

# THE RECORD

40<sup>th</sup>  
anniversary

See inside →

## 2014 Activities:

### Preservation:

1) Collaborated with SMCHA to effect donation of Norton Pearl's 250,000 negatives to SMCHA (Burlingame Historical Society retains rights to use Burlingame and Hillsborough images); 2) restored Ernest Norberg-designed c.1930 chandelier (now hanging in museum); 3) created historic plaque identifying the sole remaining redwood utility pole used by the 40-line electric trolley; 4) catalogued hundreds of new acquisitions; 5) transcribed dozens of oral histories; 6) digitized 75 archival tapes containing important oral interviews and personal histories dating from 1975.

### Research:

1) Continued research into Burlingame subdivisions, including Burlingame Park and builder Charles Hammer; 2) researched early history of Gates, Offield and Murphy homes; 3) identified BHS female swimmers from 1930s photo.

### Education:

1) Participated in Kohl Mansion centennial (local authors, live history, Day on the Green); 2) led tours of downtown in connection SMCHA's Victorian Day Walking Tours; 3) conducted third-grade Passport tours and several private tours; 4) sponsored *free* presentations on Holocaust survivor Helen Farkas, history of Burlingame Neighborhoods and the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake; 5) new "movie" of Then/Now on display in the museum.



Photo by Norton Pearl

## A Donation of a Lifetime

You may recognize the photo above. We used it in our 2008 *Burlingame Centennial* book. The Burlingame Historical Society has long known local photographer and BHS graduate, Norton Pearl. We know his work is exceptional — and vast. As a commercial photographer on the Peninsula for over half a century, Pearl photographed history as it was taking place, documenting changes in the social, political and physical landscape. One of his earliest photographs was taken in 1951 while he was still a student at Burlingame High School: it captured students crouching in the front hallway during a “duck and cover” exercise designed to shield them from a nuclear attack. On December 9, 2014 a dream of ours — and his — was fulfilled when Pearl's lifetime collection of 250,000 Peninsula images as original film negatives was donated to the San Mateo County Historical Association (SMCHA). After long consideration, it was determined we did not have the bandwidth to store and catalogue such a large collection and so we helped facilitate his donation to SMCHA. We are already working with the County developing a methodical strategy to facilitate the eventual cataloguing of 250,000 images. In return, we have been granted rights and access to Norton Pearl's images of Burlingame and Hillsborough.

## NEW ACQUISITIONS



*This medallion once embellished C. P. Weeks's old City Hall on Park Road, c.1914*

Thanks to: **Brad McCulley of the Burlingame Public Library** for a large decorative medallion "La Marianne," known as the "Mother of Civilization and Liberty" (see image on left). The medallion was one of six that embellished the old city hall on Park Road (1914-1970) until it was demolished, and then rescued by then city electrician "Buzz" Taylor, who donated it to the main library where it was displayed for many years; **Edward Eisenman** for a limited edition "John Parrott 1811-1884" by Barbara Donohoe Jostes, 1972; **Paul Constantino**, for misc. clippings related to former and current Burlingame and Hillsborough residents and events; **Constance Quirk Cohen** for "The Oaks" Mercy High School annual report Fall 2014 containing numerous photos of Kohl Mansion's Centennial event; **Lancing Hatfield**, son of **Hamilton Hatfield**, builder of many Mills Estate homes, for a CD containing copies of Mills Estate parcels from the 1950s marked in red, presumably where Hatfield intended to build; and **John and Diane Geer** for a wide array of paraphernalia related to John's lifelong career with the Burlingame School District, as well as a framed 1940s era silkscreened Fox & Carskadon Real Estate sign used to sell their home at 2104 Carmelita Avenue in 1946 for a sale price of \$16,500!

## DID YOU KNOW? What's new at the museum

**Norberg Chandelier:** Several years ago, the Burlingame Public Library donated the original Norberg-designed library chandelier to us, a huge spanish revival style fixture that had adorned the library for 60 years. It was in sad disrepair and none of the lampshades had survived the move to storage during the 1990s remodel. Recently, the Board voted to fund the complete restoration of the fixture so that it could be installed in the museum. It looks amazing, as if it was always meant to be in our iconic railroad station. Nearly a third of the cost was donated by the city of Burlingame's Community Grant program.



### New Exhibit:

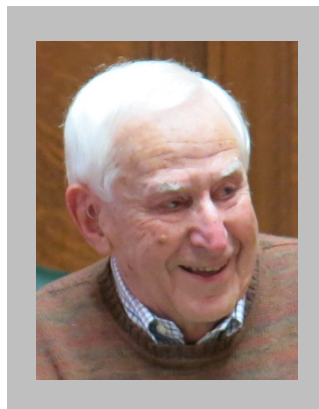
**"Duck and Cover--Civil Defense in Burlingame,"** features artifacts and stories from the 1950s and 1960s, when fears of atomic warfare gripped the nation.

