



The Pioneer Press  
 West Side Pioneer Association  
 Tracy Historical Museum  
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 Tracy, CA 95378-0117

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 <b>Upcoming Events</b> 			
Date	Time	Event	Location/Presenter
April 12, 2014	3:00 pm	<i>"The Damnedest Finest Ruins"</i> Film Maker James Delassandro	Documentary Film, 1906 San Francisco Earthquake Tracy Transit Station
May 10, 2014 Saturday	1:00 pm	<i>National Train Day Historic Railroad Bowtie Walking Tour</i>	Meet at Tracy Transit Station Tour guide-Larry Gamino
July 4, 2014 Friday	TBD	<i>Tentative—WSPA/Tracy Historical Museum 4th of July Parade Entry</i>	Vintage Automobiles
August/September	TBD	<i>European Train Enthusiasts (ETE) Model Train Display</i>	Tracy Museum
October 25, 2014 Saturday	10:00—2:00	<i>Special Community Event History Day at Museum</i>	Tracy Historical Museum
November 19, 2014 Wednesday	7:00 pm	<i>Benjamin Holt—Moving Earth in the San Joaquin</i>	David Stuart Location TBD



# **THE PIONEER PRESS**

West Side Pioneer Association/Tracy Historical Museum

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*May-June 2014*

## **WSPA President's Message**

Larry W. Gamino - President

### **"Spring forward to support the West Side Pioneer Association that will benefit the Tracy Historic Museum"**

Spring is an important and busy time for our organization. As springtime is upon us, we see the yearly rebirth of nature and society. Similarly, we renew our mission to preserve Tracy culture and history. With optimism, we look forward to a bright future through a fusion of near and long-term goals of preservation and inspiration.

During the past few months and into the next one, we explored our local ethnic histories of early Mexican Tracy settlement by Raymond Morelos and "Being Black in Tracy" by WSPA member Evelyn Tolbert. With March, we celebrated the origins of National Women's Month, which was established in northern California in 1978. We feasted on our St. Patrick's corned beef and cabbage dinner fundraiser for two high school senior scholarships on March 16<sup>th</sup> at the Community Center. We thank all who attended or purchased take out plates to make a very successful event,

Now, we examine the epic documentary of the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake and Fire on Saturday, April 12 at 3 PM at the Tracy Transit Station at Central Avenue and Sixth Street. Featured filmmaker and author James Dalessandro will be on hand to answer questions about the award winning film. For only \$5, "The Damnedest Finest Ruin," is a bargain!!

Finally, these local ethnic, gender and historical perspectives and events are in response to our diverse membership and intelligent general public. By engaging our local communities, we hope to educate and entertain our Tracy constituents of the local past and present knowledge. By relearning important historical lessons, we enlighten Tracyites and our youth in a new and technological advanced way. Ways, both traditional and modern, to prepare and protect our valuable history of Tracy for future generations.

# History of National Women's History Month Is March

By Larry Gamino

The birthplace of Women's History Month was initiated in Sonoma county in northern California in 1978. Despite the successes of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century Suffragette movement and the feminist victories of the 1960's, Women's history was virtually unknown. Absent from public educational curriculum or in general public consciousness, the Educational Task Force of the Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women tackled this dilemma by establishing a "Women's History Week," as a local celebration.

The week of March 8<sup>th</sup>, International Women's Day, was chosen as the inspirational marker of the local observance. Community celebrations of Women's history by the school district of Sonoma to advance Women's achievements and causes in the classroom attracted over one-hundred community women to participate. A special program of "Real Women's" essay contest drew hundreds of entries. The finale for the first local Women's History Week celebration was the downtown parade held in the center of Santa Rosa, California wearing pioneer costumes.

The following year, Molly Murphy MacGregor, a member of the Educational Task Force, was invited to participate in the Women's History Institute at Sarah Lawrence College in New York State. Learning of the their county Women's History Week success, they decide to support a "National Women's History Week."

In 1980, mobilizing a movement under Sarah Lawrence College across the country through women's organizations, communities and school districts, success came in February when President Carter issued the first Presidential Proclamation declaring the week of March 8<sup>th</sup>, 1980 as National Women's History Week. The same year, House of Representative Barbara Mikulski and Senator Orrin Hatch co-sponsored a Congressional Resolution for National Women's History Week in 1981.

By 1986, 14 states had already declared March as Women's History Month. Using this state momentum, Congress in 1987 declared March as National Women's History Month in perpetuity. Every year, a special Presidential Proclamation is issued recognizing, honoring and celebrating the achievements of all American women.



