



# EL CAJON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# HERITAGE

Volume 37 Issue 4

[www.elcajonhistory.org](http://www.elcajonhistory.org)

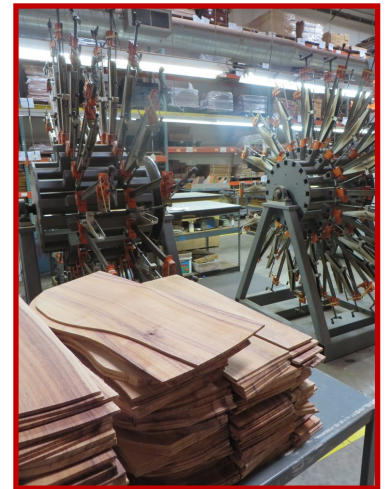
OCTOBER 2016

## Making Music in El Cajon

Our special free tour of the Taylor Guitar facility will begin at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, October 19. Taylor Guitars is located at 1080 Gillespie Way, El Cajon.



The Taylor Guitars factory tour takes guests through the steps of guitar construction. From wood selection to final assembly, we will experience each process as a guitar evolves from raw wood into a finished instrument. Come join us for this special event.



*A sneak peek inside the Taylor Guitar facility.*

## October Meeting Tours Olaf Wieghorst Museum



Have you ever walked down Rea Avenue and wondered what's inside that historic structure? You'll now have your chance at ECHS's annual meeting to be held at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, October 26, at the Olaf Wieghorst Museum, 131 Rea Avenue (off Magnolia), in downtown El Cajon.

There will be a brief meeting for the election of officers and approval of the budget followed by a special presentation by Earlene Hollmichel about the accomplished artist who lived in our community for more than 40 years. Olaf Wieghorst, known for his magnificent portrayals of the nineteenth century American West, exhibited a remarkable affinity for the cowboys, the Native American Indians, and the settlers who helped shape this country's Western landscape.

The meeting will include a tour of the artist's residence. The inside of the house remains much the same as when the family lived there. His son Roy's wife, Barbara, made the curtains in the kitchen and dining room from material much like what Olaf's wife, Mae, had used when the family lived there. A small extension in the living room served as Olaf's studio. You can still see flecks of paint from Olaf's brushes on the wood walls which splattered as he was cleaning his brushes.



See Page 8 of the newsletter for more information on the meeting and the reservation form.

## President's Message



### Whom Do I Call?

As I was thinking about my message for this quarter, the old wacky Ghostbuster tune (1984) kept ringing in my ears. "Why?" you say. Well, let me tell you what has been happening, not only at the Knox, but in volunteer organizations everywhere. The generation of people that has been volunteering has gotten older and more tired, maybe even burned out! There are fewer and fewer people to do the work. Things are at a somewhat critical point in many organizations. Ours is one of them!

For example, we are only able to keep the Knox House open two Saturdays per month and only for a few hours on those days. I watched a program on PBS yesterday, called *Chaldean Voices*. It's about the immigrant experience in our community. One scene showed a young Iraqi student in front of the Knox House, looking at the sign on the door, and then peeking in the window to see what was inside. He couldn't get inside, because we weren't open! At first I was angered by that representation of our efforts; but then I remembered my Dad's old words: "The truth hurts, doesn't it?" Because his experience is the truth. But, whom do I call to solve that problem? Are you a person with grant-writing experience? Do you know of grant money existing that could help us keep the Knox House open at least for a few hours every day? Do you have a few hours that you could donate to volunteer as a docent? If so, please let me know at [clnowak@cox.net](mailto:clnowak@cox.net). Or you can call the Knox House and leave a message: 619-444-3800.

Another critical need is that of a person or persons to run the Third Grade Essay Contest. Becky Taylor is not able to do it any longer. She suggests that two people or more would make the job easier and would lend all of her prior experience to those people. But, whom do I call? Are you that person? Do you have a friend who would help you? Do you know of someone who would be great at the job? Suggest it to them or to me.

Mike Kaszuba, our Archivist has also expressed a need for people to help scan photographs into our digital collection. If you are not afraid of computers, he can show you how to help with this task. Whom does he call?

Looking for your call (or email).

Carla



## A Sad Good-Bye

ECHS member Samuel Moore 'Bud' Templeton III passed away September 4. He and his wife Barbara joined ECHS in 2009.

