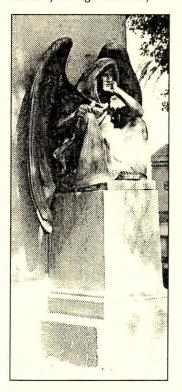


SOHO plans Halloween tour of Mt. Hope Cemetery October 27

LOUISE TORIO

GET READY FOR HALLOWEEN, because once again SOHO will host two fascinating tours of Mt. Hope cemetery on Sunday, October 27.

The first tour at 1:00 will visit the gravesites of famous San Diegans buried at Mt. Hope (including Alonzo Horton, George Marston,



San Diego tombstone. Photo: VMM.

Kate Sessions and others). The second tour at 3:00 will examine the beautiful and intriguing cemetery architecture and design.

Both tours will be conducted by historian Alex Bevil and SOHO board member Eric Hanson. The cost for both tours is \$12 (\$10 for SOHO members). (You can attend either or both tours for the price of your admission.) Each tour will be about an hour and a half long. Meet at the Mt. Hope Visitor's Center off the Market Street entrance.

"On these tours you'll see the graves of so many men and women who helped shape modern San Diego, with their final resting places overlooking the city they created. And touring Mt. Hope near Halloween gives it some added fun," says Alex Bevil.

There will be a lot of walking, so wear comfortable shoes. (Small children won't find the tours as interesting as their parents will.) Space is limited, and last year's tours sold out early. Please send your check to SOHO, P.O. Box 3571, San Diego, CA 92163. ●



Guajome ranch house facade, circa 1922. photo: Chris Richardson, Vista, CA.

Rancho Guajome Restored

VONN MARIE MAY

ON THE WEEKEND OF SEPTEMBER 19-20, THE RANCHO GUAJOME ranchhouse was dedicated to the people of San Diego County and the rest of the country for the use and appreciation of all those interested in the rancho period of California history. The restoration symbolizes the work of many people, but one in particular, SOHO's own Mary Ward, was instrumental in making the restoration a reality. Mary exemplifies the power in the phrase 'it takes one person.' She is the one person who, for the better part of a decade, has led the the charge to landmark, acquire funding, oversee a complete restoration and follow it through to the celebration of last month. Thank you, Mary.

The Guajome Ranchhouse and Chapel sit within a county park that is ringed with aggressive housing developments as far as the eye can see. A respite away from this viewshed is much needed. However, its not just the open space that makes this park more than necessary, it is the cultural magnate of the site's history. The open space is merely a buffer to protect the historic setting and its importance to the region. Someday the County will implement the Guajome Park Master Plan that will finish the improvements needed to embrace this star piece. Let's hope that others can step up to the task to ensure that the plan is completed. \bullet

SDHS ANNUAL INSTITUTE OF HISTORY CALL FOR PAPERS

Deadline for Submission: Feb. 3, 1997

THE INSTITUTE OF HISTORY IS DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE AND reward research on subjects of historical significance. For more information, call the San Diego Historical Society at 619-232-6203.

OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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VONN MARIE MAY

WELCOME TO THE NEW AND IMPROVED REFLECTIONS newsletter. Thanks to boardmember Louise Torio and her husband Steve Veach, SOHO's lines of communication will be better than ever. Please feel free to comment on or contribute to the information of the preservation community so that our newsletter reflects you and your issues.

I am writing this last president's message actually as a former president. After board elections in July, David Swarens was elected President, with Bill Lawrence serving as the Chairperson for all board meetings. David was gracious enough to allow me to write a closing piece on my two year term.

As I leave the post of president and reflect on the last two years with SOHO, I will perpetuate the response of Bob Broms, SOHO previous president; it was the best of times, it was the worst of times. The best of times for me would include receiving the Governor's Award for the partial restoration of the St. Francis Chapel at Warner's Ranch, the successful military tours celebrating the 50th anniversary of the end of WWII, the signing of the Bi-National Heritage Corridor in Baja California, the relationship forged with the U.S. Navy with regard to an acceptable compromise at Chollas Heights Radio Towers, and other meaningful advances in preservation generally.