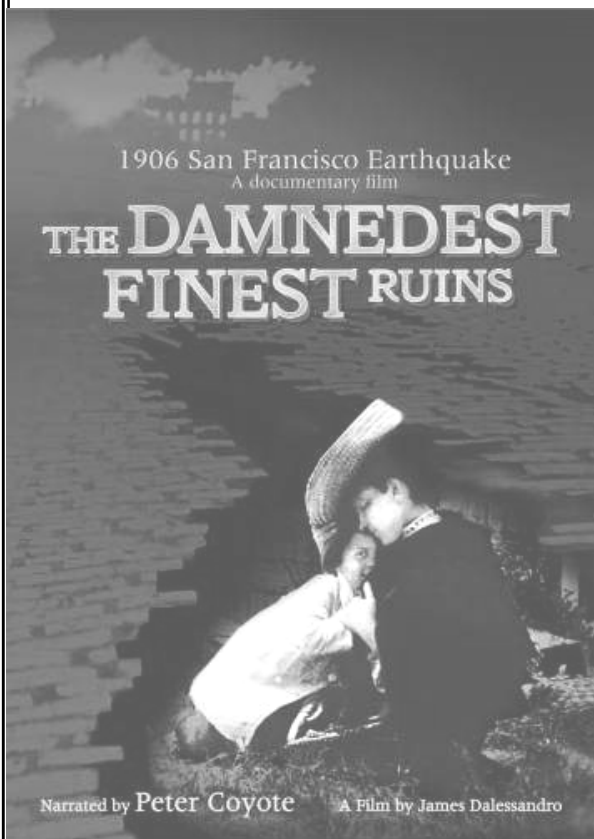
# **“The Damnedest Finest Ruins”**

**Saturday, April 12, 2014, 3:00 pm**

**Tracy Transit Station, Central Avenue & 6th Street**

**Filmmaker** and author James Dalessandro will present his award winning documentary film *“The Damned Finest Ruins”* which chronicles the devastating 1906 San Francisco Earthquake.

**Narrated** by actor Peter Coyote and using restored silent film footage, rare photographs, and interviews, *“The Damned Finest Ruins”* pre-



sents the events before and after the quake that all but destroyed the “Paris of the Pacific. Dalessandro, author of the novel 1906 and other works, will be on hand to answer questions about the film and film making process at the showing and at a reception following the presentation.

**Join us for this extraordinary event** about the tragedy of the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake. Reception following the program will include disaster preparedness information from the Red Cross and Tracy Fire Department.

**Tickets = \$5.00 each; Students \$3.00**  
**Ticket price includes a West Side Pioneer Association/  
Tracy Historical Museum Membership**

# Stories from “Being Black in Tracy”

From notes by Larry Gamino

On Wednesday, February 19, at 7PM, the Tracy Historic Museum was magically transformed into a beautiful theater setting. With rearranged display cases and additional seats, the spotlights focused on Director and narrator Peter Barrett and his three fellow actors who presented three vignettes about the African American experiences in twentieth century Tracy. As part of Black History Month, Program Director Celeste Garamendi introduced “Being Black in Tracy,” a play by WSPA member Evelyn Tolbert and based on the Tracy African American Association (TAAA) Oral History Project in 1996 and 2004.

The three episodes represented the memories and recollections of eleven Tracy residents. Recorded interviews and transcriptions of Frank Brown, Ellen Cochran, Mina Dixon, Curtis Gaines, Bessie Jones, Johnnie Jordan, Carrie King, Melva Loggins, Mamie Anderson McKinney, William George Randle and Rose Taylor can be found at the Tracy Historical museum.

Ultimately, “Being Black in Tracy,” sheds light on the unique Black community in Tracy. Occupational discrimination, restrictive gender roles, military segregation, Eurocentric education and dominant Black religion shaped the lives and perceptions of transplanted Blacks to Tracy. This dramatic playwright by Evelyn Tolbert bridges the cultural divide in society and celebrates the diversity of African American achievements in local history.

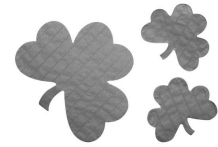


Director Peter Barrett narrates three different Black experiences and times in Tracy in front of full audience in the museum.



Program Director Celeste Garamendi gives WSPA Certificates of Merit to Director Peter Barrett and three fellow actors following oral drama.

## WSPA Members and Tracyites Get Their Irish On Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup>



To an enthusiastic crowd of over hundred attendees, the St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner Fundraiser was a huge success. On a sunny afternoon, Chef Mike Bacchetti delighted the palettes of green costumed customers. A number bought take-outs for seconds.

