

**Treasure Island Museum**  
**“Little Island, Big Ideas” Program Series**  
**March 2013 – April 2022**

**Information for speakers:** The “Little Island, Big Ideas” lecture series is presented with support from the Treasure Island Development Authority and funding from the Historic Preservation Fund of the City of San Francisco, Office of Economic and Workforce Development. With occasional exceptions, lectures are held on Treasure Island in the lobby of historic Building One on the last Saturday of the month at 10:30 a.m. Lectures typically last about 45 minutes although there is no firm time limit. We have full audio/visual capability and, with permission of the speaker, videotape the lectures as part of the Treasure Island Museum’s educational mission.

**2013**

March 2, San Francisco History Expo at the San Francisco Mint. ***A Peaceable Island: The 1939–1940 Golden Gate International Exposition.*** Richard Reinhardt attended the Golden Gate International Exposition as a teenager. His personal memoir, *Treasure Island 1939-1940: The Exposition Years*, published in 1972, is an unparalleled classic. Join us for an entertaining and touching trip back to 1939 as Reinhardt shares his wonderful collection of color and black and white images, reflecting his love for the fair, awareness of the sweep of local history, and wry sense of humor.

*Speaker: Richard Reinhardt is a local and national journalist who has published articles in many newspapers and magazines, and is the author of several books of local history as well as a historical novel.*

April 13. ***The Greatest Bridges.*** The Bay and Golden Gate Bridges were, at the time of their construction, the world’s longest of their kind, as is the new Bay Bridge span. Learn how these iconic bridges were conceived, evolved and realized.

*Speaker: Mara Melandry is retired from her position as Environmental Manager at CalTrans.*

May 11. ***Treasure Island: San Francisco’s First International Airport.*** The first trans-Pacific airline service, Pan Am’s “Clipper” flying boats, took off from Treasure Island during the world’s fair, bringing San Francisco into the new worldwide air age.

*Speaker: John H. Hill is the director of the San Francisco International Airport Museum.*

June 8. ***Treasure Island: Naval Gateway to the Pacific.*** In its heyday, Naval Station Treasure Island dispatched thousands of sailors and marines each day to help win World War II in the Pacific, but the Navy’s presence here spanned a century, including the first West Coast Naval Training Station and the last postwar residence of Admiral Chester Nimitz.

*Speaker: James Sullivan, Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Environmental Coordinator,*

*Department of the Navy.*

July 13. Magic **City 2.0**. Already designated one of just 18 Climate Positive Model Communities worldwide by the Clinton Climate Initiative, Treasure Island will soon redevelop and reinvent itself as San Francisco's newest and most sustainable neighborhood and a destination for visitors and locals alike.

*Speaker: Jay Wallace, Treasure Island Community Development LLC, and Chris Guillard, CMG Landscape Architects.*

August 10. **TI Today: One Happening Square Mile**. Home to wineries, artists' studios, a sound stage, a job training center, annual music and rowing festivals, a monthly flea market, an airport control tower and the finest views of San Francisco's skyline.

*Speaker: Mirian Saez, Director of Island Operations, Treasure Island Development Authority*

September 21. **The Treasure Island Museum: Keeper of Treasure Island's Legacy**. For over 20 years, until its closing in 1997, the Treasure Island Museum introduced visitors to the rich history of the island. The Association continues this tradition, while the museum is poised to return, with a new vision, as part of the island's redevelopment plan.

**Speakers: Treasure Island Museum Association former presidents and vice presidents Anne Schnoebelen, Mimi Manning, and Claire Wahrhaftig, and current president Walt Bilofsky.**

October 5. **Binary Stars: Diego and Frida in San Francisco**. Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo's impact still reverberates across the Bay area. Rivera's 1930–31 San Francisco commissions led to an invitation to paint on Treasure Island during the GGIE. As World War II heated up, the fair's "Art in Action" program was the incubator for his great "Pan American Unity" mural, which advocated action against the Nazis. The talk will survey these local murals and their recurring artistic themes.

*Speaker: Will Maynez, historian and steward of the Pan American Unity mural.*

November 9. **The Cult of Pacifica: Treasure Island's Vision of Pacific Unity**. Treasure Island's Golden Gate International Exposition (1939–40) lived up to its description as "A Pageant of the Pacific" through foreign participation, art and architecture, and programming. Was the fair a sincere take on the possibility of Pacific unity? What were the aspirations of "Pacific House" and plans for its iconic works of art? With war in the Pacific looming, how was the theme sustained over the fair's two years?

*Speaker: Anne Schnoebelen is a preservation activist, author, and program chair of the Treasure Island Museum. She has been affiliated with the Treasure Island Museum for thirty years.*

## 2014

January 11. ***Beyond the Tunnel: Yerba Buena Island.*** The fascinating natural and cultural legacy of Treasure Island's neighbor includes sacred burial grounds, court battles over ownership, goats that ate the herb that is the island's namesake, a US Army "torpedo station," an 1875 lighthouse and significant surviving indigenous flora and fauna.

*Speaker: Ruth Gravanis, long-time citizen advocate in the TI/YBI redevelopment process.*

February 15. ***Happy 75<sup>th</sup>, Magic City!*** Join a festive celebration of the Golden Gate International Exposition's Diamond Jubilee with personal memories from *Richard Reinhardt, Claire Isaacs Wahrhaftig, and former GGIE employee Marie Giannini.* We'll have stories, exhibits, and a place to display your memorabilia. If you went to the fair, or worked or played there, please come and let us hear your voices. If you missed the fair, meet the people who created it and experienced it.

March 1. At SF History Expo at the Old Mint. ***On the Ropes: Political Ideology and the WPA at Treasure Island.*** How unique are today's Washington culture wars? In the late 1930s, resurgent Republican power in Congress endangered many New Deal programs including the Works Progress Administration. The WPA played a major role in the creation of the Golden Gate International Exposition, and in 1940 fought back with a public relations campaign to tell the public what it was getting for its money.

*Speaker: Gray Brechin, historical geographer, author and scholar, and founder of The Living New Deal.*

April 12. ***Timothy Pflueger: Architect of Pacific Unity.*** Among the architects for the fair, Timothy Pflueger was the most influential, and his Federal Building was one of its most modern designs. He worked with Ralph Stackpole and other local artists and sculptors to design the iconic Court of Pacifica, and hired Diego Rivera, a key attraction at the dynamic Art in Action exhibition.

*Speaker: Therese Poletti, author of Art Deco San Francisco: The Architecture of Timothy Pflueger.*

May 17. ***Let's go to the Fair!*** Stunning postcards and brochures from the GGIE carry you back to the Magic City on Treasure Island in 1939 and 1940. Tour the gardens and sculpture, exhibit halls, and the amusement zone. Let ephemera from the past lead you through Billy Rose's Aquacade, Sally Rand's Nude Ranch, "Art in Action," foreign pavilions and other fabulous attractions.