The worst of times would be the economic times for all non-profits, the lackluster commitment of the City and County regarding its heritage, and the ignorance and rhetoric that prevails within the development community. Those issues, I'm afraid, are the ones that don't go away too easily.

However, SOHO is the oldest continually-operated non-profit preservation advocacy group in the state of California and it will survive; it always has. It depends on its membership, its board of directors, and the network of other similar groups both local and nationwide.

I wish SOHO the best, and challenge the organization to continue the brilliant work to which it has always been committed. \bullet

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

TOBER

DAVID SWARENS

I FIND MYSELF ONCE AGAIN PRESIDENT OF SOHO, SAN DIEGO'S advocate for historic preservation and California's oldest such group. As a historic property owner myself, I always encourage fellow preservationists to buy/designate historic properties -- "preservation begins at home." And the work we do on our own homes can be the most rewarding. This past year SOHO worked with the city of San Diego to develop a Mills Act Property Tax Reduction Program. Escondido and La Mesa also have active efforts locally to support historic ownership.

Legislation for incentives disappeared from both federal and state dockets in this election year: these must be returned for vote and passage this year. I have hopes of working in a more formal network with state and national preservation groups to monitor issues such as these if a proposal from California preservationists to the National Trust is accepted. We will have new tools to do just that.

Meanwhile, here at SOHO we are reviving an arrangement on our board much simpler than the "Dayton Accord" for Bosnia, which was used in our own early (historic?) years -- a separate chair of the board and president. This will provide an organization of resources which we hope will benefit SOHO and its officers and efforts.

I end by reflecting on the loss of people from our community of resources: Dave O'Dell from La Jolla, and our own Bruce Kamerling. Those who knew either of these men know what great resources they were; and those that did not know them personally surely know the resources they championed.

To me, preservation is about people, and history is memory. May we always remember how resourceful we can be. \bullet



Bruce Kamerling.

SOHO's First Lifetime Achievement Award to go to Bruce Kamerling

AT THE JULY BOARD MEETING, Rae Berry and Cia Barron, former SOHO board members, proposed that a special Lifetime Achievement Award be inaugurated by SOHO to recognize outstanding contributions in the field of historic preservation. The board unanimously approved the proposal and authorized that the first award be given posthumously to Bruce Kamerling, who served as both a SOHO board member and president. and who contributed countless house as mentor to others who shared his interests. The award will be presented to Bruce's family at a time and place to be announced.

The Lifetime Achievement Award will not be presented annually. Instead, it will only be awarded to a person whose accomplishments in historic preservation can be considered "above the call of duty."

SOHO is seeking funds to offset the cost of the award. Surplus funds will be placed in a permanent trust fund to be used solely for future Lifetime Achievement Awards. Donations can be sent to the SOHO P.O. box. •

SAVE OUR HERITAGE ORGANIZATION

Chairman William Lawrence

President David Swarens

Vice President Paul Johnson, AIA

Treasurer **Robert Grinchuk**

Secretary Ingrid Helton

Ex Officio and Reflections Editor Vonn Marie May

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Executive Director Al Alferos

Reflections Design Louise Torio Steve Veach

Reflections is published by SOHO P.O. Box 3571 San Diego, CA 92163

Office located in Heritage Park 2470 Heritage Park Row San Diego, CA 92110 619-297-9327

Binational Heritage Corridor

MARIA CASTILLO-CURRY

ON APRIL 27, 1996 A COLLABoration agreement for preserving "Camino Real Misionero," the heritage corridor between California and Mexico, was signed between the National Institute of Anthropology and History of Mexico (INAH) and the State Historic Preservation Office of the California Department of Parks and Recreation (SHPO) in the Descanso Valley in Baja California. El Camino Real Misionero is an international endeavor to protect and promote the understanding of the missions located in California, Baja California, and Baja California Sur. The agreement calls for individual and collective efforts on both sides of the border for recognizing, interpreting, and pre-

Maria Teresa Franco y Gonzalez Salas, General Director of INAH; John C. Lungreen Jr., rep. for Gov. Wilson and Cherilyn Widell, SHPO officer; at the signing. Photo: VMM.

serving the historic remnants of our shared past.

