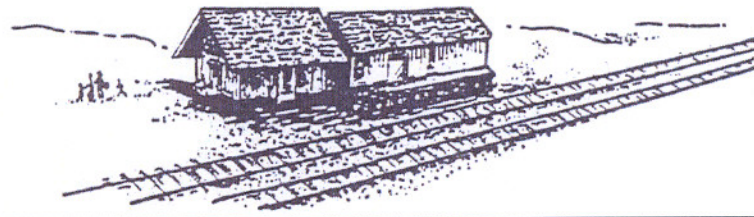


**NEWS & NOTES**  
**FROM THE**  
**COLMA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION** **Founded 1993**



1500 Hillside Boulevard, Colma, California 94014  
(650) 757-1676

[colmahist@sbcglobal.net](mailto:colmahist@sbcglobal.net)  
[www.colmahistory.org](http://www.colmahistory.org)

October, November, December 2016

Newsletter #115

### CHA President's Message

The fall of 2016 – hard to believe! Soon 2016 will be history. **Our fall quarterly meeting will be on Tuesday, October 25, 6:30 PM at the Museum.** Please put it on your calendar. The program is The History of the Cresta Ranch. Last spring Ron Wilson donated his Cresta Ranch research paper done in December 1967 for a class at SF State University (now in our library). Vaughn Jones, one of our program chairs, will be presenting.

Our walking tour of Christy Vault Co. was well attended. We advertised on Next Door, an online neighborhood networking system, and reached a wider audience. Hal Wilkes was our guide. Among other things we learned much about burial vaults which are lined and sealed outer receptacles that house the casket. People were fascinated with the information and also enjoyed their post-tour visit to our museum for a picnic themed buffet.

Docents are a key part of our ability to keep the museum open six days a week from 10 to 3. Most historical museums are open only a few days a week and often only a few days a month. Please consider joining our team of docents. You can call to find out more. If you decide to become a docent, you would train with one of us and ideally pair up for a specific day and time slot or you could help out when we need a substitute. It's lots of fun to meet the public and learn more about the museum and Colma. You might find a special interest, help create a new exhibit or refresh a current one, help out with newsletter mailings or with one of our events – dinner, tea, tours, garage sale.

Our museum has two newly framed exhibits. One is a lovely funeral fan (circa late 1800s) donated by

Frank Risso. It appears to have a monogram that we still have to fully decipher. Come in and help us! The other is an exhibit of flowers made from human hair and donated by Alice Letcavage. It complements our collection of jewelry items made from human hair. This was a craft popular from about 1830 until about 1915. These were keepsakes of a loved one, alive or deceased. The archival Plexiglas and shadow box framing protects and preserves these items. Another acquisition is a wooden box used to transport remains from another location to Colma for burial. Interesting! See photos later in this newsletter.

Our September fundraiser dinner was an especially congenial evening with lots of good conversation and laughter; a truly neighborly gathering. Our profit was approximately \$6400. Special thanks to Dennis & Helen Fiscaro who underwrote the event; Helen Fiscaro & Carol Tanzi who created the Silent Auction, Drawing Prizes, and Boutique; Don Garibaldi for pumpkins and flowers; and Frank Maffei and Pacific Cheese/Dan Cross for the antipasto. Please see a list of all our other donors & pictures of the dinner later in this newsletter.

In September Kiwako Ueda, a doctoral student in social sciences in Japan, visited our museum to do research for a paper she is writing. She was impressed with our collection and spent several hours in the library. She hopes to return for further research. Another visitor was Corey Simon who grew up in Daly City and now lives in the east bay. He was fascinated by the five large aerial photographs of Colma dating from 1935 through 1981. (Taken before the age of drones.) You can really see how Colma has changed.

*Maureen O'Connor*

## **Board of Directors**

Maureen O'Connor	President
Edward Graham	Vice President
Richard Rocchetta	Secretary
Margy Baldwin	Treasurer
Frank Maffei	Member
Earl Harper	Member
Esmeralda Harper	Member
Michael Rocchetta	Member
Pat Hatfield	President Emerita
Dorothy Hillman	Treasurer Emerita

## **Committee Chairs**

Maureen O'Connor	Newsletter Editor, Dinner Chair, Tea Co-Chair
Richard Rocchetta	Museum & Office Manager, Fundraiser Event Operations
Diana Colvin	Membership Chair
Pat Hatfield	Tour Coordinator
Sue Hudson	Hospitality Chair Tea Co-Chair
Bunny Gillespie; Vaughn & Gloriann Jones	Program Chairs
Susanna Hnilo	Garage Sale Chair
Connie O'Leary	Website Manager