*Speaker: Kathryn Ayres, vice president of the San Francisco Bay Area Post Card Club.*

June 21. ***Expanding by Shrinking to Meet Wartime Manpower: A Case Study on the Bay.*** During World War II, the stockades and psychiatric ward at Treasure Island Naval Base bore

witness to the first stirrings of a 70-year evolution in military policy towards gays. Psychiatric practices screened out, hospitalized and discharged homosexuals rather than punishing and imprisoning them. Visual culture from the period and psychiatric and popular assumptions and prejudices illuminate the impact of the war effort and psychiatry on society's attitude towards an emerging minority identity.

*Speaker: David Duckworth is an historian and author on American visual culture.*

September 27. ***Moulin Studios: Images of the Fair.*** As the official photographer of the 1939–40 Golden Gate International Exposition, Gabriel Moulin had unlimited access to the Treasure Island fair site. This lecture presents images from Moulin's 100,000+ piece archive, which also includes photos of historically, politically, and culturally significant events in the United States and abroad.

*Speaker: Jean E. Moulin is the owner and steward of the Moulin Studio historic San Francisco photograph collection.*

October 25. ***Marco Cochrane: The Man Behind Bliss Dance.*** The tradition of Treasure Island as a crucible of creative art dates from the 1939–40 fair and thrives again today in many artists' and designers' studios.

*About the speaker: Marco Cochrane is a resident artist on Treasure Island, creator of the island's colossal "Bliss Dance" metal sculpture and frequent contributing sculptor to Burning Man. ("Bliss Dance" was on display on Treasure Island from 2011 until 2016.)*

November 15. ***From Garden to Table on Treasure Island.*** The island's future redevelopment plans include restaurants and an urban farm, but they're both here already. The Culinary Arts Program of the Treasure Island Job Corps Center serves its diners with produce from its own organic garden.

*Speaker: Corey Block, manager of the Michelle Obama Treasure Island Job Corps Green Acre.*

## 2015

**March-May 2015: The World Comes to San Francisco: The Expositions of 1894, 1915, and 1939.** In February of 2015, San Francisco celebrated the one-hundredth anniversary of the opening of the Panama Pacific International Exposition. Celebrations of the PPIE occurred throughout 2015 in San Francisco. But on Treasure Island, we showed our love for all of San Francisco's world's fairs. After all, only one other American city, New York, has had three world's fairs. Three outstanding speakers will showcase these beautiful expos for us. With their passion, research, and spectacular image collections they will present the trailblazing events that brought the world's beauty, art and innovation to San Francisco's doorstep.

March 21. ***California's Midwinter Fair and its Legacies to San Francisco and to History.*** The

California Midwinter Exposition was the first, smallest, and least remembered of San Francisco's three worlds fairs. Conceived, designed and constructed in five months to exhibit the greatest artistic and industrial treasures of its time, it was a miracle of inspiration, hard work and dedication by the people of San Francisco. Among its grand exhibit palaces showcasing wonders of art, industry and agriculture were a myriad of "concessions" offering exotic foods, entertainments and souvenirs to ensure that its visitors would garner lasting memories. Historian Ed Herny will present highlights of the fair, its enduring legacy of museums, ornaments and gardens in Golden Gate Park, and the ephemeral legacy of its souvenir memorabilia. Taken together they form an impression of this unforgettable experience.

*About the speaker: Historian and archivist Ed Herny is the author of **Berkeley Bohemia: Artists and Visionaries of the Early Twentieth Century** (2008) as well as **Picturing Berkeley: a Postcard History**. He is a founding member of the Berkeley Historical Society and president of the San Francisco Bay Area Post Card Club.*

April 25. **Building the Panama Pacific International Exposition.** Join historian Laura Ackley for the dramatic story of how the gorgeous palaces of the Panama Pacific International Exposition were designed and constructed in just a few short months between 1912 and 1915. Ackley will also describe how exhibits were selected, how the fair was promoted and the ways in which the outbreak of World War I affected the exposition. Progress photographs of construction will culminate in the grand opening day parade and festivities. The lecture will be illustrated with dramatic and often rare images of the exposition's creation, including panoramas, souvenirs, lantern slides and postcards.

*About the speaker: Laura Ackley holds graduate degrees in architecture from Harvard University and the University of California at Berkeley. Her book, **San Francisco's Jewel City: The Panama Pacific International Exposition of 1915**, was published in 2014.*

May 23. **Pacific Peace, Pacific War: Treasure Island and the Golden Gate International Exposition.** The Golden Gate International Exposition of 1939-1940 was San Francisco's last great public celebration prior to America's entry into World War II. The theme of this "Pageant of the Pacific" was "Pacific Unity." How did the deepening international crisis affect the fair, particularly America's ongoing race with Japan to conquer the Pacific? Did Treasure Island itself play a part in this race? This presentation will focus on Treasure Island in its historical context, but also explore the fun and beauty of the fair, particularly its "Pacific" theme.

*About the speaker: Anne Schnoebelen is a writer and noted preservationist. She is on the board of directors of the Treasure Island Museum and its program chair.*

June 27. **Alcatraz Island: Sustainability Pioneer.** As Treasure Island's sustainable redevelopment nears, find out what it takes to bring green technology to a prison power plant constructed back when TI was still a shoal beneath the Bay. Hybrid cars are common, but have you seen a hybrid ferry? Find out how these and other renewable energy projects throughout the Golden Gate National Recreation Area were planned and installed, and how they are performing.

*About the speaker: Laura Castellani is the sustainability coordinator at the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, where she has worked on renewable energy, recycling, and energy and water conservation projects since 2005. Laura is a Bay Area native with a master's degree in marine biology from San Francisco State University.*

July 25. ***With Two Feet on the Ground: Labor and the Building of Treasure Island.*** How to build an island in San Francisco Bay in the 1930s? Explore the matrix of laborers and unions, tasks, equipment, technologies, sponsoring agencies and corporate enterprises, and come to understand the challenges and achievement of labor in realizing this visionary project.

*About the speaker: David Duckworth is an historian and author on American visual culture.*

September 26. ***Treasure Island: Creating a Livable Future.*** Learn how Treasure Island's acclaimed redevelopment plan, built on an historic foundation of innovation and forward-thinking vision, will be a global model for sustainability in a new century. As construction is about to begin on the latest reinvention of Treasure and Yerba Buena Islands, examine what it means to live in a climate-changed world and how this project can help light a path toward a thriving and sustainable future.

*About the speaker: Tom Schueneman is the founder, publisher and editor of GlobalWarmingisReal.com.*

November 21. ***Compass and a Camera: A Year in Vietnam.*** Steven Burchik joined the U.S. Army at the peak of the Vietnam War as a sergeant with the First Infantry Division. Mr. Burchik documented his tour of duty in Vietnam (1968-69), taking thousands of photographs and writing detailed letters to his future wife. Mr. Burchik will discuss his experiences in Vietnam, as well as illuminating the role of Naval Station Treasure Island as a training facility for both American and Vietnamese personnel during the Vietnam War. His book, *Compass and a Camera: A Year in Vietnam*, was published in November 2014 and won the Silver Medal at the 2015 Independent Publisher Book Awards.