The project will help conserve the cultural patrimony of the three Californias, foster the study of the mission period, document the missions' effect on the natural and cultural environment, help preserve natural and historic resources that remain, foster a better understanding of the indigenous societies that inhabit

the Californias, and promote local economic growth through an investment program in the corridor.

The Mojonera de Palou, site of the signing agreement, is significant to the people of the Descanso Valley. In 1980 Mario Reyes, a professor of the UABC, established that it is where the border between Franciscan and Dominican orders was created in 1773.

Comments at the Signing

THE STORY OF THE MISSION Period Heritage Corridor is the story of a great journey. It is the story of many stories. A story of passion and dreams and real lives spent in the teaching and learning of Christ, the building of cities and roads and fields of agriculture, the bringing of new architecture and food, music and language displacing the landscape, culture and world of Native Americans.

Cherilyn Widell's

The Mission Period Heritage Corridor is the very root of the cultural and visual landscape around us today -- the clay roofs and stucco

walls, grape vineyards, aqueducts, presidios, and Spanish language which ties us together.

For many years, young American Californians learned that the "first" mission was in San Diego. The border between our two countries disconnected the story of the establishment of the Mission Period from its true roots in Baja California Sur in Loreto and extending above San Francisco to Sonoma, Without those roots and true connections to the foundation of the past, we in Alta California -just as a child who has never met or learned about their grandparents -- we could not truly understand ourselves, and our rich and enduring past.

Today we celebrate the removal of that barrier in presenting our history and the reunion of our mutual cultural past in the signing of this Agreement.

As we have watched other man-made barriers fall worldwide, I believe that with this Agreement we will no longer view ourselves by looking in a mirror reflected back from either side of a barrier, but now we'll be able to view ourselves by looking through the full measure of out mutual three hundred year history.

So today, our journey on the El Camino Mission period heritage corridor begins again -- together. It is a true family reunion with many old stories to tell and old ties to renew. It is an old journey that will bring us to a new era of understanding, learning together, and friendship.

What do we do with old and ugly buildings?

VONN MARIE MAY

WHAT DO WE DO WITH OLD AND UGLY BUILDINGS? Buildings that have been abandoned and have finished their distinguished service. Warehouses, aircraft plants, theatres and the like. The all-too-frequent response is 'get rid of them'.

However, we deny ourselves, and future selves, the stories these buildings could tell. Stories of architectural design experimentation, technological innovation, cultural responses to a new land....in short 'Americana'. We don't save buildings for the sake of the structures per se, we save them as physical evidence of the powerful human sagas that are associated with them. Such is the story of the so-called General Dynamic buildings along Pacific Highway that are now in the process of being demolished.

To say these buildings are insignificant is to say that Reuben H. Fleet, Consolidated Vultee (precursor to Convair) and the birth of American Naval Air technology is insignificant. Noted architect Albert Kahn commented on the 'New Type of Industrial Architecture Created by War Plant Expansion', that led to a new architecture dominated by high security needs. He spoke of technical advances in lighting and air conditioning for 'blackout' plants. Prefabricated steel walls that allowed for 24-hour rapid construction, bomb resistance, and during blackouts the white painted cement floors that reflected light up into the underside of the wings and fuselages. Record sized paint spray enclosures with state-of-the-art ventilation systems we created as well.

