

Golden Nuggets

April 2008

A Mother's Gift:

The Saint Paul's Church Stanford Window

Tuesday April 22, 7PM

Sierra Sac Valley Medical Museum, 5380 Elvas Ave.

Stained Glass Restoration Artist, Richard Graf

See the window April 26, 10:30 AM, 15th & J

Jane Stanford was 39 years old when she gave birth to her only child, Leland Jr., in 1868. Precocious, thoughtful, and charming, the young man was likely headed for Harvard and a brilliant career until he contracted typhoid while traveling through Europe with Jane in 1884. His death devastated his parents. Two years later they announced the founding of the Leland Stanford Junior University in his memory.

For the deeply religious Jane, a more personal, more spiritual memorial was forthcoming. In 1890 she commissioned a brilliantly bejeweled stained glass window for the Sacramento church she and her husband had attended at the time their son was born, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, now located at 15th and J streets. Richard Graf, a stained glass artisan with extensive experience in historic glass restoration, was called in to restore the window in 1992, one hundred years after it had been dedicated.

The magnificently restored window features faces and bodies with soft modeling that belies the glass composition. Clothing drapes into realistic folds, and numerous faceted glass "jewels" disperse morning sun in many directions. Sadly, it sits mostly unseen at Saint Paul's, except by the lucky parishioners. It may be one of Sacramento's most underappreciated—or just most unknown—historic gems.

Richard Graf was born in England and raised in Oyster Bay (Long Island) New York. The same Oyster Bay where Laurelton Hall, the spectacular country

New SCHS Meeting Location for April & May:
Sierra Sac Valley Med Museum, 5380 Elvas Ave.

June meeting: State Library, 900 N St. + walk



Left: Leland Jr. received into heaven. Right: detail shows designer's painterly style.

estate of America's 'father' of glass artistry, Louis Comfort Tiffany, was located. Long fascinated by and focused academically upon history and architecture, Graf also found himself drawn to glass, and Oyster Bay artisans were still around to mentor him.

Armed with this background and a degree in history, Graf's restorations have included the full restoration of the interior wood and stained glass of the Sanders McNeill House, a National Registry property in Beaumont, Texas; Tiffany windows at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Beaumont, Texas, at the Gates Memorial Chapel, Port Arthur, Texas, and at St. Luke's Church in Woodland, California. Graf believes the Stanford window is an early Tiffany as well. See DVD close-ups of St. Paul's very special window as it was being restored and hear the inside story. Then join us Saturday morning, April 26, at 10:30 at the church as the sunlight sparkles through the jewels.

Last Chance

Have you been wondering why you've been getting these newsletters when you know your membership has expired? Because we were behind on our Journals, we kept everyone on the mailing list until we were able to get mostly caught up on them. Financing the Journals has proven to be a slow process, but we are now caught up through 2006, thanks to some broad topic double and triple issues. If your mailing label shows an asterisk after your name, this will be your last newsletter, and you will NOT have member access to the new and enhanced website features announced inside on page 3. You WILL receive the 2007 Journals as they are produced. We'll miss you! If you change your mind, there's a membership renewal form on the reverse.

SCHS Awards of Excellence Event Highlights

Text: Pat Turse; Photos: Dr. Bob LaPerrière



History Day 2006 national award winners, Valley High students Khanh Nguyen and Nazeela Sabir left, and Ashleen Kishore, far right, and longtime History Day judge Suzanne Hicklin, center, flank Myron Piper, who holds the Award of Excellence in Education they presented to him.



Top: Karen Jacques accepts the Preservation Award as presenter Rick Bettis listens.

Above: Presenter Greg Voelm congratulates Kiyo Sato for the Publication Award she displays.



From Karen Jacques' earnest stand for preservation and sustainability, to Kiyo Sato's engaging tale of lowly dandelions yearning to push up and bloom, to the stunning intensity of Myron Piper—and his award winning students—describing the growth of knowledge and self-esteem History Day participation creates, it was a very uplifting evening. Award-winning History Day videos and exhibits added to the glow. The desserts were tasty too. Sixty guests went home happy.

SCHS Member Renewal Form (Please mark your membership level.)