## **Docents**

Margy Baldwin, Sandra Bolds, Jason Deguzman, Ed Graham, Earl Harper, Esmeralda Harper, Pat Hatfield, Karen Meyers, Maureen O'Connor, Michael Rocchetta, Richard Rocchetta

## **Newsletter Staff**

Iris Beilan, Marianne Petroni

## **Museum Hours**

Tuesday through Sunday – 10 AM to 3 PM

Mondays – Closed

## **Quarterly Meetings**

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in February ----- 2 PM

Last Tuesday in April ----- 6:30 PM

July 26<sup>th</sup> ---- Annual birthday (Weekends at 2 PM & weeknights at 6:30 PM)

Last Tuesday in October ----- 6:30 PM

## **Help With Our Meetings**

We appreciate additions to our refreshments and we welcome gifts for the drawings held at our meetings. Questions? Call the Museum (650) 757-1676.

## **Tours of Our Cemeteries**

The Colma Historical Association gives cemetery tours on request Tuesday-Sunday. A donation for the tour is appreciated. Call to reserve a tour date - (650) 757-1676.



**Ron Doyle, CHA Board Member and Docent**

## **Ron Doyle, Retiring Docent**

Many of you know Ron Doyle. He has been a member and docent since 1993 and was a Board Member from 1999-2015. Unfortunately for health reasons he has tendered his resignation as weekend docent but will continue as a member. Ron has led an interesting life. He was born in Detroit, Michigan, and moved to San Francisco with his family in 1945 and then to Daly City in 1949. He attended school at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Woodrow Wilson, Crocker, and Jefferson High School. While in the Navy he was stationed in Guam and then as a Navy reservist at Hunter's Point Shipyard. He went to work at the US Post Office in 1964 working in Daly City as a letter carrier, window clerk, and finally as a time keeper (the last one to hold that position before the pay system was mechanized). Ron married his wife, Berna Mary, in 1967 at Mission San Juan Bautista. They purchased a home on D Street in Colma in 1969 where they still live. They have 3 children, 2 grandchildren, and 2 great grandchildren. Ron loves history and archeology and has collected many items some of which are in our museum collection. One of his donations is the arrowhead collection that is in the Ohlone exhibit. He found the green arrowhead as a child while flying a kite on San Bruno Mountain. The obsidian arrowheads he collected when he was 10 yrs. old in the Mt. Lassen area while on archeological expeditions with the University of California. His other two favorite collections on exhibit at our museum are the World War II helmets and his great grandmother's quilts circa 1880. Ron, we deeply appreciate your many years of service to CHA. You have helped to make us the exciting organization we are today.

**Meet Our Volunteers**  
**Long-Time CHA Member**  
**Mildred "Millie" Christiano**

Millie is a founding member of CHA. She has an artistic flair and used this to design the CHA logo and letterhead and to create many of our early exhibits. There's a painting in our office commemorating the Colma ads on early San Francisco streetcars, "The Flowers Are in Bloom! It's Time to Visit Your Loved Ones in Colma." Millie is an original home owner in the Sterling Park area of Colma. Thank you, Millie, for your contributions to CHA.

**Recent Gifts to the Museum**  
**Related to Colma**

- Iris Beilan—Vintage wooden butter churner. For our vintage Colma household display.
- Estate of Georgia Bianchi—Philco Radio, vintage baby carriage buggy and doll, all circa 1930s. From the household of Colma resident Georgia Bianchi.
- Wilma Cimino—2 large banquet table cloths and one small linen dresser scarf, done in cutwork. Handmade in Genoa, Italy. For our vintage Colma household display.
- Lois F. Doctor—Two black and white photographs showing a Colma barn and still, circa 1920s/30s.
- Mark Fontana—World War II Eisenhower military jacket, wool cap and trench coat worn by his father Elio Fontana. Photographs of Elio Fontana and the V. Fontana Co. factory on F Street (prior to 1950) and office on El Camino Real. Framed page of Daly City Record of October 11, 1955 featuring an article on Fontana Monuments and Elio Fontana.
- Helen Fiscaro—political banner from her 2016 San Mateo County Board of Supervisors race.
- Karen Myers—Booklet, "The Victorian Undertaker" by Trevor May.
- Richard McDowell—Pine box used to transport remains to Colma. Name on the side of the box: "J.E. Schulz #26, Colma, Calif."
- Marianne Petroni—wooden washboard, large ax and pickax used by the Petroni family in Colma.
- Ron Ross—Photo album of a European Family, whose member, Marie Marguerite Mazade (1872-1961) is buried in Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery.
- Don Smith—Magazine, "Magic Circle, Winter 1967-1968" featuring article about Champion

Auto Parts complex on Old Mission Road owned by Don Smith and Jim McLennan.

- Fran Teglia—24-8x10 black & white photographs showing Colma native and Daly City Councilmember Albert Teglia with various public and private people.

