President’s Message

Spring has arrived, and with the abundant rainfall this past winter, our Native Garden is exploding with new growth and colorful flowers. We welcome the return of hummingbirds and honey bees feasting on the spring blossoms. Spring is also the ideal time to visit the Museum and the surrounding gardens.

The Santee Historical Society is planning special events this spring, including the return of the Monarch Butterflies in May. The past two years, in conjunction with the San Diego River Park Foundation for their River Days, we have hosted the butterfly celebrations... a great family event.

In June we will host the first Flag Retirement Ceremony in the Elaine Murphy Memorial Garden. We have built a special fire oven where the retired flags will be incinerated. The date for this ceremony is Saturday, June 15th which is the day after the Flag Day Holiday on June 14th.

On a sad note, one of our long term Board of Directors members and our Sunshine Committee, Irene Holstein, has passed away. Look for the article on Irene and photos in this issue as a tribute to her dedication to the Santee Historical Society, and to the City of Santee. She will be greatly missed.

A special thank you to all the volunteers who have made a difference in the smooth operation of our winter special events. The Museum at the Edgemoor Barn is open to everyone, and is an important historical landmark in the City of Santee.

Stop by and say hello.
PLEASE SUPPORT OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS

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Certified Public Accounting
619-971-0733
Cynthia@cpacynthia.com

DAVID FOSSETT, D.D.S
General and Cosmetic Dentistry
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OMELETTE FACTORY
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info@omelettefactory.com

PETAL VISION DESIGN & EVENTS
A Boutique Floral Design Studio
Maria Costa-Fink
Consultations by Appt Only
619-823-3833

SANTEE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
10159 Mission Gorge Road, Suite F
Santee, CA 92071
619-449-1515
santeechamber.com

SANTEE SCHOOL DISTRICT
9625 Cuyamaca Street
Santee, CA 92071
619-258-2300
www.santeesd.net

Upcoming Events

April 2019
Museum Open ................... Sat 13 ......10-2
Museum Open ................... Tues 16 ...10-12
Museum Open ................... Tues 23 ...10-12
Museum Open ................... Tues 30 ...10-12

May 2019
Museum Open ................... Tues 7 .....10-12
Museum CLOSED ............. Tues 14
San Diego River Days ..... Sat 18 .....10-1:30
Museum Open ................... Tues 21 ...10-12
Museum Open ................... Tues 28 ...10-12

June 2019
Museum Open ................... Tues 4 .....10-12
Museum CLOSED ............. Tues 11
Flag Retirement Ceremony Sat 15 .....10:30-11:30
Museum Open ................... 10-2
Museum Open ................... Tues 18 ...10-12
Museum Open ................... Tues 25 ...10-12

July 2019
Museum Open ................... Tues 2 .....10-12
Museum CLOSED ............. Tues 9
Museum Open ................... Tues 16 ..10-12
Museum Open ................... Sat 20 ..10-2
Museum Open ................... Tues 23 ...10-12
Museum Open ................... Tues 30 ...10-12
We Need You!

The Santee Historical Society has lots of exciting projects in the works for 2019... and we would love your help!

We are currently seeking volunteers to help with:

- Event staffing
- Collecting Oral Histories
- Assisting with historic site research
- Writing genealogies of historic families
- Archiving
- Transcribing and data entry
- Staffing the museum during open hours
- Assisting with curating displays

We can match up our needs to your special interests.

Please volunteer some time...
Get in touch with us at thesanteehistoricalvolunteers@gmail.com
or leave a message at 619-449-2024

Meet Our Team

Mell Schaer

Mell Schaer has been a Santee citizen since 1996 when he bought his first home in order to raise his family here. His Family consists of his wife Terry Schaer, his four children, and two grandkids.

Mell joined the Santee Historical Society in 2018, as history has always been one of his favorite subjects. “Talking with people is better than reading a book…ask a question and sit back and learn. Seeking and finding the people of days gone by is a true treasure as they continue to speak to us through their endeavors, struggles and accomplishments.”

He is intrigued by Santee’s history, which is largely defined by the railroads that extended from downtown San Diego at the will of John Speckles. So much of our existence is due to those that had strong wills and great ambitions.

Mell finds it a true pleasure being a member of the Santee Historical Society, keeping the city’s history alive by learning about the past and sharing.
San Diego’s Most Haunted Places
February’s presentation by author Nicole Strickland

Our February Event was a Huge Success!

Book Signing & Presentation
River Kids Discovery Days

Fun at the Barn
March 9th, 2019
It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our dear friend

**Irene Holstein**

1930 – 2019

Family and friends gathered to share stories and memories in a last goodbye to her.

She was surrounded by flowers, photos, and something very precious to her... the crib which she used for Debra Lee, the daughter she lost as an infant.

Irene was devoted to the Santee Historical Society and proudly served as our Sunshine Committee, sending out birthday, get well, and sympathy cards to all of our members. She also took her job of processing and mailing out our quarterly newsletters very seriously.

She is greatly missed!
Irene was born 9 March 1930, the only child of Ruth & George W. Rahn of Ohio. When she was 13, the family moved to Pasco, WA where her Dad had a job in government. The war brought the Manhattan Project, the United States’ development of the atomic bomb, to the nearby Hanford Site.

Unfortunately, Irene’s Dad worked in a building where they were bringing in Plutonium and other radioactive materials to make the atomic bomb. Irene feels this is what caused her Dad’s tuberculosis and his early death at age 42. Her Dad’s illness caused them to “follow the sun” and the family moved from Pasco to San Francisco, and then Phoenix.

Irene finished school in Phoenix, and married Billy Dean Holstein at the age of 19.

They had a daughter, Debra Lee, and two sons, Stephen and Gary. Sadly, Debra died before she was a year old.

The Holstein family, including her mother Ruth, moved to Santee in the early 1960’s when Billy Dean took the job of Safeway store manager. Irene remembered the Safeway was where the GTM store is now. That was the first shopping center in Santee and there were only two stoplights in Santee on Mission Gorge Road, one at Magnolia and one at Cuyamaca.

Irene, Billy Dean and the two boys lived in their house on Oakbourne Road, purchased brand new for $17,500. Her boys loved living near so much open space and would take off on their bikes for hours. She never worried about them, though they later confessed they would sometimes ride to Parkway Plaza. In those days, Fletcher Parkway was a 2-lane road, and there was not as much traffic.

Carlton Hills Elementary was being built so her boys first went to school in houses... one still exists in the neighborhood.

Irene was a stay-at-home Mom until her boys were older. Her first job was with the School District. She later went to work for the Welfare Department in La Mesa. When she heard there was an opening in Edgemoor Hospital she jumped at the chance as it was close to home. She worked in medical records and made appointments for central nursing for 12 years before she retired.

Irene became a member of the Santee Historical Society while working at Edgemoor Hospital in the 1980’s. When she retired in 1993, an RV trip thru all 48 states put her Santee Historical activities on hold. In 2010, she rejoined the society and took on the responsibilities of the Sunshine Committee.
Join us for
San Diego River Days
A celebration of our river and its incredible biodiversity

Saturday, May 18th, 2019
10:00 am - 1:30 pm

Help plant a Monarch Butterfly Garden
-- bring your own gardening gloves --

• Hands-on activities for kids       • Meet a Project Wildlife animal up close
• Get information on gardening, composting and sustainable living

Tour the historic Santee Barn Museum
9200 Magnolia Avenue, Santee

RSVP encouraged at www.sdriverdays.org
For more information, go to http://www.facebook.com/thesanteehistoricalsociety

Watch for info on our June 15th event...
Flag Retirement Ceremony