Bud spent most of his life in the San Diego area, having come here as an infant. He played baseball at Hoover High School, and with several high school buddies, enlisted in the US Army, 7th Cavalry. He met and married his wife Barbara in 1957.

Sam worked for the San Diego County Sheriff's Department from 1957 until 1978 and retired at the rank of Lieutenant. Sam was in charge of setting up the San Diego S.W.A.T. team and also ran the San Diego County Sheriff's Department Academy. He was also the watch commander at the downtown jail.

Sam's favorite pastimes were traveling with his wife Barbara and horse racing.

He served as Senior Investigator for the Del Mar Racetrack Thoroughbred Club for 28 years.

Sam passed quietly at home while watching his horse races on Sunday, September 4. Sam and Barbara were lovingly married for 59 years.



Services were held September 23 at El Cajon Cemetery.

For those wishing to honor his memory, the family requests that donations be made through Father Ron Buchmiller at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Hall, 13208 Lakeshore Dr., Lakeside, CA 92040, or through Father Ben Davison, St. Kieran's, 1510 Greenfield Dr., El Cajon, CA 92021.

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## Editors' Note

Our Heritage newsletter has a new look and a new editor. We'd like to welcome Linda Foltz as our new editor-in-chief, replacing Anita Tinsley. Linda will continue to produce the newsletter for our members on a quarterly basis.

We'd also like to thank Anita for her many years of dedication and expertise as our editor-in-chief, and her help in making this a smooth transition.





## A Rewarding Experience

Whether you like being called a Greeter, a Docent, or a Guardian, the Knox House Museum needs folks who enjoy talking about life “in olden times” to help share the artifacts in the museum. The museum is now open the first and third Saturdays of each month between the hours of 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM. In addition, every year (usually between January - May), many third grade classes tour the Knox Museum during the regular school day between the hours of 9:00 AM - Noon. Ideally, field trip tours run most smoothly with 4 adults to talk about the various items in each room and give the

children and parents a taste of life in El Cajon “in olden times”.

If you are new to being a docent at the Knox House Museum, you can shadow another docent on Saturday, or, if you prefer, I will arrange a training session. If you can donate your time to share the wonders of the Knox House Museum, please contact Becky Taylor at [cruznbecky@cox.net](mailto:cruznbecky@cox.net), or by phone: (619) 440-3069. Once you experience the curiosity and interest from children and parents alike, I think you will be “hooked.”

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Our last newsletter shared the top essays from the 35th Annual Third Grade Historical Essay Contest. In this newsletter we share the Honorable Mention Award Essays. Thanks to all of the volunteers, teachers and students who participated, and congratulations to all of these young writers!

## 2016 Third Grade Essay Contest

### HONORABLE MENTION AWARD

#### OUR JOURNEY TO EL CAJON

By Max Abbo, Fuerte School, Teacher: Ms. Torre

My family’s journey to El Cajon began in 1962. My father’s parents, George and Basima Abbo, emigrated from Bagdad, Iraq on January 23, 1969. My mother’s parents, Majid and Sabriya Attiq, emigrated also from Bagdad, Iraq in December 1969. Both families came to El Cajon, California for a better life.

My mother’s and father’s families, along with their children, traveled by plane from Iraq to Lebanon, to Italy, to London, to Boston, to Detroit, and finally then to El Cajon, California. When they arrived in the United States, they lived with their brothers until they could afford to be on their own.

My grandfather George came with \$20,000. He worked for other people in their stores until he saved up his money to buy his own liquor store. His store was very successful. He was a good businessman, so he was able to buy a house and have cars for his family. My grandfather Majid was a history teacher in Iraq. When he came to El Cajon he spoke very little English. He worked 18 hours each day at a store that he bought with his brothers.

Both families came to the United States for a better life and for religious freedom. They were able to practice their Catholic faith freely. In 1973, together with their community, they were able to build St. Peter’s Chaldean Catholic Church in El Cajon.

I am so happy that my family came to El Cajon in 1969. Their decision to come here was not really easy. They worked very hard for their families to give them better lives. They taught them their religion, which made them very happy and at peace. I have learned so much about my family’s journey to El Cajon. I am so proud of my grandparents and admire them very much.

