DESCENDANTS OF EARLY SAN DIEGO FAMILIES MISSION STATEMENT.

The goals of the Descendants shall be to promote public awareness and interest in the heritage of early San Diego and to clarify misinformation about all eras of San Diego history. Also, to organize and conduct gatherings of descendants of the founding and other pioneer families for the purpose of exchanging information and renewing or creating closer family ties. It is our mission to assist and augment the creation of genealogies through supported research and networking; to assist in the writing of biographies as part of the family histories; to conduct oral history interviews on family histories and to make available to San Diego Historic State Park such materials as are gathered.

Policy Manual
May 1985

DESCENDANTS COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

12:30 pm.

January 31.
March 14.
May 9.
July 11.
September 12.
November 14.

DESCENDANTS' HISTORICAL WORKSHOPS.

10:30 am to 4 pm:

March 13.
June 26.
August 14.
October 9.

All Meetings and Workshops will be held in the McCoy House Interpretive Center in Old Town San Diego State Historic Park.

Descendants' Committee News.

by Victor Crosthwaite Contreras.

Old Town San Diego Descendants are active in the park in many ways. Some descendants work as Park staff and make it a part of their professional lives to help preserve and share their collective family contributions. Other descendants are involved with activities in the park that include volunteering for special events, fundraising, and as docents or park volunteers.

We would like to acknowledge the previous chairperson of the Descendants' Committee, Elena Orozco. She continues to work hard to serve the Park as a park aide, and has taken the lead with setting up descendants' displays in the Machado Silvas House including the Día De Los Muertos exhibit every year. Georgia Callian and Marsha Snelling are particularly appreciated for their years of involvement. This year the committee has selected Abel Silvas and Victor Crosthwaite Contreras as Co-chairs.

We are looking to increase involvement of descendants within the many activities of the park, and have many new exciting projects planned for the future. We would like to extend an open invitation for anyone interested in preserving their family histories within the context of Old Town San Diego State Historic Park to join us at the Descendants' Committee meetings. All are welcome!

Descendants' Committee Meetings scheduled the second Sunday of ODD numbered months in the McCoy House Museum at Old Town San Diego State Historic Park at 12:30 pm.

Scheduled Dates for 2010
January 31 (Playwright Project meeting)
March 14
May 9
July 11
September 12
November 14

Descendants' Historical Workshops are gatherings where the Descendants group shares their private collections of records, books, information resources, sometimes artifacts, and general knowledge about the early settlers of San Diego. Historians as well as knowledgeable descendants are available and enjoy exchanges about the early days of California. Workshops are scheduled at the McCoy House on the following dates from 10:30 am to 4 pm:

Scheduled Dates for 2010
March 13
June 26 (Descendants' Luncheon)
August 14
October 9

For more information, contact:

Victor Crosthwaite Contreras
171 N. Del Mar Ave.
Chula Vista, CA 91910
viccroscon@yahoo.com
(619) 301-8126

Old Town San Diego State Historic Park, Visitor Information Center, 619-220-5422.

QUEST FOR GRANT FUNDING SUPPORT FOR OLD TOWN SAN DIEGO STATE HISTORIC PARK.

Victor Crosthwaite Contreras

Certainly the budget crisis of the State of California has not escaped anyone. The announced reduction in funding for parks throughout the State is of concern to all Californians. Boosters of Old Town (BOOT), the official non-profit cooperating association that supports the interpretation and education programs in Old Town San Diego State Historic Park decided to hire a professional grant writer to assist with finding additional funding for the many and diverse needs of the Park.

The initial contract with Leadership Management Institute of San Diego was to write one (1) grant. The BOOT Board found after the grant writer was hired that the many needs within the Park are too great and too diverse to be addressed in any one grant. The Board and their hired grant writing company are evaluating options for grants. These continually change as deadlines for submission come and go and new grant funding is made available. Reviewing these ever changing options of grant sources and cross matching those with the various needs within the Park has been more challenging than the board originally expected. The process continues and as of this writing no grant application has been submitted.

Through a letter of agreement with California State Parks, the far northwest corner room of the Machado-Silvas Adobe has been designated for use by the descendants of Old Town as an office/library/volunteer room in exchange for providing volunteers to show the "Maria's Story" video in the adjacent room. The building is now in great need of repair and is not usable in its current condition.

