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California Star
Native Daughters of the Golden West

Preserving the History of California!

Education and Scholarships

Education & Scholarships Committee

Submitted by Catherine Wong, Chair

The goals of the Education and Scholarships Committee are to help students achieve their dream of attending college or a vocational program, and to provide financial assistance for young students pursuing their music education and to schools for their music instruction.

We offer NDGW scholarships ranging from $2,000 to $2,550 to students who are a native of California and/or a citizen of the United States of America, and reside in California.

The good news is that Subordinate Parlors are no longer required to sponsor a scholarship applicant. However, we do rely on Parlors to help us find qualified applicants. Recommendation letters from Members are always welcome and helpful when evaluating scholarship applications.

We also offer Sharon M. Johnston Music Grants up to $500.00. We offer these for students ages eight to eighteen who reside in California, and to accredited elementary, middle, or high schools, or accredited home school programs based within the state of California.

We encourage Members to reach out to students and schools in their community. A script to aid in this effort is available upon request.

If you know of applicants for our scholarships or music grants, please visit our website at **https://www.ndgw.org/education** for more information. Contact our Committee Chairman at **NDGW.Edu@gmail.com** for current applications..



October 10, 1911

California became the sixth U.S. state to grant women full and equal voting rights with men, passing Proposition 4 nine full years before the 19th Amendment enfranchised women nationwide.



Ask Minerva?

Submitted by Joelle Dubrow, Toluca No. 279

Question: I've been reading an interesting book by Robert P.J. Cooney, Jr, about the women's suffrage movement *Winning the Vote: The Triumph of the American Woman Suffrage Movement (2005).* Did you know Susan B. Anthony spent eight months in San Francisco? I was wondering if there was any connection to Native Daughters?

What a great question. Here is what I found...

In **1896**, California held a referendum on women's suffrage. Susan B. Anthony herself spent eight months in California campaigning tirelessly, but the measure was ultimately defeated. Instead of disbanding in despair, San Francisco's leading suffragists organized the **Susan B. Anthony Club** to keep the local movement alive, educate women on civic matters, and lay the groundwork for the next political opportunity. The club holds a unique place in California's suffrage history, acting as a crucial bridge between national suffrage leaders and local women's civic organizations, including the Native Daughters of the Golden West (NDGW).

There were three key suffragists within the NDGW organization:



Eliza Douglas Keith: As a proud, native-born Californian, Keith was a prominent leader within the NDGW, eventually rising to the rank of **Grand President (1902-1903)**.

Concurrently, she was one of the **original members, secretary, and treasurer** of the Susan B. Anthony Club.



Dr. Mariana Bertola: Another NDGW **Grand President (1895-1896)** , Dr. Bertola used her immense influence in San Francisco medical and humanitarian circles to support the progressive, pro-suffrage civic education being championed by clubs like the Susan B. Anthony Club."



Johanna Claussenius Pinther: A dedicated member of the NDGW, Pinther was a monumental figure in West Coast suffrage. On August 27, 1908, she co-led the **California Equal Suffrage Association (CESA)** march in Oakland - widely recognized as the first official suffrage march in California and one of the earliest in the United States.
Click here to learn more

By embedding suffragist ideals into mainstream fraternal organizations like the Native Daughters, these women built a powerful, diversified coalition. When the question of women's suffrage went back on the California ballot 15 years later in **1911**, this robust network succeeded, making California the 6th state in the nation to grant women the right to vote.

If you have any more information about the history of the Native Daughters and the suffrage movement, we would like to hear from you. Email the editor at **webmistress@ndgw.org**.

Thank you for the great question, Joelle!

PARLORS & COMMITTEES IN ACTION...

Charter Oak No. 292



Charter Oak Parlor Celebrates California History with Local Youth at "Happy Birthday" Event

Submitted by: GS Christine Lewis, President

On September 12, 2026, the members of Charter Oak Parlor No. 292 hosted over 40 local Girl Scouts and other youth for a "Happy Birthday California" celebration. The children participated in arts and crafts including California themed coloring sheets, bracelet making, tote bag decoration and building a model of a California Mission. They also had the opportunity to learn the words and sing "I Love You California". Outside activities including sidewalk chalk coloring and planting California Poppies were also offered. California trivia questions were asked throughout the day. Each guest received informational handouts and hand held California Bear flags. The day ended with the singing of "Happy Birthday" to California and cupcakes. The Visalia Friendship House, a local non-profit organization that provides a safe facility for Girl Scouts and other youth to meet, generously offered the use of their facilities at no charge. Charter Oak Parlor hopes to make this an annual event, encouraging youth to learn more about California and its history.

Tierra de Oro No. 304



Tierra de Oro dedicates the Carrillo Recreation Center

Submitted by Sherry Farley, Grand Trustee/Past Grand President

The **Julia Morgan Gymnasium Plaque Dedication** took place on Saturday, October 10, 2026, at 10:00 AM at the **Carrillo Recreation Center** in Santa Barbara, California. The event celebrated the centennial of the historic **Carrillo Street Gymnasium**—designed in 1926 by renowned architect Julia Morgan—following its extensive recent renovations.

