



# THE TATTLE

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Journal of the History Guild of Daly City/Colma

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## Local Officials Set for May 17

Special speakers for the, Wednesday, May 17, 7:30 pm, History Evening will be Colma mayor **Helen Fisicaro** and Daly City vice-mayor **Sal Torres**. Each will give short updates on what happened in their respective cities during the past year, with emphasis on how “officialdom” views and supports their history museum.

As usual, the free and open to the public program is slated for the multi-use room at Doelger Community Center, 101 Lake Merced Blvd., D.C.

Program chair-vice president **Richard Rocchetta** notes: “This has been an eventful few years for Colma regarding the opening of their historical park, community center, and museum. This will be an eventful year for the History Guild of DC/C as we embark on establishment of a permanent home for our museum.

“Mrs. Fisicaro will tell us how the Colma Historical Park came about from her city’s perspective and Mr. Torres will update us on the progress of a DC History Museum from the City of Daly City’s point of view.

“Come and join us for an interesting and informative evening.”



HISTORY GUILD MEETING  
7:30 PM  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 17<sup>TH</sup>  
101 LAKE MERCED BLVD.  
DALY CITY  
*Everyone welcome!*

## *Greetings from President Mark:*

As I reported at our last general membership meeting, we’re off and running. We have a verbal commitment from the DC City Council to use the John Daly Library for our future, *permanent history museum*. However, there are many improvements that will have to happen to the building before we can move in. The biggest of all will be retrofitting the entrance and bathroom according to American Disability Standards (ADA). The City is not in a position to help us with this, but already has made some solid improvements, including a desperately needed new roof.

Since the improvements will cost in excess of several hundred thousand dollars, well more than our current treasury can afford, your board and Council agree that we will have to apply for grant opportunities. Which brings me to my main point **WE NEED IMMEDIATE HELP FINDING AN EXPERIENCED GRANT WRITER**

THAT HAS BACK-GROUND IN THIS AREA. We've already identified our main grant through the California State Library. With it, in a best case scenario, we could do everything we want, including new lighting, furnishings, display cases, electronic information retrieval facilities, signage, visual presentation capabilities, etc. PLEASE CALL ME, OR ONE OF THE BOARD MEMBERS (phone numbers are on last page of this Tattler) if you know of a capable grant writer or have such background yourself to contribute. I feel confident that the History Guild, with member help, interest and support, will be successful in this exciting and challenging effort.



I am also pleased to share that we have received an anonymous pledge of \$500 for our Museum Fund. If you, too, would like to help us with this effort, you may send a check to 40 Wembley Dr., Daly City, 94015. Please note "MUSEUM FUND" on your check. Also, we have established a Fundraising Committee that will be soliciting contributions from the business community. We need members to help us with this. Directors **Marilyn Olcese**, **Marian Mann**, and **Janice Uccelli** are serving on this committee and would very much like to hear from you. Please consider joining us in this effort.

### **Chatty People Asked To Help Host Mini-Museum**

If you've a talent for talking and smiling, and a bit of spare time once in a while, **Marilyn Olcese**, director of the HG Mini-Museum invites you to help welcome Tuesday visitors, between 1-2:30 pm. Ongoing hosts need breaks now and then. FMI: (650) 755-5616

### **Guild Members To Install Officers and Directors**

Nominating chair **Vaughn Jones** will present the slate of Guild Officers and Directors to be elected and installed, or re-installed, at the May 17 meeting. Nominations may be made from the floor, with prior consent of the nominee, or suggested to Vaughn in advance (650) 756-6795. It is hoped that all nominees will attend this special business portion of the Guild meeting.



### **TATTLER WELCOMES TALENTED ART DESIGNER**

If you've noticed that the *Tattler* has had a subtle "new look" in this and the previous two issues, the reason is that **Dana Smith**, the Guild's very talented Secretary, fount of information, and bundle of enthusiastic energy, has volunteered her talents in helping to prepare this newsletter for printing. She is indeed most welcome! Thank you. (Ed's note.)

### **RAFFLE AT MEETINGS CONTINUE POPULAR**

A pleasant feature at each Guild meeting is our traditional raffle of eclectic items donated by the membership and displayed for the winning. Generosity of members over the years has been remarkable and nicely rewarding for the Guild treasury. Donations continue to be encouraged, by delivery to meetings, to the mini-museum, or to raffle major-domos **Marion Mann** and **Walt Riney**. Tickets are 50cents each or three for \$1.00.