San Diego's skyline has been accented with these linear saw-toothed buildings connected by the first 'space frames' for two generations. These buildings have served San Diego and the nation through the American historic periods of:

'San Diego Aviation, Reuben H. Fleet (1910-1938)

The National Defense Buildup and the Aircraft Industry (1939-1941)

Wartime Production at Consolidated-Vultee Aircraft (1941-1945)

Post-War Operations/Convair (1945-1995)

The area planned for wholesale removal stretches from the old Lindbergh Field

Terminal north to MCRD. The demolition is already underway without input from the State Historic Preservation Office as yet. Granted, most of the buildings in this sweep have been latter day additions and some of the historic buildings have even been profoundly modified. Yet an opportunity to interpret the history of this site and capture the 'ground truth' still remains, only if the Port District could realize how important it is to honor the past.

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Out of the entire inventory the environmental consultant identified four buildings as highly significant and recommended an adaptive re-use alternative. The Port's Real Estate



Graphic donation by Congress of History President Helen Halmay.

Division even reported that it is less expensive to retain these buildings that to demolish and environmentally mitigate them.

Just a mile or two away is the Aerospace Museum sporting two huge historic planes at its entrance dwarfing the surrounding area. More of these aero-artifacts should be displayed but certainly not in the middle of Balboa Park. Why not an annex to this museum activity? If not by the Aerospace Museum people, another more than willing group. Someone remarked that we could have the aerospace 'Smithsonian of the West Coast' here. We are the 'Kitty Hawk' of the west coast if all the history be told.

Integrating historic structures within new development is not a new idea. Its done elsewhere and everywhere. In most cases this integration is spawned by the community or interested parties other than those charged with the planning by the agency-dujour.

A side note to this demolition project is that the land will be cleared for potential and incremental sprawling airport expansion attendant to a 'second runway' strategy, therein lies the ulterior. \bullet

SOHO Inducts New Board Members

AL ALFEROS

At its annual meeting on July 15, SOHO members elected a new board of directors to lead the organization for the current year which runs through June 1997. The 16-member board includes nine returning directors and seven new directors.

Reelected to new terms and new offices were the following: Bill Lawrence, Chair of the Board. Bill is special events producer for KFMB-TV Channel 8. He has served on the board for the historic Whaley House. David Swarens, President. David is employed with the City of San Diego and has served as president before. Paul Johnson, Vice President. Paul is a partner in a preservation-oriented architectural firm. He performs the annual inspections of SOHO's facade easement contracts.

Also returning is Bob Grinchuk, Treasurer. Bob is involved in property investment and management. He is also active in community affairs; Ingrid Helton, Secretary. Ingrid is employed with the Olde Globe Theatre. She begins a third term as SOHO secretary; Vonn Marie May, Ex Officio. Vonn Marie has just completed two years as SOHO's president. An environmental planner by profession, she also sits on the City of San Diego's Historical Site Board.

Reelected to new terms were Erik Hanson, who chaired the education committee and sat on the preservation action and events committees; Ron May, who is employed with the County of San Diego Planning Department and is active in archaeological projects; and Jeffrey Shorn, an architect who served as SOHO Vice President.

The seven new directors bring a wealth of expertise, talent and enthusiasm to SOHO. Bruce Coons is a purchasing agent with the Sweetwater Authority, has served on SOHO's board before, and is active in a number of preservation projects. Elizabeth Courtier is a licensed real estate broker. the only one in San Diego County designated by the Nation Trust For Historic Preservation to sell historic properties. And Abdul Farrah is a planner with the City of Escondido Planning Division and staff liaison with the Escondido Historic Preservation Commission. He earned a masters degree in Architecture and Urban Design from UCLA.

Also inducted was Bonnie Poppe, an employee with the law firm of Clark & Morris. Bonnie is active in local community affairs and has chaired the Golden Hill Planning Committee. Louise Torio, an advertising account executive and a resident of the historic Sherman Heights community where she takes an active role in community affairs. Louise is also on the board of the Balboa Theatre Foundation. Maria Castillo-Curry, a researcher who works with COLEF in Chula Vista and is a Ph. D. candidate in city and regional planning. Maria is active in preservation in Tijuana and hopes to link the U.S. and Mexico in common preservation projects. Dr. Ronald Converse, a physician and attorney. Dr. Converse has been a member and supporter of SOHO for some 25 years and has a deep interest in historic preservation.