This event was held in tribute to Colonel George P. Reilly, USMC. Steven and George were friends from college days in New York. George, who served on the Board of Directors of the Treasure Island Museum for more than thirty years, died in February of 2015.

## 2016

January 30. ***I Flew the Pan Am Clippers.*** In 1942, Tom Kewin applied to Pan American Airways for a job on the legendary Pan Am Clipper flying boats, then providing wartime service to the Navy out of Treasure Island. That was the start of a flight engineering career spanning an aviation era from the first transpacific passenger service to the Boeing 747. Hear Mr. Kewin's personal recollections of his life and times on Treasure Island and around the world.

*About the speaker: Tom Kewin is a Pan American Airways veteran and author of the book **The Pan Am Journey**. He lives in Mill Valley.*

February 27. ***The Fair That Never Was: Richard Neutra, Joseph Strauss, Henry Murphy and the 1939 World's Fair***. Gain a unique perspective on the architectural history and San Francisco politics of the mid-1930s through the lens of three little-known alternative plans for the 1939 San Francisco World's Fair. Richard Neutra offered a dazzling design for a fair in South Basin. Part of a local effort at boosterism, Neutra studied the site, proposed an entire theme, drew up the scheme, and produced a broadside to publicize it—all intended to undercut the idea to house the fair on an artificial island on the shoals of Yerba Buena Island. Likewise, Joseph Strauss, recovering from a nervous breakdown after his work on the Golden Gate Bridge, created a competing plan that would have tied into his bridge and site of the 1915 fair. A third architect, Henry Murphy, designed an alternate scheme for Treasure Island as a simulacrum of the Pacific housed in a colossal pagoda. These three, along with a plan by Bernard Maybeck, show a range of possibilities that illuminate the period's architectural thinking and San Francisco's planning process for the Golden Gate International Exposition.

*About the speaker: Andrew Shanken, Professor of Architecture at the University of California, Berkeley, whose book, **Into the Void Pacific: Building the 1939 San Francisco World's Fair**, was published in 2015.*

March 6. ***Pacific Pageant: Treasure Island and the Golden Gate International Exposition***. The Golden Gate International Exposition (GGIE, 1939-1940), San Francisco's last great public celebration prior to America's entry into World War II, was also San Francisco (and California's) last exposition. Political situations changed dramatically in Europe and the Pacific as the fair progressed. Some participants adapted their programs to accommodate current events in their homelands, and others left the fair entirely. The GGIE also endeavored to bridge an ever-widening cultural and political gulf between Asia and the United States. Even before it became a Naval base in 1941, Treasure Island itself, with a little help from Pan American Airways and the US Navy, played a role in America's preparation for entry into World War II.

*About the speaker: Anne Schnoebelen is a preservation activist, author, and program chair of the Treasure Island Museum. She has been affiliated with the Treasure Island Museum for thirty years.*

March 19. ***Guns, Gangsters and the Gayway! Treasure Island Noir***. Enjoy a unique visit to Treasure Island's 1939-1940 Golden Gate International Exposition with award-winning crime fiction author Kelli Stanley, along with her heroine, the ex-escort, former Spanish Civil War nurse and iconoclastic private eye Miranda Corbie. Kelli's best-selling and award-winning series of literary noir novels plunge the reader into a fully-realized past, from the scent of Shalimar in smoky night clubs to the murky world of "flesh shows" on Treasure Island's Gayway. The GGIE and Treasure Island play major roles in both plot and character, and Kelli's noirish take on the celebrated "Pageant of the Pacific" is not to be missed. Join her in a discussion of the in-depth research and inspiration behind her stories and preview what's in store

for Miranda and the GGIE in the series' fourth novel, *City of Sharks*.

*About the speaker: Kelli Stanley has received the Macavity and Golden Nugget awards for her Miranda Corbie books, was a Los Angeles Times Book Prize finalist, and was named a literary heir of Dashiell Hammett by his granddaughter in **Publisher's Weekly**. She holds a master's degree in classics, lives in San Francisco, and prefers her bourbon neat.*

April 30. ***Magic City 2.0: An Update***. As the long-awaited redevelopment of Treasure and Yerba Buena Islands gets underway, the master developer will present new details of the plan and discuss how the vision will start to be realized. Parks and open spaces will make up more than half of Treasure and Yerba Buena Islands under the redevelopment plan. These public spaces will serve an important role in fulfilling many of the project's principles, including building community, connecting the public with nature, and telling the islands' stories. Julian Pancoast, Development Manager for Treasure Island Community Development, will present a project update and explain how the first phase of development will set the tone for a wonderful new neighborhood in the middle of the Bay.

*Speaker: Julian Pancoast manages planning, design, and entitlements for the Treasure Island redevelopment project, with a particular focus on public spaces and transportation.*

## 2017

September 23. ***America's First Artists: Native American Art at the GGIE***. The Golden Gate International Exposition was the last great American world's fair to feature Native American art and culture prominently. American Indian objects were variously glossed as anthropological specimen, commodity, and art. This talk presents the multiple venues that displayed our native art, particularly in relation to the peoples of the Pacific Rim, the fair's official theme.

*Speaker: Research Anthropologist Ira Jacknis, PhD, Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley.*

October 7. Midway 1942: ***Time for a Command Decision***. After Pearl Harbor and other breathtaking military victories, Japan was intoxicated with feelings of invincibility. In June 1942, enemy forces maneuvered toward American-held Midway Atoll. Brilliant naval intelligence and the steadfast determination of Admiral Chester Nimitz altered the tempo of war, crippling invaders and taking to the offensive in the Pacific.

*Speaker: Michael Svanevik, Professor of History Emeritus, College of San Mateo.*

Following the lecture, tours of the historic Nimitz residence on Yerba Buena Island will be conducted by Rear Admiral John Bitoff, USN (Ret), who lived in the house from 1989-91.

November 18. ***You Can Get Here from There: Sustainable Transportation to the New Treasure Island***. Lowering the impact of travel to the redeveloped Treasure Island is essential to its vision

as a world model for sustainable development. The adopted plan calls for new ferry and bus service, pedestrian-only streets and an on-island shuttle, funded by fares, parking fees and a peak period congestion toll. Learn about strategies to minimize Bay Bridge congestion, provide alternatives to solo car trips, enable “car-shedding” and ensure funding while reducing the cost burden for low-income households.

*Speaker: Rachel Hiatt, Principal Planner, San Francisco County Transportation Authority.*

## 2018

January 27. ***The Heritage and the Vision: Planning the New Treasure Island Museum.*** For over 40 years, the Treasure Island Museum has surprised and inspired island visitors with remarkable stories of innovation and collective civic achievement. As the island enters its latest transformation into a world model of sustainable living, learn about the vision for the museum’s reinvention and how it will help visitors to appreciate the rich legacy of this island of big ideas.