Event & Renovation Highlights

- **Centennial Celebration:** Marked 100 years of the landmark gym, which was originally built after the 1925 Santa Barbara earthquake.
- **Julia Morgan Legacy:** Honored the architectural work of Julia Morgan, California's first licensed female architect.
- **Rooftop Court Return:** Celebrated the reopening of the rooftop ball court for the first time in 30 years.
- **Restoration Work:** Showcased fixed exterior stuccos, replicated Corinthian capitals, restored windows, and updated seismic evaluations.

Visitor & Facility Information

- **Location:** 100/114 East Carrillo Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101
- **Hours:** Generally open Monday through Thursday from 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM, Friday from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM, and weekend mornings.
- **Amenities:** Features an indoor basketball/volleyball court with glass backboards, a remodeled rooftop court, dance studios, and community gathering spaces.

Reina del Mar No. 126 in the News



View the Santa Barbara news story about opening the Order to California residents, featuring our Grand President, Renee...

Link to Old Spanish Days Video

Grace No. 242



The Sisters' Gate Dedication: A Legacy of Family and California History

Submitted by Sherry Farley, Grand Trustee/Past Grand President

The story of the Sisters' Gate begins with the six Dominguez sisters. After their father, Manuel, died in 1882 and their mother passed the following year, the family's Rancho lands were divided among them. Californio women held property rights protected by Spanish and Mexican law, giving the sisters meaningful economic

independence. Each maintained her own legal identity and ownership of her assets, even through marriage and widowhood.

The iron gate became a daily link between sisters Victoria and Dolores. Victoria received 14 acres of Rancho San Pedro from her father as a wedding gift when she married George Carson in 1857. After her husband, James Watson, died in 1855, Dolores returned to the original Adobe in 1913 to help care for the property. From 1913 to 1916, the sisters often walked between their homes through this gate, keeping their bond close until Victoria's passing. All six sisters passed through it, leaving legacies that endure through the Carson, Del Amo, and Watson families.

Once hidden by brush and fallen into disrepair, the gate was rescued and restored through the dedication and fundraising efforts of Grace Parlor members. Originally located farther north on the Carson estate, it now stands in the Dominguez Ranch rose garden, bearing the "DR" family logo. The restored gate honors California's history and offers a meaningful connection **bridging the sisters of the present with the remarkable sisters of the past**.

Visitor & Facility Information

- **Location:** Dominguez Rancho Adobe Museum , 18127 South Alameda St, Compton, CA 90220
- **Hours:** Wednesdays, Saturdays, Sundays, and the first Thursday and Friday of the month at 1:00 PM, 2:00 PM, and 3:00 PM. Sundays require reservation.

Special recognition to the Adobe Staff and NDGW California History, Landmarks & Historic Building Committee.

Encinal No. 156



Fun, Food and Fellowship

Submitted by Cynthia Mulholand, President

BINGO was heard! Alameda's Encinal Parlor No. 156, gathered on this blustery Autumn Day for our Annual "fun"draiser PASTA/BINGO. The even was originated by our late Past President, Susan Potter with charity in mind.

Our venue was decorated in Autumnal splendor thanks to Third Vice President, Vicki Bell and Daniel Valerio. As party and Pasta lovers checked in the were greeted by Trustee Marilyn Dodge and Financial Secretary Barbara Rosenberg.

As we sat down to fabulous and delicious pasta, salad, garlic bread and special deserts, hardly a seat was vacant in anticipation of a fun afternoon. Members contributed food, beverage and a variety of lovely prizes. There was also an opportunity drawing for gift cards.

Amongst our raucus crowd were Parlor Past Presidents, and members who had traveled far distances to attend. Often they can only join our business meetings by ZOOM, so it was nice to catch up. We welcomed Native Sons including Past Grand Trustee Dennis Valerio, Supervising District Deputy Edward McLean. New members of our Parlor and honored guests were also recognized. We were honored to host Grand Vice President Nancy Phipps, Stockton Parlor no. 5 & Morado Parlor No 199 and Marilynn Rodriques, PGP,DGP, Angelita No. 32

Our members were excited to see Tim and Brenda Green from Fresno Parlor No. 187, who "came on a whim" since they were traveling in our area. It's so gratifying when Parlors support each other in fun and fellowship.

We not only shared food and a fun afternoon, we also had Encinal's fantastic Recording Secretary, Kathleen Valerio and her husband Dennis come up with exciting and different bingo games that were enjoyed by all (especially "the WORST bingo card rounds)!

A very special THANK YOU goes out to Native Son and fabulous bingo caller Christopher Cormeir, Halcyon Parlor NSGW for his entertaining and accurate calling.



The monthly *California Star* is brought to you by the Members of the Electronic Communications Committee (ECC) and Public Relations And Community Outreach (PRACO). We welcome your articles, suggestions and feedback via email to:

webmistress@ndgw.org

www.NDGW.org

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