The Historic Tracy Afghan, a complete Picnic collection and the 50/50 door prizes pleased the winning ticket holders. We thank all WSPA members, Board members and general public for their support and contributions to create two High School Senior scholarships. Thank you, again!!

### A special thanks for:

Past WSPA Presidents

*Betty Galli*

*Onalee Koster*

### Dignitaries

Mayor *Brent Ives*

Mayor Pro Tem *Michael Maciel*

Ex-Councilmember *Woody Souza*

Ex-Council member *Evelyn Tolbert*



WSPA member Evelyn Tolbert and President Larry Gamino talk about community history.



Mayor Brent Ives and wife Linda support WSPA scholarship fundraiser.



Lammersville Pioneer School Committee Chairwoman Janice Johnson updates audience of damaged building and alternative downtown site.



Our largest St. Patrick's Dinner Fundraiser for college scholarships fills Tracy Community Center.



## Lammersville Schoolhouse Damaged by Fire

Transit Station Chosen as Alternate Site

By Larry Gamino

A small fire burned an outer wall of the Pioneer Lammersville Schoolhouse at Clyde Bland Park on Thursday, February 13. A passerby noticed smoke and called the Fire Department at 8:11 PM. Within ten minutes, a small fire was extinguished by Station 91. The next day, Fire Chief Hudson gave the WSPA permission to enter the crime scene area to examine damage and remove educational instruction material. Lammersville Pioneer School Committee Chairwoman, Janice Johnson, notified the President who then called for a meeting with the City Parks and Recreation for an alternate site.

The next week, a committee composed of Betty Galli, Janice Johnson, Bill Carter and Larry Gamino agreed to use the Tracy Transit Station at Sixth Street and Central Avenue. In a Memorandum of understanding, the city allowed the use of Room 105 from Monday through Friday 8 AM to Noon with access to one storage closet for school supplies for one year or until Lammersville School is "safe and operable".

At no cost to WSPA, we are now able to continue our third grade Pioneer School experience for 1200 students until the end of school year at the end of this coming May. Recently, I have been informed by city negotiators that the Pioneer School will be open by mid-December. We thank the City Manager Leon Churchill and Mayor Brent Ives for executing and approving a Memorandum of Understanding on March 18 at the regular city meeting. We thank the Emergency School Committee for being decisive in the face of the fire crisis. We thank our teacher docents for making the adjustment to the downtown transit station and plaza. Finally, this unique historical site will surely impress Tracy students as they learn of Tracy's railroad birthplace for future generations.



Photos by Bill Carter



Third grade students play 1800's school games at downtown plaza.





### Current List of Lifetime Members\*

Mitra Behnam  
Stephen Brenkwitz  
Tom/Barbara Brenkwitz  
Nick Buthman  
Rich Calderon  
Larry/Barbara Celestine  
Celeste Garamendi/Mark Connelly  
Betty Grande  
John/Cindy Gustafson  
Bill/Mary Kaska  
Kimberly Krohn  
Craig/Rose Lighty  
Albert Celeste Navarra  
William Noblitt  
Leroy/Sue Petz  
Robert Patrice Raspo  
Ruth Sanford  
Dale Shupe  
Evelyn Tolbert  
Bob Young  
Marc Valdez

\*Lifetime Membership is \$150

**Thank you for all your support!!!**



### *Docent Duty Schedule\**

DAY	DATE	TIME	DOCENT
Saturday	April 5	10AM-2PM	Bill Carter Open
Sunday	April 6	1PM-4PM	Onalee Koster Open
Monday	April 7	9AM-2PM	Larry Gamino Jean Shipman
Saturday	April 12	10AM-2PM	Bill Carter Open
Sunday	April 13	1PM-4PM	Dennis Maddox Burke Sorti
Monday	April 14	9AM-2PM	Larry Gamino Jean Shipman
Saturday	April 17	10AM-2PM	Bill Carter Open
Sunday	April 18	1PM-4PM	Dennis Maddox Burke Sorti
Monday	April 19	9AM-2PM	Larry Gamino Jean Shipman
Saturday	April 24	10AM-2PM	Bill Carter Open
Sunday	April 25	1PM-4PM	Onalee Koster Open
Monday	April 26	9AM-2PM	Larry Gamino Jean Shipman
Saturday	May 3	10AM-2PM	Bill Carter Open
Sunday	May 4	1PM-4PM	Dennis Maddox Burke Sorti
Monday	May 5	9AM-2PM	Larry Gamino Jean Shipman
Saturday	May 10	10AM-2PM	Bill Carter Open
Sunday	May 11	1PM-4PM	Onalee Koster Open
Monday	May 12	9AM-2PM	Larry Gamino Jean Shipman
Saturday	May 17	10AM-2PM	Bill Carter Open
Sunday	May 18	1PM-4PM	Dennis Maddox Burke Sorti
Monday	May 19	9AM-2PM	Larry Gamino Jean Shipman
Saturday	May 25	10AM-2PM	Bill Carter Open
Sunday	May 26	1PM-4PM	Dennis Maddox Burke Sorti
Monday	May 27	9AM-2PM	Larry Gamino Jean Shipman
Saturday	May 31	10AM-2PM	Bill Carter Open
Sunday	June 1	1PM-4PM	Jean Shipman Onalee Koster