Visit the museum and make a donation of \$10 or more to receive a genuine vintage Burlingame Civil Defense metal armband - while supplies last!

## More Norton Pearl Photos



*Poplar Creek Golf Course in Snow 1962*



*Norton Pearl 2014*



*Opening day at the Rec Center 1949*



## A View of the Easton Additions

**The Town of Easton** was “added” to Burlingame in 1910. By 1913, over 100 homes graced North Burlingame, many of which still exist today. Come and hear **Burlingame Historical Society board member Mary Packard** present the stories of the people who built these homes. She will also show us the wide variety of architectural styles used.

This **quarterly meeting** on Thursday, February 26, at 7 p.m. in the **Lane Room** of the Burlingame Public Library will be preceded at 6:30 by our **Annual Meeting** with reports and election of officers.

**Thurs. Feb. 26, 2015 7 pm**



*Above: The commercial building that currently houses “Nuts for Candy” and a home once located at 1145 Laguna Avenue*

The Nominating Committee consisting of Cathy Foxhoven, Kiki Arnaudo, and Joanne Garrison met with the Board's approval in November to suggest the following **PROPOSED SLATE OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS for 2015-16**: Co-President (Archives) - Jen Pfaff; Co-President (Programs) - Cathy Foxhoven ; VP Museum - Russ Cohen; VP Membership - Diane Condon-Wirgler; Treasurer - Cathy Baylock; Secretary - Rosalie McCloud. Nominations will also be taken from the floor.

### IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN THE BURLINGAME HISTORICAL SOCIETY!

Please look on your **mailing label** for your current membership level. **Life members and BFL do not owe any dues. We welcome upgrades or donations to our General Fund; simply mark the box on the envelope, if you wish to do so.**

Student / Senior : \$20  
Sole Proprietor: \$100  
Corporation: \$250/YR

Individual : \$35  
Lifetime Individual: \$250 one-time payment  
Benefactor Lifetime (business or individual): \$1,000 one-time payment

**Annual  
Meeting  
and Dues**

### Thanks To:

**Don Doyle** for fixing the door of the Archives facility on a moment's notice; **Victoria Jacobs**, for her generous donation in memory of her mother, **Ruth Jacobs**;

**John and Charles Geer** for the very generous donation to honor their mother, **Claire Geer** on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her birth. Additionally, we would like to recognize **Ed and Patti Fichtner** for their kind, generous and ongoing support of our Association for many years.

### Welcome! New Members and Upgrades:

Don Donoughe – Individual

David T. Chai – Life

Patricia Fichtner – Benefactor Life  
John Geer – Benefactor Life

## Calendar

### **A View of The Easton Additions & Annual Mtg**

Thurs. Feb. 26, 2015

Lane Room, Burl. Public Library

6:30 Annual Meeting; 7 pm program

### **'Duck and Cover' Exhibit:**

**Burlingame Hillsborough  
History Museum**

### **Museum Open:**

1st Sun. of each month, 1-4 PM.

Feb 1, March 1, April 5, May 3

### **Museum Docents Needed!**

No experience required. Please call  
340-9960 to volunteer.

*Please remember us in  
your trust or will!*

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## THE BURLINGAME HISTORICAL SOCIETY

WINTER 2015, ISSUE 141

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### **President's Message**



Who would have guessed, that when I was struggling through American History at San Mateo High 40 years ago, a small, but passionate group of local historians

in Burlingame was busy telling stories of the past, and squirreling away artifacts for what would soon become The Burlingame Historical Society. Imagine... now, I'm one of them!

I'd like to thank all those volunteers, past and present, who have been instrumental in our successes over these four decades.

Beginning in February, (assuming the membership votes in support of the nominated slate) we

will be creating two distinct leadership positions to head our organization for 2015-16: Co-President-Archives and Co-President- Programs. As you've likely noticed while reading about the projects and activities in our newsletters and on our website, it has become a huge challenge for one person to manage so many different aspects of our association.

As always, I look forward to the coming year. Please consider joining my board and me as we each donate to the "\$40 for 40" fundraising challenge this month. Heartfelt thanks to those of you who have donated generously on a regular basis. These funds are not only appreciated, but absolutely necessary for our continued success.

*- Jennifer Pfaff*

### **Current Officers 2014:**

President - Jennifer Pfaff

VP - Museum

Russ Cohen

VP - Membership and

Education

Diane Condon-

Wirgler

Treasurer - Cathy Baylock

Secretary - Rosalie

McCloud

Oral and Living History -

Cathy Foxhoven

Corresponding Secretary

Mary Packard

Newsletter -

Joanne Garrison