Please join me in welcoming them. And since SOHO is your preservation resource, please call the office if any board member can be of help to you.

Environmental Impact Report Workshop Set for October 26

ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26 FROM 9 A.M. TO noon, Environmental Advocates will present a workshop on "What You Need To Know About EIRs (Environmental Impact Reports) & CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act)." The goal is to have a better understanding of CEQA and the EIR process and to enable you or your group to promote or oppose a project on environmental grounds. Speakers will include a government planner, an environmental attorney and community activists.

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Mission Trails Regional Park Visitor Center is the location, and \$25 per person is the cost. For more info, call 619-685-8865. •

Balboa Theatre Voted onto National Register

LOUISE TORIO

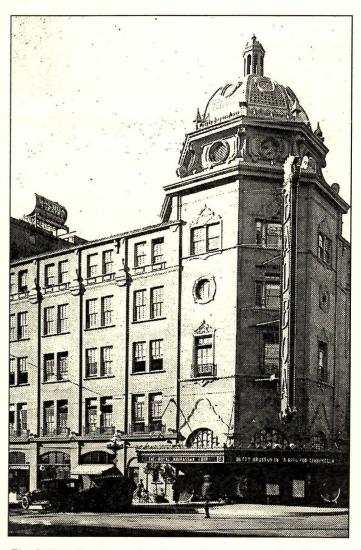
THE BALBOA THEATRE, THE 1924 VAUDEVILLE palace/cinema that sits in the heart of the Historic Gaslamp District in downtown San Diego, has finally gotten it's just recognition. On August 9, 1996, the State Historic **Resources Commission** unanimously voted to list the Balboa on the National Register of Historic Places. This ruling will mean that the glorious Spanish Revival interior will have to be preserved in any renovation or reuse planned for the structure.

The designation came about from the efforts of Steve Karo, Balboa Theatre Foundation president; Jan Hicks Manos, BTF vice president and granddaughter of Robert Hicks, the Balboa's builder-owner; BTF board members; and the assistance of Vonn Marie May, who prepared the voluminous document that got the Balboa listed.

The theatre, which is owned by the city of San Diego, has been dark since 1986. The Balboa Theatre Foundation has worked since then to gain support for the total restoration of this 1500 seat beauty as a legitimate theatre/movie palace. Recent interest by the San Diego Repertory Theatre to manage a restored Balboa may encourage the city to restore this magnificent building. The Balboa Theatre Foundation is asking all preservationminded people in San Diego County to call your city

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councilmember or Mayor Golding to ask that the Balboa be restored. For further information on how you can join the Foundation (10 annual membership/100 corporate), or how you can help save the theatre, call Jan Manos at 466-2542.



The Balboa Theatre at Fourth and E, downtown San Diego, circa 1928.

A Fitting Memorial to Kate Olivia Sessions

VONN MARIE MAY

A NEWLY FORMED GROUP CALLing themselves 'the Kate Sessions Sculpture Committee' has recently made a proposal to honor the legacy of San Diego's foremother and pioneer horticulturist, Kate Sessions. The committee has thor-



Kate Sessions as a young woman.

oughly researched and presented their intent and are now in the process of soliciting endorsements.

The memorial will take its form in an empathetically designed bronze statue crafted by artist native San Diegan Ruth Hayward, a former General Dynamics scientist and engineer. The committee has suggested four locations within Balboa Park to erect this statue, three within the Central Mesa/Exposition area and one on the west side of the park at Sixth and Laurel.