*Speaker: Walt Bilofsky, President, Treasure Island Museum.*

February 24. ***From the Magic City to the Magic Kingdom: Walt Disney at the GGIE.*** Walt Disney and Disney Studios are well known for their contributions to the 1964-65 New York World’s Fair. “Great Moments With Mr. Lincoln,” “It’s a Small World,” and other canonical attractions at Disney parks worldwide made their debuts in New York in 1964. But did you know that Walt and the studio’s first contribution to a world’ fair happened right here, on Treasure Island? And when Walt visited the Golden Gate International Exposition in 1939, experiences and exhibits affected him profoundly and ultimately influenced the development of Disneyland.

*Speaker: Anne Schnoebelen, Vice President, Treasure Island Museum.*

March 24. ***32,000 years of Climate Change: Human Adaptation and the Creation of the Bay.*** Since 20,000 BC, geological and climate changes have shaped both native peoples on Yerba Buena Island and the island itself, then a mountain in an inland valley. The evolution of this landscape, along with increasing population and technological innovation, compelled a series of adaptive strategies revealed in archaeological excavations on the island and the greater Bay Area.

*Speaker: Philip Kaijankoski, Far Western Anthropological Research Group, Inc.*

April 21. ***49 Miles to the Fair: San Francisco’s Storied Scenic Drive Began at the GGIE.*** The 49 Mile Scenic Drive was born as a promotion to draw Golden Gate International Exposition visitors to the rest of the city. Even President Franklin Roosevelt drove it, back in 1938. Had the island segment not been removed when the fair ended, how many fewer of today’s San Franciscans would say “I’ve never been to Treasure Island?” Learn more about the origins of this famous route, and the quirky histories and mysteries to be discovered along its 49 miles.

*Speakers: Kristine Poggioli and Carolyn Eidson, authors of Walking San Francisco's 49 Mile Scenic Drive.*

**May 26. Intrigue and Romance at the Fair: Factual and Fictional Views of the Japanese Pavilion.** In the newly published novel *Beautiful Illusion*, a cub reporter discovers romance and espionage as she investigates the Golden Gate International Exposition's Japanese Pavilion. What secrets did author Christie Nelson discover in her research into Japan's beautiful display on Treasure Island as that nation warred in Asia and prepared to attack America? And what inspiration does artist Patricia Araujo find in the face of Ralph Stackpole's iconic Pacifica statue from the fair?

*Speakers: Christie Nelson and Patricia Araujo. The author will autograph copies of her novel to benefit the museum.*

**June 23. Halliburton's Final Dare: Sailing the Pacific to the GGIE.** Of the many ways to travel to the Golden Gate International Exposition, crossing the Pacific Ocean in a Chinese junk could have been the most unusual. Nothing seemed beyond adventurer and writer Richard Halliburton's spirit of "impulse and spontaneity." He had already circumnavigated the globe in an open cockpit biplane and swum the length of the Panama Canal. Now, having built the Sea Dragon in a Hong Kong at war with Japan, he and his companion Paul Mooney embarked with much fanfare, never reaching Treasure Island, their intended destination. His ill-fated trip is seen within the context of the Pacific war and the Exposition's theme of trans-Pacific unity, positioning Halliburton as a gay man who shaped his own unique trajectory.

*Speaker: Cultural historian David Duckworth*

**July 28. Art in Action: Past, Present and Future Inspiring Visitors and Each Other.** Watching artists at work has been a hallmark of Treasure Island throughout its history. At the Art in Action exhibit in 1940, fairgoers saw Diego Rivera, Ruth Cravath, Dudley Carter and scores of other artists creating their works. Throughout the fair Native American sand painters, artists, and artisans from across the world worked in public view. In recent years, visitors could wander into the Treasure Island studios of sculptors Peter Hudson, who has left the island, and Marco Cochrane, who remains and envisions the return of Art in Action to a redeveloped Treasure Island where artists at work can once again inspire visitors and each other.

*Speakers: Sculptor Marco Cochrane and Brianna Jilson, Collections Manager, Treasure Island Museum*

**September 22. No Island Is an Island: Curious Connections among Treasure, Angel and Yerba Buena Islands.** Links between these islands go as far back as the beautiful Victorian officer's quarters that floated from Yerba Buena to Angel Island in 1882. While islands' inherent isolation brings wonderful unique perks, like the evolution of endemic species such as the Angel Island mole, some of the limitations of island life necessitate interdependence with others. Come learn how isolation in plain sight led to unusual relationships among Angel Island State Park,

Yerba Buena and Treasure Islands, Alcatraz and even the "mainland." Examples from Angel Island, such as the Alcatraz Garden on the south side, Quarters 10 at Camp Reynolds, and the Public Health Quarantine Station tell us stories about the symbiotic relationships driven by island life.

*Speaker: Linda Moore, President, Angel Island Conservancy*

October 6. (Fleet Week.) ***Keeping You Safe Around the Bay***. U.S. Coast Guard personnel on Yerba Buena Island save lives, monitor shipping around the Bay, upriver and out to sea; interdict illegal drugs, hazardous materials and contraband; and maintain navigation aids up and down the coast. Come for a behind-the-scenes look at the USCG's varied local missions and their relationship with the Bay Area.

*Speaker: Petty Officer Cree Townsend, USCG.*

November 17. ***Laying the Seeds for the GGIE: SF's Pacific Rim Fairs from 1869***. Long before the GGIE or even the Panama Pacific Exposition of 1915, San Francisco's Mechanics' Institute sponsored dozens of pioneering expositions encouraging trade with other Pacific Rim countries and exposing the curious citizens of the Bay Area to their exotic cultures and products. Come learn how these efforts laid the seeds for the GGIE and other large-scale expositions.

*Speaker: Taryn Edwards, Librarian, Mechanics' Institute Library.*

## 2019

January 26. ***Temptation at the Fair: Enjoying and Exploring Food at the GGIE***. Local ingredients and innovative approaches are hallmarks of today's SF culinary experience. And so it was 80 years ago at the GGIE, which offered a taste of California's bounty, San Francisco's specialties, and exotic world cuisines. With Prohibition repealed, local beer and wine flowed, and the latest food technologies were showcased. Come see what was cookin' and how it influenced how we look at food today.

*Speakers: Pam Elder and Erica J. Peters, Culinary Historians of Northern California.*

February 2. ***80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Golden Gate International Exposition (Part 1)***. *Special time: 2-4 p.m.* Treasure Island's beautiful Art Moderne Administration Building will be the setting for an afternoon of lively presentations, conversations with GGIE "veterans," a raffle, refreshments, exhibits and more.