At the Descendants Luncheon last year, the group decided to support the efforts of the BOOT Board in hiring a grant writer by raising $755 to be used specifically for a grant that would address the needed upgrades to the Machado Silvas Building. These funds are currently set aside until an appropriate grant is identified. We would like to grow this amount to at least $2000 (the retainer amount for writing one grant) so we can hire a grant writer to pursue a grant that match our priorities.

We have further clarified our priorities (listed in order of importance) for the present to be:

1. Bringing up to usable standards of preservation the Machado Silvas Building (by far top priority) and development of the designated area as a Descendant Center.
2. Enhancing the presentation of the all our ethnic roots, in particular the Native American Experience.
3. Operation funds for our group to help us with better record keeping and communication for recruitment and other activities.
4. Present and future funding for descendant projects such as the present project of creating scripts for use in the Park.

If you would like to make a contribution in any amount, we would welcome your support. Make your tax deductible contribution to Boosters of Old Town San Diego or BOOT. Make a note in the memo portion of your check Descendant Project. Mail to Victor Contreras, Co-Chair of the Descendants Committee, 171 N. Del Mar Ave., Chula Vista, Ca. 91910. I will be happy to make sure your contribution is added to our fund.

28TH ANNUAL DESCENDANTS' DAY.

Saturday, June 26, 2010.

10:00 am - 3:00 pm.

BARRA BARRA SALOON

OLD TOWN SAN DIEGO STATE HISTORIC PARK.

Presenting Playwright's Project Highlighting.

Lunch will be available at a cost of:

General	$25.00 per person.
Seniors 65+ & B.O.O.T. Members	$20.00 per person.
Group of 3 or more	$20.00 per person.
Children age 5-12	$5.
Children under age 5	Free.

Network research workshop, historic dramatic presentations without lunch ..... $5.

Reservations for lunch are required.
Deadline: June 12, 2010.

RSVP with payment to:
Victor Contreras
171 N. Del Mar Ave
Chula Vista, CA 91910.

Make checks payable to B.O.O.T.

Schedule of Events

10-11:30 Special Dramatic Presentations of McCoy (on going)
10-11:30 Networking and Research Workshop
11:30-12:30 Playwright Project Presentation
12:30-2:30 Luncheon & Raffle

For information call: Elena Orozco at 619-262-6289
OR email Corey Braun at: coreyj58@yahoo.com.

PLAYWRIGHT PROJECT TO HELP TELL DESCENDANT FAMILY STORIES.

The Descendant Committee and the non-profit organization called the Playwright Project have partnered together to help bring to life descendant family stories. The Playwright Project has been working on a project they have been calling Recollections. This project was designed to help script historical stories for possible performance. We are working with them to develop scripts to be used within the Park as part of presenting our history through the performance tours that are gaining wide acclaim and possible other uses within the Park. The performance tours have been warmly received and will continue again this spring. We hope to build a library of scripted stories which can be used to celebrate our family histories. We are currently developing three scripts so that this project can be presented at the annual Descendants Luncheon June 26. Please reserve the date to come to our luncheon and start sharing your family stories. We will announce a workshop to be arranged at the luncheon where we will be inviting Descendants to attend a workshop where we will work together with the Playwright Project to develop scripts for the library of stories to be used within the Park.

THE ESTUDILLO PROJECT.

Old Town San Diego State Historic Parks staff is requesting our help with a current project to refurbish the exhibits at the Casa de Estudillo. The current funding covers the first phase that includes creating an interpretive plan and doing a small exhibit to commemorate the centennial of Hazel Waterman's restoration of the building. The Park staff are asking us to do a special outreach to descendants who may have information, artifacts, pictures, postcards, etc. which in some way relate to the Casa de Estudillo from its earliest days until the present through its various stages including the various people that lived or stayed there, the Waterman restoration, Ramona's Marriage Place, California State Parks restoration, etc. The Park staff are researching and looking for anything that may tie into the rich history of the site. If you have something to contribute please contact: Karen Beery at kbeery@parks.ca.gov or 619-980-4712.

ACTING WORKSHOP.

Old Town San Diego State Historic Park is gaining recognition for its theatrical interpretations of life in 1800s San Diego. Through the use of theatrical devices such as walking plays and skits, the history of Old Town San Diego and the life style of the times here in Southern California are presented in an engaging story format for our visitors.