**\*REMEMBER, IF YOU CANNOT WORK, PLEASE FIND A REPLACEMENT OR ALTERNATE AND CALL ONALEE KOSTER, 835-2493. VOLUNTEERS ARE WELCOMED.**

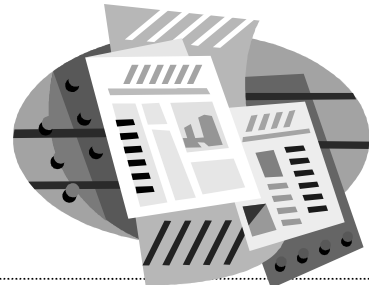




## MEMBERSHIP NOTES

The memberships for 2014 are coming in very slow. We have a total of 220 families in the West Side Pioneer Association and only 61 families have paid for 2014 and 3 members have paid for 2015. We thank those for their continued support. We also have 22 family life memberships. There are 134 memberships that are one or more years behind. **This will be the last newsletter for those who haven't paid for 2013 yet.** The printing and mailing of the newsletter is a great expense for the Association and we can't continue mailing to those who aren't paying their fair share. Feel free to phone me with your concerns about your status.

Bill Kaska  
Membership Chairman  
209 836-4491



## **Volunteers needed for Museum and Living History Program**

Our Historical Museum is run by volunteers. We need your help to volunteer to staff the Museum when it is open and the wonderful 3<sup>rd</sup> grade living history programs that Museum operates.

- Regular Museum Hours:  
Monday 9:00 am – 2:00 pm  
Saturday 10:00 am – 2:00 pm  
Sunday 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm OR by appointment for groups.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Program at Museum: Mondays 9:00-11:00 on school days
- Historic Lammersville Pioneer School Program: School days in January-May (one or two days a week)



If you can commit to a few hours one day a week or every month, or on special events, we can use your help to keep these wonderful programs going. Please call the program coordinator for more information and to lend a helping hand:

- Museum Coordinator - Onalee Koster – 209-832-7278
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Museum Program Coordinator – Judy Lee - 209-814-3358
- Historic Lammersville Pioneer School Program Coordinator – Janice Johnson - 209-836-3770



**Come out and volunteer and have fun at the same time.**

**We need you!!**

## ***RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2014***

**Annual Membership Dues**  
(Starting every January)

Adults	\$10.00
Couples/Families	\$15.00
Students	\$ 5.00
Organizations	\$10.00
Commercial	\$20.00
Lifetime Membership	\$150.00

## Have you forgotten to provide your Email Address



Although we are a historical museum, there are some technological advances we need to adopt! Because email is now a common form of communication, we are going to start to update our membership records with email addresses. We will continue to issue the *Pioneer Press* in print. Please consider providing your email to us as it is the most cost effective way for us to communicate with members about program updates and reminders. You can add your email to the Annual Dues Payment Form included in this issue when you send in your check, or you can email the Museum at [tracymuseum@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tracymuseum@sbcglobal.net) with your name and address. Thank you for your help and support.

### **West Side Pioneer Association Board of Directors for 2013-2014**

#### ***Elected Board Officers***

	<b><i>Name</i></b>	<b><i>Telephone #</i></b>
President	Larry Gamino	209-836-9687
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Bill Carter	209-834-6170
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Celeste Garamendi	209-914-0792
Recording Secretary	Judith Ann Lee	209-814-3358
Treasurer	Wes Huffman	209-879-3155
Corresponding Secretary	Jean Shipman	209-835-8933
Museum Chairperson	Onalee Koster	209-835-2493
Old Lammersville School	Janice Johnson	209-836-3770
Landmark Committee	Pete Mitracos	209-835-0270

#### ***Elected Board Members at Large***

David Middleton	209-835-3797
Ruth Sanford	209-835-6023
Virginia Mynatt	209-836-1171

#### ***Appointed Board Members***

Bill Kaska	510-773-7066
Mitra Behnam	209-740-2764
Kathy Bergthold	408-569-8931
Betty Galli	209-836-4046

#### ***Ex-officio***

Immediate Past President	David Lee	209-814-6658
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