*Presenters include Kathryn Ayres of the San Francisco Post Card Club and Paul Totah, editor of The San Francisco Fair, published for the fair's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1989. Panelists were Richard Reinhardt, Claire Isaacs Wahrhaftig and John Underhill, all of whom attended the fair as children.*

February 9. ***Lighting the Fuse to Civil Rights: The Port Chicago Trial at Treasure Island.*** *Special time: 2-4:30 pm.* A Port Chicago exhibit will be on display beginning on January 26. The Treasure Island Museum, in partnership with the Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial, the San Francisco Public Library and the Friends of Port Chicago Memorial, presents a lecture and symposium on Port Chicago.

The program will present the story of the disaster and trial. A panel of experts will discuss how these events contributed to the mid-century modern civil rights movement, and how they inform issues still being dealt with today. An exhibition on Port Chicago will be on view in the Building One lobby beginning on from January 26, presented by the S.F. Public Library and the Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial.

Moderator:

Mary Wardell-Ghirarduzzi, Vice Provost for Diversity Engagement and Community Outreach, USF

The Port Chicago Story: Oak Dowling, JD, Instructor, Dominican University.

Panel Discussion: Prof. Rhonda Magee, USF School of Law

Prof. James Taylor, USF Dept. of African American Studies

Kelli English, Chief of Interpretation, Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial

David Salniker, Board Member, Friends of Port Chicago National Memorial

March 30. ***“But Today Their Interest Knows no Limits”: Exceptional Women of the GGIE.*** Political and economic power brokers, most of them male, may have built Treasure Island and brought the Golden Gate International Exposition into being. But the creative energy of women was responsible for most of what was most noteworthy and memorable about the fair’s art, education and entertainment, from exotic dancers to the highest achievements in arts management.

*Speaker: Anne Schnoebelen, Vice President, Treasure Island Museum.*

April 4. ***80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Golden Gate International Exposition (Part II).*** *Special date, time and location.* Co-sponsored with the Mechanics Institute of San Francisco. This all-day celebration included a day of lectures and an evening reception featuring food, vintage live music, and a keynote address by GGIE author Richard Reinhardt. Speakers: Ira Jacknis, “Pageant of the Pacific”: Native American Art at the San Francisco World’s Fair, 1939–40; Anne Schnoebelen, The GGIE and the Visual Arts; Will Maynez, Diego Rivera’s “Pan American Unity” Mural; Laurie Gordon and Art Deco Society of California, Decobelles Fashion Show--Fashions of the 1939 World’s Fairs; Kathryn Ayres, World’s Fairest Bodies: The Female Nude at the Golden Gate International Exposition.

April 27. ***Always Ready: Coast Guard History on Treasure Island.*** Semper Paratus, “always ready.” For more than a century, the United States Coast Guard has helped shape Ba Area history by protecting American safety and security throughout California’s waters. Coast Guard operations from Crescent City to Monterey are managed from Yerba Buena Island, and touch

every piece of the region’s maritime environment—Alcatraz Island, ferry boat transits, the Cosco-Busan oil spill, rescues at sea, drug interdiction, and the import and export of materials along the entire coast. Discover the Coast Guard’s origins in the Bay Area and the history and heritage of each of its predecessor agencies, from the building of the Yerba Buena Lighthouse in 1875 to the absorption of the Lighthouse Service by the Coast Guard in 1939. And get the inside scoop on the modern story of the agency, from its WWII and current maritime operations to its preservation of historic sites on Yerba Buena and throughout the Bay Area.

*Speaker: Petty Officer Cree Townsend.*

May 25. **Growing Treasure Island: from Geology to Horticulture.** Ever wonder what man-made Treasure Island was planted on, geologically speaking? Curious about the horticultural wonders planted on the island for the Golden Gate International Exposition of 1939-1940? Learn about the complex geology and construction factors that shaped Treasure Island’s creation, including how its perimeter was built in 1937 using boulders extracted from the tunnel that was being bored through Yerba Buena Island during construction of the Bay Bridge, and how the island’s soil is today being reinforced with fill from the Caldecott Tunnel’s fourth bore. Then turn to the gorgeous plantings on the “finished” island in preparation for the exposition, such as the legions of palm, eucalypti’s and olive trees that lined the streets and the fabled explosion of floral designs throughout the many fair courts, created by contractors like the California Nursery Company.

*Speaker: Dr. Joyce Blueford, Geologist and Board President, Math/Science Nucleus, a partner in the California Nursery Historical Park.*

June 29. **Arts Visionary: Dr. Grace McCann Morley.** In 1940, Dr. Grace McCann Morley, the first director of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, curated a wildly popular exhibition titled “South and Central American Art” at the Golden Gate International Exposition. Dr. Morley’s work ultimately inspired her to establish one of the earliest and most inclusive collections of contemporary Latin American art in the United States at SFMMA. Dr. Morley’s taste in Latin American art, and modern Andean art in particular, was often questioned and even ridiculed by her East Coast colleagues. This lecture will examine Dr. Morley’s identity as a queer woman museum director working on the West Coast as a potential foundation for her difference in taste and pioneering vision of modern art representing diversity.

*Speaker: Professor Berit Potter, Humboldt State University.*

July 27. **Treasure Island: Build It And They Will Come – Organized Labor at the GGIE.** From the first scoops of Bay mud to the final coat of paint applied to the buildings of the Golden Gate International Exposition, organized labor was there. In honor of San Francisco’s LaborFest, author Harvey Smith will discuss the contributions of organized labor to the creation of Treasure Island and the construction of the courts and palaces of the exposition, where Labor Day was honored in both 1939 and 1940 with special ceremonies.

*Speaker: Harvey Smith, Project Advisor with the Living New Deal and author of **Berkeley and the New Deal** (Arcadia Press, 2014).*

September 28. **Forgotten Fairs: Art Deco Fairs of the '20s and '30s.** While the expositions of 1939 brought the era of great fairs to a close, the 1930s was a decade of major fairs throughout the world. Photographer and Art Deco historian Randy Juster will present a number of these almost forgotten events, their themes and architectures, and the surprising sophistication of the fairs' promoters.

*Speaker: Randy Juster's architectural photography has been featured in dozens of books, magazines, and major newspapers, and has been exhibited in many museums including the Smithsonian. He has taught photography at the Parsons School of Design in New York. He is co-author and photographer of **Rediscovering Art Deco U.S.A.***

October 12. **Pan Am, the Clippers and the U.S. Navy (Fleet Week).** Discover the role of the U.S. Navy in the development of Pan American Airways Clipper service to Asia and its contribution to World War II in the Pacific.

