

Golden Nuggets

SACRAMENTO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2011

Wednesday, November 9, 7 PM Member Extra!

Slaying the Gorgon: Understanding Storytelling and Media in the Electronic Age More details p.2
A fascinating and provocative multimedia presentation by storyteller, writer, and public radio producer Joe McHugh that looks at how stories are used in the modern age given the dynamic, transforming influence of new technologies. Come early for a seat. Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society Building, 5380 Elvas Ave., Sacramento

SCHS November Program

Tuesday, November 29, 7 PM (the 5th Tuesday of November)

Sacramento Saloon Ware: A Rare & Varied Collection

Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society Bldg, 5380 Elvas Avenue, Sacramento

In an 1866 letter, Mark Twain called Sacramento the *City of Saloons*, claiming there were so many that “you can just shut your eyes, march into the first door you come to and call for a drink, and the chances are that you will get it.”

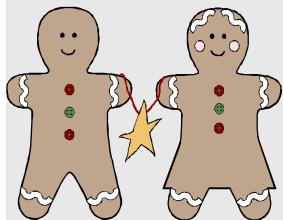
Along with the saloons came quite an interesting and often charming assortment of signage, advertising, bottles, openers, trays, tip trays, and other saloon exotica. SCHS member and longtime collector/exhibitor Steve Abbott will show and tell us about some of his outstanding collection of saloon ware from 19th century to pre-prohibition Sacramento.

Steve has published articles on Sacramento whiskey dealers George Wissemann and Michael Cronan and on Sacramento shot glasses. He also published a directory of early Sacramento whiskey dealers and a booklet on pre-Prohibition California whiskey registrations. Come get an inside view of early saloons!



A selection of some small—and quite colorful—bar items from pre-prohibition Sacramento saloons and breweries.

Owner's collection



SCHS Taste of History Holiday Social

Sunday December 4, 2-4 PM

Food, Food Stories, and Fun

Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society Building, 5380 Elvas Ave, Sacramento

We thought it would be fun to launch the holiday season with an appropriate seasonal event—a party! Since holidays are often about food and family traditions, we have three speakers lined up to share some short food-related tales, and some appropriate goodies will be provided. But this is also a chance for members to share special family festive foods and stories and generally enjoy some time visiting with other members and friends. It all takes place on the first Sunday afternoon in December, and should help get everyone in the holiday spirit.

You are invited to bring a traditional family holiday goodie, savory or sweet, (say 24-36 pieces) and the accompanying recipe used to make it. We'd also like the story of how this food was part of your family. For those of you who don't cook, just bring in the recipe. Or consider sharing a short holiday food-related story. Or just come to take it all in. See the information and the form provided on page 3, and then start thinking about what you'd like to share in this hands-on Taste of History Holiday Social. See you on Sunday afternoon December 4th!

More on Joe McHugh & the Gorgon

People have told stories since earliest times to entertain, inform, and pass on cultural values. They have also used stories to persuade. Corporations use stories to sell products and gain competitive advantages. Political parties use stories to elect candidates and garner support for policies. Military leaders use stories to inspire courage and foster unit cohesion. Social activists, educators, environmentalists, economists, religious leaders, and a host of others use stories to promote their views and agendas. *Slaying the Gorgon* will explore what the myth of Perseus and Medusa tells us about how today's "industrialized storytelling" shapes how we think.

Joe McHugh may be best known as the founder of the American Family Stories Project, which began with McHugh traveling around the country recording people telling their family stories. These stories were later featured on a radio series called *The Telling Takes Us Home* that ran on many public radio stations and on the international English-language service of Voice of America.

McHugh served as the founding director of the Youth Museum of Southern West Virginia where he also hosted a weekly segment on Appalachian folkways for West Virginia Public Television. He has been a consultant for numerous non-profit organizations and government agencies and has served as an artist-in-residence for the National Endowment for the Arts, the West Virginia Department of Culture and History, the Pennsylvania Arts Commission, and the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

In 1988 he moved to northern California where he and his wife Paula designed an innovative summer camp program for young people called Camp ImaginAction. They went on to found the Raven Radio Theater which explored the creative use of radio dramas with young people and organizations. In 1992, the Raven Radio Theater was awarded a major grant by the Office of the California Superintendent of Public Instruction to design, produce, and disseminate an innovative tobacco-use prevention radio drama curriculum to fifth grade students throughout California.

Joe McHugh has presented at conferences, colleges, libraries, museums, and festivals throughout the United States, Scotland, Ireland, and England. He has published two collections of folktales and humor and an illustrated children's book about the early days of aviation. His most recent book is a novel entitled *Kilowatt*, a modern-day fable about the energy industry, public radio, and the nature of time. He lives with his family in Olympia, Washington.

On-Demand Publishing Is Here

Contributed by Maryellen Burns

The Sacramento Public Library has jumped into the world of print-on-demand publishing. Thanks to the generous support of the *Institute of Museum and Library Services* and the *California State Library* the Central Library now has an **Espresso Book Machine**, a completely contained book-publisher that can print anything—from a 40-page book on John Sutter to an 800-page history of Sacramento County, and many other stories that should be shared. Housed at the Sacramento Public Library, 828 I St., the machine will—within minutes—automatically print, bind and trim a bookstore quality paperbound book, with 4-color covers and black and white interior pages.

It is available to anyone in the community who wants to publish a life story, produce a community cookbook, design a how-to manual on urban gardening, or some other literary work. In addition, a database of 3,000,000 books, many out of print and hard to find, can be printed on demand. Prices are very affordable.

The Espresso Book Machine is part of **I Street Community Press and Writing Center**. In time, **I Street** will offer classes on writing, editing, and revision; design basics, book marketing and distribution; plus, series and one-day workshops on historic research, community history, food writing, memoir, short stories, poetry and novels.