**Welcome to Our New**  
**and Renewing Members**

**Business** – Molloy's Tavern

**Family Member** – Roy & Rose Bava, Dave & Margie Casagrande, John & Silvia Goodwin, Louis & Diane Pitto, Guillo & Lorraine Sbragia, Tom & Laura Walsh

**Individual Member** – Susan Brissenden-Smith, Lori Burns, Karen Meyers, Mary Ann Morales, Richard Stone

**Senior Member** – Jerry Azzaro, Michael & Jackie Belli (New), Barbara & Paul Camenzind, Ellen Crawford (New), Ron Doyle, Elizabeth Ervin, Leo Gagnon, Bunny Gillespie, Pat Hatfield, Dorothy Hillman, Susanna Hnilo, Robbie Huerta (New), Gloriann & Vaughn Jones, Anna Kaufman, James Letcavage, Ellen Newman, James O'Brien, Julia Padreddii, Catherine Pantazy, Doris Sengalli, Dana Smith, Donna Smith, Maggie Smith (New), Judy Stone, Shirley Stone, Carol Ann Taylor, Fro Vallerga, Chris Zanoni

**Patron** – Carole Hutchins (New), Denise & Pat Kelly

**Student Member** – Katie Mitchell (New)

**Can you identify this Colma barn?**

**Please contact us.**



We're looking for photos of early businesses in incorporated Colma. Can you help us? We can scan and return originals.

**COLMA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION'S  
12<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL DINNER  
CELEBRATING COLMA'S MAYORS**



Welcome to our dinner!



Chef Fiscaro (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) & assistants



Delicious food and good company

**THANK YOU TO THE BUSINESSES,  
ORGANIZATIONS AND  
INDIVIDUALS WHO SUPPORTED OUR  
ANNUAL DINNER**

Broadmoor Property Owners Association,  
Colma Community Center Staff,  
Colma Police Department Commerce Holding Co.,  
CSG Consultants,  
Cypress Amloc Land Co., Garden Chapel,  
Lucky Chances Casino,  
Mercy High School, San Francisco,  
Pacific Cheese/Dan Cross,  
Rossi Ranch/Don Garibaldi Family/Farmer John,  
V. Fontana & Co.,  
Westmoor High School Future Business Leaders of  
America

**INDIVIDUALS**

Margy Baldwin, Fred Bertetta, Jr., Bianca Caserza,  
Roy & Dianne Chiappari, Judith Christensen,  
Dennis & Helen Fiscaro,  
Earl & Esmeralda Harper, Pat Hatfield,  
Lois Himebrook, Sue Hudson, Pat & Denise Kelly,  
Frank Maffei, Thomas Mason,  
Patricia Montgomery, Maureen O'Connor,  
Richard & Michael Rocchetta, Dana Smith,  
Carol Tanzi, Liz Taylor, Audrey Winn



Helen Fiscaro & assistant – Silent Auction & Shop

**Members of the Current Town Council  
Who Have Served As Mayor**



Diana Colvin      Joanne Del Rosario      Helen Fiscaro      Raquel "Rae" Gonzalez

## CHRISTY VAULT CO. TOUR



Visiting the factory.

## NEW EXHIBITS



Hair flowers



Miniatures of various vaults.



Funeral fan



Urns for cremains.



Body transport box

**COLMA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION**  
**1500 Hillside Boulevard**  
**Colma, CA 94014**

**4<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Meeting**  
**Tuesday, October 25, 2016**  
**6:30 PM, CHA Museum**

**TO:**



### **A Notable Colma Underground Resident**

**Estella Lovina Boies Jensen (1882-1969)** was born in Wakeman, Lorraine County, Ohio. She moved to Colma in 1903 with her husband, Mattrup Jensen, who helped to establish "Lawndale" (now Colma) as a cemetery city. The Jensens raised their three children in Colma on the corner of Hillside Blvd. and F Street (just across from the Colma Historical Museum). In retirement the family moved to a home on the corner of D and Clark Streets (Helen & Dennis Fisicaro's current home). Her family, community service and reading were her lifelong interests. Her husband writes of her: Stella devoted her life to raising the children until they came of age. Then she turned her efforts to local educational institutions and community organizations. She helped found and foster the Jefferson Union High School District serving as a board member and clerk for 24 years and as a JUHSD-PTA member and president. She helped establish San Mateo Junior College, and served on the Board for many years and as President of the Board in 1955. She also served on the San Mateo County School Board of Trustees. She was an active leader with Eastern Star,

Job's Daughters, Peninsula Blood Bank, the Red Cross, and the Girl Scouts. Mrs. Jensen was a model of family and community service for Colma and the Peninsula. She is buried in Olivet Memorial Park where her husband served as superintendent for many years.