*Speaker: Michael Svanevik, professor of History Emeritus, College of San Mateo*

November 16. **Art and Danger at the Fair: Diego Rivera Escapes to the GGIE.** Artists are imperiled by politics in more than a few countries today. And so it was back in 1940 for the Mexican muralist Diego Rivera. Both the Nazis and the communists were after him, and the FBI reported that he might be eliminated. So Rivera eagerly accepted San Francisco architect Timothy Pflueger's invitation to anchor the GGIE's Art in Action program in the relative safety of Treasure Island. But after Leon Trotsky was assassinated in Mexico City, Diego packed two guns as he painted his mural masterpiece, "Pan American Unity." Now even Treasure Island's fairgrounds seemed treacherous.

*Speaker: Will Maynez, historian and steward of the Pan American Unity mural.*

## 2020

### **January 25. *The Work and Times of Moya del Pino***

Visit San Francisco's community of art and artists before and during the Golden Gate International Exposition, through the life and work of Spanish artist Jose Moya del Pino. He arrived in San Francisco in 1925 on an international tour of his paintings, and never left. In the 1930s, his paintings and murals at Coit Tower, the Merchants' Exchange, and other exhibitions gained him a respected reputation. At the fair, Moya produced enormous works in the California Building and the Temple of Religion and Tower of Peace, meanwhile developing important relationships with artists, architects and leaders of the time, including Diego Rivera, Antonio Sotomayor, Adaline Kent, John Bolles and Dr. Stanley Armstrong Hunter. Learn more about his time on the Island and the legacy it inspired after the Exposition.

*Speaker: Fran Cappelletti, Librarian, Jose Moya del Pino Library/Ross Historical Society*  
*The "Little Island, Big Ideas" lecture series is presented with support from the Treasure Island Development Authority and funding from the Historic Preservation Fund of the City and County of San Francisco, Office of Economic and Workforce Development.*

**February 29. *From Classy to Brassy and Fantasy to Fact: The Contradiction of Cultures at the GGIE***

At its most elevated level, San Francisco's 1939 World's Fair was dedicated to internationalism: a Pageant of the Pacific that presented the history and culture of countries surrounding the Pacific Basin. At its most popular level the Gay Way – with its amusement rides, display of oddities and stereotypes, and array of hot dog and cola stands – proved to be the most lucrative attraction. The daily co-existence of the high minded ecumenical services in the Temple of Religion with the titillating draw of Sally Rand's Nude Ranch crystallized the many cultural contradictions embraced in what publicists called "The Magic City." This presentation will explore the juxtaposition of high brow and low brow cultures, and the emphasis on peace, harmony and progress while the world around was dissolving into two theaters of war.

*Speaker: Lisa Rubens, Historian and Academic Specialist, Emerita, UC Berkeley*

**July 25. *The Goddess Who Moved to the Peninsula Pacifica: The Statue, the Town, and the History***

The statue of Pacifica was one of the most memorable landmarks that visitors saw at the Golden Gate International Exposition on Treasure Island. It later became the inspiration for the name of a new town on the San Mateo Coast in 1957 - the city of Pacifica. For many years the head of the statue was the official logo of the city, and a copy of the statue has a prominent place in the city's history museum. Learn about Pacifica's place in the history of the Bay Area and its affectionate connection to Treasure Island.

*Speaker: Stephen Johnson is a member of the board of the Pacifica Historical Society and a member of the San Francisco Tour Guide Guild. He has a degree in United States History from San Francisco State University and is a retired educator of 35 years. He is also a guide for the National Park Service on Alcatraz and at the Presidio/Fort Point. He has a 29 year old daughter who has no interest in history whatsoever but loves Art Deco.*

**August 29. *A Shortwave Radio Station is Born at the Fair***

A shortwave radio voice that began at the fair on Treasure Island proved vital to the war in the Pacific, and led to the formation of the Voice of America, the United States government broadcasting facility that has been heard worldwide since World War II.

*Speaker: John Schneider, author of two books and dozens of magazine articles on radio history, and a Fellow in History of the California Historical Radio Society.*

**September 25. *Emperor Norton - Live! The Ruler Who Decreed Treasure Island***

Almost 70 years before Treasure Island was built, its construction was mandated by an imperial proclamation. The royal in question was, of course, San Francisco's favorite eccentric, Norton I,

Emperor of the United States and Protector of Mexico. His August 1869 decree also required the building of the Bay Bridge.

In this lecture, Emperor Norton himself, as famously portrayed by Joseph Amster, will employ a magic lantern (ok, PowerPoint) to present his life and times, with special emphasis on his connection to Yerba Buena and Treasure Islands.

You will learn about Emperor Norton—the man and the myth, his rise and fortune, how he lost everything and became the Emperor of the United States and Protector of Mexico, how San Francisco embraced his Imperial reign, the truth about Bummer and Lazarus, The Widow Norton, Norton's relationship to the Ancient and Honorable Order of E Clampus Vitus, his death and burial, and much more.

*Speaker: Joseph Amster is a tour guide, journalist, historian, California native, and resident of San Francisco on and off since the '70s. He has worked as editor of the Orange County Blade and IN Los Angeles magazines, and as a cook at San Francisco's legendary Salmagundi restaurant. He is a board member of the San Francisco History Association and E Clampus Vitus Yerba Buena Chapter 1, and a co-founder of the Emperor Norton Legacy League. He and husband Rick Shelton founded Time Machine Tours, which offers Emperor Norton and other tours, and does lectures, weddings, and special events. See [www.emperornortontour.com](http://www.emperornortontour.com).*

### **September 27. Timothy Pflueger, Architect of Pacific Unity**

Among the architects in charge of creating the Golden Gate International Exposition of 1939-1940, Timothy Pflueger was one of the most influential, and his Federal Building was seen as one of the few modernist designs at a fair that was mostly the last gasp of the Art Deco style. He also designed the California Building, the San Francisco Building, and the Court of Pacifica. In all of these works, he hired many of his artist friends, such as Ralph Stackpole, who created the iconic sculpture of Pacifica. In 1940, when the fair was reborn for a second year, Pflueger hired the famed Mexican muralist, Diego Rivera, to create a massive mural that would eventually find a home in San Francisco. Rivera was a key attraction at the dynamic Art in Action exhibition, where fair goers could watch art work in progress.

*Speaker: Therese Poletti, author of Art Deco San Francisco: The Architecture of Timothy Pflueger, and Preservation Director of the Art Deco Society.*

### **October 10. Naval Portal to the Pacific: The Navy's Century on Treasure and Yerba Buena Islands**

Five months after the world's fair, with its theme of Pacific Unity, closed its doors in September 1940, the U.S. Navy took over Treasure Island and prepared for a Pacific war. The island soon became a primary point of embarkation for personnel going to and from the Pacific Theater. But the Navy was here before the island was, since the 1898 establishment of a Naval Training Station on adjoining Yerba Buena Island. Historic officers' quarters from 1900 remain there today, along with a Coast Guard station dating to 1875. After World War II, Treasure Island continued as a training and administrative headquarters for over half a century until shut down by base closure in 1997.

Learn about the island's long Naval history and the historic footprint that remains.