Free *I Street: Info Sessions* classes will be held Tuesday, November 8, and Tuesday, December 6, at 6:30 pm, or Saturday, December 17 at 10:15 am at the 8298 I St. location. To register for either of the three classes call Manya Shorr, at 916-264-2777 or email istreet@saclibrary.org.

SACRAMENTO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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GOLDEN NUGGETS

Published at least bimonthly, September to June

Editorial & Layout: William Burg, Patricia Turse

Email: info@sachistoricalociety.org

A Hands-On Taste of History Holiday Social, continued

By Maryellen Burns and Pat Turse

We all have stories about our favorite holiday traditions—memories of sitting down to the annual Christmas Eve Feast, then watching **It's a Wonderful Life** before reading **The Night Before Christmas** together and heading off to bed. Or holiday nightmares—Aunt Bette's insistence on making faux Turkey Tofu, or the time you were asked to bring potato latkes to a Hanukkah dinner and you brought brussell sprouts with bacon instead.

Come and share your favorite holiday culinary tradition, where that tradition came from, and a family recipe handed down over generations. You may bring some of your home cooked treats to share, or just the recipe, and perhaps a photo—if you have one—of the person most associated with the food. If humor is more your bent, share the holiday food traditions and recipes you dread. Each story is limited to three minutes. Maryellen Burns will set the tone with stories about holiday meals, and we've invited a number of well-known local food preparers and commentators to join us and share in the telling. We will post more details on our web pages (you can see them at your library) and e-blast the details as we get them firmed up. But it's your recipes and your stories we want to savor. To get you thinking, we offer a holiday recipe passed down through Sacramento's Breuner family.



Merry Old Santa Claus, 1881
wood engraving by T. Nast

From Sally Clifford's 1982 **The Sacramento Cookery Book** here is **The Breuner Holiday Eggnog**, contributed by pioneer family member Clara Louisa Schmidt Breuner, and given to the 1982 cookbook by Mrs. Edwin Grebitus, Jr., of Carmichael. This recipe yields about 5 quarts. Due to the large quantity, mix the eggnog in two separate batches, using half the ingredients each time, as described below.

12 ranch eggs, separated	1 pint brandy
2 cups sugar	2 quarts half-and-half
1 pint whisky	1 quart high-quality vanilla ice cream
1 pint rum	

In a large bowl of an electric mixer beat 6 egg whites until foamy, gradually adding 1/2 c. sugar. Beat until stiff and set aside. In another bowl, beat 6 egg yolks with 1/2 cup sugar until light and fluffy; then slowly add 1 cup of each liquor. In a second large bowl, combine the yolk and egg white mixtures and one quart of half and half. Pour into a punch bowl. **Repeat the entire procedure** with the rest of ingredients. Last, place the brick of ice cream in the punch bowl. After it melts, bottle and store the eggnog for at least five days for best results.

Maybe some Breuner descendants out there might like to prepare it for the party? If so, we'd best serve it in very small cups! Seriously, it will help our planning if you leave a message at 916-443-6265 telling us what you are planning to bring. We need to know by November 28. Below is a short outline to help you write your recipe, which we'll try to scan and make available electronically for people to print copies. Questions: 443-6265.

Recipe Title, Submitted by: [your name, where you cook and serve this dish]
Serves how many

History: where did this come from-and when? from whom -recipe originator; relation to you?
What story or stories come with it?

List of ingredients, in order of use - Please use Tsp, Tb, c., Pt., Qt. or write out amounts.

Preparation (Please be clear: 1 cup cooked brown rice or 1 cup [raw] brown rice, cooked as directed)

Cooking instructions

Serving/Storing/Other

P.O. Box 160065
 Sacramento, CA 95816-0065
 Message phone: 916-443-6265
sachistoricalociety.org

Please deliver by October 31

See this newsletter in color at the
 Newsletters link on our web pages above.

OUT& ABOUT

DATE	TIME	EVENT	PLACE & CONTACT
Ongoing through Nov 13, 2011 through Aug. 2012	Mon to Sat 10-5 Sunday 12-5	Spinning Cultural Stories features the original artwork of the Sacramento-based Chicana collective Co-Madres Artistas. Get there soon! <i>California Indians: Making a Difference</i> , 3000 s.f. exhibit now includes enhanced 100th Anniversary of Ishi's Discovery section	California Museum 1020 O Street, Sacramento 916-653-7524 www.californiamuseum.org
Ongoing	Tues to Sat 9-5 Sunday 10-5	Apollo 11: One Small Step...One Giant Leap Artifacts and models that recount highlights of the history of mankind's successful journey to the surface of the moon.	Aerospace Museum of California 3200 Freedom Park Drive, McClellan 916-643-3192 www.aerospacemuseumofcalifornia.org
Saturday December 10 only	1-4 PM	Holiday Happenings Cider and cookies, Parlor Singers performing holiday carols, and costumed docents doing 19th century ballroom dance. There's more! Pony Express riders will carry in hand stamped holiday letters and postcards (dropped off at the museum by end of November) from Folsom to Sacramento.	Sacramento History Museum 101 I Street, Old Sacramento 916-808-7059 www.historicoldsac.org/whats-new
Saturday November 18 Through January 15	Tues to Sun 11-4	Under the Christmas Tree Relive the joy of discovering treasures under the tree. New family-friendly holiday exhibit will feature moving model trains, nutcrackers, doll houses, and some award-winning, themed vignettes from various Sacramento area clubs and collectors. Sounds like fun!	Folsom History Museum 823 Sutter Street, Folsom 916-985-2707 www.folsomhistorymuseum.org