## HONORABLE MENTION AWARD

### MOUNTAIN LIONS

By Kaylee Di Martino, Avocado School, Teachers: Mrs. Huffman/Mrs. Rhoads

I was getting ready for school while my mom went down to the backyard and got the memory card from the trail cam. When she got back up she put the memory card in the computer. A video came up with a mountain lion on it. It made me excited and a little scared that there was a mountain lion on the property. I decided to do research on mountain lions to find out where they live, mountain lion families, and what to do if you encounter one.



Mountain lions live in North and South America in forests, swamps, and grasslands. They can live mostly where they can find food. They live in many areas, including El Cajon. They eat deer, raccoons, rabbits, squirrels and animals on your property if they live on it. Male mountain lions have their home 200 square miles, and a female mountain lion can have their home be 50 to 80 square miles. As long as there is a food source, mountain lions will live in El Cajon.

Mountain lions live for 18 to 20 years in the wild, but in captivity they live for 20 years. A male is 120 to 220 pounds, and a female is 64 to 140 pounds. They can be 2 to 3 feet tall from foot to shoulders. Females have 2 to 6 cubs a year. Cubs stay with their mom for 6 to 18 months. The cubs are born with their eyes closed. They are fully weaned at 4 to 6 months. They have rings on their tails, spotted fur, and blue eyes. Their spots will fade away when they are 2 years of age. That is the average for the mountain lion.

If you ever encounter a mountain lion try to make yourself look big by waving your arms slowly over your head. Clap and make loud noises. Yell in a deep voice. If you have a kid, put them on your shoulders. Don't run or they might start to chase you. Never make yourself small, or they might think you are prey. You should do these things to make you look bigger and the mountain lion will be scared of you. Knowing that mountain lions are in El Cajon you can use these facts if you encounter a mountain lion.

Mountain lions are a part of nature in El Cajon. If there is a food and water source the mountain lions will be here. They can continue to reproduce in the area. It is important to know what to do if you encounter one. I am comfortable because I did research and I feel safe and aware of mountain lions.

## HONORABLE MENTION AWARD

### COYOTES

By Kyle Murdock, Madison Ave. School, Teacher: Mrs. Hepp



*ECHS President Carla Nowak  
and Kyle Murdock.*

In the city of El Cajon, coyotes wander around the streets. Want to know about these guys? Well, it's time to know.

Coyotes weigh about 20 – 50 pounds and have gray, brown, and tan fur on their upper bodies. Coyotes come in small packs of 2 – 3, and are 48 to 53 inches from head to tail. The average coyote reaches up to an adult's shoulder. During winter, coyotes get in big packs to hunt easier. Coyotes eat meat from certain animals, including rabbits, fish, and deer. However, they will also eat grass and fruit. In cities, coyotes will eat pet food and garbage. Their predators are bears, wolves, and mountain lions. Coyotes walk on their toes to not make any noise so that predators cannot detect them. Breeding season is from February to March. A female coyote will stay with the pups in the den until their eyes open, which can take up to 12 days!

*(continued on page 5)*

(continued from page 4)

Moving on, coyotes run up to 40 mph and are also very good swimmers and have very strong senses of smell and hearing. A coyote has strong legs and non-retractable claws. They are very smart and have great vision.

Coyotes are also amazing hunters. A coyote can even detect hunters that are a mile away. Just like dogs, coyotes use urine to mark their territory. In the wild, coyotes live 10 – 14 years. In captivity, they can live up to 20 years.

Coyotes are in the dog family (*canidae*). This family includes wolves, jackals, coyotes, dogs, and foxes. The scientific name for a coyote is *Canis Latrans*. They are of least concern when it comes to the population, and the numbers are always on the rise.

Coyotes will howl, whine, growl, and yip to communicate with others. A coyote will howl for a long time if it wants the other members of the pack to know where it is. It uses short barks to let others know if there is danger. Also, a coyote will yip when welcoming a new coyote to the pack.

Coyotes live in several habitats, including fields, plains, and bushy areas. The coyote makes its den in a rocky crevice, log, or cave.

Coyotes may not be as big or as strong as other animals, but from what you read, coyotes are still really amazing animals!