## Daly City's "Role" In 1906 Earthquake



Five years before the 1911 Incorporation of the City of Daly City, disaster struck San Francisco. The earth shook the Bay Area on April 18, 1906 as never before. The trembling of San Andreas Fault has been deemed one of the worst natural disasters in U.S. history. In the beloved 1936 movie "San Francisco," Daly City received a fleeting, although historically incorrect moment of fame. The scene involved handsome hero **Clark Gable** as he tried to commandeer a passing horse drawn wagon to aid his search-thu-the-rubble efforts to find lady-love **Jeanette MacDonald**. Gable asks the driver, "Where're you goin'?" The driver responds, "To Daly City to get milk for the kiddies." Good thought, bad history. There was no Daly City at that time. An alert film consultant might have pointed out that the destination might better have been called 'Daly's Hill.' But that would not have given us this unique morsel to pass along to you.



To continue: Following the earthquake and fire, John Daly allowed shelter-seeking refugees to utilize his hilltop ranch property, which was extensive. They placed tents, supplied by the U.S. Army, and make-shift shacks of salvaged lumber. Daly gave them products of his hilltop San Mateo Dairy – milk, cheese, cream, eggs, etc. Other locals also allowed temporary squatters. There is no record of how many people took shelter in what was to become Daly City, nor how many decided to stay and be among those that voted to become citizens of a new city six years later. In 1907, Daly moved his ranching operations and started selling off property for homes sites. His dairy interests were merged with those of other ranches to form SF's Dairy Delivery Co., eventually becoming Borden's Dairy Delivery Co.

On the same topic: KRON4-TV video journalist (and Daly City resident) **David C. Guingona** visited the Guild's mini-museum for a film feature regarding the role of DC during the earthquake and fire. His footage aired during last month's mid-April media blitz about the centennial observations. Yes, he's the brother of DC Mayor Mike.

A commemorative plaque was placed in 1989 on the north wall of the Crocker Masonic Temple on Hillcrest Drive to mark the location of "Daly's Hill."

### *Memorial Book*

Monetary' tributes honoring loved ones are gratefully accepted. They may be sent to the History Guild, 40 Wembley Dr., DC, 94015.

Donations will benefit the realization of a future full-scale Daly City History Museum or towards Guild operating expenses. Our beautiful Memorial Book may be viewed on request at the Mini-Museum. Each memorial page notes donors and lists your brief informational tribute to the deceased.

All contributions are much appreciated and acknowledged as soon as possible to the family (please provide name and address) and to you, the donor.



The following have graciously volunteered to donate finger-food refreshments for the May 17 History Evening.: **Marilyn Olcese, Betty Williams, Janice and Angela Uccelli, Marie Brizuela, and Annette Hipona.**

Hospitality Chair **Elinor Charleston** will contact donors prior to the meeting. Additional treats are always welcome.

## Donations to HG Mini-Museum

Thanks to the following for recent donations to the Mini-Museum:

**Richard Rocchetta:** E-Bay discovered paperback “San Francisco Murders” including report of “Flapjack Murder Case” re. abduction in 1921 of Holy Angels’ parish priest Patrick Heslin.

**Verona Williams:** Nostalgia-invoking newspaper clippings, programs, directories and other paper memorabilia re. Westlake homes, Hope Lutheran Church, Hillside PTA, Westlake Senior Citizens’ Club, etc.

**Shirley Plank:** Chronicle story with mention of Colma teacher, Dick Snyder.

**Frances Nordgren:** Mary’s Help Hospital shirt and “Reflections of MHH & Seton Medical Center” book autographed by author Marie Mahoney.

### “WILD & WOOLY” MARCH PROGRAM

The saga of the election that gave rise to formation of San Mateo County in 1856 was the focus for the March 15 “History Evening” at Doelger Center. Speaker was **Bunny Gillespie**, who was introduced by Program Chair-VP **Richard Rocchetta**. “The most corrupt election in the county’s history, hopefully, will not be repeated, ever,” the speaker concluded.

#### HISTORY GUILD OF DALY CITY/COLMA

##### Officers and Directors

Mark Weinberger	President	(415) 750-1939
Richard Rocchetta	Vice-President	(650) 992-9144
Russ Brabec	Treasurer	(650) 583-4985
Dana Smith	Secretary	(650) 755-3432
Marilyn Olcese	Director	(650) 755-5616
Marian Mann	Director	(650) 991-9386
Walter Riney	Director	(650) 992-4696
Janice Uccelli	Director	(650) 878-5111
Ken Gillespie	President/emeritus	(650) 755-5123
Bunny Gillespie	Secretary/emeritus	(650) 755-5123
“Tattler Editors”	Ken & Bunny Gillespie	(650) 755-5123