The programs have been a collaboration of park staff and volunteers. We hope to diversify and grow the talent pool for the skits, plays, walking performance tours, and other interpretive programs in the park.

We plan to have a workshop once a week on Saturdays from 10 am until noon. There is no fee. The workshop is designed to be a work out of creative expression as well as working on technique for performances You will learn how to develop their acting craft through acting exercises such as improvisation, character movement, vocal variation, etc. Like a football player lifting weights, it has very little to do with actually playing the game but it builds skills that make the player more effective when he does play.

The Acting workshop will be lead by Victor Crosthwaite Contreras, a professional actor with television, movie, commercial, and theater credits that span over thirty-five years. He has been involved over the past year with the interpretive programs in Old Town SDSHP.

DEAR MEMBERS OF OLD TOWN SAN DIEGO DESCENDANTS:

My name is Elena T. Orozco and I am one of the remaining Co-Founders of the Old Town Descendants Group. For many years I have served the descendants by taking the lead in many historic projects within Old Town San Diego State Historic Park. This new year of 2010 we have some new and exciting projects to educate and enhance the park visitors' experience. We want to share who our ancestors were, what they contributed, and who we are today as their descendants and we need your help.

We are planning to present a number of exhibits in the Machado Silvas Building showcasing Hispanic Month, Dia De Los Muertos, Native American Month, and Christmas or Holiday decorations with a more traditional Hispanic theme. We need your time and assistance to make these wonderful and exciting projects a reality and to help support the many other experiences within the park.

There are many ways to contribute to the overall Old Town San Diego State Historic Park experience. There are opportunities to be trained in local history and the park, and to become a park volunteer. There are crafts and guilds that help recreate old crafts in the park as part of our living history programs or to create hand made products for sale in the park store, with the proceeds benefiting the Boosters of Old Town. Park volunteers help with the care of donkeys, gardens, period wardrobe bank, sewing, knitting, story telling, quilt making, iron work in the blacksmith workshop, wood work, and many other trades and domestic activities. We give tours, staff the Visitor Center store and park museums, participate in special events, set up for special events, participate park theatrical presentations, help with promotional and public relations work, and assist with office work. Simply put we have many ways to contribute to the on going efforts of Old Town San Diego State Historic Park and promote the contributions of our ancestors.

We would like to invite descendants to help tell our family histories by getting more involved with the Park. Please contact me for more information by writing me at:

Attention: Elena Orozco
Old Town San Diego State Historic Park,
4002 Wallace Street
San Diego, Ca. 92110
or call me at (619) 220-5422.

Your assistance and contribution is something only you can give. Thank you for considering how you can best support our ancestors and the Old Town San Diego State Historic Park.

Respectfully,
Elena T. Orozco

(Elena is the outgoing Chairperson of the Descendants Committee and works in the park as an interpreter overseeing special exhibits and presenting tours for visitors.)

OLD TOWN DESCENDANT LIST NEEDS UPDATING!

We share information about our pasts to learn from each other and our research materials. We gather to celebrate our common roots and the accomplishments and contributions of our fore fathers and mothers.

Our common thread is that our ancestors walked the Southern California area during the days when this land was first controlled by the original Native American Tribes, through the Spanish Period, through the Mexican Period, California becoming a state, and finally celebrating the early days of San Diego becoming an American town.

We take great pride in our family trees and wish to pass our heritage on to our children. Please help us keep our efforts alive by joining us at our workshops, annual luncheon, or for activities in the park. Be sure to invite anyone you know to join us whose family dates from the early days of San Diego.

To be sure we have current contact information please provide us the following information:

Name: _____ □ New to the Descendant List

Former Name (if applicable): _____

Family affiliation, if known (optional): _____

Mailing Address: _____

_____

Home Phone: ( ) _____ Mobile: ( ) _____

Email:

□ Please include my email on the distribution list for the newsletter, The Poppy Paper, distributed by the Boosters of Old Town (the non-profit cooperating association for Old Town San Diego SHP).

□ DO NOT share my email with The Poppy Paper.

Please mail hard copy to:
Victor Crosthwaite Contreras
171 N. Del Mar Ave.
Chula Vista, Ca. 91910

Or email to: viccroscon@yahoo.com