Most of us familiar with

Kate Sessions lore know that she probably would not approve of such a fuss. What is unique about this project is the quiet homage that has been planned so as not to rile or misrepresent the essence of this extraordinary woman. Historical 'interpretation' is very important and is more and more guiding the planning process of how we as humans, and Americans erect monuments these days. Gone are the days, hopefully, of static depictions of remote figures, replaced by meaningful, almost living art that evokes the character of the subject.

Kate's good friend, Alfred D. Robinson, co-founder of the San Diego Floral Association and California Garden Magazine, wrote in his "Appreciation, Not An Obituary," May 1940:

...a tribute to the most interesting plant lover and woman in this writer's gardening experience. ...I hope I may be forgiven for saying that I think K.O.S. was wasted as a nursery woman, she should have been kept in the educative class. Those who attended the Floral Association meetings know of her unrivaled power to convey knowledge and arouse enthusiasm.

K.O.S. was not a patient person. She had too much to do to waste time that way. If her helpers' technique did not suit her she would snatch trowel or spade and demonstrate as well as criticizing volubly. Those who were apt to take issue with her abruptness and almost brutal frankness, failed to understand the tremendous energy behind it; she was always going full steam ahead.

Forty years ago (1900), K.O.S. was over on Point Loma watching real estate developers starting the work of scarring the rounded breasts of the hills, grading and terracing, and she said, "That's no way to go up hills! They should follow the contours like cattle," and she pointed to the trails the grazing cows had made. How true in light of today. (How lost in the light of 1996)

The Kate Sessions Sculpture Committee includes Pat Crowell, Trustee, Timkin Museum of Art; Ruth Ann Hageman, **Retired Citizens Assistance** Director; Nan Hoback Landscape Designer, Adrian Gray & Associates; Ann Kantor, Retired Associate Director SDHS; Jody Sims, Graphic Designer, Lucia Smalheer, Director of **Community Outreach** YMCA; Mary Vaughn, President of City Beautiful of San Diego, Inc.; Mary Ward, County Historian; Lucy Warren, Horticultural Historian, PWHLA; Captain Sue E. Young, U.S. Navy (Retired).

Praise goes to the committee for their planning and vision for all of San Diego will benefit. ●

National Trust Conference to be held in Chicago

THE 50TH NATIONAL PRESERVATION CONFERENCE of the National Trust for Historic Preservation will be held in Chicago October 16-20. This year's theme is "Preserving Community: City, Suburb and Country-side," reflecting the fact that our nation is made up of diverse communities that have unique and special preservation needs. As the relationship between city and suburb, and suburb and country, becomes more complex, the need to develop a regional viewpoint on preservation becomes more important.