## HONORABLE MENTION AWARD

### MY FAMILY’S JOURNEY TO EL CAJON

By Zahra Nuristani, W.D. Hall School, Teacher: Mrs. Esquivel

My family’s journey started in Afghanistan in December 1999 and ended in El Cajon on the night of Christmas Eve. My family had to leave Afghanistan because it was no longer safe for them to live there.

It was not safe because my grandfather was working for a non-governmental organization that was helping to build schools for girls. He was the director. He thought it was a good idea to build schools for girls because there were not many schools for girls. My father said that my grandfather was threatened by some people called the Taliban, who told him to stop building schools for girls. My grandfather was risking his life just to build schools for girls because he knew how important education was for girls. It soon became very unsafe for him and his family. My grandparents had to go some place safe. “So we thought about going to the U.S. because it was the most safe option,” said my father. My family worked really hard to find a place to go in the U.S.

They were thinking about going to El Cajon because my grandparents had friends living there already. They came to El Cajon, but on the way to El Cajon they stopped in New York for a day. The flight to El Cajon continued the next day. “We reached El Cajon on Christmas night,” said my grandfather. Then my mom and dad had me.

My family’s journey to El Cajon is an interesting story, and that is why I chose this topic. I admire my grandfather because he was building schools for girls. I would do the same thing. I am so glad that I have the opportunity to attend school in El Cajon.



*ECHS President Carla Nowak  
and Zahra Nuristani.*



## HONORABLE MENTION AWARD

### MY GREAT GRANDMOTHER, “THE MIGHTY PIONEER”

Marilyn Terrones, W. D. Hall School, Teacher: Mrs. Albright



*ECHS President Carla Nowak and Marilyn Terrones.*

My great grandmother was El Cajon’s first woman traffic control officer. Before becoming a traffic officer, she was a carhop at Ricky’s Drive-In. It was located in El Cajon. All the officers used to come in to have coffee. One day, one of the officers came into the diner. The officer asked her if she would like to be a traffic control officer for the schools. She happily replied, “Yes, I will try it!”

Next, she went to the El Cajon Police Department to see if she could get hired as a traffic control officer. My great grandmother’s name is Frances Lassabe. She was 25 years old when she was hired in 1954. She would patrol the elementary school at Lincoln Avenue and Main Street. Other times she worked on Main Street and Mollison Avenue, and patrolled the traffic at the high school. She was an employee of The El Cajon Police Department with police privileges and traffic work. They always said she was mighty!

Her name is Frances Lassabe, and she worked hard five days a week; and she also had a regular job. One day at the high school, a motorcycle officer came because the students were rowdy. The elementary students followed the rules and were a lot more respectful than the high school students. Therefore, it made my great grandmother’s job more enjoyable when she was at one of the elementary schools in El Cajon.

When I interviewed my great grandmother, she told me she was chosen for the job because she took no nonsense from her customers at Ricky’s Drive-In. Her job was super-stressful for her because the teenagers were difficult to handle behind the wheel. After she quit, there were no more women traffic control officers. The reason this was? They put up traffic lights.

In conclusion, my great grandmother is very proud she was chosen as the first woman traffic control officer in El Cajon. My great grandmother was and still is a hard-working woman in everything she does. I look up to her because, even at the age of 86 years old, she is little but mighty! My great grandmother makes me proud to be her great granddaughter.

## A Day at Gillespie Field

Even though the summer heat loomed over July’s quarterly meeting, ECHS members still enjoyed a wonderful brunch and two outstanding presentations: Rob Smuda, Assistant Airport Manager, explained how Gillespie Field is a combination of airport and business park. As the oldest and largest of the County’s eight airports, it includes not just runways, tower, and a terminal, but houses two business parks that provide a boost to the local economy in direct, indirect and induced revenues.

Leslie Day of the Gillespie Pilots Association described her love of flying and the painstaking effort it took to restore her vintage plane. Following her presentation, ECHS members were invited to climb up and look inside her vintage aircraft.



*Rob Smuda,  
Asst. Airport  
Manager*



*Leslie Day, V.P. Gillespie Pilot’s Assn.*

# Elections & Finance

A proposed slate of officers and Board members will be presented to the membership and voted upon at ECHS's annual meeting on October 26, along with ECHS's budget for 2017. These items appear on this page.

This year's nominating committee consisted of Fran Parsons Hill, Joe Klock, Becky Taylor, Jack Dickens, and Anita Tinsley.