*Speaker: Rear Admiral Tom Andrews, USN is a member of the Board of the Treasure Island Museum. His naval career spanned 31 years, including commanding the Logistics Task Force, Pacific, and a deployment in the Indian Ocean during the Iranian Hostage Conflict in 1980.*

## 2021

### **January 30. *Sisters in Art: Esther, Helen and Margaret Bruton at the GGIE.***

Margaret, Esther, and Helen Bruton were famous California artists of the 1920s and 30s. They were at the height of their careers when Timothy Pflueger selected them to create a mural for the Court of Pacifica at the Golden Gate International Exposition. Their 8,000 square foot *Peacemakers* mural was the largest work of art at the fair, and out of all the accomplished artists who participated, the sisters earned the largest commission. In the second year of the fair, Helen Bruton was in charge of the wildly successful “Art in Action” program. This talk provides a brief overview of the sisters’ fascinating lives and careers with a focus on their important contributions to the GGIE.

*Speaker: Wendy Van Wyck Good is a librarian and archivist at Monterey Peninsula College. Her book about the Bruton sisters will be published by West Margin Press in fall 2021.*

### **February 27. *Remains to be Seen: Surviving Treasures of the Golden Gate International Exposition.***

Many decades have passed since the close of the Golden Gate International Exposition on September 30, 1940. After almost 70 years of the Navy and 25 years of redevelopment, little is left of the sheer marvel of art, architecture, science and entertainment that comprised Treasure Island in 1939-1940. But its presence hasn’t been erased completely. Three architecturally unique buildings, including the home of the Treasure Island Museum, still stand and will remain intact through the redevelopment. Hidden away on the island are sculptures and a remarkable fountain designed to convey the fair’s theme of “Pacific Unity.” Additionally, items of art, architecture, horticulture and amusement can be found around the Bay Area and beyond.

*Speaker: Anne Schnoebelen has been researching the “remains” of the GGIE for several decades and will share her findings. She serves on the board of directors of the Treasure Island Museum and co-directs the “Little Island, Big Ideas” programs.*

### **March 27. *Fashions of the Golden Gate International Exposition.***

A (virtual) fashion show by Laurie Gordon, with period music, featuring the **Decobelles** and models from the **Art Deco Society of California** in authentic men's and women's clothing that would have been worn at the GGIE and the New York World's Fairs of 1939-40. See how people dressed to attend the fair in day wear to explore exhibits and evening clothes for the dances taking place on Treasure Island. The smart suits, snappy hats and shoes are a far cry from the jeans and sneakers that would be worn for such a fair today. Souvenir items such as aprons,

scarves, hats and jackets from the fair will be shown as well as swimsuits like those featured in the Aquacade.

*Speaker: Laurie Gordon has been producing gala events for many years, including several for the Treasure Island Museum, notably the spectacular three-day 50th Anniversary Celebration, which introduced the Decobelles.*

**April 24. *Music Filled the Air: Symphony, Swing and Popular Song on Treasure Island.***

Music filled the air on Treasure Island in 1939-1940, the years of the Golden Gate International Exposition. WPA ensembles found a welcome reception, the San Francisco Symphony featured famous artists, a giant carillon sounded several times a day, organists shared sacred music, and the greatest popular bands and singers played to enormous, enthusiastic crowds, to give just a few examples.

This program will present an overview of the fair's musical offerings and highlight two unique events. An outstanding African American chorus from Oakland presented the Swing Mikado, a revision of Gilbert and Sullivan's iconic operetta, relocated to a South Seas Island and embellished with swing versions of several numbers.

Then, in what W.C. Handy described as "a program that was never before nor can ever again be duplicated," a galaxy of star composers and performers of the popular music world appeared in the fair's nationally broadcast concluding concert for an audience that overflowed the 9,000 seat auditorium. The lecture will feature an extensive collection of photos as well as unusual audio examples.

*Speaker: Leta Miller is Professor of Music (Emerita) at the University of California, Santa Cruz, and author of the book Music and Politics in San Francisco: From the 1996 Quake to the Second World War, and many articles on topics of music history.*

**June 26. *How Green Goes Platinum: Planning a Certified Sustainable Treasure Island.***

Treasure Island's redevelopment has been acclaimed as a model for sustainable urban living. This talk explains how those principles shaped the redevelopment plan on its way to achieving the rare LEED-ND Platinum rating.

The concept of "green building" has been with us long enough to enter the everyday lexicon, and many green building strategies are now required in the California State Building code. But what happens when the concepts of sustainability and green building are applied beyond just an individual building envelope, at a district scale? What are the opportunities for integrated infrastructure planning, sustainable transportation, walkable urban design, renewable energy, responses to sea level rise, and healthy, equitable development?

This presentation will describe how Treasure Island's plan achieved Platinum-level certification under the LEED for Neighborhood Development Rating System, and describe ongoing planning and implementation efforts for one of the highest-scoring neighborhood-scale LEED projects in the world.

*Speaker: Aaron Welch is the director for Treasure Island's LEED-ND certification process. He has directed sustainability plans, urban design guidelines, zoning updates, and healthy development initiatives. He has implemented sustainability in large development projects, cities,*

*and institutions, with direct technical consulting for the U.S. Green Building Council, the U.S. EPA, and many private and non-profit projects around the country. Prior to starting his own practice in 2019, Aaron was a key employee for 12 years at Raimi + Associates. He has served on the faculty at UC Berkeley's Summer Institute since 2016.*

**September 25. *Keeping the Ocean at Bay - Protecting the New Treasure Island from Sea Level Rise.***

How can the Bay Area fend off rising sea levels along its long shoreline in years to come? This critical question was part of the redevelopment plan for Treasure Island from the very start. The solutions developed by the planning team have been singled out by BCDC as a model for bay-front flood protection. Learn about the development team's long and exacting process aimed at keeping future Treasure Island residents above water.

First came an extensive review of climate change literature published by local, regional, state and federal agencies, the international community and academia. Detailed coastal flooding studies were conducted to determine extreme likelihoods for water levels, considering possible tides, surges, waves, and tsunamis, as well as estimates for sea level rise. Various alternatives were developed for coastal improvements to deal with these conditions, and then discussed with stakeholders.

Based on the analysis and understanding of acceptable levels of risks, a sea level rise strategy was developed for Treasure Island to deal with the near-term, mid-term, and long term. The project received local as well as regional approvals, and the refashioning of the Treasure Island Shoreline is now in progress.