SOHO LENDS A HAND TO THE SHERMAN HEIGHTS HISTORIC DISTRICT

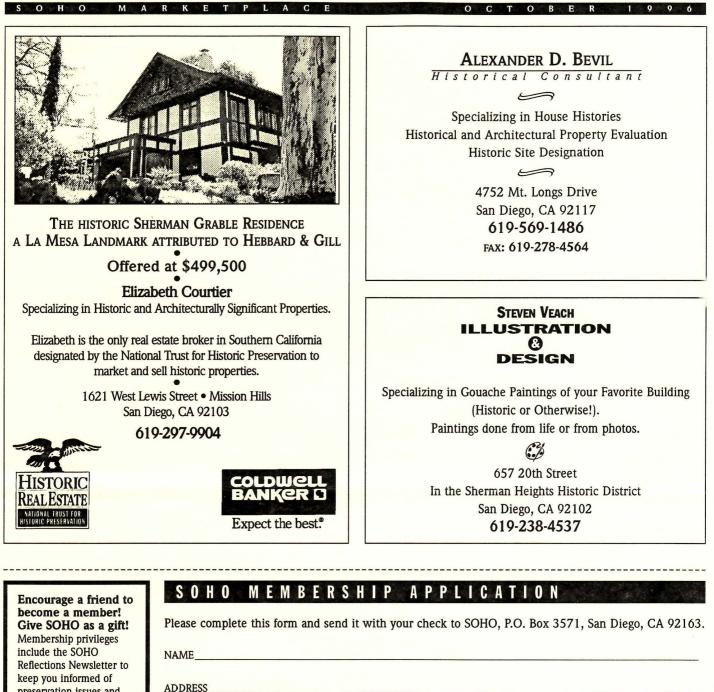
OCTOBER 1996

ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, large numbers of volunteers from Solar Turbine and elsewhere, led by San Diego City Councilman Juan Vargas, descended on the Sherman Heights Historic District, located just east of downtown, to paint and plant trees. Before they got there, SOHO helped design the program to help one of New Town's oldest neighborhoods.

In the weeks leading up to the event, architect Paul Johnson, of Ferris, Johnson & Perkins, worked with fellow SOHO board members Bruce Coons and Eric Hansen to review conditions and select historic colors for the homes, while Vonn Marie May, Bonnie Poppe, Gail Garbini, and David Swarens made sure that street trees selected for neighborhood planting would add to the period interpretation of the historic district.

SOHO volunteers also participated in the day of the event and joined others in the festive lunch hosted at the Villa Montezuma, the San Diego Historical Society house museum located at 20th and K Streets.

This neighborhood improvement program was part of the implementation of the Sherman Heights Historic District Revitalization Plan, winner of local and state A.P.A. (American Planning Association) awards and a SOHO "People in Preservation" citation in May. ●



Include the SOHO Reflections Newsletter to keep you informed of preservation issues and events, and special prices for SOHO workshops, tours and related activities. For additional information, call the SOHO office at 619-297-9327.

CITY

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

\$1000	LIFETIME
500	BENEFACTOR
250	CORPORATE
100	EXECUTIVE
50	PROFESSIONAL
25	INDIVIDUAL/ Family
10	STUDENT

SPECIAL INTERESTS (architectural styles, periods, etc.)

DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL SKILLS OR KNOWLEDGE that other SOHO members would benefit from your sharing with us (in a workshop or seminar)?

PHONE (home) ______ (work) ______

______ STATE ______ ZIP ______

Are you interested in helping at SOHO events (like tours, membership drives, etc.)?					
I WOULD LIKE TO HELP WITH:	Tours	Newsletter	□ Office		
	🗌 Membership	Workshops	\Box Other events.		

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

MEMBER NEWS

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New SOHO members include *Helen Halmay*, the hard working president of the San Diego Congress of History; photographer *Jim Brady*, who volunteers his professional services to SOHO; and *Linda Espino*, who previously shared a membership. Also *Bryan Capsavage* of Coronado, *Susan Floyd* of Poway; *Ann and Carl McVeagh* of Chula Vista; and *Susan Harrison*, *Marlene Pommerenke*, and *Jonnie Wilson*, all of San Diego.

MEMBERSHIP MILESTONES

25 Years Robert Ferris, FAIA Virginia Grady Louise and Robert Harvey

20 Years Alex and Eleanor Kuhnel Willia Missler

> 15 Years Maureen O'Donnell

5 Years William Adams, Esq. • Philip Gill Henry Elmstad and Barbara Nolan Mona and Ward Neels Douglas and Lucia Smalheer • Kathryn and Leo Willets

SOHO CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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Oct. 16-20	National Trust Conference
October 21	SOHO Board Meeting
	(third Monday of each month)
October 26	"What You Need to Know About
	EIRs & CEQA" Workshop by
	Environmental Advocates
	685-8865
October 27	SOHO Cemetery Tour
Oct./Nov./Dec.	Subcommittee Meetings
	Call SOHO at 297-9327
December	SOHO Holiday Party
	Date to be announced
Month of December	SDHS Villa Montezuma
	Holiday House Tours
	Thursday-Sunday, noon-4:00

SOHO Save Our Heritage Organization P.O. Box 3571 San Diego, CA 92163