ECHS depends on dedicated volunteers to conduct the activities of the association and to maintain the Knox House Museum as a service to the community. See the President's Message on page 2 for ways you can get involved in your organization.

## El Cajon Historical Society Budget Overview January - December 2017

### Income

Misc. Sales	\$1,000.00
Book Sales	\$500.00
Donations	\$500.00
Dues	\$2,500.00
Investment Income	\$20.00
Opportunity Drawings	\$500.00
Quarterly Meetings	\$1,600.00
<u>Special Events</u>	<u>\$1,600.00</u>
	\$8,220.00

### Expense

Building Maintenance	\$100.00
Insurance	\$2,200.00
Membership	\$100.00
Miscellaneous Expense	\$100.00
Newsletter-Publications	\$300.00
Office Expense	\$250.00
P.O. Box Rental	\$90.00
Postage	\$250.00
Quarterly Meetings	\$1,250.00
Safe Deposit Box Rental	\$130.00
Sales Tax	\$100.00
Security	\$350.00
Storage	\$800.00
Telephone/Internet	\$1,800.00
<u>Third Grade Essay</u>	<u>\$500.00</u>
	\$8,220.00

## Proposed Officers

President.....Carla Nowak  
 Vice President.....Colleen White  
 Recording Secretary.....Linda Garity  
 Corresponding Secretary.....Sharon Jarboe  
 Treasurer.....George Dall

### Continuing Directors whose term expires December 31, 2017:

Linda Garity  
 Dick Lay  
 Christy Klock  
 Carla Nowak

### Continuing Directors whose term expires December 31, 2018:

George Dahl  
 Mike Kaszuba  
 Sharon Jarboe  
 Rebecca Taylor

### Proposed Directors for a term ending December 31, 2019:

Colleen White  
 Fran Hill  
 Eldonna Lay  
 Joe Klock

### Proposed Appointed Directors:

Jack Dickens  
 Rick Hall  
 G. Carroll Rice  
 Linda Foltz

## 2016 EL CAJON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Carla Nowak
Vice President	Colleen White
Recording Secretary	Linda Garity
Corresponding Secretary	Sharon Jarboe
Treasurer	George Dall
Curator	Eldonna Lay
Archivist	Mike Kaszuba
Maintenance	Rick Hall
Membership	Christy Klock
Essay Contest	Rebecca Taylor
Heritage Editor	Linda Foltz, Anita Tinsley
Website Manager	Michelle Braun
Members at Large	Jack Dickens, Fran Hill Joe Klock, Dick Lay, G. Carroll Rice

Telephone Messages 619-444-3800

# It's Time To Renew Those Dues!

We will soon be ringing in another new year, which means that it's time for most ECHS members to send in their dues. Most memberships are on a calendar year basis. Members who send in their dues early help their association by saving billing costs. This cost savings enables ECHS to make better use of its funds.

Membership dues for 2017 remain the same: \$12 for Individual, \$20 Family, \$30 Organization, \$40 Business, and \$500 Enhanced Life. Please make checks payable to ECHS and send to P.O. Box 1973, El Cajon, CA 92022-1973.

Thank you for your support of ECHS!

**From:** El Cajon Historical Society  
P. O. Box 1973  
El Cajon, CA 92022

**To:**

## Welcome New Members

- ✦ Carol Allnutt
- ✦ Linda Foltz

## October Meeting Touring Olaf Wieghorst Museum

ECHS's annual meeting will be held at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, October 26, at the Olaf Wieghorst Museum, located at 131 Rea Avenue (off Magnolia), in downtown El Cajon.

The meeting will include a wonderful Fall luncheon catered by Cupid's Catering that will feature a selection of salads, cookies, and beverages. The cost for the meeting, including lunch, remains \$15. Reservations are required and must be received by Monday, October 24.

Looking Ahead...The first of the year promises to start off with surprises. Did you know there is a CARMEL FACTORY in our wonder city of El Cajon???? Yes!! That is where we are going on the third Wednesday in January, so be sure to mark your calendars!!!!

## October 26 Meeting Reservation Form

Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_ (\$15 each)

Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

*Reservations not kept become a donation.*

**RESERVATION DEADLINE – MONDAY, OCTOBER 24**

Mail reservations and checks to:

ECHS, P.O. Box 1973, El Cajon, CA 92022-1973