Personal Memberships

Individual \$35 _____
 Senior \$30 _____
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Please make your check out to SCHS and send with this form to:
 SCHS; P.O. Box 160065; Sacramento, CA 95816-0065

Mormon History Association Conference Coming to Sacramento in May

By Dylan McDonald



Sam Brannan in Society of Pioneers president's regalia, 1890 Century Magazine. -SAMCC

Sacramento will soon host the annual conference of the Mormon History Association (MHA), an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to the study and understanding of all aspects of Mormon history. This year's program will consider the role of Mormons in the California Gold Rush as part of its conference theme, **Growth and Gateways: Mormonism in the Wider World**. It will be held from May 22-25 at the Red Lion Hotel on Arden Way and is open to all. Registration is underway; please visit the Mormon website, www.mhahome.org, or call (801) 521-6565 for a preliminary program, to register, or for more details.

Founded in San Francisco in 1965, MHA returns its conference to Northern California for the first time in forty years. As the center of the California Gold Rush, Sacramento was the logical host city. Members of the Mormon faith, including Samuel Brannan and others, played a prominent role in the 1848 discovery of gold at Coloma, and in promoting and capitalizing from the Gold Rush they helped launch. Over 100 papers will be presented on related historical themes.

Highlights include tours of Sutter's Fort, Old Sacramento, and Coloma; a History Fair of California libraries and archives showcasing their holdings relating to Mormonism; an evening showing of the documentary, *Forgotten Voyage: The Mormon Sea Trek that Sparked the Gold Rush*; an address by Dr. Ken Owens, CSU-Sacramento, entitled, "Not Quite Zion: California's Gold Rush Saints;" and the Friday evening keynote "Tanner Lecture" by Dr. Philip Jenkins of Pennsylvania State University.

The conference pre-registration price of \$105 for members and \$135 for non-members ends April 30th. Please consider joining attendees from around the globe. Hope to see you there! -SCHS member and SAMCC Archivist Dylan McDonald is the Local Arrangements Chair. Questions? Call him at (916) 264-7583.

Redesigned Website Adds New and Exciting Member Benefits By Dr. Bob LaPerrière

The Sacramento County Historical Society has a new, easier to navigate website with much more content. The website may still be seen at www.sachistoricalociety.org. It now includes a Members Only section to ensure that our members continue to have benefits that are worthy and valuable. Downloadable files of out-of-print issues of our **Golden Notes** booklets will be available in this exciting new section. Four or five issue are now online, and more will be added as we get them scanned. We also plan to provide more communication on SCHS programs and Board activities and to eventually ask members to submit articles.

To access the Members Only section go to "members only," click on "Member Registration" and fill in the form. When your membership is verified you will receive an email allowing you

to sign in with your email address and the password you selected. Additional menu items will then be visible on the left. Please provide any thoughts or comments on our new website by going to "contact" and clicking the "Sacramento County Historical Society" link opposite "Email".



Mory Holmes
1933 - 2008

Longtime Supporter of

- ♣ Old City Cemetery Committee
- ♣ Sacramento Birthday Celebration
- ♣ SCHS Board and

Bearer of a joyous glow that still inspires...

Remembering also SCHS Past President
Mickey Knapp, 1929 - 2008

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Out & About

Date	Time	Event	Place & Contact
APRIL Ongoing thru June 15	10 AM to 5 PM daily	Must Women Wear Trousers? Updated version of popular 2001 exhibit addresses women's issues in the railroad workplace, 1900-1980. Last chance if you missed it earlier. Adults, \$3	California State Railroad Museum 2nd & I Streets, Old Sacramento www.californiastaterailroadmuseum.org
26 Sat and Tues – Sun thru 14 Jul	11 AM to 4 PM	Play Ball! The History of the San Francisco Giants. An amazing view of the history and highlights of the 50 years the Giants have been in San Francisco. Call for special dates.	Folsom History Museum 823 Sutter St., Folsom 916 985-2707 www.folsomhistorymuseum.org
26 Saturday	3 PM to 9 PM	Fiddlers Jam Session. After the baseball exhibit, enjoy another traditional American pastime— bluegrass! Jam session for fiddlers and friends. Play or listen, small fee.	Folsom History Museum Interpretive Area across Sutter St. from museum see above CA Bluegrass Assoc., Sacramento chapter
MAY 27 Tues	7 PM	SCHS Preservation Month presentation Roberta Deering, former City Preservation Officer	Sierra Sac. Valley Medical Museum 5380 Elvas Avenue Sacramento Directions: www.ssvms.org/directions.asp