*Speaker: Dilip Trivedi, Dr.Eng., P.E., has been practicing Coastal Engineering for about 28 years. He is on the Board of Directors of the Bay Planning Coalition, chairs the Sustainable Waterfronts Committee, and is a key participant on the Resiliency Committee for the Port of San Francisco's Waterfront Land Use Plan Update. He is an early design innovator in addressing sea level rise and is leading the sea level rise and public use planning for most of the large urban waterfront redevelopment projects in the San Francisco Bay region. Dilip holds degrees from Texas A&M and Bangalore University. He is Vice President of the firm of Moffatt & Nichol.*

**October 23. *San Francisco and the Trial of "Tokyo Rose": A Case Study in Anti-Asian Prejudice.***

Racial prejudice against Asians is, unfortunately, not unique to today. Prejudice against Japanese-Americans was never more virulent than during and immediately after World War II, and few suffered more from it than Iva Toguri, who was tried in San Francisco for treason. As an American citizen visiting Japan in 1941, Toguri was trapped there after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Arrested in Japan after the war as "Tokyo Rose," her trial was located by law wherever she first set foot back in America. Justice Department prosecutors determined that location to be San Francisco, despite logistical obstacles. At the time, Iva's trial was the most expensive prosecution ever conducted by the Department of Justice. As one of only two women tried for treason at the end of the war, Toguri's trial gripped the nation. Why did the government pick the City by the Bay for this public trial, and how did politics and prejudice play a role in the outcome of the trial?

*Speaker: Mike Weedall recently retired from a career in energy efficiency and renewable energy. Returning to his long-time passion for researching and writing American history, he published Iva: The True Story of Tokyo Rose in 2020. The book was highlighted as one of the Top 100 Indie Reads in 2020 by Kirkus Reviews. He is currently at work on his new book that will explore the “Maroon” communities for escaped slaves in North America.*

**November 13. Prehistoric Animals? On Treasure Island? The Art of William Gordon Huff at the Fair.**

Yes, prehistoric animals—including dinosaurs—were seen on Treasure Island by visitors to the Golden Gate International Exposition in 1939 and 1940. The creatures were the creations of sculptor William Gordon Huff. In addition to executing several monumental classical figures for the fair, he designed and produced much of the UC Museum of Paleontology’s impressive display, featuring dioramas, life-size heads of prehistoric mammals, and more.

Huff envisioned ancient environments dating from the Permian (280 million years ago) to the Pleistocene (9 million years ago). See his creations, hear how he collaborated with UC Berkeley paleontologists and a local artist to create this fascinating panorama of prehistory, and discover what became of the sculptures after the fair.

*Speaker: David Smith, a retired graphic designer at the U.C. Berkeley Museum of Paleontology, has posted an online biography of Huff and the works he created for the fair.*

**2022**

**January 29. From Island to Land: Jo Mora’s Creative Trail in the Bay Area.**

The astonishingly versatile artist, writer and photographer Jo Mora left a trail of creativity throughout California, including - fleetingly - on Treasure Island. Born in Uruguay and educated in New York and Boston, Mora was fascinated by the American west and lived most of his adult life in California. His contribution to the Golden Gate International Exposition was one of its most detailed and expansive displays: the Portola Expedition Diorama in the California Building. Meticulous in its storytelling and execution, those details will be shared in photos and discussion. Unfortunately, a major disaster at the GGIE brought the diorama to a sad end.

But Mora's many artistic efforts, created before and after the Fair, remain in the San Francisco Bay Area for all to enjoy. Join the Jo Mora Collection Curator as he guides us along the path of Jo's lasting accomplishments, from San Raphael to San Jose.

*Speaker: Author and speaker Peter Hiller has been enamored with Jo Mora (1876-1947) since the middle 1990's and has been fortunate to have his biography The Life and Times of Jo Mora: Iconic Artist of the American West, published by the Book Club of California and Gibbs Smith during the last few years.*

**February 19. The Famous San Francisco Artist You Never Heard Of: Antonio Sotomayor.**

"Known as “San Francisco’s Artist Laureate” throughout his lifetime, Antonio Sotomayor was a celebrated artist in many media, and an author. If you are a San Francisco gadabout, you have probably seen one of his creations without really trying. Born in Bolivia in 1902, Sotomayor

emigrated to San Francisco as a young man to train as an architect. Instead, he took a job as a dishwasher. Thanks to his talent and charisma, and his habit of doodling on menus, he swiftly evolved from dishwasher to commercial artist to society sophisticate.

The Golden Gate International Exposition of 1939-1940 offered opportunities for scores of local artists to create the sculptures and murals that would articulate the fair's theme of "Pacific Unity." Sotomayor was handed a remarkable commission: the enormous "Fountain of the Pacific," fabricated at Gladding McBean, one of America's foremost facilities for the creation of architectural and artistic terra cotta. Sotomayor once wrote that the "Map--Foundation of the Pacific was one of the most challenging" projects of his career. The fountain, now divided into sections, is among the fragments of the GGIE's artistic legacy still surviving on Treasure Island. At the time of his death, Sotomayor had reason to believe that it would remain on Treasure Island, in public view, forever.

The fountain occupied Sotomayor for just six months in a career that spanned six decades. Many of his artistic endeavors created before and after the GGIE remain in the Bay Area, and in galleries and museums worldwide, for all to enjoy. Join us for this exploration of his legacy on the 83rd anniversary of the opening of the GGIE.

*Speaker: Anne Schnoebelen*

### **March 26. *Exploring Science Through the Lens of Sailing***

If you've been to Treasure Island, you've personally experienced the physics of wind, and maybe the waves as well. The Sailing Science Center (SSC) is working to teach science using these forces, and create an interactive museum framed around sailing. Last year they began holding small, outdoor exhibitions with a stable of seven exhibits. Their 16-foot custom trailer can deliver this content to schools, YMCA's, sailing centers, and elsewhere.

Most people's first thoughts about the science of sailing go to the aerodynamics of sails, and maybe the resistance of a boat moving through the water, but the science of sailing goes much further. The SSC envisions seven galleries, with those galleries further divided into sixteen subject areas. When you begin to see what is possible, you realize there is an almost endless range of applied science that can be explored through the lens of sailing. The SSC is driven by more than 25 dedicated volunteers who have captured this vision of what can be done.

Sailing Science Center President and Founder, Jim Hancock, will give a short slide presentation about the history and vision of the SSC, and will bring a sampling of SSC exhibits to share with the audience.

*Speaker: Jim Hancock, Sailing Science Center President and Founder.*

### **April 30. *Secrets of Sea Chanteys***

Treasure Island's pirate history is as artificial as the island itself, but that never ruined anyone's fun! It gave the Golden Gate International Exposition's creative publicists a hook to hang the pirate theme on, and an excuse to hire "pirate girls" to promote the fair.

The current craze for sea chanteys rests on equally soft foundations, but can still tell us much about maritime history, if you know what to listen for. Together, we'll crack open these linguistic

time capsules to get a glimpse into life aboard ship at the end of the Age of Sail. From 'dead horses' to the dreaded 'stuncil bones,' we'll explore how chanteys have survived in song down to the present day—or not—and how they have been reimagined and remixed for the cultural moment. And yes, we will learn what to actually do with a drunken sailor.

*Speaker: Preston Thomas is a sailor, chantyman, and exhibit developer with the San Francisco Sailing Science Center, headquartered on Treasure Island.*